

The Darter

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Join or renew membership at any meeting, most club events, by PayPal from the MASI Website's Membership Page or by contacting the membership chair.

Cover -Limia vittata - Cuban Limia male By Gary Lange

Y SOCIE

EDITOR Chuck Bremer editor@missouriaquariumsociety.com www.missouriaquariumsociety.com



12 ALA 2017 Annual Convention





Fish School

15

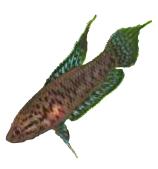
25 2016 Member of the Year Award



Meet MASI Fishy Folk

27

32 Blue Pin Tail Gourami





Fishes as Dishes

40

Supporters & Friends



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	1	Cover	
	<u>2</u>	MASI Info	
	<u>3</u>	<u>Features</u>	
	4	Inside this Issue	
	<u>5</u>	From the President's Tank	Pat Tosie
	<u>5</u>	From the Editor	Chuck Bremer
	<u>6</u>	May Meeting	
	<u>7</u>	June & July Meetings	
	<u>8</u>	Other MASI Programs	Various
	<u>10</u>	March & April Meeting Report	Various
	<u>11</u>	March & April Bowl Shows	Chris Mohrle
	<u>12</u>	ALA 2017 Annual Convention	Organizers
	<u>14</u>	MASI Auction Message	Mike Hellweg
	<u>15</u>	Fish School - Annual Show Report	Gary Lange
	<u>16</u>	Random Photos	
	<u>17</u>	Show Placings	Gary Lange
	<u>22</u>	Best of Show Awards	
	<u>23</u>	BAP & HAP Awards	Mike Hellweg & Steve Edie
	<u>24</u>	Major Awards	
	<u>25</u>	2016 Member of the Year Award	
A STATE OF THE STA	<u>26</u>	Show Editorial	Gary Lange
	<u>27</u>	Meet MASI Fishy Folk	Jim Miller, Jr.
ALL STORY	<u>32</u>	Blue Pin Tail Gourami	Mike Hellweg
194	<u>35</u>	2017 BAP Standings	Steve Edie
	<u>37</u>	2017 HAP Standings	Mike Hellweg
	38	Club Hopping	Steve Edie
	<u>39</u>	Shop Hopping	LFS
	<u>40</u>	Fishes as Dishes	Pat Tosie
	<u>41</u>	Member Classifieds	Members
	31, 34, 42	Advertisers & Sponsors	
	43	Monthly Bowl Show Entry Form	Chris Mohrle
and of the same of	44	MASI Supporters & Friends	
The state of the s	THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TO PERSON NAMED I	Article Photos are provided by the Author unless	otherwise noted.

To move around more easily, use the CurleyQ in the lower right corner of any page to bounce back here. Then tap/click the article you want to read next.





WOW!!!!

What a great couple of weeks we had and if you don't know what I am talking about, you missed it! MASI's Annual Convention was April 28, 29 and 30th and we had a nice crowd of people, some terrific speakers and another HUGE auction. There was lots of fun and even more fishy talk.

The following weekend, May 5, 6, and 7th MASI hosted National Convention for the American Livebearer Association with even more speakers, more fishy talk, many rare livebearers and

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S TANK

Pat Tosie

more fishy talk. It was a lot of hard work and those who helped out were wore out by the time it ended, but it was well worth it. A big **THANK YOU** goes out to all those who helped make these two weekends a huge success.

Gary has another wonderful speaker lined up for our May meeting, **Dr. Andy**White will be presenting to us a talk on his Adventures with Plecos and I'm sure it will be something you won't want to miss, and remember, we usually have Dinner with the Speaker at 6:00, right before the meeting, and this month it will be at Bandana's (be sure to let Gary know if you will be attending).

Our June meeting will feature a **Members Only Rare Fish Auction** with some fish donated from **Segrest Farms** (Segrest is the industry leader for wholesale ornamental fish, supplying pet stores, public aquariums, and research institutions since 1961. You must be a member to purchase at this special auction. You can join (or renew if you have not yet done so) at the meeting or using PayPal from our website. You won't want to miss this opportunity to get some of these highly sought after fish.

Our club is doing well; with over 100 members we have an active Breeders Award Program (BAP) and Horticultural Award Program (HAP), and many fun activities throughout the year. We do need a few people to step up and help out with the operations of the club and give a few long time people a little break.

You get the most out of the group when you are an active member and now is a great time to join in the fun. A couple positions in particular are needed-Vice-President and Treasurer, please talk to Gary Lange, myself or any of the council members if you are interested.

Participate and make our club strong.

Keep looking below water....

Chuck Bremer

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the Darter is largely a photo recap of the recent back to back MASI Fish School Spring Convention and the 2017 ALA Annual Convention also hosted by MASI the next weekend.

Much of the space in this issue was covered in an eSpecial of about 20 pages last year so there wasn't as much space for articles. When that was placed into a regular issue.

Its also been a frantic two weeks plus for everyone and we understandably didn't get many articles submitted. There are a couple that will be used in the next Darter issue but we'd like to fill it so send more. Instead of spending a lot of time writing myself I opted to dip into some photo essays for this issue.

Be sure to check out the Show pages 15-25 and also the Editorial by Gary Lange on page 26 As he indicates MASI needs to decide what to do with the show weekend for the future. If you missed the Show activities we need to know what would serve you best in the future. It's your club help the Council decide how to manage it.



Deadline for the July Darter is July 11th!

Send us an Article!!



MASI General Meeting Thursday, May 18th!! Adventures with Plecos

Andy will discuss various types of plecos available in the hobby, in particular the rarer species from the Loricarid number system, including basic care, advanced care, breeding tips, food and housing.

Andy has been keeping fish since the 4th grade when he was given a 29g and an Oscar by a "friend" of his parents. Formerly a Tanganyikan addict, he now exclusively keeps and breeds Plecostomus. He currently keeps 25 tanks, most of which are large, in his walkout basement in Webster Groves.

Dinner with the speaker will be at Bandanas on Dorsett Rd & I-270 at 6 pm. Contact Gary Lange, gwlange@sbcglobal.net, to reserve a spot.





