

iCichlid



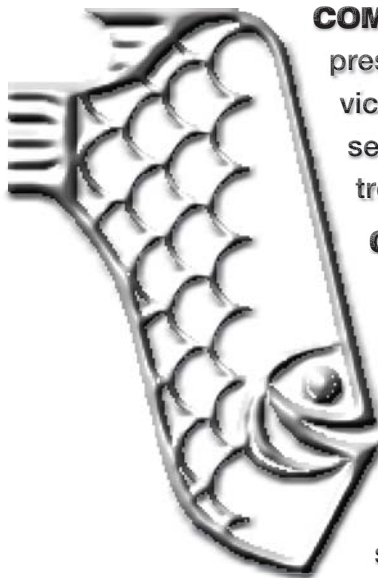
**Victorian Cichlid Society
Incorporated**

44:02
May 2015



IMAGE: Alf Stalsberg

2015 committee@cichlids.org.au



COMMITTEE (Exeutive):

president@cichlids.org.au Greg Nicolacopoulos
vice@cichlids.org.au Graham Rowe
secretary@cichlids.org.au David Green
treasurer@cichlids.org.au Tony Ferguson

COMMITTEE-AT-LARGE:

CaL1@cichlids.org.au Daryl Hutchins
CaL2@cichlids.org.au Andrew Challingsworth

SUB-COMMITTEES:

baa@cichlids.org.au Peter Robinson
constitution@cichlids.org.au Daryl Hutchins
handbook@cichlids.org.au Daryl Hutchins
species@cichlids.org.au Vacant
webslave@cichlids.org.au Daryl Hutchins

LIFE MEMBERS:

Graham Rowe, Heinz Staude, Kevin Archibald, Keith Patford,
Danny Genovese, Daryl Hutchins and John McCormick.

FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY: Graham Rowe

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CORRESPONDENCE:

THE SECRETARY
Victorian Cichlid Society Inc
2 Alern Court, Nunawading 3131 Victoria Australia
secretary@cichlids.org.au



COVER IMAGES

OUTSIDE:
Oriochromis niloticus, sculpture representing Uganda, 2006
Commonwealth Games, Melbourne – **Daryl Hutchins.**

INSIDE FRONT:
Ivanocara adoketa female – **Alf Stalsberg.**

INSIDE BACK:
exCichlasoma salvini with fry – **John McCormick.**

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Aims of the Society:

The Victorian Cichlid Society was formed by cichlidophiles in March 1972, thus becoming the first specialist aquarist group in Victoria. Its main aims are:

1. To promote the keeping of cichlids;
2. To gain and disseminate knowledge of cichlids, their habits and attributes through the use of slides, films, books, lectures, practical demonstrations, local and overseas magazines, articles by members and discussions with fellow members or experts in the field;
3. To assist, in any way possible, the establishment and/or maintenance of approved public aquaria;
4. To be involved in the education of the general public with regard to the benefits of fishkeeping (particularly cichlids), and the potentially harmful effects of animal mismanagement;
5. To promote fellowship between members;
6. To further the conservation of species and their natural habitats;
7. To further the identification, distribution, breeding, maintenance and enjoyment of species in the Family Cichlidae.

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VCS 2015 CALENDAR

n/a	eNews	iCichlid	eNews	iCichlid	eNews	iCichlid	eNews	iCichlid	eNews	iCichlid	eNews
JAN ✓	FEB ✓	MAR ✓	APR Au✓on	MAY ✓	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT Auction	NOV	DEC AGM
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Newsletter Columnists Wanted

Would you like to dip your toes into the Brave New World of electronic publishing? You can, without even getting out of your chair ... that last part should have an irresistible appeal to some.

It just does not get any easier than this. Any member who so desires can be authorised to log-in to the MailChimp system and compose their own section of the eNews newsletter. (So can aquarial superstars, but we're not holding our breath.)

eNews is much less formal and easier to write for than the Society's magazine, as it is not a venue for full-blown articles; anything even vaguely fish-related is ok.

If people were breeding fishes and registering their spawnings, no doubt the Breeder's Achievement Award Chairperson would be taking great delight in entering reports this way. The same goes for the person/s in charge of the Show Table, social stuff, etc. But you could probably think of a multitude of other uses for it that haven't even occurred to us.

There are standard boxes in the template just waiting for your input. But if they are all used-up, it is a simple matter of dragging a suitable box from the right-hand panel and placing it in the left-hand column. Click the box and start typing! What could be easier?

E-mail webslave@cichlids.org.au and you could be in business within just a few minutes.

“Fish Stories” From Those “Tanked” Guys

by **Bob Kulesa**

Part 1

The Reading Home & Garden Show in Reading, PA on 25 January featured two of the main personalities from the Animal Planet show “Tanked”. Brett Raymer and Wayde King gave several presentations during the day about their business, Acrylic Tank Manufacturing, based in Las Vegas. Brett, who did most of the talking, described the three-year process it took to finally sell the idea of the show to Animal Planet. He told of how it usually is the reality shows who go out and look for programming and not individuals who are looking to sell an idea or concept. But Animal Planet began to look for a show dealing with aquatic life and the rest is serendipity.

Brett talked about their roles in the company and made it seem like he did most of the work while Wayde said Brett did as little as possible.

They acted together exactly like they do on the show. Brett talked a little about tank and fish maintenance but mostly he talked about the custom tanks they made and the personalities they made them for, including Pete Rose, Oprah Winfrey and Shaquille O’Neal.

While watching the TV show I often wondered how expensive their services were because of shipping expenses and their flying out to wholesalers to pick out fish. On the show they rarely mention costs except when they make a costly mistake. However, near the end of Brett’s presentation, he showed many examples of the tanks that were featured on the show and told what they cost.

The average cost of most tanks ranged from \$20,000 to \$60,000 with most in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 category. Pete Rose’s was the \$20,000 tank and one that they did for a church was \$4,500,000.

I would have hated to be there when they passed the collection plate around for that one.

At the end of the show Brett and Wayde took questions from the audience and gave insightful and sometimes humorous answers.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable presentation. After the show was over Brett and Wayde stayed and signed autographs, sold merchandise, and talked tanks and fish with the many people who wanted to meet them.

