

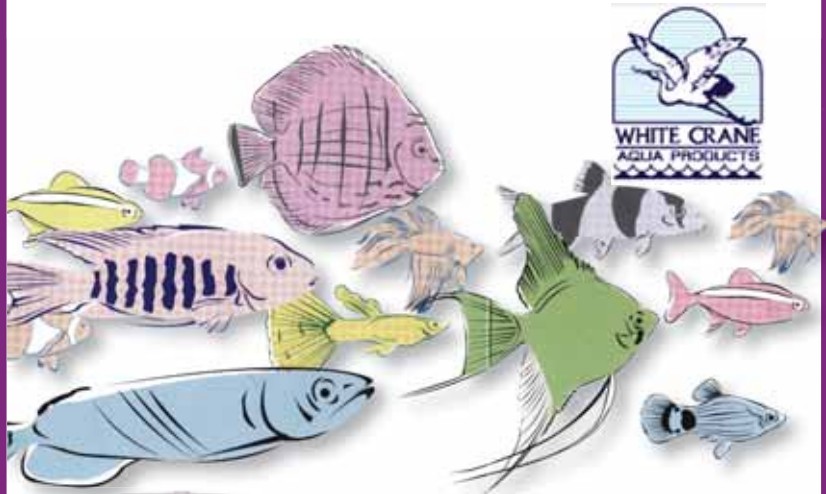
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# The Cichlid Monthly



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**THE NEXT MEETING** of the Society, will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 8 pm sharp at the Oakleigh Centre, 773 Warrigal Road, Oakleigh. Visitors? Love ‘em.

**Main Talk: US Tour – Keith Stephenson.**



**COVER PHOTO:** ‘Christmas Discus’ – Daryl Hutchins.

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## UPCOMING AUCTION:

2 APRIL, 2011 at Mulgrave Neighbourhood House, Wellington Reserve, 36-42 Mackie Road, Mulgrave.



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By John McCormick

I would like to start by saying thank-you to the members of the VCS for electing me to be the President of the VCS for the coming year.

Many of you will know me and will know that this is not my first time in the job as President, it will in fact be my tenth term in the job, I have always enjoyed the position in the past and look forward to continuing the good job that Peter Robinson and his committee did in getting the job done last year.

As Peter Robinson has mentioned on many occasions over the past year fishkeeping is going to get harder as our government continually tries to legislate us out of existence, it will be in our interest to try and keep the pressure on the government to justify any changes they try to make to the noxious fishes list by urging them to do proper and thorough investigations into the fish they intend adding to their lists, as in the past they have banned fish without any real proof of their danger to our environment.

On a brighter note, we are fast approaching the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in 2012, of the founding of the VCS. I know Daryl has been keen on mark-

ing this milestone with a celebration of some kind, I will be keen to hear what anyone has in mind and I am sure that as a committee we will work hard towards making it a memorable occasion.

It would be great if we could see a few entries in this year's table show, it is always good to see some fish on the table it creates some good discussions on the night. Also, our home show competition is held in May, so now is a good time to think about getting the tank ready for show. Whilst we are on competitions, a few more entrants in the Art & Photo comp wouldn't go astray either.

With all of the competitions that we have it is important to know that you don't have to be the world's greatest fishkeeper or photographer to enter our competitions, the main objective is participation. If we can get everyone to participate just that little bit more it will make the club a far better place than it already is.

I have probably waffled on longer than Daryl would like (not even close - Ed) so I shall leave it at that for now and look forward to seeing you all at the February meeting.

Cheers,  
John McCormick

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# Geophagus sp. 'Tapajós red head'

## The Fish That Changed My Mind



**Klaus Steinhaus**

19 Hearne Crescent, Ajax, Ontario, L1T 3P5, Canada • buntbarsch@rogers.com

*Photographs by the author*

### Turning to the New World

The focus of my cichlid keeping has been mainly Lake Tanganyika for the last 30 odd years with some exceptions. The different shapes, sizes, and behaviors of these cichlids have always fascinated me, like figuring out the social structure in a group of *Tropheus*, the amazing parental care of some of the *Neolamprologus* species, the beautiful display of an *Enantiopus melanogenys* male trying to lure a female into his nest, or laughing at the little shell dwellers when they rearrange their tank. This has made me the subject of many jokes in my home club where South and Central American cichlid keepers are in the majority.

