

In Depth

November 2016

Auction photos

CatCon 2016 Recap

Breeding the Lemon Cichlid

Calendar of Coming Events

and so much more!



Photo by Ann Whitman

In Depth

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We meet on the second Thursday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 PM at the VFW Hall, 73 Pearl St, Essex Junction, VT.

Our membership consists of adults, children and teens. Many members are very experienced and have been keeping fish for years, and others are just getting started. People of all ages and experience levels are always welcome. Meet and learn from those who share your interests!

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CPO Dwarf Crayfish. Photo by Ann Whitman

From the President

by David L Banks, Jr



The October special meeting was very exciting; Hans Evers showed us habitats of Corydoras, along with sharing lots of info about this very popular group of small catfish. Janine and I had a full day with Hans showing him Church Street, doing some shopping, taking foliage pictures and having lunch at the Reef to Rainforest office, all before the evening meeting. We had a great turnout with half a dozen or so folks coming from Montreal and OVAS. We finished the meeting with a small auction, the highlight being a 1-year subscription to Amazonas magazine along with a copy of the first issue that Hans, the magazine's editor, graciously signed! We also had a great time after the meeting hanging out for a while to have a drink, snack and conversation.

The following day, Hans and I travelled to Montreal for another full day of fish and sightseeing. The Montreal club also had a very good turnout for their meeting and filled the room. Hans' program was about finding and collecting plecocs in Peru and Brazil. He shared a valuable lesson that was learned by all in his party on that particular trip. After a day of collecting some very nice plecocs, they retired to their host's home, only to find the next morning that their plecocs had been used to make soup! What we hobbyists spend time and money on, many just consider a food source!

Our annual auction will have passed by time you read this, so early thanks to all that attend, breeders who brought in fish to sell, those that participated in the bowl show and all who helped out for the auction. The weather has certainly turned to winter/fall after a nice extended late summer, so hopefully that is good news for the auction. This is our main fundraiser each year and allows us to bring in top speakers like Hans Evers, Caroline Estes, Steve Edie and Justin Credabel this past year. It also allows us to print the newsletter annually and have great workshops like Ira Gardner-Morse and Ann Whitman did with LED lights and container pond plants.

For the November meeting, we will show a video from the NEC archives, Pat Donston's program titled "Healthy Fish" that he presented at the 2012 convention. Pat is the owner of [Absolutely Fish](#) in Clifton, NJ, and has presented to the industry and hobby on many topics around best practices at a fish store, nutrition/feeding, maintenance and a bunch of related topics. His store's website offers a wealth of information, newsletters and a blog on freshwater and marine aquariums. Even if you saw his presentation in person, it should be great review.

The December meeting will be our annual holiday meeting/party. Ann Whitman attempted to host this two years ago, but a power outage that day forced us to move the party at the last minute. Well, she is willing to try it again this year, so we will have it at her home in Bolton, on Thursday, December 8th. We ask everyone to bring a side dish, appetizer or dessert to share with everyone and the club will provide a main dish or two and soft drinks. Bring your own alcoholic drinks if you want. This will be a great time to check out what Ann has been doing in her fish room!

David

Editorial

Emergency Reorg in the Fish Room

By Ann Whitman



Blame it on the summer drought. Our ancient and reliable, gravity-fed, artisan spring, with its perfectly neutral and lovely soft water parameters, started giving us trouble by the end of July. After an afternoon of mucking about with it, my husband announced that it was time to make some changes. We drank bottled water and took shorter showers for a couple of months while we considered the options. Then, after lots of discussion, professional advice and budget crunching, we had a well drilled out in the field. Which led to a trench across the driveway, through my stone retaining wall and perennial garden, and a hole drilled into the cellar wall—you guessed it, right into the corner of my fish room.

The shiny new, bright-blue pressure tank now lives where three aquariums once stood. Cleaning out that corner also unearthed a bunch of long-forgotten tank lids, filter parts, plastic bags, buckets of old gravel, ornaments and other stuff that made its way into a free box at the October auction. The three tanks now reside just outside the reach of the central air system and light timer. My work here is not done, but the residents don't seem to mind the new location.

