

Buckeye Bulletin

August 2015

**Social Gathering:
August 7, 2015**



**Ohio Cichlid
Association**



Cichlasoma Festae
South America

Welcome to the Buckeye Bulletin...

As you turn these pages, you enter the digital archives of the Ohio Cichlid Association. Take a look around and please enjoy.

Monthly Features include:

**President's Message
Editor's Message
Bowl Show Results
Cichlid BAP Results
Catfish BAP Results
Program Previews
This Month in OCA History
Exchange Article
And more...**

As a member, you are more than welcome to submit pieces for publication in the bulletin. Please contact Editor, Jon "Jombie" Dietrich at jdietric@mail.bw.edu

If you are interested in all things "exchange," please contact Exchange Editor, Eric Sorensen at Eeleven@aol.com

The Fine Print:

The Ohio Cichlid Associations Buckeye Bulletin is produced monthly by the Ohio Cichlid Association. All articles and photographs contained within this publication are being used with consent of the authors.

When submitting articles for publication in this bulletin, please remember to include any photographs or art for the article. The Ohio Cichlid Association is not responsible for any fact checking or spelling correction in submitted material. Articles will be edited for space and content. All information in this bulletin is for the sole use of The Ohio Cichlid Association and the personal use of its members. Articles, photographs, illustrations, and any other printed material may not be used in any way without the written consent of The Ohio Cichlid Association.

Meet Your OCA Board...

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Webmaster – Ohiocichlid.com: Gary Mendez

Videographer: Jonathan Strazinsky

Refreshments: Bob Tilman

Apparel, Promotions – Kyle May

Extravaganza, Raffles,
Manufacturer Liaison: Marc DeWerth

C.A.R.E.S. Liaison: Andrew Schock

At Large: Marilyn Danko, Eric Sorensen, Scott Myers

The OCA Mission Statement...

The OCA is an organization dedicated to the advancement and dissemination of information relating to all aspects of the biology of cichlids and related aquatic life. Our purpose is to promote the interest, keeping, study, breeding, and the educational exhibition of Cichlids. Additionally, the exchange of ideas, meeting new people, and distribution of information concerning Cichlids is of primary interest.

There are many ways to get involved with the club!

Attend Meetings
Contribute to the Buckeye Bulletin
Participate in the monthly Bowl Show
Volunteer to “run” at an auction
Persuade non-members to attend a meeting
Attend the Extravaganza
Participate in the Breeder Awards Program
Enter fish into an auction
Join the Board – elections are held in December
Like/Share an OCA Facebook post
Post a thread on the OCA Forum
Visit Ohiocichlid.com

Get involved in all things OCA!

A Word from the President...

Don Danko,
OCA President

I hope you've all enjoyed the July break and that you're having a great summer. During the time off, I was able to complete an overdue project to automate water changes for Marilyn's Pleco tanks. We also helped my older son, Mike, set up a Cichlid tank in his new office. He now has an attractive display of Yellow Labidochromis and Electric Blues in a 36 gallon bow front tank. But, it's now time to get back to OCA activities.

VP and Speaker Chair, Lew Carbone, has yet another outstanding speaker for your listening pleasure for our August meeting. Dr. Ron Coleman of the California State University at Sacramento will be speaking on Costa Rican Cichlids. Ron has done a lot of research in the field in Costa Rica and will share his observations and learning with us. He is well known also for his research into Cichlid egg morphology for as many species as he could obtain through hobbyist donations. You can check out the project at his website: <http://cichlidresearch.com/eggproj.html>. Ron's talk is certain to be informative and entertaining, so you won't want to miss it.

Planning for our 21st Extravaganza is in full swing. It will be held from November 20-22 at the Holiday Inn Strongsville. We have another great speaker line-up for you as follows:

- **Ad Konings:** *"Tanganyikan Cichlids"*
- **Ted Judy:** *Topic to be Determined*
- **Julian Dignall:** *"Introduction to L-numbers/L-number Interactive," "Collecting Catfishes in India"*
- **Heiko Bleher:** *"Cichlids of India, the Middle East and North Africa," "Angelfish and Discus in the Wild"*

We also are planning to have Cichlid and Catfish Fish Shows, Manufacturer Displays, Kids Tank Contest, a Swap Meet as well as an Awards Ceremony and Hospitality Suite. Check out our website for more information.

