

Buckeye Bulletin

February 2015



In this edition of The Buckeye Bulletin...

- BAP Updates
- ✓ EXCHANGE article
- 🗸 Carl Olszewski Inca Stone Article

Next Meeting on February 6th, 2015 @ 8pm



Ohio Cichlid Association

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For membership info please contact Andrew Subotnik:



A Rusty Cichlid is a beautiful Malawian Cichlid with a wondrous landscape of colors. If you haven't tried these Cichlids out, grab a few; you won't regret it. A more common fish but one that will always catch an observer's eyes.

In this Issue of the Buckeye Bulletin...

Monthly Features President's Message Editor's Message Bowl Show Results Cichlid BAP Results Catfish BAP Results Program Preview 2014/15 Program Preview This Month in OCA History Exchange Article



President's Message Don Danko





Hope you were able to join us at the January meeting to hear Gary Mendez speak on his 200+ tank hobby! Gary gave a great talk with lots of videos of his impressive collection. He also showed a pic or two of his amazing pond. Thanks much for your enthusiastic and informative talk, Gary!

Carl Olszewski made his debut as Bowl Show Chairman and he had some nice entries to judge. Best of show was Nick Zarzeczny's fabulous Vampire Pleco. Be sure to see what the February classes are inside this bulletin and bring one of your favorites in to show off to your fellow members. If you win best of show for the month, there's a \$20 prize!

Many thanks go out to Ken Walker for conducting the Auction for the month. There were many cool BAP entries, Buck-a-Bag items and Jim Smith Fund donations this month that included Chocolate Cichlids, unusual Cory Cats and many other species. Thanks much to Steve Zarzeczny, Mike D'Aversa from RMS Aquaculture for their donation of Tatia intermedia, the Milky Way Wood Cat, and a good sized portion of glass worms. We sincerely appreciate the ongoing support.



A stunning Geophagus Altifrons! Mark Chaloupka and Steve Heinbaugh handed out many Cichlid and Catfish Breeder Award certificates of achievement at the monthly meeting. It is great to see so many members get involved in this recognition program and to share some of the cool species with other members through the BAP auction.

Mark DeWerth ran another outstanding raffle with many awesome items donated by our strong supporters. The final large prize went to new member, Joe Watson. Joe took home a 10 gallon Marineland LED tank setup, donated by the United Pet Group. I think Joe said he was looking for tanks when I spoke with him, so this was good fortune and good timing!

Our Ohio Cichlid Association Winter Auction will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7th, at the Strongsville Holiday Inn. Look for info in this bulletin for details. And in case you're wondering, yes, our monthly meeting is the day before the auction...

I look forward to seeing you at the February 6that the Ohio Cichlid Association meeting at the Old Oak Bible Church at 7575 Old Oak Blvd in Middleburg Hts. Be sure to bring a friend! Also, check us out on Facebook, <u>www.ohiocichlid.com</u> and on the OCA Forum at http://www.cichlidae.com/forum/viewforum.php?f=40.

Regards,

Don



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GCAS Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society

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Next Social Meeting – February 6th, 2014 Old Oak Church, 7575 Old Oak Blvd, Middleburg Heights, Ohio

Meeting Starts at:

8pm

Directions:

From the North take I-71 South

Take exit 235 (Bagley Rd.). Turn Right onto Bagley. Turn left onto Old Oak Blvd. Church is about ½ mile on left.

From the South take I-71 North

Take exit 234. Turn Right onto Pearl Rd. (42) Turn Left onto Fowles Rd. Turn Right onto Old Oak Blvd. Church is on the right 1/10 mile.

Old Oak Church 7575 Old Oak Blvd. Middleburg Heights, Ohio



Program Preview – January 2015 MARK SABAJ PEREZ

Mark Sabaj Perez was born in Brookfield, Illinois. As an undergraduate at the University of Richmond, in Virginia, he gained valuable early field experience helping in a study of North American chubs and dace. He earned Bachelors and Masters Degrees at Richmond, and his Ph.D., in 2002, from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

From 1995-2000, Mark served as Collection Manager of Fishes for the Illinois Natural History Survey. In 2001 he accepted a similar position with The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, in Philadelphia, which he has held ever since.

Mark has published 45 peer-reviewed papers, collaborating with 67 co-authors. Topics of these studies include descriptions of many new species, mostly catfish, but also including a cichlid, a river ray and two crayfishes. A special project has been a re-organization of the catfish family Doradidae (eg Striped Raphael), which includes descriptions of a new genus and 12 new species.

