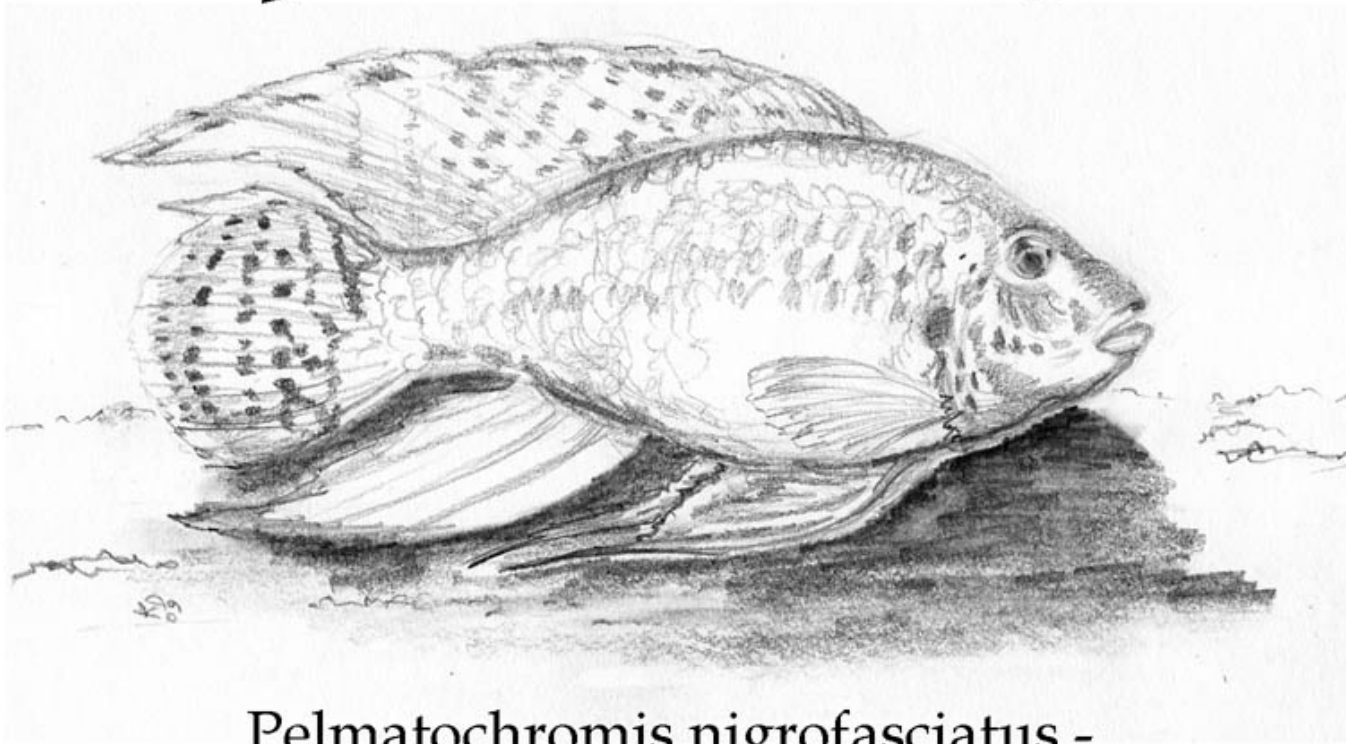


The Darter

May - June 2009

Best Fish in Show - 2009



Pelmatochromis nigrofasciatus -
Rick Tinklenberg

Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc
St. Louis, Missouri

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MASI's official web page: www.missouriaquariumsociety.com

Join the MASIFishHeads Yahoo Group. See web page for instructions.

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Opinions expressed by the contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Missouri Aquarium Society, Incorporated.

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Places to Be / Things to See

SATURDAY June 6, 2009 *** **Change of Date** ***

Executive Council Hosted by Mike and Angela Hellweg

THURSDAY June 18, 2009

General Meeting, 7:30 PM @ Dorsett Village Baptist Church

SATURDAY June 27, 2009

Picnic at Jim and Brenda Thale's

Executive Council following picnic

THURSDAY July 16, 2009

General Meeting, 7:30 PM @ Dorsett Village Baptist Church

SUNDAY August 16, 2009

Auction, 12:00 Start, Gardenville Masonic Hall

THURSDAY August 20, 2009

General Meeting, 7:30 PM @ Dorsett Village Baptist Church

THURSDAY September 17, 2009

General Meeting, 7:30 PM @ Dorsett Village Baptist Church

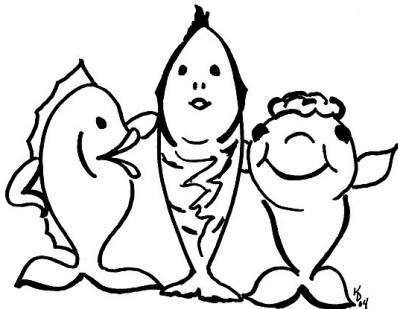
SUNDAY October 4, 2009

Annual Swap Meet, 12:00 – 3:00, Gardenville Masonic Hall

SUNDAY November 22, 2009

Auction, 12:00 Start, Gardenville Masonic Hall

Membership



Yearly membership in the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. is \$20 per calendar year. Membership includes the Darter subscription for the year, which is currently 6 issues. New memberships and renewals can be submitted at club functions such as meetings and auctions, or by contacting our membership chair, Kathy Deutsch at 314-741-0474, kathy@skdeu.com, or 9 Old Jamestown Ct. Florissant MO 63034

Presidential Preamble

By Mike Hellweg

This President's message will be short and sweet. You don't want to be reading it right now anyway! It's time to be outdoors with your garden pond, enjoying a cold drink and the fruits of your springtime labor! If you can, move some or all of your fish outdoors to small tub gardens. They'll appreciate the vacation, too. By the time you read this, summer will be nearly upon us.

It is time for voting for the next MASI Executive Council and for new Officers. I hope the tradition continues and that we have some newer members running for Council and being elected. It's a great way to get to know your fellow club members, and a great way to have a chance to try something you may want to implement for the club. With at least half of the Council being newer members, there are fresh ideas coming in all the time, and longer serving members get a chance for a break so that no one gets burned out. It's a win-win situation!