Andy White







7:30 PM Dorsett Village Church
2240 Bennington Place, Maryland Heights, MO

MASI Special Meeting - Thursday, June 15th!!



Members only RARE FISH auction!!

Cichlids?
Livebearers?
Catfish?
Others?

The public is welcome to attend, memberships will be available at the meeting, but only MASI members can buy. The fish are being donated by Segrest Farms. Watch the MASI website for a list of fish being offered and your inbox for updates!

To bring more fish into the Hobbyist community and MASI's BAP Program.





MASI General Meeting - Thursday, July 20th!!



Dr. Phil Nixon



After four NANFA study trips Phil will address several habitat characteristics and the fish that live in each.



Other MASI Programs

Recent MASI Bowling Nite



Other 2017 MASI Dates to Remember:

5/18/2017 **General Meeting** 7:30 PM **Dorsett Village Church** 5/20/2017 **Council Meeting Home of Chuck Bremer** 6:30 PM **General Meeting** 7:30 PM 6/15/2017 **Dorsett Village Church Council Meeting Home of Cory Koch** 6/17/2017 7:30 PM 7:30 PM 7/20/2017 **General Meeting Dorsett Village Church** 8/6/2017 Auction Crown Plaza Hotel 9:00 AM **General Meeting** 8/17/2017 **Dorsett Village Church** 7:30 PM

Save the Date: Oct 1, 2017 St Louis MASI Swap Meet



Did Anyone Even Keep Score?









MEETING REPORT

MISC Contributors

March & April Raffle Winners Cobalt & Zoo Med Products





Purchase raffle tickets at the meetings to help support your MASI and our Sponsors



MASI Challenge

2017 Progress!

2017 Stuart M Grant Fund "Net Busters"

\$1,200



Stuart M Grant Fund





Monthly Bowl Show

Chris Mohrle



March - 9 Entries

Cichlids

Place	Fish	Owner
ı	Altum x Scalare Cross	Mark Simmons
2	Tramitichromis Intermedius	Mark Simmons
3	Labidochromis sp"White"	Pat Tosie

Open Class



Place	Fish	Owner
I	Neoheterandria elegans "TigerTeddy"	Chuck Bremer
2	Calico Ryunkin "Goldfish"	Jim Ulett

April - 10 Entries

Rainbowfish

3

Place	Fish	Owner
I	Apocheilus lineatus	Evan Keim
2	Aposimeon bivattatum "Lagos Red"	Chuck Bremer
3	Aposimeon Australe	Charles Harrison

Open Class

	Open Class	
Place	Fish	Owner
I	Nannostomus marginatus Dwarf Pencil Fish	Chuck Bremer
2	Turqoise Rainbow	Charles Hoppe
3	Hyphessobrycon bentosi	Charles Hoppe
	l	

Did your fish get entered?





Page: 11

ALA CONVENTION

Organizers

ALA 2017 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Did you make it to the ALA Convention? If not you really missed a good event.

This was the largest recent ALA Annual Convention and we've had many comments about it and the things that went on.

We realized several of our goals

for this convention, including bringing the Livebearer community back together to include the Goodeid Working Group, Mainstream Guppy Breeders as well as aficionados of the Fancy 4

(Guppies, Platys, Mollies & Swordtails) and other Wild

Type livebearers. For a group that has over 500 species in 5 main families it is 2nd only to the Cichlids in popularity in the hobby and needs its place again. We hope MASI has helped re-establish

Another goal was to enhance the

that.

Show. Adding the GGA did that and the ALA show portion was slightly larger than in 2016 so maybe it will grow for the future. Having the GGA/IFGA show with the ALA Convention was Fantastic! Not only did folks stopping in off the street get to see a fantastic show but the IFGA really knows how to run a show!!!

Their help and organizational skills were put to the test for sure but they were up to the task and made it a win for

everyone. Thanks and Hats Off to the GGA!

Two of the biggest draws for this year's ALA Convention were the two



days of Fish Room Tours. Turn out was FANTASTIC and contributed

greatly to our ability to
entice early registration
which in turn helped
planning. Many folks
took the major
portion of the

week off from work just for those and they saw some fantastic Fish Rooms!!

Jerry Jost's Huge Cory Lab on Thursday was the talk of the day. 200+ tanks with nearly as many species...colors most have never seen in Corys. Everyone had smiles on their faces. A HUGE Thanks to Jerry for hosting us in his new, state of the art, fish

room. It's not something he does easily. That tour contributed to the lasting power of the folks at the auction also as many waited around just to bid on the last table of fish which contained many species of corys. Thanks, Jerry!

The other fish rooms were also a success, we were still having to turn





folks away on the last day who would come from long distances just for those. We had a good diversity of rooms and many places fish room tours are not common so it is the rare fish keeper who isn't looking for ideas as well as fish and these hit that big empty spot. Thanks to Mike Hellweg, Leroy McLeary, Gary Lange



The speakers were great, such a diversity across all parts of the hobby from beginners to advanced breeders, from how to handle the fish to their native habitats and moving them around the world, either wholesale or retail by mail. Fantastic topics with fantastic speakers and information.

If you weren't there you missed

out on some wonderful opportunities for information that will never happen again as the ALA dipped into it's paper archives and gave them away for FREE to attendees. They're gone now so this will never happen again. We haven't heard how many new ALA members were gained but there was ample opportunity as the majority of the folks

present were not current members.

Several of you were there for the Sunday Auction and saw some new

and Jack Heller for showing their diverse fishrooms and spending the day when they wanted to be doing other things (some were multitasking!) instead of hanging around home all day. Thanks also to the drivers who kept it moving and on time!

The Friday Box Sale caused a furor. Such a mad house is rarely seen and a lot of fish and plants changed hands early in the Convention. Thanks to those who sold and purchased there.

The Special Saturday Fish Sale was tremendous, of about 130 Convention Registrants, EVERYONE, wanted in that room.