Then about four years ago a good friend told me that it was time for me to get involved with some 'real' cichlids and offered me some juvenile *Geophagus*. He told me that they were

an undescribed species called *G. sp.* 'Tapajós red head' and that they were quite difficult to find here in Ontario at the time. I had never maintained *Geophagus* species but have been interested in them due to their unique breeding habits and of course their beauty.

### Background and Habitat

Christoph Seidel and Rainer Harnoss discovered *G. sp.* 'Tapajós red head' in 1991 in the Tapajós River, which is a tributary of the Amazon and joins this great river close to the city of Santarém. The water is very murky which explains the nonexistence



**Male *Geophagus sp.* 'Tapajós red head.'**



**Male *Geophagus sp.* 'Tapajós red head' with fry.**

of permanently submerged plants. The pH ranges from 6.2 to 6.8 and there is no measurable hardness. However, in the aquarium these fish will accept a pH of up to 8.0 and a hardness of 20° dGH without any difficulty, and these parameters will not stop them from breeding. The temperature of the natural habitat is about 28° C (82.4° F), but it fluctuates as much as 12 degrees during the year.

This gorgeous cichlid is quite lively and can be a bit aggressive towards conspecifics during breeding. It is therefore advisable to have them in a tank of at least 4 feet in length, which will provide them with enough swim room, and to furnish the tank with some wood, rocks, and plants for hiding places.

### But Back to My Story

The timing was perfect because I was getting bored with my frontosa setup and

thinking about a change. This opportunity made the decision very easy. Until I sold the frontosa and made my 160-gallon into an Amazon setup, I placed the five fish in a 4-foot 65-gallon tank. They were about 1.5 to 2 inches in length and still had some growing up to do.

By the time they reached about 3 inches, I noticed that they were not swimming in one group any longer. Two pairs had separated from the group. They both were busy as each

cleaned a flat rock, one in the left corner and the other in the right corner. Both pairs laid eggs which hatched after three days. Both parents took the wrigglers in their mouth for a while but then made a good meal out of them. I did not mind since these fish were still very young and obviously needed some practice. This happened several times over the next few months and every time the parents carried the wrigglers a bit longer. However, I never noticed any fry.

Around the same time I was given the 'Tapajós,' I went on my annual pilgrimage to the Ohio Cichlid Association Extravaganza. This is always a good opportunity to find South and Central American cichlids. Southern Ontario is mostly African cichlids.

I found some *Geophagus altifrons* which would go very nicely with the 'Tapajós.' The plan was to move both species into the new tank at the same time to avoid any trouble. I



**Two *Geophagus sp.* 'Tapajós red head' pairs formed and separated from the group, each setting up spawning quarters on opposite ends of the tank.**





only males and females holding. So one day I decided to remove one pair and give them some privacy in a separate 4-foot 65-gallon tank. It took only three days and they started to clean a flat rock right at the front glass of the tank. The next day I was able to observe the spawning. There were no surprises. It was the same as all other substrate brooders. The female positioned the eggs and the male circled over them to release his sperm. The whole process

**Once the eggs hatch, the fry will be taken up by both parents to be held in the buccal cavity for further development.**

also added some small albino *Ancistrus* sp. to help me keep the tank and decorations clean.

Big pieces of driftwood, some large *Anubias barteri*, and a few rocks were used to aquascape the tank. As substrate I chose very fine silica sand with a grain size of less than 1 mm. Under no circumstances should the grain size exceed 2 mm. These fish are also called 'earth eaters.' They sift through the upper layers of the substrate by passing the sand through their gills looking for anything edible. A grain size larger than 2 mm can cause injury to the gills and prevent them from eating. The water temperature is maintained at 26° to 27° C (78° to 80° F), the pH around 8, and the hardness between 12 to 15 dGH.

