

Fincinnati
Sept-Oct 2017

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



Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society
Fincinnati

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GCAS Meeting Schedule– 2017

September 24th

November 12th

GCAS Fall Auction

October 28th

Calendar of Events 2017

Greater Akron Aquarium Society www.gaas-fish.net

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

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– 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/>

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.freervers.com/>

Milwaukee Aquarium Society www.milwaukeeaquariumsociety.com

Auction– Oct 22nd, 2017

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

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/>

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/>

American Livebearer Association

North American Native Fish Association—

North American Discus Association Convention

American Killifish Association Convention—

Catfish Convention

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 Kalbi, 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-

Spawning report: *Ophthalmotilapia ventralis* Mvuna Island

Brandon Miner

Environment:

The tank was set to 78 degrees Fahrenheit. Hamilton tap water was used with no additives. The fish were kept in a 125 gallon aquarium that is six feet long. The tank is sparsely decorated with a single pile of rocks in the center of the aquarium about eight inches tall, with about 1 inch of fine sand across the bottom of the aquarium.

Filtration:

Two Hydro Sponge IV filters were stacked on top of each other and used as the only filter. Water changes were weekly 20% with monthly 40-50% water changes.

Food:

Once a day the adults are fed either flake, pellets, frozen brine shrimp or black worms. Fry were fed crushed pellet and flake mix as well as Cyclops once a day, once larger frozen brine shrimp is eaten readily.

Fish:

These fish are an endemic to Lake Tanganyika in Eastern Africa, they reach a size of up to six inches, with females being slightly smaller. Like with all featherfin cichlids sexual dimorphism is apparent, dominate males show brilliant black color with yellow to orange in all fins. All males also grow long tassels on the dor-



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 Cole 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

sal fins that resemble eggs when breeding. Females however are silver with occasional grey to brown markings on their bodies. When breeding featherfins keeping both species specific and locality specific tanks are a must as they will hybridize. *O. ventralis* like to be the dominate fish in the tank so if dithers are added to tank they should be smaller and less aggressive than the *O. ventralis*

Breeding Behavior:

Fish are kept in group of four males and 5 females, in readings it states that only two males should be present in the size tank I have. However featherfin cichlids can be aggressive to conspecifics so with four males in the tank the males chase each other and do not bother females unless wanting to breed. When a male is ready to spawn he will build a small bower in the sand, color up to his best colors and woo a female to his nest. If successful they will swim around each other in a circle and the male will vibrate ferociously. Usually when one male is ready to breed a second is as well, fighting is normal and intervention has not been seen to help. My fish started breeding at three inches, which is when males started also asserting dominance and began to exhibit their range of colors.

Fry collection:

After breeding has occurred the females carry the eggs in their mouths, to allow the females to not be stressed and prevent her from being injured from conspecific aggression I strip the eggs eight to ten days after observing the female is holding eggs. At this time the fry have usually hatched with the wiggler on the egg yolk. In my experience at this stage the fry are hardier than at the egg stage and I usually have a 90 -100% survival rate.

Spawning *Lamprologus Leleupi*

Jerry Riegel

Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society

Perserverance is the one word which can best describe my attempt to spawn *Leleupi*'s. It started about a year and a half ago (probably 11/91). I purchased six juveniles from Jeff Meredith's Glass City Cichlids. I had always wanted to keep *Leleupi*'s and I had read many articles and searched every book I own for information. I felt I was well prepared to keep *Leleupi*'s.

I had read in the American Cichlid Association (ACA) Buntbarsche Bulletin an article about spawning *Leleupi*'s. It had mentioned that *Leleupi*'s take "some time" to mature and spawn. Because of this I was prepared to be patient. I figured *Leleupi*'s were well worth the wait.

