

SWAM

July/August 2012

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



Long-Finned Corydoras Paleatus (Peppered Cory)

Cathy McNeil

Well, here goes. I have never written an article on fish before. I had to ask my hubby the name of the cory cat in order to even write the article. Goes to show, anyone can keep fish even if they get the fish because they are cute (not because they know their scientific name.)

I got a bag of six long-finned Paleatus Corydoras fry, from John Oxner, at the March meeting. I took them home and put them in a 45 gallon (I think) hexagon tank. The tank does not have a heater, but gets some afternoon sunlight and the artificial light is on all day and turned off at night. Since the tank gets sunlight, the outside tempera-

Continued on page 2

Unexpected pleasure—a pair of albino tiger oscars (Astronotus ocellatus)

By Kim Nelson

When searching for a large used tank for my son's birthday, I responded to an ad for a 55 gallon complete set-up being used for a pair of albino tiger oscars. The seller would not part with the tank unless I promised to care for the two fish or find them a good home. Since the cost was less than \$200, I agreed. Before revealing this purchase, I tried desperately to find a home for these large, aggressive fish. No takers. We were stuck. Fortunately, the entire family fell in love with these fish. Even my daughters who get really sick of fish talk, wanted to keep these two. So, not only did we keep the fish, we moved them out of the fish room and into our living room for about six months.

What a delight. These fish study us as much as we study them. We have found that they are not really that aggressive, unless guarding their eggs. Yes. We ended up with a breeding pair. They had not bred for their original owner and we did not know this was going to happen. The first clutch was lost. They ate the eggs after a few days. This sent my son into research overdrive. He found that raising the temperature of the water a few degrees

Continued on page 3

One hot summer!

Greetings from our President: John Oxner

I hope this newsletter finds you well and deeply involved in doing fun summer activities. That's why the club took the month of July off. We wanted everyone to be able to enjoy their vacations, trips, children and grandchildren at play, as well as, get re-energized to finish off our club year in style once August comes a knocking.

While you're off doing, a few of your Board continue to work on making sure the rest of the year is set up to finish even better than we started Dave is still checking and double checking our speaker arrangements and Kim is still gathering articles to put in our newsletter, even though we are not meeting this month. Honestly, most of the rest of us are doing exactly what you all are doing, which is as little as possible in this heat!

Hope to see you all in August when Mike Monge and most likely his son Tim come to present their slide presentation about the Peruvian Collection Trip they took this past February. Having seen it once now myself, I have to say if you don't enjoy it, then you don't enjoy fishin' and good fun. Mike has this way of presenting that is sneaky, tongue-in-cheek, funny, as well as, a very quick mind when it's time for a come-back or two. I think the group I was with when I heard Mike give his presentation spent as much time laughing as they did admiring. Don't know that he'll do it again, but Mike and Tim also brought a few of their captured species to offer in Auction to that club. Having brought back over 100 species of fish, I'm hoping he's spawned enough of them by now to be able to offer some very unique wilds to our club's highest bidders.

With that said, have a great summer. Be safe, and we will see you in August at the Best Western on Cork st.



Memorable moments

anonymous stories posted on www.aquahobby.com

...I was buying a cichlid I call Ares (Greek god of war, he's very aggressive) at a local pet superstore. I walked up to the tank with the larger cichlids, from 9 to 14 cm. I decided that Ares would be the one to buy, being a beautiful Venustus. Before the clerk was attempting the capture, we had a little discussion about my cichlids at home, who were hardly aggressive at all. They were so friendly in fact, that when I gave them feeders as a treat once a month, they would usually not eat them! The clerk decided to show me how vicious the ones at the store were. She grabbed 4 or 5 feeders out of the goldfish tank (with her bare hands, to my surprise) and threw them in the cichlid tank. Within seconds, the goldfish were gone! I was amazed compared to the ones I already had. As the lady was trying to catch Ares with the net, he got so stressed that he spit out one of the feeders, still alive! It was funny, and kinda gross.

...I have two Venustus cichlids in a 150 liter tank on my desk in my office. My printer was malfunctioning, and the top was opened while it was printing. Why this happened I do not know, but one glass wall of the tank collapsed and broke. My female Venustus fell into the open top of the printer! (The tank was next to it). Somehow, the printer kept printing and the fish came out covered in ink with many scales ripped off. Of course, she was dead. I rescued my other male venustus from the floor and put him in a big glass bowl of water from the cafeteria at my work. I do think that that was a very starng way to go for my poor cichlid!