Did I mention the new pressure tank? Turns out that our old 80-gallon hot water heater, which sits in the middle of my fish room, couldn't take the additional pressure. Flooding ensued—the day after I left for a 12-day trip to CatCon and California. While I was enjoying the Spree on Three catfish sales and hospitality suites, my husband was dragging soggy boxes of equipment out of my fish room and calling plumbers. As I walked the sunny beaches of Southern California, he was feeding and medicating my fish. I owe him big time.

I came home to a pile of boxes and general disarray, but I'm a silver-lining kind of person. Moving tanks and clearing the floor and hidden nooks and crannies of the fish room forced me to clean up and get rid of my unused fish gear. I'm no longer stepping over things or shuffling boxes around. It inspired me to set up better tanks and use equipment that I'd forgotten about. The space is better organized and less cluttered. And no fish were harmed in the process, thanks to my spouse's careful and attentive efforts.

Ann



Group of discus at CK Fish World, West Covina, CA.
photo by Ann Whitman

Speaker of the Month

We will watch the 2012 NEC video of Pat Donston's program titled "Healthy Fish". Pat is the owner of [Absolutely Fish](#) in Clifton, NJ. He has presented to the industry and hobby on many topics around best practices at a fish store, nutrition/feeding, maintenance and other related topics. As always, we will have a raffle at the start of the meeting, sharing of member stories and questions, and a small auction following the video.



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Nov 17 [TFCB meeting](#), 6:30, VFW, Essex Jct, VT
- Dec 8 TFCB Holiday Party, 6:30, Ann Whitman's house, Bolton, VT
- Jan 12 TFDB meeting, 6:30, VFW, Essex Jct, VT
- Jan 15 [Danbury Area Aquarium Society](#) auction, Carmel, NY
- Feb 19 [PVAS](#) Tropical Fish auction, Chicopee, MA
- March 10 - 12 [NEC 42nd Annual Convention](#), Rocky Hill, CT
- March 10 - 12 Capitol Cichlid Association, [Big Fish Deal #5](#), Gaithersburg, VA
- March 25 [NH Aquarium Society](#) auction, Portsmouth, NH
- May 4 - 7 [American Livebearers Association Convention](#), St. Louis, MO
- May 12 [Brooklyn Aquarium Society](#) Giant Spring auction, Brooklyn, NY
- June 8 - 13 [North American Native Fishes Assoc. Convention](#), Missouri
- July 13 - 16 [American Cichlid Association Convention](#), Novi, MI

Club Meetings and Events

by Ann Whitman

Our club's annual auction moved to a new venue this year, the Holiday Inn on Williston Road. It was great to have the extra space, plenty of tables, good lighting and convenient parking. Another first: we sold plants on silent auction tables and had a wonderful selection, thanks especially to Florida Aquatics Nursery's generous donation. Although some of our regular out-of-town hobbyists didn't make it, we did have great crowd of locals and plenty of fish, plants and hardware to bid on. David Banks and Ira Gardner-Morse served as auctioneers, keeping the bidding lively and entertaining.

The club also held Bowl Show with prizes to the People's Choice and officially judged entries. Brian Scott served as the judge. The People's Choice award went to David Banks for his *Aulonocara stuartgranti* Flametail Peacock cichlid. This fish also took 3rd place in the judged show. First place in the judged show was awarded to Tom Malinowski for his beautiful male pearl gourami. Second prize was won by David Banks for his male lower bunt swordtail guppy.



Unpacking and bagging the plant donations from Florida Aquatic Nurseries took many hands. Bryan, Andrew and David did the yeoman's work.



David started the auction with an eager group of runners.



Ira kept the auction rolling and entertained the enthusiastic crowd.



Brian uses a straw to nudge a nervous pearl gourami into showing his fins. This fish won first prize.



The auction at the Holiday Inn was well attended by locals and visitors from Quebec and other area clubs.



Max toasts another successful TFCB auction.
photo by Dave Isham



Runners kept the fish moving for auctioneers
David and Ira. Brian C kept the auction lot paper-
work in order. photos by Dave Isham



Notes From CatCon 2016

by Ann Whitman

It only happens once every two years, but it's worth the wait and anticipation. The All-Aquarium Catfish Convention, planned and hosted by the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society, is a gathering of many of the world's most renowned catfish experts. It's a 4-day weekend of tours, presentations, auctions, room sales and hospitality suites, vendor browsing and late night chats with old friends and new. And raffles, but more on that later.

