

Fincinnati

July/Aug 2010

The
OFFICIAL
Bi-Monthly
Publication
Of the
Greater Cincinnati
Aquarium Society



Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society

Fincinnati

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GCAS Meeting Schedule– 2010

July 18th Sunday Meeting
August 29th Sunday Meeting
September 26th Sunday Meeting
October - Auction 10/30/10
November 14th Sunday Meeting

Calendar of Events– 2010

Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts <http://columbusfishclub.org/>
Fall Auction October 2nd, 2010

Eastern Iowa Aquarium Association www.finflap.com

Greater Akron Aquarium Society <http://www.gaas-fish.net/>
GAAS Show and Auction July 10 & 11
GAAS Fall Auction November 7, 2010

Greater Chicago Cichlid Association <http://www.gcca.net/>
GCCA Auction September 12, 2010

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society <http://www.gpasi.org/>
Fall Auction: Sunday September 26th 2010

Great Lakes Cichlid Society's <http://www.greatlakescichlidsociety.net/>

Fall Auction Saturday, September 18th

Michiana Aquarium Society <http://www.michianaaquariumsociety.org/html/>

Michigan Cichlid Association <http://www.michigan.cichlid.freervers.com/>

Motor City Aquarium Society <http://www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com/>
Auction November 13, 2010

Ohio Cichlid Association <http://www.ohiocichlid.com/home>
November 19th-21st 2010 Extravaganza

Youngstown Aquarium Tropical Fish Society <http://www.yatfs.com/>
Fall Auction October 10th 2010

National Conventions 2010

American Cichlid Association Convention, Milwaukee, WI http://www.cichlid.org/index.php?pageid=aca_convention
July 22-25

Midwest Cichlid Association Expo 2010 in Des Moines, IA <http://www.midwestcichlid.com/>
Sept 17-19, 2010

The All-Aquarium Catfish Convention 2010 2010 Fairfax Virginia <http://catfish2010.com/>
October 21-24

Club Information

GCAS Officers

President	Eric Jacobsen	859-653-5347
Vice President	Phil Benes	513-894-7289
Treasurer	Brantley Berry	765-914-9712
Secretary	Barbara Garcia	catriona@amergim.com

GCAS Chairpersons

Auction	Phil Benes	513-894-7289
FAAS Rep	Jerry Riegel	jriegel@cinci.rr.com
Breeders Award Program	Lenny Llambi	laboratory_lenny@msn.com
Horticulture Award Program	Josh Brock	Brock.Joshua@gmail.com
Fincinnati Newsletter Editor	Steve Smith	fishfarmer@cinci-fishfarmer.com
Membership & Donations	Jim Foreman	jim@woh.rr.com
Program & Speakers	Ken Saxon	
Webmaster	Ramon Garcia	gcas@amergim.com

The Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to promote the interests of the aquarium hobby.

Meetings are usually held on the last Sunday of each month at Winton Wood's Visitors Center, located at 10245 Winton Road at 7:30pm. The meetings usually include a program or a guest speaker, and a fry auction for the Breeders Award Program. Guests are welcome to attend any two of these meetings before joining GCAS.

Annual memberships are \$10.00 for an individual or family. As a member of GCAS you may attend the monthly Meetings, the spring and fall Auctions (you can register early for the auctions too) and the Christmas Banquet, and you will receive our bimonthly newsletter, Fincinnati.

Spawning Report: *Altolamprologus* sp. "Sumbu" Dwarf Compressiceps by Jerry Riegel

Altolamprologus sp. "Sumbu" or the Dwarf Compressiceps, is a shell dweller/spawner native to the Lake Tanganyika, in the Rift Valley of Eastern Africa. The climate there is warm with temperatures in the low 80's. Native waters for this fish are very hard and alkaline. I obtained eleven $\frac{3}{4}$ " fish at the 1999 American Cichlid Association Convention in Detroit. My males have achieved a size of three inches (they have already spawned) with a compressed gray body with orange caudal and pectoral fins. My females are 1.5 inches (likewise they have spawned) with a like compressed body. The females are colored with dark irregular stripes over a lighter background.