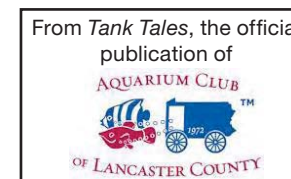
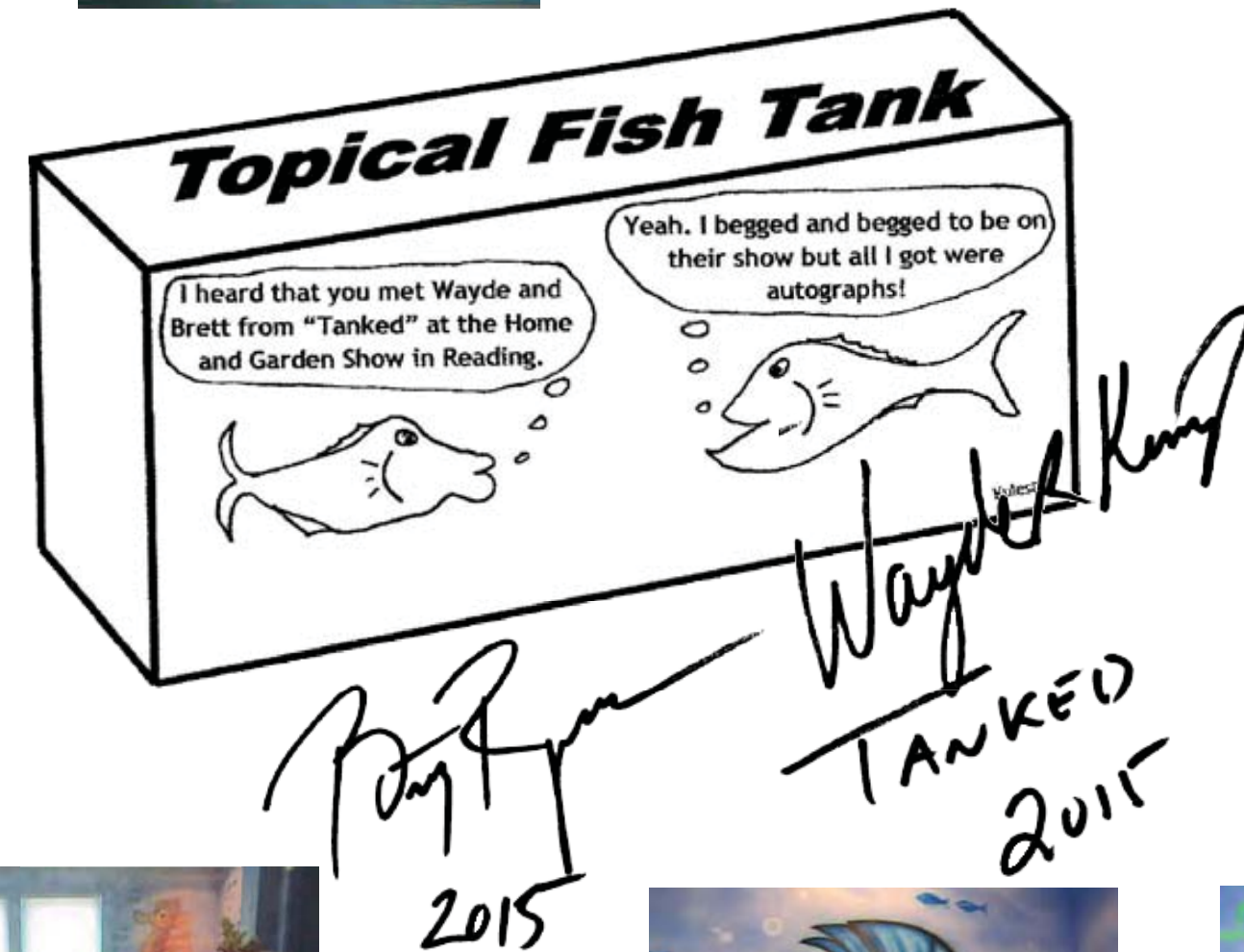
Part 2

Several days after the show I had to help make funeral arrangements at the Williams, Lombardo Funeral Home in Clifton Heights where I grew up. When we entered I saw a built-in-the-wall saltwater aquarium.

After all arrangements were made I asked Joe Lombardo, the funeral director, about the tank. He asked me if I ever saw a program on Animal Planet called ... “Tanked”, I said before he could finish his question. Yes, in the space of five days, I met Brett and Wayde from the show and now stood before one of their tank creations.

Joe explained the process of getting the tank and fish set up. He said it was nothing like what you see on the TV show. It took three tries to get the tank there in one piece without leaking problems and cracks. The tank was cycled for many weeks with damsels before the larger fish were delivered and many of them died before everything stabilised. And yes, the tank was in that \$40,000 to \$50,000 category.

The tank was built into a wall with a room on either side of it. The room behind the tank was for children to stay while the funeral services were being held. The room was painted floor to ceiling with underwater scenery and many whimsical-looking fish. A truly unique feature to be found in a funeral home.



PRODUCT EFFICACY ALERT!

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS OF THE **eCichlid** COLLECTION

Due to improvements to the way we publish, all previously issued discs, and USB drives are now obsolescent*.

*They will continue to work, but it is no longer possible to update the collection by simply adding files to the existing structure, and that is not how it should be.

So, if you own the collection on disc or USB you can acquire a completely up-to-date 8GB USB drive for only \$5 (which barely recovers the cost of the upgraded drive).

If you can't make it to a meeting, e-mail webslave@cichlids.org.au and we'll arrange something for you.



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Gymnogeophagus balzanii

A Fun Fish to Keep and Breed

By Steve Berman

Gymnogeophagus balzanii is a South American cichlid which has become one of my favourite fish – both beautiful, and high on the evolutionary scale.

Around a year-and-a-half ago, I bought eight 25 mm juveniles, as is my custom. They grew slowly, and after about a year I began to notice sexual dimorphism. I had lost one fish along the way, but the two largest fish began to develop the nuchal hump denoting the male of the species. The males had reached 120-150 mm; females were in the 75 mm range.

After a while the larger male's health seemed to suffer, and the smaller male became dominant. Eventually he became the only male.

And so, in a 200 litre tank I ended up with one male and five females. This was perfect, because this species is a harem breeder. It was not long before breeding



Gymnogeophagus balzanii 'Rio Uruguay'.

Photo: Jeff Rapps.



An adult male *Gymnogeophagus balzanii*.

Photo: Marcelo Casacuberta.

began in the typical South American cichlid manner, with eggs laid on a flat slate. The male breeds with one female after another. At one point I had three females guarding their eggs or offspring at the same time.

I never saw wrigglers, because as soon as the eggs hatched the female takes the wrigglers into her mouth and holds them until they are free-swimming. It is easy to see which females are holding offspring, because the jaw is distended and they will not eat.

These mouthbrooding females are unbelievably good parents. When food is present they allow the fry out of their mouths to feed, but at the first sight of danger (me), the fry immediately seek refuge back in her mouth.