I look forward to seeing you all at the August 7th meeting of 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, www.ohiocichlid.com and on the OCA Forum at <http://www.cichlidae.com/forum/viewforum.php?f=40>.

Best regards,

Don Danko
OCA President





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A Word from the Editor...

Jon "Jombie" Dietrich,
Buckeye Bulletin

Welcome back fish friends!

The bulletin staff and I always have the choice of taking June off. Last year I submitted a quick bulletin, but this year I thought I put the extra time in updating the format. Given my lack of digital design skill and a tendency for minimalism, I settled on this design. I'll give it some time and possibly change as we go. It's my hope that you will spread the word about the bulletin and get everyone reading it. We now have two places to access it: Cichlidae.com forums and ohiocichlid.com with a login. It's tough to know who is reading, especially now since our website doesn't keep count like cichlidae.com does. It is important to me that everyone in the club reads the bulletin. It's our main source of communication from Board to members and it strives to bring everyone together in our community. As always, the bulletin staff is accepting files to be published. Please send your pictures, articles, blogs, and anything else to jdietric@mail.be.edu. We would love to include it in future bulletins.

I hope you all had a great summer and you're ready to get back in those fish rooms. As a teacher, summer is the time for me to focus on fish. I spent a lot of time with my fish and have some great things happening. My biggest accomplishment this summer came through someone else's accomplishment. During Christmas time, a teacher friend expressed interest in getting his son a fish tank since they were already regulars at the Aquarium. I gave him advice and there was a new tank under the Christmas tree. When the tank was ready, his son came over to pick out some fish. I encouraged him to start with Convicts for a hardy fish that will give him the essence of what Cichlids can do.

Last week, my friend sent me a video of his son's excitement over the newly hatched Convict fry. He told me they paired off and finally had babies. He was ecstatic. He expressed that the mom was eating some of the babies, but that was okay because "they might not get it right the first time." Turns out, mom was just moving the fry. They ended up being great parents. The other day, I was invited over to see his new fish and to remove the other fish that were stressing out the pair. Only a few months ago, his son wanted to populate a tank with tons of fish with more addition and no subtraction. Now, he understands the importance of committing to the fish's best interest. He hopes to raise the fry and possibly turn them into BAP. Then he is ready for his next species. We may have a lifelong Cichlid keeper on our hands.

Looking to the future, keep that Extravaganza in mind. Grab your hotel rooms early and get ready for a blast. I couldn't be more excited about this year's speakers. We have an unbelievable lineup. Save those pennies and make this year's Extravaganza your best memory yet.

Hope you enjoy the bulletin.

See you Friday,
Jom



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EVENT REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW AT:
OhioCichlid.com/Extravaganza/Registration

*You must be registered for the Extravaganza to receive the discounted show rate.

2015 Extravaganza Speakers A World Class Lineup

Ad Konings: *"Tanganyikan Cichlids"*

www.cichlidpress.com

Ted Judy: *Topic to be Determined*

www.tedsfishroom.com

Julian Dignall: *"Introduction to L-numbers/L-number Interactive," "Collecting Catfishes in India"*

www.planetcatfish.com

Heiko Bleher: *"Cichlids of India, the Middle East and North Africa," "Angelfish and Discus in the Wild"*

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Finalized speaker schedule
will be available soon!



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Attention! It's Time to Gather...

The next OCA Social Gathering is
August 7th, 2015 – 8:00 PM

Meeting location is
Old Oak Bible Church
7575 Old Oak Blvd.
Middleburg Heights, Ohio

Here's what to expect...