The fish bred in a 55 gallon tank which contained no gravel, had Lok Rocks (plastic interlocking rock columns), and shells. A Hydro Sponge IV and Whisper V Power Filter filtered the tank. The water chemistry was Cincinnati tap water (pH of 7.6). I performed weekly water changes equal to 25-40% of the tank volume. I used fluorescent lighting for six hours each day. The fish were fed flake, pellets, freeze dried krill, live baby brine, frozen brine shrimp, and etc. Over time, they have had a variety of tank mates (Mbuna, Peacocks, Synodontis, and other Africans). Both the male and the female adopted a shell (each had a separate shell) as their living quarters. This provided shelter and protection. I have noticed that my fish were much more social in a community setting (as opposed to a species or pair tank). God bless dither fish.

The first time they spawned, they had 15 fry (the last time they spawned there were 30 fry). The eggs were laid in the female's shell, which was diligently guarded. She would not leave the immediate vicinity. After watching the female guard the shell for some time (10-15 days), I poured the fry out of the shell and moved them to a ten-gallon tank to be raised away from the community tank. The fry were golden tan in color. They looked very similar to Gold Ocellatus fry. This first spawn had an egg sac for several days before they were free swimming.

I kept the tank very clean. Three times a week I would siphon the debris off the bottom with a quarter inch rigid airline tube attached to flexible airline. I was very careful about "large" water changes. I did not want to tempt fate. They were fed live food (micro worms or baby brine) once a day. The other daily feeding consisted of a fry powder (Cyclop-Eeze, etc.).

A Hydro Sponge III filtered the ten-gallon tank fry tank. I effectively changed small volumes of water three times a week (see above). After about a month or continued on page 16



We are located in the Mt. Airy/ Grosbeck area of Colerain Ave across the street from the Mt. Airy Kroger store. This is 1 mile South of Ronald Regan Highway on the Left.

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Saturday 10 AM until 5:30 PM

Sunday Noon until 4:30 PM

Spawning Report: *Neolamprologus pulcher* (Kambwimba) by Todd Leising

Species:

Neolamprologus pulcher is a substrate spawning cichlid found in Lake Tanganyika. It lives in shallow water in rocky habitat's. It was thought to be closely related to the "Princess of Burundi", the *Neolamprologus brichardi*. I attended a talk by Ad Konings at the 2009 ACA that took place in Cincinnati which discussed these fish. Ad reported

that the two fish (*brichardi* and *pulcher*) are indeed the same species just with variant differences. At that point both species fell under the *pulcher* name due to *pulcher*s being discovered first. These fish will generally max out around 4"-5" in total body length. Males will be slightly larger than their female counterparts. Once a pair has formed, they will spawn and protect and accept several generations without aggression. For this reason these fish are often recommended for a single species tank.

Set-up:

I purchased 5 of them and thought they were large enough to be tankmates with my

Lepediolamprologus nkambe. I dropped them into my 75 gallon tank and in my shock, one of my *nkambe* had tried swallowing one three seconds after it entered the water. Not the nicest welcoming. However, the *pulcher* was too large to swallow, and about 10

minutes later the *nkambe* spit him back out. I thought for sure he would die and eventually the others as well as I did not have a back up plan or another tank to place

them in. To my surprise, not only did the taste tested *pulcher* make it, but they also ruled the tank a few months later. Two of the five paired up claiming an inverted flower pot on one side of the tank, while the others made homes from flower pots on the opposite side

of the tank with the *nkambe* taking up the center of the tank. I ended up keeping the pair of *pulcher* and selling off the remaining three. The *pulcher*'s were the first to spawn and

successfully defended their area. I found it somewhat humorous and interesting to find

that my *nkambe* would never pair up until the removal of the *pulcher* pair from the tank.

