

The Cichlid Chronicles

February 2024 Newsletter



The Cichlid Club of York

Located in Central Pennsylvania.

A love for the hobby and the growth of the hobbyist.

Celebrating 10 years and beyond.

Editor's Message

Here we are in February, the groundhog said he didn't see his shadow. So soon the warm weather will be here soon! But for now let's enjoy those fish inside for now! Lots of fishy stuff to check out from spawning mops to corydoras to a new crossword! We have new members that joined and a new BAP spawning reports. We're still looking for submissions from our HAP program! We have If you haven't paid your dues, please do so on PayPal or at our meeting.

Keep on fish keeping,

Glenn 'Aqua' Davies

President's Message (from Lonny Langione)

Hello everyone,

I keep looking for my Hostas to break through the ground. I am so anxious for Spring this year. I'm thinking about what I am putting outside this year. One fish is *Aphyosemion austral orange*. I'm excited to see how their color will be from being in temporary sun every day. What fish are you putting outside this year?

This will be our last meeting at the Spring Grove Lions Club. It has served us well over the past years. I am hoping you will like our new location at Dover United Church of Christ 45 W. Canal Street Dover, PA 17315. The paved parking lot is one of my favorite things about the new location.

I talked to you at the last meeting and talked about talking to people you see in fish shops etc. I was in Just For Pets the other day looking at a Blue Phantom pleco that I had been eyeing up. Really nice fish. Just then a couple came up to the counter and said we will take the Blue Phantom Pleco. They were standing there and I asked where they were from. They said York New Salem. I asked if they knew about the CCY and they said no. He asked if we were on Facebook so I gave him the address. He joined the facebook group and posted a picture of the Blue Phantom. His name is Mike Fink. Let's hope we see him at the March meeting. Please say hello to him if he is. You just have to talk to people.

Our program this month is our very good friend Pete Bruce. He will be educating us on Breeding Corydoras Catfish. I have three species set up in breeding tanks and I'm looking to learn from Pete what I need to be doing. Should be an interesting program please come see him. He is one of the best breeders in our area.

In closing the February meeting will be at our new location. This meeting is shaping up to be an epic meeting. Our Speaker for April will be Mo Devlin. Our hobbyist's most consummate fish photographer. You have seen some of his photographs in fish magazines, but you didn't read the fine print. Mo sells his prints that are frameable for your home. I have asked him to bring some pictures of another one of his subjects for photography that will blow you away. Mo was the first speaker ever for CCY in the beginning. So it comes full circle. There will be a very special guest at the April Meeting. Don't miss this meeting.

