

Buckeye Bulletin

May 2020

**Social Gathering:
CANCELLED**
Due to COVID19
Stay home... Stay safe!



Tell your fish to STAY HOME!

Welcome to the Buckeye Bulletin...

As you turn these pages, you enter the digital archives of the Ohio Cichlid Association. Take a look around and please enjoy.

Monthly Features include:

President's Message
Editor's Message
Bowl Show Results
Cichlid BAP Results
Catfish BAP Results
Program Previews
Extravaganza Show Results!

Special thanks to
Kevin Bauman
for the cover picture.
It is a BEAUTIFUL
Paralabidochromis
chromogynis

And more...

As a member, you are more than welcome to submit pieces for publication in the bulletin. Please contact buckeyebulletin@gmail.com

If you are interested in all things “exchange,” please contact Exchange Editor, Lew Carbone!

The Fine Print:

The Ohio Cichlid Associations Buckeye Bulletin is produced monthly by the Ohio Cichlid Association. All articles and photographs contained within this publication are being used with consent of the authors.

When submitting articles for publication in this bulletin, please remember to include any photographs or art for the article. The Ohio Cichlid Association is not responsible for any fact checking or spelling correction in submitted material. Articles will be edited for space and content. All information in this bulletin is for the sole use of The Ohio Cichlid Association and the personal use of its members. Articles, photographs, illustrations, and any other printed material may not be used in any way without the written consent of The Ohio Cichlid Association.

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At Large:

Jeff Natterer
Byron Von Gunten



If you would like to be a part of the OCA Board, please speak to a Board member for more information!

The OCA Mission Statement...

The OCA is an organization dedicated to the advancement and dissemination of information relating to all aspects of the biology of cichlids and related aquatic life. Our purpose is to promote the interest, keeping, study, breeding, and the educational exhibition of Cichlids. Additionally, the exchange of ideas, meeting new people, and distribution of information concerning Cichlids is of primary interest.

There are many ways to get involved with the club!

Attend Meetings
Contribute to the Buckeye Bulletin
Participate in the monthly Bowl Show
Volunteer to “run” at an auction
Persuade non-members to attend a meeting
Attend the Extravaganza
Participate in the Breeder Awards Program
Enter fish into an auction
Join the Board – elections are held in December
Like/Share an OCA Facebook post
Post a thread on the OCA Forum
Visit Ohiocichlid.com

Get involved in all things OCA!

A Word from the President...

Lew Carbone,
OCA President

Greetings, OCA members!

I'm very happy to introduce to you a new OCA board member! Byron Von Gunten, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has been selected by the board to fill the vacant At Large (Appointed) position. Byron is the College and Young Adult Pastor at Pathways Community Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and we look forward to benefitting from his enthusiasm and organizational experience. Among other things, he will be leading the quest for sponsorships of the 2020 Extravaganza. Because of the 3-hour drive from Fort Wayne, we don't expect to see him at many social meetings, but you would probably recognize him from Extravaganzas, which he has been attending for about 10 years. Using Zoom (as the board is currently doing), he'll be able attend board meetings for now, and we can use other techno-magical means so he can continue to participate when we have in-person board meetings.

One thing we discussed at the April board meeting is the January 2021 social meeting. The 1st Friday of that month falls on New Year's Day, so we are forced to make other arrangements. If you remember, this happened in 2016, also, and we combined our meeting with the Medina County Aquarium Society's meeting, which is always scheduled for the 2nd Friday of each month. We're going to do that again. This time, the meeting will be held at our venue. The speaker will be our old friend Dr. Jay Stauffer, from Penn State University. He was scheduled to speak at this month's meeting but was gracious enough to reschedule for January 8. Other details of the joint meeting will be worked out and announced as the time approaches.

Progress is being made on Extravaganza preparations. A few details still need to get worked out, but I'm hoping we can announce speakers and open registration later this month.

Our June meeting, if we can have it, will feature Michael Liu, an active New England Cichlid Association member and frequent Extravaganza attendee. NECA works with Oliver Lucanus and others to bring in newly collected species from Africa, so he has had access to some pretty interesting fish. His presentation title is "Rare and Unusual African Cichlids".

Stay healthy, and I hope to see you soon!

Lew



OCA Social Meeting Schedule

Due to circumstances, this schedule is tentative.

2020

May 1

**Meeting cancelled
due to venue closure**

June 5

Michael Liu

New England Cichlid Association
"Rare and Unusual African Cichlids"

July

No Meeting

August 7

Rich Bierbower

Bierbower Aquatics
"Breeding and Raising Quality Angelfish"



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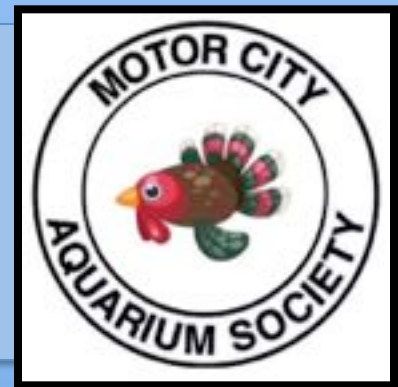
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Cichlid BAP... April 2020

Listed below are the Cichlid BAP submissions for March 2020. Members successfully bred these cichlids and raised a minimum of 6 fry to a minimum of 1". Varying point values determined by spawn difficulty were given to members' total Cichlid BAP points.

Congratulations on these spawns and thank you for your participation.

Bob Blazek

Labidochromis joanjohnsonae "pearl of Likoma"	10
---	----

Mark Chaloupka

Herichthys minckleyi	20
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Dennis Kuehn

Gephyrochromis moorii	10
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Labidochromis hongii "SRT"	10
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Gary Mendez

Melanochromis vermivorus	10
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John Tesar

Aulonocara sp. "albino ruby red"	10
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Nimbochromis venustus	10
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Cichlid BAP Totals... April 2020

Listed below are the Cichlid BAP grand totals. The information is maintained by Mark Chaloupka, OCA Board. See Mark at monthly meetings for more information about the Cichlid Breeders Award Program.