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Water Conditions:

I keep my cichlids in tap water without any buffering or chemicals. The tap water comes out of the faucet at a PH of 8.4 and a total hardness of 300. I bring straight tap water into several plastic 55 gallon barrels that do a couple things for me. First, I age the water for 2 days to allow the chlorine to dissipate out of the water. Second, I bring it in from the main water line to bypass my water softener. Unfortunately that also means it comes in around 45 degrees. I keep heaters in the barrels to bring the water temperature up to 80 degrees which usually takes one day. For water changes I pump water from the barrels straight to the tanks. I remove approximately 40% of the tank water weekly.

Feeding:

Neolamprologus pulcher are carnivores by nature. I used NLS 1mm cichlid formula as the main staple food. I also supplement with flake, frozen mysis shrimp, and black worms a couple times a week. They were fed one time per day.

Spawning Rituals:

It took several months before a pair started to form. At that point the other 3 took residence on the other side of the tank. I believe it was the kendalli owning the center of the tank that kept the other 3 pulchers from being pushed up into the corners. I eventually removed the other 3 just to make sure there was no interference and to allow more tank space for their kendalli tankmates. The pair of pulchers did not stray too far from their flower pot except to eat and eventually spawn on a rock in which was holding up the flower pot to allow them access inside. The first spawn was eaten by the parents. The second spawn occurred inside the flower pot. I could not see the eggs, but somewhat expected the spawn with the more protective behavior from the breeding pair. Eventually free swimming fry emerged from within their home.

The Yolk Sac

Lenny Llambi

For this issue's installment I just wanted to talk about the current BAP contest. The breeder with the greatest variety of egg-scattering species will be handsomely rewarded with a fabulous prize...to be determined. I guess the reason that I'm having so much trouble figuring out a prize is that when you think about it, egg-scatterers are a pretty diverse group of fish that spans several families. It's not like a livebearer contest where the prize could be a lifetime supply of breeder nets and aquarium salt. I guess I could buy a whole lot of green yarn with my budget, but I'm not sure that anyone wants a shed-full of yarn. At any rate, the person with the most genera of egg-scattering fish species at the end of the year is going to get a prize.

About the only commonality between all egg-scattering species of fish is that they do not offer any parental care of the eggs once the eggs are laid. Technically, some of these fish don't even "scatter" their eggs. They're actually quite tidy about the whole process. Take the popular members of the Subfamily *Corydorandae*. Depending on the species, females will deliver their egg parcels onto their substrate of choice. Some fish, like *Trigonostigma heteromorpha* (the harlequin rasbora) deposit eggs onto the undersides of plants.

Then there are the killifish. While they don't necessarily deposit their eggs in as controlled a fashion

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like cory cats or some rasboras, they definitely require specific spawning substrates. *Aphyosemion gardneri* will spawn on mops or plants, while *Pterolebias longipinnis* (the featherfin panchax) will only spawn in a bed of peat moss. Speaking of mops, rainbowfish are prolific mop spawners. Once you raise a pair into breeding condition, they will reward you with eggs on an almost daily basis.

Then you have the true egg scatterers. These fish just let the eggs fly. Sometimes eating their own offspring before they even hit the ground. Everybody's first fish, *Danio rerio*, is a prolific egg producer, but it can be an even more prolific egg consumer. Covering the bottom of the spawning tank with marbles or a fine mesh fabric will allow eggs to escape their hungry parents reach. In fact, most characins and cyprinids fall into this category. While your egg capturing method of choice will work for a variety of species, make sure to research how to properly condition your fish, as that can vary quite a bit.

Unfortunately, the egg stage is only half the battle. While getting your fish to lay eggs is a big accomplishment, once the eggs hatch, the real work begins. In fact, this is why most egg scattering species are so prolific. The larvae that hatch out of the eggs are so small and helpless; they are just about the only free lunch in the natural world. Of course, your hatch-out tank probably won't be housing a big, hungry cichlid, but you are still left with two problems: feeding the fry and keeping the fry aerated.

The problem with aeration is that most of these fry are very delicate. While you need to keep the water aerated, too much water movement could literally kill the fry. I've made the mistake of trying to move *Poropanchax normani* (Norman's lampeye) larvae with a net, and that killed the poor little fry!

