

SPLASH

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MILWAUKEE AQUARIUM SOCIETY INC.

1955-2010

AUGUST 2010



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Milwaukee Aquarium Society

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From the Fish Room of the President

Well autumn is upon us again. Time for what is traditionally the busy season for the aquarium hobby to begin. Aquariums that have been neglected during those warm summer days start getting looked at again, pond fish come inside, and the southern hemisphere begins its dry season which increases the availability of imported fish. It is also auction and swap season again! MAS will be hosting an auction on October 17th and a swap on November 14th. It's a great opportunity to move out those old fish you don't have room for anymore and pick up some new ones.

Since I got married this summer I have had to tear down and store my larger aquariums, which has severely curtailed my fish keeping obsession. But since then I have been finding places throughout the apartment where small desktop aquariums fit nicely. So my 3 aquarium plan has quietly become 5 aquariums. But I have a feeling that if my new wife finds another one of these tanks in the apartment she is going to hit me on the head with a frying pan! The biggest reason for my Multiple Tank Syndrome (MTS) is guppies. I have always enjoyed these common but fascinating livebearers. The color patterns are so amazing and it seems like new varieties are showing up every year. Right now I have a group of all black guppies which are really cool. I want to continue working with them until I can develop a female that is as black as the male. Hence the reason for adding more little tanks. I need space to separate out the males and females so only the best fish are breeding.

All of this reminds me of when I was first starting out in the hobby living in my parent's house. It was their willingness to tolerate my budding MTS and encourage my growth in the hobby that got me to the point I am today. So the next time your child asks you to add one more aquarium in their room or you're in a local fish store and there are some confused parents with their enthusiastic child stop and offer them some advice and encouragement. The child getting that aquarium or fish today could be writing this column in a few years!

Andy

Narwhal72 on www.milwaukeeaquariumsociety.com

Spawning *Corydoras weitzmani*

By Ted Judy

Spawning *Corydoras* catfish has never been my strong suit. I have managed most of the 'easy' species with a lot of attention and effort. I have tried to breed many of the fancier varieties with no success. But I keep trying, and occasionally I get lucky.

I had the opportunity to buy some young proven breeders of the relatively new to the hobby *C. weitzmani*. I think of cories as being one of three basic color varieties: spotted, plain with dark marks or solid. *C. sterbai* is an example of the spotted type, *C. metae* the plain with dark markings and *C. aeneus* the solid color. *C. weitzmani* falls into the plain with dark marks category. It has a tan-brown body color with dark markings: an eye bar, and dorsal saddle and a caudal spot.

C. weitzmani is not very demanding. Moderate hardness with a neutral pH, cooler temperatures (in the 70 – 74 F range), plenty of cover for the fish to hide and numbers because cories like company. I started with a group of 8 and expanded it to 12 when I ran across a few more in an auction. I feed the group a variety of foods including flake, sinking carnivore pellets, earthworm sticks, baby brine and live black worms. When I wanted to condition the females to spawn I fed more black worms than the normal once a week.

Spawning this species turned out to be pretty easy. I read on-line that they would lay eggs in mops, so I hung three or four in the 20H aquarium they were in and checked for eggs every morning. I started seeing them two days after adding the mops, but not very many. The females were huge, so I suspected that the non-breeding fish may have been eating eggs. I separated the largest female and two males into a separate 10-gallon tank with mops, and two days later one mop had 35 eggs in it.

I picked the eggs and placed them in a 2.5-gallon tank with water from the breeding tank. I added 5 drops of methylene blue to darken the water. The eggs hatched on the third day after spawning, and the fry became free-swimming two days later. I started the fry on paramecium, microworms and decapsulated brine eggs. I started 20% water changes three days after the eggs started hatching.

Fry survival was surprisingly high. Out of 30 eggs that hatched 24 were alive after three weeks. I made a mistake and missed a few water changes and lost a few more. The fry grow very fast with plenty of food and water changes.

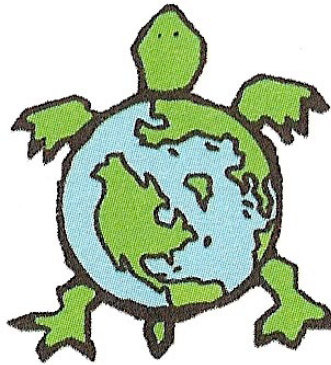
C. weitzmani is a good choice for a beginner cory cat. I think that they are as easy to work with as *C. panda* or *C. paleatus*. I would like to say that the lessons learned from breeding this species has made me more successful with other banded cories, but that is not the case. So I will keep trying.