This behaviour makes the fry very easy to manage. Removal of the fry is simple, as I just remove the female holding the fry and

place her (and them) into a 35 litre tank. I feed the fry microworms, frozen brine-shrimp, and FistBites™ powdered food. It is easy to siphon uneaten food without sucking-up the fry because, as always, the female takes to offspring into her mouth at the sight of my approach.

I leave the female in the 35 litre tank for around three weeks and then remove her before she has a chance to gather the offspring in her mouth. Raising the offspring after this has been fairly easy.

VITAL STATS

Temperature: 20-27°C. Sub-tropical, so may benefit from three months a year in the 60s.

pH: Neutral.

Water Hardness: Medium.

Aquarium Size: A 200 litre tank for a pair of fish is recommended.

Size: Males 120-170 mm; females smaller.

Diet: Omnivore.



The following is taken from the American Cichlid Association's *Buntbarsche Bulletin* #51, December 1975. It was written by a VCS member at the request of the Editor of BB. It is presented here as a piece of history and for readers to see how things have changed in 40 years ... or not. Editors being the optimistic types they are, it is also hoped it might prompt an update.

Greetings, Fellow Members!

I have been requested to give a treatise on matters pertaining to cichlid-keeping in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, so here goes —

I suppose I should begin by giving a run-down on what to expect when taking-on maintaining cichlids in our fair city. Our water supply used to be one of the purest in the world and even in today's polluted environment, it is still pretty good. It comes

Reprinted from *Buntbarsche Bulletin*, official publication of the American Cichlid Association, Inc (ACA). To join the ACA contact Claudia Dickinson, PO Box 5078, Montauk, NY 11954 USA ✉ivyrose@optonline.net, or visit cichlid.org.

out of the faucet with a pH of approximately 7.0 and a hardness factor of 10-20 ppm, which is about one step below that of rainwater for softness. At present there are no additives in the water, such as chlorine or fluoride, although there is some movement afoot to introduce the latter for dental protection. As our water is so soft, we have found that it is necessary to add calcium to our tanks, usually in the form of shellgrit, as most fish (especially Apistogramma species) do not thrive in our water ... the theory being that what calcium salts in the water are quickly absorbed by the fish (especially by fry) into bone tissue, and unless the water is changed very often or some substitute calcium salt added to the water, the fish become weak and die.

As for our weather, I have set out some statistics which may give some idea as to what to expect if you should ever come here. By the way, our population is about 2.75 million people, ranking Melbourne the second-largest city (next to Sydney) in Australia.

Average Summer (January):

Maximum Temperature - 25.8°C. Minimum Temperature - 13.9°C. Sunshine Hours - 8.7.

Average Winter (July)

Maximum Temperature - 13.2°C. Minimum Temperature - 5.7°C. Sunshine Hours - 8.7.

I included the above statistics relating to the weather to indicate that we can get away without heating our tanks for at least a few months of the year, plus there is enough sunlight for the propagation of algae throughout the year.

In Melbourne we have three aquarium societies plus one cichlids-only society (the Victorian Cichlid Society) which has around 60 members ranging from those who have one tank to two or three members who have in excess of 70 tanks.

The standard sizes of tanks used here are mainly in the 57-litre to 192-litre range; a tank larger than this being more the exception than the rule. The reason for this I think is that the majority of tanks used are all-glass tanks. There are no wooden tanks in use that I know of, although a few people are trying tanks made from cement sheeting, with promising results. Australian prices for plywood are competitive with glass when dealing with heavier thicknesses and larger sizes. A tank 152 cm x 45 x 36 cm all-glass (new) would cost around A\$80 when compared to the average wage

of about A\$140/week. This makes these tanks rather expensive.

Of the numerous aquarium shops in Melbourne, only about four are willing to take the punt and import unknown or “new” species of fish into the country. One dealer tries mainly for wild-caught specimens from their country of origin, while the other three obtain their fish mostly from dealers either in Germany or from our Asian neighbours. As the average cost for air freight is around A\$130/box, when added to the original purchase price of the fish the end price is substantial, it makes buying imported fish through the dealers rather expensive.

However, regardless of the above, there are not many cichlids we either do not have or have not yet bred, although this could change in the future as our States Fisheries and Wildlife Department would like to see the importation of fish into Victoria banned totally or be severely curtailed or controlled. They are trying to do this by having an Act passed in State Parliament restricting the transport of fish or ova across State borders, and by also combining with the Fisheries and Wildlife Departments of the other States to put pressure on the Federal Parliament to restrict or ban the importation of fish by passing laws under the Customs and Health Acts. We cannot, as yet, object to any of the latter as it is purely conjecture at this point as neither of the departments concerned will admit to anything. If they are successful, we would be very fortunate to get any cichlid into Australia and it would really create a need for a positive Species Maintenance Program.

As for keeping cichlids happy, we are fairly fortunate in having good access to live foods, either in the form of Daphnia, Tubifex worms, Gambusia or the usual ani-

mals you can obtain free from your garden eg, worms, grubs, etc. Most live food can be obtained all year round, with the possible exception being Daphnia, which tends to be seasonal. Any of the above can be found within a 10 km drive from home.

Most of the cichlids kept in Melbourne are fed on flake food and beefheart, supplemented with any of the above live food, so there is no excuse for having undernourished fish. The only food we do have to pay expensively for is brineshrimp eggs as we do not have a reliable local supplier and have to import them from the United States.

For Rift Lake cichlids, clean seawater (please see postscript on this subject, Ed.) may be obtained by driving 70 km. However, if you are not too fussy about your African cichlids living in slightly polluted water, then seawater can be collected from the bay which is readily accessible from any part of the city or suburbs. This involves a drive of around 10-20 km for most people, and let's face it, it is far cheaper than buying artificial seawater.

I think the above comments cover most aspects of cichlid-keeping in Melbourne. If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to answer you as quickly as possible. I am not the most prompt letter-writer in the world, but I do get there eventually ...

Regards from Melbourne,
Max O Davenport,
16 Rochford Street,
East Ormond, Victoria 3165, Australia

(The following postscript is added by Max in response to my query about Melbournians using seawater in their Rift Lake tanks ... Rosemary Lewis)

Regarding sea (marine) water - I am sorry if I have caused you confusion on this point. No, we don't keep Africans in straight marine water. We do use either one teaspoon of artificial marine water mix to one gallon of tap water, or one part natural seawater to seven parts tap water (approximately). More of us prefer natural seawater, as it is easy to obtain and is cheap. Also, the main reason seems to be that since using natural seawater fungus and/or infections have not been bothersome. This last comment does not apply to the “African Bloat” which so far has not been either prevented or cured by anything other than the use of Furanace-P - thanks to the article in the Rocky Mountains Cichlid Association magazine. Using the above seawater ratio, I have found that I can obtain an optimum pH and DH for African [Rift Lake] fishes, one that has a built-in buffering effect. Also the fish seem to breed more readily after a water change using natural seawater.

