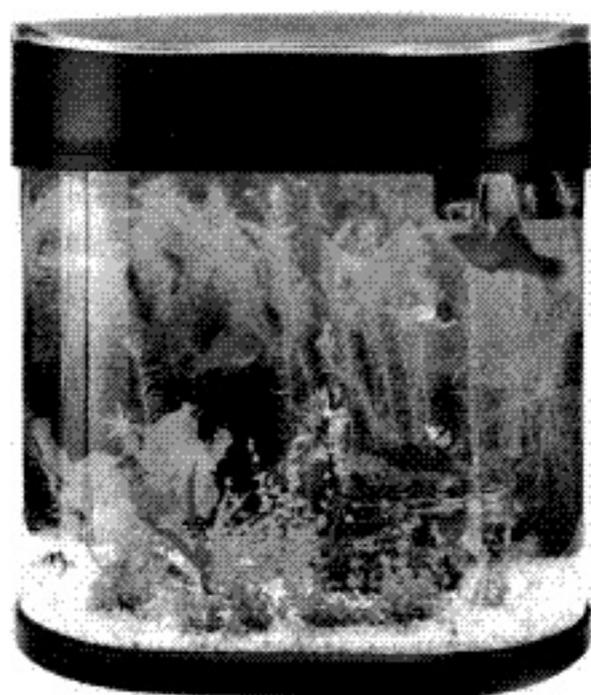


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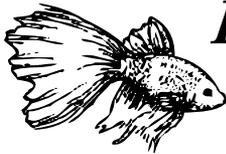
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The society meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM,
except in July and August, at the Church of the Resurrection, 435
Mohawk Rd. West near the corner of Garth. Visitors are welcome.

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Our 60th Year of Publication

NOVEMBER 2010

Carla's Comments

Carla MacDonald

Hello everyone!

It's a cool crisp morning as I sit writing my message. So much is happening around the club before Christmas.

First I'll tell you about my exciting trip to Virginia. I went to the Catfish Convention in Fairfax, Virginia. It was a really good time. Five days of hobbyist sharing information about all types of adventures. Just a great time. Its one of my favourite trips, although I am going to the Ohio Cichlid Convention November 19 to 21. Again, a really great weekend with hobbyists.

Now, onto our stuff. I'd like to thank Ken Boorman for his presentation last month on Rainbows. This months presentation is being done by our own Sue Buchan on Dwarf African Frogs. I'm looking forward to this as its something different for sure. If you would like to make a presentation, please let Joe B or myself know.

We have Charley Grimes coming to do a presentation for us on Saturday November 13 at the Legion in Waterdown. Tickets are still available til almost the last minute at \$25. The dinner is absolutely fantastic. The presentations start at 5pm, cocktails at 6, dinner at 7, and another presentation at 8:30. Charley is one of my favourite speakers. This is one program you really need to come and enjoy.

Our December program is all about Christmas. We will have some games, fun and have a fish table raffle to help make some money for others less fortunate than ourselves. Its a great feeling to give something back to the community. We will have a neighbour to neighbour food drive. Please bring all non perishable items that night and I will ensure they get there.

That's it for now, please contact me for tickets if you need them.... Carla

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Carla's Comments	2
All Aquarium Catfish Convention	3
Dicrossus filamentosus	6
Blast From The Past	13
Gallery	15
Odds 'n' Ends	16
Submissions	16



All Aquarium Catfish Convention

Joe Bastianpillai

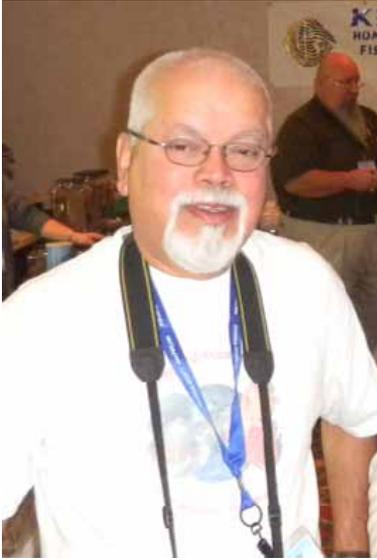
The 2010 All Aquarium catfish Convention was held in Fairfax, VA. I have never been to this event in the past. Being a cichlidiot, I have been to quite a few cichlid conventions. This was my first catfish convention. I was lucky to have the company of about 10 HDAS members at the convention. All of us drove to Fairfax. It was a long 10 hour drive. We got there on Thursday evening in time for the registration.