Of course, any member in good standing is welcome to attend any Council meeting just to see what is going on, or have their idea brought before the Council at a meeting just by talking to a Council member and presenting their idea to that Council member. If you do want to come to the meeting, we do ask that you please call the host first to make sure there are enough chairs, food and drink. Another bonus is that you get a chance to see several fishrooms, although for some reason in the past year we've mostly had the meetings in Pat Tosie's office. Thanks Pat for making your office available to us!

Enjoy your summer! I hope we see you all at the MASI family picnic at Jim and Brenda Thale's on June 27, and at our Summer Auction on August 16!

...and for now, 'nuff said...

From The Fish Room

Ed Millinger

What a great annual show we had. Everyone who attended the show committee meetings and helped out our show chairman are to be commended. For those of you who don't know we did not have a show in '06 or '07. So we all owe a great deal of thanks to Gary Mcilvane for stepping forward. If you were not at the banquet it was by far the best food ever, and Gary was named as the MASI member of the year. All the speakers did a fantastic job.

A few months back fellow MASI members Ty Winkler and Russ Crawford were over at my house and I pointed out to them how the sponge filters in the two Uaru tanks were rapidly deteriorating. We figured that it was probably due to the heavy bio load. But I recently did a search on our scheduled April speaker Jeremy Basch and found an article he wrote on Uarus. In it he remarked that they were eating his sponge filters! Can you believe it? Now that I have taken a closer look that appears to be the problem in my tanks. I thought I was feeding heavily enough, I mean I've advertised for duckweed and fed them quite a bit of that. I am now converting all my sponge filters to corner filters in these two tanks.

Learning About New Fish

By Bart "Norman" Kraeger

Even though I have been involved with MASI for about 12 years, I consider myself to be an enthusiastic beginner. My fish tank collection has grown and shrank depending on my fish budget, my living situation, and, in my distant past, different sports that I played. My attention to details like water changes, tank maintenance, and feeding may not meet the higher standards of many of the successful hobbyists in our club. There is a popular Far Side cartoon where God and Norman are playing on a Jeopardy-style game show. God has thousands of points and Norman has 10. Gary Larsen actually got angry letters that God was omnipotent and would not have missed any question at all; in fact, there is an edited version of this cartoon published in later editions. When our local aquarium club held a fish-based, Jeopardy-style game at one of our meetings with me as one of the contestants, I was definitely the "Norman" of the group. To paraphrase a Dane Cook comedy routine, there's a Norman in every group. If you don't think so, then you are the Norman in that group. At least I know I am a Norman.

I often buy fish during our auctions without understanding exactly what it is that I am buying. I have avoided larger fish and expensive fish. I love a bag of fish at a low auction price. I think that some of the uncommon fish scare off a lot of bidders because they don't know what the fish is and are unwilling to take a chance. It's also possible that they know exactly what the fish is and don't want to start breeding Convict cichlids again. I've learned to avoid cichlids and other fish that grow too large for my smaller tanks.

Our club's auctions and mini-auctions are often my first introduction to a new fish species. I like to get there early and look through the different groups of fish. Livebearers, Killies, Catfish, Plants are my favorite groups; these are the types of fish I keep. If I see something new to me, I can often find the seller and ask a few questions. This also puts the fish on my radar for when it comes up for auction. My next step in gathering information is to listen to the auctioneer's descriptions. Our club has three excellent auctioneers who share a lot of information when trying to promote a fish. They will often tell the fish's origination, breeding strategy, mature size, and food requirements.

Each bag of fish also must include the seller's name and contact information. Chances are good that the seller is still in the room and will gladly tell you what he did to breed the fish. If you don't know the seller, ask someone for an introduction. We have a very approachable membership.

Another great source of information is old copies of the popular fish magazines. You can search their articles index online. TFH lists an article titled [A Cichlid's Nightmare: *Brachyrhaphis roseni*](#) in its November 2005 issue. While some newer articles can be read online, I'll need to check the local library for back issues to find out why this is a Cichlid's nightmare.

My post-auction routine is to start to acclimate my newly purchased fish in some Rubbermaid pitchers reserved for that purpose, and to run to the computer with the bag to research what I bought. It all starts with the information on the bag that came with the fish. Starting from a search engine like Google or Ask or MSN or Yahoo, it is easy to plug in the scientific name and get a list of hundred of articles. Here is the summary of a search I made recently for an auction purchase on Google:

Results 1 - 10 of about 1,220 for c. (0.16 seconds)

With this much information, it's easy to be overwhelmed and not know where to start. The internet will let you explore your new fish or plant at many different levels. Let me suggest a few of my

favorite destinations. I'll mention some common hobbyist websites and also share some of the more scientific entries I found.

Brachyrhaphis roseni - Wikipedia, la enciclopedia libre - [[Translate this page](#)]

Todo o parte de este artículo fue creado a partir de la traducción del artículo **Brachyrhaphis roseni** de la **Wikipedia** en catalán, bajo licencia GFDL. ...

es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brachyrhaphis_roseni - 25k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Wikipedia is a free, contributor-based encyclopedia. This means that an article has as much or as little information as the public has contributed. The article on the *Brachyrhaphis roseni* (BR) had very basic information, but the article on *Pterophyllum Scalare* is much more in-depth. Wiki's articles also show up in a Google search like the one shown above. Articles written in a foreign language can often be translated. This article contained a link to The Encyclopedia of Life.

Brachyrhaphis - Encyclopedia of Life

Brachyrhaphis (Brachyrhaphis) in Encyclopedia of Life. ... 1908) +; **Brachyrhaphis roseni** Bussing, 1988 +; **Brachyrhaphis roswithae** Meyer & Etzel, 1998 + ...

www.eol.org/pages/27136 - 50k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

The **Encyclopedia of Life** "is an ambitious, even audacious project to organize and make available via the Internet virtually all information about life present on Earth." : <http://www.eol.org/>. EOL is also contributor-based and targets scientists as the main contributors.

This site has a nice classification tool to see related fish in the family. This tool is also available on "ITIS, the Integrated Taxonomic Information System! Here you will find authoritative taxonomic information on plants, animals, fungi, and microbes of North America and the world."