— M O Davenport



Serranochromis robustus, float representing Zambia, 2006 Commonwealth Games, Melbourne.

Photo: Daryl Hutchins

Another little bit of history for you:

In the late spring of 1967 Albert J Klee conceived the idea of a brand new monthly publication, unique to the aquarium world. Physically, it consisted of a single sheet of heavy stock, printed on both sides, with spot-colour on the first page and punched so that it could be saved in a loose-leaf binder. No photographs were used, but there was an abundance of black and white illustrations.

The publication was named *The Aquarist's Notebook* and was sold in bulk to pet shops and fish stores and distributed free to their customers. The idea being that it would encourage return business for the shops and also provide useful and interesting material to their customers.

Space was provided at the bottom of the first page for the dealer to stamp the name, address, and telephone number of the establishment distributing the publication.

The Aquarist's Notebook

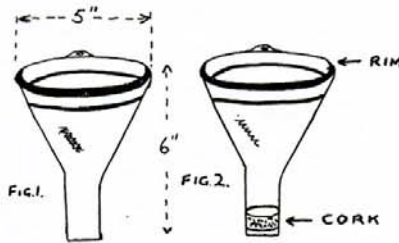
Volume V

Number 7



Brine Shrimp Hatcher

HAVING TRIED hatching brine shrimp in an ordinary jar submerged in the tank with not very much success, (the eggs would always build up in a heap on the other side of the jar, not giving a very high hatch-yield), I decided to have a go at making a small hatcher, giving a good hatch. After several ideas, I came up with the following. I bought a plastic funnel, measuring 5 in. diameter by 6 in. deep (fig. 1) the type for filling paraffin oil into a heater.



FUNNEL

The next job was to plug the bottom of the spout with a cork taken from a medicine bottle (fig. 2). I then took a piece of 1/2 plastic air line and made a tight ring joining it with

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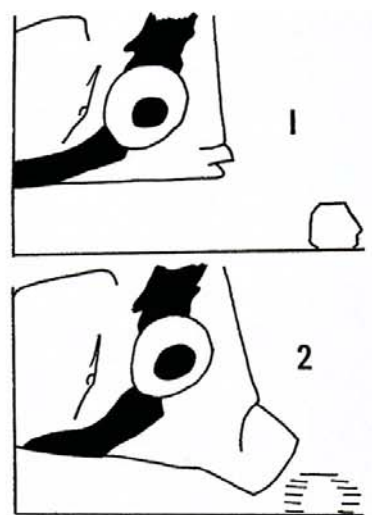
HOW AN ANGELFISH EATS

YOU HAVE PROBABLY often watched angel fish feeding, but have you ever seen exactly what happens when they take a mouthful of food? Of course not, for it happens much too quickly. One moment the food is there and the next it is gone, leaving you at most with the impression that you have seen the fish's lips jerk forward to take it.

Movements that are too fast to see can, of course, be recorded by high speed cinephotography. The four drawings which illustrate this article have been traced from four successive frames of a cine film taken at 64 frames/second, which is four times as fast as the films taken by an ordinary amateur cine camera. The fish is a good-sized angel fish about 2 1/2 inches long, which was a most co-operative model. Close-up photography at high speeds needs bright lights, especially if depth of focus is important, but this fish fed obligingly under photographic lights so strong that they heated the water in the aquarium at an alarming rate. The temperature once rose 6°F in a short photographic session.

The food in the picture is a piece of the white of a hard-boiled egg, chosen because it shows up better in the film than ordinary flake fish food. The fish became tired of eating egg before I tired of taking photographs, but turned out to be willing to eat tiny cubes of cheese spread, which is just as photogenic.

In frame 1 the fish is approaching the food with its mouth still shut but, in frame 2, only 1/64 second later, the mouth is wide open. The lower jaw has, of course, been swung down to open the mouth, but at the same time the upper jaw has shot forwards, stretching out a fold of transparent skin which was previously tucked



away out of sight inside the head. The open jaws and the skin form a tube which sticks out quite a long way in front of the fish. The food is blurred because it has started moving towards the fish, which is sucking it into the tubular mouth.

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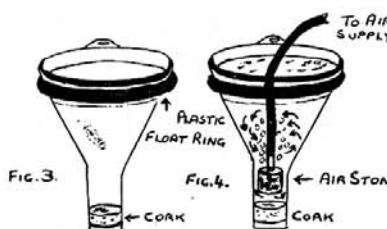
ANGELS continued.

In frame 3 the mouth is still wide open and the food is travelling faster. It can be seen through the transparent skin even after it has gone into the mouth. It can be calculated from the length of the blur that the food is moving at about 10 inches/second. In frame 4 the mouth has closed again with the food inside but the upper jaw has not yet moved back to its normal position, so the fish looks as if it has a beak.

If you suck a drink up a straw you do it by expanding your lungs, and your cheeks are pulled in by the suction. Angel fish, of course, have no lungs, but they have stiff cheeks, containing bones which are hinged along their top edges to the main part of the skull. They suck food into their mouths by swinging these cheeks outwards, and also by forcing the floor of the mouth downwards.

HATCHER continued.

a plastic plug. This ring fits under the rim of the funnel (fig. 3) and acts as a float. Next the air-stone was fitted into the spout (fig. 4) and the funnel filled up with salt water submerged into the tank, and connected to the air supply. The shrimp eggs are then introduced.



I have found that I am now getting a much higher yield of shrimps. The eggs naturally slide down the sloped sides of the funnel and are then immediately forced back up again by the air-stone, always keeping the eggs circulating. This method is cheap and effective, and well worth a try.

THE AQUARIST'S NOTEBOOK is free! It is available, just for the asking, at your local pet shop or fish store. It is your dealer's way of saying "Thank you!" for your patronage. Because THE AQUARIST'S NOTEBOOK is published at regular intervals, and because it is a permanent reference work chock full of valuable ideas and fascinating articles, you will want to ensure that you do not miss a single issue. Keep your reference library complete... visit your dealer regularly for your free copies!