Thank you for your participation.

CURRENT B.A.P. STANDINGS (3/6/2020)

BREEDER	2020	TOTAL
<u>MASTER BREEDER 1000 POINT LEVEL</u>		
Lew Carbone	10	3095
Don & Marilyn Danko	-	2435
Dan Woodland	-	2070
Josh Cunningham	20	2040
Bryan Davis	-	1455
Bill Loudermilk	-	1200
John Tesar	20	1165
Mark Chaloupka	20	1130
Linda Wallrath	-	1130
Jeff Yadlovsky	20	1120
Rich & Maggie Schoeffel	-	1065
<u>900 POINT LEVEL</u>		
Jonathan Strazinsky	15	995
Dennis Tomazin	-	965
Gary Mendez	30	955
Hilary & Antonio Lacerda	-	910
Tom Swiderski	-	905
<u>800 POINT LEVEL</u>		
Dustin Brummitt	-	840
Ken & Sue Galaska	20	820
<u>700 POINT LEVEL</u>		
Bill Schwartz	-	760
Bob Blazek	10	730
Jeff Natterer	-	725
<u>600 POINT LEVEL</u>		
Charlie & Cathy Suk	-	615
Steve Zarzeczny	-	600
<u>500 POINT LEVEL</u>		
Dan & Vi McMonigle	-	585
John Jancik Sr. & Jr.	-	575
Jonathan Dietrich	30	565
Tim Craig	-	540
Eric & Rhonda Sorensen	-	530
George Anagnostopoulos	-	515
Ron Georgeone	-	510

Cichlid BAP Totals... April 2020

400 POINT LEVEL

Rick Hallis	-	495
Phil Hypes	-	475
Kyle May	-	460
Bob Bina	-	435
Tyler Toncler	-	420
Andrew Schock	35	415

300 POINT LEVEL

Dennis Kuehn	30	380
Greg Senn	-	350
David Hale	-	335
Tony Poth	-	335
Dennis Kuehn	10	325
Gary Zalewski	-	325
Tom & Carolyn Evers	-	320
Ken & Karen Grimmett	-	310

200 POINT LEVEL

James Shakour	-	275
David Hearn	-	270
Jason Mlynar	-	270
Mark Kazanoff	-	255
Dave Esner	-	250
Ken Walker	-	240
Justin Way	-	230
Bill & Janice Bilski	-	205
Paul Collander	-	205

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100 POINT LEVEL

Marc & Dawn DeWerth	-	195
Ozeal Hunter	-	190
Chuck Carroll	-	185
Denis Rozmus	-	185
Roger Stark	-	180
Andrew Subotnik	-	180
Bob Evers	-	175
Charles Nowakowski	-	165
Frank Mueller	-	160
Steve Heinbaugh	-	150
David Ayers	-	145
Greg Seith	-	145
Dan Ogrizek	-	140
John Griffith	-	135
Carl Oszewski	-	135
Keith Robinson	-	130
Joe Ring	-	120
Steve Olander	-	115
Peter Nario-Redmond	-	115
Aaron Stevens	-	115
David Toth	-	115
Raymond Langer	-	110

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Cichlid BAP Totals... April 2020

BREEDER LEVEL

Mark Huntington	-	95
Randall Wyan	-	95
Ron Maichle	10	90
Dolores Bacisin	-	85
Nicholas Zarzeczny	-	85
Pete Gembka	-	80
Rick Wood	-	75
Bob Tillman	-	70
Matt Urbin	-	70
Dave Dimond	-	65
John Kaminski	10	65
Scott Mabee	-	65
Russell & Tom Pierce	-	65
Anthony Scarton	-	65
Lee Spencer	35	65
Jim Jensen	-	60
Paul Palisin	-	60
Chris Jaskolka	-	55
Dave Dimond	-	50
Margaret Heifner	-	50
John Kahl	-	50
Alex Gorges	-	45
Jason Gorges	-	40
Ethan Wiley	-	40
Matt Lacy	-	35
Sam Muselli	20	35
Christopher Sooy	-	35
Tom Tansey	-	35
Paul Hutnyak	-	30
Adam Stallman	-	30
Wayne Corman	-	25
Fred Roberts	-	25
Pat Daley	-	20
Andy Lacerda	-	20
Scott Meyers	-	20
Bill Sensor	-	20
Jason Webb	-	20
Ken Carey	-	10
Jim & Amy Damm	-	10
Ron Drungil	-	10
Ben Jensen	-	10
Cory Knarr	-	10
Michael Meyer	-	10
Mike Trader	-	10

The points list for the Breeders Award Program has been updated to include only current members. If you are a current member and your name has been omitted, please see the B.A.P. Chairman at the social meeting so we can correct any errors.

Please remember: You may only turn in a species or strain of fish for B.A.P. points one time. If you need a list of what you have been credited with, see the BAP chairman at the social meeting.

Breed...

Share....

Enjoy...

Cichlid and Catfish BAP



Catfish BAP... April 2020

Listed below are the Catfish BAP submissions for March 2020. Members successfully bred these catfish and raised a minimum of 6 fry to a minimum of 1". Varying point values determined by spawn difficulty were given to members' total Catfish BAP points.

Congratulations on these spawns and thank you for your participation.

Breeder	Species	Points
Jonathan Dietrich	Corydoras aeneus	10



Catfish BAP Totals... April 2020

Listed below are the Catfish BAP grand totals. The information is maintained by Steve Heinbaugh, OCA Board. See Steve at monthly meetings for more information about the Catfish Breeders Award Program.

Thank you for your participation.