<http://www.itis.gov/index.html>

CLASSIFICATION : TEXT | GRAPHIC | ⓘ

- Animalia +
 - Chordata +
 - Actinopterygii +
 - Cyprinodontiformes +
 - Poeciliidae +
 - Brachyrhaphis
 - Brachyrhaphis cascajalensis* (Meek & Hill)
 - Brachyrhaphis episcopi* (Steindachner, 1863)
 - Brachyrhaphis hartwegi* Rosen & Bailey, 1908
 - Brachyrhaphis hessfeldi* Meyer & Etzel, 2000
 - Brachyrhaphis holdridgei* Bussing, 1967
 - Brachyrhaphis olomina* (Meek, 1914) +
 - Brachyrhaphis parismina* (Meek, 1912) +
 - Brachyrhaphis punctifer* (Hubbs, 1926) +
 - Brachyrhaphis rhabdophora* (Regan, 1907)
 - Brachyrhaphis roseni* Bussing, 1988 +
 - Brachyrhaphis roswithae* Meyer & Etzel, 1998 +
 - Brachyrhaphis terrabensis* (Regan, 1907)

Note: Someone I asked to preview my article brought to my attention that the classification chart is incorrect for this species. I accept his information and intend to confirm the information on-line for my own benefit. This is living proof to question everything you read on-line and to confirm critical information from multiple sources.

You are also likely to find hobbyist-level articles from independent breeders.

Breeding **Brachyrhaphis roseni** (Bussing 1988) (The Cardinal)

In April of the next year I attended the annual **Scottish** Aquarist Festival in the Motherwell Civic Hall and met up with the editor and founder of Viviparous ...

www.scottishaquarist.co.uk/articles/breeding_brachyrhaphis_roseni.htm - 16k -

[Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

You can also often find scientific papers covering different topics:

Laterality in detour behaviour : interspecific variation in ...

... whereas **Brachyrhaphis roseni** and *Girardinus falcatus* showed a significant bias to the right.

When tested for **direction** of turning in front of an opaque ...

cat.inist.fr/?aModele=afficheN&cpsid=2054356 - [Similar pages](#)

by A BISAZZA - 1997 - [Cited by 44](#) - [Related articles](#) - [All 5 versions](#)

BOLD Systems - Taxonomy Browser

Brachyrhaphis roseni {species}. Lineage : Chordata; Actinopterygii; Cyprinodontiformes; Poeciliidae; Poeciliinae; **Brachyrhaphis**; . Specimen Records : 6 ...

www.barcodinglife.org/views/taxbrowser.php?taxon=Brachyrhaphis+roseni - 14k -

[Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

This is an interesting scientific effort is to genetically map certain sections of DNA of all species of plants and animals on earth. *Brachyrhaphis roseni* has been genetically mapped.

[PDF] Systematics of the subfamily Poeciliinae Bonaparte ...

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - [View as HTML](#)

ships among **Brachyrhaphis** species on the basis on **mito-** chondrial DNA evidence.

(Regan), **B. roseni** Bussing, *B. roswithae* Meyer & Etzel, *B. ...*

www.scielo.br/pdf/ni/v3n1/v3n1a01.pdf - [Similar pages](#)

by PHF Lucinda - 2005 - [Cited by 11](#) - [Related articles](#) - [All 2 versions](#)

Based on the results of the DNA evidence, scientists have proposed reclassification of the *Brachyrhaphis* family.

Finally, Google lets you narrow in on more specific results by searching within results. This is available at the bottom of each Google page and can be used recursively – you can search within the results of searches again and again. Fishbase is another great destination.

Google™

Brachyrhaphis roseni fishbase

Search

[Advanced Search](#)
[Preferences](#)

Web

Brachyrhaphis roseni, :

Jan 15, 2009 ... Upload your photos and videos for this fish | **FishBase** ... Image for

Brachyrhaphis roseni, Poeciliidae,

www.fishbase.org/Summary/SpeciesSummary.cfm?id=46459 - 43k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

One warning is to take anything you read on the internet with a grain of salt. Anyone can publish anything often with beautiful layout and graphics. There is a difference between hobbyists sharing casual information and scientifically, peer-reviewed sites often hosted by universities or scientific organizations. A key to research is to understand what you want to know. Our club has a number of highly accomplished fish keepers whose research needs might be much different than mine. Basic information could be whether a fish is a good member of a community tank, what temperature range the fish prefers, and what a fish eats. Advanced information might include breeding strategies, taxonomy, or collection information. You can decide for yourself how in-depth your research needs to be.

Published articles may have been correct when published, but have since been updated or disproved. Check the date of the article which is sometimes hard to find. Look for newer references that might have more up to date information. Google allows you to specify a timeframe for the publication of the articles; I assume other search engines do, too. A recent example is *Celestichthys margaritatus*, the Celestial Pearl danio. This fish was introduced as the Galaxy rasbora, and thought to be endangered in the wild. It has since been reclassified and found to occur naturally in more places. If you are lucky, you can find a dedicated website:

The **Celestial Pearl Danio** Forum :: Index
 The **Celestial Pearl Danio** Forum: dedicated to an amazing tropical aquarium fish discovered in 2006. Other names: *Celestichthys margaritatus*, galaxy rasbora ...
celestialpearldanio.com/ - 48k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

What's The Point?

By Ed Millinger

The point is this is a volunteer organization that depends on every member to in their own way contribute to the success of MASI. These contributions are rewarded with points and at the annual show banquet the top service and bowl show members (both novice and hobbyist) are recognized with a plaque. You can refer to your membership book for a schedule of how many points are awarded for each one of your efforts. Please be sure to print your name every month because I have trouble reading handwriting and people have lost points due to their bad scribbling. I apologize if the following isn't in exact alphabetical order but it should be pretty close.

