

FANCY FINS

Volume XVII , Issue 2 - April 2008

"Dedicated to the art of Fishing Without a Hook!"

Circle City Aquarium Club
Indianapolis, Indiana



Est. 1991

CCAC logo design by Hedy Padgett

President's Message

Hello everyone, I hope you are enjoying the year so far. We've had three great meetings so far with excellent talks that I hope you've enjoyed as much as I have. I'm excited to say that there is more of the same to come. In April we will be hearing from our own Brantley Berry, who will be speaking on "Caves, Fish, and Breeding". Brantley has taken the hobby along an avenue few of us ever venture down and has made a business of selling terra cotta caves on the internet. After his presentation, you can expect a short demonstration of how he works his craft. In May we'll be hosting a world renowned expert on ranchu goldfish, Cincinnati's Gary Hater. Gary will be talking about a variety of aspects of the fancy goldfish hobby from breeding to showing and judging. This is one talk you won't want to miss! In June Jeremy Basch will be joining us from the Columbus club to speak on *Geophagus*. Jeremy is the club president at CAFE and has a lot of experience working with South American cichlids. I'm sure you will enjoy hearing his perspectives on keeping and breeding these elegant fish. And there's more exciting speakers yet to come.

Our spring auction this year was an incredible success. With the state of Ohio being covered in snow, we still had good attendance, lots of help, and plenty of fish to go around! I don't know about you, but I certainly bought too many bags! My thanks go out to all of you who lent a hand during the event and a warm welcome to the many members who attended their first auction. I can't wait for the fall auction, as I'm sure you're all hard at work spawning some new and interesting species. Everyone be sure to go tell Bill Flowers how much you appreciate his hard work organizing the event. Since he took over the post, they just keep getting better and better.

We're trying something not so much new as old this year with the swap meet. We'll be having it as an extra event on Saturday June 28th. Its been about five years since we've had one like this, but sometimes change is needed and it gives you more for your membership price since there will be an additional speaker this year. Tables will cost a little more to cover the venue, but our hopes are to draw in people from other clubs and the surrounding area. You should see more interesting things to buy and have better sales as well, so I'm sure it will make up for the added expense.

That's all I have for now, I have to get back to the basement and figure out how to keep these angelfish fry alive! See you all next meeting.

Mike Matthews,
CCAC President, mikedmatthews@insightbb.com

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message.....	1
Picture of the Month.....	1
From the Editor's Desk.....	3
CCAC Club Happenings.....	3
BAP/Specialist Report.....	4
Spawning Electric Blue Crayfish.....	5
ALA Flyer.....	5
Supporters of CCAC.....	6
Spring Bowl Show Categories.....	6
HAP Report.....	6
Colombian Tetra.....	7
CCAC Swap Meet Flyer.....	7
<i>Danio feegradei</i>	8
Sexing Crayfish.....	9
Spawning <i>Labidochromis sp.</i> "Mbamba".....	9
Plan a Road Trip.....	10
CCAC Board of Directors.....	10
CCAC Membership Application.....	12

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Mike Matthews recently discovered why you never flush your plant trimmings, no matter how cold it is outside. Yes, he's still alive. Photo by: Julie Matthews.

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CCAC CLUB HAPPENINGS



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS

Mike has put together quite a line-up of speakers for this year. At the April meeting, Brantley Berry will be giving us the low down on cave-spawning fish, including a demonstration of how to make your own cave. In May, Gary Hater of Cincinnati will be in to talk about raising, breeding and showing fancy goldfish.

For members who are new to our club, monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at the Garfield Park Conservatory at 2450 South Shelby Street in Indianapolis, IN from 7:30 - 10:30 PM. Meetings include a speaker or workshop program, a mini-auction, a mini bowl show, a raffle, and door prizes. Visitors are encouraged to attend. Participation in the mini-auction, bowl show, and raffle are limited to members only. Membership signup is also available at each meeting.

The CCAC also has a website (www.circlecityaqclub.org) where hobbyists can interact between general meetings. Registration for the website is free, but you must be a "real time" member in order to access the "Members Only" section.