- President's Welcome
- Speaker Introduction
- Amazing Speaker
- Social Time
- BAP Certificate Presentation
- Membership Raffle
- Fish Auction
- Huge Raffle

Enjoy a great time with great people and everyone's favorite topic, **CICHLIDS!**



August Program Preview

Dr. Ron Coleman

California State University, Sacramento
Costa Rican Cichlids

Dr. Ron Coleman was born and educated in Canada, earning his Ph.D. in zoology at the University of Toronto in 1993. As he was finishing his degree, he began Post Doctoral work at the University of California, Berkeley, and in 1994, began teaching at various universities, the majority of them in the University of California State system. In 2001, he settled full-time at the Sacramento campus, and now holds the title of Associate Professor.



Ron currently teaches Animal Behavior, Ichthyology, Evolution and Fisheries. Most of the work done by him and his students, including lab and field work, focuses on cichlid reproduction and behavior, especially the parental care of offspring. He is also an active hobbyist.

Every cichlid-lover should be familiar with his website: [The Cichlid Research Homepage](#). It contains a wealth of info about cichlid science, including sections on identification and aquarium care.

Why this interest in cichlids? Here's an excerpt from the Cichlid Research site:

Cichlids are nature's gift to the evolutionary biologist. So many questions of evolutionary biology are stifled because of the lack of diversity in many groups of organisms. For example, the North American sunfish are a fabulously interesting group of fishes and few things can match a male bluegill sunfish protecting his nest and babies. And yet, we can never answer the question of why it is the male bluegill that guards his nest rather than the female by studying sunfish. Why? Because it is the same for all sunfish. All species in the family exhibit male care so we have nothing to compare them with. This is not the case in cichlids. There are so many cichlids, doing so many different things, that we can look into this vast treasure chest of diversity and seek out comparisons to help illuminate the biology we see. In vertebrates, cichlids are unmatched for this breadth of opportunity.

Ron is a longtime friend of the OCA. He spoke at the 1997 and 2003 Extravaganzas and won a grant from the Jim Smith Fund in 2013.

Most of Ron's field work is done in Costa Rica, and the cichlid population of that country is the topic of his presentation.

A Year of Great Presentations...

2015

August 7

Dr. Ron Coleman

California State University, Sacramento
Costa Rican Cichlids

September 4

Dr. Jay Stauffer

Pennsylvania State University
"Behaviors of Malawi Cichlids"

October 2

Brian Perkins

"Cichlids of Peru"

November 6

David Chapman

Cleveland Museum of Natural History
"Famous Fossil Fish of North-Eastern Ohio"

December 4

Christmas Party

2016

January 8

Joint Meeting with MCAS

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Steve Heinbaugh

Catfish

**Note venue change
for this event!
This will be a special
night!**





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Cichlid BAP... June 2015

Listed below are the Cichlid BAP submissions for June 2015. Members successfully bred these cichlids and raised a minimum of 6 fry to a minimum of 1". Varying point values determined by spawn difficulty were given to members' total Cichlid BAP points.

Congratulations on these spawns and thank you for your participation.

Breeder	Species	Points
Lew Carbone	Neochromis greenwoodi	10
Josh Cunningham	Aulonocara ethelwynnae	10
	Cyprichromis leptosome "Katete"	15
	Cyprichromis microlepidotus "Kiriza black"	15
	Haplochromis sp. "ruby green"	10
	Julidochromis dickfeldi "Livua"	15
	Julidochromis regain "Bujumbura"	15
	Lestradia perspicax	15
	Neochromis omnicaeruleus "Makobe"	10
	Pseudotropheus sp. "elongates Chewere"	10
Bryan Davis	Andinoacara rivulatus	10
	Ophthalmotilapia ventralis "Congo orange fin"	25
John Griffith	Pundamilia nyererei	10
Ken Grimmett	Protomelas spilonatus	10
Mark Kazanoff	Tilapia snyderae	10
Dennis Kuehn	Aulonocara sp. "OB peacock"	10
Jason Mlynar	Neolamprologus leleupi	15
Anthony Scarton	Julidochromis marlieri	15
Tyler Toncler	Tropheus sp. "red Ndole"	20

Cichlid BAP Totals... June 2015

Listed below are the Cichlid BAP grand totals. The information is maintained by Mark Chaloupka, OCA Board. See Mark at monthly meetings for more information about the Cichlid Breeders Award Program.