Name	Serviced Points	Show Points	Name	Serviced Points	Show Points
Sue Amsden		15	Micky Lee	11	
Mary Bates	2		Justin Lehmann	1	
Greg Beatty	7		Bruce Mayhew	5	
Jack Berhorst	12		Bill McCasslin	5	
Michele Berhorst	8		Gary Mcilvane	49	
Danny Berhorst	5		Evan Mcilvane	1	
Klaus Bertich	30		Tony McMillan	11	10
Earl Biffle	1		Jim Miller	8	125
Roy Brandhorst	13		Ed Millinger	27	20
Bob Buckles	12		Phillip Newell	16	761

Scott Bush	36		Dwayne Peters	16	
Ed brown Sr.	2		Bill Perkins	3	
Scott Campbell	12		Brad Riley	2	
Russ Crawford	3		Dave Rush	12	
Marc and Kathy Daly	16	35	Herb Samples	4	
Kathy Deutsch	52	25	Dave Simonds	2	
Steve Deutsch	63		Randy Steele	2	
Steve Edie	27		Rick Smith	10	55
Marlon Felman	33		Al Storms	2	
Carl Foster	7		John Stollhaus	1	20
Cindy Frueth	2		Jim Thale	2	
Joe Gephardt	10	25	Mark Theby	23	
Maureen Green	2		Rick Tinklenberg	15	80
Steve Green	2		Pat Tosie	31	4
Jeff Grimes	1		Dave Wagner	4	
Charles Harrison	48	60	Laura Wagner	25	
Sue Harrison	21		Alex Wagner	3	10
Jack Heller	3	12	Dave and Laura Wagner		52
Angela Hellweg	16		Andy Walker	45	
Mike Hellweg	69		Vickie Walker	1	
Steven Hoffman	1		Derek Walker	17	70
Lisa Hillenbeck	1		Harold Walker	25	165
Charles Hoppe	1		Ty Walker	3	
Ron Huck	26		Pete Witteried	2	
Jack Hulla	2		Janet Witteried	2	
Mike Jackson	1		Bill Willingham	3	
Rick Jokerst	4		Norb Wright	18	
Jerry Jost	15	1	John Van Asch	27	
Cory Koch	10	15	Brian Woodrick	1	
Bart Kraeger	55		Jim Yaekel	1	
Sally Kula	3		Rosie	6	
Gary Lange	28	30	Kurt Zahringer	1	

These points are current as of the completion of the annual show weekend. Your points tabulator, Ed Millinger

Editor's Notes

We have another full issue; not enough room to thank everyone. Everything is from our members this issue. I didn't have any space left for exchange articles. I already have one article and several pieces of artwork from junior members for future issues. Keep it coming; it's your publication. Deadlines for articles are June 15, August 15, October 15, and December 15.

BAP Report

Steve Edie

Member	Species	Common	Pts	Total
Mar 2009				
Jerry Jost	<i>Aphyosemion escherichi</i> *		20	575
Jerry Jost	<i>Melanotaenia affinis</i>	Northern Blue Rainbowfish	10	585
Gary McIlvaine	<i>Brachyrhaphis roseni</i>	Cardinal Brachy	10	730
Tony McMillan	<i>Xiphophorus</i> sp. "Domestic Platy" ^	Blue Hi-Fin Platy	1	60
Tony McMillan	<i>Xiphophorus</i> sp. "Domestic Platy" ^	White Bleeding Heart Platy	1	61
Jim Miller	<i>Brachyrhaphis roseni</i>	Cardinal Brachy	10	2109
Jim Miller	<i>Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi</i>		10	2119
Jim Miller	<i>Puntius oligolepis</i> #	Checker Barb	0	2119
Jim Miller	<i>Tilapia mariae</i>		10	2129
Dwayne Peters	<i>Xiphophorus</i> sp. "Domestic Platy" ^	Black Platy	1	62
Dave & Laura Wagner	<i>Xenotoca eiseni</i> @	Red-Tailed Goodeid	30	57
Apr 2009				
Scott Campbell	<i>Labidochromis caeruleus</i> "Yellow Cove"		10	20
Scott Campbell	<i>Melanochromis johanni</i> "Electric Blue"		10	30
Charles Harrison	<i>Aphyosemion buytaerti</i> (BSWG-97-3) *		20	2035
Charles Harrison	<i>Fundulopanchax gresensi</i> *		20	2055
Charles Harrison	<i>Neolebias unifasciatus</i> *		25	2080
Mike Hellweg	<i>Betta ocellata</i> *	Eye Spot Betta	20	3319
Jerry Jost	<i>Dario dario</i>		15	600
Jerry Jost	<i>Nothobranchius korthausae</i> "Mafia Island (TAN 02-05)" @#		15	615
Cory Koch	<i>Geophagus brasiliensis</i>		5	926
Gary McIlvaine	<i>Heros severus</i> "Rotkeil" *		20	750
Tony McMillan	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i> ^	Turquoise Guppy	1	62
Philip Newell	<i>Ancistrus cirrhosus</i>	Bushynose Pleco	10	125
Philip Newell	<i>Xenotoca eiseni</i> @	Red-Tailed Goodeid	30	155
Rick Smith	<i>Julidochromis marlieri</i>		10	60
Rick Smith	<i>Neolamprologus brichardi</i>		10	70

Rick Smith	<i>Neolamprologus caudopunctatus</i>		10	80
Rick Smith	<i>Pterophyllum scalare</i>	Silver Angel	10	90
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Brachyrhaphis roseni</i>	Cardinal Brachy	10	1845
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Pelmatochromis nigrofasciatus</i>		15	1860
Rick Tinklenberg	<i>Xenotoca variata</i> “Jesus Maria”		15	1875
Pat Tosie	<i>Steatocranus glaber</i>		15	2918
Derek Walker	<i>Paralabidochromis</i> sp. “Rock Kribensis”		10	885

* = First MASI species spawn (5 point bonus)

** = First MASI species and genus spawn (10 point bonus)

*** = First MASI species, genus and family spawn (15 point bonus)

@ = C.A.R.E.S Species at Risk (Double base points)

= Species previously submitted = 0 points, except for C.A.R.E.S. = base point bonus

^ = Species previously submitted, limited points for additional color varieties

Note # 1: The following submissions were turned in at the Christmas party and misplaced by the BAP chair.

Mike Hellweg	<i>Belontia signata jonklaasi</i> *@	Spotfin Combtail Gourami	35	3088
Mike Hellweg	<i>Betta livida</i> *@		35	3123
Mike Hellweg	<i>Allodontichthys hubbsi</i> @	Whitepatched Darter Goodeid	30	3153
Mike Hellweg	<i>Epiplatys annulatus</i> “Guinea”	Clown Killie	15	3183
Mike Hellweg	<i>Melanotaenia affinis</i>	Northern Blue Rainbow	10	3193
Tony McMillan	<i>Danio frankei</i>	Leopard Danio	5	53
Tony McMillan	<i>Gambusia affinis</i>	Mosquito Fish	5	58
Philip Newell	<i>Moenkhausia pittieri</i>	Diamond Tetra	15	115

Note # 2: The topic of including invertebrates (shrimp, crayfish, snails, etc.) has come up in the past and is currently under discussion between the BAP Committee and the Executive Council. The difficulty lies in the very limited available scientific literature to properly identify species and to evaluate their respective breeding difficulty. The following submission has been noted, but has not been identified, pointed or officially accepted.

