



Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc.
St. Louis, Missouri

**SHOW RULES
and
ENTRY FORMS**

BELDT'S AQUARIUM

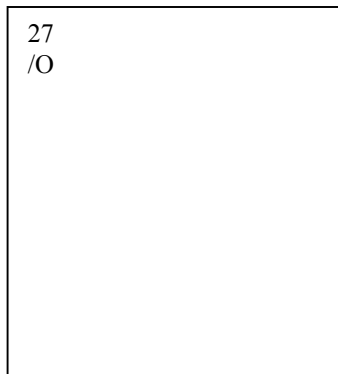
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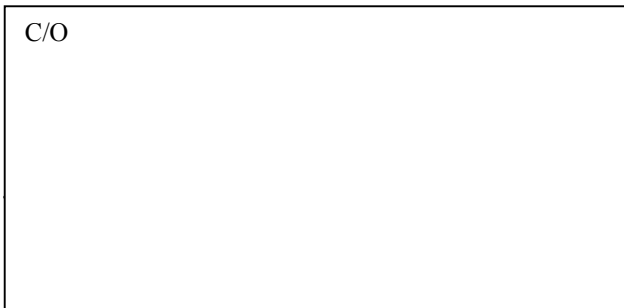
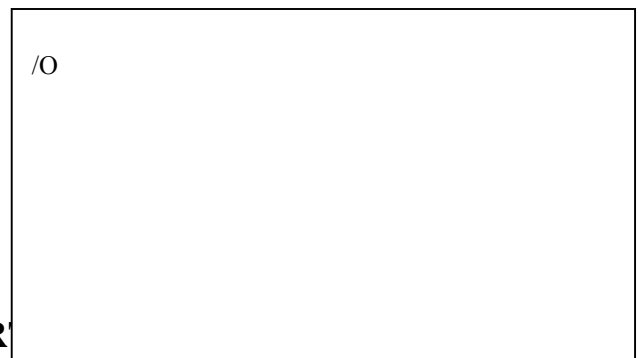
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The Missouri Aquarium Society will exchange their publication, THE DARTER, with other aquarium societies. Failure to receive three consecutive issues of a society's publication will be considered as a termination of our exchange with that society, unless advised to the contrary.

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

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Places to Be Things to See

THURSDAY, March 18, 2004

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

Program: John Van Asch - "Fishy Trivia"

Bowl Show: OPEN

SATURDAY, March 27, 2004

Executive Council Meeting, 7:30 PM Hosted by Charles Harrison

THURSDAY, April 15, 2004

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

Program: Collecting in the Kimberlies (North Western Australia)

DVD by Franz-Peter Muellenholz of Germany

Bowl Show: OPEN

SATURDAY, April 17, 2004

Executive Council Meeting, 7:30 PM Hosted by Bob Buckles

FRIDAY April 23 through SUNDAY April 25
MASI ANNUAL SHOW at the Stratford Inn

THURSDAY, May 20, 2004

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

Program: ?

Bowl Show: OPEN

THURSDAY, June 17, 2004

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

Program: ?