Some stood in line for nearly an hour to get in there. There was something for everyone, fancy breeder, wild type keeper or just plain fish keeper. Yes, there were even a couple of those Cichlids that slipped in. Prices were more than right and every one had a smile on their face when they left the room. One special species was purchased there for \$30 then donated back into the main ALA Sunday auction and sold for \$230 when others had a chance to bid.





things we got a chance to try before rolling them out on the MASI folks at one of our own auctions. NO reading or



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Small Animal

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Reptile

Dog Training

Bird

Grooming Salon

Affordable Vaccinations

Pooch Hotel

Pet Sitting by Rover.com

Pet Adoptions

Online Adoption Search

www.petco.com

17 St. Louis locations



writing of hand written numbers and less staging of items should help future MASI auctions. We were able to achieve higher accuracy and took about an hour to reconcile what normally takes 3-4 hours. Look for changes to happen accordingly at the next MASI auction on August 6th.

Thanks to everyone who helped!!
re, there were a lot of the



helped the weekend before. If you weren't there just look around you and thank those who were there on your behalf. We can't remember them all and don't know who all of them are whom we didn't meet at the time but **THANK YOU** anyway!!

There were some who deserve special thanks for doing so much and doubling up or tripling up on their



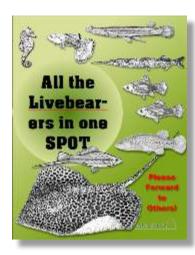
contribution and time: Thanks especially to Mike Hellweg (Convention organization, fishroom, special fish sale housing, etc.), Jim Mueller (Treasurer, organization, registration, etc.), Leroy McLeary (Fishroom, BBQ, Guppy & ALA show organization, etc.), Chuck Bremer (Auction, Badges, Registration table). Thanks also for Kitty Mueller (Silent auctions/Raffles, vendor room), Gary Lange (fishroom, AV), Jack Heller

(fishroom, enthusiasm, etc.) and anyone else we might have missed.

Because of everyone the ALA Convention Weekend was a Success!!







MASI AUCTION MESSAGE

Mike Hellweg



Wow! I hope you all survived the deluge! I don't think I've ever seen that much rain on a show weekend. It seemed like it would never stop. The weather gage at the school just south of our house showed nearly 11 inches from Thursday through Sunday. Then driving home after the auction, there was this strange yellow ball in the sky that made driving difficult!

The auction went very well. By now you should have all received your checks. By the way, I always post on the Forum when we send out the checks. I do it here instead of Facebook so folks can go in and check whenever they want and the post doesn't disappear down the feed. We are working to make reconciling the books even quicker and easier, so you will see a few changes at the next auction. More about them in the next issue. If you went to the ALA Convention auction, you got a preview.

Our next auction, the annual Summer Auction, will be August 6, 2017.

Thank Chuck and the guys from Tropical World Pets for supplying the raffle tank. And if you get up to Sailfin Pet Shop in Champaign, be sure to thank John for his support, too. Not many shops in the country can or will do that, and we have two! Having the long-term local support of TWP and other shops as well is a huge bonus for our members! Many of

them will even give MASI folks a discount on every purchase. Whenever you buy something at a local shop, make sure you let them know you are a MASI member and please patronize them as they support us!

At the Summer Auction we will once again have three pieces of original artwork from nature artist Sam Scalz up for auction. He donated them to MASI and the proceeds will go to the MASI Challenge. They will be sold at 2:30 pm. Watch the Darter for pictures of the three pieces, and Charles, as the date approaches, will have them on the MASI webpage, too.

As always, the folks at the Crowne Plaza will be selling sandwiches, chips, nachos, and drinks right outside the door, so there is no need to head out somewhere else for lunch.

Míke - auction@missouriaguariumsociety.com

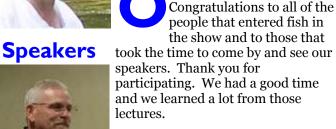
Page: 14





CONVENTION CHAIRMAN Gary Lange

Fish School - Annual Show Report



We had 124 entries in the show including III fish entries. Twenty of our members entered fish in the show. Scot Roach had the most entries with 17 followed closely by our wizard editor Chuck Bremer with 16 entries. Where does he find all of the time to do things so well?! You'll find the list of winners elsewhere in this issue as well as our special awards winners.

UR SPRING SHOW is over.

There were a lot of you that helped put the show together but if I forget to mention you it's on me, sorry. My list of helpers included Chuck Bremer, Connie Bremer, Debbie Sultan and Tom Corradini who hauled all of that necessary equipment to put on a show to the site. Debbie and Tom also store all of that equipment until the next show or special event, like the ALA show that went down the very next weekend. Jim and Kitty Mueller were also there to help set up the site as well as Daniel Kinder and River Kinder-Russell. Scott Bush was busy filling up water barrels and treating the water for the entrants as well as handling the duties for organizing the pizza party on Friday night in the hospitality room. Many hands helped to lighten the load. I really appreciate all of your efforts.

Our vendors were Exotic Aquatics (Mike Hellweg), Swiss Tropicals, (Stephan Tanner) and Midwest Tropical Fish (Warren **Crabtree**). I hope you got a chance to visit their booths and take advantage of some of the items that they had to offer. All three were then vendors the very next weekend at the ALA so we really appreciated them showing up for both events. I definitely need to get over to Warren's shop, I'm just one of those MO boys too lazy to cross the bridge! See you soon Warren.

I also want to thank our wonderful group of speakers. First was Phil Benes and his wife Jan. Phil gave a great talk after the pizza and beer bash on Friday on gadgets in the hobby from many years ago and on Saturday he gave a talk on putting together his huge Koi pond. Thank goodness the fall he took from the roof of his barn taking photos of his pond wasn't fatal as we would have lost a great fish keeper way too early! The ACA is extremely lucky to have him as one of their dedicated members helping to keep them strong and viable.

We sometimes forget that we have several speakers like Mike Hellweg and Steve Edie that also do a lot of speaking on the national circuit. We are indeed lucky to have them as MASI members. Mike's talk on Danios was first presented at the prestigious Aquatic Experience in Chicago last year. Steve's fairly new banquet talk was based on all of those mind-numbing changes to the scientific fish names that they keep throwing at us.

I hope that you also got a chance to hear Stephan **Tanner's talk on filtration.** So many of us sort of take it for granted but a lot of hobbvists really don't understand filtration and their fish suffer from misunderstandings. I told Stephan that he didn't really get excited enough about his product, the Poret® foam for Matten and other types of filters, because when you look at the numbers he really should be jumping up and down. He says he's Swiss and likes to stay neutral, but if you haven't come around to Poret® yet hopefully you will eventually.