CCAC SPRING AUCTION

A big thanks goes out to all those who helped to make our Spring Auction a success. We missed the friendly faces of all who were snowed-in. Stay tuned for more info on the upcoming Fall Auction in September as the months progress.

COMMITTEE POSITIONS AVAILABLE!

The CCAC is looking for members who are interested in helping out with the club library, or promoting/publicizing the club and its events. If you are interested in helping out with any of these positions, please contact Mike Matthews at mikedmatthews@insightbb.com.

Additionally, Kelli is looking for three people to take over the editorship and publication of the newsletter. Rusty Myers will be taking over "design format" and will be responsible for the layout design, printing, and distribution of the newsletter to members and manufacturers. Since the newsletter takes so much work, the remaining duties will be split up into three positions: editor, club outreach, and advertising. The "editor" will be responsible for reading articles and correcting grammatical errors before they are published. The "club outreach" position will be responsible for contacting other clubs and fish stores in order to write the "Casting Out a Line" and "Fishy Business" reviews published in the newsletter. Finally, the person in charge of "advertising" will be responsible for setting up and maintaining ads with local shops. (Please see pages 2, 4, 7, 8, and 11 for examples.)

If you are interested in any of these positions or would like more information about what they involve, please contact Kelli Barton at (317) 872-6429 or alYESkasen@yahoo.com.

SWAP MEET

The CCAC's annual Swap Meet will be held Saturday June 28th at the Clarion Hotel from 10 AM - 4 PM. (Please see the ad on page 7.) This event will be held in the atrium area near the pool and is open to the public. There is not a club cut for the Swap Meet, so sellers get to keep 100% of their profits!

Tables are 8 feet long and may be rented for \$15. You do not have to be a member to rent a table, but you MUST pre-register to reserve one. Any tables still available on the day of the Swap Meet may be rented for \$20. However, there is no guarantee that extra tables will be available. Additionally, we will NOT rent half-tables (i.e.: 4 foot sections), but feel free to pair up with someone else and split the cost. All rental fees must be paid in full at the time you pre-register.

To pre-register, fill out the registration form insert at page 7, and mail it and a check for the total registration fee to:

Bill Flowers
8117 N. Poplar Dr
Mooresville, In. 46158

Please make checks payable to the Circle City Aquarium Club. For additional information, please contact Bill Flowers at ccacauction@gmail.com.



From the Editor's Desk...

Well, once again it's time to for the newest issue of *Fancy Fins*. Unfortunately, this will be my last issue as Editor. I will be passing the reigns over to Rusty Myers so I can focus more on my involvement with the board of directors. If you are interested in assisting with the newsletter, please see the position descriptions listed under "Committee Positions Available" under the CCAC Happenings section (to the left).

On a lighter note, I've tried to make this issue an interesting and humorous read. There are several excellent articles on a wide range of subjects including tetras, crayfish, danios, and cichlids, not to mention an amusing Picture of the Month. I found myself snickering several times while editing articles, so I'm sure you'll enjoy them as well!

On that note, I'll let you get to reading. It's been a pleasure to be Editor these past two and a half years, and I'm sure I will miss it. Thanks to all who have helped me along the way. I'll see you guys at the meeting!

Kelli Barton
CCAC Vice Pres. and Editor, alYESkasen@yahoo.com

BAP Standings

(As of February 12, 2008)

All Around Breeder

Joe Fleckenstein

Master Breeder

Charley Grimes - 1335 points
Joe Fleckenstein - 1130 points
Mike Matthews - 1050 points
Don Blankenship - 780 points
Dustin Stonebraker - 595 points

Senior Breeder

Bob Hargis - 285 points
Hedy Padgett - 285 points
Bill Flowers - 280 points
Gary Grissom - 275 points
Fani Gunawan - 255 points
Les & Becky Mumford - 245 points
Linda Mullinex - 180 points
Joe Jensen - 180 points
Kevin Hon - 175 points
Kelli & Ryan Barton - 175 points
Dave McKane - 170 points

