



# *Fish Tales*

*Volume 6 Issue 2*

*Examination of the Genus  
Lipochromis*

*OBBA Hosts IBC  
Convention 2016*

*Trials and Tribulations  
of a long time Fish  
Keeper*

*Northeast  
Council of  
Aquarium  
Societies*



*American Cichlid  
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**Yellow Halfmoon Male**

**Photo by Sam Tse**

### **Design and Layout**

**Gerald Griffin**



Volume 6 Issue 2

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and members of the Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies.

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Fish Tales Submission Guidelines

Articles:

Please submit all articles in electronic form. We can accept most popular software formats and fonts. Email to [herpchat@yahoo.com](mailto:herpchat@yahoo.com). Photos and graphics are encouraged with your articles! Please remember to include the photo/graphic credits. Graphics and photo files may be submitted in any format, however uncompressed TIFF, JPEG or vector format is preferred, at the highest resolution/file size possible. If you need help with graphics files or your file is too large to email, please contact me for alternative submission info.

Art Submission:

Graphics and photo files may be submitted in any format. However, uncompressed TIFF, JPEG or vector formats are preferred. Please submit the highest resolution possible.

Next deadline.....

October 15th 2016

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# Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies

## Presidents Message

2016 has proven to be a busy year for many of our FOTAS leaders. First of all, congratulations go out to Gerald and Kayla Griffin for hosting the International Betta Congress' annual convention in Jenks Oklahoma. From all accounts, this was a top notch show.

For the first time, the FOTAS publication "Fish Tales" and contributing authors were entered into the F.A.A.S. publishing awards. F.A.A.S. is an acronym for the Federation of American Aquarium Societies. There are well over 100 organizations involved in FAAS so the competition is fierce! In our first showing, Fish Tales won 1st for best changing original art cover, and 2nd for best editor and publication! Thank you Gerald for all your hard work. We know the great job you do but it's nice to be recognized outside our circle! A big congratulation to Doug Austin, Duc Nguyen, Kyle Osterholt, Chris Lewis, Clay Trachtman and Brandon O'Brien for placing with their articles.

I would encourage everyone to enter your FOTAS CARES fish for cataloging and recognition. We also have a BAP and HAP program administered by Chris Lewis. For more information, check the previous issue of Fish Tales or contact Chris Lewis directly at Chrislew-isTX@gmail.com.

The Hill Country Cichlid Club will be hosting the FOTAS annual convention this year in Schertz Texas. The Dates are October 21st-23rd. We have a great show being planned with four top notch speakers, a tank decorating contest pitting club against club, a fish show with cash prizes, and the famous game show followed by the no money auction. Sunday will be our big mega auction!!! Make your plans now!

It is time to consider if your club would like to take a turn at hosting the 2017 FOTAS convention. We will entertain entries at the FOTAS board meeting the Saturday morning of the convention. It will be at this time that the election of new board members will take place. We will accept nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. As a reminder, club dues of \$12.00 will be due at this time as well. The annual convention is a great time to bring up ideas, objectives and direction you would like to see for the coming year as well.

I am currently entertaining nominations for the FOTAS Altruism Award and the Dr. Keith Arnold Award.

I have to once again extend my thanks to Gerald Griffin who has helped very much in the rejuvenation of FOTAS as an organization

and once again obtaining national recognition. It's very hard to imagine where we would be without him! Thank you to Dr. Arnold who is still involved with FOTAS finances and heads our scholarship program.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer and I hope very much to see you all at the FOTAS convention in October!

Check out Greg's latest book!







# FOTAS CARES!

## Second Quarter Report



It was a quiet quarter for FOTAS CARES reports. As it stands, we have 57 entries, all from Hill Country Cichlid Club members. I know the other clubs have active members who maintain CARES fish. I certainly hope they will consider registering their groups. The *Labrochromis ishmaeli* group held by Greg Steeves is now defunct. Hopefully another group can be found and added to our program. The *Alcolapia alcalicus* held by Greg Steeves was passed to CARES member and re-registered with Jim Valenzuela. Jim now has a good sized breeding population of *A. alcalicus*. He hopes to be able to seed other CARES colonies with this beautiful fish very soon. The *Neochromis omnicaeruleus* Makobe III variant was deemed to be the same as the *N. omnicaeruleus* Makobe I variant so the entry for the former population was dissolved. Greg Steeves added a group of *Zoogoneticus tequila*, a Mexican goodied obtained at the HCCC rare fish auction last spring. They were provided by Jose Gonzalez. Many CARES fish were distributed during that event however; no one has yet taken the time to register them.

You can easily register your CARES fish by sending your info to [fotascares@gmail.com](mailto:fotascares@gmail.com). Keep up to date on CARES developments and access the priority list at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/153148624721520/>.



*Labrochromis ishmaeli*



*Alcolapia alcalicus*



*Neochromis omnicaeruleus*  
Makobe



# Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies Report

Article by  
Clay Trachtman

Recently, my job provided me with the chance to go to a training outside of Boston. The training was offered several times, so I decided to choose a date that was “fishy” convenient, meaning I would be able to hit a convention! In this case, it was the 41st convention of the Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies (NEC).

This was the first time that I had ever been to an event that was not hosted by a club that was a member of the Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies (FOTAS). As I have told members of the Southeast Louisiana Aquarium Society (SELAS), I want SELAS to be able to host a regional convention that will be able to attract attendees from across the country. In order to do this, I really needed to get a better idea of how other clubs hosted regional conventions, how the auctions ran, and most importantly, how much it cost.

Compared to the approximately 10 clubs that make up FOTAS, the NEC has 29 member clubs. The NEC also covers a much more densely populated region of the United States, so most club members only have to drive less than 3 hours to attend the event. In total, there were about 150 attendees at the convention.

The convention was held just south of Hartford, Connecticut at the Sheraton Hotel. The venue itself was

very impressive, with a large vendor room, a fish show room, 2 speaker rooms, a hospitality room, and even a separate room for meals. Everything was held in the hotel, which was very good as there was still snow on the ground!

The speaker line up was also impressive, featuring Joseph Ferdenzi, Ian Harrison, Lawrence Kent, Paul Loiselle, Steve Lundblad, John Lyons and Stephan Tanner. With dual speakers going on at the same time, everyone was sure to find something of interest; however, this also meant that I would not be able to hear all the speakers.

As I am a “pleco guy”, the highlight of the talks for me was by Stephan Tanner of Swiss Tropicals: “Xingu Plecos: Let’s Save Them before They Vanish!” The talk dealt with the building of the Belo Monte dam in Brazil, and how many species of fish may go extinct due to habitat loss.

Friday night’s keynote speaker was Joe Ferdenzi who talked about the history of the aquarium hobby in America. This was pretty funny as he specifically mentioned a decoration that just about every aquarium owner had in the early part of the 20th century. “What the hell is it?” Joe Ferdenzi asked the room. No one could tell him. As to what it is exactly, no one knows,



I can tell you; however, that one still resides in my father's aquarium in New Orleans (my father also said it is an Oriental ornament of some type).

Saturday evening's keynote speaker was Lawrence Kent and featured everyone in black and white attire (in theory anyway). Lawrence talked about his many travels around the world collecting fish and how he has dragged his family along for the ride.

Sunday featured what may have been the largest auction that I have been to. There were over 1000 items, and the auctioneers were fast. This was tough for me as I could not buy any livestock; however, I did manage to get an extension on my Amazonas Magazine subscription and a bunch of pipettes.

All in all, I had a good time and made some new friends. I also got some good information for when SELAS hosts a FOTAS convention. On that note, anyone want to buy a nice Oriental fish ornament for the low cost of \$1000, profits will go toward SELAS hosting a convention.



Black and white dinner at the NEC. Seated clockwise starting on the left: Bob Hicks, Tom Gillooly, Paul Nitzche, Ted Coletti, Michael Echt, Richard Wade, Clay Trachtman, and Lauren Hicks.



Large Auction at the NEC.

The Oriental ornament from the turn of the century, in the presentation and in my father's aquarium.



# **FOTAS Wins Awards at FAAS Annual Publication Award Competition**

**F**or the first time in the history of FOTAS we actually competed in the Federation of American Aquariums Societies Annual Publication Award Competition. When I first approached Greg Steeves with the idea of entering his was enthusiastic to see how we would fair. As this was our first go at such a prestigious competition I had no idea what to expect. Sure I had hoped for grandiose accolades but this was our first time so I did not know what to expect. When I saw that judging could take six months I was like a kid waiting for Christmas. Every day I would check my email hoping the judging would be done and we would find out our fate in this competition. Each day bringing more anticipation to see how we finally did against the rest of the Aquarium Associations of North America. Finally the evening had arrived when I received the email I had been waiting for on the 12th of July. The winners of the 2015 FAAS Publication Awards.

As I eagerly scrolled through the list the first thing that I noticed was that the winners were a whose who of the Aquarium Hobby. I recognized a good number of the names and many of them were Facebook Friends and many of them were people I had talked to at one time or another. The next thing I noticed were the Aquarium Societies that won were ones that were quite well known to me. The most exciting thing however was seeing our names up there with the various people that I know and respect in the Aquarium Hobby. Although my writing did not score as highly as I had hoped the magazine that I work so hard on was recognized and this gave me pride. The other thing of note was that almost all of our contributing authors had won something. As I notified our people a number of them were not only shocked but proud that they had not only won, but that their contributions were valued by others, not just by the people of FOTAS.

One of the striking things to take away from our awards is that some of the contributors had thought

that their articles were not worthy of publication and for many it was their first time to even write something for any publication. As I told them any contribution is welcome and if there are issues I will help you with them. The important thing is to contribute. Everyone knows something that someone else doesn't and if we can pool our resources then we improve the hobby as a whole. After all, you just never know, you might just win an award and to me, the FAAS Publication Awards are the equivalent of winning a gold medal! You were competing against some of the most experienced writers in North America and for us at Fish Tales to do as well as we did against seasoned veterans, we did pretty good!

So if you take anything away from this is why not give it try. Send us your articles and you might just be a future FAAS Publication Awards winner!





# FAAS Awards FOTAS Winners!

1st Place Best Changing Cover Original Art

2nd Place Best Editor and Publication 6 or fewer issues



FOTAS

## Fish Tales

Vol 5 Issue 1

Collecting Plecos in San Antonio

Clay Trachtman

5 Tips for Planted Tanks

Chris Lewis

IBC Species Maintenance

Program Update

Gerald Griffin

South American Oddball Catfish

Roy Williams



FOTAS

## Fish Tales

Vol 5 Issue 2

Bettas Return to Canada

Gerald Griffin

Plants for Killifish

Doug Austin

Astatotilapia flavijosephi

Greg Steeves

Endler's Livebearer

Brandon O'Brian



FOTAS

## Fish Tales

Vol 5 Issue 3

*Pseudocrenilabrus philander*  
Guma Lagoon

Greg Steeves

FOTAS 2015 RECAP

Kyle Osterholt

Line Breeding Ornamental Bettas

Gerald Griffin

*Haplochromis* Sp. KK Beach

Marc Schnell

Armored and Crocodile Sticklebacks

Brandon O'Brian



FOTAS

## Fish Tales

Vol 5 Issue 4

The Future of the Federation of  
Texas Aquarium Societies

Greg Steeves

The New FOTAS HAP and BAP



What the Heck  
is an ESU?

Leslie Dick

GloFish, Love them or Hate  
them; They are here to stay!

