



## London Aquaria Society

www.londonaquariasociety.com

BELOW THE WATERLINE

BEGOM THE MATEBINE

## This Month's Speaker

Blair will be doing a talk for us about the Catfish Creek Tropical Fish Hatchery.

### Suckermouths

#### Scrape a Living

[www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/content.php?sid=2767](http://www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/content.php?sid=2767)

If you want the perfect catfish community, recent research into suckermouths of Venezuela might help. Dr Michael Hardman explains.

At least one third of all freshwater fish species occur in South and Central America. Within this neotropical fauna, the suckermouth catfishes (Loricariidae) are the most species-rich family. Suckermouths occur from Costa Rica to Argentina – and in Venezuela as many as 14 species can be found in a single stream!

For community ecologists, this hyper-diversity poses a problem. How do all these different species manage to co-exist when they seem to occupy the same niche in nature?

Until recently, suckermouths have been considered utility fishes. Most aquarists encounter the group when shown something brown by their local dealer after complaining of a constant algal problem. For many, however,

taking that 'brown thing' home is the beginning of a love affair...

Though many species certainly help keep aquaria clean of attached algae, other suckermouths feed on detritus, insect larvae, seeds and even wood.

Aquarists have enjoyed a stream of increasingly beautiful suckermouths over the past 10-15 years, many of which have become so popular that tablet foods have been developed just for them.

Although some suckermouths prefer a meaty diet, most get their food by scraping a biofilm of fungi, algae and the tiny animals that grow on submerged surfaces such as fallen trees or rocks. Because there are so many such surfaces in the environment, and that biofilm quickly replenishes itself, suckermouths have a basically unlimited resource.

But if most suckermouths in a stream are all feeding on biofilm, why do we see so many different kinds in a

small stream in Venezuela? Dr. Nathan Lujan, a graduate of Auburn University in Alabama, USA, wanted an answer and compared suckermouth communities in Venezuela, Guyana, Brazil and Peru.

### Wealth of the Ventuari

The Rio Ventuari is a white to clearwater stream with near neutral pH, moderate alkalinity and low conductivity and a site on the upper reaches in southern Venezuela is home to 14 species.

Most are hypostomines, such as species of Ancistrus, Baryancistrus, Dekeyseria, Hemiancistrus, Hypancistrus and Leporacanthicus, but at least one loricariine (Loricariichthys) was present.

cont'd on page 4



**President**

Ron Bishop.....519-457-7907  
ron.bishop2@sympatico.ca

**Vice-President**

Karl Baumgarten.....519-318-2308  
baumgarten\_karl@yahoo.ca

**Treasurer/Website**

Eric Geissinger.....519-672-9168  
kegboy@gmail.com

**Member at Large**

Bob Steele.....519-473-5648  
lewest@sympatico.ca

**Secretary / Correspondence**

Sharon MacDonald.....519-453-0094  
sharon.macdonald@lhsc.on.ca

**Membership Chair**

Nancy Drummond.....519-644-2753  
nchipps-drummond@fanshawec.ca

**Library**

James Kelly.....519-681-0717

**Annual Show Chair & B.A.P./H.A.P.**

Stephen Gregson.....519-649-5019  
guppytrain@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor**

Lorraine Gregson.....519-649-5019  
koilady@execulink.com

**Monthly Jar Show**

Sarah Lee.....519-686-3473  
sarahlee@uwo.ca

**Advertising**

Bob Steele.....519-473-5648  
lewest@sympatico.ca

**Auction Chair**

Mike Milne.....519-200-5442  
mikemilne@gmail.com

**C.A.O.A.C. Representative**

Mike Milne.....519-200-5442  
mikemilne@gmail.com

**C.A.R.E.S. Co-ordinator**

Annette Bishop.....519-457-7907  
ally\_ann@hotmail.com

**Upcoming Events**

**May 10, 2011:** Klaus Steinhaus will do a talk on Tropheus

**June 14, 2011:** Elections

**July/August:** Summer break

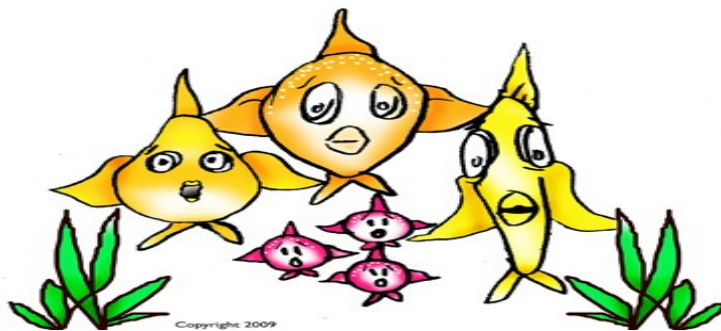
**September 13, 2011:** To be announced

**September 25, 2011:** London Aquaria Society Fall Show & Auction

**October 11, 2011:** To be announced.

**November 8, 2011:** To be announced.

**December 6, 2011:** To be announced



**Table of Contents**

President’s Message.....3  
Placodermi.....6  
Spawning *Corydoras hastatus* .....7  
Fish or Fishless Cycling.....8  
Sea Life Central.....11  
B.A.P./H.A.P. Annual Report.....12  
Monthly Jar Show Results.....13  
Monthly Jar Show (September 2011 to June 2012).....14  
C.A.O.A.C. Calendar.....15



**President's Message**

First of all I would like to say that Barb and Jerry are now parents. They had the baby on the week-end. All is great with Mom and the new baby Boy and of course Jerry is doing fine and is wearing a smile from ear to ear. Congrats to them all.