Friday was scheduled for field trips. There were three organized trips. The zoo trip, native fish collecting and local fish shop tours. Most of us decided on the local fish store trip. This included a visit to Discus Hans and two other large fish stores. My main interest was the visit to Discus Hans. His warehouse is located in Baltimore. This was about an hour and half drive from the convention hotel. There were about 25 of us in the bus. Hans has about 300 tanks in his warehouse and all of them housed discus. It was like being in

discus heaven. There were all types and sizes of discus there for sale. He also had some L number plecos and some tetras. I could have spent all day there but we had to leave after about an hour there. Next we visited two large local aquarium shops. Most of us picked up some interesting fish not available locally. We were late for dinner and the evening speakers but they delayed the events for us. Most of us did not stay for the speakers because we had to look after the bags of fish that we picked up. The hotel room tables were cluttered with buckets air lines pumps etc.

Friday evening also provided an opportunity to do more fish shopping. One floor of the hotel was dedicated to room sales. At either end of that floor there were hospitality rooms. So we picked up some drinks and went shopping. There were all kinds of catfish and cichlids for



sale in every room. My attention was drawn to 3 Jaguar catfish in a tank. These were quite rare and were listed for \$90 each. This was beyond my budget so I had to pass. Most of our group did buy fish. More clutter in the rooms including coolers full of beer and cocktails.

Saturday was the speaker day. There were quite a few catfish speakers including Ian Fuller (from UK) on Corydoras, Hans Evers (Germany) on Rio Xingu L numbered plecocs and Ad Konings on Lake Tanganyika catfishes.

All the speakers were really interesting and informative. For once I did not fall asleep during a presentation. Saturday evening was a banquet with fish show awards. Guess what we had for dinner? CATFISH.

Sunday was the auction. It was well organized with quite a few bags of fish, plants and new and used equipment. All of the fish that were not sold in the fish rooms were in the auction. The three Jaguar catfish were also in the auction. I picked up two of them for half the original asking price. During the auction the registered conventioners were given a pizza lunch. After the auction some of us decided to visit Discus Hans to pick up the discus we had ordered on the Friday visit. It was a long drive but was worth it. Hans and his wife Joanne treated us to a very nice dinner at a local restaurant. We had crab cakes. After all we were in Baltimore and had to eat crabs. It was a really nice evening out and a fitting end to a great convention.



Monday morning we had to be up early to pack all the fish and leave for the long trip home. We were a little concerned about Canadian Customs with all the fish with us. Our fears were unfounded. The Customs man just waved us through.

In all it was a great convention and the company was good. The people there were really friendly and I am looking forward to the next one in two years.



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Dicrossus filamentosus

Jessica Bullock

Dicrossus filamentosus is a pretty little South American cichlid not often seen in aquarium stores. It is often referred to as the lyre-tailed cichlid, and sometimes as the checkerboard cichlid (although this leads to confusion as *Crenicara punctulatum* and *Dicrossus maculatus* are also referred to by this name). Males of this species are slightly larger and possess a highly attractive "lyretailed" caudal fin. Females are smaller with less colour, possessing merely a rounded caudal. Males can reach a maximum of 9cm, females 6cm.

These slender fish are found in the upper Rio Negro and the Upper Orinoco in Venezuela, Brazil and Columbia. They live in waters with a pH ranging from 4.5-5.5 and extremely low hardness. Submerged branches and foliage can be found in their native habitat but true aquatic vegetation is absent. These conditions can be achieved in an aquarium using reverse osmosis water treated with peat (or oak leaves, alder cones and the like). Furnishings should include a sandy bottom, driftwood and real or plastic plants. These fish often feel more comfortable with subdued lighting or a cover of floating plants. As they are shy fish, small dither/target fish can be used to make *D. filamentosus* feel more comfortable.

There are great variations in colour patterns found through the wide distribution of this fish. These differences can most easily be spotted in the colour and pattern of the male caudal fin. The transparent ventral fins of females undergo dramatic colour change after their first spawning, transforming to bright cherry red. This change can be a good indication that a female has spawned. There have been reports of populations in which females retain transparent ventral fins throughout their life cycle, as well as populations in which both sexes display red to orange ventral fins.