Breeder	2020	Total
Dan Ogrizek		430
Steve Heinbaugh		365
Dave Ayres		345
Don & Marilyn Danko		285
Phil Ayres		230
Eric & Rhonda Sorensen		120
Ken Walker		120
Bob Blazek		110
Hilary Lacerda		105
Dan Woodland		100
Matt Urbin		90
Tom & Carolyn Evers		80
Bill Schwartz		70
Bob Bina		70
John Kaminski		70
Josh Cunningham	10	60
Justin Way		60
Bryan Davis		60
Phil Hypes		60
Jeff Natterer		50
Ken Galaska		45
Tyler Toncler		45
Matt Lacy		40
Kyle May		40
George Aganostopoulos		40

Catfish BAP Totals... April 2020

	2020	Total
Jason Mlynar		35
John Tesar		30
Karen & Ken Grimmett		30
Lew Carbone		30
Andrew Schock		30
Bob Evers		30
Lee Spencer	20	20
Jon Dietrich	20	20
Russell & Tom Pierce		20
Tony Poth		20
Gary Mendez		20
David Toth		20
Paul Palisin		20
Ron Maichle		10
Dan McMonagle		10
Roger Stark		10
Mark Kazanoff		10
Randall Wyan		10
Keith Robinson		10
Jeff Yadlovsky		10
Dave Hearn		10
John Griffith		10
Carl Olszewski		10
Anthony Scranton		10
Richard Shamray		10
William Zarzeczny		10
Wayne Corman		10
Mark Chaloupka		10
David Hale		10
Jonathan Strazinsky		10
Bob & Jennifer Tillman		10

Bowl Show – May 2020

Listed below is information about the monthly meeting Bowl Show. The Bowl Show is your opportunity to show off your fish. Each month different categories of Cichlids and Catfish will be judged. Points will be given and prizes will be awarded. All members are welcome to participate. This is great practice for our yearly Extravaganza show!
See Ron Miachle, OCA Board, at a meeting for more information.

As you know the April meeting was a bust (so is the May). I would like to try something different this month, inspired by the new bulletin series My Fish Room. Send us a picture of your best aquascape tank to entered for a prize. The photos should be sent to buckeyebulletin@gmail.com, place in the subject line May 2020 Aquascape. The only restrictions are one entry per person and that it has be to a current tank that you own and maintain.

With the potential of missing of at least one meeting, the Bowl Show classes may change or expand each month so look to the monthly bulletin each monthly. Looking forward so that the bowl will remain competitive the monthly limit of six entries is has been suspended, and you now only need two months of entries to qualify for the grand prizes. Note that this will all be subject to change.

Do not forget the monthly awards are listed below:

Monthly	Points awarded	Cash Prize
Best of Show*	5	\$15
First place, each class	10	\$10
Second place, each class	7	\$7
Third place, each class	3	\$5
Non-placing entry	1	\$0
*Will only be awarded if there are two or more entries		

Until next time, Ron

The Current Standings (alphabetical)

Participant	Total Points	Months Points Earned	Number of Best in Show
Dave Ayres	25	1	1
Hilary Lacerda	27	2	0

Bowl Show 2020 Schedule

Jan. 3

Parachromis, Amphilophus, Nandopsis
Victoria Basin
Loracariids (Pleco types) over 6"

Feb. 7

South Americans 6" and Under, exclude Angels, Apistos
Old World, exc Rift Lakes, Victoria Basin
Fish Photography

Mar. 6

South Americans over 6", exclude Angels, Discus
Mbuna
Callichyids (Cory types)

Apr. 3

Central Americans 6" and under
Tanganyikan Shell Dwellers
Mochokids (Synodontis types)

May. 1

Angels
Peacocks
Catfish, exc Mochids, Callichyids, Loric

June. 5

Tanganyikan Lamps, exclude Shell Dwellers
Frontosa
Loaches and Botias

July

No meeting

Aug. 7

Discus, Uaru
Tang Mouth Brooders, exc Frontosa
Freshwater Crustaceans

Sept. 4

Centrals over 6", exc Parachromis, Amphilophus, Nandopsis
Malawi Haps
Loracariids (Pleco types) 6" and under

Oct. 2

Apistos
Open Tanganyika
Open Old World Catfish

Nov. 6

Julidochromis, Chalinochromis, Telmatochromis
Open Old World, exc Tang, Mal
Female Cichlids

Dec. 4

Open New World
Open Malawi
Open New World Catfish

2020 OCA Monthly Bowl Show Competition Rules

The primary purpose of the bowl show is educational and practice for the annual Extravaganza. It enables members to see and examine different species of fish, it familiarizes members as to judging procedures. In addition to encouraging the showing and keeping of fish.

1. The Bowl Show Chairman, or designated appointee for a specific month, shall have complete charge of all entries. Any unusual requirements or exceptions or questions about these rules must be discussed with the chairperson.
2. All entries shall be in containers having at least 1 flat side (not including the bottom). Only one fish per container, unless a full divider is used then only one fish per section of the container. It's also a good idea to have some form of lid for your animal's protection.
3. All containers must be devoid of contents, except for water and fish. A background, outside of the container, is allowed. However, special lighting is not allowed.
4. A label (piece of paper) should be placed in front of each entry giving the scientific name and the class the fish is being entered. The owner's name (the person[s] receiving points) of the entry should be placed on the back of the label.
5. Only members in good standing and present at the monthly meeting may submit an entry.
6. No more than 6 entries may be submitted by any one member during a monthly show.
7. Entries must be owned by the person(s) submitting it for judging. In addition, the last permanent residence of the entry must be from an aquarium maintained by the owner(s).
8. The chairperson, from time to time, may ask for guest judges in helping to award points. However, the final decision to award any points is the responsibility of the chairperson.
9. Each month different categories, typically Cichlids and Catfish, will be judged. Checkout the most current listing for monthly classes.
10. Size restrictions refer to full-grown adult sizes as reported by Cichlid Room Companion or Planet Catfish.
11. A fish can be entered in only one of the available classes, each month.
12. Diseased, malformed, mutilated, hybrid specimens, or other reasonable grounds may be cause for disqualification of an entry. If an entry is disqualified, then all points and cash prizes accumulated for that month's show will be forfeit by the owner(s) that submitted the entry.
13. The decision of the chairperson is FINAL.
14. Monthly Point awards and cash prizes: (OCA to potentially award \$81, and 65 points to all placing entries, per month)