Thanks also to our judges Stephan Tanner, Phil and Jan Benes (President of the GCAS). Judging can be a thankless job and everyone has an opinion and we were very happy to have them available. Congrats to our Best of Show Winner Pat Tosie for a Xiphophorus kalmani "Catemaco" and runner up, Judges Award - Charles Harrison for a Pachypanchax sakaramyi.

Thanks again for all of you that did participate and we hope to have some new ideas on how our club can host some new events in the future, stay tuned!

Page: 15

GARY







Random Photos



















The Name Game:

A Classification Permutation











Aquascaping - Multiple Entries

Species	Entrant	Place
Aquarium Beautiful	Gary Lange	ı
Aquarium Beautiful	Chuck Bremer	2
Aquarium Beautiful	Kitty Mueller	3









Best School/Family or Biotope - 3 Entrys

Species	Entrant	Place
Ameca splendens Family	Daniell Kinder	I
Julidochromis transcriptus - family	Steven Hoffman	2
Corydoras aeneus - School	Daniell Kinder	3





Old World Cichlid - 8 Entrys

Species	Entrant	Place
Neolamprologus similis	Chuck Bremer	I
Julidochromis ornatus	Jack Heller	2
Aulonocara koningsi	Scot Roach	3







More Show Results



New World Cichlid - 13 Entrys

Species	Entrant	Place
Apistogramma borelli	Jack Heller	ı
Thorichthys maculipinnis	Pat Tosie	2
Pterophyllum scalare - angelfish	Kathy Daly	3

Killifish/Rainbowfish - 17 Entrys

Species	Entrant	Place
Pachypanchax sakaramyi	Charles Harrison	I
Riv. xiphidius, Cirque Blanche'' (SGF04)	Charles Harrison	2
Epiplatys lomottei	Jack Heller	3





Livebearers Wild Type - 10 Entrys

Species	Entrant	Place
Xiphophorus kalmani "Catemaco"	Pat Tosie	ı
Ameca splendens	Chris Mohrle	2
Ameca splendens	Daniell Kinder	3

Even More Show Results



Livebearers Fancy Aquarium Type | | | Entrys

Species	Entrant	Place
Hi-fin Swordtail red male	Larry Allbright	I
Male swordtail	Mike Huber	2
Xiphophorus helleri - swordtail	Jim Mueller	3

Egglayers: Cyprinids: Barbs, Danios, Rasboras, Minnows & Characins: Tetras, etc. 14 Entrys

Species	Entrant	Place	Jr?
Hasemania nana - Brass Tetra	Scot Roach	I	
Gold Barb	Chuck Bremer	2	
Oranda Goldfish	River Kinder-Russell	3	JR









Anabantids (X-B splendens) - 7 E

Species	Entrant	Place
Betta mandor	Pat Tosie	I
Betta burdigala	Pat Tosie	2
Betta rubra	Gary Lange	3





Fancy Betta Splendens - 6 Entrys

Species	Entrant	Place
Betta splendens - Plakat type male	Gary Lange	ı
Betta splendens - Plakat type male	Gary Lange	2
Betta splendens	Steven Hoffman	3

Catfish: - 9 Entrys Corydoras, Scleromystax, and relatives

Species	Entrant	Place
Corydoras semiaquilus "Napo River"	Gary Lange	I
Corydoras sterbai	Scot Roach	2
Corydoras nana	Chuck Bremer	3





Catfish, all other - 9 Entrys

Species	Entrant	Place
Banjo Catfish	Deb Sultan, T. Corradini	1
Brown Bristlenose	Chuck Bremer	2
Synodontis petricola	Chris Mohrle	3

All Other Fish - 3 Entrys

Species	Entrant	Place	
Mastacembelus circumcinctus Zig-zag eel	Jim Miller	I	
Polypterus senegalus - Senegal bichir	Jim Miller	2	
Redtail Black shark	Larry Allbright	3	





Photography - 6 Entrys

Species	Entrant	Place
Betta rubra	Gary Lange	I
Chilatherina axelrodi	Gary Lange	2
L#95 Pleco	Gary Lange	3



Art/Craft Item - 7 Entrys

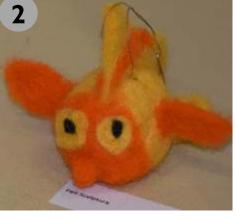
Species	Entrant	Place	Jr?
Angelfish	Kitty Mueller	I	
Felt Fish	Daniell Kinder	2	
Angelfish drawing	Evan Roach	3	JR











Thanks to Gary Lange for these Photos!



Best of Show Awards,



Best in Show - Pat Tosie -Xiphophorus Kalmani "Catemaco"



People's Choice Deb Sultan & Tom Corradini - Banjo Catfish





Best Catfish Award - Deb Sultan & Tom Corradini -Banjo Catfish



Best Junior - River Kinder- Russell - Oranda Goldfish



Judges Award - Charles Harrison - Pachypanchax sakaramyi



Reet Thomas Best Livebearer Award – Pat Tosie -Xiphophorus Kalmani "Catemaco"

Fish School





Best Cichlid Award - Jack Heller - Apistogramma Borelli



Congratulations to the 2016 BAP Award recipients.

General Breeder (50 points) - Dan Rios, Mike Slater, Guy Tinker, Bob & Lora Watson

Advanced Breeder (100 points) - Chris Mohrle
Advanced Grand Master Breeder (1000 points) - Chuck Bremer
Illustrious Grand Master Breeder (3500 points) - Pat Tosie
Breeder of the Year (23 spawns) - Chuck Bremer
CARES Breeder of the Year (16 spawns) - Chuck Bremer
400 Species Bred - Mike Hellweg















400 Species Spawned







Congratulations to the 2016 HAP Award recipients. Advanced Harticulturalist (100 points). Daniell

Advanced Horticulturalist (100 points) - Daniell Kinder, Stever & Kathy Deutsch

Senior Horticulturalist (200 points) - Chris Mohrle,
Devvie Sultan & Tom Corradini, Jim Mueller
Green Thumb Award (22 propogations) - Chris



2016 Green Thumb Award Most Propogations









MASI Thanks and Congratulates also the bigger winners of the night...