So in the tank they went and that was it for the next couple of days. They disappeared under the wood and the plants until they got used to the new environment. Then you could see them sifting through the sand tirelessly all day long looking for food. This is no boring tank, there is always movement. However, I have never seen them fight or noticed any injuries. Since everything went fine, I decided to just leave the tank alone, do the necessary maintenance, and enjoy the fish.

#### Breeding

The *G.* sp. 'Tapajós red head' were breeding regularly but I had never seen any fry,

lasted a few hours with some little breaks in between. The female always stayed with the eggs while the male checked for potential enemies.

When I came into the fishroom two days later, all the eggs were gone. My first thought was, "Oh well, the eggs are gone. More luck next time." Then I noticed that both parents made a chewing motion, like they were eating something but their mouths stayed firmly closed. That's when I realized that they were holding. They did not eat during that time.

The fry were released after another few days but just very briefly at first. At that time I started to sparingly add some food. The female spit out the fry immediately and started to go after every morsel of food she could get while the male kept the fry in his mouth. After a few minutes the male,



**Pair of *Geophagus* sp. 'Tapajós red head' spawn in the author's tank.**



**The author's Amazon setup.**

too, let go of the fry and started to feed. Both parents were very nervous, swimming constantly in all directions, and picking some of the fry up and spitting them out again.

During that time something funny happened. I have airstones in all my tanks to create some water movement. The fry seemed to find the bubbles very interesting and the whole swarm started to swim over and 'play' in the stream of air coming from the stone. They were lifted up to the surface, and came back down to the bottom only to be lifted up again. The parents almost went ballistic trying to gather the fry up again but with very little success. I had to shut down the air flow to calm them down again.

After about two days, the female seemed to have lost interest in the mouthbrooding and it was the male that took them all into his mouth when I got too close to the tank. However, the female always stayed close to the fry.

These fish are excellent parents and looked after their babies for about two to three weeks. That's when I noticed that the fry numbers started to dwindle and I siphoned some of the fry out of the tank to grow them out. The fry take freshly hatched brine shrimp from the beginning without any problems and grow relatively quickly.

#### Hooked

By now you must understand the title of this article. These beauties got me hooked on South American cichlids. I have even started to keep some of the smaller Central Americans. More

than half of my 24 tanks are now occupied by New World cichlids, or as my fellow club members would say, 'real cichlids.' Don't get me wrong, I will never be without my beloved *Tropheus* but I have to admit that the earth eaters are not far behind. Especially the 'Tapajós' have made me realize what I have been missing. The beautiful colors, the pleasant and very interesting behavior, plus the manageable size should make this fish a definite on every cichlid lover's wish list.

Personally, I have set my eyes on yet another earth eater: *Retroculus xinguensis*. Well, one of these days I will find them...

#### References

- Stawikowski, Rainer & Uwe Werner.** 2004. "Die Buntbarsche Amerikas, Band 3: Erdfresser, Hecht-und Kambuntbarsche." pp. 317-320.
- Weidner, Thomas.** 2000. "South American Earth eaters." pp. 164-168.

Reprinted from Buntbarsche Bulletin, official publication of the American Cichlid Association, Inc. (ACA). To join the ACA contact Marty Ruthkosky, ACA Membership, 43081 Bond Court, Sterling Heights, MI 48313, or visit the ACA website <http://www.cichlid.org>.