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Important Dates!

M.A.S. FALL AUCTION	OCTOBER 17
M.A.S. OCTOBER MEETING	OCTOBER 22
FISH O RAMA FALL SWAP	NOVEMBER 14 TH
M.A.S. NOVEMBER MEETING	NOVEMBER 26 TH
XMAS PARTY	DECEMBER 5 TH

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.MILWAUKEEAQUARIUMSOCIETY.COM

Exchanges August – September 2010

As I sit here recovering from the effects of a whip lashed neck, a gift from the motorist in the vehicle behind me that failed to brake in time, I ponder the form my exchange article will take. Over the last at least 5 or more years as Exchange editor, I have found that my article is spawned from weeks of mental planning, inspiration, spontaneity and whatever else results from the mad dash to the editor's dead-line. If you are writing an article I have learned a useful trick is to write down the content in paragraphs, slips of paper, notebook, typed up whatever media is near at hand. Then combine these eclectic forms of recording thoughts and ideas into its final form. Allow this compilation to marinate unseen by you the author for a few days before you look at the article again and make those final few finishing revisions. You will find this will often give you a different perspective, a slight objectivity, that second look that will inspire you to finish the article or at the least find a better way to state things.

Yesterday (Fri. Sept. 25th) we were honored with a presentation by Rhonda Wilson, author of 'the planted tank' column in Tropical Fish Hobbyist magazine. I learned the difference between Back swimmers 'Notonectinae' (swims upside down) and water boatman 'Corixidae'. I also tried to take pictures and video of a backswimmer I found in my pond. If they turn out I will send one along to Rhonda.

Cichlidae Communiqué from Pacific Coast Cichlid Association, July / August 2010.

'Six Nuts in a Can' by Sonny Dimeo. A very entertaining article, a catchy title about a group on a fishy road trip "Adventure to the Southland". This is a reprint from the Cichlidae Communiqué March/April 1995. Sonny details a trip that started from Chuck Rambo's house in San Jose to a talk by Ad Konings on Malawian fish through a number of other fish rooms. All the while travelling in Kurt Zadnik's van nicknamed "The Can". How many of you have been on fish related road trips? Have you recorded your experiences in an article maybe with some pictures, please share?

Also in the Communiqué is 'The First 30 years of the PCCA' by Chuck Rambo. As is evident from the title Chuck walks us through the history of the club as they celebrate their 30th anniversary. Chuck's article ends with questions about the future of the PCCA and the hobby. He ends the article with a line that I would like to quote since we at MAS could use as it well, " Maybe think about getting involved with the club in the near future and the 60th anniversary of the PCCA may be an article written by you.

The Tropical News, Sacramento Aquarium Society (SAS), September 2010

NANFA (North American Native Fishes Association) convention is being held in Southern Nevada, October 14 -19. The convention will be over by the time you are reading this article but if you want to learn about NANFA here is their website. www.nanfa.org. They have a very cool convention T-shirt with a skull on it and native fish as well, worth checking out.

SAS is offering paperless (electronic) memberships at a reduced price.

Tropical Fish Hobbyist magazine, November 2010. The TFH Breeder's Challenge, Part Eleven by Mike Hellweg and Ted Judy. You can keep up with their progress online as well by visiting their blog at www.tfhmagazine.com/blogs. Score as of the tenth month of the challenge Mike 11 spawns this month for a year to date total of 143 versus 9 for Ted this month for a year to date total of 126. While Ted has fallen behind this month, let's remember Ted was also chairperson of the ACA 2010. Scores aside this is an excellent competition it brings attention to the spawns, various species, it strengthens the bonds between the club members as their rally around their champion. Excellent photos.

Sturgeon fest was just concluded this past Saturday October 2nd. 1012 young sturgeons were released into the Milwaukee river. It was very exciting and heart warming to see so many young kids and parents taking part in the attempts to help restore the largest of Wisconsin native species.

From the website for riveredge "Lake sturgeons are the largest native fish to Wisconsin and the Great Lakes. Lake sturgeons are one of 23 different sturgeon species, which are living relics. This ancient species made its first appearance around 100,000,000 years ago in the Upper Cretaceous period of the Mesozoic era, around the time that dinosaurs made their abrupt exit from Earth."