Bart Kraeger	<i>unknown</i>	Marble Crayfish (Marmorokreb)
--------------	----------------	-------------------------------

Note # 3: The very limited available scientific literature on Victorian Cichlids has raised question on some previously submitted species. I will be working with Greg Steeves (noted Victorian expert) to resolve some identifications. This may result in some reclassification of prior entries and could affect points awarded for first MASI spawns. I will add an explanation to future reports as any changes occur.

2009 MASI Annual Show Results

Class 1	Aquascaping	3 entries 1 entrant
	Sponsor Jerry Jost	
	First Aquascape 2	Derek Walker
	Second Aquascape 3	Derek Walker
	Third Aquascape 1	Derek Walker
Class 2	Novelty	2 entries 1 entrant
	Sponsor Bart Kraeger	
	First Baseball	Harold Walker
	Second Crypt Keeper	Harold Walker
Class 3	Family	2 entries 2 entrants - 1 scratched
	Sponsor Klaus Bertich	
	First Guppy Family	Harold Walker
Class 4	Domestic and Fancy Egglayers	6 entries 4 entrants
	Sponsor Rick Jokerst	
	First Goldfish	Marc & Kathy Daly
	Second Longfin Rosy Barb Female	Jim Miller
	Third Tetra	Joe Gephart
Class 5	Domestic and Fancy Livebearers	7 entries 3 entrants
	Sponsor Philip Newell	
	First Red Platy	Harold Walker
	Second Poecilia reticulata	Laura & Dave Wagner
	Third Female Koi Swordtail	Derek Walker
Class 6	Guppies	2 entries 2 entrants
	Sponsor Gary McIlvaine	
	First Red AOC Guppy	Harold Walker
	Second Tiger Endler J	oe Gephart
Class 7	Betta splendens	5 entries - 3 entrants
	Sponsor Derek Walker	
	First Red Betta	Harold Walker
	Second Male Betta	Susie Amsden
	Third Male Betta	Susie Amsden
Class 8	Wild Livebearers	8 entries 3 entrants
	Sponsor Bill Willingham	
	First Orange fin Halfbeak pair	Rick Tinklenberg
	Second Orange fin Halfbeak female	Jim Miller
	Third Orange fine Halfbeak male	Jim Miller

Class 9	Goodeids	3 entries 3 entrants	
	Sponsor Jim Miller		
	First	Characodon audax	Jim Miller
	Second	Xenotoca variata	Rick Tinklenberg
	Third	Red tail Goodeid	Laura & Dave Wagner
Class 10	New World Cichlids 4" and under	5 entries 4 entrants	
	Sponsor Derek Walker		
	First	Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi	Jim Miller
	Second	Red Devil	Laura & Dave Wagner
	Third	German Blue Ram	Joe Gephart
Class 11	New World Cichlids 4" and up	3 entries 3 entrants	
	Sponsor Pat Tosie		
	First	Geophagus taeniopareius	Ed Millinger
	Second	Angelfish	Rick Tinklenberg
	Third	Red Shoulder Severum	Joe Gephart
Class 12	Old World Cichlids - East African Lakes	5 entries 4 entrants	
	Sponsor Midwest Cichlid Association Kansas City Chapter		
	First	Lamprologus brichardi	Rick Smith
	Second	Neolamprologus pulcher	Laura & Dave Wagner
	Third	Paralabidochromis sp. Fire Red	Derek Walker
Class 13	Old World Cichlids - All Others	1 entry 1 entrant	
	Sponsor W. T. Morgan		
	First	Pelmatochromis nigrofasciatus	Rick Tinklenberg
Class 14	Discus	6 entries 2 entrants	
	Sponsor North American Discus Association		
	First	Blue Diamond Discus	John Stolhans
	Second	Golden Discus	Cory Koch
	Third	Golden Discus	Cory Koch
Class 15	Anabantoids	3 entries 2 entrants	
	Sponsor H.A.A.S. Kansas City		
	First	Betta pulcher	Jim Miller
	Second	Sphaerichthys acrostoma female	Derek Walker
	Third	Sphaerichthys acrostoma male	Derek Walker
Class 16	Characins	6 entries 4 entrants	
	Sponsor Tony McMillan		
	First	Moenkhausia pitteri	Philip Newell
	Second	Red Blue Colombian Tetra	Harold Walker
	Third	Diamond Tetra	Harold Walker

Class 26	Arts & Crafts		3 entries 2 entrants
	Sponsor Laura & Dave Wagner		
	First	Unknown	Kathy Deutsch
	Second	Unknown	Kathy Deutsch
	Third	Clay Fish	Alex Wagner
Class 27	Collectibles		3 entries 3 entrants
	Sponsor Andy & Vickie Walker		
	First	Philatelic Cover w/fish	Rick Tinklenberg
	Second	World's Largest Can of Fish Food	Rick Smith
T	Third	Happy Fish	Marc & Kathy Daly
Class 28	White Elephant		3 entries 3 entrants
	Sponsor MASI		
	First	Handdrawn Fish Picture	Laura & Dave Wagner
	Second	Serving Platter	Harold Walker
	Third	Glass Fish	Laura & Dave Wagner
Best Junior Entry	Clay Fish		Alex Wagner
Reet Thomas Outstanding Livebearer Award and ALA Award	Characodon audax		Jim Miller
Ralph Wilhelm Outstanding Catfish Award	Corydoras sterbai		Derek Walker
Best Egglayer	Killie Fish		Charles Harrison
Best Cichlid and ACA Award	Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi		Jim Miller
Best Discus - NADA Award	Blue Diamond Discus		John Stohlans
Judges Award	Red Male Betta		Harold Walker
Best Fish in Show	Pelmatochromis nigrofasciatus		Rick Tinklenberg
Ralph Wilhelm Writer's Award	Lake Victoria Travelogue		Lawrence Kent