Hobbyist Society Service Award 2016 Pat Tosie

Most Service/ Volunteer Award Points





Ralph Wilhelm Writer of the Year for 2016

COLLECTING IN NICARAGUA

Text and photos by Kurt A. Zahringer

Darter: Vol 42 No I, January, 20 I 6, Pages 21-24

HEN LAST WE left the hero of our story, his chances of collecting fish during the final days of his trip seemed all but lost. Then, at the eleventh hour, Edgardo and Benjamin, owners of Acuario Arrecife, saved the seemingly doomed collecting trip. ...



Congratulate Ed who Received the

POUARIUM SOCIETA

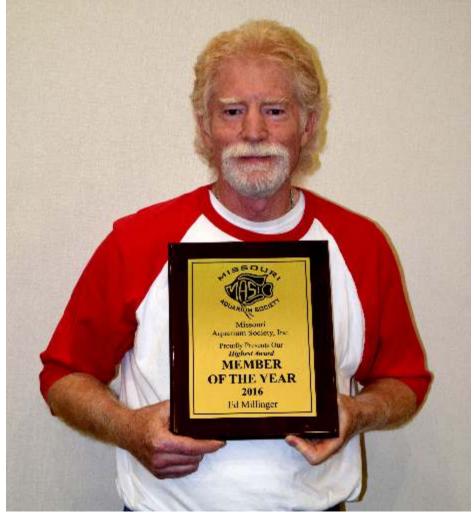
2016 Member of the Year

Ed Millinger

Ed Millinger is the epitome of a nearly perfect MASI member. Ed is well known within MASI and has been for many years- so many that most take him for granted. He has been an unsung hero always willing to step in where there is a need even before being asked. As a Volunteer Ed is unassuming and quiet but very thorough about his job and willing to help anyone.

Ed has filled many roles for MASI, including Auction Scribe and Points Tabulator among others. Longer term members can fill in the blanks Imany don't know. His roles have been assumed and performed so quietly Ed would not have been noticed were it not for his height and (previously) red hair. Although Ed claims retirement, both from his "regular" job and MASI Volunteer jobs, he continues to seek ways to fill in for both. Most recently Ed "retired" from MASI Points Tabulator but not before he could train Guy Tinker to take his place and knew it would be in good hands.

As Ed "retired" from this position he quietly assumed the role of Membership Chair filling in for Ron Huck during his absence, being sure that Ron had the support of our club in his MASI job and in his personal life. Ed has provided a conduit of communication to Ron. Ed's caring and compassion have also driven him to gather more information for us about recently deceased and nearly unknown MASI member, Craig Henning.



Throughout Ed's membership in MASI he has been an avid Hobbyist and Event participant. His fish continue to win at many MASI Shows. He has also continued to challenge himself in the BAP and HAP, being at the levels of Advanced Grand Master **Breeder and Master Aquatic** Horticulturalist and providing MASI members with two difficult to spawn species in the past 6 months! He has been sure to write informative articles on both so that information on their propagation continues in the Hobby for MASI and wherever his articles on Geophagus Winemilleri and the

Cool Cat *Schleromystax barbatus* are reprinted next. As a consistent writer for the club newsletter, the Darter, Ed has provided over 50 articles and columns in the past 12 years- nearly unsurpassed.

Unassuming Ed received the MASI Hobbyist of the Year Award for his continued and loyal support of MASI in 2016 and all those years that came before! Ed has held the bar high and this is our way of thanking him as an Unsung Hero for long term devotion of a nearly perfect MASI member setting the example for all of us!



Do we have a Show next year?

Help us decide... Editorial by Gary Lange

LTHOUGH THE 2017 Spring Show/Convention met many's expectations we will be rethinking our approach to our Spring Event at the next Council Meeting.

On Saturday at some points we only had 18 people in the room to hear a quality speaker. We have been pushing hard to get members to come to these Saturday talks and relatively low turnout appears to be a real trend ove the past several years. Attendance got a little better as the day went on but not by much.

When less than 20% of the members show up for an event it's really time to rethink what you're doing.

As the show chair/vice show chair for many shows over the years we just can't justify bringing in quality speakers only to have a handful of folks show up to enjoy their craft. When you have legends like Ad Konings, Paul Loiselle, Rachel O'Leary plus those above getting less than 50 people to listen to them it's time to do something different. It's not right to have them take their time and effort to speak to such a tiny audience. We could spend the same and have them at a monthly meeting where we consistently draw 45-70 people per meeting.

We had a decent turnout for show entries but it's just a drop in the bucket compared to shows in the past so it may not be addressing member's needs. Only 20% of our members decided to participate by putting fish into the annual show. Considering the time, money and energy that goes into setting things up it appears to be producing diminishing returns. I would say that if we only had 20 members showing fish and a whole bunch coming through to see the display then we might be able to justify it but that also isn't the case.

What I plan to propose for the future is to have a banquet that is not linked to any auction or swap meet. There will be no more show setups and no more Saturday speakers, they just aren't working. The banquet will serve as a platform to honor our award winners for BAP, HAP, and service awards and also just to let us enjoy the evening.

When an auction or a swap meet is planned for the next day everyone is in a hurry to get out of there and go bag fish. We could also fly in a major speaker for the banquet so that you would have another reason to show up. Keep the banquet donation slots intact on our auction sheet and with a few donations your ticket could also be free.

We should still keep the Super Bowl in place for our October meeting so our members still will have a chance for bragging rights and the ability to show off their fich



I know that there are some people that might disagree with me about replacing the annual show and workshop. But isn't the definition of insanity doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results? Mike Hellweg and I have had this conversation now for the last two or three years and we both agreed that if things didn't improve it was time to move on and try something different. We think that time is now.

I hate to admit it but it is time to move on.

GARY

This will be a major topic of discussion at the next Council Meeting to be held at 6:30 PM (Cookout first, meeting at 7:30) at the home of Chuck Bremer. RSVP if you plan to attend.

