

SWAM

March/April 2012

A publication of the Southwestern
Michigan Aquarium Society
(S.W.M.A.S.) WWW.SWMAS.ORG
Club meets each month in Kalamazoo

Chapalichthys encaustus (Goodeids)

By Patrick Miller

There are fish that come and go in every fish room. Sometimes a fish will stay because it has eluded breeding attempts and other times it will stay because it is a favorite species. However, there is another reason why you may decide to keep a fish and that is to help maintain and preserve it.



At the 2011 American Livebearers Association (ALA) convention, I decided to participate in the ALA's species maintenance program (SMP). The purpose of the ALA's SMP is to protect endangered livebearer species by ensuring enough ALA club members are keeping and breeding these fish at any one time.

A number of livebearers are threatened in the wild, especially Goodeids, which only come from the Mexican highlands. This area is very dry and what water does exist is under pressure by expanding human population. Because of this, most Goodeids are vulnerable, threatened or critically endangered. There are species that are now extinct in the wild and only exist in a few labs and hobbyist tanks. It is because of the low number of people maintaining this fish that the 2011 ALA target fish was *Chapalichthys encaustus*.

I was not sure what to expect with this fish when I bid on it and took home an adult pair and young group. Some Goodeids can be very difficult to not only breed but also just to keep alive. *C. encaustus* are an attractive fish and one of the better-looking Goodeids. They have a greenish body with black bars down their sides and a faint yellow band on the back of their tail fin. Males and females look somewhat similar but can be easily differentiated by the males Andropodium (split on their anal fin). This species can attain a total length of up to 4" in females with males staying slightly smaller.

Keeping these fish is without issue. My fish are kept in a 20-gallon long. Given how fast they reproduce and how big they get, the tank should probably be larger but a well-maintained 20-gallon tank is fine. As with all of my tanks, their tank is heavily planted. Fry will benefit from hiding spaces in the way of *Najas* grass or other thick vegetative growth. However, the fry are large and I have not seen the adults take much interest in them. For feeding, a good flake food will suffice as a base but live or frozen food should be included.

This is an attractive fish that deserves to be kept and distributed in the hobby. That is why it has a home in my fish room. Consider participating in a species maintenance program. There are several different programs depending on what type of fish interest you. These programs can be rewarding and of course, there is always the BAP point and the ability to tell your friends you are doing something to help conserve nature.

If you would like to give this species a try, look for these fish at GVAC auctions. Also, visit livebearers.org.

At the 2011 American Livebearers Association (ALA) convention, I decided to



2012 is off to a great start!

Greetings from our President: John Oxner

While we're only a few months into the year, it's fairly accurate to say it's been interesting up to here. Now that much of the club business is ironed out, we can look forward to enjoying the programs and speakers planned for 2012.

As we've talked about, we've added a short program to the list of activities for the monthly meetings. We're calling it a *Species Discussion*. Each month we hope a different member of our club will give the membership a 5-10 minute look into the life and activities of their favorite species of fish. By doing this, it enables all of us to learn a little bit more about the wide variety of fish being kept, as well as learning about that species itself. In January Chase Kleinsteker talked about the Orange. In February, I talked about our club's mascot, commonly called a Discus. In March, Curt Bitterling will give a presentation about the 11 species of Brackyraytis, and in April, Steve McDonald is going to talk to the club about the Bristle nose Plecos. We're looking for more volunteers to fill the calendar for the rest of the year as we know we have folks keeping Killi, Cichlids, North American Minnows, and the list could go on further than I can type. Talk to me in March or email me at joxner@charter.net if you are willing to share with the group about your first fish love.

Archocentrus panamensis (Panama Cichlid)

Ben Slocum

Curiosity usually gets me into trouble, but even more so in someone's fishroom or a pet shop. I never stop marveling as to the varieties of fish in the hobby nor do I rarely say "no" if someone asks me if I would like to try breeding a fish they are done with. Such is the case with the Panama cichlid, *Archocentrus panamensis*.

While doing research on other cichlids of the Americas, I had read a little bit about them, but nothing too extensive, 75-82 F soft water with feedings of live foods seemed to be the common theme. My friend who supplied them said that he was successful using a dimly lit tank with lots of room, regular water changes and black worm feedings had them spawning frequently. I was given a trio of these gems to challenge my fish keeping/breeding skills. The largest fish, as is typical with New World cichlids, measures out at about 3", with the female at 1 1/2". The sex of the third fish was unknown at the time, but later turned out to be a female.

