

August / September 2010

FISH TALES

Bermuda Fry-Angle Aquarium Society

ISSUE 160

FREE



How Was ACA?
Turn to page 5 for details

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BERMUDA FRY-ANGLE AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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President's PODIUM



We didn't have a meeting in July but four of us travelled to Milwaukee for the annual convention of the American Cichlid Association. We had a great time and we've all contributed to an article in this month's issue to tell you all about it.

We also ran a membership survey during July in an attempt to learn the preferences of members so that we can ensure that we run the club to meet the needs or wants of the members. The survey results are in, after eleven members participated, and are presented in this month's issue for your review. I don't think the survey raised many surprises. It showed that visiting speakers and fish auctions were important issues for the members but I think we knew that already. There was huge support for the newsletter, which I am sure will please Peter, but the membership is generally not ready to switch to an online-only newsletter (although about half of those who responded would be satisfied with an online version). We plan to have a discussion amongst members about the survey results so that we can make a joint decision on the way forward.

I'd hoped to be able to hold a meeting in August to discuss the survey results and also to talk about the ACA trip. Unfortunately, several members were unable to make the proposed meeting so it was cancelled. We're now hoping to have the meeting in early September and will circulate the date once we have it. The idea is to have it at my home with beers and brats, to repeat the theme of the ACA convention.

I'm very pleased to say that we will still be able to host visiting speakers after the departure of Klaus and Joy. Jeff Sousa has generously offered to host the occasional speaker so we're starting out with the judge/speaker for the Annual Tropical Fish Show that will be held between 3rd and 6th November. I'm still working on identifying a judge/speaker, but members should be thinking about which fish they plan to show and beginning to get them conditioned if they want them to be at their best!

Most of our visiting speakers have tended to come from the USA or Canada but we are now receiving interest from international speakers from other countries. Those who have recently expressed an interest in speaking to the club include Ingo Seidel from Germany (catfish, apistos, general fish species); Anton Lamboj from Austria (West African cichlids), and Felipe from Uruguay (who runs the Uruguay collecting trips). If we can work out a way to bring them here in a cost-effective manner, we could have some high quality international speakers in the coming months!

Whilst the survey has been completed, I remain open to listening to members who have suggestions for improving the way we run the club. Just give me a call or drop me an e-mail.



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3. Auctions!
4. Annual Tropical Fish Show
5. Visiting speakers on a variety of aquarium related topics.
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NEXT MEETING:

SEPTEMBER

Date & Venue to be determined
Notification will be sent by E-Mail

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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 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.



How Was ACA?

A review of the 2010 ACA Convention

By Craig Morfitt, Nyon Steede, Peter Marsh and David Patterson

The annual convention of the American Cichlid Association was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin during July. Four of our members attend and here are some of their thoughts on the event.

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE BEST MOMENTS FOR YOU AT THIS YEAR'S EVENT?

Craig –

For me, the best parts didn't even involve the convention. Nyon and I arrived a few days early and rented Harley Davidson motorcycles for three days. The weather

Forecast had suggested rain and thunder for all three days but it turned out to be lovely weather for riding. We set out each day with no particular destination in mind – just riding in a certain direction each day to see where it took us. Riding those bikes on open roads in open countryside was the best part of the trip for me.

I also enjoyed the two baseball games (especially seeing the Yankees beat the Indians) and the visits to the Harley Davidson Museum and the Rock & Roll

Hall of Fame (in Cleveland). There was definitely a lot more to the trip than the fish convention and those parts really made the trip for me.

Nyon –

Like Craig, I really enjoyed the three days of riding the Harleys. There was a lot of open country with mostly straight roads, but every now and then we found a stretch of winding road. One day Craig and I covered over 300 miles on our journey to nowhere. On the second day we rode across what looked to be just a small bike store/garage. We decided to have a look around and to our surprise, what we thought was a small store/garage had old bike memorabilia, an array of bike parts and accessories and even a bike museum. The bike museum was awesome! There were bikes there that I remembered being in Bermuda when I was a child.

The baseball game (Brewers versus Washington Nationals) and the tour of the Miller brewery was not as eventful as I would have liked but it had some interesting moments.

Peter –

RELAXING, meeting old friends and, of course, meeting new ones. The tour of Aqueon's aquarium manufacturing plant and the Harley Davidson museum was awesome. The tour of Miller brewery was very interesting.

David -

Peter and I arrived a day early and we had the opportunity to watch the local club members setting up for the show. I pitched in and helped Rusty Wessel set up a few of Marineland's display tanks. It actually paid off because I received a few freebies from Marineland! Bonus!

