

UnderWater



The Official Newsletter of the Iowa Aquaria Association

April 2005 | V2:N4



COVER: *Neolamprologus pulcher* "daffodil" | by Jason Selong

INSIDE: Aquarium ER | Shipping 101 | Victorian Species Profile | The Dailey Adventure



UnderWater Welcome

UnderWater

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Sadly, the IAA lost a valuable member last month. Bill Lass, our Volunteer Coordinator passed away. Bill was the husband of our secretary Jo Meade and had been a dedicated hobbyist active in the GIAA (Greater Iowa Aquarium Association), the EIAA (Eastern Iowa Aquaria Association) and more recently gracing the IAA with his years of wisdom and experience. Bill was invaluable in the drafting of our by-laws and had much to offer our up-coming auctions.

We are currently working on several awards to be named after Bill and an oak tree to be planted in his honor. Contact our treasurer or any board member to contribute to this cause. Bill will be greatly missed around here but his influence will remain for a long time.

The dates for this years meetings are being announced in this newsletter. It is our desire to establish and repeat a set schedule each year. The proposed dates are the result of tire-

less research and endless compromise. Unfortunately there will always be conflicts for some of the people some of the time. If someone has constructive criticism AND a valid alternative to a date contact a board member.

Also remember that informal get-togethers can be put together closer to home and/or on a more convenient day for smaller groups. No club business can be conducted at these events but unlimited fun can be had!

Editor's note:

Be sure to check out our new merchandise program at www.cafepress.com/iowaaquaria. We currently have about 40 different products, and will probably be more in the future.

Show off your support of the IAA!

The photo contest was a great success. I look forward to seeing more great photos this month. Remember, the deadline is

April 20th, so get shooting.

If you want to contribute articles or photos to UnderWater, please let me know. I need both for the May issue!

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UnderWater Photography Contest

Bill Brown (manus)
Lamprologus Leleupi

1st
PLACE



Jeff Shelton (jeff)
Blenny
Honorable Mention



Bill Brown (manus)
F1 *Cyphotilapia gibberosa* "Bismark"
Honorable Mention



Bob Randall (bobrfish)
Aulonocara sp. "Maleri Island"
Honorable Mention

Entries for next month's UnderWater Photography Contest are due by April 20th. Send your best photos to underwater@iowaaquaria.com. Manus will receive a first-place certificate at the next official IAA meeting.

SHIPPING: 101

The basics of getting your fish from point A to point B

Let's start by saying, I am by no means a professional. I will only share with you what works for me. I have changed the way I ship many times, and as I learn different things that may help me, I put them to use.



SUPPLIES

You will need to make sure you have all the necessary supplies to ship. To start, you will need a shipping box, and I use styrofoam boxes that have a cardboard box around it. You can also make homemade shipping boxes by lining a cardboard box with sheet insulation. Secondly, you will need bags. I use 3 millimeter thick bags as I find them to be stronger and have less leaks. I still double bag as there is always a chance of the fish rupturing the bag. I also use Bag Buddies and oxygen. Bag Buddies have a mild calming effect, reduce stress, and help the fish's slime coating. And don't forget heat packs if it is cold outside. I would also suggest having some old newspaper. You will see why as we go.

PURGING

I only ship one day a week, so I can purge the fish for three days before shipping. If I am shipping fry, I only purge for two days. I do

this to avoid waste in the bag, fouling the water and increasing toxic ammonia levels. It is very important to purge your fish.

CARRIERS

At this time, I usually call my carrier and schedule a pick-up. You should set up an account if you're planning on shipping often. This will speed up your pick up. I would call your carrier no later than 24 hours before you want to ship.

BAGGING

On the night before I ship, I catch and bag the fish. I do this to help the fish settle down in the bag before it heads on its journey. I put a Bag Buddy in and just enough water to completely cover the fish with about 1-1.5" over the top of the fish. Bag Buddies are a personal choice, and you can ship successfully without them. I then fill the bag with Oxygen and check to see if there is enough water to cover the fish when I put it in the box. If you lay the

bag down, make sure the fish is in plenty of water. A good rule for me is 20% of the bag is water when you hold it upright. That seems to work well. You need to have plenty of air in the bag. Oxygen is nice if you have it.

Usually a fish can survive for about 40 hours in a bag if you have the right water to air/oxygen ratio.