Breeder

Michael Shockley - 115 points
Jana Strathmann - 95 points
Brian Lovins - 95 points
Jeff Webb - 80 points
Ron Smith - 65 points
Lacey Bacon - 50 points

Currently working on awards

Rob Renfro - 90 points
Jaryl Harrison - 70 points
Brian Nannenga - 65 points
Dan Claassen - 50 points
Walter Perkins - 45 points
Heather Liden - 40 points
Amanda Prabhakaran - 20 pts
Jen Ford - 15 points
Shawn Flowers - 10 points
Matt Doublestein - 10 points
Justin Riley - 10 points
Eric Keith - 10 points
William Childs - 5 points
Patricia Boelte - 5 points

BAP Specialist Rankings

(As of February 12, 2008)

SENIOR SPECIALIST

Charley Grimes African Cichlids (31), Livebearers (27), Minnows (7)
Don Blankenship African Cichlids (48),
Dustin Stonebraker Livebearers (40)
Joe Fleckenstein Catfish (11), African Cichlids (28)
Mike Matthews Invertebrates (9), Livebearers (26), Other Cyprinids (8)

SPECIALIST

Bill Flowers Livebearers (11)
Bob Hargis Anabantoids (5)
Charley Grimes Barbs (5), Mop Spawn Killies (18), Other (4), Rasboras (1), Soil Spawn Killies (9), Rainbows (9), S. American Cich. (11), Brackish Marine (2)
Dustin Stonebraker Invertebrates (4)
Fani Gunawan Invertebrates (3), African Cichlids (12)
Hedy Padgett Invertebrates (3)
Jana Strathmann Invertebrates (3)
Jeff Webb Invertebrates (3)
Jen Ford Invertebrates (3)
Joe Fleckenstein Barbs (4), Livebearers (21), Rainbows (8), Other Cyprinids (4), S. Amer. Cichlids (13)
Kelli & Ryan Barton Invertebrates (3), Rasboras (1)
Kevin Hon Barbs (4), Other Cyprinids (4)
Les & Becky Mumford African Cichlids (17)
Linda Mullinex Invertebrates (3)
Mike Matthews Livebearers (23), Barbs (4), Characins (6), African Cichlids (19), Minnows (3), Rainbows (6), Mop Spawn Killies (14)



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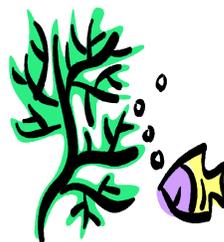
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The Circle City Aquarium Club meets on the first Thursday of every month at the Garfield Park Conservatory (2450 South Shelby Street, Indianapolis, IN) from 7:30 - 10:30 PM.

Meetings include a speaker or workshop program, a mini-auction, a mini bowl show, a raffle, and door prizes. Visitors are encouraged to attend. Participation in the mini-auction, bowl show, and raffle are limited to members only. Membership sign-up is also available.

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Spawning the Electric Blue Crayfish

By: Mike Matthews, CCAC Member

I ran across a deal I just couldn't pass up: Electric blue crayfish (*Procambarus alleni*) for sale on the net for \$1.50 each plus shipping. So I contacted the guy and bought four, which was all he had left. I don't know if I got lucky or if he picked them for me special, but I got 2 pairs. They were about 2 inches long when I got them, and they were growing fast.

When you buy blue crays, you have to watch what species you get. There are three main kinds available, so it's important to know the difference. *Procambarus alleni*, is native to the USA and is the most common. Though reasonably aggressive, it is generally a pretty manageable animal if you provide lots of caves. The mildest of the three is also a native, *Procambarus clarkii*. The way I tell them apart is that the *clarkii* are bumpier on the thorax and primary chelapeds (the big grabby arms).

The third species you commonly see in the shops is *Cherax quadricarinatus*. It has a lot of red coloration in between plates, on the chelapeds, and along the back of the abdominal plates. These are really aggressive by comparison. These guys come from Australia and if you mix them with either of the other two, you will only have the *Cherax* left in your tank. So if you try blue crays, make sure you get the same species.