One of my highlights was going to the Aqueon Plant (formally known as All Glass) and checking out how tanks and all their other products were made. We were not able to go into one of the warehouses due to flooding caused by bad weather.

I also enjoyed visiting the Miller Brewery. We got free beer! Bonus! We watched the manufacturing process of the different types of brews, but I wasn't too interested in that part. I got free beer! The baseball game wasn't that bad either. It got off to a slow start and gradually became more interesting. Go Brewers!

HOW DID THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION COMPARE TO OTHERS THAT YOU HAVE ATTENDED?

Craig –

I've been to several ACA conventions, commencing with my first in 1990 and I've enjoyed



them all. But they certainly vary from location to location. I found this convention to be somewhat smaller than others I've been to. Whilst I haven't seen any official figures, I'd say that there were only about 300 registered attendees.

Despite the smaller attendance number, many old friends were there who I haven't seen for a few years (having not been to the past few conventions). It was great to catch up with them, have some laughs and a few beers.

One of the big differences for me this year was the fact that all of the fish sales seemed to take place in the rental tank room. That made it easier to see what was available but I did miss the experience of wandering the halls of the hotel, visiting various rooms to see the fish that were listed on the bulletin board.

I left for Cleveland on the Sunday, so I don't know how the big auction went, but I was able to find the fish that I wanted in the rental tanks. I was pleased to see some community fish available as well as cichlids.

Nyon –

This year's convention seemed very small as far as attendance with not a whole lot of variety to choose from. This was the first time that I saw the bulletin board with hardly any listings for fish for sale. It was evident that a lot of thought and effort went into the planning of this year's convention. The most impressive thing associated with the event was the 300-gallon Tanganyika display tank whose inhabitants were spawning right before your eyes, despite all the people gathering around and walking by.

I was not impressed with the quality of light in the show room (it was very dim over many tanks). Also, I was less than impressed with the show fish;

there weren't many that were awe inspiring. The other thing that made a negative impression was the distance from the airport to the hotel, which was about a 40 minute drive. Luckily, Craig made a friend over the Internet who let him borrow his minivan for the night. (hummm!) No, he was really a nice (very trusting) guy! Everywhere we went, Craig seemed to make a new friend. I would go somewhere and when I returned Craig was in what appeared to be a deep conversation.

Peter –

It's been a long time since I have attended an ACA; I believe my last one was in Colorado. I agree with Craig that attendance was smaller, but I thought they put on a well-organized Convention, The variety of fish in the show wasn't the best but it was great seeing people that I met back then and making new friends. The auction went on all day Sunday even into the evening; there were a lot of bargains.



David -

This was my third ACA convention and I also thought it was quite small compared to the other two. I did like the variation of vendors, though. Marineland was introducing their new filtration system and were showing off their 300 gallon tank. There was a vendor selling aquarium books, which sparked my interest. I purchased "Aquarium Atlas" by Baensch. It's a must-have for the fish enthusiast. I was a little disappointed to see that there were no discus vendors and only six discus were competing in the show.

One of my biggest dislikes was the location of the convention. There was only a K-Mart around and a couple of franchise restaurants to choose from. We did have a liquor shop right across the street though. Corona time!

WHAT FISH DID YOU BRING HOME WITH YOU?

Craig –

With only one tank at home, I didn't expect to bring many fish home. However, I came back with two trios of *Apistogramma bitaeniata* 'Shushupe' (wild caught from Uruguay) as well as ten *Corydoras adolfoi* and a group of Kitty Tetras (*Hyphessobrycon heliacus*). The prices were very reasonable.

Nyon –

There was a fish that has been on my wish list for years for sale at the convention but someone beat me to them (there were only 6). I did manage to get some *Zonatus*, some *Synspilum* (I love that fish) and some *Synodontis luciapinnis*. Peter and I got called back to the ticket counter because they discovered the fish in our suitcases. TSA were okay with us taking the fish but it was the airline (US Airways) that wouldn't allow the fish on the plane. In the end we were told that we would have to pay a \$100 pet fee for the fish, which we did. I contacted the airline but could not get a refund for the \$100. They said that their policy did not allow "pets" in the plane's cargo hold, but pets could travel as carry-on. RIGHT! We wouldn't be able to carry-on all that water! They did e-mail me to say that because of my e-mails to them, they are reassessing their pet policy to possibly include fish transportation.

Peter –

Yes, I ended up getting fish as well, and came back with *Aphyosemion australe* Orange, *Cyprichromis leptosoma*, *Fundulopanchax Austrle*, Kitty Tetras, Koi Angelfish and *Corydoras agassizii*

David -

I went out there hoping to find many different varieties of *Apistogrammas*, but I wasn't in luck. There were slim pickings at the convention.