Then there's food. Some of the tiny live food that is a staple in the cichlid breeder's fish room could actually eat your tiny egg scatterer larvae. You also have to consider the fact that many egg-scattering larvae are pelagic (meaning they move around using water currents). So, you can't even depend on the fry to go after the food. You have to bring the food to them!

I guess what I'm trying to say is that I wanted the contest to reflect the diversity of the word "egg-scatterer". I think that egg-scatterers tend to be outside of most hobbyists comfort zone. There is nothing cooler than watching an adult fish guard its young with its life. However, with egg-scatterers, all the work falls on your shoulders. Raising a successful batch of young fish is something that takes work. Plus, even if you have already ventured into the world of egg-scatterers, maybe this will be incentive to expand your horizons within this category of fish. At the end of the year, the person with the most genera of fish that fit the egg-scattering definition will win, if nothing else, the esteem of his/her fellow club members.

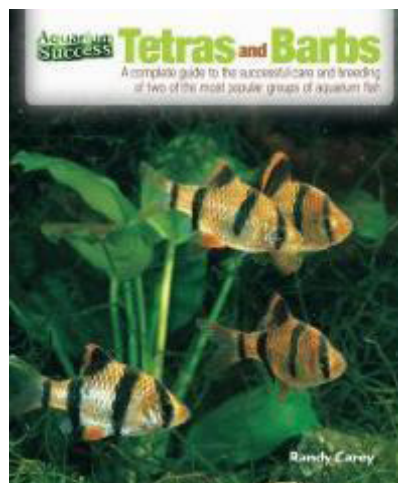


Aquatics and Exotics is located on Hamilton Avenue (US-127) about 1/2 mile North of the Reagan Highway (SR-126), just before Compton Road. If you're coming from the Northern suburbs, you can get off I-275 at exit 36 (Hamilton Ave) and go South for about 6 miles. After you cross Compton Road, we are on the right.

Store Hours			
Mon	12-8	Sat	11-6
Tue	Closed	Sun	12-5
Wed	12-8		
Thu	Closed		

Future GCAS Speakers-2010

July 18th Randy Carey: Making Sense of the Barbs, Danionins, and Rasboras



Randy Carey remembers his first aquarium as well as he remembers his first girlfriend. Twenty years later he now keeps a room of over 70 aquaria ...but the girlfriend is long gone. As a master freshwater aquarist he has breed about 200 species of fishes and was the first to earn the Lifetime Award from his local community, the Minnesota Aquarium Society.

He established an early online presence (mid '90s) and maintained the first aquarium-based blog (1997-2004). Since writing his first column in 1999 for TFH Magazine, America's oldest and most prominent aquarium magazine, Randy has contributed numerous feature and multi-part articles, two-page photo spreads, and a cover shot. Aquarium societies have flown him throughout the US and Canada to deliver in-depth presentations: breeding, taxonomy, fish collecting in Brazil, aquarium design, and the art of aquarium photography. He also provides presentations for general audiences.

In 2006 Randy participated in a 2-week expedition in the Amazon Rainforest to study the correlation between exporting aquarium fish and rainforest conservation. After his multi-part series from this expedition was published, he was offered a contract to write a book on tetras and barbs, the two most popular groups of freshwater aquarium fishes. This book is scheduled for a January 2010 release through major pet stores and online with global distribution. Carey also serves on the Petco Editorial Review Board, providing reviews of freshwater titles being considered for the retail shelves.

Making Sense of the Barbs, Danionins, and Rasboras

These commonly kept fish groups have received only shallow attention in aquarium literature. Randy's new book and this comprehensive overview sorts out what we know of these common aquarium fish groups. The talk touches on zoo-geography, the latest on taxonomy and subgroups, and little-known insights about the observable markings on each of these fish groups. Attendees will leave with an understanding that goes deeper than the simple labels "barbs," "danios," and "rasboras."



Mike has been an aquarist and breeder for over 35 years, working almost exclusively with fishes that mature at 4" or less in his 60 plus aquaria. Having bred well over 200 species from 24 families of fish, almost exclusively fish that mature at less than 4", he is the top ranked Grand Master Breeder of all time in his local club. With nearly 200 species of aquatic plants propagated, he is also their top ranked Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist, and he recently earned the ALA award of Master Breeder for breeding more than 75 species of livebearers from 4 different families.