The upper jaw of the angel fish moves in quite a complicated way. It moves forward as the mouth opens and stays forward until after it has closed. All its movements are automatic. When the lower jaw is swung down to open the mouth it pulls on the upper one in such a way as to make it shoot forward and make the mouth into a tube. When the cheeks swing out to suck the food in they move a knob of bone which acts as a catch. This locks the upper jaw in the forward position and prevents it from moving back, even the mouth has closed, until the cheeks have swung back to their normal position.

The barbs, the toothcarps and the acanthopterygians (of which the angel fish is one) have upper jaws which protrude as the mouth opens and stay forward after it has closed. The internal machinery that makes this happen is much the same in all acanthopterygians, but different in barbs and different again in toothcarps. The differences make it seem likely that protrusible jaws have evolved separately in these three groups of fishes.

Something rather similar has evolved in *Corydoras* and its relatives, whose lips form a tube when the mouth is open and fold down against the underside of the head when they are out of use.

Not only have protrusible jaws evolved several times, but the fishes that have them have flourished tremendously. The acanthopterygians not only include such familiar freshwater groups as the cichlids and perches but also so many marine fishes that they total more than half the fishes of the world. The barbs

and toothcarps between them include a very large proportion of all freshwater fishes. It is hard to escape the conclusion that there is something specially useful about protrusible jaws.

One suggestion that has been made is that a fish will have a better chance of catching its prey if it can shoot its mouth suddenly out in front of it on the end of a tube. An objection to this is that the tube is usually quite short. Another suggestion applies only to feeding from the bottom. A fish must get its mouth close to the food before it can suck it in. Look at the tracings from the cine film again.

In frame 2 the upper and lower jaws are both near the food, but if the upper jaw had not protruded it would still be a long way from the food. The fish might have to stand on its head to get its upper jaw near enough. Fish



like tetras and Australian rainbows, whose jaws are not protrusible, seem to have to tip themselves up at a very steep angle to take food from the bottom.

THE AQUARIST'S NOTEBOOK
© 1971 by
The Aquarist's Notebook
P.O. Box 139
Fairfield, Ohio 45014

It was distributed to over 300 stores and ceased publication in December 1975, a run of eight years and seven months for a total of 103 issues.

Written over 30 years ago, some of the scientific references may be outdated. However, the material was aimed at beginners and the information and recommendations are as valid today as they were then.

Two of the cichlid-related editions are recreated here with the permission of Dr Klee, a very helpful man who is still imparting his knowledge with a refreshingly correct turn of phrase that is so rare these days.

These are the last two excerpts from *The Aquarist's Notebook* series of information sheets to be presented here. If you would like to see more, the non-cichlid ones that is, you should join the Aquarium Hobby Historical Society on Yahoo Groups, where you will find the rest among the files available only to members.

Thank you to Dr Klee for allowing this piece of history to be reproduced here.



Volume IX

No. 3

The Aquarist's Notebook



Giant Val

GIANT val (*Vallisneria gigantea*) belongs to the frogbit family (Hydrocharitaceae) and comes from the Philippines and from New Guinea. It has a bulbous rhizome with a tangle of fairly short roots. From the rhizome 10 to 15 ribbon-shaped leaves sprout. These leaves are a strong green color, are about ¾-1½ in. wide and 3-7 ft. long with, usually, 15 longitudinal, obliquely connected veins.



The species is dioecious, i.e. female and male plants are separate. The flowers on the female plant grow up to the water surface on long, thin stalks. The male flowers are sessile (i.e. attached directly by the base without stalk or peduncle) and before maturing are covered with the calyx. When the mature male flowers open the pollen rises to the water surface and is carried to all parts of the tank.

Giant val needs a large, but above

Ctd. overleaf 1st column.

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COMPLIMENTS OF:

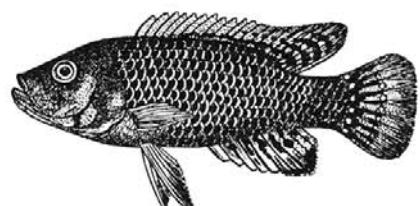
THE EGYPTIAN MOUTHBROODER

THIS mouthbrooding species as imported from its natural habitat in the River Nile in Egypt as long ago as 1902. Classified as a cichlid, it was first known as *Haplochromis multicolor*.

In this article I am going to forego the task of giving a description of the fish's appearance — it would be a completely thankless job. "Multicolor" must suffice. This Egyptian mouthbrooder grows to a size of about 3¼ in. and in mature specimens sex differences are clearly visible — the female is the larger, more robust fish, fuller in the belly, somewhat yellowish in color

in which they can hide. Their diet should consist of live food.

For breeding purposes I prepare a 7-gallon (18 in. by 12 in. by 12 in.) tank filled with fresh, normal, neutral tapwater at a temperature of 79°F. The tank is prepared with a base of fine, sieved sand. Care must be taken to use only a "full" female for mating — otherwise it can be rammed and bitten by the male and even killed. So it is quite a good idea to use two females to one male. Usually the fish require 2 or 3 days in their new tank to acclimatize themselves, but during this time there will be continuous dis-



and with dark diagonal bands on the body. The male, unlike the female, is bedecked with the lovely bright coloring that its name suggests. During spawning time, and when the light falls correctly on him, these colors are brilliantly heightened. Also, the male's anal fin is decorated with orange flecks.

These fish are happy in a medium-sized, thickly planted and well-lit tank kept at a temperature that does not fall below 68°F. They are peaceful and can be kept in a mixed community of similar sized fishes, but the tank must be supplied with plants and rockwork

playing on the part of the male, which includes blows made with his tail. All this time a pit is being prepared in the sand, and the female often helps in this.

The spawning itself takes place while the fish move round in a circle over the depression in the sand. Both the male and female fish mouth each other's rear ends, and the female expels some eggs that are immediately fertilized by the male. These eggs are then taken up into the female's mouth. The contact with the male's genital opening allows sperm to be taken into the fe-

Ctd. overleaf 2nd column.

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GIANT DANIO *continued.*

all a deep tank so that it can develop properly. It is not exacting with regard to its water or substrate requirements but it does need a rather higher temperature than the other common species of this genus, i.e. above 68°F. It flowers throughout the summer months but does not produce seeds. It is in fact propagated vegetatively by the separation of the young plants from the rhizome runners. Propagation is much slower than that of the smaller species and if the aquarist wants to obtain a great number of plants he has to separate the plants and replant them again and again during the months March to August. About 2 to 3 weeks after replanting, one parent plant will sprout two to three root runners on which three to seven new plants will arise. After this, as a rule, no new runners are made. As soon as the runners have grown sufficiently strong they are uprooted with the parent plant, separated and planted again. So the propagation continues.

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MOUTHBROODER *continued.*

male's mouth and so some of the eggs are actually fertilized in her mouth.