I brought back six German Blue Rams, which were on my hit-list. I also picked up eight Borelli, ten Orange Flash *Cacatuoides*, and one *Ancistrus Cattie*. I did not have any issues transporting the fish back to Bermuda, but I lost two fish. Oh yeah... I foolishly bought about thirty Cardinal Tetras and only ended up with like five! What a waste! Never again!

HOW WAS THE DARK & STORMY PARTY?

Craig –

I think it was one of the best we have had. It was certainly the first time that we've given away all of the bottles of rum that we took. There's usually a few bottles left over – but not this year.

As in previous years, we served the Dark & Stormy whilst the Babes Oral Auction was taking place and I'm sure we had a big hand in loosening up the bidding! At least one person was bidding against himself without realizing it!

Nyon –

The Dark & Stormy night was a great success as usual this year. Like Craig mentioned, there was no rum left over. There were not a lot of people at the convention but all the alcoholics were there! Just joking. I guess since we did not attend last year's convention they thought they had to make up for being a year behind.

Peter –

As Craig stated this was the first time that we got rid of all the rum, which left me high and dry, so I had to settle on beer for the rest of the conference. We did find out that the liquor store down the road had Gosling Black Seal (doubt if they had the ginger beer). Meant to go and compare the price to Bermuda but didn't get around to it.

David -

This was one of the best Dark & Stormy nights that I have attended by far. The funniest moment was seeing a bidder so wasted that he was bidding on pretty much every fish by the end of the auction. We had to cut his Black Rum proportion down after he came stumbling to the table. I was amazed to see Felipe swig back 140 proof Gosling's Black Seal Rum without any chaser or ice! He was nursing the bottle the whole night. We had some good laughs that night.

HOW WERE THE SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS?

Craig –

I only attended about three talks but found them to be enjoyable and informative. I did speak with a couple of people who are keen to visit Bermuda to give talks – Anton Lamboj from Austria who is a



leading expert of cichlids from West Africa and Felipe from Uruguay who runs the collecting trips down there. I'll be looking into opportunities to get them here.

Nyon –

The speaker presentations were about par for the ACA. After going for so many years, the presentations seem to be rewrites of previous years. Even though that was definitely not the case (rewritten presentations) there isn't much of a distinction from year to year. It's like, you see one gray fish... you've seen them all.

Peter –

I attended most of the talks, which I also found informative and enjoyable. Out of all the speakers, I found Anton Lamboj and Ad Konnings to be the most informative.

David -

I must admit that I was not very interested in the speaker presentations, except for the wild discus presentation by Oliver Lucanus.

WERE THERE ANY OTHER MEMORABLE MOMENTS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

Craig –

Well, it was an interesting experience hearing my first tornado warning siren and seeing the live newscast reporting tornadoes in the immediate area! The hotel evacuated all of the guests from the upper floors and moved them to the ground/basement level. Fortunately, Nyon and I were in a room on the lowest

level so we continued to relax in the room and watch TV. We even let Peter and David into our room!! There was torrential rainfall that flooded several areas in Wisconsin. Thankfully, we'd returned the bikes to the rental company that morning!

Nyon –

The tornado warning siren reminded me when the siren would go off every day in the City of Hamilton to signify that it was 5:00 (knock-off time.) Messing with David over the course of the trip created some memorable moments. David said something to the effect that he was interested in getting some captive bred wild Discus. I had a good laugh at that one! There were numerous other laughs at David's expense but he was a great sport about the whole thing.

Peter –

Like Craig this was also my first experience of a tornado warning. What I found interesting was that the hotel didn't call your room, they went door to door to ask you to go to the first floor. Luckily Craig and Nyon were kind-hearted and let us in their room. David was even told that if it came down to it he could stay in the room, but had to sleep in the bathtub! Yes we were lucky that the tornado did not come close to us, but on the other hand I would have liked to have seen one.

I guess my most memorable event was the tour of Aqueon factory, which made aquarium tanks, hoods, etc. All this time I thought that aquariums were built using some type of automated system but that's not the case. They had about six or so stations (2 per station) putting together the tanks, the more that team produced the more they got paid, after the curing time of the silicone another two persons washed, cleaned, inspected and boxed the tanks. Even the light was individually put together. The only downside of the tour is they did not give any tanks away as samples! On the same tour we stopped off at two aquarium shops, and what surprised me is that the price of supplies, etc. was almost the same price that I would pay at Noah's Ark (thank you Carol and her team for keeping the prices down).

The day before (when it rained the whole day), we went to the Harley Davidson Museum, which was very informative, I did not realize how old the Harleys were, they even made a pedal bike.