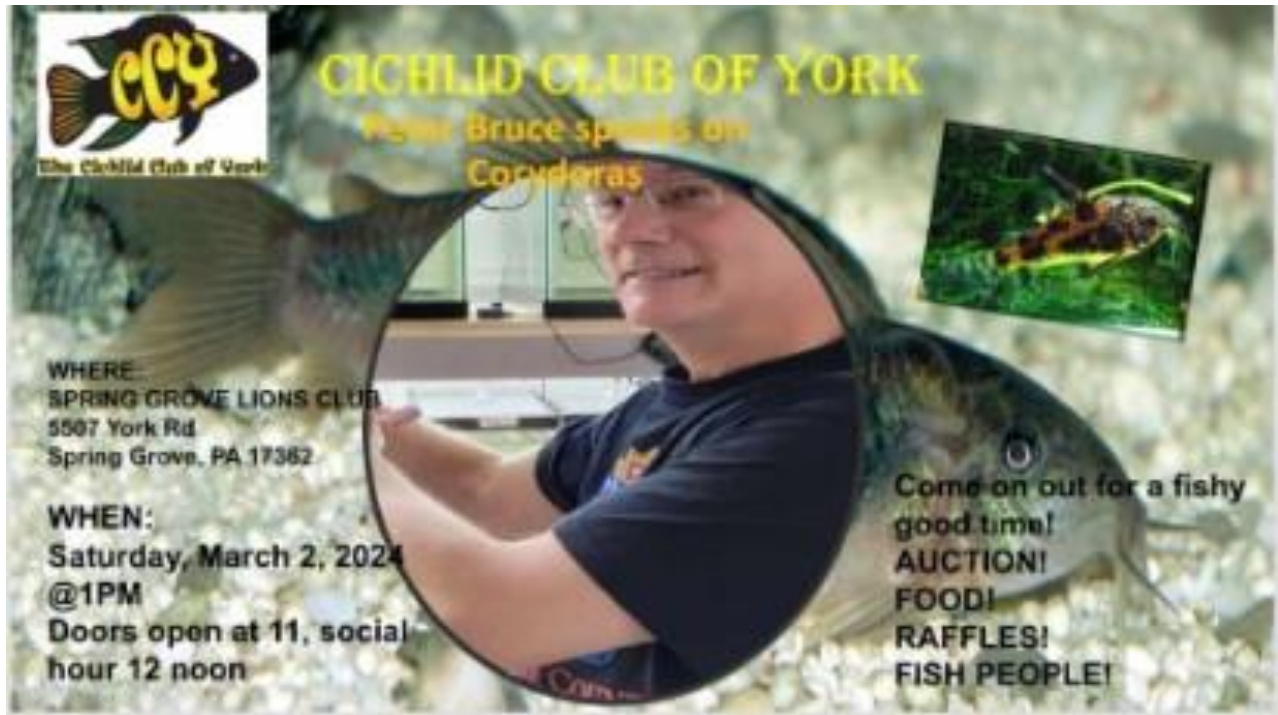
See you soon,

Lonny

NEW CCY MEMBERS!
Haley Fitch/Tanner Smith
Linda Troup
Jereme Mohler
Michelle Sheetz
David Majczan

Congrats for joining!
If you see them say hello!

The Cichlid Club of York Presents:



Come on down and hear a great talk by an entertaining speaker. Come on down!

Plus, we always have raffles for some really nice aquarium stuff donated by our vendors!

Plus, we always have delicious food!

Finally, we cap it off with an auction filled with nice fish and aquarium supplies straight from our member's fish rooms!

There will always be a bunch of fish folk there to talk about your passion.

We'd love to see you there.

Support our sponsors:



March 2023 CCY New Membership Sale

**Get a good deal for new members
this month only! 75% off!**



Individual Memberships now \$5



**Couples (under one roof)
Memberships now \$8**



**Family (under one roof)
Memberships now \$12**



**Junior/Student (12-18 & under)
Memberships now Free! Must be
accompanied by a parent or
guardian at the meetings.**

**Please send your payments via paypal to ccytreasurer@gmail.com
Or contact us via facebook for alternate types of payments.**

CCY Breeders Award Program (BAP)

The purpose of the Breeders Award Program is to encourage the captive breeding of cichlid species. It is intended as an educational program for members to share their breeding successes and make different species available to CCY members. The BAP also encourages camaraderie among the members.

If you enjoy breeding cichlids or catfish, then the BAP is for you. Breed your fish, collect your fry and submit them to our BAP chairperson and earn BAP points. Winners may receive an award and prizes each year.

If you like, you can donate the fry to the monthly auction so someone else can have the opportunity to breed these fish.

Current CCY 2024 Breeder Awards Standings:

Annetta Ravegum (Amatitlania septemfasciata)-20

Karen Haas (Haplochromis sp. "Kisuule")-15

The 2024 ultimate winners will receive \$50 Super Cichlids gift card and award for BAP & HAP!

Welcome our newest chair members & the programs they are taking care of:

Shirley Sarff Dabbondanza-Shirley is the Speaker Program chair. She will take care of getting us speakers for our meetings. She's been doing this for several month and is listening to our CCY members and their suggestions for new speakers in 2025.

Linda Troup- Linda is our new Breeder's Award Points chair. She just started keeping track of any BAP reports and ultimately who will win the BAP top award in 2024!

CCY 2024 speaker schedule:

2/17/24

CCY 2024 speaker schedule:

- March 3/2/24- Pete Bruce -Breeding Corys**
- April 4/6/24- Mo Devlin -Aquatic Photography**
- May 5/4/24- Kerry Tolva & Mandy Goan -Live Food**
- June 6/1/24-Mark Krapow -Tanganykan Cichlids**
- July 7/6/24- Cook Out/Fish Swap**
- August 8/3/24 Brady Phillips-Shipping Fish**
- September is no meeting**
- October is the Keystone Clash, no club meeting.**
- November 11/2/23-David Krah- Live foods**
- December 12/7/24- Xmas Party**

How To Make Spawning Mops

By Lonny Langione

When I started breeding killifish in 1972, I was 16 at the time. I ordered my first killies from Ed Warner a well-known killifish breeder in Illinois. No Internet in those days folks. My Mother gave me permission to call him long distance. We talked for at least a half an hour. I purchased a pair of *Epiplatys dageti monrovi*, a pair of *Aplocheilichthys lineatus*, not golden wonders, and a pair of *Aphyosemion* (now *Fundulopanchax*) *gardneri misaje*. He told me how much and we hung up. My Mother wrote me a check and we sent it off to Ed. He called the day he sent them out and I received them two days later. Ed also sent me free of charge 3 spawning mops. The spawning mops had natural corks on them to make them float.