Bowl Show: OPEN

THURSDAY, July 15, 2004

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

Program: Mark Soberman on *Raising and Breeding Corydoras Catfish*

Bowl Show: OPEN

Editor's Notes

Steve Deutsch

After many years of editing the Darter, Pat Tosie has reached a point where he no longer has the time necessary to dedicate to the task, and I have agreed to take over as editor. Next time you see Pat Tosie, thank him for all the work he has done over the years with the Darter. I'm quickly learning how much he did! We have a few changes for this issue, and I'm eager to hear any other ideas you may have to keep the Darter fresh. First change is to undo a recent change, and go back to 6 Darters per year. The reduction to 4 Darters was a financial decision that we are able to reverse thanks to Charles Harrison taking over as our printer. The second change we are trying is the removal of the meeting minutes. Minutes from both the General Meeting and Executive Council will be available for review at the meetings; just see the secretary. Any new programs, decisions, etc. will be printed in the President's message, or in a separate article. Nothing should be missed, and some pages will be freed up for all the articles you are going to write. Tell us what you are doing, what you are reading, where you have gone and what you have seen. I am looking for articles and artwork on all aspects of the hobby. Did you find a neat shop while visiting a relative? Go to a public aquarium while on vacation? Breed a new fish? Try out a new piece of equipment? Build a new piece of equipment? Go on a collecting trip? Your friends in the hobby want to hear about it. I will also include the best reprints from other clubs, as Steve Edie, our exchange editor, finds them. Other clubs also reprint Darter articles from time to time. When this happens I intend to make a note of it here.

Submitting articles is easy. The Darter is prepared in Microsoft Word, so if you use Word, you can email articles to me at fishfan@i1.net as attachments, or give them to me on a disk at a meeting. If you don't use Word but do use a computer, you can email me the article text as part of the email, or as a text file, and I will import it. If you don't use a computer, type or write the article and give it to me at a meeting, or send it to me - my address is on the 2003-2004 MASI Officials page in the Darter. Some computer users have asked me for preferred fonts, tab settings, margins, etc. and I will provide these once I figure out what is working well.

Submittal Deadlines for the remaining issues this year are:

March/April - March 15

May/June - May 1

July/August - June 15 (All caught up here, with your help)

September/October - August 15

November/December - October 15

Since the Darter is so dependant on participation from all members, we will be starting some kind of author's incentive program. The details are in work, but there will be some kind of prize and recognition for your contributions. Stay tuned.

I hope you enjoy your Darter, and I apologize for its lateness. I hope to get back on schedule once I know what I'm doing, and hope you all can help me do so by submitting reports, articles, etc. to fill the next issues.

Superbowl 2003 Results

Gary Lange

This year we had 50 fish entered, 52 entries total with only 12 members participating. I would have relished having more of our members active for this show. However, since we didn't have a superbowl last year perhaps some of you have forgotten about it. There certainly were some nice fish. Hope you'll take the time to bring them out to our spring show April 23-25th.

1. **DOMESTIC AND FANCY FISH** (All man-made and domestic colors, veils, long fins, and other varieties not occurring naturally: includes Betts, Goldfish, Guppies, and all popular color/finnage variants of Livebearers and Egglayers)

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 st | Jim and Rosie Yaekel | Female Pinneapple Swordtail |
| 2 nd | Jim and Rosie Yaekel | Female Sailfin white Molly |
| 3 rd | Jim Miller | Hifin Swordtail |

2. **WILD LIVEBEARERS**

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 1 st | Diane Brown | Endler's Livebearer female |
| 2 nd | Diane Brown | Endler's Livebearer male |
| 3 rd | Dave Rush | Heterandria formosa |

3. **CICHLIDS**

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1 st | Jim Miller | Pike Cichlid |
| 2 nd | Pat Tosie | Apistogramma vietja |
| 3 rd | Jack Berhorst | Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi |

4. **ANABANTOIDS**

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 st | Jim Miller | Dwarf Gourami |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|

5. **CHARACINS**

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1 st | Jim Miller | Tetra species |
| 2 nd | Jim Miller | Tetra species |
| 3 rd | Ed Millinger | Silver Tip Tetra |

6. **CYPRINIDS** (includes Barbs, Danios, Rasboras, Minnows, Sharks, Loaches, and their kin)

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 st | Pat Tosie | Redfin Barb |
| 2 nd | Ed Millinger | Kuhli loach |
| 3 rd | Diane Brown | Botia striata |

7. **LORICARIIDS** (all Suckermouth Catfish)

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 st | Gary Lange | Long-finned Bristlenose Pleco |
| 2 nd | Maureen Green | Ancistrus Dwarf Bristlenose |
| 3 rd | Jim & Rosie Yaekel | Dwarf Albino Bristlenose pleco |