Gerald Griffin

Spawning the  
Buffalohead Cichlid

Duc Nguyen

FOTAS CARES!  
Program Overview

Greg Steeves

Spawning Julidochromis  
*dickfieldi*

Gerald Griffin





**Greg Steeves**

**Best Spawning Article 1000 Words or more**

**1st Place**

**Astatotilapia flaviiijosephii**

**2nd Place**

**Pseudocrenilabrus philander**

**Best General Article on Society Management**

**1st Place**

**The Future of the Federation of Texas Aquarium Society**

**FAAS Author of the Year**

**3rd Place**



**Kyle Osterholt**

**Best Show Article**

**1st Place**

**FOTAS 2015 Recap**

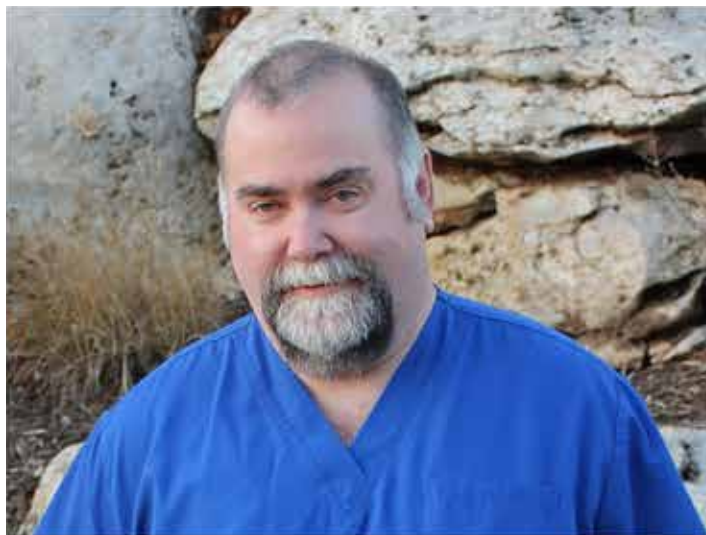


**Marc Schnell**

**Best Spawning Article 1000 Words or more**

**3rd Place**

**Haplochromis sp. KK Beach**



**Gerald Griffin**

**Best Article on a Genus of Fish**  
**1st Place**  
**IBC SMP Update**

**Best Show Article**  
**3rd Place**  
**Bettas Return to Canada**

**Best Conservation Article**  
**1st Place**  
**IBC SMP Update**

**Best Article all Other Categories**  
**2nd Place**  
**GLOFISH; Love them or Hate them,**  
**They are here to stay!**

**Best Article on a Genus of Fish**  
**3rd Place**  
**Armored and Crocodile**  
**Sticklebacks**

**Best Article on a Species of Fish**  
**Honorable Mention**  
**Endler's Livebearers**



**Brandon O'Brian**

**Best Article on Plant**  
**Maintenance, Cultivation or**  
**Reproduction**

**Honorable Mention**

**Plants for Killifish**



**Doug Austin**





**Chris Lewis**

**Best Article on Plant  
Maintenance, Cultivation or  
Reproduction  
2nd Place**

**5 tips for Planted Tanks**



**Clay Trachtman**

**Best Collecting Article  
2nd Place**

**Collecting Plecos in San  
Antonio**



**Duc Nguyen**

**Best Spawning Article 500  
to 1000 Words  
1st Place**

**Spawning the  
Buffalohead Cichlid**

# **OBBA Hosts Convention 2016**

## **50th Anniversary of the**

### **International Betta Congress**

**Article by**  
**Gerald Griffin**

**Pictures by**  
**Sam Tse**



**F**or me, June means two very important things, summer vacation and the IBC Convention! When new people ask me what is an IBC Convention like I explain that it is like a giant family reunion with people that share your passion for Bettas. Many really do not get what that truly means until they attend one. One of my friends who attended her second convention this year said “Oh I get it now, the first year I didn’t know anyone so I was a bit stand offish, however when Sieg came over and gave me a great big hug I totally get what you were saying!” For me one of the issues that I see across the US is that a number of fish clubs have issues with getting their members to volunteer to do things. I can honestly say that my local OBBA chapter stepped up to the challenge and met it head on. I was impressed with the hard work and dedication they put into making this happen and

together we made history.

When I first brought up the idea none of them had ever been to a fish event. Kayla and I presented how the event works and detailed the work that would be involved and they were eager to participate, taking off of work so they could work the event. I dedicated one whole meeting doing a powerpoint explaining how fish shows work and what IBC shows are like. They eagerly ate it up wanting to experience a Convention. However as we have learned so many times, when it comes down to the event, despite how much planning you do, things go wrong. The true sign of a good event is when the attendees do not notice how wrong some of your planning went. We unfortunately did not get to run all of the events we wanted too and after the first event was canceled we decided we needed a flexible



schedule. This is where our members shinned. Andy and Michelle along with Valaree and Michael jumped right in when they saw what Kayla was needing. With their hard work everything smoothed right on out.

Kayla decided that due to the fact that the hotel had no shuttle service and we were isolated from a number of restaurants that she was going to cater every meal. What people didn't know was it took her three weeks to prep all of the food that was served at Convention. Another thing they learned is that Kayla also has catering experience so knew exactly how to make the meals work. When people started eating her food and complimented her on the food did she actually relax. She was told by some it was the best Convention food ever. This made all of the hard work worth it.

As to the show this was not going to be a problem as we had Joe and Lori Green manning it. They are seasoned veterans of the showing circuit so everything went pretty well, even with the few kinks I threw in with last minute entrees. All of the fish got benched on Thursday so everything was good. As to the Convention itself we decided on a laid back theme. One of the main reasons we decided to host the Convention was that Dr. Gene Lucas, the last living founder of the IBC wanted another Convention in Tulsa since it had been so long since Tulsa hosted a Convention. The last time Tulsa hosted Convention was in 1984, two years before I joined the IBC. In 1987 I took over the reins of the Oklahoma Betta Breeders Association and have been running it ever since.

One of the reasons we chose the Hotel that we did was because it was next door to the Oklahoma Aquarium. This did create some logistical issues as there was no shuttle service so Kayla or I had to drive to the airport in the Betta Mobile and pick up attendees as they came in. As always when you make out the schedules and got it all figured out you get hit with flight delays which threw some wrenches into our scheduling. On Friday we passed out tickets to the Oklahoma Aquarium so that our attendees could go at their leisure and experience one of those few aquatic attractions Oklahoma has to offer. Those that went enjoyed our little Aquarium and had a great time.

One of the events that we did add to this Convention that the regular attendees had never seen was the Funny Money Auction. For those that have never seen



B1 1st Place/Best of Show  
Blue Doubletail Male



A9 1st Place/Best of Show  
Blue Halfmoon Female



A19 1st Place Winner  
Reserve Best Of Show  
Blue Cambodian Female



A9 1st Place Winner  
Reserve Best of Show  
Blue Halfmoon Male



A1 First Place Winner  
Red Halfmoon Male



B2 First Place Winner  
Patterned Doubletail Male



D4 First Place Winner Best Of  
Variety Red Show Plakat Male

Greg Steeves in action this is both informative and hilarious at the same time. He does a Monty Hall impersonation and asks trivia questions for Funny Money and at the end we have an auction for items with that fake money. Unfortunately Greg was unable to make our event so I substituted in. I adapted his presentation to make it more Betta related and went right in to the Event. At first the attendees were confused but after a few minutes they got the idea and enjoyed the event. Unfortunately our haul of donation items was not as numerous as we see at FOTAS but Thanks to our sponsors Zoo Med, T-Rex and Aqueon there were some great items for our auction.

We had two fantastic speakers that talked at this Convention. The first presentation was Rajiv Masillamoni talking about the development of the Half Moon Betta. For those that do not know much about Bettas this was an impressive accomplishment. Rajiv spent many years perfecting the form of the Betta to accomplish this form which is now the standard form accepted by the IBC. Before this accomplishment the best Bettas were considered a super delta tail. The details of the half moon can be found in previous articles I had written in Fish Tales. Our next speaker was Dr. Gene Lucas who talked about his travels in South East Asia and the various fish he encountered along with the people he encountered. His talks are always fascinating but this particular one was his legacy in the world of Bettas.

Saturday night was the awards banquet. The highlight of the banquet was awarding Rajiv Masillamoni the Lifetime Achievement Award



and Manuela Barwald the Significant Spouse Award. I knew how much this award means to the spouses as recognition to the people that are there to help us accomplish what we do. In many cases they work as hard as or harder than we do. However for me personally having Dr. Gene Lucas and Kayla co-present me the Gene Lucas Award of Merit along with the narrative that Dr. Lucas gave will never be topped in my lifetime.

Sunday was the auction and like any auction can be a bit chaotic at times. We had a few stumbling blocks as our people were used to OKAA auctions and not IBC auctions so we ran into a few issues with record keeping that we had to spend some time to work through. As I was running people to the airport a number of the attendees told me it was the best Convention they had ever attended. To me, this made all of the work and chaos that goes with running a Convention worth it. For those that attended, Thank You! For those that missed it, you missed a Great Convention! See you Next Year in Florida!



D5 1st Place Winner  
Gold Plakat Male



B 5 1st Place Winner  
Patterned Doubletail Female



D 2 1st Place Winner  
Yellow Plakat Male





Dr. Gene Lucas Awarding  
Gerald Griffin the Dr. Lucas  
Award of Merit



The Awards Table



Sieg Illig and Kayla Griffin at  
the Awards Banquet



One of Dr. Lucas' Drawings, his  
first Koi Betta. These pieces of  
Art are then auctioned off at the  
end of the Convention



Peter Barwald and Mike  
Cuaresma Judging the Show



Dr. Gene Lucas speaking  
on his many travels to  
Southeast Asia.





Rajiv and Larissa  
discussing the past



Stack of the previous  
FLARE!s



Paul Ogles Judging



Phil Dorr Judging



Rich Creighton, Aurelia Ogles and  
Bob Plenge Judging



Judging Board Discussion



# An Examination of the Genus *Lipochromis*



*Lipochromis maxillaris*. Photo courtesy of Dr. Paul V. Loiselle.

**Article by Greg Steeves**

Members of the genus *Lipochromis* have no set body structure. Recognition of this group of cichlids is characterized by thickened lips, a mouth capable of extending widely while protracting, and very small deeply embedded teeth. Usually only the crown teeth are visible to the naked eye. The inner rows are blunt with the inner jaw lining and sometimes require dissection to expose. Larger fully mature fish sport unicuspid dentition while juveniles can possess bicuspid or and mixture of the two. The exception is *Lipochromis taurinus* from Lakes Edward and George who, at 14cm have mostly bicuspid teeth (Greenwood, 1980). Both the upper and lower jaws are not fused and have a cartilaginous appendage connecting the two bones in the middle. This is especially predominant on the lower jaw and allows for the expansion of the mouth vertically.

Adult size ranges between 13cm and 17cm. Humphrey Greenwood (famed British ichthyologist) noted two subgenre, *Lipochromis* (*Lipochromis*) and *Lipochromis* (*Cleptochromis*). As the name implies, 'clepto' (kleptes – Greek) means thief and relates to the paedophageous feeding strategy that these fish employ.

The type species is *Lipochromis parvidens* from Lake Victoria and is now considered extinct (IUCN red listed as critically endangered). A *Lipochromis parvidens*-like paedophage exists in the Kyoga Basin waterways but it too is very rare.

Attempting to divulge some sort of lineage tree involving *Lipochromis* species, one is hard pressed to find ancestral connections to other cichlid genre connected to the Lake Victoria waterways.

## ***Lipochromis cryptodon* Greenwood, 1959**

There are a number of species, all from Lake Victoria, that adhere to a *Lipochromis cryptodon* type. Thought to be the least specialized of all *Lipochromis* (Greenwood, 1959), the holotype was taken at Buvuma Channel, Uganda while other similar fish have been found throughout the lake. This distribution, and subtle differences between locale variants, makes up a large species complex. This slender bodied predator grows to a length of 13cm. These fish possess a large snout with a forehead slope indented at the eye socket. Only the outer rows of teeth are visible and in adult individuals,



the dentition consists of unicuspid recurved teeth.

The “velvet black cryptodon” is found at various regions throughout Mwanza Gulf. This is an extremely beautiful cichlid with adult males sporting black body coloration with red anal and caudal fins. The dorsal fin is lined in red towards the posterior. The female color can range from olive-green to tan-brown. It can usually be found near the shore in waters from 2-7 meters. Thankfully, *Lipochromis cryptodon* is still commonly encountered in Lake Victoria.



*Pyxichromis orthostoma*.  
Photo by Dave Hansen.

Now thought to be extinct in Lake Victoria proper, wild populations of *Lipochromis maxillaris* survive in the satellite waterway Lake Kanyaboli. Prior to 1985, this fish had a wide distribution throughout the great lake with populations existing from Capri Bay, Mwanza at the lakes southern extreme, to Entebbe Harbor in the northern portions. It grows to a maximum length of 16cm. There is no dimorphism between the sexes. A distinguishing factor in recognition of this species is that the forehead slope is noticeably concave at the eyes. The workings of the mouth are rather distinct among this paedophage as the jaws angles upward much like *Pyxichromis orthostoma*.

Male coloration is light grey with faint vertical barring on the flanks. A “dusky” dorsal fin is lined with red tips. Caudal and anal fins are grey. The pelvic fins have a yellow hue (Greenwood, 1959). I am not aware of differing coloration between locations but it would stand to reason that, as with most other haplochromines, this would be the case.