Mark's field work has taken him to many places in the US and Canada, to Asia and Northern Europe, and all over South America. An expedition to Guyana was covered by National Geographic Magazine in 2002, and more recently, his work in Mongolia has been included in a documentary about the Khangai Mountains.

In 2003, the US National Science Foundation funded a huge project that attempts to discover and classify all the world's catfishes. Mark served a as Co-Principal Investigator of this endeavor, called the All Catfish Species Inventory (silurus.acnatsci.org). The NSF also funded his current big project, which is to study the Lower Xingu river rapids, in Brazil. Various parts of this habitat will either dry out or become inundated, because of the Belo Monte Dam, which is currently under construction. (For details, go online to Planet Catfish, click "Cool", look under "About".) This work informs the presentation he will be giving us this month:

"Xingu Project: Survey of a Highly Diverse, Globally Unique and Immediately Imperiled Ecosystem."

Next month, Matt Shauer, of NBM Aquatics, will talk Corys.



A Special thanks to OCA Board member GARY MENDEZ For his presentation at the January Club Meeting Excellent job!



OCA Social Meeting Program Preview 2015

February 6 **Mark Sabaj Perez** The Academy of Natural Sciences, Drexel University, Philadelphia "Xingu Project: Survey of a Highly Diverse, Globally Unique and Immediately Imperiled Ecosystem"

March 6 **Matt Shauer** Of NBM Aquatics "KISS Corys: Tips for Keeping Breeding and Raising Some of the Most Popular Aquarium Catfish"

> April 3 **Dan Sharifi** Of Cichlids of the Americas "Husbandry and Care of New World Cichlids"

> > May 1 **Phil Benes** 6000 Gallon Pond

June 5 **Dave Schumacher** Of Dave's Rare Aquarium Fish "Lake Malawi Mbuna"

> July No meeting

August 7 **Dr Ron Coleman** California State University, Sacramento Costa Rican Cichlids

> September 4 **Dr. Jay Stauffer** Pennsylvania State University

Plan ahead -Don't miss a moment!

Membership Reminder

Thank you to all who have supported this club. Membership for 2015 is due. If you have not taken advantage of the terrific deals offered with Extravaganza Registration you can still renew for \$15 for one year or \$25 for two.

Sign up through our website Ohiocichlid.com and pay with PayPal, See me at the meeting or email me at OCAmember@gmail.com

Thanks, Hilary





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Good for the Hobby – Organizations – Industry

Ray "Kingfish" Lucas

Thanks for 25 years and 500 shows!

Cichlid Breeders Awards Program Through January 2015 Data calculated and stored by Mark Chaloupka

Bryan Davis	
Altolamprologus compressiceps "Sumbu shell"	20
Altolamprologus fasciatus	20
Julidochromis marlieri "Gombe"	15
Xystichromis sp. "Kyoga flamenback"	10
Tom & Carolyn Evers	
Cryptoheros sajica	10
Dennis Kuehn	
Sciaenochromis fryeri	15
Charles Nowakowski	
Aulonocara baenschi "Benga peacock"	10
Aulonocara sp. "OB peacock"	10
Geophagus sp. "red head Tapajos"	15
Hypselecara temporalis	15
Metriaclima estherae "red zebra"	10
Metriaclima lombardoi (Kenyi)	10
Steve Olander	
Labeotropheus trewavasae "Lundu"	10
Pelvicachromis pulcher	10
Pseudotropheus sp. "polit"	10
Eric & Rhonda Sorensen	
Aulonocara hueseri "midnight peacock"	10
Jonathan Strazinsky	
Caquetaia umbrifera	20

Cichlid Breeders Awards Program Through January 2015 Data calculated and stored by Mark Chaloupka

MASTER BREEDER 1000 POINT LEVEL

Lew Carbone	-	2700
Don Danko	-	2380
Dan Woodland	-	2070
Bryan Davis	65	1335
Bill Loudermilk	-	1200
Linda Wallrath	-	1130
Rich & Maggie Schoeffel	-	1065
Mark Chaloupka	-	1030
John Tesar	-	1020