If you do not attend please let the council know your thoughts either in person to one of those listed on page 2 of this Darter or by emailing <u>council@missouriaquariumsociety.com</u>.

We really do need your thoughts and input on this major decision as it will affect everyone.



Meet MASI Fishy Folk - Jim Miller

Mr. "I'll bid a \$1!!

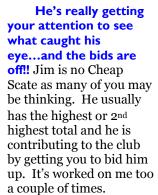








ost of you, especially the new members, probably know Jim as the person who sits in the front of the room and sticks his hand in the air while hollering "I'll bid a Dollar!"





I never could get Jim to give me the answers to questions so the photos will have to stand on their own.

Editor



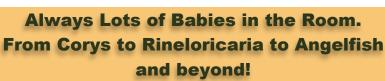


















Page: 28









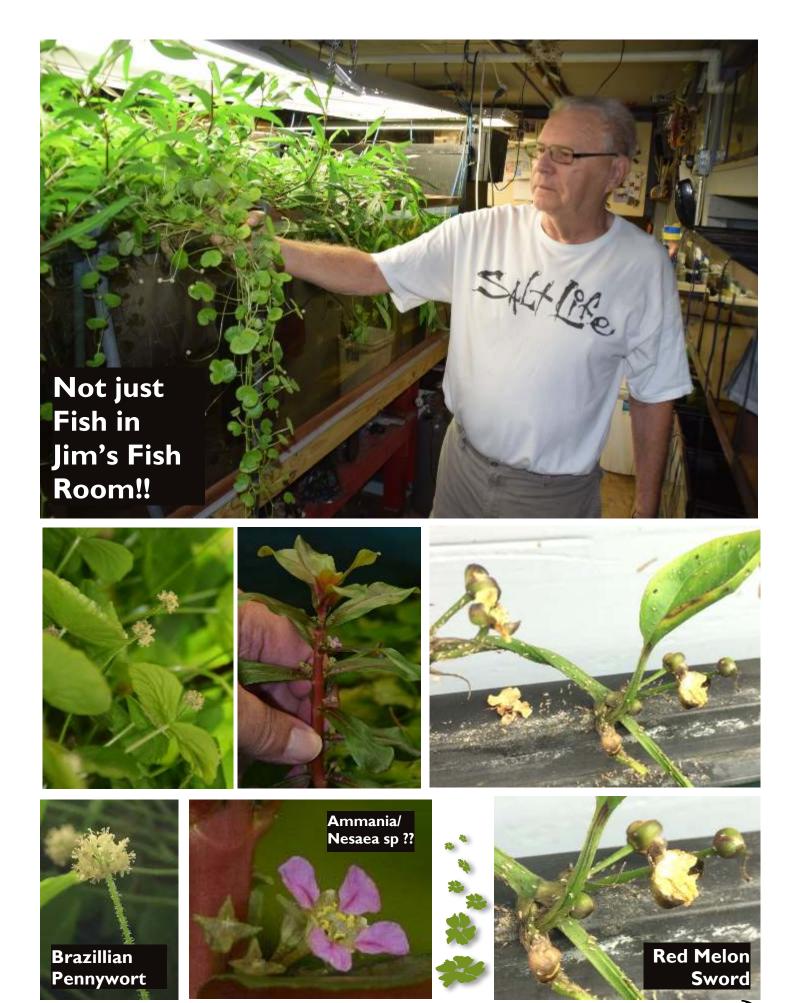


Saltwater as well as Freshwater fish and crustaceans benefit from the heat in Jim's Fish House... and he's the only one who notices the humidity!





0





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Page: 31



The Darter

Minifins

Malpulutta kretseri

The Blue Pin **Tail Gourami** A C.A.R.E.S. **Species**

Mike Hellweg, CFN (Certifiable Fish Nut)

IDING AMONG THE leaf litter on small Sri Lankan streams, and even among the leaves and plants growing in some family water collection and storage tanks on the island is the gorgeous, yet little known dwarf







gourami - Malpulutta kretseri. I've been told local boys collect them and gave them the name that translates to Blue Pin Tail.

Males are among the most stunning of freshwater fishes. They are a pale tan color, covered with metallic blue dots. The unpaired fins are bright metallic blue. The dorsal fin can extend well past the caudal base and the central rays of the caudal form a pin tail that is sometimes as long as the rest of the fish!

For many years, this fish was been rumored to be extinct, nearly extinct, endangered, or threatened depending on the source you being read. Due to the recently ended long and brutal civil war in Sri Lanka, actual data is hard to come by, even today. They disappeared from the hobby in the late 1980's, leading hobbyists to fear the worst. But in the last few years, numbers of them have made their way to Europe and from there to the US. Prices reflect their scarcity in the trade, and paying \$150 for a pair is

not unusual. Once a few more specialized breeders bite the bullet and start working with them, I see that price coming down quickly.

The fish are remarkably undemanding for such a rumored "delicate" fish. In my experience, they are remarkably hardy and prolific. The biggest disappointment is that these gorgeous fish are extremely shy. This could lead to being thought more rare in the wild than they actually are because they hide all the time.

Males prefer caves, and females seem to prefer hiding in plants. Most of the time even with small dither fish you don't see them and the tank looks empty. Sometimes a week or more will go by without ever seeing them, especially the females.

Not even food can bring them out, though Grindal worms will sometimes coax the male out into the open.

Oddly, young fish are just the opposite, gregarious to the point of not letting other non-kretseri in the tank even get something to eat. Upon reaching maturity, however, they also take on the secretive ways of their parents.

A tank setup is simple. I kept a single pair in a 10 gallon tank, filtered by a sponge filter (before my Mattenfilter phase). The tank was tightly covered; as with many other small Anabantoids, they are excellent jumpers. The tank was full of caves and plants, and the surface of the tank was completely covered with Water Sprite (this was back when it grew like a weed for me - I can't keep it alive now!). I kept them at a pH of around 7.0 - 7.2 with a total hardness of 125 ppm, mostly from carbonates (about 70 ppm). Temperatures were in the low to mid 70's. They appeared to stop spawning when it gets close to 80.