8. **CALLICHTHYIDS** (all Armored Catfish – Corys, Aspidoras, Brochis, Hoplos, Rafaels)

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1 st | Klaus Bertich | Albino Corydoras |
| 2 nd | Maureen Green | Dwarf Hoplo |

9. **ALL OTHER AQUATIC LIFE** (Fish that don't fit into above classes: i.e. Eels, Gobies, Other Catfish, Nandids, Rainbows, Killies, Marines; plus Aquatic Invertebrates and adult fully Aquatic Amphibians)

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--|
| 1 st | Charles Harrison | Elberdi N'tui |
| 2 nd | Jim Miller | Synodontis eupterus |
| 3 rd | Pat Tosie | Glossolepis pseudoincisus – Millennium rainbow |

10. TRUE AQUATIC PLANTS

1st Maureen Green Anubias nana

11. PHOTOGRAPHY (photos, slides, electronics)

1st Ed Millinger Butterfly Koi picture
2nd Ed Millinger Butterfly Koi picture

12. ARTWORK AND CRAFTS

No Entries

JUDGES AWARD – Pat Tosie with a Redfin Barb

BEST IN SHOW – Jim Miller with a Pike Cichlid

Show Chairman's Report

Gary Lange

Well we're getting down to the date. Hope that you have been working with your fishes and have tanks already to go. The show is a great place to meet other hobbyists and talk fish with people outside of our immediate club. SLAKA is also having a killifish show in conjunction with our show and they have some pretty good aquarists that make the trip down for the show. If nothing else, come to the show to talk to Ray Lucas. He'll show you what's new in the industry with his manufacturer's displays. We will also be featuring noted catfish speaker Lee Finley. People like Lee and Ray are two of the reasons that I travel to the NEC on the east coast every year. Our members that have come to know them can certainly attest to this. Plan to stay for the whole show and get to know our out-of-town speakers and guests.

Sponsors – We need sponsors for each of 21 classes plus the six “Best of” plaques. It will only cost you \$10 and it will help defray the costs of the show.

*****Entry forms DUE** at the meeting April 15th!! Sponsorships due April 15th!! Banquet forms Due April 15th. If you mail them sooner we would appreciate it but they have to be in by this date so we can get everything worked out.

Hey, this isn't the auction chairman's page but please plan on bringing stuff to the auction on Sunday too. This auction typically brings the best prices so it's certainly a good one for sellers. Besides finding cool fish and plants at our auction you are helping us to afford to put on a show AND all of the other interesting speakers that we can bring in during the year. Your support helps to keep our club running.

If you have any questions about the rules, entry forms or anything else please don't hesitate to email or call me. I would really like to get a lot of people to enter and make this a great show.

LEE FINLEY

Email: lfinley58@att.net

I have been an aquarium hobbyist/professional for over 35 years. As an integral part of this, I have regularly written on various aquarial topics over the past 25 years and have almost 300 published articles to my credit. Among these writings are included almost 12 years of a monthly book review column (Aquarist's Library) in Aquarium Fish Magazine, and almost six years of a monthly catfish based column (Catfish Corner) in Tropical Fish Hobbyist Magazine.

I have enjoyed the pleasures of many different fishes over the years. My early experiences were mainly with cichlids. From there I moved on to catfishes and this fascinating group has kept me interested and challenged for the past 25 or so years.

I have been involved in many other aspects of the aquarium hobby/industry. In the past I was owner/operator of an independent pet store. I currently, and have for the last five years, run a predominately mail order book business (Finley Aquatic Books) dealing in both new and used literature encompassing all aspects of the aquarium hobby and aquatic natural history.

Much of my recent and most current writing projects concern the early history of the aquarium. I am now involved in a number of short and long term writing projects (of both periodical and book orientation) covering aspects of both home and public aquaria in the 19th century. Research and writing in this area is now, and for the foreseeable future, a major area of work.

