

Fincinnati

May/June 2011

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



Inside this issue:

GCAS Meeting Schedule	2
Fishy Calendar of Events	2
Club Officers/ Chairperson	3
Albino Bushy Mouth Pleco Spawning Report	4
Crenicichla Regani	5
Cynotilapia Afra "Hai Reef"	7
Steatocranus casuarius "Buffalo Head Cichlid"	8

Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society

Fincinnati

GCAS Meeting Schedule– 2011

5/22/2011 Sunday meeting Joe Fleckenstein
6/26/2011 Sunday meeting Tony Terceira
7/31/2011 Sunday meeting.
8/28/2011 Sunday meeting Ted Judy
9/25/2011 Sunday meeting
10/29/2011—Fall Auction
11/13/2011 Sunday Meeting Eric Bodrock

Calendar of Events– 2011

Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Club www.gcas.org

Fall Auction - October 29th

Circle City Aquarium Society www.circlecityaqclub.org/

Swap Meet—June 18, 2011

Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts <http://columbusfishclub.org/>

Spring Auction— May 7 , 2011

Fall Auction—October 2 , 2011

Greater Akron Aquarium Society <http://www.gaas-fish.net/>

Greater Chicago Cichlid Association <http://www.gcca.net/>

Cichlid Classic May 21-23/2011

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society <http://www.gpasi.org/>

Fall Auction—September 25, 2011

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

Summer Auction June 26, 2011

Fall Auction September 24, 2011

Medina County Aquarium Society

Auction– May 14, 2011

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

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

Missouri Aquarium Society <http://www.missouriaquariumsociety.com/>

Motor City Aquarium Society <http://www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com/>

Auction Dec 10, 2011

Ohio Cichlid Association <http://www.ohiocichlid.com/home>

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society www.swmas.org

Stark County Aqua Life Enthusiasts

Auction– June 26, 2011

Youngstown Aquarium Tropical Fish Society <http://www.yatfs.com/>

National Conventions 2011

North American Native Fish Association May 20-22, 2011

American Killifish Association Maryland May 27-30, 2011

International Betta Convention , Millbrae, California June 23-26, 2011

American Cichlid Association Washington, D.C. July 21-24, 2011

Club Information

GCAS Officers

President	Mark Murtaugh	513-779-7503	mmurtaugh@roadrunner.com
Vice President	Phil Benes	513-894-7289	
Treasurer	Brantley Berry	765-914-9712	
Secretary	Barbara Garcia		catriona@amergim.com

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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		
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.

Albino Bushy Mouth Pleco *Ancistrus* sp. Spawning Report by Jerry Riegel

Ancistrus sp. or Albino Bushy Mouth Pleco, is a cave spawner native to the South American rivers. The climate is sub-tropical with temperatures in the mid 70's to 80's. I obtained six 3/4 inch fish at the American Cichlid Association Convention in 2000. I had noticed the advertisement for these fish on the door of someone's room. I do not remember the name of the gentleman who sold them to me. However, I do remember that he was from the North Jersey Aquarium Society (hosts of this year's American Cichlid Convention in July). Males were about 3 inches when they spawned. Females were about the same length as the males but without the body mass. Both have the pink albino color. The males have many prominent bristles about the mouth as do the females. However, the males' bristles are larger and more noticeable. In addition, I noticed a large heart shaped red spot on the top of the male's head.

The fish bred in a 20-gallon tank, which contained no gravel. It employed plastic plants for decorations. The tank was filtered by a Hydro Sponge IV and had a pH of pH of 7.6. I performed weekly water changes equal to 25-40% of the tank volume. I used fluorescent lighting for about 6 hours a day. I fed the fish flake, pellets, live baby brine, live micro worms, carrots, tomatoes, wood, and anything else that I could find.

As the male grew he eventually found a cave and adopted it. He would hang half way out wagging his tail to attract a female. Apparently it worked. I noticed one morning this past winter that there were approximately



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Sunday Noon until 4:30 PM

16 bright orange eggs. After spawning, the male guarded the cave and fry. I did not notice any eggs fungusing or unfertilized. Once they became wrigglers, I moved 13 of the 16 eggs to a three-gallon tank to be raised away from the community tank. I left three with the male to discover what would happen. Eventually, the three fry left the cave and the male relaxed his guard. The three fry did fine with the other *Ancistrus*, *Farlowellas*, and *Swordtails* in the breeding tank. The fry were a bright orange color and an eighth of an inch long with a huge egg sac. They were small replicas of their parents.

The fry didn't require any special care on my part other than clean water and regular feedings. I used a Hydro Sponge I for filtration in the three gallon. I started the fry off on Cyclop-Eeze, Live Baby Brine, Micro Worms, Carrots, Tomatoes, & etc. The fry grew quickly.

These fish have my endorsement. The eggs and fry are the brightest orange I have ever seen. Their color is quite impressive. These fish are also peaceful, small in size, and very interesting spawners. These qualities combine to make them quite a desirable aquarium resident.