*Lipochromis maxillaris* is found in shallow waters less than 10m deep where the brooding cichlid upon which make up the largest part of its diet, are in abundance. Smaller specimens examined had blue-green algae and copepods as the staple of their diet (Greenwood, 1959). In attempts to observe paedophagous behavior in the

aquaria, attempts we made to introduce ovigerous haplochromine cichlids to the community without consequence. When however, tilapine females (*Oreochromis esculentus*) were tried, although feeding was not witnessed, all three were without their clutch the next morning (Loiselle per conv.).

### ***Lipochromis melanopterus* Trewavas, 1928**

As a group of animals, perhaps it is the family cichlidae that exhibit the most variation in feeding methods. Among the exceedingly bizarre are the paedophages. These fish have developed strategies to extract the embryos of brooding female cichlids of other species. The manner in which this occurs varies as do the specialized adaptations allowing this somewhat peculiar food source to be exploited. *Lipochromis melanopterus* is among the strangest of the strange.

At a wild adult size of 13cm, and a captive length of 18cm, *Lipochromis melanopterus* shows little, if any, dimorphism between the sexes. A rather robust, deep body is lined with 7-12 black vertical bars. Females are a rather plain tan brown hue or silver, while males are very colorful. The upper portions of the flanks are blue-grey while the abdominal region is crimson red from the gill plate merging to yellow-green at the caudal peduncle. In some individuals the reddish areas are

absent and the lime color extends the length of the body. This same propriety is seen in other Lake Victoria fish such as the *Mbipia* cf. *lutea* “spotbar” from the Yala Swamp region (Lake Kanyaboli) in southern Kenya. The dorsal and anal fins are light blue while the caudal fin is clear with slight red and blue splotching between the fin rays. The anal fin contains between 3-5 well developed and orbited ocelli. Pectoral fins are hyaline while the pelvic fins of mature males are solid black. A black bar begins at the corner of the mouth, runs through the center the eye, crosses the forehead and continues unbroken to the opposite side of the head. A female piebald form from Makobe Island Lake Victoria is known. The forehead slope is rounded and convex as seen in many of the fish in the *Neochromis* lineage.

It is the oral cavity where the great degree specialization in *L. melanopterus* can be seen. Evolutionary adaptations to mouth parts have allowed for exploitation of the unique diet. There is little trace of a premaxillary hump. The mouth points upward at a 55° angle. The upper jaw extends slightly over the lower allowing a flush and tight fit of the lips. Tooth rows do not occur in the number found in other haplochromine lineages. An outer row of blunt, implanted, outward pointing unicuspid teeth are complimented by two inner rows of irregularly positioned teeth.

These inner rows are suspended in a layer of mucus (Goldschmidt, 1998). The pharyngeal bone is lined with coarse and slender teeth (Greenwood, 1959). Lips are enlarged. These adaptations all correlate to feeding strategy.

*Lipochromis melanopterus* is a predator that attacks its victim head-on; engulfing the face of a brooding female haplochromine cichlid, and literally sucking the eggs or developing fry from her buccal cavity through her mouth. The mouth structure of *L. melanopterus* allows for a tight seal to be formed around the victim. Specialized tooth structure allow for this vacuum seal to be released with no damage to the mandible of the brooding female cichlid. This fish is so successfully optimized that the vast majority of its diet consists of



*Lipochromis melanopterus*. Photo courtesy of Dr. Paul V. Loiselle.

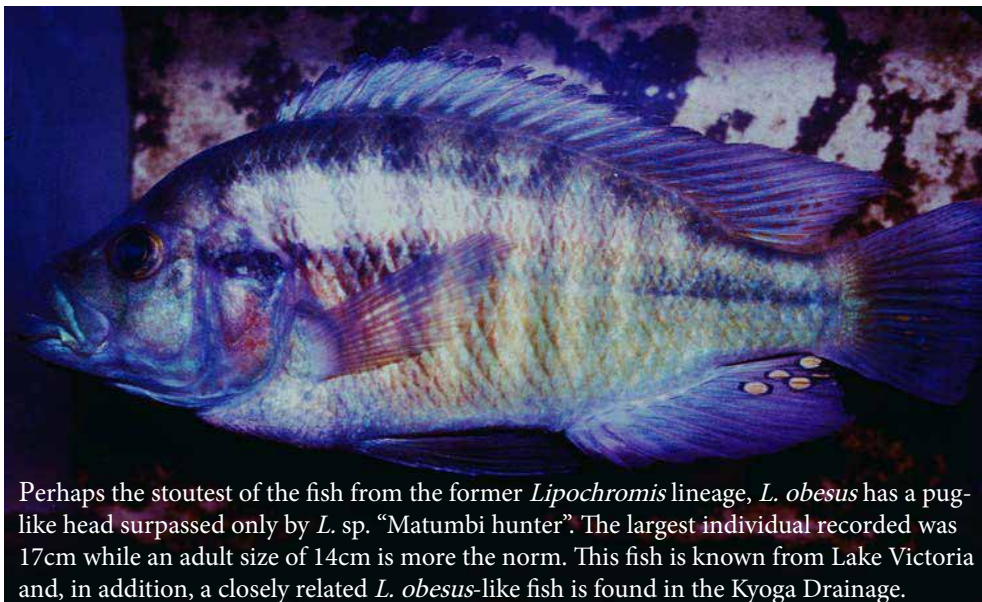
larval haplochromines.

Younger individuals may consume blue-green algae and the animal life found among it while adult fish are exclusively fry-stealers.

*Lipochromis maxillaris* is a closely-related paedophage that employs an identical method of feeding. Other species placed in the *Lipochromis* genus are “bump and scatter” feeders such as *Lipochromis* sp. “Matumbi hunter”. Although the afore-mentioned fish are all native to Lake Victoria, *Lipochromis* representatives can be found in the surrounding waterways of Lakes Edward, George, Albert, Kivu, along with the Kyoga basin. Lake Malawi contains a number of paedophages, including a *Hemitaeniochromis* species and *Champsochromis spilorrhynchus*. This method of feeding has obviously met with success.

Greenwood stated the holotype was found over a mud bottom at Smith Sound in Tanganyikan waters. This substrate is not to be taken as preferred habitat as we now have accounts of the fish over a variety of strata. It would seem that wherever an abundance of mouth brooding females could be found, they are comfortable. *Lipochromis melanopterus* is not a wide-spread species and is always found in water less than 10m (Seehausen, 1996). An IUCN Red Listing of Critically Endangered in 1996 was upgraded to Endangered in a 2006 revision. This is based on suggestions of some population stabilization at Makobe and Igombe Islands, Mwanza and Speke Gulfs, Lake Victoria (Snoeks, 2006).





*melanopterus* is not an easy fish to propagate. This is most likely the reason for their absence as a staple in the hobby. A mature female seldom holds a clutch more than twice a year. This could be the result of housing the species with other cichlids that too active for the docile paedophage. Most Lake Victoria predatory types really don't do very well when housed with rock dwelling furu. Holding female *L. melanopterus* signal males of the colony with a tail shake that apparently lets them know not to prey upon her brood. A similar behavior is

Perhaps the stoutest of the fish from the former *Lipochromis* lineage, *L. obesus* has a pug-like head surpassed only by *L. sp. "Matumbi hunter"*. The largest individual recorded was 17cm while an adult size of 14cm is more the norm. This fish is known from Lake Victoria and, in addition, a closely related *L. obesus*-like fish is found in the Kyoga Drainage.

seen in an ambush predator from Lake Nawampassa, *Pyxichromis orthostoma*.

### ***Lipochromis microdon* Boulenger, 1906**

*Lipochromis microdon* is among the rarest of the paedophage lineages (Seehausen, 1996). With a maximum length of 15cm, Greenwood noted locales in the northern portion of Lake Victoria, specifically Pilkington Bay, Entebbe Harbor, Ekunu Bay, Nasu Point, and Buvuma Channel Uganda. Seehausen noted a similar fish inhabiting inshore regions of Mwanza Gulf that he dubbed *Lipochromis* sp. "blue microdon".

The "blue microdon" has a stout body with a thatched body pattern and color distribution as seen in many *Paralabidochromis* sp. "rock krib" variants. This cichlid has not been seen in its natural habitat since 1995.

### ***Lipochromis obesus* Boulenger, 1906**

Perhaps the stoutest of the fish from the former *Lipochromis* lineage, *L. obesus* has a pug-like head surpassed only by *L. sp. "Matumbi hunter"*. The largest individual recorded was 17cm while an adult size of 14cm is more the norm. This fish is known from Lake Victoria and, in addition, a closely related *L. obesus*-like fish is found in the Kyoga Drainage.

### ***Lipochromis parvidens* Boulenger, 1911**

A most interesting cichlid from Lake Victoria is the robust *Lipochromis parvidens*.

I had been actively searching for this fish for some time and was most interested in attempting to witness its natural feeding habits in the confines of an aquarium. I first saw live specimens in 2003 and was immediately attracted to their beauty. It came as a surprise to me how visually appealing this cichlid really is. Adults are not shy or timid in the least. Additionally, they are not overly rambunctious. These were in a species only tank and seemed to be very comfortable in this situation. I don't know what happened to this stock but suspect breeding was never achieved. *L. melanopterus* was also housed at the New York Aquarium and bred readily but this group became aged and I was not able to ascertain if any descendants from this stock exist elsewhere.

My experiences with *Lipochromis melanopterus* began in December of 2008 when I was given seven fry descendant of the Makobe Island population. These fish came from friends in Europe who had been working with the line originally from HEST (Haplochromis Ecological Study Team) at Leiden University in the Netherlands. They were placed in a 20 gallon long aquarium with a substrate of fine sand in a thin layer. Various small limestone rocks were scattered throughout just to provide a sense of security although, in all probability, a bare tank would have just as easily sufficed at this stage. Filtration was provided by an air-driven sponge filter. At this time they are very comfortable and readily eating both flake and frozen brine shrimp.

Breeding accounts suggest that *Lipochromis*

Originally thought to be synonymous with *Haplochromis nigrescens* (Pellegrin, 1909), Greenwood noted differences in dentition that distinguishes the two species. Additionally, *H. nigrescens* feeds upon insects and small fish (Greenwood, 1959) while *Lipochromis parvidens* is a paedophage.

In comparison with other cichlids of the *Lipochromis* lineage, a unique feature of *L. parvidens* is the extended snout. The angle of the mouth is much more horizontally aligned than seen in *L.*

*melanopterus*. There is little size difference between the sexes with a maximum length of 16cm. Both jaws are lined with thickened lips that appear to align equally but on closer examination, the lower mandible fits inside the upper. Teeth in both the inner and outer rows are deeply implanted. Often just the crown of the outer rows is exposed while the inner rows do not always break the gums. Smaller individuals don tricuspid teeth while larger adults are unicuspid. One outer row and 2-3 inner rows of teeth align the jaws.

The holotype was taken at Ripon Falls, Jinja Uganda but it would appear that this species had a wide distribution within Lake Victoria from various bays harbors and channels in Ugandan water, Kisumu Harbour in Kenya and even as far south as Capri Bay in Mwanza Gulf (BMNH records, 1958). Additionally an early record of *L. parvidens* from Lake Salisbury in the Kyoga Basin is recorded by Uganda Game and Fisheries Department, 1956. This is significant as *Lipochromis parvidens* is very rare and possibly extinct in Lake Victoria but still survives in some of the Kyoga Finger Lakes, most notably, Lake Nawampassa. This locale variant is often referred to as *L. sp. "parvidens red"*. In my examinations of the Nawampassa *L. parvidens*, I have found the parameters used by Greenwood to be well within the range of his assessments. These include scale counts, oral cues, spine and fin ray numbers, physical characteristics, etc. The one possible difference between the two species could be feeding strategy.



*Lipochromis parvidens*  
Boulenger, 1911

Hobbyist reports that the Lake Victoria variant may employ engulfing the snout of its victim as seen with *Lipochromis melanopterus* while the Lake Nawampassa species use the hit and eat method. As it may not be possible to examine methodology in the Lake Victoria species, one can only speculate whether this had actually ever been observed and if the behavior was uniform among all locales. At this time we have accurate reports from hobbyist that is sorely lacking in the scientific community.