Time Line for the Annual Show

by Gary Lange

- 1) Show Entry Forms and checks to Klaus by Thursday **April 15th**.
- 2) Banquet Forms to Klaus, again by **April 15th**.
- 3) Class Sponsorship checks to Klaus again by **April 15th**. Jack, our president needs the time to put your name on the back of the trophy so all will know who did the sponsoring!
- 4) **April 15th**, Tax Day and our meeting day. Collecting in the Kimberlies (North Western Australia) DVD by Franz-Peter Muellenholz of Germany. Any last minute items might be able to be ironed out on this day.
- 5) Wednesday **April 21st** – Paper layout. Everything should be in the computer and spell checked by then so it should make the layout process go quickly.
- 6) **Friday morning April 23rd** – 8 am. Be at the Stratford Inn to help **set up** our display racks. Jim Jr. (Miller) will bring the trailer. A lot of hands will make this a pleasant and hopefully quick operation so if you can, PLEASE plan to be there. Bring a screwdriver, and an adjustable wrench please. Then everyone can get home to start bringing in their tanks.
- 7) Friday April 23rd – Hopefully **by 1 pm** we will have someone at the show site to start handing out the packets so you know where your tanks need to be set up.
- 8) Around 2 pm I need someone to pick up Lee Finley at the airport and bring him to the hotel site.
- 9) Around 5-6:30 pm I need someone to take our speakers out to dinner, most likely the local Bandanas. Ray, Lee, Thorney and his wife Viv.
- 10) Setup to ~ 11 pm. Please try and get it done ASAP as we have to be back early the next morning.
- 11) Saturday morning April 24th – 8:30 am – Judging starts. Judging should be finished by 11 am. We could use a few people to help volunteer and put the judges sheets together. When the judging is finished the show will be opened to the public.
- 12) 10 am – Mike Hellweg – **The First Family Aquarium** This is a talk geared for children AND their parents to help them understand what they will need to make that first aquarium a lasting joy. It has been rumored that “Goldfish Man” will be on hand afterwards to hand out “fishy” treats to the children. A raffle will be held – kids only, and someone will go away with a very cool prize!
- 13) 11:15 am – **“Killifish - Their Care and Maintenance”** featuring Dr. Charles Harrison on water quality in the fish room, Dr. Nevin Aspinwall on genera and species of killifishes, and Jack Heller on breeding and raising killifish, live food maintenance and fish room management techniques.
- 14) 12:30-1:30 – Lunch
- 15) 1:45-2:45 speaker
- 16) 3 pm – 4 pm Lee Finley "**Loricariidae (plecos) - An Introduction to Feeding and Breeding.**"
- 17) 5 pm showroom closes, show chair posts tank ribbons. Killifish people continue to judge their fish so that they will be out of the room by 6 pm.
- 18) 6-6:30 **cocktail hour**
- 19) 6:45-7:30 **dinner**
- 20) 7:30-8:30 **Awards**
- 21) 8:30-9:30 Banquet Speaker – Ray Lucas
- 22) 9:30 on Viewing of the displays, tank lights only.
- 23) Sunday April 25th 11 am. Auction viewing, showroom open.
- 24) Noon – auction start.
- 25) Teardown, starting ~ 4:30 pm.

MASI Show Classes for 2004

Gary Lange

1. Aquascaping

Must be a naturalistic aquascape; may include realistic artificial materials, will be judged on overall artistic impression and impact, must contain fish

2. Novelty

Theme tank designed/built by entrant, must contain at least one live fish

3. Domestic and Fancy Finned Fish

All “man-made” and domestic colors, veils, and long fins that don’t occur naturally: includes Guppies, all popular color varieties and fancy finnage varieties of Livebearers and Egglayers

4. *Betta splendens*

5. Goldfish

Classes 6 – 15 are for Naturally Occurring species, subspecies and locality variants.