The end of the spawning, which may last from 1 to 2 hours, is signalled by the female's withdrawal into a corner. Her body is slimmer of course, and her enlarged throat sac full of the eggs that she has collected can be clearly seen. As soon as the female starts looking for a hiding place the male should be removed so that the female can rest. In her distended mouth she will now be hiding 50-100 fertilized eggs, over which she passes fresh oxygen-containing water as she breathes. During the 10-14 days of the hatching period she will take no nourishment and for this reason she must be really well fed before being used for breeding so that she can stand up to this rigorous fast without damage to her health.

The young fish are about 6 mm. long when they hatch and must be given the finest possible live foods. For some days after they become freeswimming they will retire into their mother's mouth at the slightest sign of danger, and at night. All this while, as long as she is caring for the brood, she usually eats nothing; she moves about very little, her breathing is heavy and she becomes very timid. At the end of the week after the hatching the fry are already so large that they cannot get into her mouth; and at this point it is better for the female and the young to be separated: It takes quite a little time before the female's mouth returns to its normal size, but, given plenty of varied feeding, she will be ready to spawn again 6 weeks later. The young fish are sexually mature after about 6 months.

Readers' Queries Answered

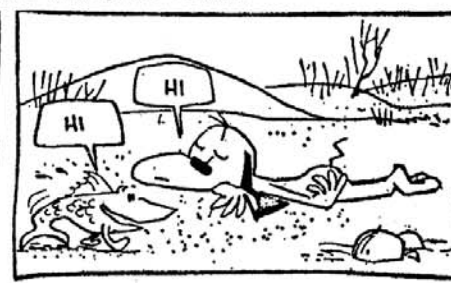
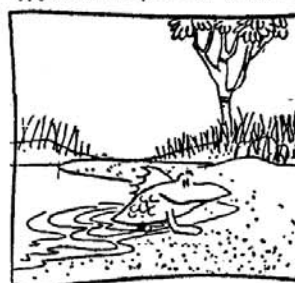
Fry Feeding

I have just lost most of a spawning of White Cloud Mountain minnows and am very disappointed about this as it was my first effort with egg layers. A friend has said that it might have been because the fry tank was not lit. Is this correct? And if so, why does the light make so much difference?

Correctly feeding egg layer fry during the first week or two of life is one of the most important factors in their successful rearing. They must receive plenty of appropriately sized food, preferably where they can obtain it easily without having to travel great distances to find a small amount of nourishment. With a light bulb illuminating the tank, the fry will be attracted by the light and gather around it; the food can then be dropped in this one spot. If Infusoria are being given, these, too, will be attracted by the light and will remain in the same vicinity as the fry. It is also easier under these circumstances to spot any turbidity in the water (which would indicate that some of the water should be replaced with fresh).

It is in connection with the correct feeding of the fry that most dangers arise in these early stages. Mountain minnow fry should be given Infusoria for the first week, but they must receive it in small, frequent, doses. At the same time it is necessary to keep a careful watch that no water pollution is occurring and if the water shows any sign of cloudiness some of the old water must be replaced by fresh (siphoning must be done through a fine net or fry may be lost).

ADVENTURES OF SAM - THE CLIMBING PEACH





AUSSIES IN KENTUCKY

QCG AT THE 2014 ACA CONVENTION

By **Greg Ure** — Queensland Cichlid Group

There is more to Kentucky than Bourbon and Mint Juleps. Louisville, Kentucky was the site of the 2014 American Cichlid Association's annual convention. This year the convention was hosted by The Louisville Tropical Fish Fanciers, Inc (LFFA Facebook) and held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel next to the Louisville airport.

After booking into the hotel on Wednesday night, 9 July, I went looking for cichlids. There were cichlid display aquariums sponsored by the Marineland division of the United Pets Group in the corridor that led down to the convention area. These aquariums had various themes (Malawi, Tanganyika, South America etc) and included in the South American tank was a *Retroculus* species (possibly *Retroculus septentrionalis*).

At this time of night the only room open was the hospitality suite that was sponsored by Cobalt Aquatics and the Wet Spot Tropical Fish. Here I was not the only foreign attendee as the convention was well-supported by members of the Bermuda Fry-Angle Aquarium Society and Spencer Jack and his Canadian friends. The beer was cold and the regulars were just getting warmed-up in the telling of their yarns about what they had been doing since the previous convention.

The next morning was the first of our excursions and in Kentucky of course you go on a Bourbon Distillery tour. We travelled out

past Jim Beam to the Maker's Mark Distillery. Maker's Mark are known for the distinctive hand-dipped red wax on the top of every bottle. After a tour and sampling of their fine spirits we were back in the coach and on to Heaven Hill Distillery. After another tour and a few more samples of Bourbon we had a late lunch at the Shack 'N The Back BBQ before heading back to the convention.

Back there Sam "Scalz" Garcia from San Diego gave a fish art and painting demonstration. Sam joined us in the hospitality room the previous evening and showed us his skill in starting from a photo and then drawing the

Cichlids outline, adding the basic colours and the adding the scale detail.

Arriving back at the convention, it was my first chance to look at the fish show and the stands of the retailers around the outside of the room. The aquarium competition was in the centre of the room on a three-tiered, stepped stand with Swiss Tropicals providing a sponge filter for every tank. The room was air-conditioned and warm enough for most of the fish with the discus entries also having a heater in the aquarium. The fish competition was divided into five divisions being Division A – North/Central America (four Classes), Division B – South America (seven Classes), Division C – Africa