It is not known if there are specific colorations that are unique to locales because there is much variation within a population that generally relates to dominance and breeding activity. Females are generally brown with 7 – 9 dark vertical bars. Another bar dissects the flanks horizontally. The melanin pattern is similar to females of other vertical barred species such as *Pundamilia nyererei*. Males possess a base coloration that varies from yellow to red. Pelvic fins are black with the first ray extended beyond the others. The pectoral fins are clear. The anal fin is a light shade of blue with a small number of large egg spots that have a clear orbit and dark border. The caudal fin is mostly clear with a slight splotching of blue and red between the fin rays. The dorsal fin is light blue with a reddish tinge to the area between the rays. There is often a dark caudal blotch present in both sexes.

With the onset of maturity, coloration intensifies in the males. Once the pelvic fins of the male turn solid black,





Photo courtesy Dr. Michael K Oliver.

there is little dimorphism between males and females.

### ***Lipochromis* sp. “Matumbi hunter”**

With an elongated body structure, *Lipochromis* sp. “Matumbi hunter” has an interesting feeding strategy. This species stalks mouth brooding female cichlids. It is not the defenseless mother that this pack hunter is after, but rather her developing larvae. This feeding strategy is employed by a number of *Lipochromis* species. The method of extracting fry from the buccal cavity differs

there is a good chance that courting has begun. Males will actively pursue females in much the same manner commonly seen in the mbuna of Lake Malawi (Borstein, 2005). This fish is a maternal mouth brooder and will spawn on a flat surface in the typical haplochromine manner. Eggs are large and gestation lasts about 14 days.

Spawns can number 50 fry. The young grow rapidly and will accept all foods offered.

### ***Lipochromis taurinus* Trewavas, 1933**

Endemic to Lakes George and Edward *Lipochromis taurinus* is also found in Kazinga Channel connecting the two waterways. All type specimens were taken from various localities on Lake George. At a maximum size of 14cm, *L. taurinus* shares the specialized dentition found in other members of the lineage from Lake Victorian and the Kyoga system. Little is known about this elusive haplochromine. Preferred habitat is speculated to be amongst papyrus stands close to shore. Aside from coloration (the male being the more colorfully attractive of the sexes) there

between species. *Lipochromis melanopterus* attack the brooding female head on actually engulfing the cichlid by the snout and sucking the embryos from her mouth. There are reports that *Lipochromis* cf. *parvidens* from the Kyoga Basin may also feed in this manner. *L. sp* “Matumbi hunter” feeds in a different manner with the same results. I have witnessed first hand an attack. The victim was *Astatotilapia burtoni*. A group of eight hunters had meticulously confined the female to a top corner in a 230 liter aquarium. All roads of escape had been quartered off by the circling predators. In a split second, one of the hunters, coming from beneath the *A. burtoni* female, rammed her buccal cavity causing



Photo by Chris Paris.

her to expel many of her fully developed fry. At that instant, all the hunters swarmed the cloud of fry quickly devouring every one. The female was then allowed to escape still holding a smaller portion of her spawn. This entire event lasted less than five seconds from the ramming of the female, to the eating of her fry.

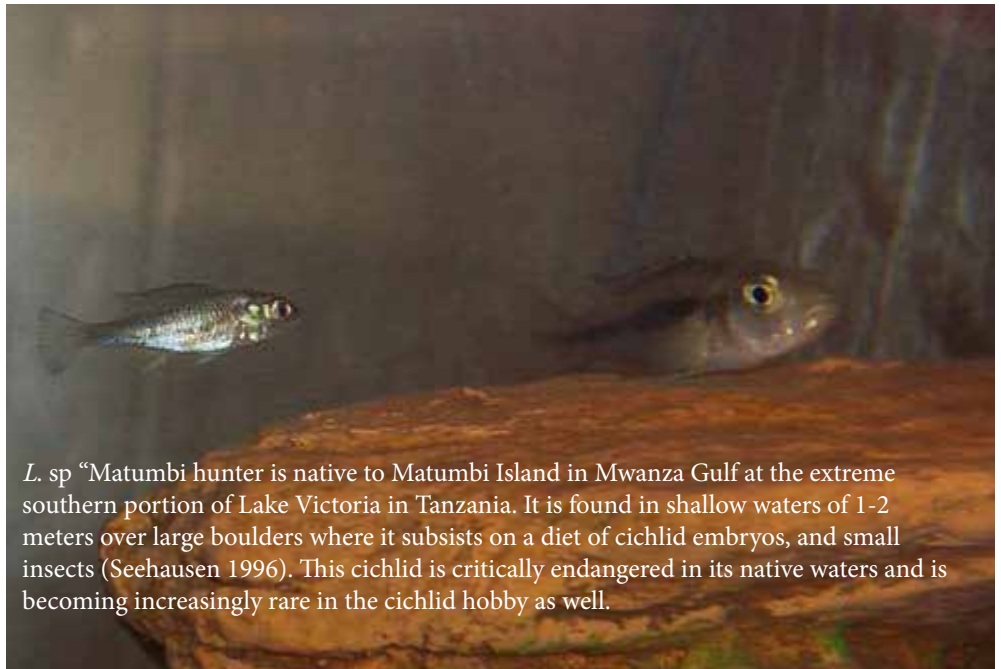
In the aquarium, *L. sp.* “Matumbi hunter” will prosper nicely on good quality prepared food as well as small sized live food. They are fairly passive cichlids as many predators from Lake Victoria and surrounding waterways are.

Males reach a size of 14cm while the females rarely get larger than 12cm. *L. sp.* “Matumbi hunter” is torpedo shaped and superficially resembles some of the plankton eating *Yssichromis* cichlids such as *Y. fusiformis*.

It is possible to maintain *L. sp.* “Matumbi hunter” under a wide array of aquatic situations and to house with a number of other cichlid species. Rock caves are not necessary as males really do not stake out an area of their own or involve in any severe territorial disputes. One should employ a large open area in any aquascape with a sandy substrate. Large rounded river rocks can be placed on each end of a rectangular aquarium. There should be areas of crevices between the rocks that will serve as refuge if needed. This will allow the *L. sp.* “Matumbi hunter’s” a greater comfort level. Purely for aesthetics, hardy plants such as *Anubias sp.* and *Aponogeton sp.* will not be bothered with nor will they be uprooted.

This is a fish that seems uncomfortable and very timid unless housed as a large group. For some reason, when kept in aquaria close to the floor, *L. sp.* “Matumbi hunter” is extremely jittery, and does not show very well. A large tank of at least 220 liters set on a stand of one meter in height will provide suitable accommodations. Efficient filtration and regular water changes will allow this cichlid to show its subtle but beautiful coloration.

When choosing what species will be included in your community, there are really two trains of thought. I



*L. sp.* “Matumbi hunter is native to Matumbi Island in Mwanza Gulf at the extreme southern portion of Lake Victoria in Tanzania. It is found in shallow waters of 1-2 meters over large boulders where it subsists on a diet of cichlid embryos, and small insects (Seehausen 1996). This cichlid is critically endangered in its native waters and is becoming increasingly rare in the cichlid hobby as well.

have employed both and each has its advantages. The first method is to choose a smaller haplochromine-type such as *Paralabidochromis sp.* “rock krib” or *Xystichromis phytophagus*. For the most part the two species disregard each other. The idea here is to not only have a wonderful aquarium with spectacular species, but to witness the unique feeding strategy of pack hunting as done in the wild. The second setup has *Lipochromis sp.* “Matumbi hunter” in a species only aquarium. Here one can observe a large group interacting with each other, establishing a pecking order, and of course, reproducing. It is amazing to see a group of large adults allowing the small fry and adolescents to forage along with them. This is reminiscent of the communal Lake Tanganyika cichlid *Neolamprologus brichardi*. In a very large tank, one might be able to hybridize these two methods and observe both situations.

Reproduction is typical of other cichlids of the region. This species is a maternal mouth brooder with the female incubating her young for 18-20 days and then further parental care for another two weeks. The male will select a flat spot (primarily atop a rock) to which he will lure the ripe female. It is at this time that the male shows his most intense coloration. Aside from the act of reproduction, the male displays no parental care of the young. As the female releases her young, they are not preyed upon by the other members of the pack. Small brood sizes of between 5-20 eggs are normal. Females will be more prolific when young but are notorious for not being dependable at brooding.





Photo by Dave Hansen.

### ***Lipochromis* sp. “nyererei paedophage”**

At the western side of Mwanza Gulf, a most interesting cichlid is found. At first glance this fish can be found amongst the foraging *Pundamilia nyererei* and is colored similarly. The only immediate physical difference one can see is that the imitator is larger. This feeding strategy is commonly employed by lepidophores of the great African lakes. The predator penetrates the territory of its prey by blending in to get close enough to strike.

Little is known about distribution feeding details of this species. It is thought to be a representative of *Lipochromis* based on the specialized dentition and mucus layer in the jaws.

### ***Lipochromis* sp. “two stripe white lip”**

Another beautiful cichlid from Lake Victoria, *Lipochromis* sp. “two stripe white lip” is often referenced as a member of the Harpagochromis lineage. Based primarily on dentition, *Lipochromis* is clearly the proper grouping to include the “two striped white lip”. Little is known concerning the wild traits of this cichlid and a paedopagous feeding method has not been observed. Wild collections were taken in the 1990’s and since, it would seem that it is now extinct in its native waters. As an animal held by the Lake Victoria Species Survival Plan (LV-SSP), there is hope that it will be bred in sufficient numbers and dealt to amateur aquarists so that much needed observations might be made.

## Conclusions

*Lipochromis* Regan, 1920 Size 13-17cm

Thick lips

Widely distensible and protractile mouth Very small, deeply embedded teeth Generalized skull akin to Harpagochromis All are paedophage (meaning child eaters)

### **-*Cleptochromis***

Short and stout bicuspid teeth in the outer row Lower jaw fits inside the upper

Lower jaw is triangular

Teeth point straight up or slightly inward

-*parvidens* Boulenger, 1911 (type species)

-Lake Victoria, Kyoga Finger Lakes guarded

-bump hunter in Kyoga

-possible snout engulfer in Lake Victoria locales critically endangered

-*cryptodon* Greenwood, 1959

-Lake Victoria

-possibly more than one species or a species complex

-*microdon* Boulenger, 1906

-Lake Victoria extinct

### **-*Lipochromis***

Slender recurved unicuspid teeth in adult fish. The lower jaw does not close within the upper Tooth crowns reflect outward

Lower jaw is broad and rounded

-*taurinus* Trewavas, 1933

-Lakes Edward and George

-*maxillaris* Trewavas, 1928

-Lake Victoria, Lake Kanyaboli

-*obesus* Boulenger, 1906 (type species)

-Lake Victoria critically endangered

-broad midlateral stripe

-*melanopterus* Trewavas, 1928

-Lake Victoria

-snout engulfer

-sp. “nyererei paedophage”

-Lake Victoria

-mimics *Pundamilia nyererei* in color and behavior

-twice as large as *P. nyererei* 16cm

-sp. “two stripe white lip”

-Lake Victoria

- Lake Victoria
- extinct in the wild
- Distinct genus
- sp. “matumbi hunter”
- Matumbi Island Lake Victoria
- bump hunter

The genus *Lipochromis* contains a fascinating cichlid array. The one common factor that all species share is their preferred food source. All are paedophages. There has been much discussion, especially concerning Malawian mbuna, as to whether or not food choice should be considered in classification. It is my opinion that food and feeding strategies must be examined before a description can be made. This is especially true for the cichlids making up the Lake Victoria flocks. The haplochromines of this region are known for rapid adaptations; evolutionary cues in fast motion. With this in mind, food choice can determine physical attributes of a species and modify them within a few generations. The first modifications seen are generally in the jaw structure, dentition and the pharyngeal edifice. Many of the insectivores can be readily identified by stout, firmly planted, bicuspid teeth, while piscivores by and large have an inward-pointing, slender, unicuspid structure. The algae eaters are known to have flared chisel tipped teeth in their front rows while the algae rakes have long, forked, loosely planted teeth. The snail shellers have specialized powerful jaws used to penetrate shells. The piscivores have a modified premaxillary and maxillary appendage allowing the jaws to telescope forward and open wider than other furu. Pharyngeal teeth are adapted to grind, sift or mash dependent on food source. Feeding preference has much to do with physical structure of a cichlid and thus should certainly be taken into account when classifying.

Among the many factors to consider when grouping cichlids is adaptations made by parallel evolutionary factors. That is, two unrelated groups of fish can certainly be thrust into similar habitats and exploit a comparable food source. In this case it is possible for changes to allow fish to appear related in terms of appearance and physical attributes when in reality these fish have their roots in very different lineages. With regards to *Lipochromis* species, we're really not positive of phylogeny.