We have Blair doing a talk for us about the Catfish Creek Tropical Fish Hatchery. They had an business going in Appin and now they have moved to St. Thomas and expanded their operation. I trust this presentation will be very interesting.

It comes with sad news that Don Collins has passed away . Don was a member of the London Aquaria Society many years ago along with his son Tom ,who has been a judge at our show a few times in the last few years.

Stephen Gregson has made a great recovery as well as Dorothy Reimer who had a hip replaced and she is doing just great. Who knows maybe we have two runners for our auction.

The Jar Show this month will be Loaches, Suckers and Catfish, as well as our open class. Also the plant class.

As always we will have the auction. Please bring out your extra fish and plants for the auction. Who knows you may pick up a bargain or two.

Our large auction and show will be held on the 25th of September at Bishop Townsend Public School. We will be back in Dorchester in the spring. Bring all your extra fish and plants and the extra goodies that seem to gather in the fish room so you can get something new and interesting. Hope to see you all there. Any help will be greatly accepted

Welcome back another year has begun,

The **London Aquaria Society** is a non-profit organization, established in **June 1956**. Its main objective is to promote interest in breeding and raising tropical fish and also to provide a means through which hobbyists may exchange ideas, gain information and display their fish, sharing them in the public in the London Area.

**Advertising Rates**

- Business Card.....\$25.00
- 1/4 page.....\$40.00
- 1/2 page.....\$75.00
- Full Page.....\$125.00

Rates apply for a year coverage totaling 10 issues of our Newsletter. Articles in this publication may be reprinted provided full credit is given to the Author, the London Aquaria Society and 2 copies of the published bulletin or magazine in which the article appears, is to be mailed to:

London Aquaria Society  
P.O. Box 45010, RPO Fairmont  
London, Ontario N5W 1A3



Please Support  
Southwestern Pet Centre  
1641 Dundas Street  
(New Location Dundas & Sas-  
katoon  
London, Ontario  
They support us!!!  
519-451-7279

## Suckermouths

Scrape a Living

cont'd from front page

Nathan wanted to know exactly what they were eating. Because suckermouths scrape with fine teeth, their stomach contents are typically a brown mush. Not much can be learned from this approach as it only considers what the fish has just eaten rather than what is consumed over a lifetime.]

**You are what you eat!** The molecules that make up different kinds of foodstuffs are understandably different. Because we digest what we eat and then use those molecules to build and repair our own bodies, if we eat mainly vegetables our bodies take on a 'vegetable signature'. If we eat mainly meat, we would have a 'meat signature'. If we do as we're told and eat a combination of meat and vegetables, our bodies have a signature ratio between the two.

That ratio depends on how much of each we eat and can tend towards meat if we like steak, or vegetables if you can't get enough carrots and peas.

In the same way, this ratio can tell us what a suckermouth eats, even if we can't watch it all the time or identify what's in its stomach. By measuring and comparing the ratio across each of the 14 different suckermouths at the Rio Ventuari site, Nathan could begin to understand if they were all eating the same or different things.

**All you can eat buffet:** Nathan found that each suckermouth species had its own signature, but that some formed a tight cluster. *Hypancistrus contradens*, *Leporacanthicus galaxias* and *L. triactis* had meat signatures that suggest that these are feeding mainly on other animals such as aquatic insects, worms, shrimp or molluscs (snails and clams).

cont'd on page 5



### **PET PARADISE SUPERSTORE**

**Locally Owned & Operated Since 1995**

**LONDON'S LARGEST SELECTION OF  
PUPPIES, KITTENS, REPTILES, FISH, AND  
SMALL ANIMALS**

- Full line of Pet and Aquarium Supplies
- Knowledgeable Friendly Staff
- Great Package Deals, Reasonable Rates
- Pets Always Welcome!

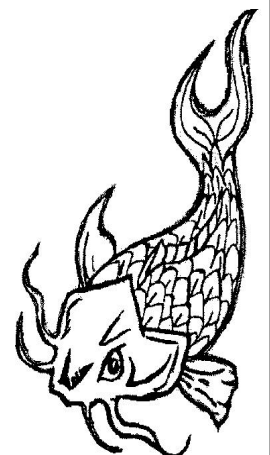
**RECEIVE 10% OFF FISH AND  
SUPPLIES WHEN YOU PRE-  
SENT YOUR AQUARIA SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP CARD.**

#### **Our Store Hours:**

Mon-Fri.....9:30 a.m.— 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday.....9:30 a.m.— 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday.....11:00 a.m.— 6:00 p.m.