Monthly	Points awarded	Cash Prize
Best of Show*	5	\$15
First place, each class	10	\$10
Second place, each class	7	\$7
Third place, each class	3	\$5
Non-placing entry	1	\$0

*Will only be awarded if there are two or more entries

15. Yearly Point awards and prizes:
 1. Grand Prize for 2020: 75-gallon aquarium or cash equivalent. To qualify for the grand prize, you must have earned points in at least three separate monthly shows.
 2. A Certificate (or plaque) will be awarded to the OCA Bowl Show Champion (overall point leader for the year). To qualify for the certificate, you must have earned points in at least three separate monthly shows.
 3. Certificates may be awarded to the 1st runner-up in the yearly point totals. To qualify for a certificate, you must have earned points in at least three separate monthly shows and have at least half the total points as the overall point leader.
 4. For tie breakers, the number of monthly awards won will be utilized starting with Best of Show.

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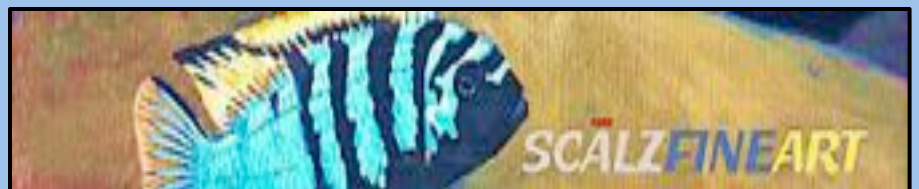
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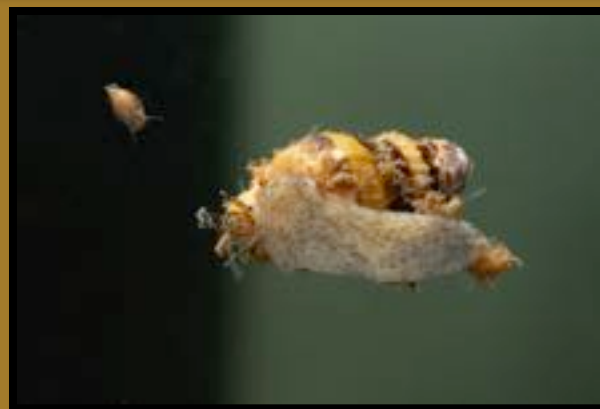
So, you have a snail problem?

By: Don Danko



At a time when many of us are sitting at home trying to keep our minds off of the dire times facing us at the moment, snails are likely the farthest subject from our minds. That said, writing about it is keeping my mind off the craziness for a little while!

If you're anything like me, snail infestations in your Cichlid aquariums drive you crazy! I've recently discovered a new approach to thinning out the slow moving herd that, after all these years in the hobby, I've never heard of before – Tanganyikan Shell Dwellers.



Unwanted snails can come into your tanks in different ways - on plants, in bags of new fish, from nets previously used in snail infested tanks, gravel, cups, buckets, hoses, etc. I've even wondered if they were contaminants from sun dried river shrimp I once purchased and fed to many fish.

Not only are snail infestations unsightly, they can be a source of arguments between fish keeping aquarist couples! You transferred them, no you did! Just stay out of my tanks!

Over the years, I've heard of many proposed solutions and have tried just about every one of them - at least twice. Following is a rundown of some of the more popular ones.



"Had-A-Snail" and other Snail Eradicators

This was a popular chemical formulation some years back. It was touted to be very effective in killing off unwanted snails, however, I never found it to work at all. Some other aquarists claimed it worked for them, however, others found that dead snails polluted the tank and then killed their fish. Hence, this product earned the nickname of "Had-A- Fish" in some quarters. Other formulations existed but were found to be just about the same.

Skunk Loaches

Loaches are often suggested when discussing snail problems with other aquarists and Skunk Loaches are very popular when it comes to suggestions. While I'm sure that they eat a snail or two, I've never seen a noticeable impact on my snail populations. I did run into a very serious downside to using them one time when I put a few in a 40 breeder with my prized *Corydoras gosseii*. I began to notice something that looked like mouth fungus on the *Corydoras* and a few days later, they began to die. What I later found out was that the *Botia* ripped the barbells off of the *Corydoras* and then a number of the cats subsequently died. So, tread lightly with loaches!



Bleach

Bleach is often suggested as the last resort after other methods have failed and it is touted as a sure-fire way to eradicate an unwanted snail infestation. I've tried it on a gravel infestation of live bearing trumpet snails. I put in more than twice the recommended dose and left the tank in the garage over the winter. Much to my chagrin, I was amazed to see live snails again after setting that tank back up!



Assassin Snails

I have found that these good looking snails are reasonably effective in slowing down a snail explosion. We currently keep them in a number of tanks. It can take time though as reproduction is slow. And, it never seems that they fully eradicate them. But, that's more than I can say about the other approaches! Some larger fish like *Triglachromis otostigma* and 'Lamprologus' callipterus males may actually eat the assassin snails, so be careful what you put them in with. At the going rate of \$1.00 each, they might be an expensive snack!

Prevention and the Power of Clean Water

Of course, prevention has always been the most effective approach for me though. Isolate your plants, nets, hoses, cups, pails, etc. and NEVER use them with tanks that have snails. Be extremely careful in adding new fish and plants especially.