I started the *Leleupi*'s out in a quarantine tank (15 gallons) with half a dozen *Lamprologus Caudopunctatus* "Red Fin" (also purchased from Glass City). A couple of weeks later, they were moved to a 55 gallon tank with the *Caudo*'s. Six *Julidochromis Transcriptus* were present in the tank for a couple weeks. They were soon moved to other quarters for spawning purposes. That left only the *Leleupi*'s and the *Caudo*'s in the aquarium.

In a short period of time the *Caudo*'s had spawned. This caused me to move my fish around again and the *Leleupi*'s ended up in another 55 gallon aquarium with some *Transcriptus*, an Angelfish, a pair of Clown Loaches, some Rainbowfish, and a few Platies. Basically it was a mixed bag. Another *Leleupi* was purchased at the Aquarium House in Dayton, Ohio. This particular fish stood out from the rest and I just had to have it. After quarantining it for a couple weeks it was introduced into the 55 gallon tank with the other *Leleupi*'s. It was a little smaller and, of course, a newcomer, so it was intimidated.

It was at this time that I discovered floating PVC. The 55 gallon *Leleupi* tank was decorated with PVC, Lok-Rocks, inverted flower pots, and plastic plants. There was no shortage of cover. Yet, the small *Leleupi* was still harassed. I had mistakenly bought some PVC (or plastic?) pieces which I thought would sink to the bottom like all the other pieces I had bought previously. Wrong-o. These floated. I had no use for them until I realized that the harassed *Leleupi*, which always hung out at the top of the tank to avoid the aggression of the other fish, could use a place to hide. It took a couple days for the small *Leleupi* to trust the floating PVC, but after that I always saw the *Leleupi* in the floating PVC pieces along with a few of the *Transcriptus*. It worked

out quite well.

About this time the Leleupi's started defending territories. Less total fish were now in the tank. Each of three fish laid claim to an equivalent area at the bottom of the tank. Three other Leleupi's hung near the top of the tank (in the floating PVC pipes) or flitted from area to area. The fish claiming territories had adopted a ceramic car (tacky as anything but the fish love it) and a couple inverted flower pots for their "homes". These were equally spaced over the bottom of the tank.

One of the Leleupi's, without a territory, started hanging around the ceramic car with the Leleupi that had claimed the car. At the time I didn't see anything to indicate a spawn, but in retrospect, I think they spawned. In a couple of days, maybe a week, the territorial fish chased the other away from the car. No fry were found. At the time, I wasn't sure what to think.

Maybe a month later, the same thing happened, but with a different non-territorial Leleupi. I noticed the two fish very seriously guarding the ceramic car. Sure enough, I noticed eggs. Fry were forthcoming in a couple days. I fed them live baby brine shrimp and Tetra powder food. Soon they were swimming all around the ceramic car. Eventually, they took over that side of the tank. The parents would not let any other fish near them. I thought I had it made. I came home one night after work to discover that the parents had lost all interest in the fry. The non-territorial Leleupi had decided to abandon the site for another one at the other end of the tank with another territorial Leleupi. The territorial fish was still in the area, but seemed disinterested in the fry. At first, I thought all the fry were gone, food for the other residents of the community tank, but I managed to find three. These were quickly rescued.

At this point I started thinking that I should move the fish to segregate the pair. When I did this, I found clutches of eggs in two other flower/ceramic pots. I figured I had three pairs of Leleupi's. I moved one pair (or so I thought) to a 20 gallon tank by themselves. The other Leleupi's were spread out among my other tanks. The eggs were placed in a five gallon aquarium by themselves.

I thought I had it made. I was sure that soon I would have Leleupi's coming out of my ears. Well, the eggs in the five gallon became covered with fungus and the pair of Leleupi's in the 20 gallon tank would spawn (eggs were laid several times) but the eggs always became covered with fungus. I was dazed and confused. I tried putting either fish in the 20 gallon tank to stimulate the pair into spawning a viable batch of fry, but it was no use. I was not sure what to do.