900 POINT LEVEL

Dennis Tomazin	-	965
Josh Cunningham	-	930
Tom Swiderski	-	905

800 POINT LEVEL

Dustin Brummitt	-	840
-----------------	---	-----

700 POINT LEVEL

Gary Mendez	-	770
Jeff Yadlovsky	-	740
Ken & Sue Galaska	-	720

600 POINT LEVEL

Jeff Natterer	-	690
Ken & Sue Galaska	-	685
Hilary & Antonio Lacerda	-	655
Charlie & Cathy Suk	-	615
Steve Zarzeczny	-	600

500 POINT LEVEL

Bill Schwartz	-	595
Tim Craig	-	540
Jonathan Strazinsky	20	540
Bob Blazek	-	515
Ron Georgeone	-	510

400 POINT LEVEL

Rick Hallis	-	495
Phil Hypes	-	475
Kyle May	-	445
George Anagnostopoulos	-	430
Bob Bina	-	415

300 POINT LEVEL

Tyler Toncler	-	390
Eric & Rhonda Sorensen	10	345
David Hale	-	335
Tony Poth	-	335
Gary Zalewski	-	325

200 POINT LEVEL

James Shakour	-	275
Ken & Karen Grimmett	-	270
Dave Esner	-	240
Ken Walker	-	220
Greg Senn	-	215
Tom & Carolyn Evers	10	210
Dennis Kuehn	15	210
Paul Collander	-	205

100 POINT LEVEL

Marc & Dawn DeWerth-195Ozeal Hunter-190Chuck Carroll-185Jonathan Dietrich-180Andrew Subotnik-180Frank Mueller-160Bob Evers-155Steve Heinbaugh-145David Ayers-145Greg Seith-1155Bill & Janice Bilski-125Justin Way-125Joe Ring-125Peter Nario-Redmond-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115Raymond Langer-110				
Chuck Carroll-185Jonathan Dietrich-180Andrew Subotnik-180Frank Mueller-160Bob Evers-155Steve Heinbaugh-150David Ayers-145Jason Mylnar-145Greg Seith-135Dan Ogrizek-125Justin Way-125Joe Ring-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Marc & Dawn DeWerth	-	195	
Jonathan Dietrich-180Andrew Subotnik-180Frank Mueller-160Bob Evers-155Steve Heinbaugh-150David Ayers-145Jason Mylnar-145Greg Seith-135Bill & Janice Bilski-125Justin Way-125Joe Ring-120Peter Nario-Redmond-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Ozeal Hunter	-	190	
Andrew Subotnik-180Frank Mueller-160Bob Evers-155Steve Heinbaugh-150David Ayers-145Jason Mylnar-145Greg Seith-135Bill & Janice Bilski-135Dan Ogrizek-125Justin Way-125Joe Ring-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Chuck Carroll	-	185	
Frank Mueller-160Bob Evers-155Steve Heinbaugh-150David Ayers-145Jason Mylnar-145Greg Seith-145Bill & Janice Bilski-135Dan Ogrizek-125Justin Way-125Joe Ring-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Jonathan Dietrich	-	180	
Bob Evers-155Bob Evers-155Steve Heinbaugh-150David Ayers-145Jason Mylnar-145Greg Seith-145Bill & Janice Bilski-135Dan Ogrizek-125Justin Way-125Joe Ring-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Andrew Subotnik	-	180	
Steve Heinbaugh-150David Ayers-145Jason Mylnar-145Greg Seith-145Bill & Janice Bilski-135Dan Ogrizek-125Justin Way-125Joe Ring-120Peter Nario-Redmond-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Frank Mueller	-	160	
David Ayers-145Jason Mylnar-145Jason Mylnar-145Greg Seith-145Bill & Janice Bilski-135Dan Ogrizek-125Justin Way-125Joe Ring-115Peter Nario-Redmond-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Bob Evers	-	155	
Jason Mylnar-145Greg Seith-145Bill & Janice Bilski-135Dan Ogrizek-125Justin Way-125Joe Ring-120Peter Nario-Redmond-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Steve Heinbaugh	-	150	
Greg Seith-145Bill & Janice Bilski-135Dan Ogrizek-125Justin Way-125Joe Ring-120Peter Nario-Redmond-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	David Ayers	-	145	
Bill & Janice Bilski-135Dan Ogrizek-125Justin Way-125Joe Ring-120Peter Nario-Redmond-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Jason Mylnar	-	145	
Dan Ogrizek-125Justin Way-125Joe Ring-120Peter Nario-Redmond-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Greg Seith	-	145	
Justin Way-125Joe Ring-120Peter Nario-Redmond-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Bill & Janice Bilski	-	135	
Joe Ring-120Peter Nario-Redmond-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Dan Ogrizek	-	125	
Peter Nario-Redmond-115Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115	Justin Way	-	125	
Aaron Stevens-115David Toth-115Association	Joe Ring	-	120	
	Peter Nario-Redmond	-	115	
	Aaron Stevens	-	115	Ohio Cichlid
Raymond Langer - 110	David Toth	-	115	Association
	Raymond Langer	-	110	Association