Another interesting event that we all attended was a baseball game (not my favourite sport) between the Brewers and Washington Nationals. The game started out as I expected – boring - but once the home run was scored it livened up; I enjoyed just watching the reaction of the fans.

David -

Like everyone else, the tornado warning sirens were probably the most memorable. Peter and I got a knock on our door by the staff who told us that we had to proceed to the ground floor. Luckily, Nyon and Craig's room was on the ground floor and we had a spot to lounge in while the tornado warning was taking effect. Thanks for the beers, Craig. Another memorable moment was when I was bird watching with Rusty and the Marineland guys at two o'clock in the morning. Well, at least I thought it was a bird until we all went downstairs and, to my drunken amazement, it was only a pole with a white flag on it! I guess we all have our embarrassing moments, right Craig? LOL!

Conclusion

It's clear from the tales above that we all enjoyed our trip to ACA 2010. The 2011 ACA convention will be hosted by the Capitol Cichlid Association in Washington DC (19-24 July) for those who are thinking of attending!







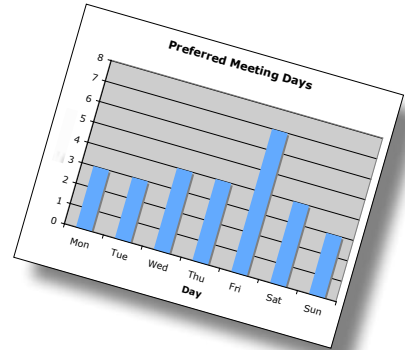
Members Survey

*The survey was taken due to the decreasing numbers attending meetings.
The aim of the survey is to focus the club on the needs of the members.*

MEETING NIGHT

What night of the week would you prefer for our meetings? Place 1, 2 and 3 against your top three choices.

Monday	1					1		3			
Tuesday	3					2		2			
Wednesday						3	2		3		X
Thursday		X		3	1				2		
Friday		X	1	1				1	1	1	X
Saturday		X	2	2				3			
Sunday	2		3		2						

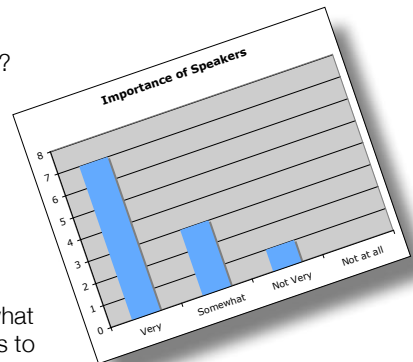


As can be seen in the chart above, Friday had the most choices. However, for four of the eleven respondents, Friday was not one of their three choices. There is sufficient interest in other days of the week for us to consider alternating meeting days to give all members a chance to attend meetings.

VISITING SPEAKERS

How important is it to you that the club brings in speakers from overseas?

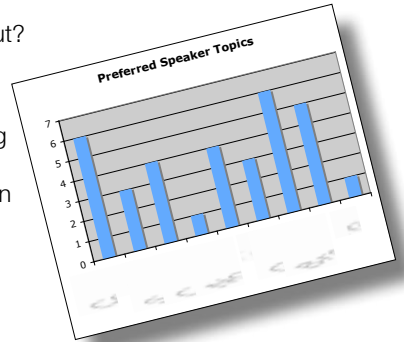
Very important	X	X		X		X	X	X			X
Somewhat important					X				X	X	
Not very important			X								
Not at all important											



With ten of the eleven respondents listing either very important or somewhat important, there is a clear indication of the importance of visiting speakers to the membership.

When we do bring in speakers, what would you prefer that they speak about?
List your top three choices, 1-3

There is a fairly broad range of votes for preferred speaker topics. Collecting gets the most votes and we frequently have talks about collecting trips. However, we haven't had many speakers on topics of general fish keeping tips and breeding tips (the next two highest vote getters), so we can try to focus a little on those topics with future speakers.

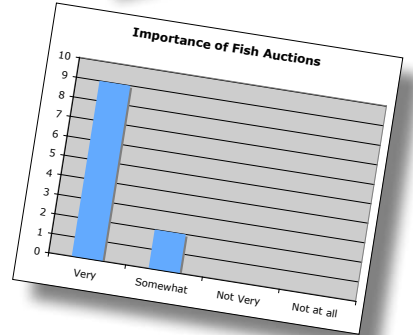


FISH AUCTIONS

How important is it to you that the club brings in fish for club auctions?

Very important	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Somewhat important					X		X				
Not very important											
Not at all important											

We can be in no doubt as to the importance of fish auctions to the members!