...I have two bettas in separate 8 liter tanks that sit next to each other. One morning while I was feeding the bettas, I, for some odd reason, opened both lids of the tanks and reached for the food. Obviously by now, the bettas recognize the red jar has food. So off in a frenzy they swim. As I move my fingers with the pellets in between my thumb and index towards the one on the right, (they probably planned this)

both bettas jumped out of their tanks and into their neighbor's tank! So my black betta fell into my red betta's tank and vice versa. Shocked and really amazed, I just fed them. They are back in their correct tanks now.

... Just a warning to people who try to net silver sharks for any reason! I had to catch my 15 cm silver shark as I was moving house. The water level in the tank was down to about 7 cm, to give them less room to evade, but even in this depth, 'Jeeves' the silver shark shot out of the water and bounced off the CEILING (!) before landing in the fireplace, where I managed to catch him. He suffered no serious injuries, and is in the best of health now in the new house.



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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.

facebook

Type "south" in
to search and we
should pop up: Southwestern Michigan
Aquarium Society.



Continued: Long-Finned Corydoras Paleatus (Peppered Cory)

ture of the tank goes from 68 degrees to 85+ degrees. I have never checked the water temperature (I know...how can I write an article that might give advice if I have no



idea of the water temperature or the pH). We do have very hard water that is softened with a water softener. Even though it is softened the water still tastes like a rock. The tank has a power filter and an under gravel filter. There are live plants and plastic plants and a piece of driftwood. There is also a cute castle (that might be a story for another day...providing the baby bristle nose

plecostomus live). Yup the first batch of plecostomus moved downstairs (to Ron's tanks) so that they wouldn't get eaten anymore and he bought me some bigger bristle nose plecocs on one of his trips to Chicago. Only two water changes (about 25% of the water in the tank) were done between the March meeting and the June meeting.

The long-finned cory's started out sharing a tank with five Corydoras Similis, six young plecostomus as well as two medium fancy goldfish and one really large fancy goldfish. The smallest goldfish ate one of the plecostomus. They both ended up dying because my brave husband couldn't get the pleco out of the goldfish's mouth. Then the biggest gold fish ate one of the long-finned cory's. I was so distraught that another fish had been eaten that Ron pulled the big fancy goldfish out of the tank and used a pair of tweezers to retrieve the tiny little cory. The little cory survived and has since grown all his fins back and seems to be very happy. Unfortunately, the big (and yes, expensive) goldfish did not survive. Needless to say there is a big size difference between the cory who won the fry raising contest and the cory who was traumatized in the mouth of a mammoth goldfish.

The tank now houses six Paleatus Corydoras, five Corydoras Similis, five bristle nose plecostomus, five Emperor Tetras (from Chase Klinesteker), six Koi Swordfish, some baby plecocs (who are just venturing out of the castle) and a female betta.

The corys eat Ken's premium tropical flake food and Ken's catfish sticks. The catfish sticks have little bits of wood in them. We bought them to feed the plecostomus but all the other catfish seem to love them too. Even the Koi Swords (who have since replaced the mean goldfish) eat on the sticks. Oh yeah, they occasionally eat fresh zucchini as well. When it is feeding time all the fish flock to the front of the tank. The Tetras are the shyest fish in the tank and the male pleco is the most aggressive fish when it's time to eat.

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(80+) encourages them to lay eggs. Also, water changes simulate the rainy season that triggers the egg-laying. Since that first clutch, we have had a clutch about every 30 days.

Before the eggs are laid, the oscars begin digging a nest. They work like a front-end-loader—pushing rock, picking up rock, spitting rock until they have a depression in the rock bottom and a flat rock in the middle. They also do a mating ‘dance’ which involves crashing into each other with the mouth open and then locking jaws. My son spends a lot of time observing this and lets us know when to expect eggs. He is never wrong. The male oscar fertilizes the eggs by spraying sperm on them after they are laid. You can tell if that is successful by the color of the egg. Tan eggs are fertilized and white eggs are not. During this process, nothing can get close to the eggs. If you place your hand to the glass, the oscars will charge and actually bounce off the glass! Much fun for us.