**519-432-1600**

1080 Adelaide St. North  
London, Ontario



## Suckermouths

Scrape a Living

cont'd from page 4

Aquarists have noticed this in Vampire plecs (*Leporacanthicus*) which in the aquarium shun courgette in favour of prawns and musselmeat.

A loose cluster was formed of *Ancistrus* sp., *Peckoltia vermiculata*, *Pseudolithoxus anthrax*, *Baryancistrus beggini*, *Hemiancistrus subviridis* and *Hypancistrus furunculus*. This group had a meat/vegetables signature, suggesting a more varied diet.

The remaining species had ratios leaning towards vegetable rather than meaty diets. These included *Lasiancistrus tentaculatus*, *Dekeyseria scaphirhyncha*, *Hypostomus rhanthos*, *Hemiancistrus guahiborum* and *Loricariichthys brunneus*.

**What does this mean?** Because different species have different signatures, they are likely eating different things. In the aquarium, you control the menu and members of the community, and to promote the most peaceful, natural and thriving suckermouth community should choose species that eat different things and of different sizes.

If used to feeding peas, spinach, carrots and potatoes to your plecs, include shelled prawns and fresh musselmeat. Frozen bloodworms, water fleas and brine shrimp help round out the diet. Just ensure there's enough to go around and that none remains in the aquarium an hour or so later. It's important to offer a variety of foods to plecs as each has its own particular set of needs, and, if we are to provide the best possible care for our animals, we should at least give them everything they need.

**Check diet before buying:** Though traditionally considered detritivores or algivores, suckermouths are now being characterised as being trophically specialised. That means different species feed on a diversity of foods such as insect larvae, seeds, clams, wood as well as algae. Be sure to research the species you intend to buy and provide its preferred diet.

cont'd on page 6



166 GRAND RIVER AVENUE PHONE (519) 756-6225  
BRANTFORD, ONTARIO FAX (519) 756-5140

[www.tropicalfishroom.ca](http://www.tropicalfishroom.ca)

**Quality Tropical Fish & Supplies!**

## Suckermouths Scrape a Living

cont'd from page 5

**Did you know?** The suckermouth catfish family (Loricariidae) contains more than 80 genera and 800 species. By any index, it is an evolutionary success story. The reasons might include its ancient age, specialisation on abundant food sources and low dispersal. Because suckermouths stay close to home, any separation of their river basin can quickly isolate a population and enable speciation to take place.

**Expert Q and A:** Dr. Nathan Lujan has studied the systematics, jaw mechanics and feeding ecology of suckermouths in Brazil, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela. He is currently a postdoctoral research associate at Texas A&M University and focusing on bulldog plecs, Chaetostoma.

**Why are suckermouths so successful?** They are an old group and diversity accumulates with time; older lineages having more species. They don't move much or migrate either, which means that local populations can easily become isolated and drift to a new morphology.

In South America, river basins have seen much change and resident populations of suckermouths have likely evolved in line with the rivers. In terms of evolutionary age and abundance in streamfish communities of South America, I think this has something to do with their early specialisation on a resource of biofilm that is essentially unlimited. Suckermouths have been successful because they have evolved unique ways of accessing it.

**Some loricariids are distributed throughout South America, but others are found only in certain places. How do you explain this?**

Those with broad distributions live in main channels of large rivers and have few barriers. Other species with narrow distributions are adapted to small river habitats and because there is low connectivity between adjacent river basins, they can't get out. Ancistrus and Lasiancistrus are generalists, but there is much diversity in these genera, with some species having very small ranges.

**Fish diversity in South America is incredible. Do loricariids follow the general pattern or are they exceptional?**

They follow the general pattern in that they are an ancient lineage. They are exceptional in that they have no competition for food and don't move much. Many suckermouths spawn in cavities found in most streams and stray little from their birthplace. They are also somewhat exceptional in that they exploit a niche (eating wood and detritus) that in temperate systems is filled by insects.



### Hours of Operation

Monday-Thursday  
11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Friday  
10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Saturday  
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday

11 Frank Street  
Strathroy, Ontario  
N7G 2R2

## Spawning *Corydoras hastatus*

Jim Makin

[www.scotcat.com/articles/article55.htm](http://www.scotcat.com/articles/article55.htm)

Although similar in looks, habits and often confused by the aquarist, *Corydoras hastatus* and *C. pygmaeus*, Knaack, 1966 have differing reproductive modes. Previous efforts to induce *C. hastatus* to spawn have met with no success, although spawning of their own volition had been observed in my *Corydoras* community tank, where two young *C. hastatus* have been produced over a six-month period.



*C. hastatus* may not have spawned in the prepared tank because only ten fish were available - 5 males, 3 females and 2 juvenile fish. This I felt was a little low in numbers as *C. hastatus* are a naturally shoaling fish.

19.1.81

My total stock of 10 *C. hastatus* were introduced into a 61cm x 25cm x 25cm tank filled to 10cm with stock tank water (pH 6.87 Temp. 72°F). Substrate was Dorset pea and sandy outcrops. The tank was planted with different *Cryptocoryne*'s and pieces of bogwood. After the fish were introduced the tank was topped up with fresh tap water - Temp. 72°F. the tank was lit by room lighting.