**Female *Geophagus* sp. 'Tapajós red head' lays her eggs as the male waits to fertilize them.**

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# Shakin' downunder

## Christchurch, 4 September 2010

By **Jennifer Hamlin** (Christchurch, Totally Tanked)

In January of this year, Haiti had a 7.0 earthquake centred 26 kilometres from the large city of Port-au-Prince. It hit at 4:30(ish) in the afternoon and originated at a depth of around 13 kilometres. It caused widespread catastrophic damage and about 230,000 people were killed. Fast forward to September 4th 2010 to an unknown fault line here in Christchurch when at 4:30(ish) in the morning we had a 7.1 quake centred about 40 kilometres from the city centre and originating at a depth of

just 10 kilometres. Nobody was killed but the power released in that first quake was enough to run the city for two weeks and was around 20 times that released from the combined 2022 aftershocks we have had so far as I write this.

When the quake started that morning something woke me out of a deep sleep. I'm not sure if it was the sound getting louder or the rocking but as soon as I recognised what it was the intensity was building rapidly. I went to get out of bed and was thrown backwards. The noise was deafening, like a freight train rumbling through the house. My first thoughts were to get into the hallway where nothing large could fall on me. My next thoughts were for the fish – the 6ft tank in the lounge, the small tank in the ensuite, two small tanks in the office and the 15 tanks on shelves

in the garage full of breeding pairs and hundreds of fry. I thought of the numerous emersed aquatic plants under suspended lights in the garage. These were all on modular metal shelving units that were about three metres tall. Each shelf was attached to the wall with two brackets.

The house was lurching up and down and this threw me out of bed. In the darkness I tried to reach the lights but the floor was undulating up and down which made it extremely difficult to walk. The noise grew louder and suddenly the house began lurching side to side. I was thrown backwards onto the door frame and I felt a sharp pain in my collarbone and shoulder. The door flew open into my face, forcing me backwards. I grabbed onto the doorknob in a desperate attempt to stay on my feet. I was pitched forward through the doorway

Earthquake damage in the author's garage.



Picture: Jennifer Hamlin

Liquifaction of the footpath.



Picture: Jennifer Hamlin

into the hall. I couldn't walk anymore and was bracing myself against the walls just to stay on my feet. The joints in the house were creaking and snapping and the concrete foundation was thrusting upwards by a foot or so with each wave. The sound was so loud that it muffled the crashing and breaking of shelves, glasses and tanks. For the first time, I was really scared that the house was going to come down around me. Right then I felt a tsunami of water crashing around my feet. Then the violent shaking began to slow to a roll, like waves on the ocean – it just kept going and going for 30 seconds or more.

I flicked on the hall light switch. It worked. I peered around the corner at the big tank. Large waves were sloshing from one end to the other

and water flowed out onto my bare feet. The tank had lost about 150 litres of water, the hood had been thrown partly off and all the plants were uprooted. Logs and substrate were displaced and bunches of plants had thrown out behind the tank. One Spotted Hatcher was flopping around on the floor by my feet so I picked him up and put him back in the tank. I felt sick as I opened the door to the garage. A wave of water flowed out onto the carpet. I turned on the light and saw total destruction. The car was still rocking from side to side and the shelves had pulled away from the wall, crumpled in massive heaps on the floor. All of the tanks on shelves were smashed. Two bigger tanks not part of the shelving units were still

standing, but had lost some of their water.

There was water, dirt, broken glass, plants and fish everywhere. It was cold and I was only in my night-shirt. Tears flowed uncontrollably as I walked on broken glass, urgent to find a bucket and a net in the piles of rubble. I found a bucket and put some warm water in it from the tap. I crawled around capturing fish as fast as I could before the water drained out onto the street. The fish were swimming slowly in the now cold water on the floor. I crawled under the car and around bikes and broken tanks netting fish as I found them putting them into the one small bucket that was by now full of mud and debris. I saved about 30 fish and lost about six adults and about 150 fry.