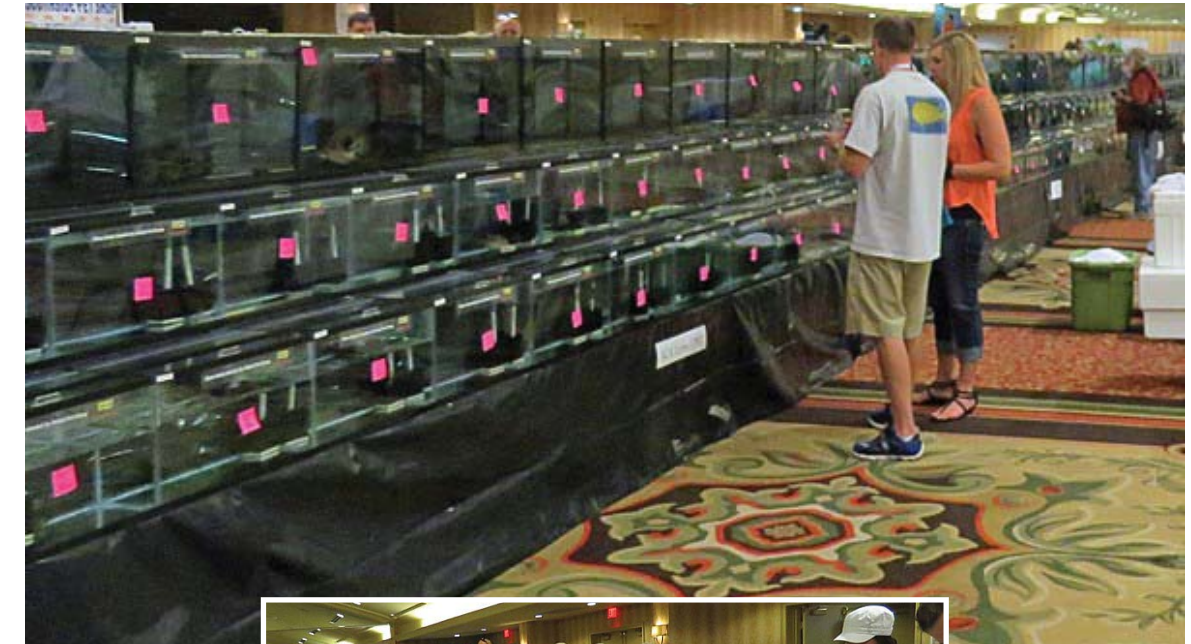
Retroculus septentrionalis



Rift Lake (six Classes), Division D – Africa Non-rift Lake, Madagascar and Asia (five Classes) and Ornamental Cichlids (four Classes). There were also four classes for Art and Photography. The organisers provided competitors with a link to a water parameters publication from the Louisville Water Company. In a separate part of the hall was a Kids Decorating Contest sponsored by United Pet Group, Segrest Farms and proudly presented by the Louisville Tropical Fish Fanciers.

Starting at 6:30 on Thursday was the first talk of the convention being Dutch Cichlid Association (NVC) president Willem Heijns on Central American Cichlids and the trials and tribulations of his large Cichlidarium aquariums. Following Willem was Joe Ferdenzi with his distinctive New York accent on the History of the Hobby. It included pictures of early aquarium literature including Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Aquarium Magazine* featuring a Jack Dempsey on the cover and the first issue of *Tropical Fish Hobbyist* from September 1952 that featured a Discus on the cover. Joe also discussed early New York aquarium stores and early aquariums including the expensive brass aquariums (and how to repair them etc). Then it was down to the hospitality room for a break and liquid refreshments.

The most scientific talk of the convention started at midnight and was by Sam Borstein, a first year PhD student and teaching assistant



Babes In The Cichlid Hobby's donation auction.



the Convention Show Room.



Rusty Wessel's fish house.



at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in the department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Sam spoke on “New Advances in Heroine Cichlid Phylogenetics and Evolution” also titled “50 Shades of Grey – Risque ‘Tails’ of Breeding 50 Rather Drab and Unremarkable Central American Cichlid Species”. It started with What is a Heroine Cichlid? – All Central American Cichlids (except “*Geophagus*” *crassilabrus*), South American Cichlids in the “*Cichlasoma*” *festae* group, *Australoheros* species, *Caquetaia* species and *Heroina*, Angels, Chocolates, Discus, *Heros*, *Hoplarchus*, *Mesonauta* and *Uaru*. Then he talked about the relationships between the genera.

Friday morning started for some with two more tours being the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory Tour and a visit to Churchill Downs the home of the Kentucky Derby.

While the Bourbon and Friday morning tours filled one coach, the Friday afternoon tour needed an additional five school buses. This was the popular tour to Rusty Wessel’s fishhouse and ponds. He maintains over 19,000 gallons of freshwater aquariums in a state-of-the-art fishhouse. The 90-plus aquariums predominantly contain Central American Cichlids and livebearers, which he successfully raises and breeds. These included *Petenia splendida*, *exCichlasoma salvini*, *Cryptoheros myrnae*, *Paratheraps melanurus*, *Thorichthys socolofi*, *Thorichthys aureus*, *Cryptoheros* sp ‘Honduras red point’, *Paratheraps bifasciatus*, *Cryptoheros cutteri*, *Chuco intermedium*, *Vieja regani*, *Parachromis friedrichsthalii*, *Herichthys deppii*, *Chuco microphthalmus*, *Paraneetroplus bulleri*, *Rocio octofasciata*, *Cryptoheros septemfasciatus*, *Thorichthys callolepis*, *Herichthys labridens* and from South America *Caquetaia umbrifera*. He also has a large aquarium of *Cyphotilapia frontosa*. After an enjoyable afternoon we headed back to the convention for more talks.

There was time to have a quick look at some of the trade displays in the main room as well as the tanks behind the aquarium competition



which contained many cichlid juveniles for sale as well as tanks you could rent to house fish that you bought here and from attendee’s motel rooms or fish you were selling at the Sunday auction. Trade Displays included Aqueon Products, Tetra, Marineland, Swiss Tropicals, Scalz, Zoo Med, The Fish Factory Aquarium Literature, Cobalt International, North Texas Holey Rock, Stith Alids, The Pleco Feeder, Ray Kingfish Lucas and many more. Also in the main hall are the tables for the donations to the Babes In The Cichlid Hobby silent auction to which I donated a few of the latest model of the Hatching Hope Tumblers. I had already sold one to the Umbriferied Festaed Acupuncturist AJ Fish before getting to Kentucky.

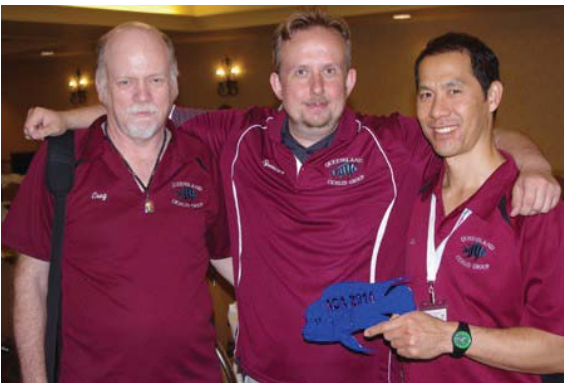
The afternoon’s talks started with Sandy Moore from Segrest Farms (where she is vice-president) on Ornamental Fish Farming at Segrest Farms and legislation around the world that affects fish breeding and keeping etc. Following-on was Steve Lundblad on the African Cichlids with the same name as a bird: Peacocks. Steve, who owns The Cichlid Exchange and The Wet Spot Tropical Fish in Portland Oregon, showed us all the described species and about where they are found etc. The third speaker of the now evening, was Les Wilson from Cobalt International on fish nutrition and what is special about Cobalt Aquatics aquarium foods.

