

UnderWater

The Official Newsletter of the Iowa Aquaria Association

March 2005 | V2:N3

/INSIDE/

CA/SA Cichlids

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The Dailey Adventure

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Species Profile:
Cyrtocara Moorii



Photo by: Brett Dailey (physicsboy)
Species: Metriaclima Zebra "Manda"



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UnderWater Welcome

On Feb. 5th, the IAA held it's latest meeting. The results of the meeting will be covered in more detail on page 12 of this newsletter. If I could give my impression of the meeting in a single word, that word would be "Whew"!!!!

We had a lot of ground to cover, and it seemed each decision was dependent on another un-made decision. The classic paradox - what came first, the chicken or the egg? It was very overwhelming but I had

assembled an agenda and had hoped to stick to it. The sequence immediately fell apart.

The discussions were lively but friendly, and most items that had seemed impossibly controversial on the forum were quickly tamed in a room full of rational people.

Our objective was to complete the BOD then immediately put it to work. Each unfilled position was filled with capable, enthusi-

astic members. Each one's wisdom and experience immediately complimented the others in attendance. As each item on the agenda was brought before the new BOD and put to bed, the process got smoother and in a very short time every item on the agenda had been addressed and either acted on decisively or tabled for good reasons.

Thanks to all who attended and became a part of the solution.

- Scott Carlson

Editor's Note:

This is our fifth edition of UnderWater, and during these issues, I've identified a few things that could improve the newsletter. So, starting with the April issue, there will be a few subtle changes. For example, you will be able to choose

between high resolution and low resolution versions. UnderWater had been designed for online use only, and has therefore had low resolution to aid in download speed. I've heard from some of you that you like to print it out. The photos look terrible printed, as

they were only meant to be viewed on screen. Starting in April, there will be a high res. option. It will take longer to download, but will look much better when printed. And you can still get the low res. version if you prefer. More to come...

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WELCOME TO THE NEW WORLD

What seems like not all that many years ago, I began my journey into the cichlid keeping hobby with a determined mind and a zeal for soaking up as much cichlid-keeping knowledge as my brain would allow. Fortunately, those same states still exist within me today, driving my desire for more aqua experiences and a greater understanding of the cichlid world. I have found that this hobby gives me the greatest satisfaction when it brings me in contact with new hobbyists and cichlid veterans alike, each with a desire to explore the New World species. With my fascination of the Central and South American cichlid monsters at its height, I have often thought about ways to transfer my knowledge of these species on to my fellow enthusiasts. I believe I could have garnered the greatest benefit concerning New World cichlids if my entry into the hobby had been supplemented by holistic articles that focused upon simple descriptions and depictions of various species.

I must admit that my personal affinity lies with the monsters of Central and South America. This article will serve as a skeletal view for those cichlid hobbyists who wish to learn more about the entire New World

cichlid domain, as I once did, rather than a specific species or genera. The fish



listed within the following chart are the more common, aggressive, and/or larger species found within the New World scene. There are many other species of fish within this diverse geographical region not mentioned in this article.

Several generalizations can be made about the monsters of Central and South America:

- 1) They are substrate spawners, preferring to lay their eggs on flat surfaces or within crevices formed by rocks, pots, etc.
- 2) These fish will tend to be monogamous, forming bonded pairs that can last their lifetimes.
- 3) Males within the majority of the species tend to be larger in size, and more

aggressive and colorful in nature.

4) Many New World cich-

lids are big fish, requiring large tanks to be appropriately housed.

5) New Worlds favor tanks kept within the range of 76 to 82 degrees Fahrenheit, with pH levels between 7.0 and 7.4. However, most are very hardy and can withstand deviations from these standards.