The eggs hatch three to four days after they are laid. We remove the eggs on day three by lifting up the flat rock and moving it to a nursery tank. The oscars must be sectioned off by using a board or other device. Otherwise, your hand will be attacked. At this point, we have had three clutches hatch and survive for two weeks. The first week, they eat their yoke sack. After that, my son feeds them ground-up cichlid food. With our next clutch, we are going to try baby brine shrimp and hope to keep them alive. Once they hatch, they need a lot of attention to food and water quality. With each clutch, we have gotten about two dozen offspring.

These fish require a large tank...at minimum 55 gallon. We just upgraded to a 75 gallon. They have the reputation of being aggressive, but ours are living in peace with a large pacu, three large catfish and one large sucker fish. I guess ‘large’ is the key. The tank has an undergravel filter and we use an external aquanion filter with UV light. If anyone out there breeds these fish, we would love some pointers.



Petco’s description:

- Temperament: Aggressive
- Family: Cichlidae
- Native To: South America: Amazon
- Diet: Carnivore
- Adult Size: Up to 12”
- Temperature: 72° - 82°F
- Care Level: Easy
- Tank Size: 55+ gallons
- Scientific Name: *Astronotus ocellatus*
- Environment: Freshwater
- Extroverted personality and interactive
- Grows to a very large size regardless of tank size

Two met the challenge—will you?

by John Oxner

I challenged everyone in the club to write one article before this year ends about whatever it is that is the reason you keep aquariums—just one article each—two did this month! Keep them coming. It’s hard to stand up in front of a group of people and speak. But it’s easy to write down our thoughts when we’re alone with no pressure. So let’s get writing.

We need Species Presentation volunteers. It’s in these presentation that we really give away “trade secrets” about the how-tos with fish. I’ve learned a lot by listening to many of you talk. But how many more could be learning from you, many close to Master Status, if you were to take the time to talk about what you do: when, where, why, and how. The hobby won’t continue to grow and be passed on to future generations if we don’t spend some time sharing what we’ve learned.

Breeders get points for spawns AFTER they write an article detailing how they got that fish to spawn.

Thank You Sponsors

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- Rolf C. Hagen Corporation
- Seachem
- Tetra
- Zoo Med



Other 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.greatlakescichlidsociety.net
- Youngstown 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
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M-F 12pm - 8pm
Sat 9am - 5pm
Sun CLOSED

Contacts

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: John Oxner
joxner@charter.net

Vice President: Ron McNeil
reptilianron@yahoo.com

Treasurer: David Hemmerlein
pupfishmich@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Cathy McNeil
cmcneil@swmich.edu

Corresponding Secretary: Kim Nelson
kim.nelson@wmich.edu

Sergeant-at-Arms: Vince Huston
captvince29@yahoo.com

Members-at-Large
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firstprincess2k@hotmail.com

Pat Hartman
phat711@sbcglobal.net

Chase Klinesteker
ckspoonpl1@aol.com

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2012 Fall Auction OPEN

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ckspoonpl1@aol.com

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Hostess OPEN

Membership
Kristie Hemmerlein
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Raffle
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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.

The Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society

Fall Workshops and Tropical Fish Auction

Saturday, October 13

Workshops

Sunday, October 14

Auction

Ken Krum Center • East Clay Street • Schoolcraft, Mi 49087

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

9 - 10

Chase Klinesteker: Tetra's care and breeding

10:15 - 11:15

Ted Judy: Pelvicachromis care and breeding

11:30 - 12:30

Mark Denaro: Collecting in Peru

12:30 - 1:15

BREAK

1:15 - 2:15

Pat Hartman: Livebearers care and breeding

2:30 - 3:30

Mark Denaro: Wild Betta's Care and breeding

3:45 - 4:45

Ben Van Dither: Aquascaping

5 - 6

Ted Judy: Brand new program

6 - 8

PIZZA PARTY AND SOCIAL TIME

FREE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

Please note during the workshops there will be special raffles of aquarium related stuff, silent auctions, and rare fish raffles. Ben's 20 gallon tank that he decorates will be raffled off during the Sunday's auction.

Ted Judy sponsored by Repashy Foods and Oddball Fish. Mark Denaro sponsored Anubias Design

AUCTION

Registration 9 - 11 a.m.