It was such an exciting day. I acclimated the fish to their tanks and put the mops in with them. They started laying eggs a few days later. Ed called me every week to see how I was doing.

Now that I had experience I bought some other species at Potomac Valley Aquarium Society auctions. But when I got home I realized I didn't have any spawning mops. So I was once again figuring out how to make my own.

Materials needed:

Yarn, scissors, hard cover books, a floating device, small drill bit and that is it.



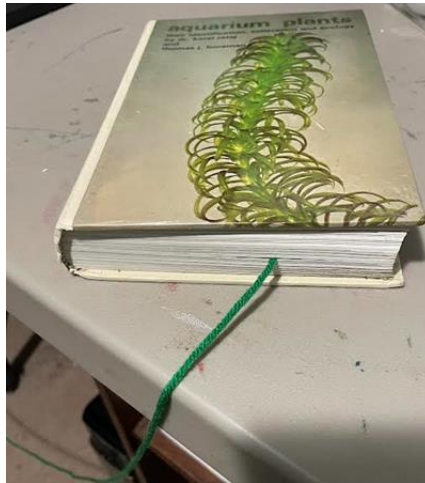
The yarn has to be 100% Acrylic and must be color fast. Color fast means the color will not bleed in water. If it doesn't say color fast boil some water in a small pan and put several pieces in the water. If it doesn't show any color after 10 minutes it is color fast. It is obvious why it has to be color fast. Do not use wool yarn. It almost always isn't color fast. No sparkly things in the yarn. Just plain old yarn. I use green yarn. In my mind we are trying to simulate live plants. Some friend have used pink, black, yellow and other colors. I don't know if fish have a preference. Until one talks to me I will continue to use green lol.

Scissors should be long and sharp. If you are married ask your wife where her favorite scissors are. Good luck getting them.

Floating device. I have seen fishing bobbers used. Natural Cork (If you want to use corks and can't find them Hardware stores will have them in the hardware department in those series of little drawers of hardware.) I use Styrofoam balls you can get at a hobby store. I cut these balls in half. The reason I use the half balls is they are flat with the surface of the water and will not push the lid up in the air.

Hardcover books. I don't let my mops touch the bottom of the tank. The ends will accumulate debris on them. I've had fish only lay eggs on the bottom of the strands. Whatever the length of yarn strands you want, that should be the length of the book.

Refer to the pictures included with the article. Take the yarn and insert the end of the yarn in the book and close.



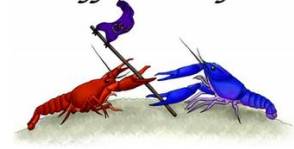
Now wrap the yard around the book. wind it around the book. The more you wrap the more strand you will have. I usually wrap it 35 times. Cut the yarn off the skein about 12" longer and cut it close to the end of the book.



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Crayfish Empire



Take that long piece under the wrapped yarn and pull it down to the bottom end of the book. Tightly tie this piece tight.



Now go to the other end of the book and cut the yarn in the middle.



Now cut one of the Styrofoam balls in half. You can use a serrated knife and cut the ball in half. I have also found that an electric knife works as well. Take the half ball and lay the face up. Take a small drill but without the drill and push down through making two holes.



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Now use the drill bit to push each of the strands of yarn through the holes. Be sure you have the two pieces of yarn you tied the strands together with. Now tightly tie the yarn pieces together several times. Trim off the excess. Hold the mop up and cut any long pieces off. And now you are done.



If you have new fish in a tank especially in quarantine any species, mops will calm them down. They provide security for the fish.

THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT USING A MOP TO BREED FISHES.

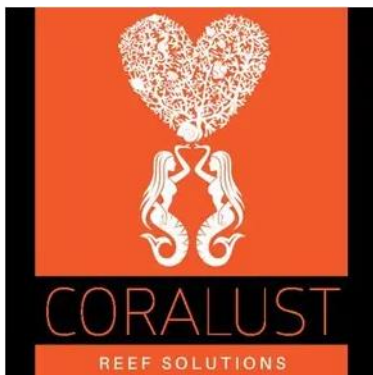
Be sure all of the fish are in the tank before squeezing excess water out of it.

You do not want to squeeze and kill any of your fish.

Published for the 1st time in the Cichlid Chronicles (February 2024)

In 2024, we will have an award for the best original article for the CCY. \$50 gift card and plaque for the best article. Please submit your articles to Glenn Aqua via facebook or his email.