BREEDER LEVEL

Marile I Icontin atom	T	95
Mark Huntington	-	
Justin Way	-	90
Pete Gembka	-	80
Steve Olander	30	80
Denis Rozmus	-	80
Rick Wood	-	75
Charles Nowakowski	70	70
Andrew Schock	-	70
Bob Tillman	-	70
Matt Urbin	-	70
Carl Olszewski	-	65
Dolores Bacisin	-	60
Chris Jaskolka	-	55
Dave Dimond	-	50
John Kahl	-	50
Nicholas Zarzeczny	-	50
Alex Gorges	-	45
Jim Jensen	-	45
Dave Dimond	-	50
John Kaminski	-	40
Paul Palisin	-	40
Ethan Wiley	-	40
Christopher Sooy	-	35
Tom Tansey	-	35
Jason Gorges	-	30
John Griffith	-	30
Paul Hutnyak	-	30
Wayne Corman	_	25
Fred Roberts		25
Andy Lacerda	-	20
Scott Meyers	_	20
Bill Sensor	-	20
Anthony Scarton	-	15
Jim & Amy Damm	_	10
Ron Drungil		10
Ben Jensen	_	10
Mike Trader		10
wince frauer	-	10

The points list for the Breeders Award Program has been updated to include only current members. If you are a current member and your name has been omitted, please see the B.A.P. Chairman at the social meeting so we can correct any errors.

Please remember: You may only turn in a species or strain of fish for B.A.P. points one time. If you need a list of what you have been credited with, see the BAP chairman at the social meeting.

Catfish Breeders Awards Program Through January 2015 Data calculated and stored by Steve Heinbaugh

	If your name has been reme list, please check your	
Breeder	Species	Points
Dave Ayres	Ancistrus sp. Pucallpa Ancistrus sp. Super Red	10 10
Phil Ayres	Corydoras oiapoquensis	10
Dan OgrizekSteve HeinbaughDave AyresPhil Ayres10Don & Marilyn DankoKen WalkerDan WoodlandMatt UrbinEric & Rhonda SorensenBryan DavisPhil HypesHilary LacerdaTom & Carolyn EversKen GalaskaTyler TonclerJohn KaminskiKyle MayKaren & Ken GrimmettLew CarboneAndrew SchockTony PothJosh CunninghamGary MendezJohn TesarDavid TothPaul PalisinAnthony ScrantonJon DietrichRichard ShamrayWilliam ZarzecznyWayne CormanMark ChaloupkaBob EversDavid HaleJonathan StrazinskyBob & Jennifer Tillman	320 290 240 200 195 110 100 90 75 60 60 60 60 60 50 45 45 45 40 40 30 30 30 30 30 30 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	

Congratulations!

Matt Urbin Catfish BAP Trophy Winner 50 Points



Participating in the BAP program is an awesome opportunity to all OCA members. When you spawn a new Cichlid for Catfish, bring in 6 one inch fry to receive accolades for your achievement.





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Freshwater Aquariums & Tropical Discovey

Amazonasmagazine.com

Monthly Bowl Show Program Through January 2015 Data calculated and stored by Carl Olszewski

January's categories were...

Tanganyikan Shell- dwellers Central Americans under 6" Loracariids (Pleco types) over 6" **February's categories will be...** Victorian Basin Angelfish Synodontis and other Mochokids

January Results				This Year's Results	
1.	NICK ZARZECNY	15	1.	NICK ZARZECNY	15
2.	JUSTIN WAY	10	2.	JUSTIN WAY	10
3.	TONY POTH	7	3.	TONY POTH	7

Justin Way shows us what a true Black Ocellatus should be!





Awesome pleco from the January Bowl Show. Entered by Nick Zarzeczny

Congratulations!

Matt Urbin Catfish BAP Trophy Winner 50 Points



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Bowl Show 2015 Schedule

January Tanganyikan Shell- dwellers

Central Americans under 6" Loracariids (Pleco types) over 6"

February Victorian Basin Angelfish Synodontis and other Mochokids



See Carl Olszewski with any 2015 Bowl Show questions!