1. You do not have to be a member to sell or buy.
2. All items must be labeled with seller's name, phone number, and ID and item number.
3. Item selling must be accurately described and legible otherwise the item will be considered a donation to SWMAS.
4. Pair means one male and one female, a mated pair means the male and female have **bred** together and have had viable fry. Trio means one male and two females.
5. Proper fish bags must be used; improper bagging will cause a rebagging charge of \$1.00 per item. Double bagging is highly recommended and zip lock bags will not be allowed.
6. Any item that doesn't sell for \$1.00 will be considered as a donation to SWMAS.
7. There is 50 item limit per seller and it is recommended that no more than 5 of any color strain or species be auctioned.
8. To accommodate out of town guests a call-up system is used the cost of the call-up is \$2.00 per item. The call-up fee does not apply to the auction price.
9. The auction committee reserves the right to reject any item not fit for sale, game fish are not allowed. Minimum bids are not allowed.
10. The auction is 70/30 split with 70% going to the seller, checks will be mailed with 14 days.
11. Preregistration can be done by contacting Dave Hemmerlein (269) 350-5674.
12. The auctioneer decision is final.
13. A tab is required to buy and **all tabs must be paid in full before leaving the auction** otherwise you will piss off the treasurer and the assistant treasurer. Cash or check with a driver license is accepted. A \$20.00 service charge is charged for any returned check and check fraud will be prosecuted.
14. SWMAS uses the ten table method with table 1 and 2 sold at the beginning of the auction. After table 1 and 2 are completed the remaining tables numbers will be drawn at random to determine the order they will be sold in.
15. SWMAS, Ken Krum Center, and its representatives will not be held responsible for any items entered into the auction nor for any personal injury incurred during the auction.
16. Ken Krum Center is smoke free and alcohol free facility.

David Hemmerlein

(269) 350-5674 pupfishmich@aol.com

Meetings are the first Friday of each month!

Every meeting begins at 8 p.m.; is located at **Best Western Gateway Hotel, 3640 E. Cork St. Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001.** 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 below*).

No July Meeting

August 3, 2012
8 p.m.
Collecting in Peru
by Mike Monge



Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society (S.W.M.A.S.)
PO Box 3095
Kalamazoo MI 49003-3095

10 Fun Fish Facts

- #1: Fish have been on the earth for more than 450 million years.
- #2: Fish were well established long before dinosaurs roamed the earth.
- #3: There are over 25,000 identified species of fish on the earth.
- #4: It is estimated that there may still be over 15,000 fish species that have not yet been identified.
- #5: There are more species of fish than all the species of amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals combined.
- #6: 40% of all fish species inhabit fresh water, yet less than .01% of the earth's water is fresh water.
- #7: The spotted climbing perch is able to absorb oxygen from the air and will crawl overland using its strong pectoral fins.
- #8: Some fish, like sharks, don't possess an air bladder to help keep them afloat and must either swim continually or rest on the bottom.
- #9: Some fish make sounds by grating their teeth and others, like some catfish, make sounds from their air filled swim bladder.
- #10: Some species of fish can fly (glide), while others can skip along the surface and others can even climb rock.

Calendar

AUGUST 2012

3 SWMAS Mtng./Collecting in Peru by Mike Monge
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.greatlakescichlidsociety.net

22/23

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

13/14

SWMAS Fall Speakers/Auction
Krum Cntr., Schoolcraft, MI
www.swmas.org

18 - 21

All Aquarium Catfish Convention
www.catfishcon.com/

20 Greater Detroit Aquarium Soc. Fall Auction
www.grandvalleyaquariumclub.org

20 Tri-County Fish Society Auction
<https://sites.google.com/site/tctfspeoria/>

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

4 Greater Akron Aquarium Soc. Auction
www.gaas-fish.net

5/6 Wisconsin Area Killifish Org. Show and Auction
www.aka.org

11/12

Milwaukee Aquarium Association Swap Meet
www.milwaukeeaquariumsociety.com

Bowl Show Schedule

August	Victorian Cichlids and Angels
September	Goodies, Mollies
October	Malawi and Tanganyika Cichlids
November	Danios, Rasboras
December	Your Favorite Fish

16/18

Ohio Cichlid Association Show and Auction
www.ohiocichlid.com

DECEMBER 2012

1 Kalamazoo Area Killie Association Killie Day 12/Talks and Auction
Contacts: Jim Graham 269-948-8325, Dave Hemmerlein 269-350-5674 or 269 317-6555

7 SWMAS Mtng./a surprise topic by Charlie Grimes
www.smas.org

8 Motor City Aquarium Soc. Fall Auction
motorcityaquariumsociety.com