Electric Blue Crayfish
Photo by: Mike Matthews

My spawning setup was pretty simple. I took a 40 gallon tank (with ambient lighting only) and set it up with a bed of sand and about 40 pounds of various craggy rocks. I also put about 15 10-inch sections of 1.5 inch PVC in the tank. Crays need lots of places to hide from each other. As they grow, they

outgrow their shell and must molt to increase in size. When they have molted, they are soft and vulnerable to attack from other crays.

I introduced four 2 inch crays into this setup and started feeding them pretty much anything. They are not picky eaters. Any food that makes it to the bottom is accepted. They especially seem fond of worms and mashed up banana.

Within about six months, they had grown quite a bit. The females were just slightly smaller than the males whose body length was about 3.5 inches. One day I wandered into the fish room and found a peculiar sight. The male had the female pinned down at the front of the tank. He had her primary chelapeds clamped in his own and was gripping her with all of his other legs. This didn't look particularly like a voluntary activity for the female, and from what I've seen in subsequent matings, the female isn't terribly trusting about being held down by the male. While in this position, the female passes the eggs down to her swimmerettes where they will be held in the tail section until hatching. As they are passed down, the male fertilizes the eggs.



Crayfish Spawning Activity
Photo by: Mike Matthews

After about four weeks, the eggs hatch and the baby crays go into hiding. They'll be difficult for you to spot right away. When I found them, I had at least two distinct hatchings and there were about forty survivors. I split them up into four fry tanks to grow them out, and even in doing this there was significant attrition.



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SPRING BOWL SHOW CATEGORIES



APRIL:

- L4 - Any other Livebearer
- E1 - Double-tailed Goldfish
- E13 - South & Central American Cichlids
- E15 - Gouramis (no bettas)
- X7 - Stud males
- X8 - Floating plants
- Youth Category

MAY:

- L5 - Livebearer School or Family (at least 6 fry + parents or 6 fish in school)
- E5 - Plecos and other catfish
- E11 - African Cichlids - substrate spawners
- E18 - Native Fish
- Open class
- Youth Category

2008 HAP Report

Specialist Aquatic Gardner:

Jennifer Ford - 770 points

Senior Aquatic Gardener:

Mike Matthews - 420 points
Ryan and Kelli Barton - 305 points

Advanced Aquatic Gardener

Dustin Stonebreaker - 235 points

Working on their awards:

Bill Flowers - 70 points
Brian Lovins - 25 points

Colombian Tetra

By: Bob Hargis, CCAC Member

I was in my local pet shop trading in one of my recent spawns for something new to try when I noticed these tetras in one of the tanks. Sort of bluish in color with pale red fins, these were the Red and Blue Tetra, *Hyphessobrycon colombianus*. Due to my recent success with the Emperor Tetra, I thought they might be fun to try. When I got them home I acclimated them into a ten gallon tank of RO water with some java moss in the bottom. My RO water is about 45 ppm, and the upper tanks in my fishroom stay about 80° F. The colors on the fish soon darkened, and it was no longer a pale fish with hints of color. They are a light blue with red, almost orange, fins.

Sexing these tetras is not easy, so I started with a group of six. There is a bit of mathematics involved in fish keeping; a group of six fish under normal circumstances gives you an almost 100% chance of getting at least one pair. It has been about thirty years since my Statistics class in college, so I don't remember the exact equation - but it works. The Colombian tetra is quite aggressive; I noticed missing scales and some nipped fins. I conditioned the group on frozen brine shrimp, frozen bloodworms, and live daphnia. Other live foods that would work well would be white worms or grindal worms.



Colombian Tetra
Photo by: Bob Hargis

After two weeks I removed the adults and noticed fry right away. The java moss was quite thick in the tank, so I don't think the adults were eating as many eggs or juveniles. Plus the java moss gave the fry something to eat as the first food. They were able to pick microorganisms off of the plants. I was able to feed baby brine shrimp as first food because of this. Growth was not too bad.