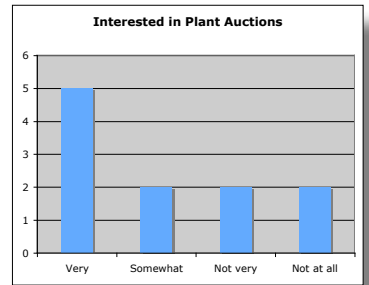


PLANT AUCTIONS

How interested are you in the club importing plants for auctions

Very interested	X			X	X				X	X	
Somewhat interested		X									X
Not very interested							X	X			
Not at all interested			X			X					

More than 50% of the members have an interest in plant auctions which makes it worth pursuing.

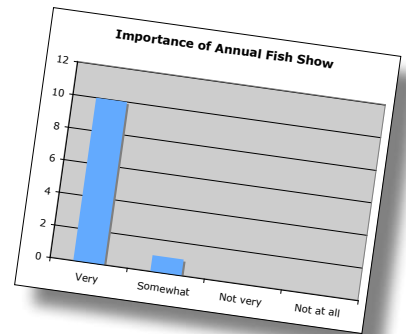


ANNUAL FISH SHOW

How important is it to you that the club holds an Annual Tropical Fish Show?

Very important	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Somewhat important			X								
Not very important											
Not at all important											

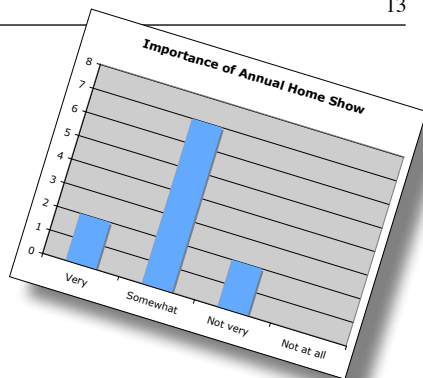
Again, the importance of the Fish Show is in no doubt, judging by the above results.



ANNUAL HOME SHOW

How important is it to you that the club holds an Annual Home Show for decorated aquariums?

Very important	X	X										
Somewhat important			X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
Not very important							X	X				
Not at all important												

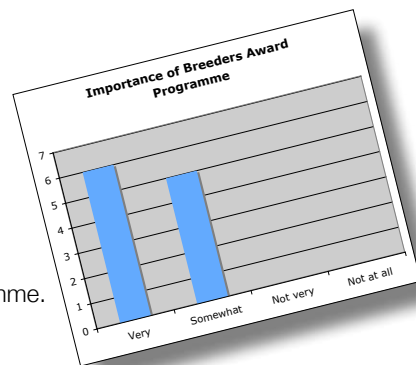


Whilst participation in the Annual Home Show is usually small, there is a clear indication of support for it in the survey.

BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAMME

How important is it to you that the club has a Breeders Award Programme?

Very important	X	X		X	X	X			X		
Somewhat important			X				X	X		X	X
Not very important											
Not at all important											

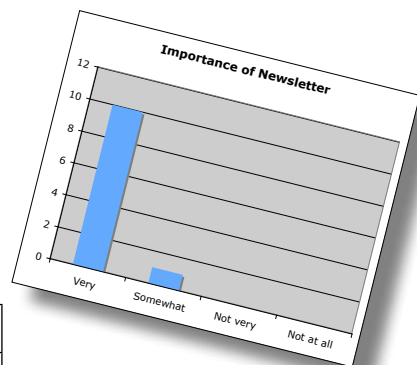


All of those who voted see some importance in the Breeders Award Programme.

NEWSLETTER

How important is it to you that the club produces a newsletter?

Very important	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Somewhat important							X				
Not very important											
Not at all important											



The newsletter is clearly seen as very important to members.

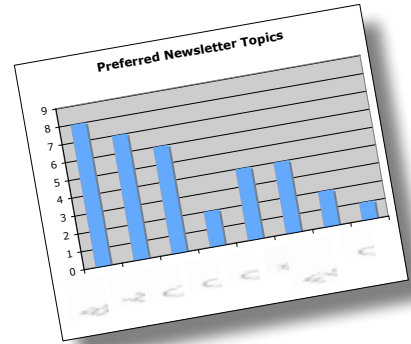
How important is it to you that the newsletter be printed rather than electronic?

Prefer printed version			X	X		X		X		X	X
Happy with online version	X	X			X		X		X		

Slightly more members prefer a printed copy to an online version.