Mike is currently the President of the [Missouri Aquarium Society](#) and has served on their board of directors since 1989, has recently served as Vice Chairman of the [American Livebearer Association](#) and is currently the Historian for the [Aquatic Gardener's Association](#). He is a trained Show Judge and gives about a dozen fish-related talks to various groups and gatherings each year.

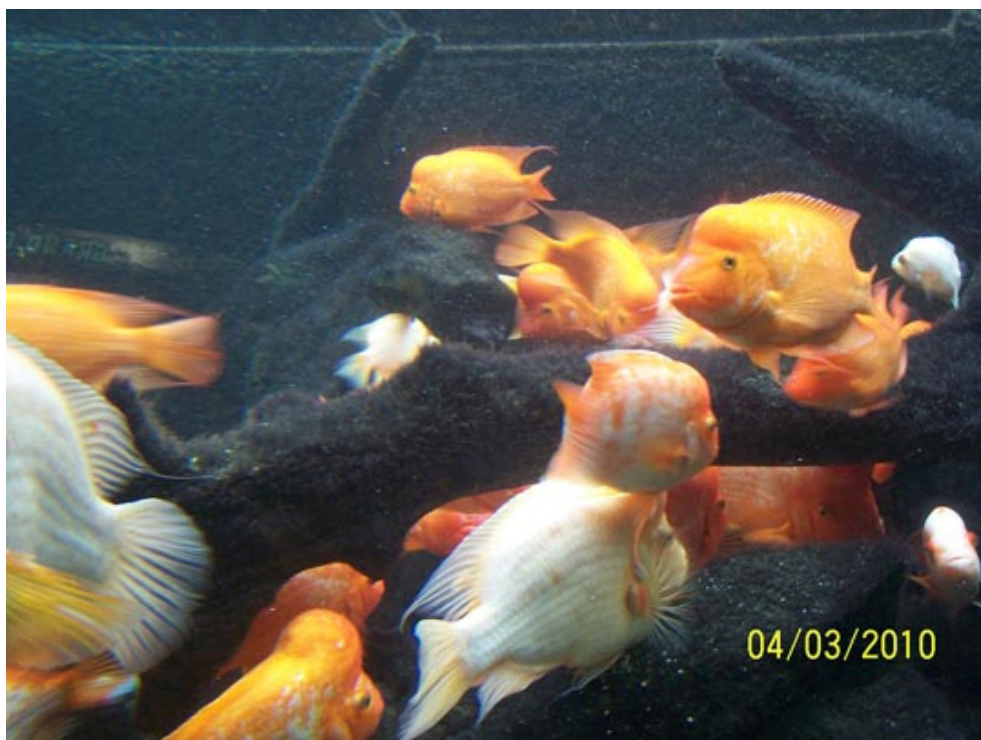
His monthly column, "Adventures in Fish Breeding," appears in *Aquarium Fish International* magazine, and his series, "Live Foods for Cichlids," appears in the *Buntbarsche Bulletin*. He has had hundreds of articles published in various hobby publications and magazines including *Tropical Fish Hobbyist*, *Aquarium Fish International*, and *Freshwater and Marine Aquarium*, and has been published in several languages. His first aquarium-related book, [Culturing Live Foods for Aquarium Fishes](#), has recently been released by TFH Publications, and more are underway.