I placed the trio in a 29 gallon with a handful of crushed shells, several large bushy plastic plants, several clay pots and a 1 1/2" diameter piece of PVC pipe with one end capped. I set the heater at 78 F and kept the light off for a few days to help with acclimating them. The tank already contained several large mystery snails to help the sponge filter keep the tank clean. I began feeding them with a high protein flake which they accepted readily, with the intention of using blackworms later.

About a week later I found one of the smaller fishes hiding behind the plants and the heater. Her fins were tattered and her coloring was washed out. I identified the pair and separated the loner from them. Oddly enough, she laid eggs a few days later in another tank! Of course they weren't fertile, but I wonder if her exposure to the other fish while they were pairing off didn't trigger her spawning instincts?

We need Articles!

Share your knowledge!

Deadline for submitting articles in the bimonthly SWAM is the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and December. Email articles to: kim.nelson@wmich.edu

Bowl Show Schedule

March	Guppies, Cichlids
April	Plecos, Corys
May	Wild/Domestic Swordtails
June	Platys
July	Bettas
August	Victorian Cichlids and Angels
September	Goodies, Mollies
October	Malawi and Tanganyika Cichlids
November	Danios, Rasboras
December	Your Favorite Fish

Did you Know?

Unlike other relaxation techniques, attending to a fish tank is a spontaneously initiated activity. The brain is programmed to attend to water and the movement of fish, therefore no training or practice is necessary to experience stress reduction.

Continued: *Archocentrus panamensis* (Panama Cichlid)

I began using blackworms in their feeding regiment and both fish became more active within days. The male would try to lead the female into a flower pot, but she always chose the PVC tube over any other location. The pair spawned several times, each one ending with either parent eating the eggs or fry. While the male colored up in shades of green and blue, the female took on a "camouflage" pattern made up of gray, black and a silvery white. Perhaps her color scheme would match their spawning locale in the wild, under overhanging brush in a slow part of the river or the like. She became much more protective as the pair became older.

I gave into my aversion of removing the fry from the female and did so placing the PVC tube in a one gallon pickle jar (my aquarium of choice; cheap, easy to clean, and fits just about anywhere!) filled with water from the 29 and an airstone for circulation. The fry were still belly hoppers for a day or two, not quite ready to leave the tube. When they did, I began feedings of microworms. I eventually placed the entire jar of water and fry into a 5 ½ gallon and added some aged room temperature water to bring the water level up. A cycled sponge filter replaced the airstone and some java moss was added for micro food and cover. The fry grew very quickly, receiving 25 % water changes every other day along with ground flake and the microworms.

As I write this the parents have spawned again, and are doing well as parents. Mom and Dad take turns beating each other up a little bit with the winner taking over watching the kids. I'm not sure that meets the definition of tough love, but it works for them. If by any chance this species or any other cichlid breeding opportunity comes your way, give it a try. Only by experience can we gain wisdom in the fish keeping hobby and all of the fish have their own unique looks, styles, and mannerisms. Good luck and God Bless!!!



Fun Facts About Guppies

- Can live up to 5 years old, but it is most common for them to live from 1-3 years old
- No two are exactly alike
- Scientific name is *Poecilia reticulata*
- They are Omnivores
- Their name came from a person named Girardinus Guppy
- One of the best medicines for your guppies is 1 teaspoon of salt per gallon
- A new speices of guppy is made every day (meaning colors and patterns)
- They are the easiest fish to breed!

BAP Report

BAP chairperson Curt Bitterling

Three spawns were turned in at the February meeting. All were from Donald Brandt and they were the *Ancistrus* species Bristlenose Catfish. We sure are having alot of Bristlenose being bred by this club. *Characodon Lateralis*-Los Barros population—Rainbow Goodeid—there are seven



different locations and probably seven species (I am a splitter) of the *Characodon* species, some are considered the *Lateralis* type some are considered the *Audax* type and one is out there more closely related to the Pupfish *Crenichthys*? Baileyi, the third was *Xenoophorus Captivus-loc Jesus Maria*—Green Goodeid which is endangered and probably only being kept by a very few dedicated Goodeid fanciers.