27.1.81

A week and several water changes later, the *C. hastatus* were very inactive. All of them were hiding at the rear of the tank and were seldom seen shoaling in the normal manner. This action was expected. I decided to introduce 10 *C. pygmaeus*. This should lift the *C. hastatus* off the gravel and make them feel more at ease.

28.1.81

It had paid off. Both *C. hastatus* and *C. pygmaeus* were shoaling together and feeding well. Water conditions were pH 6.8, temp. 72°F.

30.1.81

The fish have been observed for the past few days and the extra fish have made a great difference. *C. pygmaeus* spawned, laying 40 - 50 eggs on the front glass and on the plants. The spawning was typical of *C. aeneus* (Gill, 1858) and *C. paleatus* (Jenyns, 1842), i.e. plenty of activity. The *C. pygmaeus* were not removed as the *C. hastatus* have become very active and the eggs were not being eaten. Checking the tank that evening, 5 male *C. hastatus* were seen chasing one female. There was a very interesting point the female's eyes were completely black. The iris was not visible - only the pupils could be seen and they were jet black. The males chased the female for 2 hours and no eggs were laid. I was ready to give up when I noticed the female with one very small egg held firmly in her ventral fins. Actual delivery of the egg was not seen, but the males were all quivering round her at this time. (The other females were shoaling with the *C. pygmaeus* and their eyes were normal. With the egg cradled in her ventral fins, she then began to swim over and under the plant leaves with the males in close pursuit. They seemed to be cleaning the leaves. She swam around with the one egg for half an hour, before depositing it under a plant leaf. I am quite sure only one egg was laid at this time.

15.2.81

This spawning activity has continued in the evening for 2 weeks. Only one female spawning at a time, and laying only one egg. Whether or nor it is the same female each time is hard to tell as they are all similar in size. During the period when the *C. hastatus* spawned, fry were seen in the tank. They were silver in colour with 2 - 4 dark patches along the back. Some had a distinct black patch through the caudal peduncle.

cont'd on page 8

## Spawning *Corydoras hastatus*

cont'd from page 7

As the fry grew, 4 *C.hastatus* fry of varying sizes were seen swimming with the 30 *C. pygmaeus* fry.

### OBSERVATIONS

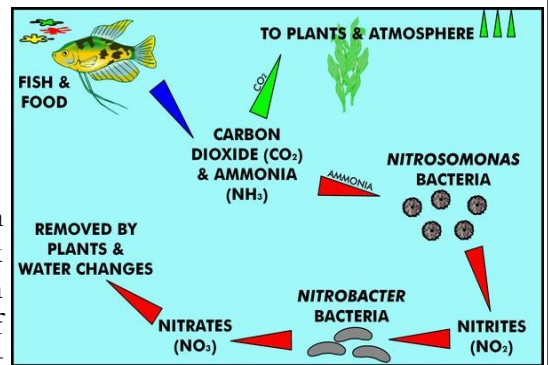
- 1) To date (mid- March). The *C. pygmaeus* have not spawned again, but still the odd *C. hastatus* appears. Could the *C. hastatus* be a periodic spawner, as are some of the *Julidochromis* species from Lake Tanganyika?
- 2) The eyes of the spawning female turned completely black. The gold iris vanished and the full eye appeared black.
- 3) The growth rate of the *C. hastatus* is quicker than that of *C. pygmaeus*. The older *C.hastatus* are 1cm whereas the 30 *C.pygmaeus* are under 6mm.
- 4) Feeding: Powder food was fed as soon as the first fry were seen and thereafter every day in small quantities for any newly hatched fry. Brine shrimp and micro worm were fed along with normal daily food for adult fish.
- 5) Regarding the high mortality rate reported by some aquarists, which can occur at 4/ 6 weeks period, i.e. the fry will try to lift to the water surface and spin to the bottom (water depth does not matter). The fry were very weak and wasting away and would die in a week. The size of the fry seems to be the important factor - not the age. I have a few theories:
  - a) At first I thought that a nutritional deficiency was the trouble. If the fry were left with the parents the high mortality rate did not occur. Perhaps the parents helped feed the fry, or they received nutrition from mulm caused by the parents. Of course you will lose some due to the parents eating fry or eggs. No deaths occurred. Could the fry be developing their secondary breathing system and getting chilled (as do anabantids when the labyrinth organ is developing). Lately, a very high success rate with *C. barbatus* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824) and *C. aeneus*, with the parents removed, perhaps the tanks were higher than normally used and so water and air temperature were not equal Or can it be put down to bad management.