After I tie the bag and inspect it for leaks, I wrap a layer of newspaper around the bag. This will make it dark and relax the fish somewhat. Crumple up some newspaper if your box has excess room in it. You do not want the bag or bags of fish bouncing around.

HEAT PACKS

If you're going to use a heat pack, never set it directly on the bags of fish. I wrap it lightly with a layer of newspaper to sit on top of the order. You can also tape them to the bottom of the lid. I find it works best if you add your

heat pack and wait for about 45 minutes before closing the box. Oxygen in the air is what activates the heat pack, and once the box is sealed, it does not allow much air in.

TAPING

You need to attach the proper invoice to the box and tape it up. If you do not tape it well, the corners of the box can catch and sometimes tear the box, leaving your styro exposed. Duct tape is not allowed by most carriers. Use good quality packing tape. Take your time and use good quality packing supplies and you will be fine.

OVERNIGHT

I recommend using an overnight shipping service. Most overnight carriers that I use pick up between 10:00 and 11:00am and deliver the next day around the same time.

I hope this brief guide helps. As you ship more and more boxes, you may think of some new ways to make shipping easier. Share your findings, and good luck.

- Randy Stricklin
(tangmaster)

AQUARIUM

ER

WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PLECOS

You've heard of shows like Emergency and 911? Well, what do you do when you have a case of "Pleco Trauma"? You certainly can't call 911. It happened like this:

I hurried into the office Monday morning, already feeling frazzled from the hour long commute, and decided to take a break... and watch my fish!

Having found out about five or so months ago that my boss was also a fishy fan, I coaxed him into letting me set up a couple tanks in the office... "for the ambiance." So I have a 40 gallon Oceanic for the front foyer and a small 10 setup at the front desk.

I grabbed a cup of coffee and sat down by the big tank, throwing a few brine shrimp flakes in and adding a few shrimp pellets for my favorite fish, the plecos. I have two 4 or 5 inch L002 tigers in there, and have been babying those guys for months! Needless to say, the only time I see my little guys is when I am adding pellets, as the lights are on

almost the entire time I'm at work. The plecos don't seem to mind if there are shrimp pellets involved, but the rest of the time, they are out of sight. Anyway, one of them immediately started grabbing the pellets, but the other one was still hiding under the driftwood. I could just make out the front of his face. Wondering why he wasn't devouring his treat, I grabbed the smallest net and swished it down to his hideaway. He immediately scooted out of there, and I noticed that he had something around his neck. What?! I moved the net back behind him and he made for the front of the tank (the net of death is chasing him, remember?). That was when I started shaking my head. Around his neck was...a RUBBER-BAND? How in the world?

I looked closer. Yep, a rubberband. And from the looks of it, it was starting to cut into the sides of his head. Now, panic set in. How am I going to get this off? I started to dial Jim's store, but he's in Adel, and I work on the east side of Des Moines. That's a good

45 minute drive one way. I couldn't get this off myself. I don't even have a steady hand for catching them, let alone "surgery"!! My next big idea was to look at the forum and see if anyone else had ever had this happen, and that's when it hit me. Larry Arnold, one of our new forum members, runs Aqualand. That's only about 10 minutes from the office, and I stop there off and on during my lunch hour.

I called Aqualand and spoke with Larry, and even though it was before his store hours, I rushed up and they let me in with the little guy. (By now, I am imagining him rolling his eyes back in his head and sticking his tongue out...) Larry laughed at me for being such a schmuck about this, but in less than a minute, he had the little guy out and was rolling the rubberband over the top of his head, proving it wasn't strangling him. Then, very quickly and carefully, he took a small pair of manicure scissors and SNIP. A little more water added to a bowl, another laugh, and it was over!

I'm so glad I thought of Larry. He was so good to help out a panicking fish owner! The little guy is back in the big tank, and although I noticed two little tears back near his barbels, he doesn't seem to care. His color is good, and he was munching shrimp pellets as I wrote this.

I don't know what I would have done without Larry. He did give me a lot of goofy looks, but geez, I was being nutty! And, it's all in good fun.

You know, I think that is one of the best things about the IAA and the forum. Everyone cares and is willing to help out one another. Sometimes it costs you a little and sometimes they rib you a little (doesn't that part sound a bit like a family?), but the main thing is that everyone is ready to help out with whatever they need. I'm really glad that Jim mentioned the IAA and the forum to me. And that didn't cost me two red cents...