I flew down to Dulles airport with David and Janine Banks and Hans Evers, who had been visiting and speaking in the Burlington-Montreal area. After meeting up with my sister, Joan, at the hotel, she and I headed to the convention check in and caught up with friends for supper in the hotel bar. That evening, we attended three very informative presentations on mouth-brooding cichlids, breeding killifish, and shrimps of Sulawesi. It's not all about catfish, after all!

NIH Zebrafish Tour and Zoo

Joan and I had signed up for a tour of the National Institutes of Health Zebrafish Facility and visit to the Amazonia exhibit at the National Zoo on Friday. Many CatCon attendees apparently thought that the tour sounded boring and skipped it, but for 20 of us who thought differently, the NIH tour turned out to be one of the highlights of the weekend. We had small, personal tours of one of the cutting-edge breeding and husbandry facilities in the world where hundreds of thousands of zebra danios are raised for critical scientific and medical research. I'll be writing up a full article on that trip for a future newsletter.

Spree on Three Room Sales

After the evening presentations, everyone eagerly headed up to the third floor of the Hyatt for the Spree on Three room sales event and hospitality suites (free beer, wine and snacks!). Everyone who books a room on the third floor can sell fish and related items from their room, at no additional charge from the convention. All the room doors are open and each vendor posts a list of what they have to sell on the wall outside and also on poster boards by the elevator. The opportunity to chat with the people who breed the fish, to find and purchase very rare fish, and to meet other hobbyists from all over North America and Europe is hard to beat anywhere. It's the ultimate fish geek party! I restrained myself, but did end up buying four *Corydoras* species that night.



NIH Zebrafish Facility is home to nearly half a million zebra danios used for scientific and medical research.

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY		ROOM 310	2016
L10A Red Lizard (May spawns)	\$20 ea/6 for \$100		
Whiteworm cultures (keep 50F-70F)	\$10		
Corydoras CW10 Orange Lazer	\$10		
Corydoras oisipoquensis	\$10		
Ancistrus brown spawning group (5)	\$20		
Corydoras loxozonus	\$10		
Aphyosemion australe Orange	prs \$15		
Fundulopanchax gardneri N'sukka	prs \$10		
Fundulopanchax gardneri Innidoro	prs \$10		

Room sales are a big part of CatCon. Each vendor posts a list of their fish in the hallway and on a board by the elevator.

And the Winner Is...

Saturday was full of great presentations on breeding, diet and more. By late afternoon, though, the vendor room was abuzz as the first raffle drew near. PVAS was selling raffle tickets for both live fish and dry goods raffles. Sponsors, including Segrest Farms and Wet Spot, had donated some pretty amazing and rare fish for the live raffle. Six bags of fish lay on the raffle table with information printouts from [PlanetCatfish](#) under them. At the last minute, I bought six tickets for \$5. As we waited for the first ticket to be drawn, I asked the guy standing next to me which fish I should choose, if I got lucky. Turns out that guy was Shane Linder, of PlanetCatfish. He recommended the pair of Longtail Whiptails (*Spatuloricaria caquetae*) donated by Wet Spot and worth \$70 each. You guessed it—I won the whiptails!

After the raffle ended, I asked Steve Lundblad, owner of The Wet Spot, if he had really brought a pair. He said he thought so, but better ask the real expert, Ingo Seidel, who has actually caught this species in the rivers of Columbia. Ingo confirmed that they do look like a pair, so we'll see what happens. It's only been bred in Germany, so far.

Ready, Set, Auction!

Sunday, as in most conventions, is auction day. This was a huge event, being in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, and it included all kinds of fish and plants. One of the best features was the computer screen above the auctioneer. Each lot was projected with information about the fish as the bidding occurred. Very helpful, since it was difficult to see all the lots prior to the auction, and many fish were unfamiliar or rarely seen. It was hard, but I only bought one bag of fish and a couple plants to squeeze into my borrowed cooler. (Thank you David and Janine!) Next time, I need to drive and not fly to CatCon. This is one convention I will always plan to attend. I hope to see you all there in 2018!



Rachael O'Leary aka [Mzjinkzd](#) selling shrimp and catfish from her room on the third floor.



Ingo Seidel, renowned catfish expert and author, examines two Longtail Whiptail plecocs to determine if they are a pair.