This article first appeared in the Catfish Association of Great Britain Newsletter 1982

### Fish or Fishless Cycling

[www.thinkfish.co.uk/article/Fish\\_Or\\_Fishless\\_Cycling](http://www.thinkfish.co.uk/article/Fish_Or_Fishless_Cycling)

**What is Cycling?** The processing of waste products from your fish is done by bacteria which reside mainly in your filter. In a new tank there are none of these bacteria, and they will form naturally when wastes are present but there is a tightrope balance of production of wastes and bacterial growth. If we have too much waste and not enough bacterial growth, wastes will build up and the aquarium will start a downward spiral of water quality problems. Cycling aims to prevent this problem by either steadily or immediately putting bacteria in place so that when you introduce your first fish, the bacteria are already present and working and there is not a build up of toxins. The big problem with cycling is that there are many different methods, and one fish keeper's idea of cycling may not be the same as another's. There are also some rather bad ideas of cycling still floating around, and some impractical ones, so getting it right can be difficult if you don't get the right advice.



cont'd on page 9

## Fish or fishless cycling

cont'd from page 8

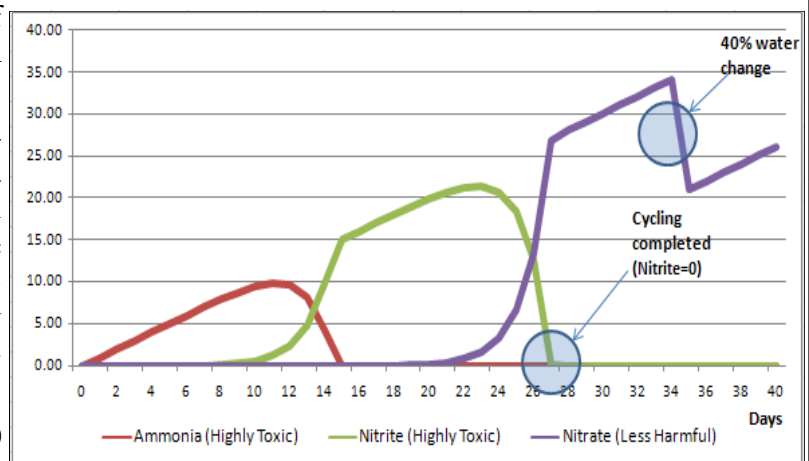
**Fish cycling:** The most common method of cycling a tank is also the slowest and arguably most prone to problems, but it is the simplest for new fish keepers who may not be willing to get over complicated from the start. Cycling with fish is basically a process of adding small numbers of fish at a time and stocking gradually and slowly over a period of several weeks or even months. The idea is that, providing feed levels are not too high, the incremental increases in waste produced by small numbers of fish are small enough for bacteria to develop and process wastes before toxic levels rise. Each new addition of fish increases the aquariums waste load, and the bacterial population grows to accommodate the increase each time. If too many fish are added at once, or the tank is overfed, wastes will increase quicker than the bacteria will grow, and you get toxic conditions. To avoid this, slow stocking and water testing is essential – as soon as ammonia or nitrites start to appear, cut the feeding out, do a small water change, and if required add some activated carbon to remove the excess. Following the process of adding no more than a few fish each week and testing daily for the first couple of weeks will allow a 'fish cycle' to take place. It can take up to a couple of months before your tank can be considered cycled using this method.

**Fish cycling with bacterial starters:** To help a fish cycle along, and reduce the chances of problems, there are a number of bacterial starter products on the market. These contain live or dormant bacteria that can be added to the tank, and should settle or 'seed' the filter. If there is a waste source present, some of the bacteria will settle in the filter medium and start processing wastes. The two most common types of bacterial starter are those containing just the bacteria, and those containing both bacteria and a food source. In a tank with fish already present it is very important to use only the ones without a food source, otherwise the food source (usually an ammonia compound) can have the opposite effect and will raise pollutant levels.

**Fishless cycling:** A preferred method amongst many experienced fish keepers is a 'fishless cycle' which aims to get the filter seeded with enough bacteria to cope with fish wastes as soon as they are introduced, thereby heavily reducing the chances of fish being kept in harmful conditions. Some fish keepers will go as far as saying that you must do a fishless cycle, and if you don't you are cruelly exposing fish to harmful conditions. Whilst this is not quite accurate, a fishless cycle done properly is a much safer and better way to cycle a tank. There are four methods often described to do a fishless cycle as outlined below

1. **Bacterial starters:** Using a bacterial starter that contains a food source will seed the filter and provide wastes for the bacteria to live on until fish are added. With this method you add the bacterial starter as recommended by the manufacturer and measure your ammonia and nitrite levels. You should see a rise and fall in ammonia levels followed by a rise and fall in nitrite levels, once both are at zero and continued addition of the bacterial starter does not produce any change from a zero level, you can start adding fish and stop adding the bacterial starter. This is a good method of cycling but it can be a little hit and miss depending on the product you use. Many off the shelf products including some well-known brands are of questionable quality.

2. **Adding ammonia:** It is possible to add ammonia directly to the aquarium and let bacteria settle and grow naturally, this method is used by some experienced fish keepers and can be the most accurate way to cycle a tank. Unfortunately, the average fish keeper cannot simply buy ammonia and will find accurately monitoring daily dosage rates rather impractical.



cont'd on page 10

## Fish or fishless cycling

cont'd from page 9

**3. The food method:** Used for many years to cycle an aquarium, many older fish keepers will know of this method of cycling. For a period of time before fish are added, a small amount of food is added to the tank, which then breaks down and produces wastes, causing bacteria to grow in the filter. Quite simply, this is no longer a good method in modern fish keeping – leftover food can create conditions ideal for fungal and bacterial disease pathogens to thrive, and the quantity of waste produced is not easily controlled. Avoid at all costs!