As you might guess from their hiding nature, they are also a hidden nest spawner. My males have preferred to spawn in caves made of inverted flower pot saucers with a notch in the side. You'll know something is up when the male doesn't even come out for a nice, juicy worm, or if he does, it's a quick dash and back to the cave. It seems that almost magically one day you are presented with a group of 25 to 40 fry when they become free swimming.

I remove the fry to another tank as I see them, though I've missed some and they've grown up in the tank with the adults, so they don't seem to be serious fry predators. This is similar to their cousins, *Pseudosphromenus cupanis* and *P. dayi*, neither of which are fry predators to a great degree.

Over the last year or two that I kept them, I noted a couple of nests that were made by young males in caves up against the front glass. They are small, barely larger than a dime. Spawns are likewise small. I've had some spawns as large as 60, but some of the first were only a dozen or so.

l fed the adults and juveniles a variety of foods - live and freeze dried. Rehydrate freeze dried foods for 10 - 20 minutes, then feed to the fish with a baster like brine shrimp. They loved newly hatched brine shrimp, small Daphnia and Moina. They also enjoyed smaller worms like Grindals and young black worms. The fry ate microworms, 'Walter Worms', Cyclopeeze, Golden Pearls and APR,

along with grazing microfauna from the large number of plants in the tank.

The species was kept alone. My interest is mainly in breeding and studying fish, not in keeping a "community", though I do have a few of those. Most of the folks that received fry from me reported a similar shyness when the juveniles reach spawning age.

Thinking Pygmy Rasboras would act as dithers and make the *kretseri* feel



comfortable enough to spend time in the open, at least one person tried to keep adult fish with this diminutive fish. His *kretseri* nearly starved to death! Judging by their shyness, they probably won't do well with a lot of other fish.



If you come across these rare gems, don't hesitate to give them a try. Provide them with their own tank set up in a simple manner as outlined above, keep them cool, and they'll provide you with more fry than you know what to do with!

Photos from www.seriouslyfish.com

(c) Choy Heng Wah, Colin Dunlap & Kohr Harn Sheng

Page: 33



MASI STUFF!

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2017 BREEDER'S AWARD PROGRAM - Steve Edie



March

Member	Genus	Species	Common Name	Points	Bonus	CARES	Total
Chuck Bremer	Ameca	splendens "Rio Teuchitlan" @		15		15	1022
	llyodon	whitei "Rio Huamita"#@	Trout goodeid	0		15	1037
	Limia	perugiae "La Azufrada"		5			1042
	Skiffia	multipunctata "Lago de Comecuaro"#@	Spotted Skiffia	0		20	1062
	Xenotoca	doadrioi #@	Red Tailed Goodeid	0		15	1077
	Xenotoca	variata "Zaputa" #	Jewel Goodeid	0			1077
Mike Hellweg	Elassoma	zonatum "Gulfport, MS" *	Dwarf Banded Sunfish	20	5		6890
Steven Hoffman	Julidochromis	transcriptus		10			160
Mike Huber	Anomalochromis	thomasi		15			1134
	Metriaclima	zebra ^	OB Zebra	0	2		1136
	Pelvicachromis	pulcher	Kribensis	10			1146
	Poecilia	wingei ^	Super Red Endlers	0	I		1147
Jerry Jost	Corydoras	davidsandsi *	Sand's Cory	10	5		2467
	Corydoras	sp. "CW022" *		10	5		2482
	Corydoras	sp. "C123" *	Yellow Finned Cory	10	5		2497
Scot Roach	Ancistrus	cirrhosus	Brown Bristlenose	10			90
	Ancistrus	cirrhosus ^	Albino Bristlenose	0	2		92
Debbie Sultan	Otopharynx	lithobates "Black Orange Dorsal" *		10	5		850
& Tom Corradini	Protomelas	annectens *		10	5		865
Pat Tosie	Abiotogramma	macmasteri "Lala Tane" *		15	5		5225
rat rusie	Apistogramma Labidochromis	caeruleus "Lions Cove"		10	3		5235
	Melanochromis	kaskazini *		10	5		5250
	Meianochioniis	MUSKUZIIII -		10	3		3230



2017 BREEDER'S AWARD PROGRAM - continued

April

Member	Genus	Species	Common Name	Points	Bonus	CARES	Total
Mike Hellweg	Rocio	octofasciata	Jack Dempsey	5			6895
Mike Huber	Heterandria	formosa	Least Killifish	5			1152
	Lamprologus	similis		10			1162
	Poecilia	wingei ^	Blonde Endlers	0	- 1		1163
	Zoogoneticus	tequilla @	Tequila Goodeid	15		15	1193
Jerry Jost	Aspidoras	fuscoguttatus *		15	5		2517
	Brochis	splendens *	Emerald Cory	15	10		2542
Scot Roach	Xiphophorus	sp. "Domestic Platy"	Painted Platy	5			97
Debbie Sultan	Mylochromis	ericotaenia *		10	5		880
& Tom Corradini	Thorichthys	callolepis "Rio Carolina" *		15	5		900
Pat Tosie	Labidochromis	chisumulae		10			5260
	Tropheus	duboisi "Maswa" @		15		15	5290

BAP Key:

* = 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)

Discount to MASI Card Carrying

@ = 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

Sources: Cal Academy - http://research.calacademy.org

CARES - http://www.carespreservation.com

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HORTICULTURE AWARD PROGRAM - Mike Hellweg



January & February 2017

Member	Genus & Species	Common Name	Туре	Points
Chris Mohrle	455 points			
Auseus	Bucephalandra sp. Avocado		IB	20
	Crinum calamistratum	Wafflle Leaf Bog Lily	V	20
	Myriophyllum þinnatum	Eastern Water Milfoil	V	10
Pat Tosie	400 points			
	Anubias barteri nana	Dwarf Anubias	٧	15

HAP Key:

Reproduction Key: V = Vegetative, OB = Outdoor Bloom, IB = Indoor Bloom, S = Seedling;

Horticultural Award Program Blooms submitted in 2017



Folks, Its time to begin mining those outdoor ponds for blooms for 2017! Get plants now, enjoy them over the summer in your ponds and tubs and don't miss photographing their outdoor blooms.

This fall, split the plant and also turn in for Vegetative reproduction points. If you're lucky you'll get seed and can grow another plant from that in 2018 for even more points.