6. Wild Livebearers

7. Cichlids – New World

8. Cichlids – Old World

9. Anabantids

10. Characins

11. Cyprinids

Barbs, Danios, Rasboras, Minnows, and their relatives (except for Sharks and Loaches)

12. Catfish – Armored Cats (Callichthyids)

Members of *Corydoras*, *Aspidoras*, *Brochis*, *Hoplosternum* and their relatives

13. Catfish – All other Catfish

14. Sharks and Loaches

15. All Other Fish

Fish not included in any of the above Classes

16. Aquatic Critters

Includes fully aquatic Amphibians, Crustaceans, Insects, and other Invertebrates, both Freshwater and Marine

17. True Aquatic Plants

18. Photography

Must be taken by Entrant, includes photos, slides, video and electronic media

19. Arts & Crafts

Must be made by Entrant

20. Collectibles

Must be Fish or Aquarium Related

21. White Elephant Collectible

A fun class for all! Must be Fish or Aquarium Related, but it must be the *most awful thing* you can find!

MASI Show Rules for 2004

Gary Lange

Entry:

Open to all with payment of entry fees. Junior entrants are encouraged. Multiple entries per tank allowed as long as they are compatible and easily distinguishable by the judges (i.e. male/female, color variants, different species, etc.). Plant entries are allowed with fish entries in the same tank. All entries are eligible for Class 1, Aquascaping, without additional fee.

As a matter of ethics, entry must be the property of the entrant for at least 60 days before Show and/or must be work of Entrant. No hybrids, deformed, diseased, artificially colored (painted, dyed, or injected) or illegal fish may be shown.

Display:

All fish are to be entered in flat-sided bowls or tanks a minimum of gallon or larger up to 30 gallons (for larger tanks, entrant must provide their own proper aquarium stand). All entries are to be **covered with an appropriate cover and lighted. Sides and back of the display must be covered** with an opaque covering (i.e. paint, contact paper, or commercial background), and gravel or sand must be used on the bottom. Live plants are encouraged. Filtration and aeration are optional, but strongly recommended for the health of the entry. Air and electrical outlets will be supplied. Guppies, Killies, and *Betta splendens* may all be entered singly or in pairs in covered bare bowls or tanks of to 1 gallon in size. Naturalistic artificial decorations are allowed in all entries, and a flowerpot or PVC pipe may be used if needed for the comfort of the fish. For Class #18 – Photography – For video/electronic media, entrants must supply resources for viewing their entry. Single picture entries must be printed for viewing.

Judging:

All entries will be sight judged based on appropriate standards for the fish being judged.

Decision of Judges and/or Show Chairman is final. Show Chairman may move entries to appropriate classes if entered in wrong class or if there are too few entries in class.

Awards:

First, Second and Third place in each Class; Best Junior Entry; Reet Thomas Outstanding Livebearer Award; Ralph Wilhelm Outstanding Catfish Award; Best Egglayer; Judges Award for the most Outstanding Entry; and Best Fish in Show.

**44th ANNUAL SHOW ENTRY FORM, April 23rd - 25th, 2004
MISSOURI AQUARIUM SOCIETY, INC.**

NAME(S): _____
(NOTE: ALL POINTS EARNED WILL BE AWARDED TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE.)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: (____) _____

STATUS (Check one): Hobbyist _____ Novice _____ Junior (entrants 16 & under) _____

| CLASS | LEAVE BLANK | VARIETY OF FISH OR DESCRIPTION SCIENTIFIC NAME/COMMON NAME | DIMENSIONS OF EXHIBIT L x W x H (in Inches) | ENTRY FEE *** | CHECK (✓) IF AUCTION ITEM |
|--|----------------|---|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | \$5.00 | |
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| | | | | | |
| If more space is needed, please use another sheet of paper | | | TOTAL | | |

*** ENTRY FEE: The entry fee for the above entries is \$5.00 for the first entry, thereafter \$1.00 per entry with no limit on the number of entries.