"The goal of the program is to produce a breeding population of lake sturgeon in the Milwaukee River. To achieve this goal, 1,000 to 1,500 sturgeons will be raised and released every year for the next 25 years." Please visit <http://riveredge.us/> for more information

TO ALL EXCHANGE EDITORS,

RE: CONVERTING TO ELECTRONIC VERSION OF 'THE SPLASH'

If you are willing and able to convert from paper to electronic version of our publication, 'The Splash' or if you would like to start exchanging publications with the Milwaukee Aquarium Society. Please contact me with the contact information for your exchange editor. I have contacted some of you and will try to contact each of your (exchange editors) individually as well, but I wanted to post this message as well as a back up plan.

Austin Braganza

Exchange Editor, Milwaukee Aquarium Society

Stripping Fish

By Jerry Michels M.A.S.

I. Introduction:

I wrote this article to answer some of the questions beginning fish breeders have asked once they started keeping mouth brooders – especially cichlids.

II. Questions and Answers:

Q. How do I know when to strip the fish?

A. Not all fish have the same amount of hatching/holding time. It's a good idea to take notes of previous "holding to not holding" times as well as to read what others say about that fish. Its trial and error that gets better with observation and experience.

Q. What equipment is needed?

A. A net to catch the females;

A dishpan with 2 or 3" of water from the tank Mom comes from;

A plastic yarn needle 4 or 5" in length or some similar object (do not use a thread needle as it is too narrow and too pointed);

A wide mouth baster;

A small container (small baby food jar size)

A small container with Mom's tank water to hold the female before you put her in a recovery tank or return her to the original tank;

A tumbler and place to put it for eggs or partially hatched fry;

(probably best to put tumbler in original tank)

Some people use a quart size container and an airstone – need to do a 90% water change at least once a day (using water from the original tank)

A small (approx. 2 gal.) tank with sponge filter for free swimming fry.

A towel for water spill or wet hands

Q. How do you get the fry out of the mouth?

A. There are three basic methods: spitting, shaking, or prying.

Spitting (the fish-not you)—If your lucky, the female will release/spit the fish into the net before you get a chance to do anything else or she spits once your holding her in your hand underwater in the dishpan.

Shaking – Some fish will spit their fry while you are holding them underwater in the dishpan. Shake the fish while aiming her head down. Don't squeeze her or slap her against the pan.

Prying – Hold the fish gently but firmly in one hand and the plastic yarn needle in the other. Gently place the tip of the needle between her lips and press down on the lower lip. Sooner or later she will open her mouth wide enough to let several fry escape. Don't force the lower lip too far down (I've never broken a jaw but some people have – be patient). Repeat until all the fry are out.

Q. How will I know when all the fry are out?

A. The first thing to do when you believe she's empty is to look into the mouth. Second, put her back in the net and let the net sag into the dishpan water. She may spit any remaining fry out.

Third, repeat the initial steps.

Fourth, if empty place her in the holding container or recovery tank. If she's going back in the main tank, leave her in the holding container awhile.

Fifth, If you don't get all of the fry, no harm done.

Q. How do I get the eggs, partially hatched, or free swimming fry out of the dishpan?

A. For eggs or partially hatched fry, use a wide mouth baster to suck them up. Squirt them all into a small container before pouring them into a tumbler. For free swimming fry, net them out of the dishpan water and put them into the 2 gal. tank with at least 50% of the water from the original tank. Or remove most of the water from the dishpan and pour the remainder with the fry into the 2 gal. tank.

Conclusion:

This is how I strip fish. Others may use different equipment or approach the same situation in a different way. Use what works with the fish you have. One way to find out more is to talk to fish keepers at your local club gatherings.



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SPLASH CLASSIFIEDS

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How Things Work

Aquarium Filters Part 1.