Thank you for your participation.

CURRENT B.A.P. STANDINGS (6/5/15)

BREEDER	2015	TOTAL
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MASTER BREEDER 1000 POINT LEVEL

Lew Carbone	60	2760
Don Danko	15	2395
Dan Woodland	-	2070
Bryan Davis	140	1410
Bill Loudermilk	-	1200
Linda Wallrath	-	1130
Rich & Maggie Schoeffel	-	1065
Mark Chaloupka	15	1045
Josh Cunningham	115	1045
John Tesar	-	1020

900 POINT LEVEL

Dennis Tomazin	-	965
Tom Swiderski	-	905

800 POINT LEVEL

Dustin Brummitt	-	840
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700 POINT LEVEL

Gary Mendez	-	770
Ken & Sue Galaska	20	740
Jeff Yadlovsky	-	740
Hilary & Antonio Lacerda	55	710

600 POINT LEVEL

Jeff Natterer	-	690
Charlie & Cathy Suk	-	615
Bill Schwartz	10	605
Steve Zarzeczny	-	600

500 POINT LEVEL

Jonathan Strazinsky	55	575
Tim Craig	-	540
Bob Blazek	10	525
Ron Georgeone	-	510

400 POINT LEVEL

Rick Hallis	-	495
George Anagnostopoulos	45	475
Phil Hypes	-	475
Kyle May	-	445
Tyler Toncler	30	420
Bob Bina	-	415

300 POINT LEVEL

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

Cichlid BAP Totals... June 2015

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.

200 POINT LEVEL

Ken & Karen Grimmett	20	290
James Shakour	-	275
Dave Esner	-	240
Greg Senn	25	240
Tom & Carolyn Evers	30	230
Ken Walker	20	240
Dennis Kuehn	35	230
Andrew Schock	150	220
Paul Collander	-	205
Justin Way	75	200

100 POINT LEVEL

Marc & Dawn DeWerth	-	195
Ozeal Hunter	-	190
Chuck Carroll	-	185
Jonathan Dietrich	-	180
Andrew Subotnik	-	180
Jason Mylnar	15	160
Frank Mueller	-	160
Bob Evers	-	155
Steve Heinbaugh	-	150
David Ayers	-	145
Greg Seith	-	145
Bill & Janice Bilski	-	135
Dan Ogrizek	-	125
Joe Ring	-	120
Peter Nario-Redmond	-	115
Aaron Stevens	-	115
David Toth	-	115
Raymond Langer	-	110

BREEDER LEVEL

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

A New BAP Master Josh Cunningham

With nine amazing BAP submissions in June, Josh Cunningham becomes ranked among nine other breeders currently in the Ohio Cichlid Association. He gains Master Breeder status and earned a legacy within the program.



Josh's first BAP submission was *Xystichromis* sp. "Kyoga flameback" Albino. He submitted the fry in August 2012, which means Josh's Master Breeder journey took under three years! His favorite BAP spawn so far was *Xenotilapia papilio* "Sunflower" Mpimbwe. He claims this is the case because it's "awesome to see the male holding fry since they are bi-parental mouth brooders." When asked what being a Master Breeder means to him, Josh states "it gives me a chance to look back and see all the success and fun I have had breeding all different kinds of African Cichlids. At any time that I got frustrated with one species, another new one for me has spawned. This is what keeps me going." Finally, Josh leaves members with a piece of advice: "Don't get discouraged and give up. Some times species need a change in scenery to get them going, don't give up if something is not working. Keep trying and ask for advice if needed."

Congratulations for this achievement and thanks for sharing all your spawns with the OCA! You've impacted our hobby in a significant way.



Photos of Josh's
favorite spawn:
Xenotilapia papilio
"Sunflower"
Mpimbwe



Catfish BAP... June 2015

Listed below are the Catfish BAP submissions for June 2015. Members successfully bred these catfish and raised a minimum of 6 fry to a minimum of 1". Varying point values determined by spawn difficulty were given to members' total Catfish BAP points.

Congratulations on these spawns and thank you for your participation.