**4. Immediate fishless cycling:** The most recent, and arguably the best and most likely to grow in popularity is immediate fishless cycling. With this method, bacteria are kept alive in a solution containing a food source, much like a bacterial starter. The difference is that the bacteria can be separated from the food source and placed in the tank or filter. What this means is that rather than adding waste to the tank to feed bacteria, you immediately have a population of working bacteria without the waste product. When you add fish, the bacteria are ready to work on the fishes waste straight away. Getting this process done properly requires a number of things: The bacteria must be alive, they must be in a food solution, they must be separable from the solution, and they must last until fish are added. A product on the market that does this job well is called 'bactinettes', but it is likely that others will follow as the method gains popularity. With an immediate fishless cycle, you can stock much more quickly and can have a reasonable population of fish within a few weeks of filling the tank.

**Is cycling essential?** There is an argument that it is cruel to expose fish to toxic conditions by not cycling an aquarium properly, or by performing a 'fish cycle'. This argument rather slightly misses the point, however - cycling is often imprecise and it is possible to get just as good results by using a fish cycle as it is from using bacterial starters, and vice-versa, bad results can happen even when you do a fishless cycle. It is always best to try and cycle the tank before adding fish but if there is any element of cruelty in the cycling process, it is from not testing water conditions and not applying immediate remedies should conditions fall outside of ideal ranges. Whatever method of cycling you use, there is always a strong chance of ammonia or nitrite levels going askew, simply because the aquarium is finding its 'balance', so water testing is the overriding element of importance. It is possible to do a 'fish cycle' without creating toxic conditions if you are monitoring water quality, so it should not be labelled as cruel on the assumption it puts the fish in a bad environment. It is not possible to avoid toxic conditions if you are not water testing - doing a 'fish cycle' whilst water testing and acting on the results is not cruel, but doing a fishless cycle and not testing may be. It is important that fish keepers and sources of advice learn the difference between the two – you can cycle using any method providing you are monitoring water conditions closely.

**Aiding cycling:** There are many other things you can do to aid the cycling period of a new aquarium. Adding media from an established filter running on a matured tank will immediately put live bacteria in place, and the same can be done with aquarium gravel. This should always be done just before fish are added to the new tank or the bacteria may start to die from lack of food. If you are setting up a second tank, you can also run the new tanks filter in your established tank for a few weeks to build up a population of bacteria before transferring it across to the new tank when the first fish are added. Regardless of your cycling method, and the claims of some products, aquariums need at least a week to settle before fish can be added.





### **Sea Life Central**

This is to let everyone know about Sea Life Central the newest and in my opinion the nicest saltwater store in London. This is an independently run store run by a very knowledgeable couple, Linda and Gary Hutton, they carry saltwater fish, corals, inverts, equipment, they also are starting to carry some freshwater food dry and frozen from John's Fish Food from Kitchener. They also carry rock supplied by Reefer Rock which is the top choice of aquarium rock in Canada. Their store has over 1000 gallons of tanks for fish and over 250 gallons for corals and coming soon a 500 gallon show tank which both Linda and Gary are very proud of. Gary is very handy at building custom tanks, custom sumps, tank drilling, along with pre mixed R.O. water they have pre mixed salted R.O. water. If they don't have it in the store they can order it in.

Their store is located in a plaza behind the Petro Canada gas station at 561 Southdale Road

### **Tropical Fish Societies.....Good or Bad**

By: Tony Lagruth, taken from Lyre Tails, London Aquaria Society,  
Submitted by: Annette & Ron Bishop, London Aquaria Society

I am going to be very candid about this subject. I, at first, did not feel that belonging to a Tropical Fish Society was going to give me anything more than I already had as far as the hobby goes. When I attended the meetings, I felt out of place and I also felt that the people had their own click. Well, let me tell you that I was really wrong.

First of all, to get anything out of anything you have to put something into it. For example, your fish won't grow if you don't feed them. What I am trying to say is that there is a click, one big click, the whole Society. If you just sit back and you don't bother to introduce yourself to anyone, or if you don't get up and mingle with the crowd, you won't get anything out of your Society but buddy, it's your own fault. You are really missing out because this is one of the biggest reasons why a Tropical Fish Society is good. You can meet some of the finest people around. Many wonderful people just like yourself.

Another reason is that you can pick up a lot of information. How? First of all, there is the Societies Library. We have many books from which you can choose to read up on any fish you prefer. There are many Members who know a lot about our hobby. If you have a problem, all you have to do is ask one of them and they will be more than glad to help you.

Then, of course, there is always the one question. How are Societies run? There's only one answer. A Society is run by its Members. Of course, we have boards and committees. Who is on these committees? The committees consist of Members who really have an outstanding interest in our Hobby. This is the most important things about Societies. If the members won't co-operate, nothing gets done or the burden is thrown on a few people. If you don't have an active interest in our club, you are cheating yourself out of a wonderful feeling. This is a feeling of true friendship in what I think is the most wonderful, relaxing and also educational hobby.