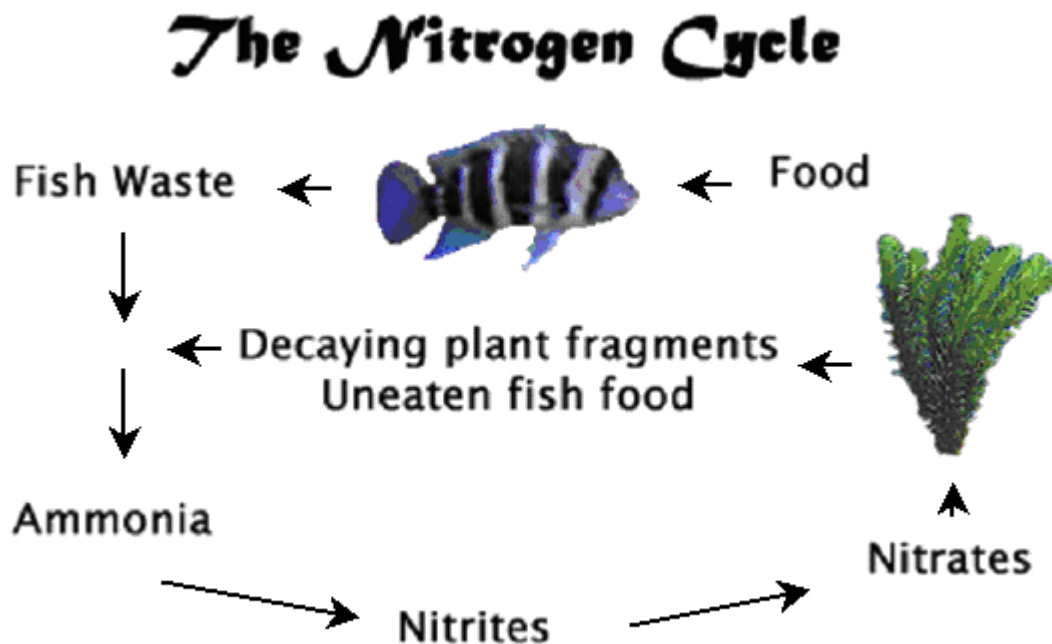
By Andy Hudson

Last month we finished up glass aquariums. This month I want to start on probably the most complicated and ever changing aspects of aquarium keeping. That aspect would be filtration. It seems that every year there are new brands and designs of filtration. Some of these make keeping an aquarium easier, some improve water quality, and some not so much. Aquarium filters have changed dramatically since the box filters and undergravel filters that were first used in the 40's and 50's. The increase in efficiency allows hobbyists to keep more and more fragile fish and invertebrates in our aquariums than ever before. Although filters can be very different in design they must all incorporate one or more of the three principles of aquarium filtration. These principals are mechanical, chemical, and biological filtration. Without all three of these principles working in harmony on the aquarium we would find it very hard to keep fish alive or tolerate the smell coming from our aquariums! In Part 1 of

this series I will go through the different aspects and principles of filtration. In other chapters I will discuss the designs of different types of filters and explain how they work and what they do.

As mentioned earlier the three aspects of aquarium filtration are mechanical, chemical, and biological. Some people would consider water changes as a type of filtration. This is technically dilution and although as important as filtration is dissimilar in the fact that it removes water from the system and adds in new water which the other three aspects do not. For the sake of argument I am excluding it from this article.

The first and most important aspect of filtration to most aquarists is biological filtration. Biological filtration is the conversion of toxic nitrogenous waste products into harmless waste products that can either be recycled by plants and algae or diluted with a water change. Most aquarists beyond the beginner stage have heard of the ammonia cycle. For those that haven't it is the conversion of ammonia (NH_3) to nitrite (NO_2) by beneficial bacteria and then conversion of the still toxic nitrite into harmless nitrate (NO_3) by a different species of bacteria. This process requires a lot of oxygen use by the bacteria and so these bacteria (called aerobic bacteria) require a high oxygen environment to survive. The bacteria also are benthic and require a surface to attach to. Although every surface in an aquarium is a potential area for bacteria to colonize a biological filter provides a large surface area for bacteria to colonize as well as provide the maximum amount of oxygen for the bacteria to be at their most efficient.



The second most important aspect of filtration is mechanical filtration. Mechanical filtration involves the physical removal of particulate waste from the system. Removal of this waste not only keeps the water clear and the tank clean but it also reduces the strain on the biological filter by

removing compounds before they can decompose into nitrogenous waste. Mechanical filtration involves the removal of these particles from the water column by screening the water through a fine sieve that traps the particles. When this sieve (whether it is a floss cartridge or a foam sponge) is changed or cleaned the particles are exported from the system.

The last aspect of filtration is chemical filtration. Chemical filtration removes dissolved molecules from the water. These particles are small enough to pass through a mechanical filter and can often cause the water to become tinted or have an odor. Chemical filtration involves the use of chemical media which are a variety of minerals, resins, and most commonly, activated carbon. These media have electrochemically adsorptive properties that attract the unwanted molecules and hold them within the matrix of the media. When the media is replaced or recharged these molecules are exported from the system.