Breeder	Species	Points
John Griffith	Ancistrus sp. Calico Bushynose	10
Jason Mlynar	Sturisoma festivum	15



Catfish BAP Totals... June 2015

Listed below are the Catfish BAP grand totals. The information is maintained by Steve Heinbaugh, OCA Board. See Steve at monthly meetings for more information about the Catfish Breeders Award Program.

Thank you for your participation.

NAME	2015	TOTAL
Dan Ogrizek	25	345
Steve Heinbaugh		290
Dave Ayres	20	240
Phil Ayres	20	210
Don & Marilyn Danko	10	205
Ken Walker	10	120
Dan Woodland		100
Matt Urbin		90
Eric & Rhonda Sorensen		75
Bryan Davis		60
Phil Hypes		60
Hilary Lacerda		60
Tom & Carolyn Evers		50
Ken Galaska		45
Tyler Toncler		45
Justin Way	10	40
John Kaminski		40
Kyle May		40
George Aganostopoulos	10	40
Karen & Ken Grimmett		30

Catfish BAP Totals... June 2015

Listed below are more Catfish BAP grand totals. The information is maintained by Steve Heinbaugh, OCA Board. See Steve at monthly meetings for more information about the Catfish Breeders Award Program.

NAME	2015	TOTAL
Lew Carbone	30	
Andrew Schock		30
Bob Evers	20	30
Tony Poth		20
Josh Cunningham		20
Gary Mendez		20
John Tesar		20
David Toth		20
Paul Palisin	10	20
Jason Mlynar	15	15
John Griffith	10	10
Carl Olszewski	10	10
Anthony Scranton		10
Jon Dietrich		10
Richard Shamray		10
William Zarzeczny		10
Wayne Corman		10
Mark Chaloupka		10
David Hale		10
Jonathan Strazinsky		10
Bob & Jennifer Tillman		10

Bowl Show

Listed below is information about the monthly meeting Bowl Show. The Bowl Show is your opportunity to show off your fish. Each month different categories of Cichlids and Catfish will be judged. Points will be given and prizes will be awarded. All members are welcome to participate. This is great practice for our yearly Extravaganza show! See Carl Olszewski, OCA Board, at a meeting or contact him at carlolszewski@yahoo.com for more information.

August Bowl Show Categories

Old World—exclude Rift Lakes and Victorian Basin

Open New World, limit 3

Open Tanganyika, limit 3

Quarterly Winner presented at June Meeting:

Scott Myers!

Scott wins a \$35 LFS gift certificate. Congrats!

2015 OCA FISH BOWL STANDINGS

MEMBER	PTS.	QUARTER	2015
JUSTIN WAY	39	7	39
SCOTT MYERS	39	17	39
NICK ZARZECZNY	15	0	15
LEW CARBONE	15	0	15
TONY POTH	7	0	7
JASON WEBB	5	5	5
PAUL PALISAN	1	0	1

Thanks for your participation!



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Gcas.org

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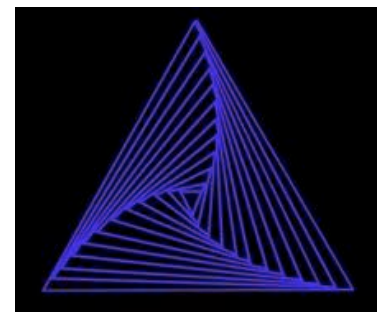
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The OCA Goes ACA!

A visit to Springfield, MA

Thursday, July 30 - Sunday, August 2, 2015



Lew Carbone, Phil and Dave Ayres, and Hilary LaCerde made the nine-hour drive to Springfield, MA to participate in all the action going on at the American Cichlid Association's 2015 Convention. With world-class speakers, huge auctions, and many fellow hobbyists from around the globe, the American Cichlid Association puts together one spectacular show. We hope our OCA friends and every one else had a wonderful time. These events are important in strengthening the hobbyist community and the distribution of Cichlids.

Thanks for representing the Ohio Cichlid Association!

We look forward to future BAP spawns from the event!