- Sharon Wright (Cinn)

THE ADVENTURE

Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center

Our next adventure takes us to the East Coast of the United States. Over my Christmas vacation I had the luxury of visiting the Virginia Marine Science Center. Of all my fish adventures during my vacation, this was the most enjoyable. The museum is located at 717 General Booth Boulevard in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

There was a small admission fee of \$12 for adults and \$8 for children three and under. The admission gets you access to several large aquariums, many smaller aquariums, and an assortment of other activities. They also have an IMAX theater which you can "combo" with the "museum only" package for a few dollars more.

The first exhibit we encountered was the "Coastal River Room." This 2000-square-foot adventure is of native origins, and was very nature-sque. Lit by skylights, there is a world of real plant and animal life. They had a large freshwater pond with a smaller stream running from it. At the front of the exhibit, the pond had a large piece of acrylic for viewing the aquatic life. There were channel catfish, carp, largemouth bass, eels, turtles, gars, and ducks. There were also additional native fishes in the exhibit. I cannot say enough about this exhibit, and its natural feel.

The next large exhibit we came to was a ray tank. It was a 5000 gallon saltwater display that was completely open at the top. Picture a three foot deep swimming pool, and you have a good picture of what it was like. There were portholes around the aquarium for viewing the rays at different perspectives. From the top, anybody is allowed to put their hands into the aquarium and feel the rays. We did not attend any, but there were several shows throughout the day for this exhibit where an expert talked about rays, skates, and sharks. Aside from this, they also feed the rays for observers. In addition to the main aquarium, there were several smaller aquariums in the room housing different species of rays, and, if I remember correctly, some skates.

The next large exhibit we came to was a 50,000 gallon



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THE ADVENTURE

saltwater tank commonly called the "Chesapeake Bay Aquarium." The fishes in the aquarium are what one would typically find in the lower Chesapeake Bay area. It is also the world's largest collection of bay fish including flounder, striped bass, red drum, spot and croaker (Per Museum Website). Around this aquarium was an assortment of exhibits detailing information about marine science. For example, there were some really cool models of the different types of waves, as well as a tornado exhibit. There was also a touching area where an expert talked about various species such as starfish, rays, and horseshoe crabs.



After finishing at the Chesapeake Bay Aquarium we visited a river otter exhibit. The aquarium they were housed in was 30,000 gallons in capacity. These were very active and fun to watch. If you've never observed a river otter swim, it's something you should see.



Our next exhibit was the sea turtle exhibit. The aquarium houses 70,000 gallons of water. It had a huge viewing pane of acrylic for viewing the loggerheads, kemp's ridleys, and green sea turtles. There were also some fishes within the exhibit such as spadefish, and lookdowns. Coupled with the large exhibit, they also have a hatchling area where they gave detailed information, and allowed observation of young turtles. I greatly enjoyed the turtles, and admired their beauty and calmness.



The last major exhibit I remember visiting was a shark exhibit. It was a 300,000 gallon saltwater aquarium commonly called the "Norfolk Canyon Aquarium." In the aquarium were sand tiger, brown, and nurse sharks. In addition to the sharks, there were also jacks, stingrays, and other ocean inhabitants. They had a section of the aquarium you could walk under and view sharks from their undersides. It was interesting observing differences in the anatomical structures of the sharks.

I can't say enough about the museum. I think the main thing that attracted me was the amount of knowledge available at your disposal. For those that want to learn a little bit about marine science, this is a good place to go. In addition to this, it was a great family adventure in that it had many children's activities as well as many photo areas. Add in the IMAX Theater and it is certainly a day's



cont. on page 11

Haplochromis sp. "Kenya Gold"

The "Kenya Gold" is a stunning fish, and immediately dispels any thoughts that all Victorian Basin cichlids look the same. This fish has fast become one of my favorites, not only for appearance, but in it's behavior as well.

Location

This fish is found on the Kenya side of Lake Victoria. I have read in several places that they are also found in Lake Edward, but those sources also say it is collected exclusively there, which if that was the case we would be calling them "Uganda Gold", So I am not sure about all of that info, and for the most part discount the notion.

Appearance

Gorgeous, and that is an understatement. The body is a gold color with slight black barring throughout the body. The pectoral fins achieve a jet-black color. The dorsal is also a gold-ish color with a slight green shimmer to them and the top is trimmed with a subdued reddish coloration. The face has two dark vertical bars, one in the jaw area and another one that runs right through the eye. The tail is a continuation of the gold coloring and gradually turns red at the end. Some specimens have

red on what would be the forehead. I have seen some fish with no red and some with quite a bit, varying even within a brood. The females look much the same but without the gold color. Both sexes have a horizontal line that runs the length of the body but it is much more pronounced in the females.