There are a number of genera that one can speculate may have evolved from a similar ancestor. These fish mostly share jaw structure and shape to some degree. These fish are the piscivorous *Harpagochromis* and *Prognathochromis*, zooplankton eaters *Yssichromis*, and the embryonic feeders *Lipochromis*. Amongst these groupings, there are exceptions. *Yssichromis pieciatus* is becoming an insectivore and may someday more closely resemble a stouter fish of the *Pundamilia* genus. One can, without much difficulty, see where these fish may have emerged from a common predecessor.

There is a tendency in recent times to make cichlid classifications based on minor characteristics and differences. If one were to use this frame of mind on Greenwood's *Lipochromis* genus, I feel that the distinctions made to differentiate the sub-genera *Lipochromis* and *Cleptochromis* are sufficient to elevate both to genus level. To summarize, *Cleptochromis* have short, stout bicuspid teeth in the outer row; the lower jaw fits inside the upper; the lower jaw is triangular; and the teeth point straight up or slightly inward. *Lipochromis* possess slender recurved unicuspid teeth in adult fish; the lower jaw does not close within the upper; tooth crowns reflect outward; and the lower jaw is broad and rounded. There is at least one exception of the species listed. That is sp. “Matumbi hunter”.

This particular cichlid is an anomaly as it does not seem to be of a related lineage to the other mentioned species. In fact, one would be hard pressed to fathom an ancestral line at all. It could be that an entire cichlid line that once inhabited Lake Victoria was eradicated before it was discovered and that the hunter from Matumbi Island is the last of its kind (as it has now vanished from the wild as well), or that it is an evolutionary project, one of many that have occurred in Lake Victoria.

The body shape is rather unique. The torpedo shape is seen in “*Haplochromis*” sp. “*thereuterion*” and possibly “*Haplochromis*” sp. “*tanaos*” although neither of these is quite as stout as the “hunter”. The dexterity of the jaw structure, specifically being able to extend the jaw horizontally, is another very unique trait. Perhaps the single most distinguishing attribute is not physical at all. I do not know of any Lake Victoria cichlid that displays the communal lifestyle of “Matumbi hunter”. In a colony, both males and females allow the fry of



differing broods to forage with the adults. I believe these obvious differences are clearly reason enough to recognize that “Matumbi hunter” must be placed in a genus of its own. I’m certain this will be the case when a formal description is made. To refer to this cichlid as *Lipochromis* or *Cleptochromis* would certainly add confusion to an already unstable nomenclatural nightmare. I am opposed to the backward stepping practice of reverting to Hilgendorf’s 1888 genus *Haplochromis* for all undescribed species. As a valid genus, to place non-catalogued fish into *Haplochromis* is a nomenclatural faux-pas. I would suggest referring to the cichlid in question with a genus name related to the advanced parental care its members show.

It is my intention to clear up some of the confusion in regards to the former genus *Lipochromis*. Hopefully recognizing the three proposed distinctions of *Lipochromis*, *Cleptochromis* and a new, yet to be named genus will, in the long term, allow for a clearer understanding and lay a solid base on which future clarification of this unique group of cichlids can be made.

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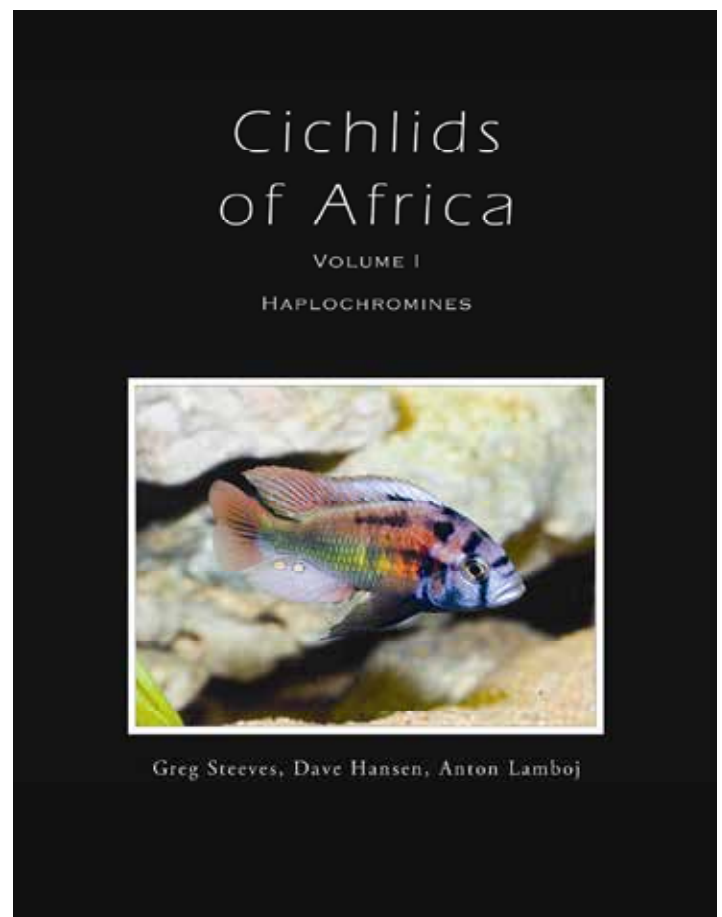
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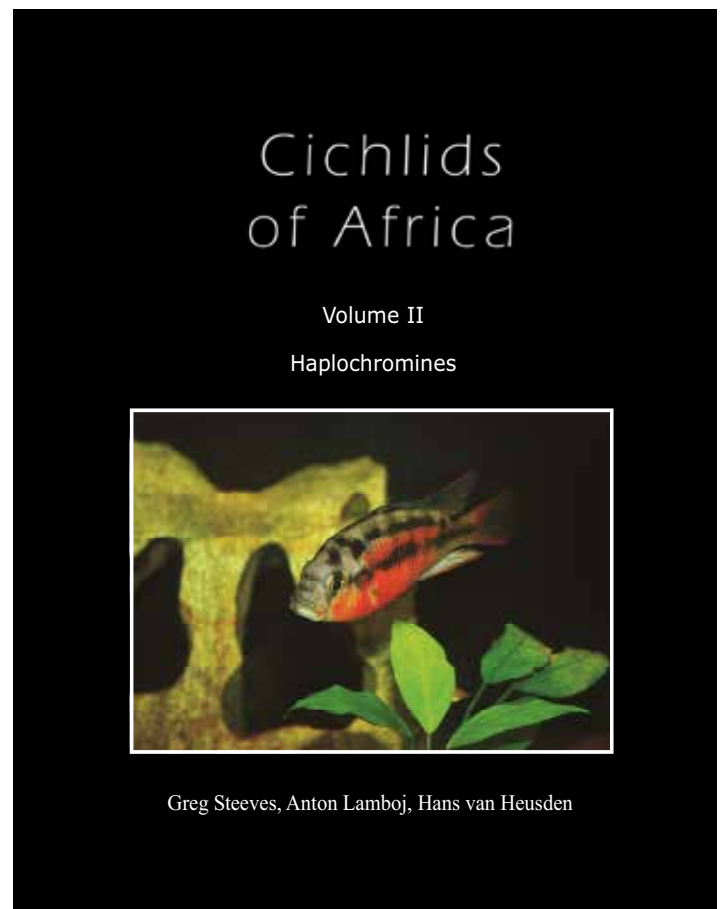
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If you have not seen the books Greg Steeves has worked on you should really check them out!



# Spawning Report: *Geophagus neambi*



**Article by  
C. J. Bourg**

**I**n February 2013 I was able to obtain a single male specimen of *Geophagus neambi* (Lucinda, Lucena & Assis 2010) from James Decker, via Wet Spot Tropical Fish in Portland, Oregon. James had picked up a trio in early 2012 and after what he assumed was a pairing of two of them, he offered me the single fish, which I was more than happy to take off of his hands. The specimen was a smooth gold color with long dorsal and ventral trailers and a beautiful blue pearl scale throughout the body. The belly area had an orange tint that extended towards the tail. The dorsal, caudal and ventral fins were mostly red and exhibit a spotted pattern. The pectoral fins were striped red and blue down through the trailers. The body shape was consistent with fish in the Surinamensis complex, described as having a lack of facial markings with eight vertical bars running parallel through the flanks and a mid-lateral spot located on the fourth vertical bar.

*Geophagus neambi* is named from the Greek words geo (“earth”) and phago (“to eat”). The specific name ‘neambi’ is an acronym for the Núcleo de Estudos Ambeintais (located at the Universidade Federal do Tocantins), in recognition of their efforts in the study of the Fish Tales | 28

Rio Tocantins. This species is endemic to the upper-to-mid Rio Tocantins drainage in Brazil, South America.

I tried from that point on to get my hands on a few more specimens, as the lone fish quickly became my favorite. Learning quickly that the *neambi* was not the easiest species to obtain, I soon became discouraged and accepted the fact that I may never get a chance to witness their true group or breeding behavior.

The lone *neambi* was nicely settled into a 125 gallon community tank, which housed three *Geophagus altifrons* Sao Felix (Heckel, 1840), a school of Buenos Aires tetras (Eigenmann, 1907) and a few L number plecos. The mix of fish made for a very pleasant and peaceful tank, with the male *neambi* easily being the dominant fish of the group. The four *Geophagus* would school together throughout the day and stay huddled together when it was time for lights out. I couldn’t have been happier about the way everything fell into line.

Fast forward to February 2014. I got a text message from James telling me to come by his place and pick up his remaining *neambi* female. His male had died



inexplicably and he knew how much I wanted at least a pair for myself. I picked up the fish from him and acclimated her to the 125. At this point, the male I had was around 8" and the new female specimen was exactly the same size. She was very skittish for a few weeks, but after she settled in completely, she refused to leave the male's side. They started showing the normal signs of breeding behavior around a month after her introduction. The male would display himself to her by flaring his gills, spreading his fins, and fanning against her. The female would respond by bumping into the male and playing 'chase around the tank'. I was able to witness the first attempt at spawning but unfortunately it was unsuccessful. That's when I decided to take action.

I was determined to get these fish into a better breeding setup, so I used a 55 gallon tank with a sand substrate, large driftwood stump and several river rocks with flat surfaces. I wanted water conditions to be optimal, so I used a hang on back filter rated for 70 gallons along with a canister filter rated for 100 gallons. I installed a 300 watt heater as I wanted to be able to keep the water temperature in the low eighties. My thoughts behind the higher temperatures were that when doing water changes the new water would be considerably cooler, thus mimicking the rainy season of the Amazon and possibly induce spawning.

My experience with other species of *Geophagus* in my water conditions had been favorable. Despite my water being very hard and a pH in the 7.4 to 7.6 range, I was able to breed *Geophagus* sp. red head Tapajos (Steinhilber, 2010), *Geophagus brachybranchus* (Kullander & Nijssen, 1989) and *Geophagus steindachneri* (Eigenmann & Hildebrand, 1922), all pretty regularly. I had no reason to believe that the *neambi* would react any differently to the water they were housed in.

On June 14th, 2014, as I was sitting in my fish room enjoying the evening, I noticed the *neambi* pair starting to circle one of the flat river rocks that they had been cleaning for the last day or so. The female then started to deposit eggs onto the surface of the rock, the male following behind and gyrating above the eggs. The female would immediately pick the eggs up into her mouth and then make another pass over the rock, laying more eggs for the male to fertilize. I became worried as this behavior was unlike what I witnessed with the *tapajos* and *brachybranchus*. Both of those

species would lay their eggs on a surface and after the spawning ritual was complete, they would cover the eggs in sand and guard them for three to five days before picking them up.

At this point I dismissed this spawning attempt as a lost cause and chalked it up to them just being a young pair and not really knowing exactly what they were supposed to do yet.

When returning home from work on the evening of June 20th, I walked in through the fish room door, and to my surprise there was a cluster of free-swimming fry surrounding the male *neambi*. I was beside myself with joy! They finally did it right! My assumption that this species would also be delayed mouth-brooders was way off the mark. They turned out to be immediate mouth-brooders where the female would incubate the eggs until the point of them hatching and the fry becoming free-swimming. Once the fry were at the free-swimming stage, the male became the primary care giver, thus making it a paternal mouth-brooding situation. At this stage the male defended the fry ferociously and would not allow the female to come close to the brood. I had to be swift when trying to photograph the fry as the male sucked them up at the first sudden movement in the room that he sensed. He proved to be quite a good caretaker.