Pond space and enjoyment well invested!!



The Darter

CLUB HOPPING - Steve Edie

May 21 - Chicago: Greater Chicago Cichlid Association - Swap Meet

May 26-28 - Chicago, IL: American Killifish Association - Annual Convention

Jun 8-13 - Meramec SP, MO: North American Native Fish Association - Annual Convention

Jun 22-25 - Orlando, FL: International Betta Congress - Annual Convention

July 13-16 - Detroit: American Cichlid Association - Annual Convention

Jul 22 - Urbana, IL: Champaign Area Fish Exchange - Summer Auction

Aug 6 - St Louis: MASI - Summer Auction

Aug 12 - Kansas City: Heart of America Aquarium Society - Swap Meet

Sep 22-24 - Madison, WI: Madison Area Aquatic Hobbyists - Cataclysm Catfish Convention

Oct I - St Louis: MASI - Swap Meet

Oct I - Chicago: Greater Chicago Cichlid Association - Swap Meet

Oct 21 - Kansas City: Heart of America Aquarium Society - Auction

Oct 28 - Peoria, IL: TriCounty Tropical Fish Society - Auction

Oct 29 - Davenport, IA: Quad City Fish Keepers Swap

Oct 29 - Alsip, IL: Greenwater Aquarist Society

Nov 4 - Hiawatha, IA - Eastern Iowa Aquarium Association - Auction

Nov 3-5 - Chicago: Aquatic Experience

Nov 17-19 - Cleveland: Ohio Cichlid Association - Extravaganza

Nov 19 - St Louis: MASI - Fall Auction

Dec 3 - Chicago: Greater Chicago Cichlid Association - Swap Meet









Other links are on the MASI

<u>Linkpage</u>.

Convention LogosHotlinked!



Nearby Clubs linked to their logo



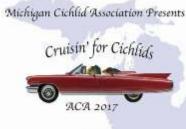












Novi, MI July 13th - July 17th



SHOP HOPPING - May 15th - June, 2017

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Current	Monthly Specials	Sailfin Pet Shop
Current	Facebook/Specials	Aqua World
Current	Monthly Specials	Tropical World Pets
Current	Weekly Specials	Corals & More
Current	Fish List	Malawi Aquatics















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FISHES AS DISHES

PATRICK A. TOSIE, SR.

We all love our fish! This column is dedicated to using fish for something tasty to enjoy. Try it, you may like it. If you have leftovers, bring them to a monthly meeting for others to enjoy!

Fish and White Bean Tostadas

Total Time: I hour. Makes 4 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 pound white fish fillets, like tilapia, flounder, sole, skin discarded and cut into finger-sized pieces
- 1 lime, zested and juiced, plus lime wedges for garnish
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus extra for baking sheet
- · Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 8 (6-inch) corn tortillas
- Sauteed White Beans, recipe follows
- 1/2 cup shredded purple cabbage
- Pineapple and Avocado Salsa, recipe follows
- Sour cream, for garnish

Sauteed White Beans:

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 white or vellow onion, finely chopped
- Kosher salt
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 11/2 cups cooked navy beans
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh oregano leaves (or 2 teaspoons dried)

Pineapple and Avocado Salsa:

- 1 (14-ounce) can sliced pineapple in juice, drained and juices reserved
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small jalapeno, seeds removed and diced
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 red onion, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons minced cilantro leaves
- 1 medium avocado, halved, pitted and flesh cubed

Directions:

In a small bowl, combine the lime juice, zest, garlic and olive oil. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Put the fish in a baking dish and pour the marinade on top. Marinate for no more than 15 to 30 minutes. Meanwhile, preheat the broiler or grill. Lightly coat a baking sheet with olive oil. Remove the fish from the marinade and arrange on the baking sheet, making sure to leave space

between the pieces. Broil until just cooked through, about 4 to 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a medium saute pan, heat the vegetable oil over medium heat. Fry the corn tortillas, 1 at a time, just until crisp, flipping halfway through to brown both sides. Drain on paper towels and salt while still hot.





FISH

To assemble the tostadas: Layer each tostada first with Sauteed White Beans, then the fish. Top with the shredded cabbage and Pineapple and Avocado Salsa. Garnish with a dollop of sour cream and a squeeze of a lime wedge.

Sauteed White Beans:



In a small pan, over medium heat, add the oil. When the oil is hot add the onion with a pinch of salt and saute until soft, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cumin and cook until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Raise the heat and add the white wine. Cook until the wine has reduced by half. Stir in the beans and oregano and season with salt and pepper, to taste. Cook gently for 15 minutes. Transfer to a serving bowl and serve.

Pineapple and Avocado Salsa:

In a medium bowl, make the dressing by mixing 2 tablespoons of pineapple juice with the lime juice, honey, oil and jalapeno. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Add the pineapple and onion. Gently fold in the avocado and cilantro. Let the flavors blend for at least 15 minutes before serving.



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		Bromthymol Blue pH test solution, 4 ounces	\$7.00		
Sell	Charles Hoppe	Several 10 and 15 gallon tanks, including wooden rack. Makes a nice small fishroom. Extras, contact me if interested.		(314) 846-4648 charliehoppe@me.com	
Sell	Steve Edie	55 gal and 45 long on a double wrought iron stand. Tops and lights. \$100 donation to MASI Challenge/Stuart Grant Fund.	\$100 SGF	sredie@charter.net	
		55 gal on wood shelf-type stand. Top and light. \$55 donation to MASI Challenge/Stuart Grant Fund.	\$55 SGF		
		Pick up only. I no longer have a truck.			
Buy	Mike Hellweg	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	Free	(636) 240-2443	
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Monthly Bowl Show Entry Form

Entrant Name	
Month/Year	Monthly Class
	and place in front of bowl(s) with Entrant name hidden ——

Line	Species: Latin or Common Name	SEX		Monthly	Open
I		M	F		
2		M	F		
3		M	F		
4		M	F	_	
5		M	F		
6		M	F		
7		M	F		
8		M	F		
9		M	F		
10		M	F	_	

May
Characins:
Tetras,
Pencilfish,
Piranhas,
Pacu, Silver
Dollars, etc.

June Catfish



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