These displays show the genus, species, and common names, where appropriate, of many cichlids found in the Americas:

CENTRAL AMERICA

Genus	Species	Common Name
Amphilophus	Citrinellus	Midas
	Labiatus	Red Devil
Archocentrus	Centrarchus	Flyer
	Nigrofasciatus	Convict
Cichlasoma	Trimaculatus	Trimac
Cryptoheros	sp. "Honduran Red Point"	
Herichthys	Carpinte	Green Texas
	Carpinte "Escondido"	
	Cyanoguttatus	Texas
Nandopsis	Haitiensis	Odo
	Octofasciatus	Jack Dempsey
	Tetracanthus	Cuban
Parachromis	Dovii	Wolf
	Managuense	Jaguar
	Motaguense	Mota
Thorichthys	Meeki	Firemouth
Vieja	Maculicauda	Black Belt
	Synspilus	Red Head

WELCOME TO THE NEW WORLD

Various examples of the species within the table are pictured here:

Picture 1: A male *Amphilophus Citrinellus*, of the striped color morph. This species exists in numerous color phases, including striped, white, yellow/gold, orange/red, and various combinations of these colors. This species is often confused with *Amphilophus Labiatum*, both of which are indiscriminately called the “Red Devil.” The Midas cichlid is found in several locations across Central America, but is most often referred to as an inhabitant of Lake Nicaragua. Due to aquarists releasing their animals into the wild, Midas cichlids can often be caught in the southern states of the U.S., particularly in Florida. Photo courtesy of Brad Hansen (brad29).

Picture 2 (on page 3): An adolescent male *Herichthys Carpinte* “Escondido.” A relatively slow-growing species, the Escondido is a variant of the regular *Herichthys Carpinte*. The biggest difference between the two is the brilliant hues of metallic green displayed by the Escondido. Compared to *Herichthys Cyanoguttatus*, the Texas cichlid, the Carpinte displays a much larger spotted pattern and grows to a smaller size of 8 to 10 inches for full-grown males. Photo taken by Ryan Harkema (harkey7).

Picture 3 (Top) and Picture 4 (Bottom): These are males of the *Parachromis* genus, the top image is of a *Dovii*, while the bottom is of a *Jaguar* or *Managuense*. These two are perfect examples of the fish known as Guapotes, those animals that display a slender and long body style, with very powerful, protruding jaws and a tendency for preferring live fish and higher protein diets. The *Dovii* is one of the kings of all New World cichlids, growing to lengths of greater than 20 inches with appropriate conditions. The *Managuense* is one of the more popular of the Neotropical fish, males displaying a brilliant speckled black and white pattern. A distinct color morph of the *Managuense*, a gold pattern, also exists. Both the *Dovii* and the *Managuense* come to us courtesy of the country of Nicaragua. *Dovii* image courtesy of Brad Hansen (brad29); *Managuense* picture taken by Ryan Harkema (harkey7).

Picture 5: Adolescent male (bottom) and female (top) specimens of the *Vieja Synspilum* species. These fish, along with many other varieties of the *Vieja* genus, are considered by many New World cichlid enthusiasts to be the most colorful group the Americas has to offer. Male *Synspilum*s will attain sizes nearing 14 inches in total length when mature adults. Image provided by Ryan Harkema (harkey7).



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THE ADVENTURE

Our next adventure is the **Rainforest Café**. There are 26 restaurants located across the country, and eight located outside the country. There are five restaurants within the border states of Iowa (Minnesota has one, Kansas has one, and Illinois has three). I visited the downtown Disney location during our Walt Disney World trip. For IAA members, the Minnesota location is located in the Mall of America in the Bloomington/Minneapolis area. In Kansas, it's located in the Oak Park Mall in Overland Park. Finally in Illinois, they are located in Gurnee, Schaumburg, and Chicago (all around Chicago area).



Our adventure started with us showing up at the restaurant at dinner-time (no reservation). We had a short wait, but were seated in about half an hour. While customers wait for a table, they are encouraged to view many displays around the restaurant. I felt a little odd roaming around, but peeked at the aquariums at the front of the restaurant. These were quite large and connected at the top by a tube. If I had to guess the volume of each, there were each about 8500 gallons (The tanks were cylindrical with a diameter of about 12', and were 10' high).