At the time of this writing, there are thirty seven free swimming fry at three quarters of an inch long. I decided that the fry were too precious to me to allow the possibility of the parents 'going rogue' and eating them. When the male became more comfortable with me being around the tank with the fry out and about, I decided to move him away using a net and then sucked the free swimmers out using a hose. They are currently in a 10 gallon tank and are growing nicely. I've been keeping the temperature in the eighties and have been feeding New Life Spectrum Grow and HBH powdered food. I perform 90% water changes, twice a week.

After losing all hope that I would ever obtain my coveted *Geophagus neambi* pair, I am proud to say that not only was I able to have a chance to own them but also was able to watch them in their spawning process every step of the way. Mission accomplished!





# American Cichlid Association Convention Report



**Article by  
Kyle  
Osterholt**

**B**orn to be Wild was the slogan for the 2016 American Cichlid Association Convention hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society July 7-10, 2016 in Cincinnati, Ohio! Well, not really. The convention was actually held in Covington, KY. Covington is a suburb South of Cincinnati although separated by the Ohio River, the border between the two states.

Several months ago, my friend Greg Steeves BEGGED me to attend the ACA convention so he'd at least have one or two people show up to listen to his talks..... well, something like that anyway. I had actually been considering going anyway and after all the cards were dealt, we made a little vacation out of it. My wife Monica and I decided to leave early Wednesday and drive up, making a few stops inbetween.

Wednesday, June 6th, we left Okarche, Oklahoma after dropping our dogs with my mom and headed up I-44. Just past Oklahoma City, on the Turner Turnpike, I noticed several vehicles ahead on the shoulder with their emergency flashers on. Initially thinking it was construction crews gearing up for the day, I stayed in the left lane. As I got near, I caught a quick glimpse

of an object in the road and THUMP as it went under the car. I immediately looked towards the cars on the shoulder and realized they were all people with blown out tires on their cellphones for help. Well, crap, that's a great way to start out. I punched up the tire pressure screen on my car and monitored for any dropping pressures or any shaking in the steering. Fortunately, we escaped without an issue. After grabbing some breakfast, I went to punch in our first destination into the GPS, only to find out my GPS didn't work. Great, long trip to places I've never been without GPS. We ended up relying on our phone GPS systems and maps the rest of the trip.

Our first stop was to Fantastic Caverns in Springfield, Missouri. We've been here a couple times but enjoy the ride-through Cavern. Halfway into the cave, our Jeep decides it doesn't want to start. Guess I'm in the minority of people who can say they "Broke down in a Cave" They sent one of the guides out to get another Jeep, I helped them push the old one off to the side and we finished our tour. We had planned to just wing the rest of the trip, not really having any "must see" destinations beyond the Caverns. Several billboards caught our eye "Come see Uranus", "The Best Fudge comes

from Uranus”, etc... Well, how can you not? So we stopped and got fudge in Uranus, MO. I must admit, it is pretty good fudge! After a quick lunch, we decided to stop at another cave we'd seen on a brochure. Onondaga Cave is a state park, not far from I-44 between Springfield and St. Louis, MO. Well worth the stop if you happen to be in the area! We continued our trip through St. Louis, into Illinois and stopped for some dinner before stopping for the night in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Thursday morning, we had breakfast at the hotel and learned it had been

owned by Larry Bird of Boston Celtics fame. I also grabbed a few tourist brochures and noticed in a nearby county, there were 31 covered bridges. We decided to go see a few so we drove to Mansfield and Bridgeton to see a couple of the bridges and an old Grist Mill in Bridgeton. Shortly after arriving we realized we had crossed into the Eastern time zone and we were an hour behind! Back on the road, we hit Indianapolis, grabbed some lunch and headed into Ohio and into Cincinnati. Our short pass through the city was impressive. Oklahoma didn't become a state until 1907 so most buildings are no older than that. It was very apparent that Cincinnati is a much older city. Across the Ohio River, into Kentucky and into the city of Covington. The hotel where the convention was

held at was the Cincinnati Marriott at River Center. My phone GPS first sent us to another Marriott just up the street (which I heard this happened to a few other people too) but they pointed me in the right direction and we found it very easily. The layout of the hotel was pretty interesting. It was built to prepare for the river flooding, the first 3 floors were for Valet, parking, swimming pool and fitness center and the main lobby on the 4th floor. Separate elevators lead from the lobby to the additional 14 levels of rooms with a common atrium in the middle. The convention was held throughout the



The Babe's Silent Auction.

first floor with rooms for vendors, speakers, show tanks and rental tanks to sell out of. A large space at the entrance to the speaker and vendor rooms held the tables where the Babes In The Cichlid Hobby hosted a weekend long silent auction for many goods.

The convention had scheduled a tour to the Newport Aquarium and a Brewing History tour which we did not arrive in time for. We arrived early afternoon and ran into Jim Valenzuela and Dave Schumacher while checking in. After checking into the hotel and the convention, we took our luggage to our room and returned to the lobby to find Jim and Dave discussing lunch plans with a few of the GCAS crew. We ended up heading to a restaurant up the street that became



For Sale Board





Kathy Stearns and David Andrews

the “Go to” spot for the ACA attendees. Nick & Tony’s Double Deckers is a small restaurant attached to an office building and serves a variety of sandwiches, burgers and meals. This would be our first encounter with the infamous Dot. We returned to the hotel to find Greg Steeves had arrived to the hotel after his flight and “unorthodox” limo ride (poor guy probably turned in his keys and quit after that ride!).

The first convention presentation was by Greg Steeves entitled C.A.R.E.S. : Keeping It Natural. In his normal fashion, Greg spoke on the responsibilities of us as aquarists and the needs and benefits to educate others and dedicate tank-space to keeping threatened species. After the first presentation, we wandered the conven-

tion space viewing the vendor’s room, show room and rental room as well as numerous display tanks set about the lobby, seating areas and the bar. Wayne Leibel was next on the schedule discussing Species 101. His talk did a good job at explaining how many fish are described and how there are so many discrepancies and changes through the years. He also led into the article in the latest Cichlid News by Willem Heijns discussing the Systematics of Central American Cichlids and using a better method of DNA and morphology usage to create the Phylogeny. After Wayne’s presentation, Dave, Jim, Greg, Monica and

myself decided to grab a bite to eat in the hotel restaurant. We ended up missing the last speaker of the day, Rusty Wessel discussing Cichlid Behavior in Their Natural Habitat. Friday we had initially considered joining the scheduled trip to the Cincinnati Zoo but instead slept in a little and decided to take the trolley to the Newport Aquarium. The trolley picked us up in front of the hotel, across the river into Cincinnati, and back across the river into Newport, KY. We had some lunch nearby the aquarium and just as we finished eating when storms moved in. We hurried across the street to the aquarium just in time for the rain to hit. Fortunately, they had canopies for those waiting in line. Newport

Aquarium is a very nice aquarium with setups everyone can enjoy. Many aquariums seem to neglect the freshwater but all types were showcased in this aquarium. We made it back to the hotel in time for the dry goods auction with lots of lights, food, filters and other dry goods that had been donated by sponsors. Monica and I retired to the room for a little rest and I went back down later to see some of the fish for sale in the rental tanks, vendors and show fish. Later I went up to check out Jim Valenzuela’s rocks and wood he was trying to sell out of his room. Jeff Cardwell had a presentation on Abacaxis Adventure, Discus and Apisto’s but I wasn’t watching the



Monica Osterholt posing with the Raffle Quilt

the clock and missed it. As Jeff's presentation ended, a group of us decided to head out for dinner. Monica had spotted a Chinese restaurant "a couple blocks down" so we headed out with about a dozen in tow. When we got to the place, we realized it was very popular and there were only about 2 chairs open so we headed back to Nick & Tony's again. Dot was excited to see Jim and his crew again! By the time we got there and ordered, we were getting close to the next speaker, Ad Konings covering Lake Malawi: Labidochromis and Other Small Mbuna. A few of our group left without dinner to make it back to the talk. I was able to get back in time to see a little over half of the presentation. As always, a great presentation full of incredible underwater photos. Closing out the evening the Babes In The Cichlid Hobby hosted their annual fundraising auction. I opted to get some much needed sleep but I heard there was a lot of liquor and cash flowing!

Saturday morning, Monica and I walked a few blocks to the Waffle House using our phone GPS and found it boarded up. Luckily there was a McDonalds close by so we grabbed some breakfast and headed back for the festivities of the day. The first speaker up was Greg Steeves discussing Keeping and Breeding Haplochromine Cichlids. It was evident that a lot of people were struggling to recover from the night before. Greg was able to get everyone awake with a loud "JIM!" as Valenzuela was dozing off in the front row. Nobody else made that mistake! As always, Greg gave a lot of great information mainly covering Victorian Basin cichlids as well as several non-riftlake cichlids. Ad Konings was up again speaking on Lake Tanganyika: Impressions from Central Tanzanian Coast. He started his talk by shouting "JIM!" to keep up with the now set tradition. LOL! Again, some incredible photography and very interesting discussion. Fish Tales | 34



sions. Next up we broke for lunch. Jim had sweet talked Dot into opening Nick & Tony's for us (they normally aren't open Sat-Sun) so we packed the place with fish-nerds. The boss was happy! Vin Kutty was up next with his talk on Pike Cichlids titled Foot Long or Go Home. I took a short break and didn't make this talk. I made it back down in time to catch most of Steve Lundblad talking about The Lake Malawi Experience. He showed a lot of photos about his trip to the Stuart M. Grant Fish Farm and their travels in the area on and off the lake. The next event scheduled was the awards presentation/Banquet so I took a break and went swimming with Monica before getting ready to head to the Banquet. The Banquet was great food, friends and some excellent awards both personal and for show entries. Wayne Leibel entertained us with his







Jim Valenzuela  
Rocking Out!

with some old friends, met a lot of new ones, and even brought home a few fish from the rental tanks. We also got to see some sights along the way. We came home back through Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas. Stopped at Mammoth Cave and stayed the night in Memphis after having some great BBQ. Overall, 8 states and about 1900 miles. Lots of great views and some good food as well.

2017 convention will be hosted by the Michigan Cichlid Association in Novi, MI on July 13-16th. Make your plans now, this is a great convention to attend!

presentation Going Wild talking about our addiction and its roots. We planned to drive home Sunday and Monday so we decided to skip the auction Sunday. We said our good-byes to friends. After hanging out for a bit in Jim's woodshop, we headed back to our room. Jim and Greg joined us in the elevator. Monica and I got off on the 9th floor and she pushed all the floor buttons on the way out. Fortunately for us, the elevators had glass walls facing the atrium in the hotel so we were able to watch them stop at every..... single.....floor.....

Thanks to the GCAS for putting on an incredible convention. We got to hang out



Mike Helford, Dave Schumacher and Greg Steeves



ACA Banquet

# The Trials and Tribulations of a Long Time Fish Keeper



**Article by  
Jack Dannels**

**P**robably the most important point I would like to make with this is that I love keeping tropical fish and goldfish. I may complain about this or that from time to time but since my first gallon pickle jar of guppies I have been fascinated with our aquatic friends. I was 6 then and I am now almost 62. This article is just a vent of the frustration I am currently experiencing in my fish room.

So it begins. Last week I went down into the abyss as I call it and began my weekly routine of water changes. My fish room is fairly good sized so I do my water changing in 1/3's. Monday group A, Tuesday group B and Wednesday group C. It works for me. That allows Thursday and Friday for filter cleaning, tank rearranging or putting out that might develop in one tank or another. It seemed like everything went fine last week. I even did a little bit larger water changes in many of the tanks just because I could and because I was leaving town in a little over a week. Great idea right?

Well it turned out to be a bad choice. One thing I did not factor into my extra water changing was that because of the high almost flood levels of water in the muddy Missouri river, the water company did some extra dosing of chemicals. Oops there is! There is the

beginning of this year's trials and tribulations. For a couple of days everyone in the tanks looked pretty much normal. By the end of the week things were going south fast. My fish started changing their behavior and then some of them sort of started to molt. Whole tanks of young plecos died overnight and of course my most important project fish were the first to go. Then my favorite plecos, then my new cory project fish and finally of all things my pet fish an albino Giant Gourami.

Despite checking the water chemistry and doing some additional water changes with well dosed RO water the deaths continued. Not in all tanks but in several. Frontosa, giant gourami, cories, plecos and some guppies all perished while many fish in other tanks showed no signs of trauma. Not all of the tanks that got the extra water changes we adversely affected. Frustrating, disappointing and costly but it just seems to be something that happens to me every few years.