Best of Show
Rick Tinklenberg



Best Junior Entry
Alex Wagner



Best Cichlid - ACA
Jim Miller



Best Egglayer
Charles Harrison



Best Discus - NADA
John Stohans



Judges' Award
Harold Walker



Reet Thomas Outstanding Livebearer
Jim Miller

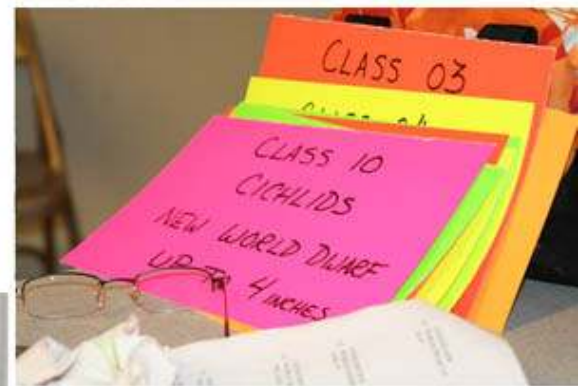


Ralph Wilhelm Outstanding Catfish
Derek Walker



Best Aquascaping
Derek Walker

All Photos This Page by Gary Lange



All Photos This Page by Bart Kraeger

HAP Report March - April 2009

Mike Hellweg

Member	Species	Common	Rep	Pts	Total
Jerry Jost	Cryptocoryne beckettii	Becket's Water Trumpet	V	15	1595
Jerry Jost	Echinodoras sp. Indian Red*		V	15	1610
Dwayne Peters	Ceratopteris thalicroides	Water Sprite	V	5	50
Dwayne Peters	Lemna minor	Dwarf Duckweed	V	5	55
Dwayne Peters	Ludwigia repens	Red Ludwigia	V	10	65
Dwayne Peters	Microsorium pteropus	Java Fern	V	10	75
Dwayne Peters	Taxiphyllum barbieri	Java Moss	V	5	80
Philip Newell	Cabomba caroliniana	Fanwort	V	10	35
Philip Newell	Egeria densa	Anacharis	V	5	45
Philip Newell	Egeria najas	Curly Leaf Anacharis	V	5	50
Philip Newell	Lemna minor	Dwarf Duckweed	V	5	55
Philip Newell	Myriophyllum aquaticum	Parrot's Feather	V	5	60
Philip Newell	Taxiphyllum barbieri	Java Moss	V	5	65
Tony McMillan	Microsorium pteropus windelov	Lace Java Fern	V	10	170
Charles Harrison	Cabomba caroliniana	Fanwort	IB	15	695

Reproduction Key: V = Vegetative, OB = Outdoor Bloom, IB = Indoor Bloom, S = Seedling
 * = MASI First

Member Classifieds

Charles Harrison (314) 894-9761, csharrison@inkmaker.net -

- Thiosulfate crystals (Chlorine Remover) \$3.00 a half pound
- OTO double strength Chlorine/Chloroamine test kits - 4 ounce - \$12.50
- Flubendazole, 5% powder 10 grams \$5.00, 25 grams - \$20.00
- Lavamisole HCl Powder - 5 grams treats 100 gallons \$10.00
- Methylene Blue 5% solution (2 ounces) \$12.75
- Acriflavine Concentrate (4%) solution, 2 ounces \$12.70
- Bromthymol Blue pH test solution, 4 ounces\$7

Wanted: Small Styro shipping boxes - 12 x 12 x 12 or a little bit smaller. If your company uses them and throws them away, save them! Bring to the meeting or I'll come pick them up. Mike 636-240-2443

MASI Members can place a classified ad in the Darter for free. Ads may be up to 30 words in length. Send your ads to the editor. The ad will run for one issue unless you specify how long to run it, in which case it will run as requested.

The Search for 'Wild' Swordtails

Patrick A. Tosie, Sr.

Most everyone that knows me knows that I have a passion for cichlids. The Apisto's and West African dwarfs have always been my favorites, with the Central American cichlids right behind. Another type of fish I like are the livebearers. They have a large family, many different colors, sizes and shapes. Some have very interesting and unique features, like the *Anableps anableps* swimming at the top of the water with their eye protruding half-way out of the water, and getting well over a foot long to the One-sided livebearer, *Jenynsia lineate*, where a right male can only mate with a left female.

Within the livebearers you see some of the most common fish available, like the Guppy, Molly and Swordtail. If you are not in some great aquarium club, like ours, you may never know how many different varieties of even these common fish there are! This brings me to another favorite of mine, the Swordtail *Xiphophorus helleri*. The common swordtail comes in many different colors and a variety of finnage. These are all hybrids of *Xiphophorus helleri*. You don't often see the original in pet shops; they prefer to sell the more popular hybrids that are red, pineapple, gold wag, or some other variety. A few years ago I was planning a collecting trip with a couple friends, Rick Jokerst and Charlie Pyles to Honduras, but we were going to try an area that we have not collected before, San Francisco. San Francisco is in the state of Atlantida about an hour north of La Ceiba.

When collecting, you need to make sure you take a few things with you. Below is a sample list of things you may want to take if you are going on a collecting trip:

Collecting, Shipping and Fish Supplies

Fish Cooler (Hard Coleman type) with duffel bag or some type of cover, Plastic bags (I like the breathable bags) and Rubber bands, Seine, Cast net, Hand nets, Air pump, Extension cord, Airline tubing, Gang valves, Air stones, Sponge filters, NovAquel, AmQuel, PolyAqua, Bag Buddies, Poly Filter, Thermometer, Heater, Water testing kit, Flashlight with new batteries (waterproof), Packing tape and/or Duct tape, Small tool kit, pocket knife, Compass, Mask, Fins & Snorkel, Fishing rod & reel, Insect repellent, Ruler, small notebook, pen, permanent marker.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Personal medications, First aid kit, Aspirin, Cortisone cream, Sun block and Sun-burn cream.

CLOTHES & PERSONAL ITEMS

Shorts and swimsuits, T-shirts, Underwear, Socks, 2 pair of shoes, 1 for river wading, Sunglasses, Hat, pocket flashlight, Walkman CD Player and CD's or an I-pod, Gum.

BATH SUPPLIES

Shampoo, Razor and shaving cream, Toothbrush & Toothpaste, Comb and/or Hairbrush, 2 Towels.