Another preventive measure is keeping your tank water clean and not letting waste products build up. As an example of the power of clean water, one of my 125 gallon tanks was very heavily infested with nuisance snails. I had tried a number of approaches to reduce them and often went into the tank with a net to remove large numbers of them. Eventually, I realized that I had turned off a valve on my automatic water change system for that tank at some earlier point and had forgotten to turn it back on. I noted that the tank water no longer looked pristine and had begun to wonder if the waste materials building up were fueling the snail outbreak. So, I did a large water change and opened the valve and the water began to get very clean and clear once again. Now, I no longer see any snails in that tank.



'Lamprologus' callipterus really clean up unwanted snails in the aquarium.

A New Approach?



Over the past two years, I've been taking photos of a number of Shell Dwellers of the genera 'Lamprologus' and *Telmatochromis* for future talks on this interesting group of Tanganyika cichlids. Most of my existing pics are in the form of 35mm slides from the film era and I'd like to replace them with high resolution digital images that are much sharper. So far, I've located 'Lamprologus' brevis "Mtoto Tiger", gold ocellatus, stappersi (aka meleagris), *Zambian ornatipinnis*, callipterus, multifasciatus, similis, as well as *Telmatochromis temporalis* "Shell". In keeping them, I've noticed a very pleasant and unexpected surprise – they all eat seem to eat small snails! I've noticed piles of empty nuisance snail shells around the *Neothauma* and other shells that the pairs and individuals have taken for their territories. While they all seem to be somewhat effective, by far the most prolific snail eater is 'Lamprologus' callipterus. This effectiveness is most likely the result of the males growing significantly larger than males of the other species mentioned.

I like really keeping shell dwellers due to their small size, ease in managing aggression and popularity with other hobbyists. Now the snail reduction feature is something I add to the list of benefits when I give talks on this species group. If you have some snails to eradicate, you just might want to give them a try!



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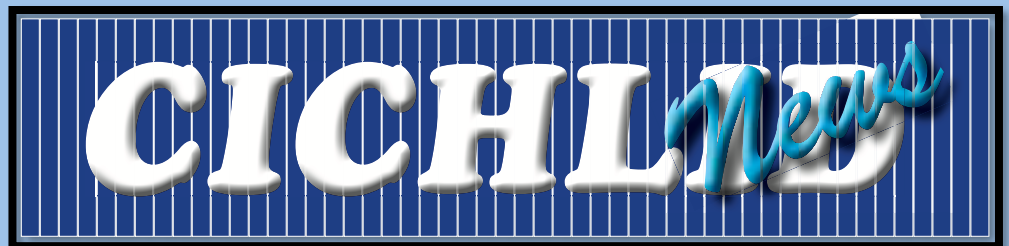
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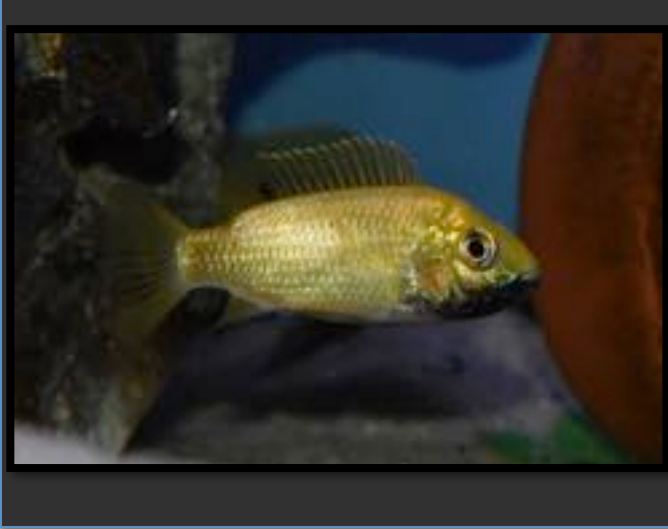
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Welcome To My Fish Room

A Fish Tour Through Jombie's Tanks

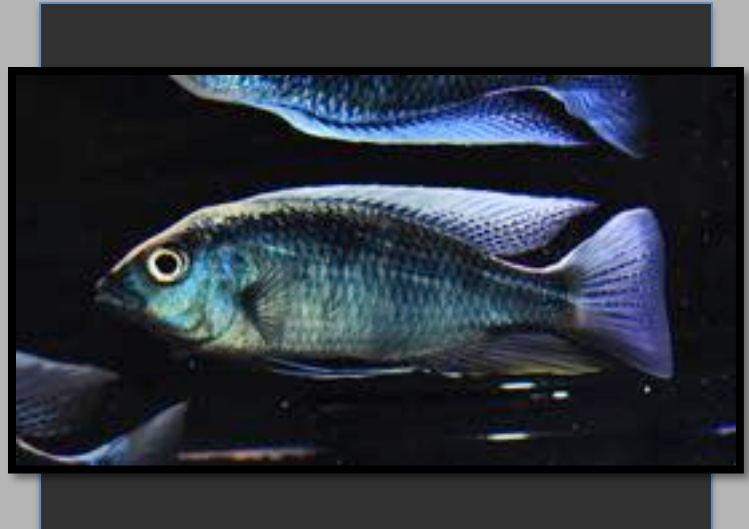


Coptodon kottae

I obtained this species from Jeff Walker at the OCA Extravaganza. He donated a bunch of fry for my fish tank at the school. This is a spectacular West African cichlid that is on the CARES List. The kottae quickly grew from a boring, colorless fry to stunners in only a few months. Males colored up first and females followed with the same intensity. These guys are golden yellow with a pitch-black throat. Most of mine developed a red blush in the gills when mating. I had to thin the tank as there were about four breeding pairs in a 40 gallon. During to COVID19, there are currently 2 pairs residing in the school fish tank in my basement. I implore everyone to try these out.

Copadichromis chrysonatus

Here's the first on this list obtained by the one and only, Josh Cunningham. Josh's reputation is well deserved in each fry that's taken out of his fish room. These blue beauties are currently in one of my 125 gallon tanks. There are three males and three females. I often imagine what these fish look like in the wild. Blue blazes of color swimming in the open Malawian waters. Truly amazing! I love their enormous eyes too. Although, I have not been able to harvest fry, I'm not too worried as I don't plan on parting with this species anytime soon.