Crenicichla Regani by Steve Smith

Crenicichla Regani is one of a number of dwarf pike cichlids available from South America. One of the attractive features of the *Crenicichla Regani* is their rather gentle nature. Especially by comparison to the other pike cichlids the *Regani* are often referred to as the gentle pikes.

The females of this species have a single black “eye” spot surrounded by white in their dorsal fin. They are otherwise a gray fish except for some intricate design on their caudal fins. There are subtle pastel pink hues on their stomachs.

I bought 5 babies in an Aquabid auction in the January of 2001 and received several 1.5 inch fish that were sexed as 2 males and 3 females. After a month or two of feeding frozen brine shrimp by hand I noticed that they became very active whenever my hands went into the tank almost like a herd of cats coming to rub against my hand. They readily accepted flake foods as well as the frozen brines shrimp and blood worms. They received live baby fish only rarely when I would have an excess of livebearer fry. These were eagerly pursued and eaten heartily. After many months of gentle behavior, one spring day a water change brought about a nasty change of temperament with a pair having formed and deciding to eliminate the other three fish. Fortunately another GCAS member had already expressed interest and the second pair was sold



with the extra female moved to a different tank. The pair proceeded to lay their eggs in a white PVC “cave”

where the female remained for 10 days. She emerged with a herd of approximately 30 fry and the pair did a beautiful head-down-tail-up dance surrounding the fry whenever they saw me approach. Unfortunately

Pair soon after spawning



Fry at 2 days free swimming



Fry at 5 weeks free swimming

on the fourth day of free swimming the male beat the female severely and the fry disappeared. I was not present so do not know who ate the fry. The female was rescued and healed in a separate tank. After a week the extra female was introduced to the male who showed no interest in this female for their 6 weeks of cohabitation. Finally, the original female was again healthy and full of eggs, so I exchanged the two females and was rewarded with a second breeding within a week.

After three days of remaining in the cave, I separated the cave and female from the male. The female's actions changed dramatically. During the first spawning and the first four days of the second spawning the female did not venture from the cave even to eat. Once removed from the male's presence she now proceeded to patrol the area immediately around the cave opening and spent less than half her time in the cave. After an additional week she brought about 35 fry out of the cave and herded them around again using the head-down-tail-up posture whenever I threatened them with my presence.

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Cynotilapia afra is a small Mbuna from Lake Malawi in Eastern Africa. The *C. afra* from the Hai Reef locale has a light blue body with dark blue vertical stripes. The dorsal features a bright yellow band that comes down onto the forehead. They are one of the most striking fish I have ever kept. The yellow dorsal and the yellow egg spots provide a striking contrast with the dark blue and powder blue of the fish's body. Females have less color than the males. They are easy to distinguish from each other. I have had mine over a year and the males run about, what I would call, a “robust” three inches. The females are slightly smaller.

I purchased mine at the American Cichlid Association Convention in St. Louis in 1998. They were quite small and I was able to put the seven I had in a ten gallon tank. They grew quite well and several months later I moved them to a 65 gallon tank with a group of *Pseudotropheus demasoni*. The two colonies got along quite well.

It soon became apparent that I had four males and three females. This so called balance did nothing to disrupt their breeding activity. Early last winter, they had their first fry. These were followed by many more spawns. There were times when I would strip all three females in the tank.

The fry were usually about a quarter inch or slightly larger when I stripped the female. I would really have loved to let the female spit the fry into the tank, but I worried that the tank had more fish than adequate hiding places for the fry. I would feed them baby brine shrimp and dry powder. They did very well in a ten gallon tank with other assorted fry of their same size.

I have since moved my colony of *C. afra* “Hai Reef” to a 75 gallon tank inhabited with *Labidochromis* “Hongi” and *L. “Mbamba”*. After settling in, they are back to their prolific ways. It should be noted that I have increased both the *L. “Hongi”* and the *C. afra* “Hai Reef” colonies by adding juveniles (three quarter to one inch long) to the tank. After some initial curiosity by the adults, they have settled in quite nicely.

To close, these are very beautiful fish. They spawn readily and the fry are easily reared. They are not fussy eaters. They do, however, need medium large tanks as they are typical Mbunas, who are quite active.

References

Lake Malawi Cichlids from Tanzania, Andreas Spreinat

Steatocranus casuarius “Buffalo Head Cichlid” by JJ Smith

reprinted from the July 2010 Fish Talk of the Atlanta Area Aquarium Association

Steatocranus casuarius aka “Buffalo Head Cichlid” is a rheophilic, riverine “goby” cichlid



from the Congo River in West Africa. They are fairly plain in coloration, but what they lack in that category they make up for in morphology, behavior and ease of husbandry. They are a sexually dimorphic species with the male attaining a much larger size (4-5 inches), longer more ornamental and flowing dorsal, anal and tail fins, and a bulbous nuchal hump which becomes more pronounced with age and after forming a pair

bond with the considerably smaller (2-3 inches) female. The females tend towards grey coloration while the males are more sandy brown with occasional display of crème vertical bars on the body. They have an under-developed swim bladder which gives them a distinctive mode of moving: they scoot across the substrate, and then they will “sit” on their favorite perch in their territories which are defended vigorously. And while they are not especially quarrelsome, they do chase would be competitors out of their territory, but I have never seen any ripped, nipped or jagged fins after any of the altercations.