March

Pseudotropheus, Cynotilapia, Melanochromis South Americans under 6"-- exclude Angels, Discus, Apistos√ Catfish—exclude Callichthids, Loracariids, Mochokids (see other classes for explanations)

April

Peacocks Central Americans over 6" Freshwater Crusta- ceans

May

Tanganyikan Mouth- brooders--exclude Frontosa South Americans over 6" Loracariids under 6"

June Mbuna--exclude Pseudo, Cyno, Melano Discus, Uaru Open Catfish, limit 3 per participant (all Cats eligible)

July No meet

No meeting

August

Old World - exclude Rift Lakes and Victorian Basin Open New World, limit 3 Open Tanganyika, limit 3

September

Frontosa Open Old World, ex- clude Malawi, Tang. Corys and other Callichthyids

October

Malawi "Haps" Apistos Fish Photography

November

Female cichlids, limit 3 Telmatochromis, Chalinochromis Loaches and Botias

December

Tanganyikan "Lamps"—exclude Shell-dwellers Julidochromis Open Malawi, limit 3







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This Month in OCA History February Lew Carbone, OCA Historian



1984: In Issue 5 of the Buckeye Cichlid Lovers' Bulletin, Neadean Gumto and editor Louise Stachowiak publish a questionnaire. Members are asked for their opinions of the bulletin and in what direction they'd like the 6 month-old group to go. *This is but one in a series of events that lead to the founding of the OCA.*

1999: At this month's board meeting, a motion was passed to present a Catfish Breeders Award program proposal to the membership. The proposal was put together by a committee, with the input of January social meeting speaker Shane Linder. It will be published in the Buckeye Cichlid Lovers Bulletin in March and April, and put before the membership at the April social meeting for approval.

2001: Many of the January bulletins arrived at members' home in damaged condition. The problem was discussed at the board meeting, and the following was part of Karen Crumroy's Secretary Report. (It should be noted that Karen was an amphibian enthusiast.)

The place we have them printed takes them to the downtown post office branch to be mailed out and the weirdest thing happened. The same day our bulletin went out there was a very rare shipment of "paper eating newts" that arrived at the post office and of course one of the mail carriers was overwhelmed with curiosity, even though the outer box said "DO NOT OPEN NEAR PAPER PRODUCTS" they figured one fast peek never hurt anyone and well they opened the box to see these wonderful little creatures. And as fast as the box was opened, the smell of freshly printed bulletins entered the box and hundreds of these hungry little buggers were out eating everything. Needless to say most bulletins were saved but some were damaged. So from the bottom of our hearts....IT WAS NOT OUR FAULT! WE'RE SO SORRY!!! PLEASE FORGIVE US AND THE NEWTS.

EXCHANGE Article "Tilapia" By William Berg of Sweden For http://www.tilapi.ws 2005

www.aquarticles.com

Tilapia is a genus of large cichlids with more than 100 species. They are naturally found in Africa and in the Levant region in the Middle East, but are found today in many waters around the world as a result of tilapia farming. Tilapia farming has been an important food source in some areas for more than 2500 years.

Tilapia are especially well suited for farming since they are fast growing and hardy. This has made tilapia a very important protein source in some poor areas. For example, tilapia played a very important role for the survival of the people in Taiwan after World War 2. Many hope that tilapia farming will be able to play an equally large role in ending hunger in poor areas today.

The most common 'tilapia' in tilapia farms are not really tilapia, but rather fish of the genus *Oreochromis*. The genus *Oreochromis* and *Sarotherodon* are called tilapia in many languages including English, but are not tilapia in the true sense, since they don't belong to the genus Tilapia. This said, true tilapia fish are appreciated as food fish in many countries. As well as being introduced to many waters around the world, tilapia have established themselves in even more areas after escaping from farms. Tilapia can establish a strong population in a very short time span if the conditions are right, and many biologists fear what these newly established populations can do to the native fishes in the area. The fish is now prohibited in Florida as a result of several populations establishing themselves in the state. Australia is also especially sensitive to the intrusions of these fish, and is already suffering from the effects of many other species that have established themselves on the continent. But that's enough general information about tilapia cichlids.