Aulonocara maylandi

Lurking in the lower niche of this Malawian 125 gallon is this young group of Peacocks. These maylandi are just starting to color up and one female has held already. The yellow blaze on the dominant male's forehead is striking. I've been relatively new at keeping peacocks. I usually try to have one species in my fish room at a time, but at the end of the OCA Winter auction, I couldn't let the multiple bags of maylandi go without raising my hand. I'm a sucker for a CARES fish. If we have the room to do our part, I think it's our obligation to do it.

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Astatotilapia latifasciata

Here's a cool fish! I obtained 10 small fry at the Extravaganza with the promise that this is a refreshed strain of latifasciata. It's been a few months with this fish and they have put on some nice size. Their colorations hasn't evolved yet, but I really like the dark, clean bars. Today, one of the fish was displaying a fresh yellow and red. I'm really looking forward to spawning these fish in time. Look out for them at auction and bid high! (Seriously, bid high.)

Metriaclima pyrsonotos Albino Red Top Zebras

Okay, here is the showstopper! These zebras are MAGNIFICENT! Every time I walk into the fish room, my eyes are drawn to this tank. I've not had much luck with mbuna in the past, but these are a wonderful exception. These zebras have been bulking up due to their RAVENOUS feeding frenzies. They are a complete joy to feed. Under a pretty cheap light too, these babies pop with their vibrant sheen. I really can't say enough about these mbuna. I can't wait until they breed.



Amatitlania septemfasciata

Here's a cool little Central American cichlid! I obtained 8 of these little fellas at the OCA Extravaganza. After a few months, they have bulked up and I believe they will breed pretty soon. One of the cichlids is displaying some pretty cool coloration. I really like the blue eyes on these guys.



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Mylochromis plagiotaenia "Mvunguti"

Wow! I was lucky to obtain these fish from Josh Cunningham. A group of five, 2 males and 3 females entered my fish room a few months back. These fish are stunning! The males have some serious colors that can be seen across the room. I've really enjoyed keeping this species of *Mylochromis*. I believe a female is holding right now!

Otopharynx heterodon

EASILY one of the best-looking fish I've ever kept. My group is young, but the potential in these males is incredible. My wife was even impressed with him the other day! From the blues to yellows to greens, this is a Malawian that could rival any marine fish in color. I can't wait to see the future of this fish. Just today, I stripped 17 eggs from a hiding females mouth. Look for these at an auction soon!



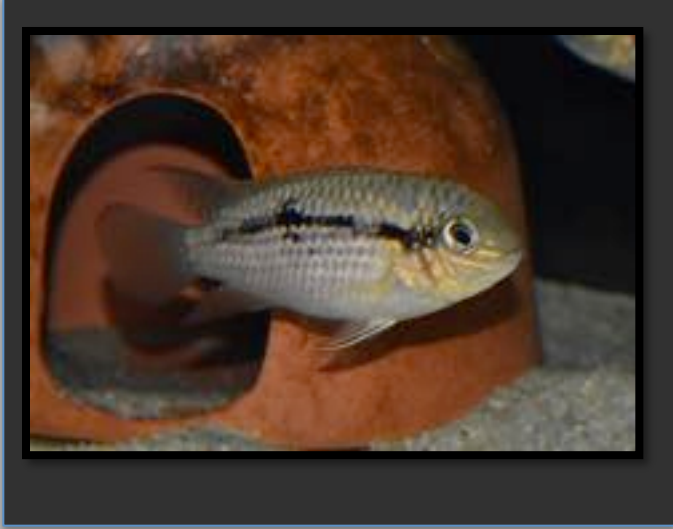
Copidachromis lupingu

After raising those *chrysonatus*, of course, I now have to bid on any *Copidachromis* that I see at auction. I jumped on these guys and now, I'm just waiting to see those colors pop. I recently moved some *Aulonocara* into the 125 gallon with them to grow out.



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Andinoacara biseriatus

I've kept a few Andinoacara in my tanks. They had different genera, but I guess it's all the same. I obtained ten of these at the OCA Extravaganza last year. For a second I saw my old group of diadema in their picture, so I jumped on these fry. Although not the same, I'm excited to spawn this South American cichlid. I've read their temperament is pretty high, but I have not seen much yet. My biggest male is around 3". I looked forward to spreading this fish around our area.

Corydoras aeneus

After 6 years... I bred this catfish! I don't keep many catfish in my tanks, especially ones that I would devote a tank to for breeding purposes. This cory though developed into such a delight that I could not remove them from their own tank. They've grown into the best-looking aeneus I've ever seen and finally, they bred and I saved the babies. Thanks to some great advice over the years from catfish experts, Phil Aryes and Steve Heinbaugh, I was able to raise a whole tankful of babies. Normally, I witness the lifecycle and sell my fish, but I'll definitely be keeping these.



Aulonocara baenschii

Here's another stunner from Josh Cunningham. I picked these up at the OCA Extravaganza this year and I couldn't be happier. These were my one Peacock of the year before I had to buy the maylandi. After breeding so many different shades of blue Peacocks, I thought I would try something different. While still young, the two males in the group are developing some strong yellow coloration. I can't wait to see their future potential.