PAPERS

Passport & Drivers license (Plus extra copies of both), Tickets and Itinerary, Fish and wildlife license and import papers, Export papers from the desired country, Maps, photographs of fish to be captured, a portable GPS is helpful, Credit card & Money.

CAMERA SUPPLIES

Digital camera (preferably one that will work both in water and out of water).

These are just a few suggested items to take along, especially if you go out of our country to collect! After you have everything you need and you did the research to see where to go and what to collect, get a couple friends to go with you (3 people seem to work well when seining) you are ready for a fun and exciting time.

Charlie was already in Honduras and he met Rick and myself at the airport and helped us get settled into our rooms. The first day we took it easy, walked around town and planned our collecting strategy. The next morning we were off, we headed north out of La Ceiba up Highway 50 for about an hour to a small town called San Francisco. We drove Charlie's little two-door Datson that I believe was held together with some bailing wire (though, it did get us where we were going and was the right price!). Just outside of San Francisco we turned off the highway onto a gravel road. We drove for a couple miles until we came to a small river. It was the low water season so we were able to drive in the bed of the river close to where we wanted to collect. One side of the river had some small poorly constructed homes; the other side was an open field with cattle in it. The cattle could walk down into the water and they often did even while we were collecting.



The river had some smaller areas where the water was narrow, shallow and faster moving as well as some small stagnant pools and some larger, deeper sections. At first look, the water was full of fish. We couldn't wait to get into the water. There were multiple trees that have been uprooted sitting in different areas of the stream. The river was full of Mexican Tetras a few Molly types and two or three types of cichlids. The first thing we did was snorkel the deeper ponds to see what was there. The pond had millions of the tetras (which loved biting the hair on your body) and mollies, a few cichlids and a few swordtails. The larger schools of fish stayed in the narrower, faster moving water and the larger cichlids were loners in the larger pools. I saw a few large, 8 to 10 inch fish in the deeper areas; they appeared to be a managuense type. Every time I go snorkeling, and see the millions of fish around me, I start thinking; there goes a dollar, that ones worth 7 dollars, Holy Cow, I am swimming with a million dollars of fish around me. I wonder, how can I get all these fish home?



The mollies and tetras were fairly easy to collect, the cichlids a little harder and the swordtails were practically impossible to collect in the river. I noticed that a few isolated spots where trees were uprooted, there were small, nonmoving pools of water that fish were trapped in. It looked like it would be an easy area to collect in. Slow down Pat. Little did I realize how deep the pools were, how steep the banks were and the substrate was loose gravel that would slide down under your feet whenever you started to get near the edge. Looking into these pools I noticed some swordtails. Wow, they are great looking, should be easy to catch them in such a small area. Little did I know.....

Several hours later, and a lot of cussing at the roots and fish (I'm sure that helped, but the roots kept getting caught in my net!) but we were able to collect a number of these beautiful swordtails. Time to open a cool



cerevesa! In the open and larger pools of water, you could not catch any. If we had an area to seine, the swords would jump over the seine. When we were lucky enough and we did catch them, we enjoyed admiring their iridescent green body with vivid orangish-red line or two that went full length down their body and the yellow and black sword on the males. I would be carrying a large bag with me, and whenever I caught fish I would put them into the bag. Every now and then, I would go up to the car, get some fresh water and separate the fish, putting the swordtails into the breathable bags with a small square of poly and putting no more than 3 to a bag. Then I would put the bag into a cooler and the cooler in some shaded area.

The area was a beautiful and relaxing place. At one point, one of the local farmers drove his cattle down into the riverbed to drink, this wouldn't be so bad, but we were still in the water collecting with our cameras and supplies on the bank. After the cows left, we had to be careful where we stepped! When we first got there, no one else was around, the longer we were there, the more people showed up. First it was the kids, then some teenagers, then a few older people. One guy on a 10-speed bike rode down by us. Maybe we were in their swimming hole, it was a perfect spot to relax. We went to this location a couple days in a row, then took a day getting ready for our next site.

Rusty Wessel, Keith Shepard and Dan Woodland came down a few days later, and we all went to an area a little south of Jutiapia to collect a cichlid known as the Honduran Red Point. We did not have much luck, at the place where we were to collect, someone brought a cow down to the water and cut its throat and let it bleed into the water. I guess that's how the Honduran Red Point gets its color!! This area also has some beautiful red-tailed mollies.

Did I have a good time? Ok course! Would I do it again? Yes, I will do it again! If you have never tried collecting, go to some local creeks (if you don't know where to go, ask me. I know a few spots around here where you can catch some fantastic looking darters, mad toms, and killies!) Before you plan a trip, try it locally and see how you do and what you need, everybody is different and have their own favorite techniques. Other things to look at are: What is your favorite fish? Wouldn't it be cool to see it and collect it in the wild? Do a lot of research, talk to people who may have went collecting for the same type fish. Read magazines and club publications for articles on collecting (Ask our exchange editor for the exchange publications MASI receives). Next time I will tell you about catching fish at the end of the Baja peninsula.



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Come join us at a meeting, or contact our membership chair, Kathy Deutsch for more information
 (314) 741-0474 fishfan@i1.net

Spawning *Nanochromis dimidiatus*

Patrick A. Tosie, Sr.

Nanochromis dimidiatus comes from the western African country of Congo. The males obtain a maximum length of 2 ¾” with the females just slightly smaller. Normal body coloration is grey/brown to pale orange in normal dress, when breeding they turn pinkish to red. Males and females have a dark line that extends from the tip of the mouth through to the base of the caudal peduncle, ending at the beginning of the tail. Another dark line is seen at the top of the body under the dorsal fin. These lines are not noticeable during breeding. The caudal fin is rounded on both the male and female; the pelvic fin is rounded on the female, pointed on the male. The females also get a white to silver band on the dorsal fin, this band is absent on the male. The male’s dorsal, caudal and anal fins have some lightly colored dots, being mostly white to silver in color.