Next year, the ACA will be only a short drive away... Cincinnati 2016!

BAP Success...

I acquired beautiful Central American Cichlid from Tom Ever's BAP submission from January 3rd, 2013. It is a Honduran Red Point, variety "Platinum," which was obviously named by its eye-popping body color. The brushed blue through the fins make this variety exceptionally radiant. Through the years, I have had to opportunity to spawn it a few times and also keep some very nice adults. These have worked really well in numerous tank setups with different types of Cichlids. While acting as targets on occasion, they hold their own while providing beauty and personality. Similar to everyone's favorite, the Convict, the Honduran Red Point gives just enough pizzazz to find and hold a place in your fishroom.

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Good for the Hobby – Organizations – Industry

Ray “Kingfish” Lucas

Thanks for 25 years and 500 shows!

This Month in OCA History

Lew Carbone,
OCA Historian

July, 1984:

Issue 10 of the Buckeye Cichlid Lovers' Bulletin announces that the OCA will be forming a club library. Rich Schoeffel will put it together and serve as the first librarian. *Rich diligently saved the first nine years or so of the BCLB and donated them to the library. Those bulletins are the basis of the current Historian's collection. Thank you Mr Schoeffel, wherever you are.*

August, 1998:

OCA Board Member Marc DeWerth speaks at the social meeting, held at the Senior Center. *The topic, as I remember it, was Marc's Bigfoot hunting expedition in southern Ohio. I'm not sure what Marc's title was, but Speaker Chair Don Danko, in his Monthly Update, called it "The Tooth Fairy, Santa Clause and Bigfoot". My most vivid memory was of actual video footage shot near Coshocton, I think, in which Marc said he recorded a close encounter. I remember lots of trees. Marc is currently an experienced and sought-after speaker on the subject.*

August, 2001:

At this month's Board Meeting, held at Richard Pittenger's beautiful place near Mansfield, Rhonda Sorensen officially takes over as OCA Treasurer, from Dawn DeWerth.

Chuck Nowakowski, A True Hobbyist Fish Room Quick Peek!

I had the opportunity to visit Chuck's fish room mid-July when I responded to a sales ad. He was selling quite a few Cichlids, but I was interested in obtaining a group of small *T. meeki* and larger *A. pulcher* to go with my group at home. Chuck lives in Parma with his wife, son, and many other living creatures. I was greeted at the door by his two large pups. Entering the basement, I became immediately captivated by four enormous display tanks, 125 gallons stacked in pairs. The tanks would be visually appealing to anyone outside the hobby, but to an experienced eye, I knew Chuck had some tricks up his sleeve. His tanks are appropriately aquascaped to suit the best environment for the inhabitants.

His main display tanks include:

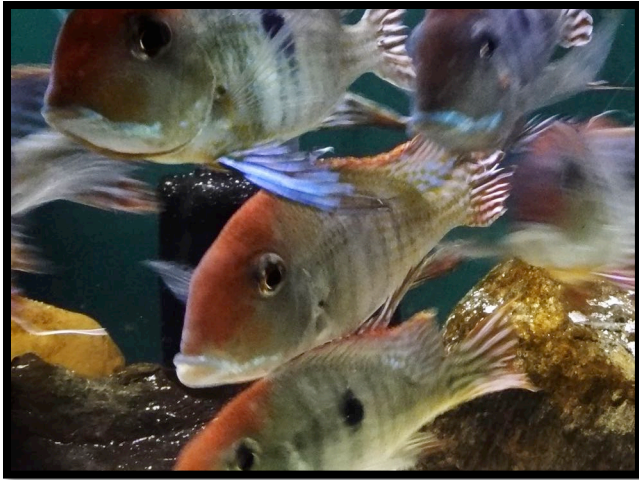
1. Large *Festae* pair with Red Devil targets. See female with eggs below!
2. Group of young *Dovii* with Barred Midas targets.
3. Enormous group of *Geophagus* sp. Redhead Tapajos
4. Extensive Native tanks filled with local fishes.

The large tankbusters are given lots of open waters while still having places to territorialize or hide. Big pieces of driftwood gave the tanks a larger feel.