The Red and Blue Colombian Tetra is a nice fish to try. They are easily available, but I would not put them in with slow moving fancy fins. This would be a good tetra to add to a South American cichlid tank.



CCAC SWAP MEET

SATURDAY JUNE 28, 2008
10 AM - 4 PM

at the
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Pre-registered tables = \$15

You must pre-register to reserve a table.

Any unregistered tables available on the day of the swap meet may be rented for **\$20**.

There is no guarantee that tables will still be available the day of the swap meet.

We will NOT sell half-tables,

but feel free to pair up and split the cost. Rental fee must be paid in full at time of registration.

Sellers keep 100% of their profits!

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For more info contact:
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Danio feegradei

By: Charlie Grimes, CCAC Member

Thanks to Mike Mathews & my absurd schedule, I was easily able to get a big spawn of these uncommon & yet very attractive danios.

I spent no time researching *Danio feegradei*. I am assuming they come from India, as do most, if not all danios. Additionally, really big numbers of new and very cool fishes are coming our way from India. Size-wise, the *Danio feegradei* are about as big as the common Giant Danio.

Active as most danios, *Danio feegradei* is a much better citizen in a community setup than the Giant Danio. Another plus is that the males are very attractive with a nice flank pattern and bright red fins -very showy.

As luck and uncommon good fortune would have it, recently, when Mike Matthews was in my fishroom, he noticed a single male *Danio feegradei* in my 110 community tank. Mike, already having his BAP points for *Danio feegradei*, offered me the two females he had remaining.

When I got the females, I plopped them into a ten gallon tank with Indy tap water. I netted the male out of the community tank and put him in another 10 gallon tank that he shared with some *Lima vittata*. I fed both tanks pretty heavily for a couple of weeks - fortunately, *Danio feegradei* will eat anything, and a lot of it so conditioning them was easily done. It took me another week or so to get a breeding tank set up for them. By the time I did my part, both females were obviously loaded with eggs.

My breeding tank was a ten gallon with 2/3 of the bottom covered with a 'spawning mat'. (I got the spawning mat material from Mike when he bought a roll - it is very effective.) I cut the piece I used to be a little bigger than the inside dimensions of the tank. I jammed it tight to the bottom, filled the tank with Indy tap water, filtered it for 24 hours, and tossed in the male and the first female I caught. I'm guessing the water temperature to be 75 - 78° F. The tank was filtered with a slow-bubbling sponge filter.

When I got out to the fishroom the following evening, I found the front third of the bottom glass covered with eggs (about 75%). I guess the entire spawn was 400-500 eggs?

I netted out the adults and ignored the tank for a

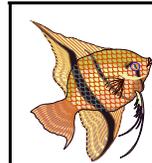
couple of days. Then, a quick look with a flashlight revealed fry hanging all over the vertical glass surfaces.

Three days post spawning, I noticed a few free-swimming fry and on day four, most were free swimming. I pulled out the spawning mat and lightly fed an egg yoke suspension.

By day six, the fry were able to take microworms and newly hatched brine shrimp and began to grow quickly.

I wish all the fish I work with were such good sports to care for and spawn as these *Danio feegradei*.

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Views of the authors are not necessarily those of this publication, editor, nor the Circle City Aquarium Club.

Sexing Crayfish

By: Mike Matthews, CCAC Member

One of my co-workers was heading over to the UK for an extended assignment, and when he told me about his trip there were several people standing nearby who didn't know about my fish addiction. So I said to him, "OH! I hear they have some really interesting crays – how about I send you with a net and you bring me some back?" Well, naturally the others present were perplexed and the first question I got was, "What do you want those for?" When I told them it was for breeding, I got a lot of strange looks, but none so strange as when I told them how to pick the boys from the girls!

The first step is getting them in a position to check out their abdomens. This can be a challenge with all the squirming and those little grabby legs all



Male *Procambarus alleni*
Photo by: Mike Matthews

a-wriggling. Also, they have a strong tail and they like to flip it up like some sort of medieval chastity device. Since I like to keep mine with all their limbs and I don't care to force the tail open for fear of injuring them, I use a clear plastic container and view them from the bottom.