Fry Raising Program

Fry Raising Program chairperson Chase Klinesteker

The Orange Flame Tetras are due at the April meeting, and John Oxner will bring Longfin *Corydoras Paleatus* fry for a Fry-Raising contest at the March meeting.



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Club planning fun, interesting, and educational gatherings

John Oxner, President

While we're only a few months into the year, it's fairly accurate to say it's been interesting up to here. January's meeting was ALL BUSINESS, with a lot of varying thoughts on the subjects we discussed. In February we ratified all the non-constitutional issues, items 1-5. It was decided to table the changes for the Constitution, form a committee to review the entire Constitution and Bylaws, and make all needed changes at one time rather than go at it piece meal. Vince Houston will chair the committee with Larry Cook and Steve McDonald working with him. Chase Klinesteker will act as an advisor.

The bus trip as a club was tabled. Folks from Michiana's club stated they thought there would be plenty of room on their Shop Hop bus trip into Chicago for anyone from SWMAS who wanted to go with them. The group felt that was a more efficient use of funds. It will cost each member from SWMAS \$30 to go on this trip, but the club has stated it is willing to pick up half of the cost of the bus with Michiana that might not be paid if our members are allowed to go for the \$20 per person their club members are paying.

Speaker Day for this coming fall, October 13, is coming along nicely. One nationally recognized speaker has confirmed they will attend, two others will let us know by April. Dave has back up speakers in mind if either of the two should be unable to come. Chase Klinesteker and Pat Hartman will also be asked to address the gathering with insights from their vast experience.

February got us back on track to being a club that promotes fun, interesting, and educational opportunities. Chase Klinesteker, Matt Bielski, Vern Cloud, and Dave Hemmerlein led a Panel Discussion about almost every aspect of our common hobby. Needless to say, even for those of us with 35 years or more of experience, it was extremely well presented and packed with useful information all of us can use. The meeting ran quite late as so many people asked so many great questions of all four that we ended past our normal time, and not one person minded. Great job by these four!

Attendance for the first two meetings has been great. Here's hoping we continue to have this much participation through the end of the year. And remember, if every one of us brings just one single friend into the fold this year, the club's membership will have doubled and our room at the Hotel will be too small for next year's gathering place. One person who shares our common hobby interests per member is all it will take.

Exchange Clubs If you have a show or auction that you would like to see included here, please send the notice to the P.O. Box on the back cover of this bulletin, or to kim.nelson@wmich.edu. Remember that the SWAM is a bimonthly publication, so send those notices at least 3 months in advance!

We will exchange publications with clubs that want to receive SWAM. Send your publication to SWMAS, P.O. Box 3095, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-3095.

We have a great line-up of monthly speakers committed for the year:

March: Ron Kelly,
President of Michigan Guppy Breeders

April: Patrick Miller,
Keeping Outdoor Ponds

May: Rich Eberly,
Culturing and Feeding Live Foods

June: James Hitchcock, owner of Rain Forest Station. *Demonstration of building a paludarium*

July: No Meeting Planned

August: Rich Pruess (tentatively)

September: Pat Hartman
Keeping and Breeding Live Bearers

October: Dave Hemmerlein
Preparing for Auctions

November: Dale Ernst
Keeping and Breeding Plecos

December: Charlie Grimes "Surprise"

I am anxious to hear what each of these folks has to share with us. Having heard a few before, I'm certain each will be entertaining, informational, and educational as well.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

2012 Spring Auction
David Hemmerlein
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2012 Fall Auction OPEN

Monthly Auction
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Meetings are the first Friday of each month!

Every meeting begins at 8 p.m.; is located at **The Hampton Inn Conference Room, 5059 S. 9th St., Kalamazoo, Mi. 49009** (for directions, call John at 616-466-1321; or the hotel front desk at 877-662-6988) (*unless otherwise noted*); raffle and mini-auction are held (*70% of auction sales to seller*); question and answer session follows all programs; and a bowl show takes place (*see listing on page 2*).

March 2, 2012

8 p.m.

**Raising Show
Guppies for Competition
by Ron Kelly**

April 6, 2012

8 p.m.