I suspect copper sulfide as that is what happened the last time I got caught and this happened to me. It happened both times when I decided to step up water changes at the wrong time. It makes something good into something bad in a hurry. Like I said it has hap-



pen again. This is not going to drive me out of fish keeping but I am sure some other smaller hobbyists might leave the hobby if it happened to their one and only tank. I am not really filled with would have, should have but didn't thoughts. I just kind of feel like it in many ways an uncontrollable variable. Kind of like walking into a fish store and seeing something you have always wanted and just buying because it is there. I am writing this not so much to cry on your shoulders about my bad luck but to share that it happens to all of us. It is definitely not the best part of fish keeping but one that almost everyone encounters at least once in their fish keeping careers especially if you an old timer with a larger addiction like me. Keep keeping and breeding those fish!



An Albino Giant Gourami, one of the many odd ball fish in Jack's Fish room!



Wood Catfish

Below: A view of Jack's Fish Room in the Basement of his home.



The Hill Country Cichlid Club  
is proud to present

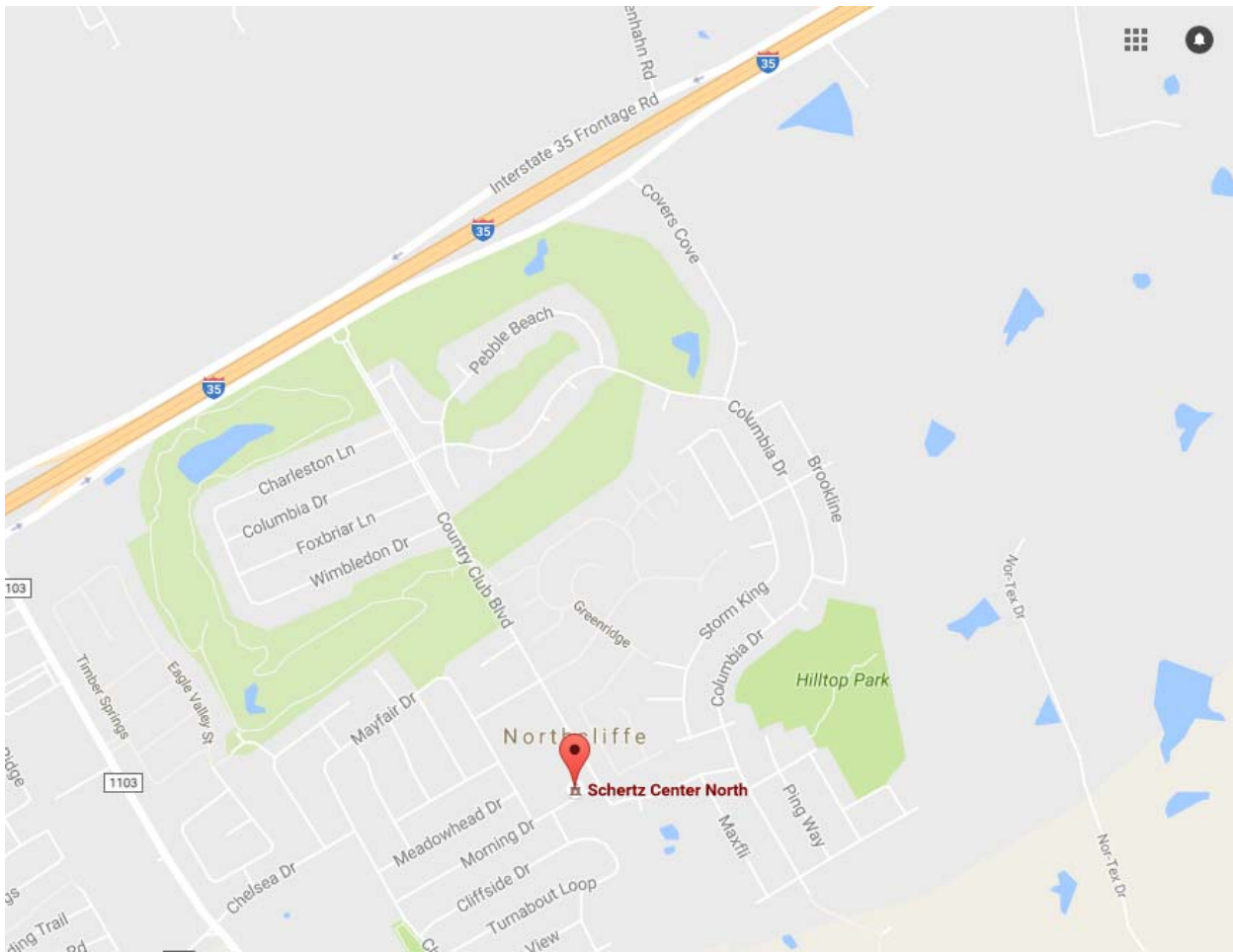


The 64th annual convention of the  
Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies



Welcome to the 64th annual convention of the Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies hosted by the Hill Country Cichlid Club. This years festivities take place at Schertz, Texas, October 21st-23rd.

Friday and Saturday's events take place at  
Schertz Community Center North  
3501 Morning Dr.  
Cibolo, TX. 78108



Sunday's Mega Auction will be at  
Schertz Community Center Central  
1400 Schertz Pkwy, Building 3  
Schertz, TX. 78154  
(The regular location)



Schedule (subject to change)

Friday Oct 21

5:00 PM - Building is open

- Entrants can set up show tanks.

7:00 PM - Susan Robinson Presenting

8:30 PM – Club vs club decorating contest

Saturday Oct 22

8:30 AM – FOTAS directors meeting and annual elections.

10:00 AM – Kyle Osterholt Presenting

Noon – Lunch break and Show and photo judging

1:30 PM – Dave Schumacher Presenting

3:00 PM – Dr. Michael Kidd Presenting

5:00 PM – Tear down of Fish show and set up for meal.

7:00 PM – Pizza - FOTAS Awards – Trivia Contest and Funny Money Auction

Sunday

Doors open at 9:00 AM

Auction Starts 11:00 AM

- All events are free for all to attend with the exception of the Pizza - FOTAS Awards – Trivia Contest and Funny Money Auction. Cost is \$20.00 per person and space is very limited.



## **SPEAKERS**

This year's speaker lineup is second to none!

### **Susan Robinson**

Susan is an expert angelfish breeder and her program will certainly contain valuable information for all of us to use. Susan resides in Houston is well known to all of us in the FOTAS family.

### **Dave Schumacher**

The curator of Dave's Rare Aquarium Fish, Dave is an active participant in may FOTAS organization and is currently serving in the Leadership group of the HCCC. Dave travels the country speaking and we are fortunate to have him here this year. He will be presenting on his experiences in the retail fish world "Building Dave's Rare Aquarium Fish - A Tale of Trial and Error"

### **Kyle Osterholt**

Kyle comes to us from the Oklahoma Aquarium Association and is will known as an expert breeder of tropical fish. He will share with us tips on breeding some of the common and tougher species in a program called "Breeding 101".

### **Dr. Michael Kidd**

Dr. Kidd is a long time friend of the HCCC and his fascinating research at Texas A&M Laredo focuses on the family Tilapine. Dr. Kidd is an excellent presenter. Everyone, no matter their aquatic interest, will find his talk entertaining as well as informative.

### **Speaker Schedule**

7:00 PM Friday October 21st—Susan Robinson

10:00 AM Saturday October 22nd—Kyle Osterholt

1:30 PM Saturday October 22nd—Dave Schumacher

3:00 PM Saturday October 22nd—Dr. Michael Kidd

## **Tank Decorating Contest**

This is your chance to show what your club is made of! How do your aquarium decorating talents stack up against those members of other clubs? Here's your chance to find out.

An empty aquarium is provided and each club team of four members, has to do the rest. All décor along with inhabitants (if desired) will be supplied by the entrants. Each team will have half an hour to create an aquascape. At the time limit, all decorating will stop. Judging will be done and results will be posted or handed out at the banquet.

This event takes place Friday October 21st at 8:30 PM. Please get your entries to Chris Lewis ASAP. [Chrislewistx@gmail.com](mailto:Chrislewistx@gmail.com)

## **Photo Contest**

Photo contest is free to enter. Entries must be emailed to [HCCCfishphoto@gmail.com](mailto:HCCCfishphoto@gmail.com). Prizes will be awarded at the FOTAS banquet.

### **Catagories**

1. Crappie cell phone shot or selfie with fish
2. Old world cichlids
3. New world cichlids
4. Plants, planted, or tank shot
5. Catfish, live bearers, killi fish, bettas, other





## Live Fish Show

We are bringing back the live fish show for this FOTAS convention.

**Entrants will provide their own aquarium and sponge filters to show their fish in.** Air, water, and prime will be provided. Set up will occur after 5:00 PM on Friday (no setup will be permitted while speakers are presenting), and tanks must be taken down by 5:00 PM on Saturday. Entry is free to all. Five and ten gallon tanks are recommended for showing fish although smaller and larger aquariums will be permitted.

### Classes

- 1 – Malawi mbuna** - Sponsored by Cajun Jim's Hard Wood
- 2 – Utaka** – Sponsored by Dave's Rare Aquarium Fish
- 3 – Haplochromines not from Malawi**
- 4 – All other cichlids under 3"** – Sponsored by the Oklahoma Aquarium Association
- 5 – All other cichlids over 3"**
- 6 – Catfish** – Sponsored by the Houston Aquarium Society
- 7 – Livebearers** - Sponsored by Cajun Jim's Hard Wood
- 8 – All other aquatic fish and creatures** – Sponsored by the San Antonio Aquatic Plant Club

Judging will be based on a 30 point system

Judges will score each entry based on the following criteria. Closest to 30 (perfect score) will win the class. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will be awarded in each class. Show winners from each class with most points will be eligible for the Best in Show awards.

10 points – Animal looks as close to ideal as one would expect of a perfect wild representative. (not oversized or undersized, good color that is not abnormal, etc)

10 Points – Anatomy of animal is ideal (fins, scales, jaw, etc)

10 Points – Judges discretion which could include attitude, fin extensions, and personal choice).

### Prizes

1st in class – 30.00

2nd in class – 20.00

3rd in class – 10.00

Best in show – 100.00

Runner up – 50.00

Third – 25.00

People's Choice – 75.00 (Voted on by FOTAS attendees)

Additional sponsorship for show classes and awards is needed. To sponsor contact Greg at [gasteeves@gmail.com](mailto:gasteeves@gmail.com).

**FOTAS Awards Ceremony  
followed by  
The Fish Trivia Game Show and Funny Money Auction**

Entrance to the Saturday evening festivities will only be granted to those who have purchased a ticket. The cost is 20.00 and space is very limited. You can reserve your ticket but contacting Greg Steeves through social medial or email at [gasteeves@gmail.com](mailto:gasteeves@gmail.com). All reserved tickets must be paid for by noon on Saturday October 22nd. At that time, all unclaimed or remaining tickets will be sold. Again, it cannot be stressed enough that **space is extremely limited**. Don't be left out.

The theme for this year's banquet is the 1960's so come decked out in your grooviest duds so you can fit in with the other cats man! Of course dressing up as a hippie is optional but still lots of fun.

The banquet will consist of Pizza and finger foods. This will be followed by the Braz Walker and Dr Keith Arnold Auctions. Awards will be handed out following the auctions. Once everyone has had a chance to catch their breath, the Fish Trivia Game Show will take place. This is your opportunity to earn more funny money that can only be spent at the auction immediately following. If you have never attended one of these, you will have an absolute blast. There is much chaos and confusion along with skullduggery and shenanigans. And best of all, everyone gets to go home with something great!

The Banquet starts at 7:00 PM Saturday.





### **Hotels near convention events**

This is a listing of hotels. FOTAS has no special deals with these establishments and it's up to the attendee to make their own arrangements.

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites Selma**

Address: 15408 I-35 N #2, Selma, TX 78154

Phone:(210) 651-3885

**La Quinta Inn & Suites Schertz**

Address: 17650 Four Oaks Ln, Schertz, TX 78154

Phone:(210) 655-2700

**Hampton Inn & Suites Schertz**

Address: 17702 IH 35 North, Schertz, TX 78154

Phone:(210) 566-6110

**Best Western Plus Atrium Inn**

Address: 17401 IH 35 N, Schertz, TX 78154

Phone:(210) 651-4100

**Great Value Inn Live Oak**

Address: 12810 N Ih 35, Live Oak, TX 78233

Phone:(210) 653-9000

**Red Roof Inn New Braunfels**

Address: 815 Interstate 35 Frontage Rd, New Braunfels, TX 78130

Phone:(830) 626-7000

# FOTAS MEGA AUCTION

Sunday October 23rd  
11:00AM—Doors open at 9:00 AM  
Schertz Community Center Central  
1400 Schertz Pkwy, Building 3  
Schertz, TX. 78154  
(The regular location)



Don't forget about the famous Catfish Raffle!!!