Entrant agrees to abide by all show rules and the decisions of the judges. All exhibits are placed in the Show at the entrant's risk. Entrant agrees to release the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. and the Stratford Inn of any liability.

Signature Date

DEADLINE FOR SHOW ENTRIES IS THURSDAY, April 15th, 2004.

Mail form and fees to: MASI Show Entries
Klaus Bertich
9525 Caravan
St. Louis, Mo. 63126

| |
|--|
| Please call Gary Lange 314-837-6181 Email – gwlange@mindspring.com with any questions. |
|--|

MISSOURI AQUARIUM SOCIETY, INC.
44th ANNUAL SHOW AWARD BANQUET

Our Annual Awards Banquet will be held at the Stratford Inn (the show site). Please arrive between 6:00 and 6:30 PM for cocktails. We've got a great meal planned, awards to present and the fantastic after dinner speaker Ray Lucas.

Please return this reservation form to
Klaus Bertich
9525 Caravan
St. Louis, Mo. 63126
no later than April 15th, 2004

Please call Gary Lange 314-837-6181 (gwlange@mindspring.com) if you have any questions.

*

Name: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

_____ Number attending @ \$20.00 = \$ _____

Less: Banquet Auction Credit _____

(if you have auction credit, please make sure you indicate that you are coming to the banquet)

Net Amount Due: \$ _____

Return this form and a check payable to MASI in the net amount due to:

Klaus Bertich
9525 Caravan
St. Louis, Mo. 63126

DON'T FORGET --- Return by April 15th, 2004! to Klaus, address above

DON'T FORGET --- Return by April 15th 2004!

**R&J
FISH
FOOD**

**JIM
(314) 638-1134**

The Saint Louis Area Killifish Association Annual Show

The Saint Louis Area Killifish Association (SLAKA) twelfth annual killifish show and auction will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 23rd - April 25th, 2004 at the Stratford Inn, 800 S. Hwy Drive, Fenton, MO 63026. The 2004 show will be held in conjunction with the Missouri Aquarium Society show and auction.

There will be 11 classes with awards to third place in each class, plus a Best in Show, Best Old World, and Best New World. Show classes will be: New World Annuals, Rivulus, All other New World, Kathetys and Mesoaphyosemions, Archaphyosemions, Fundulopanchax Gardneri, All Other Fundulopanchax, Nothobranchius, All other Old World, Breeding Groups, and Stud Males (not eligible for Best of Show or KHY points). Show Chairman: Jack Heller, 484 Whitree Lane, Chesterfield, MO 63017, phone: (636) 532-4210, e-mail: hellerap@aol.com.

Entry fee \$1.00 per entry, entry fee waived for mail-ins. Send mail-ins to Trevor Meyer, 908 Winslow Drive, Belleville, IL 62223, phone: (618) 398-0843. Mail-ins will be accepted no later than Friday, April 22, 2004. ** MASI members should note that SLAKA provides flat sided bare tanks for your entries. Tanks will be filled with treated St Louis water. Exhibitors may bring their own water if desired.

There will be a seminar Saturday afternoon entitled "Killifish - Their Care and Maintenance" featuring Dr. Charles Harrison on water quality in the fish room, Dr. Nevin Aspinwall on genera and species of killifishes, and Jack Heller on breeding and raising killifish, live food maintenance and fish room management techniques. We will have hands-on demonstrations in making a spawning mop, picking eggs and hatching peat-spawning killifish. We will also have raffles during the talk for the fish and eggs used in the presentation.

Benching will be allowed until noon on Saturday, and judging will be at 5 pm on Saturday afternoon.

There will be a silent auction for killifish on Sunday, concurrent with the MASI general auction, which will start on Sunday at 12 noon.

For further information, call Jack Heller at (636) 532-4210, Trevor Meyer at (618) 398-0843, or Dr. Charles Harrison at (314) 894-9861, Work (636) 677-5353.