Since we are always importing nutrients into our aquariums every time we feed the fish it is equally important that we export nutrients at an equal rate in order to maintain balance in the aquarium. If nutrients are imported at a greater rate than they are exported the result is deterioration in water quality resulting in lower water clarity, high levels of toxins such as ammonia or nitrite, and lots of debris. By exporting waste products through filtration or dilution a healthy aquarium can be maintained.

In the next chapter.....Sponge Filters!

M.A.S. Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from M.A.S. Board Meeting

February 13, 2010

Meeting called to order at 3:02pm

In Attendance: Austin Braganza, Jim Everson, Andy Hudson, Ted Judy, Ken King, Bonnie King, Michael Laursen, Jeff Michels, Jerry Michels, Kerri Michels, John O'Connor, Dan Randall, David Timmer, Justin

The new board was welcomed and the first order of business was to elect a Board Chairman.

Ken King was nominated for the position and was elected unanimously.

Membership (Jerry Michels): The club currently has 22 paid members for 2010, and that number is expected to increase as memberships are renewed. A reminder will be placed in the next issue of the SPLASH. Motion was made to remove three honorary memberships from the roll. Their names will remain on the club's event mailing list. Motion passed.

Treasurer (Jerry Michels): Current balance is \$2,602.30 of which \$176.04 is allocated to the library.

Swap/Auction (Jerry Michels / David Timmer): The January swap was a success and resulted in a sizable net gain for the club. It was suggested that the club should develop ways to track the effectiveness of our postcard mailings. A recommendation was made to have people turn in their postcard as an entry into a special raffle at each event. Motion was made to send a single postcard advertising both events. Motion passed.

Dates for the spring swap and auction were discussed and revised as follows: The swap will be held April 11th, and the auction will be on May 2nd.

Web Master (Ted Judy): Ted will be creating and posting a printable flyer prior to each club meeting. Feel free to distribute the flyer to local stores/hobbyists/etc.

Activity on the forum is not yet as heavy as could be expected. Everyone is encouraged to visit the site and post.

SPLASH Report (Michael Laursen): The next issue should be out to the printers in the next week.

Exchanges (Jim Everson): No report

Library (Jim Everson): Jim is looking for suggestions on books to purchase for club. Ted says that our February speaker (Randy Carey) has a new book out and will possibly have some for sale at the meeting if the club is interested in adding it to the library.

Advertising (David Timmer): No report

There was discussion regarding a new advertising package that several members are working on. The idea is to offer businesses a multi-media package of advertising to include exposure in the SPLASH; on the club website; and in a store directory to be handed out at club events. A resolution was passed instructing Ted, Michael, and Dan to move forward with developing this plan.

Manufacturers Liaison (Kerri Michels): Kerri says that the club still has a good amount of merchandise that has been donated for past events, and asked if the board wants her to continue soliciting donations for this year's Christmas Party. The consensus was that she should hold off on asking for more donations, but that she should still contact Zoo Med.

Store Liaison (Don Hinske): Austin Braganza reports that he and Don are working on a plan to contact area businesses once the advertising plan is finalized.

Participation Awards Program (Ken King): Everything is updated

FAAS (Dan Randall): Dan is putting together submissions for the annual publication awards. Deadline is February 28th.

BAP (Jeff Michels): Working on updating spreadsheets and compiling results from 2009. The results are later this year because of the decision to allow entries from 2009 to be accepted at the January meeting.

Speaker Chair (Ted Judy): We are still looking for a speaker for April, but the rest of the year is booked.

Old Business: No old Business

New Business: Ken King made a motion that the club sponsor a show-class award at the American Livebearer Association's convention. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Randall

Minutes from M.A.S. Board Meeting

March 21, 2010

Meeting called to order at 1:32pm

In Attendance: Austin Braganza, Jim Everson, Don Hinske, Andy Hudson, Ted Judy, Ken King, Bonnie King, Jerry Michels, Dan Randall, Warren

Membership (Jerry Michels): The club currently has 28 paid members. A reminder will be placed in the next issue of the SPLASH.

Treasurer (Jerry Michels): Current balance is \$2,585.30 of which \$166.04 is allocated to the library. The February mini-auction had 21 bags which brought in \$94.00. The year-to-date totals for the mini-auction are 68 bags and \$320.00.