He currently owns and operates a mail-order retail fish business

One to scratch from my Bucket list

By Rob Zerkle

My wife has seemed to developed a new fascination with Beluga whales and in the passing last year said she'd like to see one up close . She'd seen a news brief talking about a new experience Shedd Aquarium was offering in Chicago, and some day before we're old and gray she'd like to do it. Now myself having been around in the explosion, in my opinion of the aquarium hobby, Axlerod , Socolof , Dibble , Brichard ,Loiselle and many others were discovering and importing more fish than the hobby could keep up with. Being an aspiring aquarist since the age of 8 ,I have wanted to go two places, Shedd Aquarium and the Steinhart aquarium before I croak. I have to add the Georgia Aquarium to my list now, so I'd found my opening to mark one off my list. The groundbreaking for Shedd took place on November 2, 1927, and construction of the grand Beaux Arts building was completed in a remarkable two years. Since then, the main building has been substantially added onto including the beluga whale exhibit, otters, penguins and the Oceanarium auditorium with a beautiful backdrop of the great lake Michigan that looked as blue as the Gulf of Mexico. A brief overview of our trip to the aquarium is the topic of the short commentary and you may find some useful info for your trip as well. Now our whale encounter was scheduled for 9:30 am, so being slightly excited we arrived at 8:30 am. Now when the building of the Field museum and expansion of Lake Shore drive the aquarium lost it's parking lot and actually has no parking lot of it's own. You are allowed to park in the museum lot for \$16.00 all day, which is next door to the Shedd. When that fills, other options range from \$18.00 to \$46.00 a day! Early arrival is key. 3 other keys we discovered quickly were, buy your tickets online, don't go during spring break for kids and don't go on Easter weekend, talk about the trifecta of mistakes. However the behind the scene time spent with the whales in the tank with them briefly helped me forget the immense crowds in the hallways. Once we weighed into the sea of humanity I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of Central America cichlids there were on display. My favorite was probably a tank with about 50 Large red devils (*Amphilophus labiatus*) with fry of all sizes



Red Devils

8-10 large Flier cichlids [Archocentrus centrarchus](#), a cichlid I can't seem to find and several *Gymnogeophagus* ssp. I could have watched this tank all day. Red faced severum (*Heros*)



Red faced severum

A tank of large Malagasy Juba Cichlid (*Ptychochromis oligacanthus*) was a very neat and rare treat for me along with 3 pr of V Sypillum trying to split off a tank, all 3 with fry in different stages of growth. Tons of different tetras , barbs, rainbow fish and a tank of about 2000 jumbo cardinal tetras in with a rare Caiman lizard was an awesome site. One of the main problems I saw, given the types of fish that I find of interest is that the information boards are located across the lower front of the displays. Now I'm sure that this is to protect the glass from the light up shoe prints left by little rug rats, since the glass goes down to the floor, but this is where a lot of the cichlids and scavengers that are my main interest tend to hang out, thus making them difficult if not impossible to see unless you lay on your stomach. In retrospect, I don't believe I saw a single live-bearer type in the whole place other than the incredible amount of Rays that they had including Jaguar Ray (*Potamotrygon Otorongo*), Flower Rays (*Potamotrygon Shroderi*) and what seemed like countless numbers of White-Blotched River Stingrays (*Potamotrygon leopoldi*). An interesting display involving electric eels had 3, five footers with electric probes in the water which lighted bulbs overhead as they discharged.

There were the usual suspects on hand, wash tub sized Pacus, don't know why people buy them small, 2' peacock bass , 6' Arapima and some absolutely huge Doridid catfish.



Electric eel



Silver dollar

Some pleasant surprises of species we saw were large (Uaru fernandezyepezi) , TRUE Parrot Cichlid (Hoplarchus psittacus) , 20" megalodoras irwini catfish and my favorite dinner plate size chocolate cichlids(Hypselecara temperalis). African cichlids were in short supply overall, A tank crammed full of Rock Kribs (Paralabidochromis sp Rock Kribensis) , beautiful group of Marmalade cats (Labeotropheus fuelleborni) and Tropheus ssp, Frontosa and one tank full of Neolamprologus brichardi and Hemichromis bimaculatus both full of babies. Salt water was well represented, it's not really my gig, however they're were highpoints such as two types of Sea Dragons, a sea horse relative, Tiger Rock fish (Sebastes nigrocinctus) which was the prettiest fish I've never seen before



Tiger Rock fish

and one of the creepiest thing I've ever seen was a Giant deep sea isopod (Bathynomus giganteus) which looks like an albino pillbug on steroids, almost a foot long!! While enjoying the saltwater collection, it was hard not to be amazed by Shedd's dedication when first built. It was hard to imagine that until the 70's, Shedd aquarium transported all of its saltwater by a 6 car train named "the Nautilus" from Florida several times a week. Such dedication, makes you think about putting off that water change till tomorrow doesn't it? Shedd is also a leader in the growth and reintroduction of Bahaman coral reefs by collecting wild spawn and farming them back at the Shedd coral propagation lab, which was demonstrated by a holographic type movie of scientist and an amazing small section of an array of corals, some quite rare.