Although breeding can be achieved in tanks as small as 5 gallons, stable water conditions can be more easily maintained in 3-4 foot aquariums. The added space in the aquarium also helps to reduce aggression during spawning and rearing of the young.



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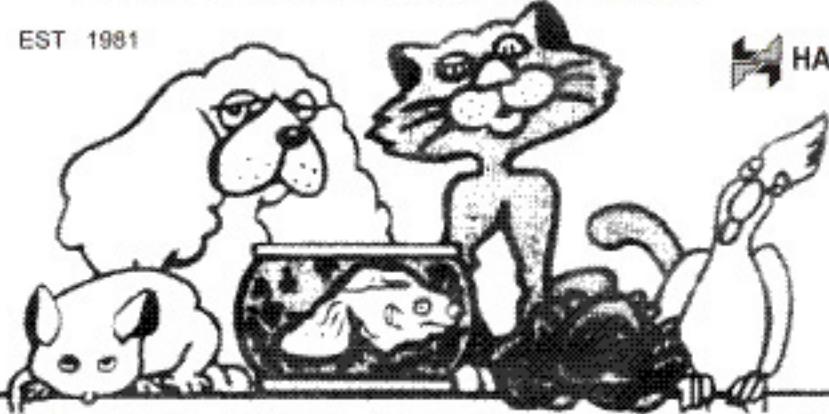
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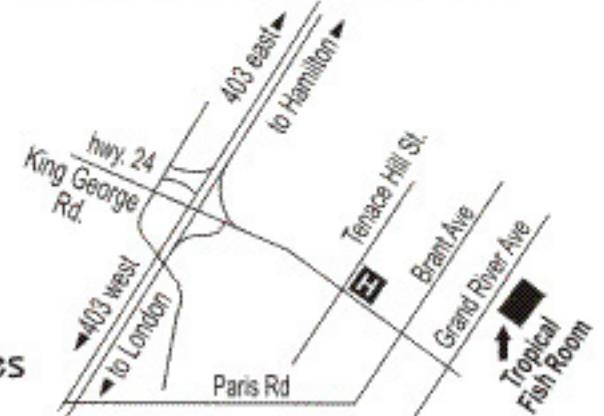
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Dicrossus filamentosus are fairly easy to feed, and will readily take to commercially available dried foods. Better health and vigor can be achieved by feeding small live and frozen foods such as daphnia, cyclops, brine shrimp nauplii, and whiteworms.

Spawning is a relatively brief process, with egg laying and fertilization taking approximately 30 minutes. The male can be removed after spawning as the female may become aggressive towards him. Eggs hatch after two to three days and wrigglers are moved several times a day by the female. Five to seven days after the eggs are laid the fry are free swimming and can be started on very small foods such as microworms. Once the fry are large enough to accept brine shrimp nauplii rearing is a fairly simple process.



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November 1990 –President Tom Tota thanked the club members for their contributions to the recent Show & Auction. He also talked about an interesting trip to the Marine Aquatic Laboratory at Guelph University. Articles featured were “Octopodial Complex (Octopus)” by Norm McEvoy, “Breeding Cichlasoma Citrinellum” by Gary Smith, and the following which was reprinted from an exchange :

Another Jewel in the Aquarium – The Diamond Tetra

Delores Schehr, Motor City Aquarium Society

The family Characidae contains hundreds of fishes and the genera, tetras, comprises a good percentage of the fishes. Every hobbyist is familiar with tetras, but one not too easily obtained but well worth the effort is *Moenkhausia pittieri*, the Diamond Tetra. This beautiful fish is rarely offered for sale, and the reason is not too difficult to understand. It is found only in Lake Valencia in Venezuela and the surrounding streams. There is little commercial collecting in the lake so fish from here seldom reach the hobbyist.

The name Diamond Tetra is easily earned by the fish. On a background of brassy green is numerous specks of gold and silver. The fins are a light orchid and the eye is typical of the genus, being half red. They get to be 2 to 2.5” long. A small school of these fish will swim actively in mid water and as the light hits their scales they make an impressive sight. Sexing these fish is easy as the male, besides being slimmer than the female, has longer dorsal and anal fins and these can get pretty long. These fish are easy to feed and take to flake food very readily and enjoy frozen brine too.