Diet

The "Kenya Gold" is an omnivore and I feed NLS pellets as the staple food. I also feed Dainschi marine formula also to include some veggies in the diet plus it has cyclopeeze as an ingredient to help bring out the gold color. This is supplemented with occasional servings of frozen krill, plankton, and brine shrimp. They seem to thrive on this diet and have no health issues.

Aquarium Care

This is almost a perfect fish. In the wild this fish reaches a max length of about 1.5". As with most fish they will acquire a larger size in the aquarium, but still only achieve a size of about 2.5-3". This is nice because they can be maintained in smaller tanks for their entire lives. The attitude of this fish is

great. Kept alone in a species tank, multiple males don't present a problem. I kept 3 males and 3 females in a 20 long for quite awhile and lost no



fish due to aggression and still had breeding. Here is the great part. I have kept them in aggressive setups with nyereri and lutea and they more than held their own territory's and looked no worse for wear. I kept them in much more peaceful setups and they never showed any aggression and were quite content to cruise around looking pretty. This fish will fit in practically any community setting given that the other fish aren't real large. I have read where people have kept them with mbunas and they fit right in.

Breeding

Like most Victoria Basin

cichlids they bred pretty easily. I wasn't even really trying to breed them. A couple of other club members had them going pretty strong and I was concentrating on some others. I had seen some females holding a few times and planned to strip the momma but never seemed to get them in time and figured the fry had become supper.... I was wrong. I went to clean the tank real good one day and started pulling all the rocks out and found 8 fry hiding in there.

They were only about 3/4" and they started swimming around and the adults never bothered with them. All 8 are still alive today!

Conclusion

This is an outstanding fish and with the ease of working them into a variety of setups, there is no reason everyone shouldn't have some.

This article was provided by the Hill Country Cichlid Club in Texas. The IAA has an article share with the HCCC. Photo by the HCCC's Robert De Leon.



Pleco

The madness all started when a friend of mine was leaving for the Army and gave me an Oscar in a 5 ½ gallon tank. I bought a bigger tank for it, and in a few weeks, decided the Oscar was ugly and traded it in for some African cichlids. That was six years ago when I got my first tank, and the addiction started. At first it wasn't bad. I'd buy some fish here, a new tank once in a while. It didn't get out of hand until I started breeding cichlids three years ago. It's become a full-blown obsession. I'm now running 21 tanks with setting some more up in mind.

My fishroom is in an extra bedroom in the basement. Although I don't have any big tanks yet (my biggest tanks are 55g), I currently have 489 gallons between all of them. All are running independently with either Emperors or sponge filters for filtration. I use submersible heaters on all of them, and keep a spare on hand incase one dies out. For water changes, I try to change 50% every week on the breeding tanks, and 50% 2-3 times a week on fry tanks. Adult fish are fed New Life Spectrum, while fry get decapulated brine shrimp eggs, and juveniles are fed flake of no particular brand.

I try to maintain breeding groups of 5-6 females with 1 male. I let females hold eggs in the breeding tank for 16-21 days, depending on the fish. I then strip them using a curved tip syringe to flush the fry out. It usually only takes me 15-20 seconds with the fish out of water when I flush them like this. Then the female goes right back into the breeding tank as soon as I flush the air out of her mouth.



Tyrannochromis Macrostoma



F0 Met. Sp. White Top Hara (Gallireya)

I've found that the other fish don't really notice she's missing, and it ends up being less traumatizing than letting her try to reestablish territory after isolation. Since I started using the flush method, the females show very little signs of stress, and return to their normal selves within a few minutes of being reintroduced to the tank.

My main focus has been breeding Malawians, mostly Peacocks, and Haps. I've recently been breeding a few of the rarer Mbuna. Thanks to Tangmaster, and Dan at Strandell's, I've been slowly moving more and more into Tanganyikan cichlids.

My future plans are first to get a 125-150 gallon tank for the Tyrannochromis and Fossorochromis. I'll probably throw some Cyrtocara Moori or Placidichromis Phenochilus in there with them. After that's taken care off, I intend to build another wall rack. Who knows what I'll stock that with? Maybe some Xenos and Cyps, a Frontosa colony, a

FISHROOM '05 TOUR

Yeah dude, uh, give me an ounce of the MALAWI WOWWIE

couple of Tropheus colonies, but really who knows. No matter what happens, it'll be fun getting there.

