

Fincinnati

May-June 2017

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



Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society
Fincinnati

Inside this issue:

GCAS Meeting Schedule	2
Fishy Calendar of Events	2
Club Officers/ Chairperson	3
Cynotilapia Afra from Lion's Cove	4
Spawning Report Aulonocara baenschi "Benga"	6

GCAS Meeting Schedule– 2017

June 25th
July 30th
August 27th
September 24th
November 12th

Calendar of Events 2016

Greater Akron Aquarium Society www.gaas-fish.net

Show and Auction June 3-4, 2017

Champaign Area Fish Exchange <http://www.champaignfish.com/>

Auction July 22nd, 2017

Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Club www.gcas.org

Auction– Oct 28th, 2017

Circle City Aquarium Society www.circlecityaqclub.org/

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

Auction– July 27th, 2017

Auction– Oct. 1st, 2017

Erie Aquarium Society <http://erieaquariumsociety.com/index.html>

Auction– Oct 29th, 2017

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

Swap Meet Dec 3rd, 2107

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society <http://greaterdetroitaquariumsociety.org/>

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

Auction Sept 10th, 2017

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

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County <http://aclcpa.org/>

Medina County Aquarium Society <http://www.mcas-fish.net/>

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

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

Milwaukee Aquarium Society www.milwaukeeaquariumsociety.com

Auction– Oct 22nd, 2017

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

Auction– Aug. 6th, 2017

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

Auction– Oct. 28th, 2017

North East Ohio Fish Club (NEO) <http://www.neo-fish.com/>

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

OCA Extravaganza Nov.17-19, 2017

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society www.swmas.org

Stark County Aqua Life Enthusiasts <http://www.scalesclub.com/>

Auction—June 25th, 2017

Tropical Fish Club of Erie County <http://www.tropical-fish-club-of-erie-county.com/home/>

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

Auction– Oct. 22nd, 2017

National Conventions 2015

Aquatic Gardeners Association Convention

American Cichlid Association <http://www.acaconvention2016.com/>

Convention July 13-17, 2017

**American Livebearer Association
North American Native Fish Association—
North American Discus Association Convention
American Killifish Association Convention—
Catfish Convention Sept 22-24, 2017**

Club Information

GCAS Officers

President	Jan Benes	
Vice President	Glen Mason	glen.mason@gcas.org
Treasurer	Barbara Garcia	barbara.garcia@gcas.org
Secretary	Cindy Weeden	

GCAS Chairpersons

Auction	Phil Benes	513-894-7289
FAAS Rep	Jerry Riegel	jerry.riegel@gcas.org
Breeders Award Program	Marcus Christy and Mark Murtaugh	bap@gcas.org
Horticulture Award Program	Cindy Weeden	cindy.weeden@gcas.org
Fincinnati Newsletter Editor	Steve Smith	steve.smith@gcas.org
Membership & Donations	Steve Kalbi	

Program & Speakers	Barbara Garcia	
Swap Meet	Lenny Llambi	
Webmaster	Ramon Garcia	webmaster@gcas.org
Swap Meet:	Lenny Llambi	
Manufacturers' Donations:	Jan Benes	
C.A.R.E.S. Program:	Marcus Christy	
Picture Of The Month:	Byran Minor	
Banquet:	Cindy Weeden	
Refreshments:	Erv Gundrum	
Pet Shop Liaison:	Glen Mason	
Social media:	Steve Kalbli, Cindy Weeden, Lenny Llambi	
Members At Large:	Erv Gundrum, Teresa Carlson, Tim Hargis, Bryan Miner., Andrew Baran, Leonard Helton	

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 Meet-

I first learned about the Cynotilapia species from a friend. He said that he had read about a mbuna that was only 3-4 inches in length and it was called Cynotilapia. Not having tank space for eight inch fish, I was immediately interested. I found pictures and text describing the fish in Ad Konings Book Of Cichlids And All Other Fishes Of Lake Malawi. I was immediately impressed. Cynotilapia are very nice looking fish with many color variations. I made my mind up that I was going to find some of these fish.

Over time, I kept coming upon references to the Cynotilapia in magazines and trading posts. This just increased my desire to raise these fish. Circumstances, however, did not permit me to obtain any fish til mid summer.

At that time, I attended the ACA Convention in Louisville (July 92) and set a goal to find some Cynotilapia. I checked the bulletin boards and the fish on display, but I could not find any Cynotilapia. I happened upon Rick Vandegrift, from the Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society, and found out that he was selling Cynotilapia Afra from Lion's Cove and had brought some down from Cincinnati. I marvelled at the irony of travelling a hundred miles to buy fish from

someone I see in Cincinnati on a monthly basis.



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		
Fri	12-8		



We are located in the Mt. Airy/ Grosbeck area of Colee across the street from the Mt. Airy Kroger store. This South of Ronald Reagan Highway on the Left.

6520 Colerain Ave Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-5538

The Store is 4 miles South of I-275. You will pass NorthGate Shopping Center, Ronald Reagan Highway, Galbraith Rd (1 mile) and we are on the Left.

EAST Use I-275 to I-71 South to Ronald Reagan and Off (Left) at Colerain. 1 Mile South on the Left

Phone: 1-513-923-3369

Our Store Hours are:

Monday - Friday 10 AM until 8:00 PM

Saturday 10 AM until 5:30 PM

Sunday Noon until 4:30 PM

Needless to say, I bought ten fish from Rick. I brought them home and placed them in a 55 gallon tank with seven *Neolamprologus Caudopunctatus* "Red Dorsal". The *Cynotilapia* did not hassle the smaller *Caudopunctatus*. They did enjoy sparring with each other, however.