Support our sponsors:



Josh's Frogs

How I bred my Corydoras

By Annetta Messner Ravegum

I would have to think that every aquarist has kept a cory or two at some point in their fishkeeping hobby. It is often recognized as a beginners fish due to its hardy nature that is able to adapt to most water conditions. They can be kept alone or in groups, and with 165 species there is sure to be one that will tug on your heart strings. They are a scavenger fish that is peaceful and communal in nature. When kept in groups of 6 or more, it is not uncommon to see them sifting through the substrate and swimming together in groups. If you have a smaller tank there are even 3 species that work great in the 10 gallon aquarium, the pygmy and dwarf corydoras. While most corydoras usually get to about 3 inches, the pygmy corydora female will only reach a maximum size of 1.5 inches. Did I mention the corydora females are usually up to ½ inch larger than the male?



My first corydoras were albinos and after every water change the female would lay eggs, and by morning the eggs were gone as they became a food source for the corydoras, snails, and other fish in my community tank. Next I got a group of green aeneus corydoras and soon began seeing eggs. As before they would become a food source until I was able to force them into breeding when I wanted them to breed. So like so many things required in the fishkeeping hobby, I began my research and found there were a couple differences in what one can do when breeding corydoras. I will try to mention the different options one can do, but as with all things fishy what works for me may not work as well for you.

After research came preparation. I prepared a small 5 gallon tank that I would use as my fry tank. Set the heater to 82 degrees and cycled the tank with a small sponge filter. The sponge filter is great for a hatch tank as the fry cannot get sucked up into the filter but will clean the water of uneaten fry food. I then found a clean jar or (breeders net) and a flat rock that would allow the jar to sit in the 5 gallon tank but not submerged. I also added an airstone that would eventually sit in the jar. I was now ready for my corydoras to lay some eggs.

For some corydoras such as my albinos, all I needed was a cool water change with water a few degrees colder than the tank water, but not the green aeneus. For them I would need to recreate some of what is experienced in the wild. Drought and storm water. By lowering the water in the breeding tank (I used a 10 gallon for this) to halfway, I was able to recreate drought conditions. During this week of drought I fed a variety of frozen foods and a good quality flake food, as well as algae wafers to help prepare the female for laying all those eggs. I then watched the weather report and when a storm came it was time to fill the tank with cool water lowering the tank water by several degrees.. It could take anywhere from an hour to a couple days in my experience but you should see the breeding dance begin shortly after the water change. They will begin swimming erratically and the males will chase the female until she makes a T with him grabbing hold of him with her mouth. They seem to do this in a spot that is heavily planted or has some type of cover for them. She will then go off to lay her eggs. They may repeat this for several hours. When she is finished, remove eggs.



To remove the eggs you can pick them off tank walls with your fingers or use a plastic scraper or credit card. The eggs will be sticky and stick to your fingers or scraper, but if there is a current and the eggs are not stuck solid you can lose some while removing. I found it works best to turn off any current and do this slowly, removing a small amount at a time. I then roll them off my scraper and fingers into the jar that has some tank water in it. When all the eggs are collected I return the jar to the 5 gallon tank, add the airstone and wait for the hatch to happen in about 5 days, although I have had some hatch up to 3 weeks later and some as soon as 3 days. After they hatch they are in the wiggler stage and will absorb the egg sack. When they are free swimming you can move to the nursery tank and feed baby brine shrimp, fry food, or finely crushed flake food. After about a month they can be raised on regular foods.

On my last hatching, I added the free swimmers to an algae tank where they receive 24/7 live food in between my 4 to 5 feedings a day. This was my first time attempting an algae tank and I was pleased with the results and how quickly they grew. After a couple months I removed them to free up the tank for my next breeding project.

Spring 2023 Chronicles reprint

Support our sponsors:



Dave's Rare Aquarium Fish
Specializing in the rare cichlids and catfishes of Africa



Cichlid and Friends Crossword Contest

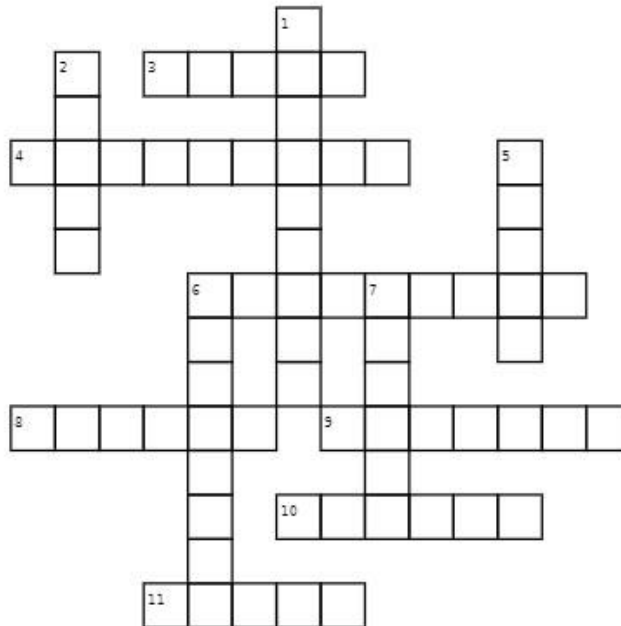
Print out this and fill out all the words.