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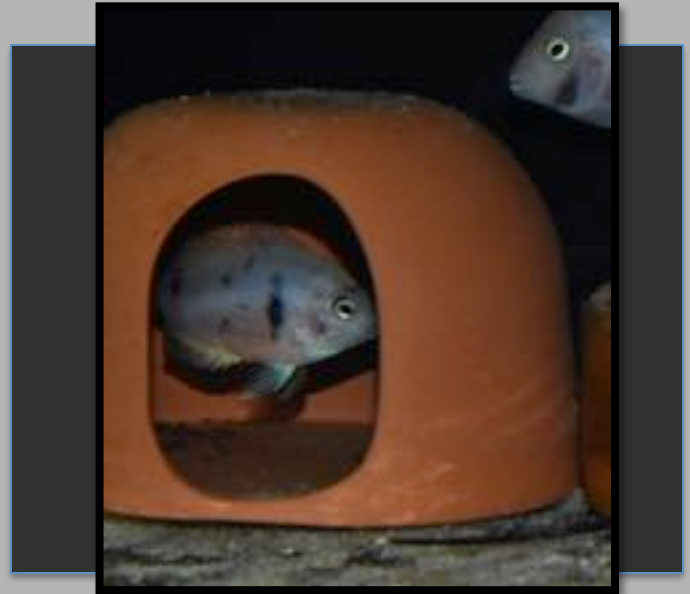


Synodontis petricola

Geez... I've had these cats for a long time too. Bought from Andrew Schock, these little guys have been patrolling my tanks for years now. They really are beautiful, exciting little creatures. I've tried numerous breeding attempts with different pieces and parts from Home Depot, but nothing yet. I have a feeling I'll get it right in year six.

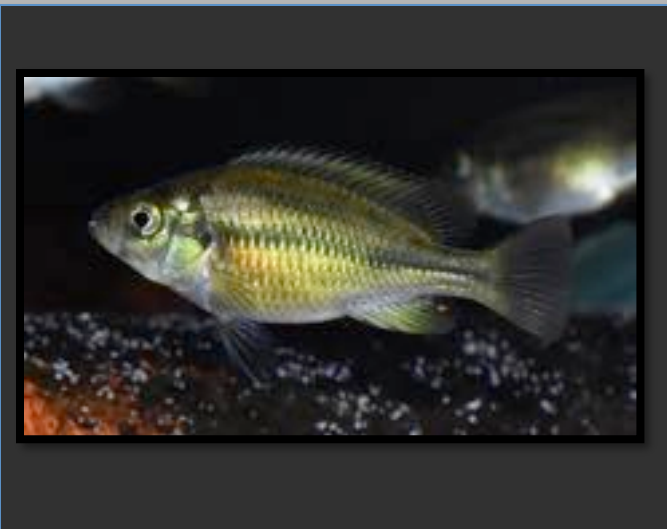
Marbled Convicts

I bought this bag of fish for a dollar and it came with a dollar in the bag! Truly, this fish is worth much more than the dollar. In the group of six, I have two pairs that are all of what one would expect a marbled convict to be - spotted and marked all over. These guys breed like... convicts. I'm raising some fry right now outside the tank and enjoying them breed and parent inside the 75 gallon. It's always nice to go back to where it all began.



Xystichromis sp.

I obtained this these *Xystichromis nuschisquamulatus* at the OCA Extravaganza last year. I really enjoy Vics and I thought I would impress people with the long name. Sadly, I still don't know how to pronounce it and turns out, they most likely are **not** *Xystichromis nuschisquamulatus*. They are still young and not yet showing the coloration I expect from a vic, but I hope to see some more color soon. Even without the color, this is a strikingly golden fish and a fun one to watch. These ten fish want food more than any fish in the fish room. They are gluttonous! I look forward to raising them to see where they go. If you have any information that can help me, please let me know!



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Thoracochromis brauschi

Another stunner! Although young, one of my males just started to color as an adult. Of course, he is the biggest baby and is always hiding. I was able to grab one decent picture to show those sweet yellow, red, and black. I have ten of them in a 75 gallon with the synodontis. I really can't wait until they mature and breed. It should be a real show.

Apistogramma cacatuoides Triple Reds

Here's a frustrating fish. I've had these for a while now and they refuse to breed. I believe I have two pairs but neither one will produce visible eggs or fry. No, I'm not softening the water. No, I don't understand RO. I'll keep them for a few more months and someone else can breed them. They are cute.



Well, thanks for taking a fish tour of my fish room! I wasn't able to get a decent picture of a few species. Also, there are tanks and tubs of fry everywhere. I didn't think that needed pictures.

I'm really enjoying this year in my room. My wife says these are the best fish I've had in years. She likes the colors of Lake Malawi and truly, I do too! It's exciting to see where the hobby takes you. Years ago, you wouldn't see most of these fish in my tanks. I've really expanded my preference in cichlids. There's just so many out there. I want them all! Every time a new speaker presents a new topic, a part of my brain opens up!

Do YOU want to take us on a fish tour of your fish room? Just send me the pics and some small bios. I'll do the rest! Cichlidjom21@gmail.com

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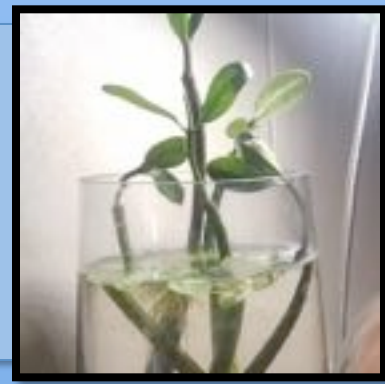
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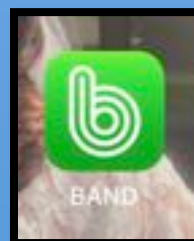
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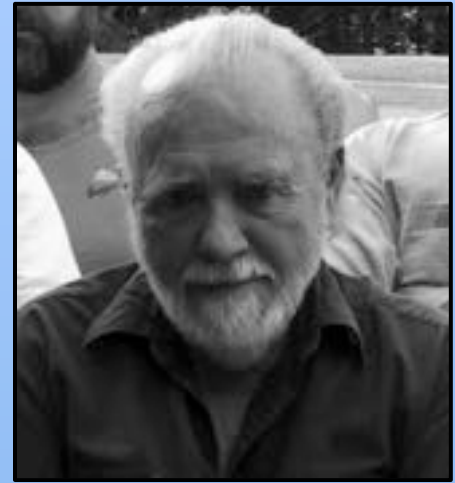


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THE JIM SMITH ENDOWMENT FUND



Who Was Jim Smith?