I was quite taken with their appearance. They were only 1.5 to 2.0 inches long and they had just started "coloring up". When I describe C. Afra from Lion's Cove to other people, I always fall short of what I feel is their true beauty. I get some confused looks. As much as if to say, "you like that?". They need to be seen to be truly appreciated. The male's basic coloration is a brown mustard background with dark navy blue/black lines through their bodies and fins. The dorsal fin is a bright lemon yellow and there is a small blue patch behind the eyes. This combination of colors on the male is truly striking. The females are lighter in color with indistinct barring patterns through the body and purple/blue fins.

In a short time the fish had settled down to a routine of eating and swimming. A wide variety of food was offered and greedily accepted. It seemed that I had three males and seven females. Two of the males were colored nicely and the third seemed smaller and paler. I assumed he was the least dominant of the group. Each "dominant" male took a side of the 55 gallon tank. They would spar and chase other *Cynotilapia* but basically left the other fish alone. The least dominant male hid in Lok-Rocks high in the tank. Soon one male had the entire left hand side of the tank to himself. All the other fish stayed in the right hand side of the tank, including the other "dominant" male.

In September I noticed a female carrying. I kept my eyes on her for about 7-10 days. I noticed she was not eating like the rest of the fish in the tank. She would go up to the food and just stop short, almost as if she wanted to eat but couldn't. I found out later during a presentation given by Steve Somermeyer that mouthbrooder females will suck in very tiny food particles even though they do not look to be eating.

About day ten I decided to strip the fry from the female. I caught her and held her upside down over a plastic container holding water from the tank. She started convulsive movements with her mouth. Finally, she spit out seven good sized fry. Some were darker than others. I gave her a break in the plastic container with the fry for a few minutes. I did not know if I had gotten all the fry out of her mouth. I turned her upside down again and she spit out two more fry. I looked in her mouth (no small task on a two inch fish) and saw no more fry. I then put her back in the aquarium.

The fry were placed in a five gallon aquarium and feed baby brine shrimp and TetraMin Baby Fish Food "E" for Egglayers. They ate like pigs and grew quickly. Several weeks later more *Cynotilapia* fry were taken from a different female and added to the same five gallon tank. The different sized fish got along fine. The two batches of fry also shared their tank with three Neo-

lamprologus Leleupi fry about the same size as the first batch of Cynotilapia fry.

These are beautiful fish, they have an easily workable size, and are quite prolific. Raising Cynotilapia Afra from Lion's Cove has been a great experience for me. I'm looking forward to finding other Cynotilapia to raise.

References and Further Reading

Konings, Ad, Ad Koning's Book Of Cichlids And All Other Fishes Of Lake Malawi. T.F.H. Publications, Inc.

DeMason, Laif, 1992, Cichlid News, Vol 1, No 1, pp 17-19, 24-25.

DeMason, Laif, 1991, Freshwater And Marine Aquarium, Vol 14, No 1, pp 16-20.

Spawning Report Aulonocara baenschi "Benga" Jerry Riegel

Environment

The temperature was 76 degrees Fahrenheit. I used Cincinnati tap water, with no additives. The fish were kept in a 65 gallon aquarium. The tank was decorated with Lok Rocks, Cliffs and Caves (plastic decorations hung on the side of the tank with suction cups), and plastic plants. No gravel was used.

Filtration

A Whisper 4 power filter was used in conjunction with a Hydro Sponge IV. No carbon was used. Twenty five to forty percent of the water was changed on a weekly basis.

Food

Flake food, pellets, baby brine shrimp, or frozen brine shrimp were fed to the adults once or twice a day. The fry were fed live baby brine shrimp, micro worms, or powdered dry food at least twice a day.

Fish

The fish originate in Lake Malawi in Eastern Africa. My fish spawned young. At the time they were only about three inches long. I know they will get bigger. The males are a brilliant yellow. Mine were just beginning to show their color. The females show little color compared to the males.

Six fry were obtained at a GCAS monthly auction. I ended up with an even cut, three males and 3 females. I grew them up and eventually placed them in an African community tank where they spawned several times. The females were stripped and the fry were raised in a ten gallon tank.

Plecocaves.com

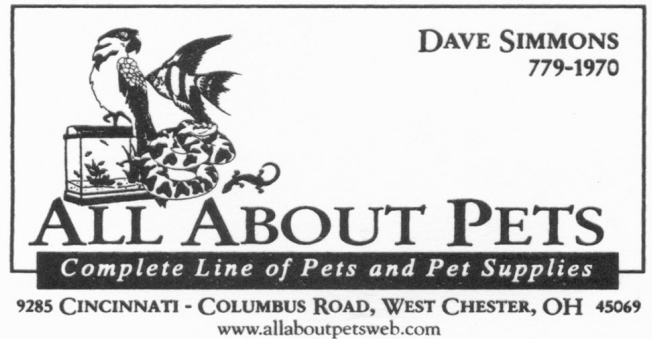
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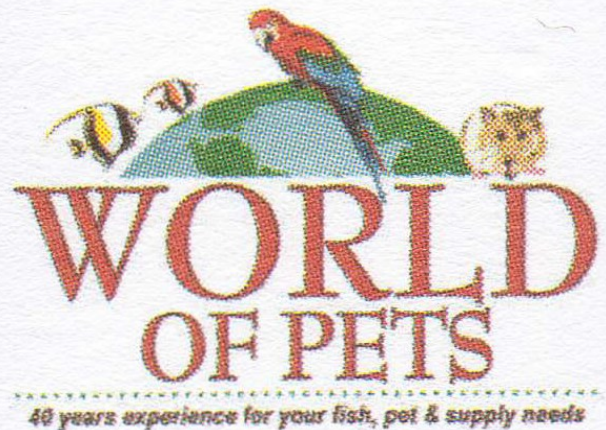
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