**Outdoor Pond Keeping
by Pat Miller**

SWAM

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society (S.W.M.A.S.)

PO Box 3095

Kalamazoo MI 49003-3095

Clubs to Check Out

- Grand Valley Aquarium Club
valleyaquariumclub.org
- Michiana Aquarium Society
www.michiana-aquarium-society.org
- Greater Detroit Aquarium Society
www.detoitaquariumsociety.org
- Motor City Aquarium Society
motorcityaquariumsociety.com
- Great Lakes Cichlid Society
www.greatlakeschichlidsociety.net
- Yougstown Aquarist
www.yatfs.com
- Long Island Aquarium Society
www.liasonline.org
- Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society
www.gcas.org
- Pacific Coast Cichlid Association
www.cichlidworld.com
- North Jersey Aquarium Society
www.njas.net

Wanted to Buy or Sale

The Aquatic Peddler accepts ads from SWMAS members of up to five lines free of charge. Ads can be for items you wish to trade, sell or would like to find, but must be related to the aquatic hobby. Business ads are not permitted.

Calendar

MARCH 2012

- 2 SWMAS Mtng./Raising Show Guppies for Competition by Ron Kelly www.swmas.org
- 10 SWMAS Spring Auction Plainwell Community Cntr. www.swmas.org
- 17 Greater Detroit Aquarium Soc. Winter Auction www.greaterdetroitaquariumsociety.org
- 24 Grand Valley Aquarium Club Winter Auction www.grandvalleyaquariumclub.org

APRIL 2012

- 6 SWMAS Mtng./Outdoor Pond Keeping by Pat Miller www.swmas.org
- 7 Great Lakes Cichlid Soc. Spring Auction and Swap Meet Euclid Square Mall Call 216-692-9296 for information www.greatlakeschichlidsociety.net
- 14 Michiana Aquarium Soc. Spring Auction/"Buck-A-Bag" Auction Concord Mall, Elkhart, IN Call 269-350-5674 for information

MAY 2012

- 4 SWMAS Mtng./Culturing and Feeding Live Foods by Rich Eberly www.swmas.org
- 19 Michiana Aquarium Soc. Shop Hop: Bus Trip/Five Fish Shops Around Chicago Call 269-350-5674 for information michiana-aquarium-society.org

JUNE 2012

- 1 SWMAS Mtng./Demonstration of building a paludarium by James Hitchcock, owner of Rain Forest Station www.swmas.org
- 23 Great Lakes Cichlid Soc. Summer Auction Euclid Square Mall Call 216-692-9296 for information www.greatlakeschichlidsociety.net

JULY 2012

- 6 NO SWMAS Mtng. www.swmas.org
- 11 through 15 American Cichlid Assoc. Convention Wyndham Indianapolis West www.aca2012indy.com

AUGUST 2012

- 3 SWMAS Mtng./Rich Pruess (tentatively) www.swmas.org

SEPTEMBER 2012

- 7 SWMAS Mtng./Keeping and Breeding Live Bearers by Pat Hartman www.swmas.org
- 22 Great Lakes Cichlid Soc. Fall Auction Euclid Square Mall Call 216-692-9296 for information www.greatlakeschichlidsociety.net
- 23/23 Michiana Aquarium Soc. Tropical Magic All Species Show/Auction Concord Mall, Elkhart, IN Call 269-350-5674 for information michiana-aquarium-society.org

OCTOBER 2012

- 7 SWMAS Mtng./Preparing for Auctions by Dave Hemmerlein www.swmas.org
- 12/13 SWMAS Fall Speakers/Auction Krum Cntr., Schoolcraft, MI www.swmas.org
- 20 Greater Detroit Aquarium Soc. Fall Auction www.grandvalleyaquariumclub.org
- 27 Grand Valley Aquarium Club Fall Auction www.grandvalleyaquariumclub.org

NOVEMBER 2012

- 2 SWMAS Mtng./Keeping and breeding Plecos by Dale Ernst www.swmas.org
- 3 MI Chichlid Association Fall Auction www.michigancichlid.com

DECEMBER 2012

- 7 SWMAS Mtng./a surprise topic by Charlie Grimes www.smas.org
- 8 Motor City Aquarium Soc. Fall Auction motorcityaquariumsociety.com