SPLASH (Michael Laursen): Andy announced that April 1st is the deadline for submissions for the next issue.

Advertising (David Timmer): Don, Austin, Ken, and Andy have been in contact with area stores regarding the new advertising package. Unfortunately, there has been very limited interest so far. The board set a deadline of March 31st to accept advertisements. There was discussion as to adjusting the price of the package; establishing an annual advertising schedule; and Splash content. The matter was tabled.

Exchanges (Austin Braganza & Jim Everson): There was nothing new to report, except that they are still looking for someone to take over for Jim as he would like to step down from the position.

Web Master (Ted Judy): The dates for spring events have been updated on the website. Ted is still looking into options for website/forum software.

Library (Jim Everson): No report. Andy says that he will have some donations for the library in the near future.

Manufacturers Liaison (Kerri Michels): No report.

Store Liaison (Don Hinske): Austin Braganza has the new posters and tri-fold displays. He is working on getting these out to the stores.

Participation Awards Program (Ken King): Everything is updated

FAAS (Dan Randall): No report.

BAP (Jeff Michels): No report.

HAP (Aaron Glass): No report

Swap/Auction (Jerry Michels / David Timmer): Jerry is working on the postcard for the spring swap and auction. We will only be sending one card that will include details for both events. The postcard can be used to enter a special raffle at the auction. The hope is to get a better idea of how effective our current mailer is at bringing people out to the events.

Speaker Chair (Ted Judy): The speaker for our March meeting will be Charlie Grimes. Ted is expecting a good turnout at our meeting from members of the Madison club. He also encourages M.A.S. members to come out the following day (March 27th) to see part 2 of Charlie's talk at the Madison Area Aquatic Hobbyists meeting. M.A.A.H .will is waiving their door charge for this event.

Old Business: None

New Business: Dates and hosts for future board meetings were set.

All meetings will begin at 1:00pm.

May 23rd (Don Hinske)

June 13th (Dan Randall)

July 11th (Ted Judy) – This will be an ACA planning meeting; and only if needed.

August 14th (Andy Hudson)

September 11th (Austin Braganza)

October 3rd (Jim Everson)

Meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Randall

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TROPIC LIFE

Pseudotropheus sp. "elongatus chailosi" An Mbuna's Mbuna

By Jim Everson

Pseudotropheus sp. "elongatus chailosi" is, in many ways, very typical of the "rock fish" (mbuna) of Lake Malawi. What is not typical is the bold black, yellow, and purple coloration of the dominant male. The vertical, zebra-like bar pattern that can be seen on many mbuna species is jet black on the male elongatus chailosi. The head, dorsal, anal, ventral, and pectoral fins are also jet black. The background to this black barred pattern is a bright yellow. This yellow coloration is as intense as can be seen on the brightest lemon yellow lab. The tail sports a triangle of yellow, edged in black at the top and bottom. The dorsal fin is edged by a thin yellow line as are the leading edges of the ventral and anal fins. The head is ornamented by purple above and behind the eyes and gill plate. A purple blush behind the gill plate recedes into the bold bright yellow and black bar pattern. The amount of purple and intensity of yellow seems to vary with the fish's mood. The females can also color up like this when excited or angered, though the females normally exhibit a dark gray barred pattern over a silver/gray background, occasionally showing some yellow.

I would estimate my fish to be about three and a half inches in length, with the male only slightly larger than the females. These elongatus chailosi spawned in a fifty-five gallon "community tank" that also housed *Tropheops tropheops*, *Labidochromis* sp. "Hara", and *Otopharynx heterodon*. This tank has lots of rocks and hiding places but still wasn't large enough to prevent losses due to aggression. I started with five juveniles of each of these four species. The least aggressive (and only non-mbuna species) are the *Otopharynx heterodon*. Only three each of these four species have survived.

The *Tropheops* spawned first and were removed after they spawned. I removed a pair of *Labidochromis* to a quieter tank in hope of spawning them also. The first time I noticed both female elongatus holding I didn't remove them to a nursery tank. Nothing came of those first spawns.