My current fish list (breeding groups unless stated otherwise):

- Juvenile Altolamprologus Black Calvus
- Juvenile Alto. Red Fin Compressiceps
- Apistograma Caucotoides (triple red)
- Aulonocara Lemon Jake
- Aul. Benga
- Aul. Eureka Red
- Aul. German Red
- Juvenile Aul. Albino German Red
- Aul. Albino German Red
- Aul. Albino Maleri
- Bristlenose plecos
- Reverse trio-F0 Cyno. sp. Lion (Magunga)
- 1 Cyphotilapia Frontosa
- Juvenile Eretmodus Cyanostictus
- Juvenile Fossorochromis Rostratus
- Labidochromis Caeruleus
- Juvenile Lamprologus Lelupi
- Juvenile trio of Lepediolamprologus Cylindricus
- F0 Metriaclima Msobo Heteropictus (Tumbi Reef)
- F0 trio of Met. Sp. White Top Hara (Gallireya)
- Protomelas Taiwan Reef
- Pseudotropheus sp. Flameback
- Juvenile Ps. Elongotus (Chewere)
- Ps. Perspicax Yellow Breast (Pombo)
- Juvenile Tropheus Duboisi (Maswa)
- F0 Tr. Ikola Kaiser
- Pair of Tyrannochromis Macrostoma

-by Jason Jenkins



F0 Tr. Ikola Kaiser



F0 Metriaclima Msobo Heteropictus (Tumbi Reef)

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 Shi | | | | Infant/Toddler T-Shirt | Infant Creeper | Bib | Large
 M | | | | Mousepad | Wall Clock | Teddy Bear | BBQ Apron | Black
 Cap | Tracker | Hat | | | Wall Calendar | Calendar Print | Journal | Greeting Cards (Package of 6)

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Dailey THE ADVENTURE

adventure. It has something for everybody.

By the way, there are numerous other exhibits that were not ideal for winter conditions. Upon entering the build-

ing, there was a 60,000 gallon saltwater aquarium that houses harbor seals. In addition, they also have viewing of whales, and dolphins that enter the area, but it's all opportunistic as these aren't museum specimens.

I'm assuming that not many of us will get out that way, but if you do I would highly recommend visiting. For more information, please view the Virginia Marine Science Center's website at <http://vmsm.com/index.shtml>



Brett Dailey's (physicsboy) Pseudo. Acei "Black Tanzanian"



Jeff Shelton's (jeff) Snail and Xenia

2005 IAA (BAP) 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

/ CALENDAR OF EVENTS /

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
April 7	7:30 PM	MAS Meeting	St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Roseville, MN
April 8-10	Varies	MAS Aquarium Show	Knights of Columbus Hall, Fridley, MN
April 9	12-4 PM	MAS Swap	Knights of Columbus Hall, Fridley, MN
April 9	10:00 AM	EIAA Auction	Coralville Ramada Westfield Inn, North Coralville, IA
April 10	7:00 PM	GCCA Meeting	Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, IL
April 12	7:00 PM	EIAA Meeting	Kenwood Park Presbyterian Church, NE Cedar Rapids, IA
April 17	10:00 AM	GCCA Swap Meet	Sheraton Hotel, Arlington Heights, IL
April 23	11:00 AM	MAS Spring Auction	Lutheran Church of Redemption, Bloomington, MN
May 5	7:30 PM	MAS Meeting	St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Roseville, MN
May 7	10:00 AM	IAA Swap/Meeting	Best Western Des Moines North (See next page)
May 10	7:00 PM	EIAA Meeting	Kenwood Park Presbyterian Church, NE Cedar Rapids, IA
May 15	7:00 PM	GCCA Meeting	Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, IL
May 27-28	7:00 PM	GCCA Cichlid Classic	Sheraton Hotel, Arlington Heights, IL
May 29	7:00 PM	GCCA Cichlid Auction	Sheraton Hotel, Arlington Heights, IL
July 21-24	Varies	ACA 2005 Convention	Radisson Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, TX

May. 7, 2005
SwapMeet from 10am-12pm
Speaker at 1pm
Meeting at 2pm
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Looks like it's IAA SwapMeet time again.

IOWA AQUARIA ASSOCIATION