The power was beginning to fluctuate in the house now. Small brown-outs. The circuit breakers in the fuse box containing the tanks had blown and these also included the TV so I couldn't look at the news. The power sockets were wet. I turned on the radio in the car but got nothing but dead air. By now I could hear a great many car and house alarms going off in the distance in all directions. Structurally the house appeared fine although the door frame between the hall and the living room was no longer straight and the door would no longer close. The draws to cabinets and dressers were all open and a few items thrown out. Wardrobe doors had come off and bookshelves had fallen over. Broken bottles from

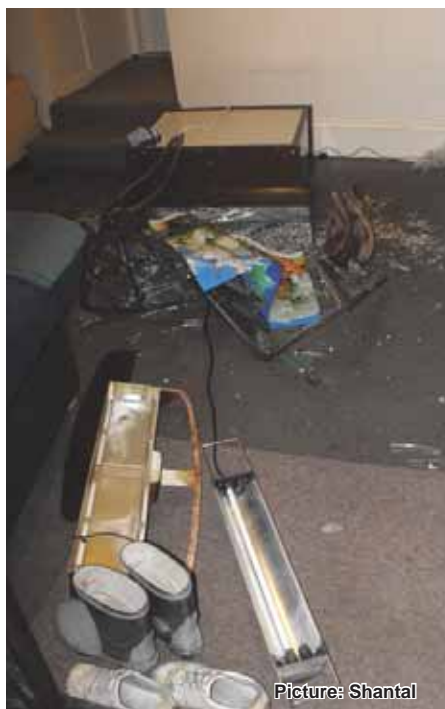
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Picture: Shantal



Picture: Gareth Simpson



Picture: Antwan

More earthquake damage in other homes.



Picture: Loveanimals



Picture: Shantal



the pantry were all over the kitchen floor.

Twenty minutes after the main quake the aftershocks began. The first was a 5.6 that set the unstable piles of rubble shifting violently. The garage door came off its rollers and buckled with a huge gap at one end. We would continue to have aftershocks all day, a total of 100, most in the magnitude 3's and 4's.

The next six hours after the big quake was spent cleaning all the debris (dirt, glass, twisted metal frames etc) and soaking up as much water as possible into towels and spin drying them each time. Neighbours came by to talk and look and swap stories. It seems our neighbourhood had similar stories to tell. In between visits and cleaning we did a small walk around the neighbourhood at about midday. The roads were all ripped up, bridges twisted and local ponds had lost a lot of water. The high water table in the area meant a great deal of flooding in local fields and an enormous amount of liquefaction had occurred along streets and even in people's houses.

By mid morning I transferred the fish from the bucket to a small holding tank filling it with water from one of the existing tanks since the water supply was now cut off due to a broken water main. Days of power outages and water rationing were ahead but people from all over the city rallied around to help those in need.

On the second day we had 200 aftershocks and the day after that we 340. On each of those days we had quakes measuring in the mid to high

5's on the Richter scale, with half of the remaining quakes being in the 4's. These are all strong enough to cause damage, and they did. Cracks grew larger, there were power outages and water supplies were cut off. For some odd reason the strongest quakes came mostly at night. It was very hard to sleep and I woke at 4.30am every morning for days afterward. It was incredibly hard to live in a state of emergency. My adrenaline levels remained high for weeks and I struggled to remain positive as I went out to help friends who were less fortunate.

Now, nearly six weeks have passed and today we had an incredibly severe aftershock that ended with me cleaning the mess and assessing the new cracks that have formed in the house. It is hard to trust that my new replacement stands will hold up to the quakes or that the tanks will remain safe and secure for my fish but I have to move on. It certainly has been a process of recovery that is much more than I expected and I am conscious of the fact that many of us are struggling to live with the constant reminders of that moment when we wondered if we would survive. Facebook has been a lifesaver as I have been able to communicate on a mass scale with all of my concerned friends and family around the world and those of us in town have banded together, shared experiences and offered moral support. We are a positive bunch though and these experiences have brought us together as a community. That is one good thing that we can all be grateful for. ◀

## Aims of the Society:

The Victorian Cichlid Society was formed by cichlidophiles in March 1972, thus becoming the first specialist aquarist group in Victoria. Its main aims are:

1. To promote the keeping of cichlids;
2. To gain and disseminate knowledge of cichlids, their habits and attributes through the use of slides, films, books, lectures, practical demonstrations, local and overseas magazines, articles by members and discussions with fellow members or experts in the field;
3. To assist, in any way possible, the establishment and/or maintenance of approved public aquaria;
4. To be involved in the education of the general public with regard to the benefits of fishkeeping (particularly cichlids), and the potentially harmful effects of animal mismanagement;
5. To promote fellowship between members;
6. To further the conservation of species and their natural habitats;
7. To further the identification, distribution, breeding, maintenance and enjoyment of species in the Family Cichlidae.