I would encourage you to visit the restaurant if you get a chance. Although it's probably more of a family affair, even solo fish hobbyists will enjoy themselves. Their food is inspired by Mexican, Cajun,



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THE ADVENTURE

Italian, and Caribbean cuisine; although I simply had a cheeseburger. The burger and fries were pretty good, and decently priced for the entertainment one gets.

Though, I didn't see a freshwater setup in the restaurant, there were several large salt water aquariums. These were all setup nicely, and mimicked what most hobbyists would like to have at home. I felt the setups were not like the typical museum setups; instead they were nicely lit, colorful, and had an assortment of species. I really enjoyed the diversity of species they had in the tanks, and for that matter, in the restaurant. The pictures I took do not justify what I observed. I felt slightly uncomfortable roaming the restaurant with my camera. I was told I could take flash photography, but I didn't. So, many of my pictures were somewhat blurred due to underexposure.

In addition to the aquariums, there are many other attractions for the guests of the Rainforest Café. The whole place is decorated as if it were a real forest. In fact, it dripped water just behind us the entire time we were there. It felt like it had rained, and there were water droplets falling from trees (don't worry, you won't get wet...maybe a drop, or two). Coupled with that, every 20 minutes or so, there was a storm. One could hear thunder and see lightning. When this happened, I noticed an increase in water falling from the canopy overhead.

There was also an assortment of animatronic animals hidden within the restaurant. Many of these animals act out scenes and make noises, entertaining the guests as they eat. The sky is also illuminated by fiber optics. It gave the impression that you were in the wild (with stars above). Finally, there is shopping available for those who want to take home a souvenir.

So, all in all, a trip one should make. I guarantee you



won't be disappointed by visiting, but one might want to plan out other activities for the day, as it's not a short drive for most of us. From Des Moines, the Minnesota and Kansas locations are both under 250 miles. In fact Overland Park is less than 210 miles away. So, plan to visit one soon, and enjoy!!!

Visit their website if you have any further questions, or need information at www.rainforestcafe.com.

- by **Brett Dailey**

DIY

Building a floating fry trap

Introduction

Plastic fry traps and net breeders are often used to separate new fish fry until they are large enough to be released with other juveniles or adults. These containers have two main drawbacks. Larger fish in the main aquarium may prey on fry when containers with mesh bottoms are used, and fry must be removed when water changes are made since most containers are held in place at the surface of the aquarium. Instructions for constructing a floating fry trap follow. The supplies are easily obtainable and probably already in the home of most aquarists.

Construction and modification

See photo below. Any size silverware tray may be used depending upon availability. Pliers may be used to break the plastic supports along each side of the tray to increase water flow through tray. Cut plastic mesh screen to fit opening on each side and overlap onto remaining plastic of tray. Attach screen to inside of tray using gener-

ous amount of silicone sealant. Styrofoam floats (approx. 0.5x0.5x5") are cut using the utility knife and attached along the upper edge of the outer sides with silicone sealant. Note: Styrofoam floats may be attached to all outer sides for increased stability. Allow 24 hours for silicone to cure and test by placing in aquarium. Locate the floater in a corner, out of the main water flow. If the floater wanders around the tank, drill a small hole in one side, pull a piece of