My spawning setup is an eighteen gallon breeding tank which measures 18” deep x 24” wide x 11” high with soft acidic water that has a pH of 5. The tank is filled with java moss throughout to give them comfort (they tend to stay hidden in a bare tank), the floor is covered with a fine brown “Meramec” gravel and a mixture of flower pots, flower pot basis (the part that catches water), both having some small holes in them as to mimic a cave, and a few rocks that were stacked so that there is a ledge underneath. They prefer the flower pot bases over the taller flower pots or stacked rocks. Included in the tank are some small guppies as dither fish. I like having dither fish in my setups; it gives the pair something to focus their attention on, other than each other.



To condition them, they are fed a combination of a mixture of dry flake food, newly hatched baby brine shrimp, frozen brine shrimp, mosquito larva, and pieces of live earthworms, the red wiggler

type. The water temperature starts in the low seventies, when attempting to breed I raise the temperature up to the mid eighties.

The female stakes out her preferred cave and starts the excavating. She digs and removes most the gravel from inside the flower pot base and piles it up at the entrance of the cave, so much so that the entrance is barely visible and almost sealed off. While the female is fixing up her house, the male roams around protecting the territory from any intruders. Once she has her home to her liking, the female dances at the entrance, moving and shaking her body in an “S” shape trying to entice the male inside. During this time, her colors start to intensify and turn to a deeper orange/red color. Her belly swells up and gets even a brighter red during this condition and breeding time.

Once the male takes interest, she invites him into their new home where the pair picks an area on the top of the cave and starts cleaning it. They lay their eggs on the ceiling of the newly cleaned cave; the eggs are oblong, large compared to the size of the fish, reddish in color and number between thirty and forty. After the eggs are laid, the female stays in the cave, only coming out for food, while the male guards the entrance and patrols the area. He freely goes in and out of the cave; however, he spends little time inside. The eggs hatch in three to four days when the water temperature is eighty-two. One quick note, I have had *N. dimidiatus* spawn several times and eggs hatch on all occasions, I have not been able to successfully raise the fry.

N. dimidiatus form a strong pair bond as do all the *Nanochromis* species. They make great parents and it is quite a thrill to see the parents roaming about with a school of fry trailing close behind. I have not had the pleasure to witness this with *N. dimidiatus*, as I have only succeeded in getting them to lay eggs and hatch a few times; I have never had the fry survive to a free swimming stage. I believe this has been because I was not able to provide small enough food for them. I have kept and have been successful spawning and raising *N. transvestites*, *N. nudiceps* and *N. parilus* and they have all been fantastic parents, even rearing several batches of fry together with the parents in the same tank. If you ever get an opportunity to obtain any of the *Nanochromis*, do so, you will be glad you did.



The Computer Page

Steve Deutsch

MASI's official web page: www.missouri-aquarium-society.com

MASI's email group: MASIFishHeads Yahoo Group - see web site for joining instructions

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Steve Edie

June 27-28 – St Louis: St Louis Water Gardening Society – Pond-O-Rama

June 27 – Kansas City: HAAS - Auction

June 28 - Indianapolis: Circle City Aquarium Club – Summer Auction

Jul 18 - Urbana, IL: Champaign Area Fish Exchange – Summer Auction

Jul 30 – Aug 2 – Cincinnati, OH: American Cichlid Association – Annual Convention

Aug 16 – St Louis: Missouri Aquarium Society – Auction

Sept 4-6 – Milwaukee: Milwaukee Aquarium Society – Annual Show

Sept 18-20 – Kansas City: Midwest Cichlid Association – Annual Expo

Oct 4 - St Louis: Missouri Aquarium Society – Swap Meet

Oct 9-11 - Kalamazoo, MI: Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society – Annual Show

Oct 18 - Cedar Rapids, IA: Eastern Iowa Aquarium Society – Auction

Oct 23-25 – NJ: North Jersey Aquarium Society – Annual Show

Nov 14 - Kansas City: HAAS – Swap Meet

Nov 15 - Indianapolis: Circle City Aquarium Club – Winter Auction

Nov 20-22 – Cleveland: Ohio Cichlid Association – Cichlid Extravaganza

Nov 22 - St Louis: Missouri Aquarium Society – Auction

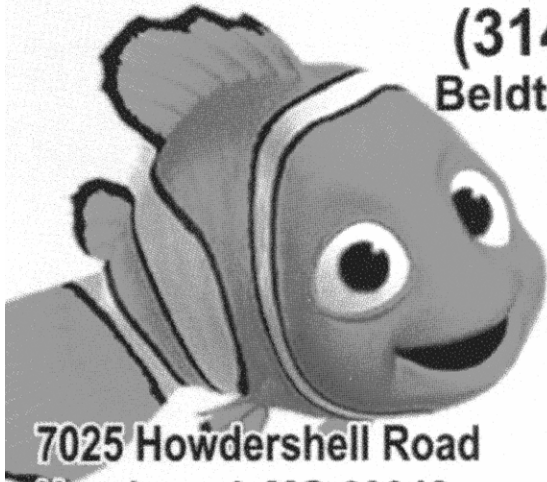


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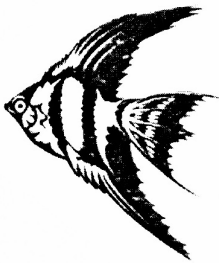
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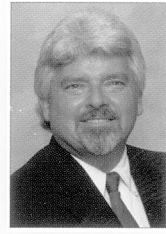
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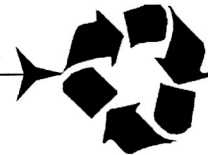
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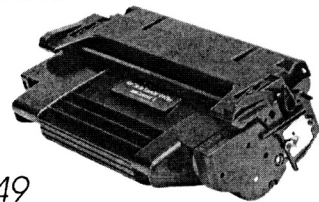
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Spectra-Pure Inc.

Sunlight Supply, Inc.

Tetra www.tetra-fish.com

United Pet Group

Wardley www.wardley-fish.com

Zoo Med Labs, Inc.



THE DARTER
Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 1682
Maryland Heights, MO 63043-1682

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Label

It's Time for the MASI Picnic
June 27 at the Home of Jim and Brenda Thale, 3:00
MASI Provides the Meat
Jim and Brenda Provide the Hospitality
You Provide the Desserts and Sides

The picnic is a good time to sit and talk to your fish friends with no program, no-one saying to take the conversation out in the hall, no duties to perform. Families are welcome and encouraged.

Call Jim or Brenda at 636-343-8004 to say you're coming, get directions, and let them know what you're bringing.