Take a picture and send it to me on facebook messenger: **GlennAqua**.

If you are the 1st to get them all correct (or the person with the most correct), you'll win \$10 in CCY Bucks that you can spend at CCY meetings and at the Keystone Clash (like gift card).

Good luck!

Cichlid and Friends Crossword



Down:

1. Fish that clean off the aquarium glass.
2. el presidente.
5. The only known cichlid from the USA?
6. One type of cichlid famous for easy breeding.
7. Fast fish that can't catch cichlids.

Across:

3. A vibrant type of cichlids from Africa.
4. A holy type of cichlid.
6. Fish with whiskers.
8. How many years for the CCY?
9. A fish species from around the world.
10. A cichlid shaped like a disk.
11. A type of fish with a man's name.

Support our sponsors:



On the next 3 pages are the forms for: Membership, Breeder's Award Program (BAP), and Horticultural Award Program (HAP).

Print out or send electronically.

Contact the CCY if you have any questions.



The Cichlid Club of York

CCY Membership Form

Print legibly please.

Thank you!

Date:
Name(s)
Address:
Email:
Phone number:
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$ 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Couples \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40 <input type="checkbox"/> Junior (18 and under) Free
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> PayPal <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal

CCY Membership Dues



Individual Memberships \$20



**Couples (under one roof)
Memberships now \$30**



**Family (under one roof)
Memberships now \$40**



**Junior/Student (12-18 & under)
Memberships now Free! Must be
accompanied by a parent or
guardian at the meetings.**

**Please send your payments via paypal
to ccytreasurer@gmail.com
Cash is always accepted at the meetings.**



Breeder's Award Program Report Form

Members Name _____

Date of Spawn _____

Taxonomic Name _____

Location _____

Common Name: _____

How Long Have You Owned Breeders: _____

Have You Written an Article ____ Yes ____ No ____ If yes send a copy to this report or e-mail to:

caudalfins@gmail.com

Size of parents M ____ F ____ Size Tank _____ Type Lighting _____

Any Plants in the Tank Yes ____ No ____ / Description of plants _____

Spawning medium _____

Water parameters _____ Temp _____

Type of Filtration _____

Special Additives _____

Other fish in the tank _____

Mouthbrooder ____ Substrate ____ Artificial Hatch ____ Leave with Parents ____

Foods fed to parents _____

Foods fed to fry _____

Is this a CARES fish? _____

Additional Information: _____

BAP Chairman Will Fill In This Part

C.A.R.E.S. ____ Yes ____ No BAP Points Awarded _____ C.A.R.E.S. Points Awarded _____

6 Fry Donated ____ Yes ____ No Auction Date ____ / ____ / ____ Article Submitted ____ Yes ____ No

Verified Date ____ / ____ / ____ Verified By _____ Article Sub Date ____ / ____ / ____



Horticultural Award Program (HAP)

Submission Form

CCY Member Name _____ Date _____

Scientific Name of plant _____

Commercial Trade Name of plant _____

Suggested Class (if not listed) _____

Website or Publication cited for Identification _____

Member/supplier or collecting location of the plant _____

How long have you had this plant? _____

Propagation Method: _____

Growing Conditions:

Tank size: gallons _____ height _____ width _____ length _____

Filter type _____ water movement? _____

Water temperature _____ pH _____ mineral hardness _____ carbonate hardness _____

Lighting: type and intensity _____ duration _____

Substrate _____ depth _____ age _____

Fertilizers: _____ frequency _____

CO2 or other carbon enrichment added? _____

Water changes _____ frequency _____ amount _____

Fishes and other plants in the tank _____

Other notes: _____

Points may be obtained only once per species /variant/cultivar.

Plant photos or articles should be emailed or given in-person to HAP Chairperson. .

CCY Official Use

Observed Date _____ Class _____ Points _____

Article submitted/ Interest in presenting? _____

Photo submitted? _____

Certified by: _____ Date _____

Good times at the CCY February meeting!

Tonya Kailing and her award for outstanding member in 2023!



Glenn 'Aqua' Davies won the 2023 BAP award.



Keith Kalinowski's program on Botanicals!