The next time around, the female was put in a ten gallon bare bottom tank with a sponge filter, a few rocks and a flower pot to hide in. This nursery tank was heated to 74-76 degrees, same as the community tank. When the five fry appeared in the tank, they were fed HBH Fry bites and/or finely ground African Cichlid flakes twice daily. I left the mother in with the fry as an experiment. That seemed to work OK for this batch of fry but when I turned the fry in for BAP, the mother wasn't accepted back into the community tank. The other female elongatus colored up like the male and they each threatened the newcomer when she came into their "zone". The male seemed to claim $\frac{3}{4}$ of the tank and the female wasn't going to share her corner either. The newcomer turned such a pale gray that her dark zebra-bar pattern disappeared for the first time ever. I didn't want to risk losing her so I placed her in a 90 gallon tank with *Cyrtocara moorii* and *Nyassochromis prostoma*. Shem immediately regained her zebra-bar pattern and even a little yellow background color.

In his book "The Cichlid Aquarium", Dr. Paul Loiselle notes that *Pseudotropheus elongatus* is one of a few Malawi species that will defend a territory containing an algae garden. *Pseudotropheus* sp. "elongatus chailosi" is one of about 20 or so species in the *Pseudotropheus elongatus* group of species. *Elongatus chailosi* are only found at Chitande Island. They are rated as moderately aggressive, and their behavior in my tank would confirm this.

Minutes from M.A.S. Board Meeting

April 18th, 2010

Meeting called to order at 3:06 pm

In Attendance: Don Hinske, Andy Hudson, Ted Judy, Ken King, Michael Laursen, Jeff Michels, Jerry Michels, Dan Randall

Membership (Jerry Michels): 37 paid members

Treasurer (Jerry Michels): Current balance is \$3,028.07 of which \$166.04 is allocated to the library. The March mini-auction had 24 bags which brought in \$138.00 The year-to-date totals for the mini-auction are 92 bags and \$458.00

SPLASH (Michael Laursen): The current issue will be ready for the printer in the next few days. Michael announced that he will be stepping down from the position of SPLASH editor.

Advertising (David Timmer): No report

Exchanges (Austin Braganza & Don Hinske): Don has started receiving materials and will be working on his first report.

Web Master (Ted Judy): Everything is updated

Library (Jim Everson): No report

Manufacturers Liaison (Kerri Michels): No report

Store Liaison (Don Hinske): No report

Participation Awards Program (Ken King): Everything is updated

FAAS (Dan Randall): No report

BAP (Jeff Michels): Dave Yoder expressed an interest in helping Jeff with conversion to the new format.

Jeff continues to work on this tedious process.

HAP (Aaron Glass): No report

Swap (Jerry Michels): The spring swap was held Sunday April 11th. 7 vendors and 44 buyers attended. Due to the low turnout, vendors were not charged. Some possible causes for the low attendance are that there were several other area events being held that weekend, and post cards went out later than usual. The club will look at adjusting event dates for 2011.

Auction (David Timmer): The next auction will be held on May 2. Jeff Michaels suggested having a "Buy It Now (BIN)" table at the event. This would allow sellers to place one bag, out of every ten bags that they register, on the BIN table. The seller would determine the price that the bag would be sold for, with the normal club split still in effect. At a predetermined time the BIN table would be closed and sellers would have the option of removing these bags (for \$1), or entering them in the auction. Dan will contact the auction chair for approval before moving forward with the idea.

Speaker Chair (Ted Judy): Ted will present his "Cameroon Part II" talk at the April meeting. Steve Edie will speak on the topic of Tanganyikan Cichlids at the May 28th meeting, and Ted is working on a possible box swap with Steve's club in conjunction with this event. There will be no speaker in June. The time will be used to make final preparations for the ACA convention.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ted brought up the idea of moving the monthly meetings to a new location. We are very grateful for the generosity of Mike Hoffer, but the club is beginning to outgrow the space.

A suggestion was made to create a new membership directory and to update the package of information given to new members. Discussion followed regarding privacy issues and what information should be included. It was also suggested that the role of the membership chair should be included in the duties of the Secretary. This will help streamline record keeping by having a single master list for all club functions/mailings. Aaron will continue to oversee the mailing list for swaps/auctions since this list contains many non-members. The matter was table since it may require a change in the bylaws.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Randall

Minutes from M.A.S. Board Meeting

May 23, 2010

Meeting called to order at 2:43 pm

In Attendance: Austin Braganza, Jim Everson, Don Hinske, Andy Hudson, Ted Judy, Ken King, Jerry Michels, Dan Randall

Membership (Jerry Michels): 39 paid members.

Treasurer (Jerry Michels): Current balance is \$3,557.87 of which \$166.04 is allocated to the library. The April mini-auction had 13 bags which brought in \$31.00. The year-to-date totals for the mini-auction are 105 bags and \$489.00.