## VCS Calendar 2010

**General Meetings at the Oakleigh Centre, 773 Warrigal Road, Oakleigh**

**January** – No General Meeting. (Committee, Fri 21/1).

**February 2** – (Committee, Fri 18/2).

**March 2** – (Committee, Fri 18/3).

**April 2 Sat (AUCTION)** – Mulgrave Neighbourhood House, Wellington Reserve, 36-42 Mackie Road, Mulgrave — (Committee, Fri 15/4).

**May 4** – (Committee, Fri 20/5), Home Show 29/5.

**June 1** – (Committee, Fri 17/6).

**July 6** – (Committee, Fri 22/7).

**August 3** – (Committee, Fri 19/8). Annual Dinner, ???.

**September 7** – Elaine Turner Memorial Art & Photographic Competition (Committee, Fri 23/9).

**October 9 Sat (AUCTION)** – Mulgrave Neighbourhood House, Wellington Res, 36-42 Mackie Rd, Mulgrave – (Committee & VHS deadline, Fri 21/10).

**NOTE:** end of Financial Year 31/10 (fees are now due).

**November 2** – (Committee, Fri 18/11).

**December 7** – Annual General Meeting. Normally there is no Committee Meeting in December.

### TABLE SHOWS

Any cichlid species can be entered at any General Meeting except June (Dwarfs) and August (Pairs).

See the VCS Calendar online, [calendar.cichlids.org.au](http://calendar.cichlids.org.au), for more details or discussion.

# How to Become a Fish Breeder

By Charles Drew

All images from Wikimedia Commons.

So you would like to become a fish breeder. Well that can be easier than you may think. There are many fish that will breed readily in our tap water. Other species may require soft or soft and acid water conditions. This will lead you to the expense of buying an RO unit as rainwater in this area as well as many others is usually of poor quality with many contaminants. For acid water many use a pH down product; this may work well for some fish but others benefit from the tannins that come from peat moss or alder cones. What you need depends on what fish you decide you would like to breed.

Before breeding any fish you should first research it in books or on the internet. Finding out all the available information on the species as well as breeding habits and techniques used by other hobbyist can help ensure success.

One of the easiest families to breed are the cichlids, especially the Africans. The mouthbrooders can be kept in a large tank and the females removed to a tank of their own when it becomes plain to see that her jaw is dropped and dark with a mouth full of fry. The fry are very large

and in most cases easy to raise. Many people feed the fry micro pellets to avoid the expense of hatching baby brine shrimp.

The substrate-spawning Africans of Lake Tanganyika are also easy to spawn in tanks of at least 56 litres, although bigger is better. The tank should have a sand or gravel bottom preferably of an alkaline type such as chicken or turkey grit from a farm store.

Pile in lots of rocks and broken clay flowerpots to give them places to hide and breed in. Most of these fish do not eat their fry and the tank will soon be teeming with fry of all sizes. The tank should be fed with some live baby brine shrimp when the parents start to guide their little school of fry around the tank. Many of these fish are very colourful and don't grow much larger than 10cm.



There are a number of easy West Africans such as Kribensis and tetras such as the Congo Tetras, that are easy to spawn. The tap water should be mixed with about half RO to help trigger spawnings. A 56L tank is about the right size for spawning and the first few weeks until the fry out-grow the tank. The fry of these cichlids and tetras can eat baby brine shrimp as a first food.