Their water requirements are well suited to Atlanta water: 7-7.5 pH with low gH and kH. The temperature should be between 76 and 78. They are egg laying, cave spawning, monogamous pair bonders who have about 15-25 young per clutch. The parents will clear out a nice pit in the cave and set about to affixing the eggs to the cave’s walls. They are good parents, and will tend to the fry until they are old enough to swim out into the tank. When the fry leave, they school together in small groups of 2-4. The fry graze on sponge filters, algae and substrate. The fry are very slow growing and the fish don’t reach sexual maturity until they are about a year old.

Continued on page 10

Future GCAS Speakers-2011

June 26th Tony Terceira Killifish

July 31st– Social Meeting– no speaker

Aug. 28/th Ted Judy

Nov 13th Eric Bodrock



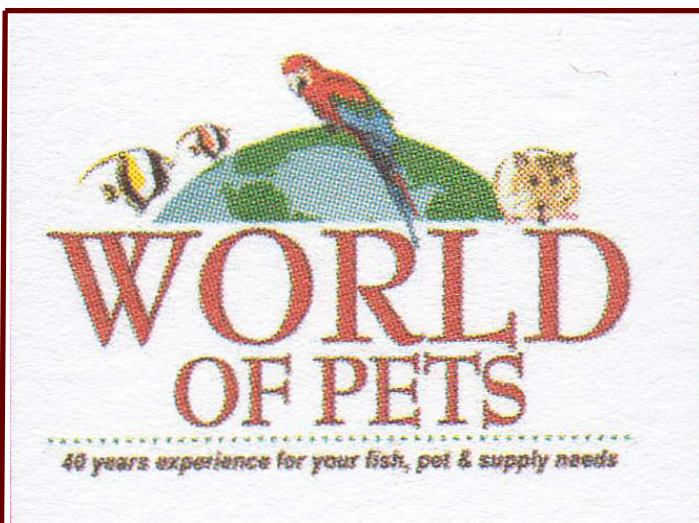
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Monday– Friday 11am-9pm
Saturday 10am-9pm
Sunday 12pm-6pm

I feed my *casuarius*'s a frozen homemade preparation, which is omnivorous in its content, and Xtreme pellets



twice daily alternating between the two foods.

I initially received six fry from a fellow club member and one pair began spawning after about 8 months, so I estimate the fish were 10 months old. They've lived in a 55 gallon with *Julidochromis marlieri* that whole time, and surprisingly, they rule the roost and not the more crotchety and (I thought) assertive *Julies*. Because of the low bioload in this tank and ample filtration, I only perform twice monthly water changes of 90% on the tank. I have a Zoo Med power head rated for a 75 gallon affixed to a Hydro Sponge V and a Tetra 60 HOB for filtration and a Hydor I pointed at the surface for a little extra circulation/oxygen exchange. Their substrate is a mix of pool filter sand (30%) and crushed coral (70%). I have no plants in the tank and have holey rock stacked in cave like structures, a breeder cave (which they've shown no interest in, except to "sit" on or fight over, but I've only actually seen them in it on one or two occasions. There is also a large, hollow plastic "rock" that looks like a big limestone piece that some of them like, but no spawning has taken place in it.

There are debates as to the actual preference of strength of current in any *Steatocranus* species' tanks. Some say "must have strong currents" others say "normal current" I keep them in a **well oxygenated**, normal current tank with extra filtration and they are thriving. I tend to side with the "normal current" school of thought because they like to sit around a lot and that simply can't be done in a high current environment. They also hug the shadowy parts of the tank and prefer to have a nice hidey hole near -by, and that doesn't fit the description of a fish with a predilection for strong currents.

These are some of my all time favorite fish because of their unusual appearance and wonderful, quirky idiosyncrasies concerning swimming techniques, interaction with conspecifics and other species, and their relative ease of keeping. They are fabulous in a community tank and a robust fish with little demands on the keeper other than hiding spots as they are somewhat shy.



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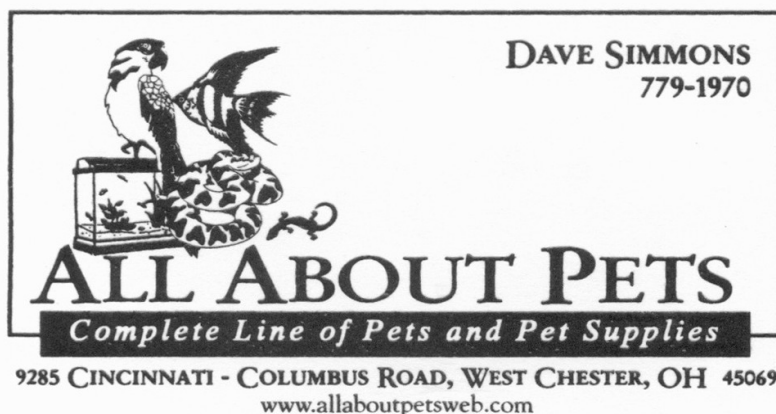
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