The genus *Moenkhausia* is not a popular one and is sadly neglected. *Moenkhausia* are represented by three species although over 15 have been described. *Moenkhausia oligolepis*, the Glass Tetra, is native to the Amazon region of South America. The other one is *Moenkhausia sanctae filomenae*, a species very similar to *M. oligolepis*, commonly called the Red-Eye Tetra. The latter fish prefer a more frequent diet of live foods or frozen brine, while the Glass Tetra will eat flake food and soft leaved plants.

We started off with 12 Diamond Tetras and the price was higher than the average tetra, but these were imported wild. We lost a couple of them getting them settled in but after that they proved to be very hardy and grew rapidly only becoming prettier with age. When I noticed the females getting heavy with eggs, I decided to set up a spawning tank. *M. pittieri's* spawning requirements are a little different. I set up a 10 gallon tank with the spawning grate (egg crate) and a couple of yarn spawning mops. I used one of the Tetra Brilliant sponge filters since it attaches to the glass and can be kept off of the bottom so it won't become an entrapment for the hoped for spawn.

The water to spawn this fish should be hard and acid. This is an unusual combination but can be obtained by taking rain water to which sea salts are added, one teaspoon for each five gallons of water. The best pH is around 6.8 and the temperature was around 78° F. The fish, which had been kept separate by sex, were put together at night. Spawning will usually commence in the morning, but in this case it didn't happen. By the third day if they hadn't spawned I usually separate them again and condition them a little more. But this time I was a little slow and on the fifth day they spawned.

I never saw the eggs even though I looked with a flashlight, which usually helps a great deal. If I hadn't seen spawning activity I wouldn't have even known they'd spawned. I had two females and three males set up but it seemed as if only one of the females was spawning while the other was probably dining on caviar. The five days they were in the spawning tank they were only fed live baby brine, which they could grab as they swam around. If they had been fed flake food it would have fallen between the grates and formed bacteria in the tank as it decayed and this would attack the eggs.

The fish were all carefully removed and the next day there were little splinters darting around when the flashlight beam hit them. They grew rapidly as most (but not all) tetras do. I imagine they will be adults by the time they are six months, and I am hoping the F1's will be a little easier to spawn. Just picture a school of these peaceful tetras gliding serenely through the water and it's easy to see why they are called "Diamond Tetras".



Gallery



Photos: Jessica Bullock and Chris Biggs

NOVEMBER 2010



Odds 'n' Ends

EVENTS

<i>November 14</i>	Peel Regional Aquarium Society Fall Auction
<i>November 21</i>	CAOAC Meeting, Waterdown *CANCELLED*
<i>December 7</i>	Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society Christmas Social
<i>December 12</i>	CAOAC Meeting, Potluck Lunch
<i>May 20-23</i>	CAOAC Convention - Brantford, Ontario

M EETINGS

<i>November 11</i>	Sue Buchan, Dwarf African Frogs
<i>November 13</i>	Dinner with Charlie Grimes
<i>December 9</i>	December Holiday Meeting

Submissions

Articles are needed for every month's bulletin. Topics can include breeding, nutrition, water quality, do-it-yourself techniques, and amusing anecdotes. We have kicked off a new practice of using a hobbyist's photo for the cover of the e-bulletin. Hobbyist photos are needed for future months' bulletins. They do not need to be show quality fish or professional quality photos. Please send submissions to bulletin@hdas.ca



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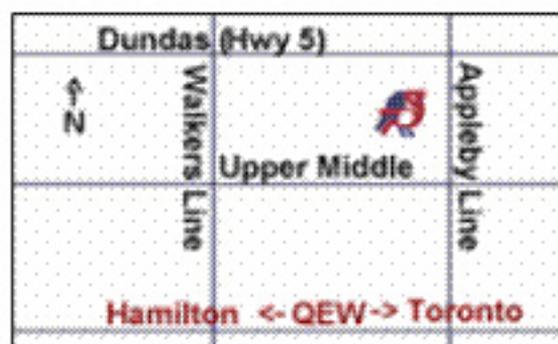
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