Once you have a good view of the abdomen, check between the back two pairs of peripods (walking legs). In the picture of the male, you will find the inverted "V" shape of the gonopodium. This organ delivers the sperm packet to the female. The female in its place will have two gonopores to release the eggs. For me the gonopores are not always easy to see, but the absence of the gonopodium is evidence enough of the sex of the crayfish. Once you've determined you have both sexes, spawning isn't too hard - if you can keep them from eating each other!



Female *Procambarus alleni*
Photo by: Mike Matthews

Spawning *Labidochromis* sp. "Mbamba"

By: Fani Gunawan CCAC Member

Labidochromis sp. "Mbamba" comes from Mbamba Bay in Lake Malawi. The male of this species has pretty coloration: yellow unpaired fins and a purple body with faint black vertical bars. The female, on the other hand, is a bit drab in appearance: she has a mostly brown body with yellow fins. The female of this species still looks better than *Cynotilapia afra* females. This species grows to around four inches at maturity. As with most African cichlids, the males are usually bigger than females. They are typical of Lake Malawi mbunas in terms of breeding and care. I obtained five adult Mbamba labs and two juveniles from a GCAS member.



Labidochromis sp. "Mbamba"
Photo by: Fani Gunawan

I kept the breeding group in a 55 gallon tank with other African cichlids like juvenile *Pseudotropheus saulosi*. As far as aggression is concerned, this species is definitely more aggressive than

the other famous and prevalent member from the same genus, the yellow labs, but not as nasty and annoying as *P. socofofi*. The aggression is also mostly conspecific. The Mbamba labs pretty much ignore other species.

The 55-gallon tank they were kept in was moderately planted. I added several rocks and a piece of slate so the fish has a place to get on with their business. The water is standard Indianapolis tap water treated with Prime at 78° F. The pH was about 7.6, and permanent and carbonate hardness were 25gH and 12kH respectively. After a week of heavy feeding and two water changes, one of the adult females was holding. After 2 weeks, I isolated the holding female in a 10 gallon nursery tank. The female finally released 8 fry about a week later. The female was immediately removed from the nursery tank to prevent fry predation. The fry have brown bodies and yellow fins similar to that of females. As with most mouth-brooder fry, they eagerly feed on crushed flakes.

I recommend the Mbamba Labs for aquarists looking for something other than bread-and-butter African rift cichlids. The males have more than enough pretty coloration to offset the plain brown and yellow coloration of the females. Furthermore, they are not overly aggressive and would be a good candidate for an African rift tank community fish.

CCAC 2007 Board of Directors

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Spice up your tanks with fish from one of these regional club auctions. A weekend fishy getaway will brighten your mood!

MA SI

<http://www.missouriaquariumsociety.org/events.htm>
Annual Show and Auction - April 18-20, 2008

GCAS:

<http://gcas.org/auction.html>
Spring Auction - April 26, 2008
Swap Meet - May 17, 2008

CAFÉ

<http://columbusfishclub.org/auction.php>
Spring Auction - May 3, 2008
Lockbourne, Ohio 43137

AKA:

May 23 - May 25, 2008
<http://www.aka.org/convention>

ALA:

<http://www.ala2008.info/>
2008 Convention Show & Auction
May 1 – May 4, 2008
San Antonio, Texas

Michiana Aquarium Society :

<http://www.michianaaquariumsociety.org/html/>
"Buck-A-Bag" Auction
April 12, 2008
Elkhart, IN

Green Water Aquarist Society:

Tropical Fish Auction - April 20, 2008
<http://gwasoc.org/>

MBC International Spring Show:

April 19, 2008
Anderson, IN 46016

Tri-County Tropical Fish Society:

Spring Auction - April 5th
East Peoria, IL

If your fish club has an event and would like to be added to this list, please contact the editor, Kelli Barton at alyeskasen@yahoo.com.

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How did you hear about the CCAC? _____

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Membership Number: _____

Date: _____

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Circle City Aquarium Club
4816 E. 64TH Street
Indianapolis, IN 46220



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