What type of articles do you prefer to see in the newsletter? Select your top three, 1-3

Breeding			2		3	2	2	2	1	X	X
'How To'	2	X	1		1			3		X	X
Cichlids	3	X		1		3	1				X
Catfish	3			3							
Other fish types		X				1	3		2		
Aquatic plants	1			2	2				3		
Fish Travel								2		X	
Other			3								

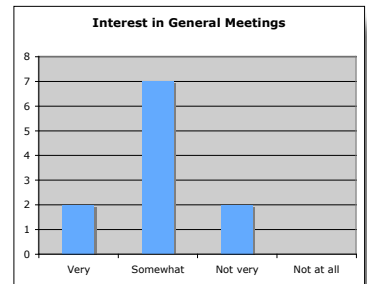


The results of this question will be very useful to Peter as he compiles the newsletter each month.

GENERAL CLUB MEETINGS

How interested are you in attending club meetings when there is not a speaker or auction?

Very interested		X							X		
Somewhat interested	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	
Not very interested			X								X
Not at all interested											

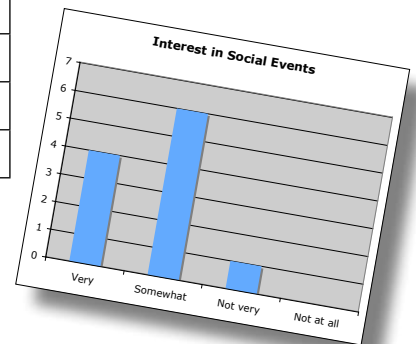


Despite the often small turnout at meetings where there is no speaker, only two of the respondents indicated little interest in attending such meetings.

CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS

How interested are you in attending club social events, such as barbecues, boat cruises, etc?

Very interested				X	X	X				X	
Somewhat interested	X	X					X	X	X		X
Not very interested											X
Not at all interested											



There appears to be general interest in attending club social events, based on the above results.

ANY OTHER FEEDBACK

If you have any other feedback that you would like to include, please type it below.

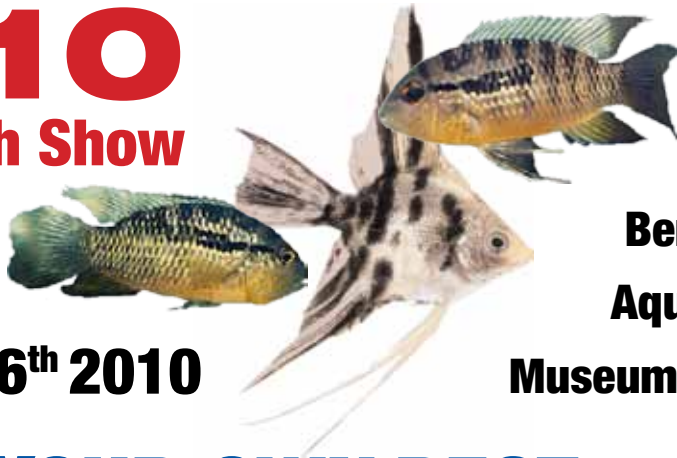
- "I really enjoy reading the member profiles in Fish Tales."

- “Enjoy articles about other members profiles.”
- “After over 14 years with the club my interest level in the club is starting to decrease. A two prong approach is needed. One to sustain current members interest and the other to make the club meeting interesting to sustain new members. I do question how well we make the new members feel accepted even with the new member coordinator post. I do question how well we make the new members feel a part of the group. Maybe with new members, after the intro of them by Howard, they can tell us a bit about themselves and current members can let them know who they are, what type of fish they keep, how long they have been in the hobby, so that the new member can possibly find someone they can connect with and thus keeping them in the club. Also, I think that it would be a great opportunity to have them in the newsletter not just as a name under ‘welcome new member’ but getting them featured using the membership profile.”
- “Maybe we don’t need meetings every month. I like meetings at someone’s house more so than at the aquarium.”
- “More involvement of members.”

The above comments give us something to think about as we make decisions on how we’ll operate going forward.

Thanks to all of those who participated in the survey. Your feedback should prove useful.

2010 Annual Fish Show



at the
Bermuda
Aquarium

November 6th 2010

Museum & Zoo

SHOW YOUR OWN BEST FISH

**Anyone can enter the show
Showing your fish can be satisfying,
fun, and easy to do**

Please Check www.fryangle.com and future Newsletters for more information

A Royal Krib

– *Pelvicachromis sacrimontis*

By Ted R. Judy,

*1509 Matthew Way, Stoughton, WI 53589
tjudy@tedsfishroom.com*

I have never been one to worry much about a fish's common name. I have started to notice, however, that there are certain species that have been given a more impressive honorific than others. Most common names are logically derived from the appearance of the fish, where it is found or its taxonomic designation. Other names do not seem to make any sense at all. Who decides a common name? Are there rules for common names? Is there a certain level of impressiveness or panache that a fish must present in order to earn an awesome moniker? What, for instance, does it take for a fish to be labeled as 'royal'?