No bidder fee, no admission charges. All buyers and sellers welcome.



## HCCC Auction Rules

### EVERYONE IS WELCOME--HOBBYIST AND PROFESSIONAL

The auction will be open to the public. Cichlids, non-cichlids, dry goods, and plants are welcome.

A bidder number can be obtained at the registration table.

The HCCC will not be held responsible for any loss, damage, theft, or injury to any auction item before, during, or after the auction.

Once they are registered, all for-sale items become property of the HCCC and cannot be withdrawn from the auction. If items do not sell they will be returned to the seller (see Rule 8i, below).

The auction split is 25% of the winning bid will go the HCCC. The other 75% will go to the seller.

The auctioneer has the final word on all bids. Auction rules will be strictly enforced.

Priority colored dots will be issued to each seller at auction registration. Place one dot on each item for sale.

At the beginning of the auction, one color will be drawn at random. The items with that color dot will be sold first. After all the items with that color dot are sold, another color will be drawn. This will continue until all items are sold. If there is an item that you want to bid on that has a color dot other than the current color dot, you can have that item moved up and auctioned for a \$2.00 fee one hour after the start of the auction. This does not guarantee that you'll win the bidding, just that you'll have a chance to bid on the item.

### SELLERS

#### ABSOLUTELY NO ZIP-LOCK BAGS ALLOWED!

Acceptable auction combinations include: Adult/Sub-adult Singles; Pair (Male and Female of the same species and variant); Trio (1 Male and 2 Females of the same species and variant); Reverse Trio (2 Males and 1 Female of the same species and variant); Mated Pair, Proven Pair, or Breeding Pair (2 fish of the same species and variant, that have successfully produced fry with each other); Colony (2 or more adult males and 2 or more adult females of the same species and variant); Juvenile (4 or more juveniles of the same species and variant); Fry (6 or more fry of the same species and variant).

No Hybrids, other than Discus, will be accepted. Minimum lengths will be enforced. Dwarf species must be at least 3/4" and all others must be at least 1" in length. The Auction Committee will inspect all bags of fish sold. The Auction Chairperson has final determination on whether a bag of fish or an item can be sold.

Each seller is allowed to sell 40 bags of fish, with a maximum of five (5) bags of any one species or color strain. Sellers will be charged an additional \$5.00 for each additional 40 bags of fish.

Each bag must be labeled with the following information: Seller ID, Species of Fish, Number of Fish, Description (if necessary), and a unique bag number.

The seller ID will consist of at least 3 initials of the sellers name. In the event of a duplicate, an alternate ID will be assigned.

If you're selling 10 items, your items should be numbered 1-10. The information must be legible--use black lettering directly on the item or lettering on a white label on the item. Make sure you use permanent markers that won't run or smear when they get wet.

Examples of how your lettering/labels should read on a bag of fish:

JLW #1

Altolamprologus calvus

"Zaire Black" F1

Breeding Pair

JLW #2

Pseudotropheus saulosi

Qty: 6 unsexed

JLW #3

Pundamilia nyererei

Makobe Island

Male

Items that are not fish, must be labeled with the seller ID and item #. If the item contents are not obvious, a description must be on the label. Any used item must have the estimated age and condition of the item on the label.

All fish should be in double inverted bagged or be in 3 mil (minimum) bags. Adult males and females should be separately bagged. HCCC reserves the right to determine if bagging is acceptable. There will be a \$2.00 charge to the seller for any fish that need to be rebagged.

The seller may designate any submission as a 100% donation of the proceeds to HCCC. All 100% donations are exempt from rules 8b (acceptable combinations) and 8c (size requirements)

Where possible, seller payout will occur immediately following the auction. Other sellers will be mailed checks as soon as is possible.

Sellers wishing to post a minimum bid on any item must indicate this at registration. The amount of the minimum bid must be included on the label. If the item does not sell, there will be a \$2 processing fee that will be collected before the item is returned to the seller.

Non-fish items, whenever possible, should be bagged to prevent water damage.

#### BUYERS

Know what you are bidding on. All items are available for inspection prior to the auction. Take the time to examine each item so you positively know what it is **BEFORE** you bid.

Payment for auction items will be in cash or credit cards.

Each bidder must register and be assigned their own bidder number. HCCC will not split items sold under one bidder number between multiple bidders at checkout time. Each bidder is responsible for EVERYTHING bought with their bidder number.

When an item is sold, the runner will bring the item to the buyer.

No one will be allowed to leave the facility without items indicating that they have been paid for.

All checks must be made out to **Diane Tennison**.



## **FOTAS Board Meeting**

The annual FOTAS board meeting will occur at 8:30 AM Saturday October 22nd at the convention site. All members of FOTAS clubs are invited to attend.

### **Agenda**

Roll Call

A review of the minutes from last meeting

Financials

Old Business

New Business

2017 Convention discussion

Election of officers

- President
- Vice president
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Adjournment

Annual dues of \$12.00 will be collected at this meeting.

### **2015-2016 FOTAS Board**

President—Greg Steeves

Vice President—Kyle Osterholt

Secretary—Lisa Hufsetler

Treasurer—Ralph Deboard

Advisor—Dr. Keith Arnold

Fish Tales Editor—Gerald Griffin

### **Delegates**

Houston Aquarium Society—Charles Jones

Texas Cichlid Association—Michael Johnson

Lone Star Betta Breeders—Lori Green

Oklahoma Aquarium Association—Monica Osterholt

Hill Country Cichlid Club—Diane Tennison

Southeast Louisiana Aquarium Society—Clay Trachman

Texas Area Killifish Association—Doug Austin

San Antonio Aquatic Plant Club—Chris Lewis

Oklahoma Betta Breeders Association—Kayla Griffin





## FOTAS Convention Sites

Year	City	Host Organization
1952	Corpus Christi TX	Organizational Meeting
1953	Rockport TX	Game Fish and Oyster Laboratory
1954	Galveston TX	Houston Aquarium Society
1955	Corpus Christi TX	Alamo Aquarium Society
1956	Austin TX	Austin Aquarium Society
1957	Dallas TX	Dallas Aquarium Society
1958	Fort Worth TX	Fort Worth Aquarium Society
1959	Corpus Christi TX	Corpus Christi Aquarium Society
1960	Dallas TX	Tropical Fish Hobbyist of Dallas
1961	Lake Texoma TX/OK	Lake Texoma Aquarium Society
1962	San Antonio TX	Alamo Aquarium Society
1963	Houston TX	Houston Aquarium Society
1964	San Antonio TX	Aquaric Researcher of San Antonio
1965	Dallas TX	Dallas Aquarium Society
1966	Houston TX	Houston Aquarium Society
1967	Fort Worth TX	Fort Worth Aquarium Society
1968	Dallas TX	Dallas Aquarium Society
1969	Lubbock TX	South Plains Aquarium Society
1970	Amarillo TX	High Plains Aquarium Society
1971	San Antonio TX	Alamo Aquarium Society
1972	Dallas TX	Tropical Fish Hobbyist of Dallas
1973	Houston TX	Houston Aquarium Society
1974	Fort Worth TX	Fort Worth Aquarium Society
1975	Arlington TX	Arlington Aquarium Society
1976	Austin TX	Austin Aquarium Society
1977	Bryan TX	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
1978	San Antonio TX	Alamo Aquarium Society
1979	Waco TX	Centex Aquarium Society
1980	Houston TX	Houston Aquarium Society
1981	College Station TX	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
1982	San Antonio TX	Alamo Aquarium Society
1983	Houston TX	Houston Aquarium Society
1984	College Station TX	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
1985	Dallas TX	Texas Cichlid Association
1986	Galveston TX	Houston Aquarium Society

1987	San Antonio TX	Alamo Aquarium Society
1988	College Station TX	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
1989	Austin TX	Capital Aquarium Society
1990	Grand Prairie TX	Texas Cichlid Association
1991	Houston TX	Houston Aquarium Society
1992	San Antonio TX	Alamo Aquarium Society
1993	College Station TX	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
1994	Austin TX	Capital Aquarium Society
1995	Fort Worth TX	Texas Cichlid Association
1996	Houston TX	Houston Aquarium Association
1997	San Antonio TX	Alamo Aquarium Society
1998	College Station TX	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
1999	Fort Worth TX	Texas Cichlid Association
2000	Houston TX	Houston Aquarium Society
2001	College Station TX	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
2002	Arlington TX	Texas Cichlid Association
2003	Clear Lake TX	Houston Aquarium Society
2004	Arlington TX	Texas Cichlid Association
2005	College Station TX	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
2006	Houston TX	Houston Aquarium Association
2007	San Antonio TX	Hill Country Cichlid Club
2008	Irving TX	Texas Cichlid Association
2009	Houston TX	Houston Aquarium Association
2010	Oklahoma City OK	Oklahoma Aquarium Association
2011	San Antonio TX	Hill Country Cichlid Club
2012	Irving TX	Texas Cichlid Association
2013	Houston TX	Houston Aquarium Society
2014	San Antonio TX	Hill Country Cichlid Club
2015	Irving TX	Texas Cichlid Association
2016	San Antonio TX	Hill Country Cichlid Club

## FOTAS Member Clubs

Houston Aquarium Society (Charter member)  
Texas Cichlid Association  
Lone Star Betta Breeders  
Oklahoma Aquarium Association  
Hill Country Cichlid Club  
Southeast Louisiana Aquarium Society  
Texas Area Killifish Association  
San Antonio Aquatic Plant Club  
Oklahoma Betta Breeders Association

## FOTAS 2016 Sponsors

Thanks you to all the sponsors who help make this event possible!







## **Come join us for the Houston Cichlid Club's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Swap Meet!**

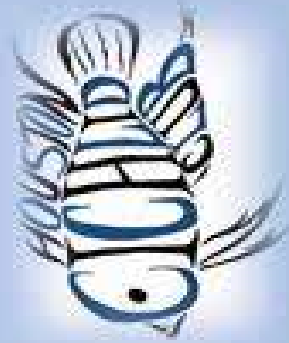
**Where:** Windfern Forest Utility District

**When:** October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Who:** You! And your fellow cichlid-lovers

**Why:** Door prizes, raffle items, a Free Items table, activities for the kids, and most importantly, fellowship!

This event is free to attend and open to all!





**NO SAINTS GAME?  
NO PROBLEM!  
JOIN SELAS AT THE NEXT  
NEW ORLEANS SOCIAL!  
FEATURING A LARGE  
AUCTION .  
FOOD AND DRINKS  
WILL BE PROVIDED.  
OCTOBER 9, 2016  
KNIGHTS OF  
COLUMBUS HALL  
4021 TRENTON ST.  
METAIRIE, LA 70002  
DOORS OPEN  
AT NOON.**



# Tropical Fish & Aquarium Supply AUCTION

Saturday  
October 8, 2016  
Noon to ?

Viewing begins  
at 11:00 AM

**Come to  
BUY!**

**Come to  
SELL!\***



**FREE ADMISSION**

Location:

Millwood Christian Church  
3450 W. Pleasant Grove Rd.  
Rogers, AR 72758  
Just off I-49, Exit #81 (West)



Sponsored by:

**Northwest Arkansas  
Aquarium Society**

More information: [www.nwaas.com](http://www.nwaas.com) [auctions@nwaas.com](mailto:auctions@nwaas.com)

\* A portion of proceeds goes to the society



## Previous Issue of Fish Tales

**What would you like to see in the next Fish Tales Magazine?**

**Contact the Editor if you have story ideas or would like to contribute to Fish Tales!**



# Fish Tales

Volume 6 Issue 1

*Oryzias woworae* - the Little Rice Fish  
with a Unique Method of Reproduction  
by Greg Steeves

Aquarium Tank Manufacturing  
Interview  
by Clay Trachtman

When is it not *Anubias hastifolia*?  
by Dr. Keith Arnold

Burdekin Rainbowfish on the  
verge of disappearing from  
Running River!  
by Peter J. Unmack and  
Michael P. Hammer

FOTAS History by Hazel Hall  
edited by Charles Jones

Those Amazing Multies!  
by Gerald Griffin

Attack of the Clones!  
The Marbled Crayfish  
by Gerald Griffin