Tilapia are easy to keep in aquariums if you can offer them an aquarium that is large enough for them. The smaller tilapia species require a tank of at least 40 gallon / 150 L while the larger species require one of at least 70 gallon / 250 L. They prefer slightly basic water but can without any problem be kept in waters with a pH of 6 to 8.5.

Some tilapia species are aggressive while others are rather friendly. They are best kept with moderately aggressive fish of similar size. Don't keep them with fish that are unable to stand their ground against the tilapia. Suitable companions include non-territorial cichlids, large catfish, garpikes and tinfoil barbs. Most pleco type catfish are also suitable companions.

The aquarium should be decorated with rocks and plants. The bottom is best covered with relatively fine gravel and some flat rocks. Tilapia cichlids should not be kept with sensitive plant species, but rather with hardier species like Anubias, Amazon swordplants, crinum and Java fern.

They are very easy to feed and will accept just about anything you feed them. Tilapia can be kept and breed on nothing but pellets and will usually do very well on that diet, but it is preferable to give them a more varied diet that includes vegetables.

Some tilapia species are mouth-brooders, while many other species are substrate spawners that lay their eggs on a flat rock or in a pit they dig. Many true tilapia species are quite productive since the survival rate of the fry is low in their natural habitat. Oreochromis species are mouthbrooders and usually produce quite small fry batches. They are very easy to breed and will breed without any special needs. The fry must be removed once the female finally releases them, since they will have a very low survival rate if they are left in the same tank as their parents. Oreochromis species are best breed in harem groups.

Substrate breeding tilapia protect their eggs and fry for the first few weeks.

All tilapia fry can be feed newly hatched brine shrimp from day one, and the fry of many species are large enough to accept mashed pellets. It can sometimes be hard to find new homes for tilapia fry so you might want to take this into consideration when you decide how many fry to raise.

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Member Article Spotlight CARL OLSZEWSKI

"The Inca Stone Fish Tahuantinsuyoa Mancantzatza"



Tahuantinsuyoa Mancantzatza also known as the Inca Stone Fish, comes from the Peruvian Amazon drainage system and was first described by S.O. Kullander in 1986, so it's relatively new to the hobby. It's a dwarf cichlid and a biparental mouth brooder that lays 30-60 eggs on a leaf or other object that they can transport. Males are a little bigger and darker than the females. When I first ordered these fish, I was told they were wild caught and a little research was in order.

I had found that they prefer soft acidic water to thrive in, with a ph of 4.4. which was no problem seeing that I keep blackwater fish anyways. Once they arrived they were pretty much beaten up; all lost a lot of finnage, so into the quarantine tank they went. Once in, they all scattered to hiding places in the tank and that's where they stayed for a couple of days and would not eat.

After two days I raised the temp up from 76* to 82* slowly over the next 48 hours. By now they were use to their surroundings and were adventuring out more and more. At this time I started feeding them bloodworms and brine shrimp, which they took to immediately. Next came the pecking order which at this point I removed two of the worst to another tank and left 2 pair in the 29 gallon quarantine tank. The two pair then resided at opposite ends of the tank.

Now while I was attending The OCA Extravaganza one pair decided to spawn! I didn't even get a chance to watch the process. I had noticed that one of the fishes mouth was bulging and after 3-4 days the fry were free swimming. After a day or two I removed the fry and started them on finely crushed flake food, which they ate vigorously.

Male T. mancantzatza



Male Inca Stone Fish

A few days later I got to watch the second pair spawn and this is where I thought it got interesting, the female searches out a suitable spawning site such as a leaf or whatever they can carry. In this case it was part of a silk plant leaf about an inch square. The leaf itself was partially buried in the sand when she started pulling it out. And like all cichlids she cleaned it meticulously to the point where she thought it was good enough.

Next the male came by and started to clean also. When this was done the male started his little dance and the female would swim up to the leaf and lay a string of eggs and the male right behind her would fertilize them. This went on until the entire leaf was filled with eggs. The pair would take turns fanning the eggs and moving the leaf around with them. One time it became funny to watch them fight over where the eggs/leaf would go, I even witnessed them having a tug o war over the eggs to which side they were to go.

After four days the eggs hatch and are taken up by the parents, again they take turns mouth brooding the eggs. Once they're free swimming I start them on a diet of baby brine shrimp then later on finely crushed flake food.



Female T. mancantzatza

Female Inca Stone Fish

Overall I really like this fish, although not very colorful, it does have an interesting breeding behavior. As for water conditions, it seems to adapt pretty fast to it's environment and would make a great addition to any tank



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