Shedd had a nice amount of Reptiles, Turtles, waxy monkey frogs, dart frogs and a 16' green anaconda. breeding pair of Rhino iguanas and as stated earlier, caiman lizards which Shedd Aquarium was the first in the U.S to breed these lizards. One amphibian which is often sold as an eel was represented well were the Black rubber

eel which is actually a Ceacilians, (Typhlonectes natans) with 3 specimens that were close to three feet in length and bigger around that a polish sausage. We're into reptiles and never knew they got that big. We saw some absolutely monstrous specimens of some commonly offered fish. We had to laugh a little when you see



large or jumbo on a dealers list or tanks as compared to these fish: Red Pike cichlids *Crenicichla johanna* , 20" +/- and as big around as a large mans forearm, male *Apistogramma cacatuoides* around 5" long battling over spawning rights and 2 fire eels and 1 tire track eel, one of my favorites that I thought I had a good sized one of several years ago, were between 3' -4' and as big around as my calf, and I'm not a small guy by any means!!! Just incredible. Many of these oversized specimens where difficult to see since you're so prone to looking for pet shop sized larges that you can't see the forest for the trees so to speak as they lay right in front of you. Lunch was very fair, stick with menu salads, stay away from Fanta

Waxy monkey frogs

sea and you have a time you will soon not forget. We were there from opening to close and felt like we were there an hour, over before we knew it. Views of the city skyline are picture perfect and the lake looked just like the Ocean. Chicago is close enough for a weekend getaway and definitely worth the trip.

Rob & Amy Zerkle



Chicago Skyline

two I started feeding move adult foods like flake and frozen brine shrimp. The fry grew slowly in the ten-gallon tank. However, when I moved them to a 40-gallon grow tank, they seemed to pick up the pace a bit.

The Sumbu variety of Compressiceps is relatively new to the aquarium hobby. I have found very little about them in the literature. From what I have been able to find, there are differing accounts on their size and species status. For now, it appears that there is much that is still undecided.

I did and still do enjoy these fish. They have several outstanding qualities. Their unique shape gives presence to their subtle colors. They become quite sociable once they have settled into their quarters exhibiting a unique style and behavior. Like most Cichlids they are very good parents. I would also consider these fish capable spawners. And their small size tends to quell their aggression. Cool fish.



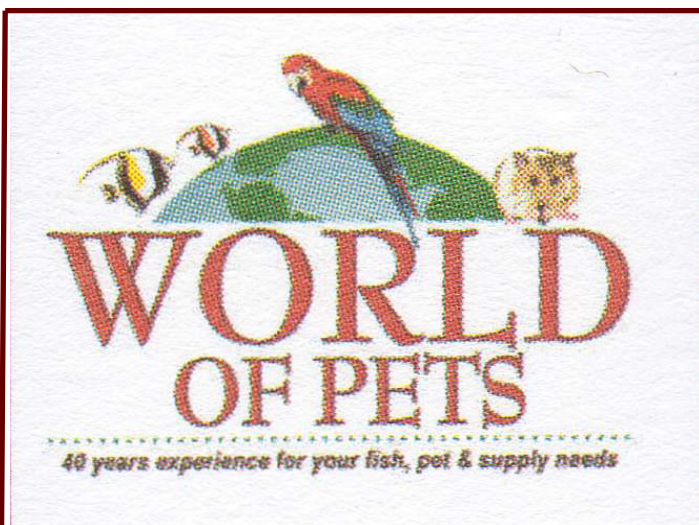
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Friday	11:00am - 6:30pm
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