SPLASH (Michael Laursen): June 1st is the deadline to submit articles for the next edition. Mike Laursen is stepping down as the SPLASH Editor. Andy Hudson will take over this job until a new editor can be found.

Advertising (David Timmer): No report

Exchanges (Austin Braganza & Don Hinske): Austin and Don discussed the fact that several clubs are changing over to an electronic version of their newsletters and magazines.

Web Master (Ted Judy): Ted reports that the forum has been running fine with the current software so he has no immediate plans to change. Ted will be contacting Michael Laursen for assistance on updating the auction templates on our website so that they can be filled in electronically by the seller.

Library (Jim Everson): No report

Manufacturers Liaison (Kerri Michels): No report

Store Liaison (Don Hinske): There was discussion as to what the role of this position should encompass. Over the past several years we have seen a decline in participation from area stores in general. The feeling is that the store liaison should begin to focus on simply reporting store activity (openings, closings, special events), rather than actively soliciting participation in MAS events.

Participation Awards Program (Ken King): Everything is updated

FAAS (Dan Randall): No report

BAP (Jeff Michels): No report

HAP (Aaron Glass): No report

Swap/Auction (Jerry Michels / David Timmer): Checks from the spring auction have been sent to sellers. The auction generated \$2,034 in gross receipts. Expenses totaled \$1,680.67 (including hall rental, advertising, and seller's pay-out). Total earnings for the club were \$353.33.

Speaker Chair (Ted Judy): Steve Edie will be the May speaker. There is no speaker scheduled for the June meeting. The time will instead be used for ACA convention planning and worker sign-up. Jim Everson will be working on scheduling speakers for some of the open dates this fall.

ACA: Jeff Michels has submitted information from the M.A.S Breeder Awards Program to the A.C.A. for their "Spawn of the Year" and "Breeder Awards" contests.

Old Business: Motion to eliminate the position of Membership Chair, and to make those duties the responsibility of the club Secretary. Motion passed unanimously. Jerry Michels turned over the records to Dan Randall.

New Business: Motion that M.A.S. will provide the entry fee of \$50.00 for the club to participate in the "Aquarium Beautiful" competition at the A.C.A convention provided that at least one member volunteers to participate. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Randall

The Milwaukee Aquarium Society

Needs YOU!

Elections for the 2011 year are coming up in November and MAS has some slots that need filling. If you would like to become an officer of MAS, or would like to get more involved in the club please contact Jim Everson or Andy Hudson about running for office for 2011!

We are currently looking for a new Splash Editor and a BAP Chair. If you are interested in these positions (they require some basic computer skills) please let us know!

Thank you.

THE SPLASH

The Splash is the official publication of the Milwaukee Aquarium Society, and is published six times per year under the direction of the Board of Directors. Articles are always welcome. Please submit them to the editor (Andy Hudson) no later than the first day of even numbered months to be included in the next issue. Articles should be sent to the editor in digital format @ mas.splash@gmail.com

We will gladly exchange our publication with all interested societies. Please mail exchanges to **Exchange Editor, P.O. Box 250824, Milwaukee, WI 53225**. Reprints of articles published in the Splash are always permitted and encouraged,

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be sent to the address above to be shared with the author. This would be in addition to any exchange copies.

Please inform the editor of any address changes in forwarding of this publication to members or other societies.

ABOUT THE MILWAUKEE AQUARIUM SOCIETY

The Milwaukee Aquarium Society is an organization devoted to the hobby of tropical fish, both freshwater and saltwater. Its membership consists of hobbyists gaining expertise in all phases of raising and breeding tropical fish, as well as area retailers. Our membership expertise covers a wide range, from beginners to expert breeders, but all members are interested in promoting the hobby and encouraging others to join in the fun.

General meetings are held monthly, generally the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. at **Hoffers's Tropic Life Pets, 7323 N. 76th Street, Milwaukee.**

We thank them for their hospitality. Free parking is always available, and guests are always welcome. No general meetings in July or December.

Annual membership dues are as follows: Families: \$20.00 a year; Individuals: \$15.00 a year. Membership dues provide for the Splash, monthly speakers, community support, annual events, and show support. A yearly subscription to the Splash is available for \$15.00 a year. New or renewal of membership dues should be

sent to the treasurer: **Jerry**

Michels. 6333 W. Boehlke, Milwaukee, WI 53223

▫ ***The Splash***

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