BAP Report

Steve Edie

| Member | Species | Common | Pts | Total |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|-----|-------|
| Oct 2003 | | | | |
| Diane Brown | <i>Poecilia</i> sp. "Endler's" | Endler's Livebearer | 5 | 5 |
| Steve Edie | <i>Geophagus</i> sp. | "Bahia Red"* | 10 | 75 |
| Mike Hellweg | <i>Corydoras pygmaeus</i> | Pygmy Cory | 10 | 1445 |
| Mike Hellweg | <i>Steatocranus casuarius</i> | Buffalo Head Cichlid | 15 | 1460 |
| Nov 2003 | | | | |
| Mike Hellweg | <i>Inpaichthys kerri</i> | Royal Emperor Tetra | 15 | 1475 |
| Mike Hellweg | <i>Poecilia reticulata</i> | Tequila Sunrise Guppy | 1 | 1476 |
| Mike Hellweg | <i>Limia sulphurophila</i> | Yellow Fin Limia | 5 | 1481 |
| Steven Hoffman | <i>Ameca Splendens</i> | Butterfly Goodeid | 15 | 15 |
| Steven Hoffman | <i>Poecilia</i> sp. "Endler's" | Endler's Livebearer | 5 | 20 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Aulonocara</i> sp. "Eureka" albino* | Albino Eureka Peacock | 10 | 520 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Ophthalmotilapia ventralis</i> "Gitan"* | | 15 | 540 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Pelvicachromis sacramontis</i> | Scarlet Krib | 15 | 555 |
| Rick Tinklenberg | <i>Steatocranus glaber</i> * | | 15 | 575 |
| Patrick Tosie | <i>Apistogramma panduro</i> | | 15 | 130 |

* First MASI spawn (5 point bonus)

Membership Renewal

Kathy Deutsch

Membership Dues are Due!

Your continuing membership supports our club!

\$20 per calendar year includes 6 issues of The Darter.

Questions? Complaints? Comments? See me at the meeting or at our show.

Call: 314-741-0474

Email: fishfan@il.net

Thanks! Kathy Deutsch

HAP Report

Mike Hellweg

Reproduction Key:

V = Vegetative, OB = Outdoor Bloom, IB = Indoor Bloom, S = Seedling

January 2004

Mike Hellweg

Anubias barteri glabra

Large Leaf Anubias V 15

2130

MASI First!

Cryptocoryne undulata

V 15

MASI First!

Echinodorus tenellus "Needle Leaf" Needle Leaf Pygmy Chain Sword V 10

Vallisneria spiralis "Tiger"

Tiger Val V 5

MASI HAP Year End Report for 2003

By Mike Hellweg

Well everyone, another year is a wrap, and the HAP is still going strong! This past year we had 109 submissions from 14 members, including 19 new species, and two new participants. 2003 also saw the return to the program of several members who have not been active for many years. Welcome back!

Several members are getting close to the next level in the program, and a few have moved up in the rankings. We also saw the first member to cross the 2000 point plateau, and several crossed the 1000-point plateau. Congratulations to all.

Changes in the program are coming for 2004. The new rules for the program should be in place by the time you read this, as should the new point values and the new award levels and requirements. All will be published here in the Darter, as well as updated on the website. The new rules are really just better definitions of existing rules to answer questions that seem to crop up year after year. New point values better reflect the ease or difficulty of propagating various plant species, either indoors or out. As in the BAP when we updated the point structure, no one will loose points or awards due to changes in the point structure, but mathematical and clerical mistakes from the old handwritten system will be corrected. Anyone whose point total would be moved downward due to the changes will receive a one time "grandfather" adjustment to keep their totals the same. As I look at the totals right now, no one will be loosing points due to the changes, though at least one person will be loosing a few points due to my mathematical error a few years ago. I apologize for that!