Jim Smith was the Membership Chair for the Ohio Cichlid Association from 1991 to 2003.

Jim was not a big man, but because of his obvious physical and mental toughness, fronted by a calm, friendly demeanor, he was loved and respected by friends and co-workers, who referred to him as “The Buffalo.” We in the OCA often called him “Santa,” both because of his looks and because of his gentle and patient way with young children.

What is the Jim Smith Fund?

Following Jim’s passing, in July of 2003, the OCA board knew that something big had to be done to honor Jim’s memory. The lead was taken by OCA board member Dan Woodland. Later that year, the OCA announced the establishment of the Jim Smith Fund. The purpose of the fund is to support research, education and conservation efforts that focus on cichlids and catfish.

How can I support the Jim Smith Fund?

The OCA has fund-raising activities, such as auctions and raffles at meetings and events, to benefit the Jim Smith Fund. When you support these efforts, you help to fund cichlid and catfish research, education, and conservation projects, and carry on the good work that Jim Smith started many years ago. You can donate fish or aquarium goods at any event, including Sunday’s auction. Just right “Donation” on the item, and include your name, if you want. You could also make a cash donation directly to the OCA. Any OCA Board Member can take your donation in person, or you can donate directly at paypal@ohiocichlid.com.

How can I apply for a Jim Smith Fund grant?

If you have a project in mind that shares all or some of the goals of the Jim Smith Fund, email JSF Chair Lew Carbone at lewcarbone@gmail.com. You will be added to the list of invitees that will be notified when the next application period begins.

Who are recent Jim Smith Fund grant recipients?

Ryan Greenway, a PhD candidate at Kansas State University, was awarded a \$1,000 Jim Smith Fund grant at the 2017 Extravaganza. Ryan is studying the interrelatedness of, and possible hybridization between, 3 species of Thorichthys, living in 4 different areas of the Grijalva River Basin, in Mexico. He will be using the funds to pay for genetic testing. Anton Lamboj, a colleague of Ryan's PhD advisor, Dr. Michael Tobler, accepts the award on his behalf.



Ad Konings recently discovered that the *Tropheus duboisi* "Maswa" is virtually extinct in Lake Tanganyika, due to over-collecting. In 2017, the Jim Smith Fund gave a \$500 grant to the Stuart Grant Fund, earmarked for obtaining a large group of already captive "Maswa" adults. The intent is to begin a breeding program with the goal of eventually re-establishing a wild population in their original home range. Ad accepts the award, and will oversee the project.



Who are recent Jim Smith Fund grant recipients?

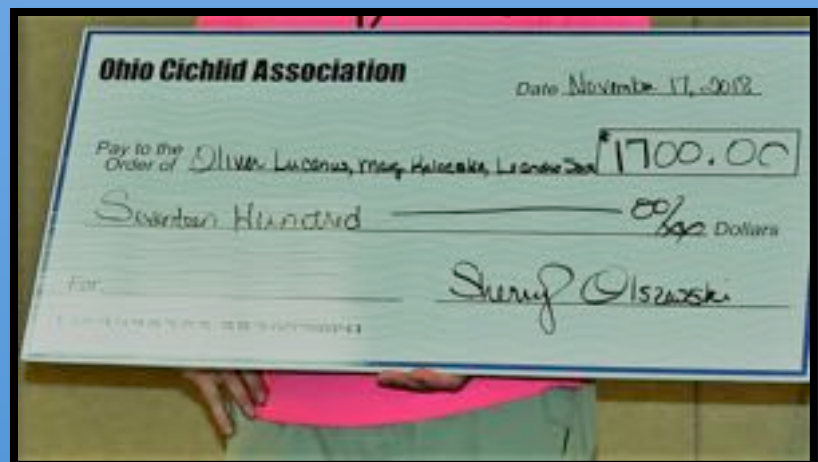
At this recent Extravaganza, the Ohio Cichlid Association announced the winner of the 2018 Jim Smith Endowment Fund grant. Jim Smith was a long-time and highly-regarded Membership Chair of the OCA, who passed away in 2003. Later that year, the Jim Smith Fund was established in his memory. The Jim Smith Fund solicits proposals for research, education or conservation projects that deal with cichlids or catfish. Each year, the OCA board votes to determine the best project or projects from the list of applicants, taking in consideration the current balance in the fund.

On November 17, 2018, the Ohio Cichlid Association announced that a team of researchers from McGill University, in Canada, and University of Pará, in Brazil, has won the Jim Smith Fund grant for 2018, and will be awarded \$1700. The team is made up of Oliver Lucanus (McGill), Dr. Margaret Kalacska (McGill) and Dr. Leandro Sousa (Pará).

The driving force behind the team's project is that the incredible fish diversity of the Volta Grande section of the Rio Xingu, in Brazil, is gravely threatened by a variety of human activities. Part of what makes this diversity possible is the unusual and complex bottom structure, which features many different types of rocks, crevices, caves and other features, each used by certain species. This team plans on using photogrammetry (a method of 3-D digital mapping that uses hundreds of photos) to study the bottom of this part of the Rio Xingu.

The idea is to be able to use the data from this mapping, along with 3D printing, to make artificial stand-ins for that section of the Xingu's substrate. These printed structures will be installed in aquariums, ponds or man-made streams. The goal is to get the more difficult-to-breed Xingu species to feel at home enough to reproduce, thereby keeping these species alive in the hobby, even if they go extinct in the wild.

We wish **Oliver, Dr. Kalacska and Dr. Sousa** the best of luck in carrying out their project. We look forward to a personal update on the project's status when Oliver visits to speak at the 2019 Extravaganza, our 25th annual show.



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