Central American cichlids, as well as domestic-bred angels and many of the larger South American species will spawn in tap water. The Rams and Apistogrammas require soft, slightly acidic water and temperatures in the range 28-32°C. Discus and wild angels have about the same requirements.

Most of the Gourami species such as the Blue, Pearl, and Dwarf are all easy to spawn in our local tap water. This includes bubble-nest-breeding Bettas. The eggs all hatch on about the third day and the tiny fry swarm under the nest under the watchful eye of the male a few days later. Most people fail at this point as the fry require a good source of infusoria for several days before they can eat microworms.

This is followed by live newly hatched baby brine shrimp.

Green water is a good source of infusoria. Four litres of water from a fish or farm pond or lake can make a good culture by simply adding a 2cm square cube of turnip.

You may also use one of the commercial liquid fry foods. The way to feed it is to shake the container first and then put two or three drops in a small glass of water. Stir it well and then broadcast it into the tank. Do this twice a day but if the tank starts to get cloudy stop feeding until it clears. The potential to raise up to several hundred per spawn is there, so why raise a handful?

Danios and barbs are easy to spawn fish. They can usually be spawned in tap water but the spawns will improve if you

use a third to half RO water. A grate made from egg crate lighting grate covered with plastic needlework mesh placed on the bottom of a 20-35L tank with a yarn mop or Java Moss on it is all you need. After two or three days peek under the grate and you should see eggs or even fry. When they are free-swimming, start them on infusoria.

Tetras vary from easy to hard to impossible. Easy ones such as Bloodfins, Swordtail Characins and Diamond Tetras will spawn in our tap water. Most of the others require much softer water such as my mix of 1/3 tap, 1/3 RO and 1/3 RO peat water. Tetras such as Neons and Cardinals require straight RO, peat water, and total darkness.

They are spawned over a grate and the fry require infusoria as a first food. They are the most challenging of fish to spawn and raise. To make peat water you are best to buy a new plastic garbage can. In it, place 15cm of garden peat moss. Fill the can with RO water and allow it to sit for several weeks. It will be cloudy at first but eventually clear. Place a brilliant filter sponge on a siphon hose to run the water off clear and clean. The moss will give you loads of good water without having to add peat for a long time. Just be sure to place the can on a stool or platform so that you can siphon.



Killifish too, can vary from hard to easy and come from both hard, alkaline water to super-soft and acidic water. Most spawn in mops, some prefer floating mops and



others bottom mops, so it is best to check the requirements of the species before you attempt to breed them. Many have a hatching time of about 12 days but there are many that can take months. Killies are also divided into Annual and Perennial. The annuals in the wild live less than a year and their whole cycle depends on the dry and rainy season. Some annuals are spawned in mops and the eggs packed in moist peat moss. Others, such as the Notho's and the South American peat divers, are spawned directly in peat. After a week of spawning, the moss, hopefully containing eggs, is dried to just damp by placing it between layers of newspaper for a day. The moss is then sealed in a plastic bag and placed on a shelf for the required time for the species that can range from two to six months or more. These fish are not for the impatient.



Corydoras can vary from easy to impossible; many commonly seen ones can be spawned in just tap water. A 50 percent water change with water a bit cooler is all that is needed to trigger them. Many others require half RO water or cold water changes plunging the temperature to as low as 18°C. An exception is the *Corydoras sterbai* that spawns at 28°C. Many spawn mainly on the glass and just as many spawn in mops. Some are undecided and will spawn in both places if given a choice. Still others will spawn on the undersides of aquarium plant leaves. If you are not sure give them the three choices. If there are lots of eggs you may want to move the parents. Many spawn-

ings the eggs are few and you are best to move them to a bowl with water from the spawning tank. Add a drop of Methylene Blue and an airstone and place it on a dimly lit shelf.

Most eggs hatch in five days and three or four days later the fry should be started on microworms.



With plecos you enter new territory. The common Bristlenose are easy and breed endlessly in just tap water if given a tank to themselves.