Royal. I have no idea how a fish earns that adjective, but I like it. Royal pleco, royal farlowella, royal angelfish, royal gramma. Regal, majestic, imperial, powerful and stately are the words I think of when I see 'royal' in a name. The term has been ascribed to at least one species in many families of fish, but not to a cichlid. In the absence of rules and guidelines I hereby bestow the honorific of 'royal' upon a truly deserving creature... *Pelvicachromis sacrimontis*. Henceforth I will refer to this species as the Royal Krib.

The names previously used to describe this spectacular example of piscelene perfection are totally inadequate. 'Giant Krib'... it is not the largest krib, and the descriptor brings to mind terms like oaf, grotesque, unintelligent. 'Scarlet Krib'... not all the known color varieties are predominantly red, and to assign a color name to a fish that expresses so many different hues is at best incomplete.

The royal krib is one of eight described species in the genus *Pelvicachromis*. They are found in the freshwater stream ecosystems in flat coastal plain of the Niger River in Nigeria. The genus is unofficially broken into two groups of species based upon body size and shape. Type One species include

P. humilis and like types that are characteristically larger, have a more angular facial profile and more streamlined body shape than the other kribbs that all fall into the Type Two species. The royal krib is a Type Two, but it is unique in that it grows much larger than the other type two fish (*P. pulcher*, *P. taeniatus*, etc...). Size alone, however, does not define the 'royalness' of the beast.

A dominant male royal krib is truly a sight to behold. Many cichlids defend a territory, but the royal krib rules. The king maintains control of his realm through the threat of his omnipotence. Subdominant males live in fear of the monarch's wrath, and will avoid his attention whenever possible. Females exist as his harem, and compete to be the one to earn his reproductive attention and favor. Other species are not immune to the ruler's influence. Any fish that dwells in his realm will be constantly reminded who is in charge, and the errant fish that challenges his majesty for space, food or even the right to live had best beware. The king is benevolent, however, and will not cruelly oppress his subjects so long as they give him the fealty he demands.

Whereas the king is the power of the throne, his queen is the weapon through which his will is imposed. This dominant female is his Excellency's chosen. His primary mate. She will aggressively defend the palace as well as project her power to the far reaches of the kingdom. Through her high-handed diplomacy his majesty's subjects will be allotted their place. No court reigns without scandal, however, and the other suitors for the king's affections know that risking the wrath of her highness may earn a chance to be a usurper. The amorous advances of these courtesans, in the tradition of castle intrigue and royal promiscuity, will create a fair number of royal bastards.

The royal analogy can only be taken so far. *P. sacrimontis* is truly a unique krib, however,

and the intricacies of their behavior are hard to detail in a short article. The males, though powerful and dominant, are also shy. Once they have established their superiority they are more comfortable letting the breeding female control the scene. The females are dynamic communicators. I have seen several distinctly different color patterns a female can express in order to make her point. The speed at which color changes occur is amazing.

Like all members of the genus *Pelvicachromis*, they are remarkably attentive parents. Brood sizes are relatively small for such a large 'dwarf' cichlid. The largest spawn I have observed numbered about 80 fry, but most fall in the range of 25 – 50. This is small in comparison to *P. pulcher*, a smaller species, that regularly produces broods in excess of 100. Communication between the parents and their offspring can be very specific. A system of color changes, ticks, shakes and shimmies guide the school of fry around the tank in search of food. The parents will put the babies to bed in a cave each evening and bring them out again the next morning.

A royal krib male will grow to six inches or more and females will top out around four inches. The territory they defend is not defined as much by physical space as it is by the vision of the pair. They are masters of all the survey, and the only members of a colony that will not be constantly reminded who the boss is are those who can stay out of sight. A group of one male and three females needs a tank of at least 48" in length to coexist without fatal beatings, and only then if there is plenty of structure behind which the non-breeding females can hide. Clean, well filtered water is imperative. A partial water change of 20%-30% every week to ten days is beneficial.

The species can be kept in a wide range of water parameters, but the best solution for spawning is soft water (<100 ppm TDS, KH <2) with a neutral to slightly acidic pH. The sex ratio in the offspring will be influenced by the pH, but the specific pH ranges are not well understood. In general a lower pH will result in a higher proportion of females in the brood, and a higher pH will result in more males.