About this time, I talked to Greg Rau. He explained to me that male Leleupi's have a black edge on their anal fin. After I checked my so called pair, I realized that I probably had two females. I went back to the drawing board. I placed my two females and a probable male in a 55 gallon tank with some Regal Peacocks and some juvenile *Transcriptus*. In a matter of weeks, I had a viable spawn.

Shortly after this spawn, I came home from work to find the odd Leleupi in the tank with tattered fins and the female from the pair chasing her incessantly. The intimidated fish was rescued to another tank. The fry were taken from the 55 gallon tank as soon as they became free swimming. I was anxious not to repeat the failure of my first spawn. Now this pair spawns every month.

The pair will spawn in the ceramic car which I mentioned above. However, much of their time is spent apart. Most of the time the male inhabits the ceramic car and the female cruises the tank looking for someone to chase (anybody see any *Transcriptus*?). Sometimes, however, the female keeps to the ceramic car and no one is allowed near, including the male. He will move to the opposite end of the tank staying near or in an inverted flower pot. But every month they get together to spawn in the car. I might add that the female is currently larger than the male.

In Loiselle's book, *The Cichlid Aquarium*, he explains that Leleupi's will sometime revert to Harem Polygyny in an Aquarium. Basically, the female holds the territory and the male temporarily visits for the act of spawning. However, this was not defined as a 100% rule. Other reading I have done only refers to Monogamy (pair spawning) for the Leleupi.

I know now that with my first spawn the female held the breeding site and the male was only a temporary visitor. I wonder if the curious behavior exhibited by my pair of Leleupi's is due to Loiselle's theory.

In conclusion, although it has taken some 16 months to achieve, I now have a viable spawning pair of Leleupi's. Despite the time it took, it has been a thoroughly enjoyable endeavor. I have learned much along the way and have talked to some very helpful people. And, most of all I have observed some pretty interesting fish.

References and Further Reading

Brichard, Pierre, Pierre Brichard's Book of Cichlids and All Other Fishes of Lake Tanganyika. T.F.H. Publications, Inc.

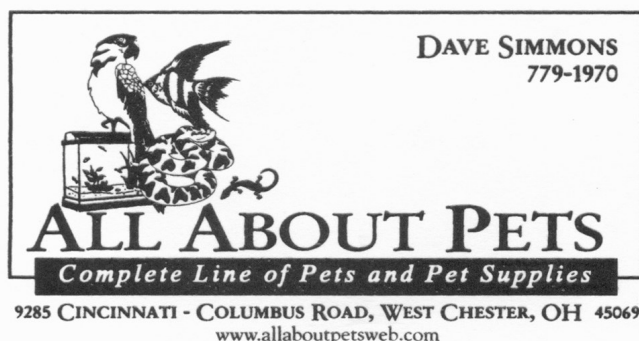
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Konings, Ad, Tanganyika Cichlids. Verduijn Cichlids & Lake Fish Movies.

Ferdenzi, Joseph, 1990, Buntbarsche Bulletin, No 137, pp 16-18.

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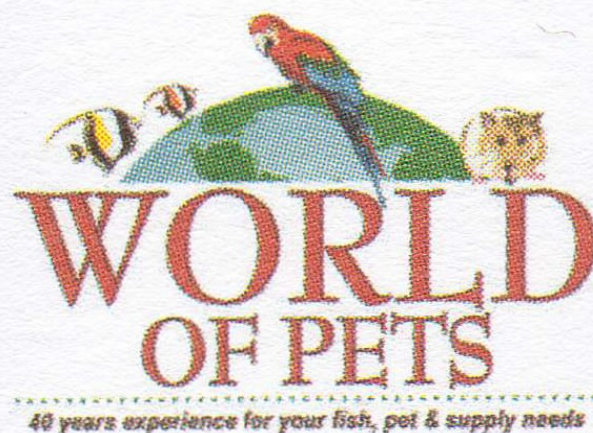
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