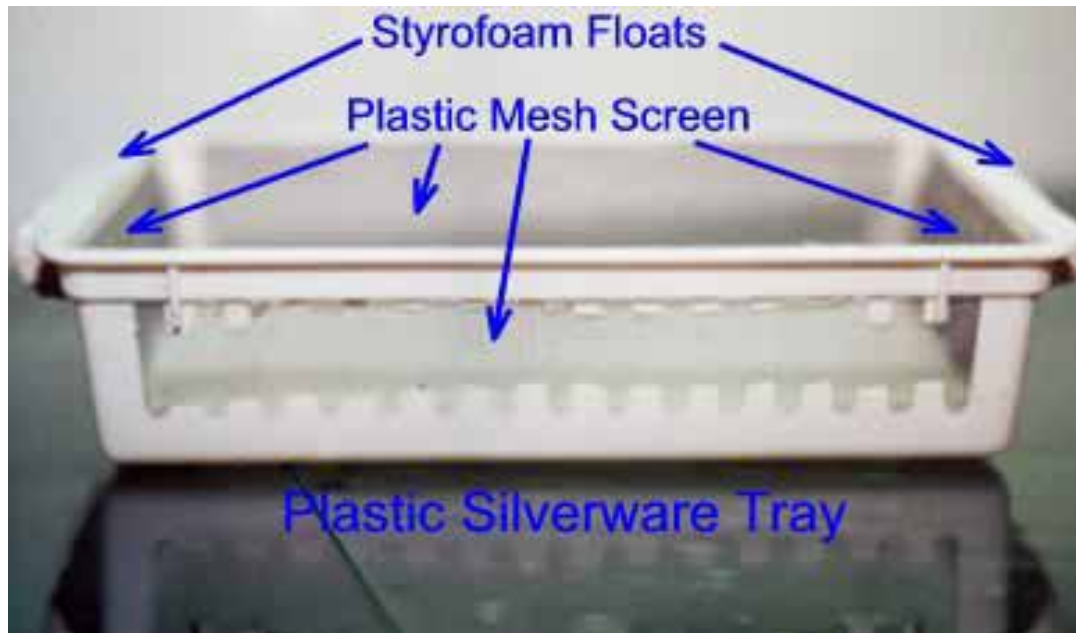
Tools and Supplies

- Plastic silverware tray (6x10x2.5") – local discount store ~\$0.75-1.50 each
- Plastic mesh screen – hardware store ~\$3.00/yd.
- Styrofoam – hardware store or use old fish box
- Aquarium silicone sealant – pet shop or hardware store ~\$4.00/tube
- Scissors
- Utility knife
- Pliers

airline tubing through the hole and knot to secure, then pull the tubing underneath the aquarium lid using the weight of the lid

to hold the floater in place. Remember to release the floater when changing the water.

- by Jason Selong



IAA SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

IAA Merchandise Coming SOON!

Pattern | Men's | Organic Cotton Tee | Value T-Shirt | Jr. Ringer T-shirt | Women's Tank Top | Men's
less | ed T-Sh | ow T-Shirt | Green T-Shirt | Women's P |
 | J | Aud | a CD | Baseball Jersey | White T-Shirt | Ash Grey T-Shirt | Golf Shirt
Sle | | Jr. | Shirt | Women's T-Shirt | Jr. Spaghetti Tank | Faded Gray |
shi | | | | | Infant/Toddler T-Shirt | | | | |
M | | | | | Mousepad | Wall Clock | Teddy Bear | BBQ Apron | Black
Cap | Tracker Ho | | | | Wall Calendar | Calendar Print | Journal | Greeting Cards (Package of 6)

Cyrtocara Moorii

Introduction:

Cyrtocara Moorii, also known in the hobby as Haplochromis Moorii or the Malawian Blue Dolphin, was named after the collector of the type material, J.

E. S. Moore. Moorii was first described in 1902, and was first exported out of Africa in 1968. It gained the nickname “Blue Dolphin” due to its pronounced forehead (called a nuchal hump) and lips and overall resemblance to dolphins.

Moorii, known natively as “Chinkongo” and “Kabale,” are

very peaceful cichlids and tend to do quite well with other rift lake fish. I have a 1-male, 4-female group that reside with other haps, peacocks, and mbuna. The Moorii almost seem to have a calming effect on the tank.

Blue Dolphins are notoriously slow-growers, and

can take a year plus to go from fry to sexual maturity (around 4-5 inches). Given the time, males can reach a full 8 inches or more, with females maxing out around 6-7 inches. The nuchal

and she completely disappeared. Gone. After 10 minutes of searching and removing rocks, I noticed a tiny eye staring at me from under the sand. I poked it with the net, and pow!

it can be difficult to use size as an indicator.