Then there was the Babes In The Cichlid Hobby (affectionately referred to as the “B.I.T.C.H.es”) Fish Auction that supports the Guy Jordan Fund and the Paul Loiselle



Conservation Fund. To encourage the bidding the girls and a couple of the guys wore tight clothes and short skirts.

Next morning the convention started proceedings with Dr Paul Loiselle on Conservation. Here he talked about the many threats to cichlid habitats including Dam Construction, Deforestation, Siltation, Gold Mining, Fishing with Mosquito nets and introduced fish. Paul also spoke on conservation measures such as Institutional Captive Breeding (including both cichlid, mammal and bird examples) and “How Can Aquarium Societies Combat the Erosion of Aquatic Biodiversity?” Aquarium Societies can 1) Promote the commercial production of at risk fish species, 2) Participate in captive-breeding programs for species at risk, 3) Financially support in-situ conservation efforts (through research programs, initiatives to safeguard and restore critical habitats, programs to re-establish extirpated species), and 4) Become politically involved (through identifying advocacy groups with common interests and support their efforts as well as taking a position on critical conversation issues and lobby elected representatives accordingly). Then he showed pictures of some success stories – non-cichlids *Tanichthys albonubes*, *Bedotia madascariensis*, *Devario pathirana*, *Ameca splendens* and cichlids *Lipochromis melanopterus*, *Paretroplus menarambom*, *Amphilophus lyonsi* and *Paretroplus krieneri*. Paul finished his talk with information on the Mission of the ACA and the CARES Program.



Following Paul was AFC (Association France Cichlid) past-editor Patrick Tawil gave a knowledgeable and light-hearted talk on “Comparing tropheines from Lake Tanganyika with mbunas from Lake Malawi!”

Next was Ad Konings (the owner of Cichlid Press) on New Cichlids from the Congolese shore of Lake Tanganyika. This was a great talk and hopefully will be one of the talks at the Brisbane 2015 International Cichlid Conference. At the end of the talk, Ian Kwok and I presented Ad with a personalised Queensland Cichlid Group shirt.

After a short break Juan Miguel Artigas Azas (the creator and editor of the Cichlid Room Companion) spoke on A Travel to the Rio Negro above and below the surface. He showed the habitat and wonderful fish photos along with some of Ad Konings’ underwater videos. At the end of the talk, Ian Kwok and I presented Juan with a personalised Queensland Cichlid Group shirt.

Then it was time to pay for the items in the Babes In The Cichlid Hobby silent auction where you had the highest bid and I was successful with my bid on a book on Underwater Photography.

Saturday evening started with the annual ACA Convention Banquet and the presentation of awards. The announcement of the Cichlid Show Winners was accompanied by brilliant photographs of the champion fish by Aquamojo’s Mo Devlin. Mo also won the champion artwork with his photo of a pair of managuense. ACA



President Chuck Rambo presented a Blue Metal Fish to all the speakers at this year’s convention and the Ross Socolof Award went to Ray “Kingfish” Lucas who, over the past 25 years (1989 to 2014), has promoted the aquarium hobby and aquarium product manufacturers at many conventions and fish shows etc. There was a big thank you to the organising committee from everybody there.

The Banquet speaker was Canadian Cichlid Association founder and owner of aFISHionados, Spencer Jack, looking at New World Cichlids and Old World Cichlids and the preferences of the Cichlid keepers who keep them. At the end of the talk, Ian Kwok and I presented Spencer (also the banquet speaker at the QCG’s 2015 Cichlid Conference in Brisbane) with a personalised Queensland Cichlid Group shirt.

Sunday was for many of the locals the highlight of the weekend, the Auction. It started at 10 am and was finished up a little after 6 pm. Many common and rare cichlids were for sale. Like many auctions, there were big crowds at the beginning and only a few eight hours later. As I was not able to return from America with any fish, my afternoon was spent downstairs at the hotel’s sports bar watching the Brazilian World Cup Final with Ted Judy and Steve Lundblat.

Congratulations to everyone involved with the 2014 ACA Convention for making it so informative and enjoyable.

Makes you want to go to the convention every year. ■



Left-to right: *Amphilophus hogaboomorum*; Ian Kwok and Greg Ure with Juan Migel Artigas Azas, Spencer Jack and Ad Konings respectively.

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Queensland Cichlid Group

2015 International Cichlid Conference

Featuring:

Juan Migel Artigas Asaz,
Spencer Jack and Ad Konings.



Photos: Daryl Hutchins

the last word

By Daryl Hutchins

The perks that go with this job never cease to amaze me. While I was away at the Cichlid Conference in Brisbane, some nice restrateur sent me at least a dozen of the offers pictured below.

Obviously they are so impressed with our little journal that they decided to reward the Editor. Unfortunately, I didn't check my e-mail for a few days and the four prizes obviously would have gone elsewhere, so I didn't pursue the matter. But it's the thought that counts.

It just goes to show that there are some people out there who appreciate what we do. I will be keeping a much closer eye on my e-mail in the future.



People are always asking me to "share" stuff on FaceBook ... I can rarely see the point in doing so.

But I simply could not ignore the above selfless act of heroism. I knew there was a good reason why I like snakes.

As I mentioned earlier, in March I ventured north, in the face of three cyclones, to attend the Queensland Cichlid Group's International Cichlid Conference.

I am happy to report that it was one of the best-run events I have ever attended. It started on-time and ran like clockwork. The food was top-shelf and the service impeccable. Someone managed to work

the sponsors really well ... the raffles and the "showbag" were excellent.

Many of us are aware of the quality of the speakers, Jaun Migel Artigas Azas, Spencer Jack and Ad Konings. They certainly didn't let us down. After two presentations featuring Central and South American cichlids, I am just about ready to emigrate ... there's no way we will ever see them here.

Meantime, I might spend a lot more time in Queensland. I note they have a cichlid or two that I have never seen in Victoria.

Get away from the phone/e-mail, it's not an error ... I liked this piece from last month's editorial so much, I am running it again ... with small modifications.

Many, many paragraphs have given their lives in vain here, trying to encourage/goad/embarass/coax/spur/implore/inspire/energise/push/convince/stir/brainwash/induce/stimulate/woo/move/inveigle/motivate/solicit/dare/draw or sway you, yes **you**, into submitting content of some sort to this your, yes **your**, magazine.

The sacrifice of those brave paragraphs can't continue being ignored ad infinitum. Eventually, the bucket will not return from the well.



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IMAGE: John McCormick