Sunday's auction is greatly assisted by on-screen information about the fish up for bid. A technician pulls up the info as each new lot comes to the auctioneer.

Reprinted from In Depth, April 1994

BAP REPORT

Observations on Maintaining & Breeding the Lemon Cichlid, *Lamprologus leleupi*

By Richard Maxwell



Lamprologus leleupi (now called *Neolamprologus leleupi*) is a sort of torpedo-shaped yellow cichlid that is endemic to (comes from) the rocky shores of Lake Tanganyika (Africa). A fairly peaceful cichlid that does become a bit aggressive when pairing off. The fish are shelter breeders and prefer to lay their eggs in a cave-like structure. However, I have recently seen my pair lay eggs behind a lift tube then move them to a cave area. Leleupi can and do move substrate. One book I have lists length as four inches but I have heard of nine-inch leleupi. The fish likes an alkaline water that

is medium to hard (suitable to our area) and temperature in the mid to high 70s. There are a couple of color morphs. I have seen the yellow and some that are the color of Tang orange drink and some that are slightly brownish. The male is the larger of the two and sometimes forms a slight cranial hump and his pelvic fin is longer. The forehead of the female has a steeper rise.

I obtained my leleupi from Beau Bushor when I bought his fish room and inhabitants a couple of years ago. I had three yellows and a pair of slightly tangy orange. The three yellows were housed in a ten gallon tank with dolomite and an under gravel filter. Temperature was kept around 77°. There was a stone structure that had the equivalent of two semi caves and a couple of plastic plants. Foods fed were frozen: brine shrimp, mosquito larvae, daphnia, bloodworms and an assortment of flake foods (mainly spirulina).

After a month or so I observed one of the leleupi hanging out up by the overflow of a lift tube. I had seen this behavior in other cichlids that I keep and knew right off this fish was being kicked out of the tank by his roommates. I did some fish shuffling and put him in the tank right next to former housemates, which made him or her their neighbor.

Things were pretty busy in the fish room at this time as it was not totally built and I didn't have all my stands in. I had tanks on tables, on an old Hi Fi stereo, on the floor....tanks everywhere. With the addition of all these tanks it took me awhile to get adjusted to all the maintenance needs of my fish room. What I am getting at is I didn't pay that much attention to the love life of my fish for awhile. That did not matter though because apparently they didn't care to have me peeping into their tanks while they were going through their rituals of mating.

Every once in awhile I would find fry in tanks and decided that a lot of these fish could care less as to my assistance in spawning. They didn't care as long as I fed them.

One day while checking around I noticed that the neighbors (leleupi) always seemed to be aware of each other and were sometimes at their bay windows trying to intimidate each other (two males, I believe). It

wasn't long after that that I observed some pale looking specks bobbing around the pair's tank. I was very excited as I sat and watched for awhile. There appeared to be 30+ fry hanging out all over the tank.

I wasn't into hatching brine shrimp yet (I was refining my ability to get a good hatch) so the fry ate what I fed the parents and seemed to do just fine. I have heard that if you do feed baby brine exclusively, the fry will grow up to be on the tangy colored side. I would think that a food with beta carotene would also help.

I raised the fry in the tank with the parents and I did not have any problems. They were good parents. Once the fry were about an inch or so I gave them their own tank until I brought some in for breeder points and other area auctions. Note* Young fish do not travel too well. Would suggest bringing in a tank and water from home when attending a weekend function where fish must spend the weekend in your hotel room.

I have been hoping this pair would spawn again but until recently have had no luck. A couple of reasons I suspect are: 1) no leleupi neighbor, and 2) no major (I mean major) water change.

A couple weeks ago I decided to do something about #2. I changed and cleaned the tank so that the fish were just barely covered with water and I put a light green background on the tank. About a week later I noticed eggs behind a lift tube. The smaller fish (female) was guarding them. A couple of days later the eggs had been moved to a cave-like structure. I kept an eye on the tank but never saw any fry and assumed the eggs were either infertile or fungused. This will not stop me from trying any other options.

I hope this will help anyone who is keeping *Lamprologus leleupi* to progress from just keeping them to working on spawning them. Good luck!

Reference: Baensch Aquarium Atlas, page 734



“Wow!”

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