Habitat:

Due to their size, I would recommend a 75-gallon tank as a minimum. I have my group in a 55, but they are still quite young. An 8-inch male will need some open space to swim, and a 125-gallon tank is more appropriate for a fish of that size. In the wild, they are found in open, sandy environments.

Moorii show little aggression towards tank mates. Every so often I'll see my dominant male nudge a female out

of his way, but I have never seen the all-out blitz that some super aggressive mbuna have shown. Having more than 1 adult Moorii male in a tank will usually stir up some aggression, so stick with the 1 male, 2+ female standard if possible.

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hump begins to develop at around 3 inches, but might not reach prominence until 6+”.

Moorii are also known as sand divers. If danger is near, they will sometimes dive down into the sandy substrate! I learned this the hard way one night. I was trying to catch a female,

The Moorii shot out of the sand!

Sexing:

Sexing can be quite difficult with Moorii, as they are a monomorphic species (males and females look the same). Males tend to be somewhat larger than females, but unless your fish are the exact same age,

Species Profile: *Cyrtocara Moorii*, cont. from page 8

Feeding:

In the wild, the carnivorous Moorii have developed a unique feeding behavior. They follow closely behind *Fossorochromis Rostratus* and similar substrate diggers and snatch up tiny invertebrates and food pieces that are kicked up in the sand while the *Rostratus* hunt.

Since that is a nearly impossible scenario for an aquarium, I'd recommend a mixture of cichlid pellets, flakes, and frozen foods. They can be a bit picky when it comes to pellets, but mine take New Life Spectrum without complaint. Of course, what fish doesn't? A protein-heavy flake will also do the job. Mine seem to like spirulina flakes as well.

Breeding:

Moorii are a fairly standard mouthbrooder. They will search for a flat surface or

will dig a sand crater in the open areas. Males turn a deep blue with a nearly black outline when showing off for females. After spawning, females will hold the standard 21-25 days. Brood size will depend



greatly on the female's size. They'll breed at 3-4 inches, but will only hold 15-25 at that size. Full-grown adults can hold three times that



amount!

Females are known to be quite unreliable mothers, and will spit their eggs out at with the slightest of startling.

Availability:

Moorii are a fairly common Malawian hap in the hobby, and can be found locally often times. They are aren't quite as common in Lake Malawi, and wild caught specimens

could easily run you \$25-35 each.

Retail price:

Malawi Dolphins can usually be had at a LFS for about \$10-15 for a 2" fish.

Due to

the length of time to fully develop and their popularity, adults can be very expensive. Local breeders sell them for much less, as is usually the case with most fish. I've seen breeders sell them for \$2-3 per inch, but deals are always out there. I got my group of five for \$10 total, and all of the fish were 2-3 inches already.

References: www.cichlidae.com, www.cichlid-forum.com, and Malawi Cichlids in their Natural Habitat, 3rd Edition.

2005 IAA BREEDER AWARD PROGRAM (BAP) STANDINGS

STANDINGS

Name	'05 BAP Points
1. Matt Anderson	30
1. Bob Randall	30
3. Bill Brown	20
3. Scott Carlson	20
5. James Kutscher	10

LAST MEETING'S BAP'D FISH

Name	BAP item	(Category/points)
Matt Anderson	Julidochromis Transcriptus	(B/10)
Matt Anderson	Julidochromis Regani (Kipili)	(B/10)
Matt Anderson	Metriaclima Estharae	(B/10)
Bob Randall	Metriaclima Estharae	(B/10)
Bob Randall	Copadichromis Borleyi (Kandango)	(B/10)
Bob Randall	Neolamp. Brichardi (Fulwe Rock)	(B/10)
Bill Brown	Pseudotropheus Salousi	(B/10)
Bill Brown	Cynotilapia Afra Lumbila	(B/10)
Scott Carlson	Pseudotropheus Zebra Slim	(B/10)
Scott Carlson	Scianachromis Fryeri	(B/10)
James Kutscher	Metriaclima Zebra. sp. Ice Blue	(B/10)

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START
BAPPING!