Hiding in the corner of the display area was a true gem of a tank. Chuck maintains a 120 gallon (awesome footprint) with super cool South American Cichlids: groups of True Parrots, *Hoplarchus psittacus* and *Guianacara stergiosi*.

Next, Chuck took me into his working fish area that houses 21 tanks filled with Cichlids and fry!





Chuck has managed to create a functional fish room in a smaller basement room. For the amount of tanks, the room is perfectly suited for fish growouts and breeding. He is able to fit a collection of diverse tank sizes by using strategic and smart choices in space usage. The smaller room gives him the opportunity to get the most out of his central air pump and the opportunity to successfully heat the room instead of each tank.

Chuck entered the local hobby scene breeding mostly African Cichlids and had much success doing so. Recently, Chuck has taken an avid interest in New World Cichlids. His entire fish room is a diverse collection of popular and rare CA/SA Cichlids. Being a New World guy myself, I was in my glory exploring his tanks. The Cleveland area scene is one that is African dominant, so it's reassuring to see hobbyists devoted to these regions. It might be difficult to create suitable environments and even more difficult to move fry, but it's important to maintain diversity in our local hobby.

I went over Chuck's house for a quick pickup, and ended up staying for hours. I've written Editor's Messages about the importance of being a true hobbyist. The hobby can be used and often abused in certain aspects, but there are people that strive to extract the true essence of it and I believe these are our leaders within the hobby. They look to learn about the fish, habitats, natural feeding habits, etc. They purchase books and subscribe to Cichlidae.com. They seek to help others. They want to distribute their fry for other purposes than quick profit. They put fish above all else. Chuck embodies these characteristics and is a true hobbyist.

Thanks for having me over Chuck! If you get a chance, stop by Chuck's house to purchase fish and have a great conversation. You won't be disappointed.

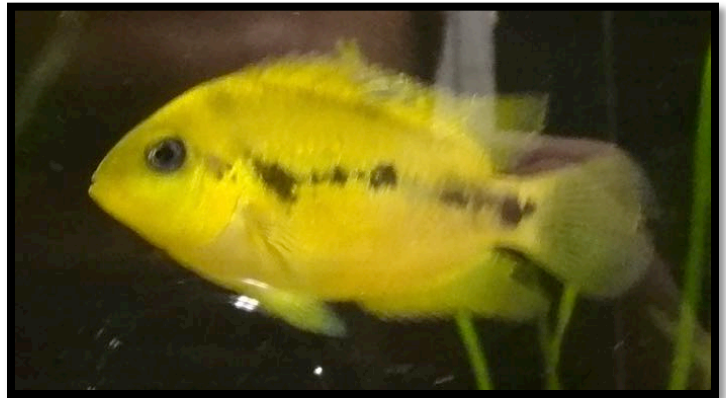
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Membership Reminder...

Membership dues are important in maintaining the quality of the club. OCA membership dues are cycled yearly beginning and ending in November. Dues are currently \$15 for one year or \$25 for two years.

There are three ways to sign up!

1. Sign up through the OCA website, Ohiocichlid.com, and pay with PayPal,
2. Email OCAmember@gmail.com
3. See Hilary LaCerde at a monthly meeting

If you know someone on the fence about the whole “club scene,” bring that someone to a monthly meeting or auction and let him/her have an OCA experience. We are confident the environment will *hook* that person into taking the next step into the hobby. The OCA thrives on its membership and we look for all the possible opportunities to make membership worth your time and money.

We do it all for YOU!

If you have any questions about membership, please direct them to Hilary LaCerde, OCA Board.



What's Important?...

WATER CHANGES, of course! Responsible hobbyists know that water changes are one of the most important aspects of keeping fish. Yes, there are times when it is necessary to hold off. Yes, there are times when it is necessary to change water like crazy. The key is to be conscious of your intentions and to keep the health of the fish at the top of your priority list. Keep those tanks fresh and your fish will thrive.

Top water change methods:

1. Siphon to drain
2. Buckets
3. Automatic Water Change System
4. Lap it up

Siphon to drain method