Foods for adult fish should include a larger proportion of vegetable matter than animal protein. The species is primarily a plant detritus feeder in nature. That does not mean that they will not gorge themselves on any proffered live or frozen foods. A good feeding regimen will include frequent small

meals of vegetable-based flake or small pellet foods, and infrequent, but regular, meaty treats. All food particles should be small, however, because the mouth of *P. sacrimontis* is relatively small and built to harvest very small particles of food the fish sift from the substrate. Live foods such as grindal worms, white worms, daphnia and *Artemia* nauplii (baby brine shrimp) are excellent for conditioning females to spawn. Newly free-swimming fry are large enough to eat *Artemia* nauplii, and will grow quickly with a twice daily feeding of that nutritious live food. They will also eat any crushed flake or pellet food.

This species grows more slowly than other *Pelvicachromis* species, and rarely reach sexual maturity within a year. The best way to get the very young fry to grow is to let the parents do the job for the first few weeks. When the fry are separated from their parents, it is best to put them into a smaller tank where they will not have to search far for food. A smaller tank means that frequent water changes will be needed to maintain good water quality; a 50% water change with aged water every other day is not overkill. A group of 40 – 50 fry in a ten-gallon grow out tank with the frequent water changes and plenty of food will take about two months to reach ½" in length. At that point it is best to move the group up to a larger tank to grow through adolescence.

P. sacrimontis is sporadically available through specialty breeders and as wild imports. There are three color varieties: red, green and yellow. They are all attractive and the actual color differences between the types are not dramatic. A box of wild imports will usually include some of each color variety. Males of the yellow variety are not hard to pick out of the crowd, but the red and green morphs are similar to each other. Females of the red and green morph, however, can be a challenge. If you cannot be sure that the males and females you are getting are of the same type, do not let that stop you from keeping this incredible fish. They do not care one way or the other.

If we are all consistent we can establish *P. sacrimontis* as the Royal Krib. When you go to your favorite fish store to get some, ask for it by name with confidence and the expectation that the clerk will know what you are talking about. It might be a good idea to mention the correct name *P. sacrimontis*. Try to avoid using those inadequate 'scarlet' or 'giant' adjectives.

Reprinted from "The Youngstown Aquarist"

Goodea gracilis – The Dusky Splitfin

by Ben Slocum

Last Summer I purchased two pairs of *Goodea gracilis* from a gentleman on the internet. When they arrived I placed them in a 10 gallon bare bottom tank with just a few silk plants and a sponge filter. I did a little research on them and found that the 1" fish in the tank were probably a year from maturity, with the females reaching a maximum of 2" with the males staying a little smaller. No hurries, no worries as they were eating anything thrown in front of them. The species is endangered in their native Mexico, but is still popular in the hobby.



I realized very quickly that they weren't real fond of bright or excessive light so I placed enough hornwort to cover about 75% of the water surface. With the subdued light they colored up quite nicely. As with all my Goodied species I keep, I placed a handful or two of crushed shells mixed with pea sized natural gravel to raise the hardness to the 550-600 ppm range. My well water's pH runs in the 7.4 – 8.0 range; why it varies I don't know. It is however 100 ppm hardness before being altered either mechanically or chemically. I perform weekly water changes of 25% to ensure rapid growth and to reduce the buildup of wastes.



These fish were sexable when I received them so I thought perhaps they might mature by winter and I would find fry swimming around. The older they grew the more timid they became.



This was frustrating as skittish fish are not comfortable fish who like to mate. I spoke with a goodied friend (get it?) who helped me do further research on the species. He found an article that stated they need to have heavy cover and some current to feel comfortable. I turned up the air flow and packed the tank with dark plastic and silk plants. They are on the middle shelf of my fish room which stays about 72-74°F which is actually a little warm for this species and most Goodieds, but they don't seem to mind.

I began to complement their flake feedings by feeding them live blackworms and before long the females became very gravid and black in color. I thought they would explode they were so large! One morning I found the largest female to be smaller and I looked for hiding fry. Do you know how hard it is to see gray fry hiding in black plants in a dim tank? Well, I found one alive and some real "sleepy" ones on the bottom. They're supposed to have a 55-60 day gestation period but one batch of 18 was dropped 30 days later, the other females 25 came a week later. I pulled the first drop and housed them with some *Corydoras aeneus* juveniles. The last drop I've left with the breeding group with no losses



This is a pretty cool fish, too secretive for my liking, but a decent challenge for the Goodied keeper. Clean, moving water, dim lighting and live foods with a high protein flake will bring you a decent batch of fry or two. Have fun!

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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:

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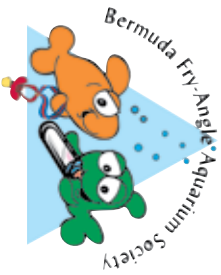
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