FISHROOM
'05 TOUR

OB-WAN CARLSON in

The Albino Strikes Back

Welcome to my humble fish-room: Fishwhisperers lab... er, uh, lair. My Fish-room is an out-building approximately 15' x 20'.

It is very well insulated allowing me to easily heat the entire building with 2 base-board heaters and the heat given off as a by-product of the de-humidifier. I don't heat individual tanks but keep the room at a consistent 80 degrees.

Although the PVC is installed, I haven't converted my tanks to a linear piston pump yet... soon. Currently most tanks are filtered by Penguin 330 HOB filters.

I don't have an automatic drain/fill system but do have a very simple manual system. Siphoning into the drain system then filling

cont. on next page

TOP: The much heralded Albino OB Mbenji Zebra that will help FW retire early; BOTTOM LEFT: wide view of FW's fishroom. You can see the baseboard heaters that heat all of the tanks, as well as the not yet functional pvc plumbing for air; BOTTOM RIGHT: Ps. Elongatus Chewere, munching on a little gravel.





The secret to Scott's fish success? He feeds his fry live cattle.



TOP LEFT: Utility sink with all the fish gadgetry; BOTTOM LEFT: 6" Ps. sp. zebra chilumba; TOP RIGHT: 100 gallon growout trough; BOTTOM RIGHT: Side view of the fishroom, with tanks and the growout trough visible.

with the stretchy/coily hose I can change 50% of the roughly 800 gallons in around 2 hours without lifting anything heavier than a hose.

I keep almost exclusively lake Malawi mbuna with a few Tangs and plecos. I feed pretty standard stuff. Usually New Life Spectrum in the morning and HBH Graze at night. The Plecos get cheap (brand?) algae tabs and zucchini. I am too busy/lazy to do any live hatching at this time.

I typically keep 2-3 dissimilar species together. I prefer 1 male per species with an army of females.

I typically strip fry at around 18 days (species and individual dependent).



Pseudotropheus Fainzilberi "Makonde"

WELCOME TO THE NEW WORLD

Picture 6: A South American species, this male cichlid is *Amphilophus Festae*, a beautifully golden and red fish. The *Festae* is one of the few New World cichlids where the female is generally considered to be more impressive in color than the male. With as fierce an attitude as the Midas cichlid, the *Festae* or Red Terror grows to a size comparable to that of *Amphilophus Trimaculatus*, males sometimes reaching 14 inches or greater in total length. Females remain a few inches smaller, but also display an attitude that leaves little room for smaller and weaker tankmates. Photo taken by Ryan Harkema (Harkey7).



New World cichlids have a great deal of excitement to offer any cichlid fanatic desiring to raise a show specimen in a solitary tank, or to breed a pair to watch their magnificent parental instincts. A successful New World tank, whether housing a single specimen, a community of fish, or numerous grow-out juveniles, will need a filtration system that cycles the volume of the tank at a minimum of five times per hour. Many Neotropical tanks require greater amounts of filtration, simply for the fact that these large animals create great amounts of waste. Cichlids such as Oscars and Midas are notorious for not only their outgoing natures, but for their voracious appetites and need for consistent water maintenance schedules to be happy and healthy. I hope this brief discussion of the New World cichlids leaves each of you with at least a spark of interest in considering a tank of these engaging and rewarding fish. With so many species to choose from, an avid fish keeper is destined to find many personal favorites to add to his or her collection.

by Ryan Harkema

SOUTH AMERICA

Genus	Species	Common Name
Aequidens	Rivulatus	True Green Terror
	sp.cf. Rivulatus	Green Terror
Amphilophus	Festae	Red Terror
Astronotus	Ocellatus	Oscar
Caquetaia	Umbriferus	Umbie
Heros	Severus	Severum
Pterophyllum	Scalare	Angelfish

IAA news

November IAA Meeting Minutes and Financial Report

President Scott Carlson brought the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Secretary-Treasurer Jo Meade read the treasurers report. Bill Lass moved to accept the report as read. Camille seconded. Approved.