**Bad Points:** The only one I can think of is that the world does not have enough of the faithful people that are attracted to this hobby. I believe it would be a safer and more pleasant one to live in if there were.

2010/2011

B.A.P./H.A.P. Annual Report

First of all, I would like to thank the Members for sending me a Get Well Card. It was greatly appreciated. All went well and recovery is well on the way.

Congratulations to Karl Baumgarten, for winning the Annual B.A.P. Award and to Annette & Ron Bishop for winning the Annual H.A.P. Award.

B.A.P. Annual Award

The following fish were spawned since my last report.

Karl Baumgarten

Brachyraphis rhabdophora	Pterophyllum scalare
Paracyprichromis nigripinnis "Kantalamba"	Pelmatochromis boetikoffer
Copadichromis cyneus "Nkhata Bay"	Copadichromis geertzi
Copadichromis molto "Luwala Reef"	Copadichromis trewevasse "Likoma"
Cyprichromis colouratus "Kalambo"	Cynotilapia sp. Mbamba "Nkhata Bay"
Cynotilapia sp. Hara "Gallireya Reef"	Cyphotilapia sp. "North Kavala"
Metriaclima greshakei	Metriaclima hajomaylandi
Pseudotropheus acei "Itungi"	Pseudotropheus polit
Pseudotropheus sulosi	Xiphophorus alvarezii
Xiphophorus mayae	Amatitlania nogrofasciata

John Swick

Poecilia wingi	Xiphophorus helleri "Pineapple Sword"
Xiphophorus alvarezii "Uplands Sword Orange"	Xiphophorus helleri "Green Swordtail"
Xiphophorus helleri "Red Swordtail"	Poecilia reticulata "Veiltail Guppy Red"
Barbus conchonis "Rosy Barb"	Ameba splendens "Butterfly Goodied"
Xenotoca eiseni "Redtailed Goodied"	Poecilia velifera "Green Sailfin Molly"
Cichlasoma spilurum "Blue Eyed Cichlid"	Melanotaenia boeseman



**Annette & Ron Bishop**

Herichthys cyanguttatus "Texas Cichlid"	Brachyrhaphis roseni
Xiphophorus alvarezii	Zoogoneticos tequila
Skiffia lermae	

**Lloyd Swance**

**H.A.P. Annual Award**

**Annette & Ron Bishop**

Crinum natan "Onion Plant"	Hydrocharis mursusranae "Frogbit"	
Ceratopteris thalictroides "Water Sprite"	Riccia fluitans	
Vallisneria Americana "Jungle Val"	Lemna minor "Great Duckweed"	
Lemna major "Duckweed"	Cryptocoryne wendtii	
Cryptocoryne griffithii	Cryptocoryne ponderderiifolia	
Anubias nana	Annubias barteri	Echinodorus paniculata
Sagittaria subulata "Dwarf Sagittaria"	Vesicularia dubyana "Java Moss"	
Micosorium pteropu "java Fern"	Ceratophyllum demersum	
Hydrophilla polysperma	Monosolenium tenerum	

**Monthly Jar Show Results**

**Fish Awards**

- Third place ribbon winner = Jack Parkinson (58 points)
- Second place ribbon winner = Annette and Ron Bishop (80 points)
- First place ribbon winner = Bob Steele (151 points)

**Plant Awards**

- Third place ribbon winner = Karl Baumgarten (10 points)
- Second place ribbon winner = Dorothy Reimer (34 points)
- First place ribbon winner = James Kelly (59 points)

The ribbons weren't available to hand out at this week's meeting (although they were or-

## London Aquaria Society Monthly Jar Show (September 2011 to June 2012)

### **Objectives:**

- to allow club members to learn more about a variety of fish and plants through first-hand viewing and conversation with other club members
- to give recognition to club members for keeping healthy fish and plants

### **Point System:**

- entries will be judged (preferably by a certified CAOAC judge if possible) and awarded points and ribbons as follows:

- first = 10 points, red ribbon
- second = 7 points, blue ribbon
- third = 4 points, white ribbon
- each entry = 1 point (no ribbon is awarded)

### **Show Rules:**

#### **1. Anonymity:**

- names of entrants will not be disclosed until after judging is completed

#### **2. Age classes, who can enter:**

- there will be two classes: senior and junior
- all members aged 17 or over as of September 1<sup>st</sup> must compete as seniors
- all fish and plants must be entered in the jar show by their LAS owners only
- junior members only, do not have to be present to enter fish or plants in the jar show
- all fish and plants must be owned by the participant for 30 days prior to being entered
- the plant category is always open to all types
- open fish category means any type of fish or any other water animal can be entered
- other fish categories are of a certain type of fish for those months

#### **3. Show Categories continued:**

- family category means both parents and 6 to 10 fry (fry no more than 4 months old) are judged as a group and are compared to other families, families may only be entered in October and April
- within the family category, egg layers will be judged separately from live bearers
- my favourite fish category will be judged for first place by all the attending Club Members