A cave of almost any type will do but a round one is often preferred.



The fancy L-number plecos are indeed a challenge and can be the most frustrating. Most require temperatures in the high 20s as well as soft and acid water. Large water changes of 50 percent for five days in a row and then a stop for two weeks and then start all over again will sometimes bring results, but what works for one person does not always work for another. They are a real challenge.

With all the new laws coming through local breeders may one day be the only reliable source of aquarium fish. Are you ready for the challenge? ◀

## Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The December 2010 meeting opened at 8:10 pm with the President in the chair. He welcomed all. Apologies were received from David Green and Debra & Graeme Dickson.

Minutes of the October meeting were read and were accepted on a motion moved by Tony Ferguson and seconded by John McCormick.

The Treasurer reported on the recent successful Auction. There were 260 lots offered of which 17 were passed in and 30 were donated. Turnover was \$4115.00 and commission was \$1293.00. The raffle raised \$175.00 and the Canteen took \$300.00. Five members signed-up or renewed on the day.

Expenditure was \$73.15 for postage and \$150.00 for the hire of the Hall. Vien has not yet presented the bill for the Canteen supplies. The bank balance is \$2420.50.

This report was received on a motion moved by John McCormick and seconded by Aussie Magnussen.

The Secretary reported that there was no correspondence.

A short break was called for members to renew for 2011 and the meeting closed for the Annual General Meeting at 8.35 pm.

The meeting reopened at 9.05 pm at the end of the Annual General Meeting.

The first committee meeting for the newly elected committee will be held at John McCormick's on the second Friday in January (later changed to 21 January – Ed).

Graham Rowe thanked fellow members for their concern during his recent illness. He also highlighted the Good News article in the November magazine.

The raffle was then drawn and Peter Frost won the Aquarium and John McCormick won the heater.

Keith Stephenson mentioned his recent trip to the United States and will present a PowerPoint presentation at the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned for supper at 9:20 pm with a general feeling of bonhomie.

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# the last word

By Daryl Hutchins

I'm Back ... again! Now don't you dare whinge ... you have only yourself to blame!

This is Volume 40, TCM is officially middle-aged.

You know what happens now, don't you? No, the committee members are not all going to buy red sportscars.

**You** (committee members included) are all going to get incredibly excited at the thought of this momentous milestone and write articles, submit photographs and drawings ... all those good things that you have been "meaning" to do for ages.

Early next year is of course the Society's 40th Anniversary. Call me a sentimental fool (I've been called worse), but I do believe that is cause for a celebration.

By "celebration", I mean a really memorable event. Any proper event requires planning and organisation. But first we need to decide whether or not anyone else agrees, and if so, what form our 40th Anniversary celebration should take.

So the floor is open for comments/suggestions. What do you think? Don't leave it too long, the planning

stage for anything worthwhile needs to commence now.

Sitting on our collective hands ... again ... is the alternative. I, for one, will be extremely disappointed if that is what happens ... again.

Being the start of the year and having been slacking-off for the past 12 months, I don't have a lot to waffle-on about yet. But don't worry, I'll come up with something besides the big 4-0, writing articles and sending pictures both for publication and the online profiles.

Now for instance, is the time to think about your contribution to the life of the club ... it's regular events: the Elaine Turner Memorial Art & Photographic Show, the Home Shows, Auctions and the Show Table and also how you can help with discussions/presentations.

If none of the above is your bag, or you still have time on your hands after participating in only a few, how about actually taking part in online conversations on our Forums?

[forums.cichlids.org.au](http://forums.cichlids.org.au)



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65g  
150g  
300g  
600g  
1.2kg  
3kg  
6kg  
10kg

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PRESTIGE  
VEGGIE BITES  
SPIRULINA**

**HORMONE FREE PREMIUM BLEND**  
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Australian made

2mm 30g  
60g  
150g  
300g  
600g  
1.2kg  
3kg  
6kg  
10kg

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