Amendments to by-laws were discussed at length

and Bill Brown moved to accept amendments as presented by BOD. Seconded by Mike and Chris asked for unanimous vote. Approved. By-laws were voted to be approved as written. Each member attending received hard copy. Bylaws and positions addressed:

- The unfilled board positions were filled by

vote. Bill Brown is our new treasurer. Joe Lover is the editor. Bill Lass is the volunteer coordinator. A new position was created to replace and define the position that will soon be vacated by CSamms. Thank you for all your help Chris! The new position is Web Coordinator and is filled by Daniel Blount.

- Payment of dues as outlined in the by-laws are “suspended indefinitely to reflect the will of the members”.

- The term of officers is extended from 1 to 2 years to facilitate a staggered board not comprised of all “green” members.

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- This forum is recognized as “the primary means of communication for the IAA” and the “by-laws and the hierarchy defined by them shall be observed on the forum”.
- The anti-flaming procedure already in use on the forum was adopted and will be added to the language of the by-laws.
- Any member banned from the forum as a result of flaming is also prohibited from attending IAA events.
- The forums “For Sale” section will be “no reply”

until a more seller friendly alternative is agreed upon.

- The web coordinator, Poseidon, will appoint moderators with board approval, rather than having members electing moderators.
- The following code of conduct for moderators was added to the by-laws: Once a moderator’s duties are invoked by inappropriate posts they are expected to conduct themselves with objectivity. They are expected to issue the appropriate warning and move the post/thread (if required) without adding

any personal comments.

- Uniform language is to be developed by the web coordinator that will be used by moderators issuing 1st, 2nd and 3rd warnings for flames.
- In the interest of keeping the forum “tidy” a general questionnaire will be sent to all usernames on the site asking them to voluntarily remove any old/inactive/phony/duplicate usernames from the list. It was agreed that this was not a high priority and nobody expected a lot of cooperation.

• The board agreed to “entertain” any requests for more meetings and/or chapter status from splinter groups. No such requests exist thus far.

- Motion to accept BAP program as written on web. Jim to be in charge. Approved.
- Door prizes were handed out. Last BAP fish auctioned. 17 members were in attendance.

Submitted by Jo Meade and Scott Carlson.

/ CALENDAR OF EVENTS /

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
March 3, 2005	7:30 PM	MAS Meeting	Roseville, MN
March 13, 2005	7:00 PM	GCCA Meeting	Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, IL
April 7, 2005	7:30 PM	MAS Meeting	Roseville, MN
April 8-10, 2005	Varies	MAS Aquarium Show	Knights of Columbus Hall, Fridley, MN
April 9, 2005	12-4 PM	MAS Swap	Knights of Columbus Hall, Fridley, MN
April 10, 2005	7:00 PM	GCCA Meeting	Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, IL
April 17, 2005	10:00 AM	GCCA Swap Meet	Sheraton Hotel, Arlington Heights, IL
April 23, 2005	11:00 AM	MAS Spring Auction	Lutheran Church of Redemption, Bloomington, MN
May 5, 2005	7:30 PM	MAS Meeting	Roseville, MN
May 15, 2005	7:00 PM	GCCA Meeting	Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, IL
May 27-28, 2005	7:00 PM	GCCA Cichlid Classic	Sheraton Hotel, Arlington Heights, IL
May 29, 2005	7:00 PM	GCCA Cichlid Auction	Sheraton Hotel, Arlington Heights, IL
July 21-24, 2005	Varies	ACA 2005 Convention	Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, TX