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Plant</u></b>		<b><u>Fish Categories</u></b>	<b><u>Class</u></b>
September	open	open	Loaches, Sucker and Catfish (e.g. Corydoras, Brochis, Plecos...)	-
October	open	open	Cichlids- substrate spawning (Angels, Kribs, Rams, etc.) - mouth-brooding (e.g. Guentheri, Aulonocara...)	Family
November	open	open	Cyprinids (Goldfish, Koi, Barbs, Danios, Sharks, Rasboras, White Clouds, etc.)	Pairs
December	open	open	No Jar Show due to Christmas Party.	-
January	open	open	Guppies, (Fancy, Trinidadian, etc.)	-
February	open	open	Anabantids (e.g. Bettas, Gouramis, Paradise Fish...)	-
March	open	open	Mollies, Platies, Swordtails	-
April	open	open	Characoids (Tetras, Hatchetfish, Silver Dollars, etc.)	Family
May	open	open	My Favourite Type Fish (any type of fish)	Pairs
June	none	none	Due to Awards Night.	-



## C.A.O.A.C. Events Calendar 2011

**September 25, 2011:** London Aquaria Society Show & Auction

**October 2, 2011:** Hamilton & District Aquarium Society SHOW & AUCTION

### **London Aquaria Society Monthly Jar Show (September 2011 to June 2012)**

- pairs category means a male and a female of one species are judged as a group and compared to other pairs, pairs may only be entered in November and in May, the pair may be shown together in 1 jar or in 2 separate jars if one fish may injure the other
- my favorite fish category will be judged for first, second and third place by all the attending club members (using private ballots), then a tally will be done to determine the people's top three choices, any fish can be entered but animals such as crayfish, frogs, turtles, snails, salamanders, etc. cannot be entered as my favorite fish

#### **4. Number of Fish:**

- an individual fish can only be entered for the jar show competition once per year
- only one fish is allowed in one jar in any category (other than the family category in October and April)
- if more than one fish is found in a jar then:
  - 1) the fish must be separated so that only one fish is found in each jar to be entered
  - or 2) the jar with multiple fish will not be judged
- the only time two fish may be shown in one jar is when they are entered in the pairs category in November and in May

#### **5. Fish Criteria:**

- fish are judged according to size, colour, fins, disposition, condition and overall appearance
- fish showing signs of disease may be disqualified

#### **6. Containers:**

- fish and plants should be displayed in: small aquaria, square gallon jars or flat-sided drum fish bowls
- round jars or round fish bowls should not be used because the round glass distorts the shape of the fish or plant
- no gravel or backgrounds are permitted in fish display tanks

#### **7. Plants Criteria:**

- the plants category is always "open" which means any type of true aquatic plant can be entered
- a true aquatic plant is one which, in the wild or native state, can be found as:
  - a) free floating,
  - b) rooted with leaves floating at the surface of the water or projecting into the air,
  - c) completely submerged as a normal occurrence at some time during the course of one calendar year
- non-aquatic plants (such as Lucky bamboo [*Dracaena sanderiana*], Aluminum plant [*Pilea cadierei*] and Crimson Ivy [*Hemigraphis colorata*]) will not be judged
- a plant may be shown in a pot or shown with exposed roots that are weighted down for judging purposes
- if separated, more than one plant entry may be kept in one tank
- see rule number 6 above for appropriately shaped containers

#### **8. Entry Fee:**

- a fee of 25 cents per entry is required to help cover the cost of the ribbons
- one family entry or one pair entry costs 25 cents regardless of how many jars are used to show each entry

#### **9. Registration times and results:**

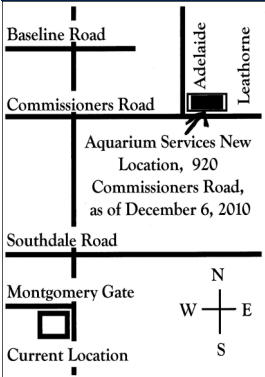
- entries should be registered with the Jar Show Chairman (Sarah Lee) by 7:30 pm or the start of the program on the night of the monthly meeting
- results of the jar show will be announced before the end of every monthly meeting
- at the June meeting: - annual awards will be presented to the top three members who accumulate the highest number of points in the fish competition
- separate awards will be presented to the top three members with the highest number of points in the plant competition

# AQUARIUM SERVICES WAREHOUSE OUTLETS™



COME AND SEE WHY BIG AL'S AQUARIUM SERVICES WAREHOUSE OUTLETS IS CANADA'S LEADING RETAILER FOR THE

- 10,000 GALLONS OF FRESH AND SALTWATER TROPICAL FISH
- EXOTIC GOLDFISH & FEEDER FISH
- SUPER IMPORT SELECTIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND FROM OUR EXCLUSIVE FLORIDA FISH FARMS
- SUPERB AQUATIC PLANTS IMPORTED FROM AROUND THE WORLD
- HUGE SELECTION OF AQUARIUM AND POND SUPPLIES
- AQUARIUMS FROM 20 TO 275 GALLONS
- BIG AL'S QUALITY LINE OF AQUARIUM PRODUCTS, FISH FOODS AND WOODEN STANDS
- EXPERT STAFF TO HELP YOU WITH ALL OF YOUR AQUARIUM NEEDS



BEST PRICES IN TOWN, GUARANTEED

519-668-2752