New levels and requirements for reaching those levels are meant to challenge the members who have reached the former highest plateau of "Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist", which should allow them to continue competing with each other and challenging their Aquatic Green Thumb for years to come. As always, feel free to contact me with any program or plant related questions and I'll do my best to answer you or direct you to someone where you can get an answer.

...keep 'em green!

Awards Earned in 2003:

Charles Harrison
Diane Brown

Advanced Aquatic Horticulturist
General Aquatic Horticulturist

November, 2003
October, 2003

And the 2003 Green Thumb Award for the Most HAP Submissions goes to:

Mike Hellweg

With 23 submissions!

Congratulations to all!

Active members in 2003:

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Rank</u> | <u>Total Points</u> | <u>Submissions in 2003</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mike Hellweg | Grand Master | 2085 | 23 |
| Harold Walker | Master | 485 | 14 |
| Micky Lee | Senior | 405 | 13 |
| Gary Lange | Master | 1440 | 12 |
| Derek Walker | Grand Master | 1270 | 12 |
| Diane Brown | General | 60 | 9 |
| Charles Harrison | Advanced | 150 | 7 |
| Jim Miller | | 20 | 4 |
| Ed Millinger | Senior | 265 | 4 |
| Maureen Green | Master | 1160 | 4 |
| Tom Schnur | Advanced | 165 | 3 |
| Charles & Maryann Lenau | Senior | 265 | 2 |
| Jim Yaekel | Master | 370 | 1 |
| Jack Berhorst | General | 75 | 1 |

Updates to the MASI HAP Rules for 2004

Non-indigenous Invasive Aquatic Plant Species

By Mike Hellweg, HAP Chairman

As most of you know, a few of the aquatic plant species that we as hobbyists have used for years have become established in places where they should not be; namely, various bodies of water here in the USA. Sometimes these introductions were intentional, other times accidental. Either way, though, the damage has been the same. Native species have been displaced, or even eliminated. Valuable Wetland habitat has been damaged or destroyed, which affects the fishes that we all love, as well as the quality of life for all of us.

Therefore, in order to keep up with the new regulations, we have modified the HAP rules to do our own small part in helping to control these species. I would suggest that we also ban them from club auctions. If anyone spots these plants in someone's tanks, they might mention to them that these plants might be invasive if they accidentally get into natural bodies of water. Most of them cannot survive winter temperatures, so they have not been banned nationally, but many States do ban them from within their borders. To be on the safe side, I would suggest NOT selling or distributing these plants, or, even better, getting rid of them altogether. The only safe way for hobbyists to dispose of them is to dry them out and burn them. NEVER FLUSH THEM DOWN THE DRAIN! Composting is not a safe alternative.

As of 9/8/2000, the last time I can find that the law and list were updated, Federal law bans INTERSTATE sale, distribution, or transportation of the plants on the list. Banning possession appears to be left up to the individual States, as their situation warrants. Various State laws ban possession, as well. As of September of 2003, Missouri bans only one aquatic plant species outright: Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*. The law prohibits the sale, distribution, transportation, or POSSESSION, of Purple Loosestrife; including it's roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits or seeds. If you spot this plant in the wild, report it to the Missouri Department of Agriculture as soon as possible. They have set up a Task Force to eradicate this plant.

There are only a few species on the list. With the many hundreds of species of beautiful aquatic plants available that are NOT harmful, invasive or in any way damaging to the environment, why even think of using these few species that are? Be responsible with all plants, and fish, for that matter, and dispose of them properly. Don't just flush your problem down the drain. It might come back to haunt us all!

...keep 'em green....

Here are the updates to the HAP rules:

“No plant species deemed a non-indigenous invasive or nuisance species, or a noxious weed by the State of Missouri Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be allowed for submission. Any entrant submitting such species *BEFORE* the plant is placed on such list will not have points earned or credit for propagation taken away, but no further submissions will be accepted. Refer to list of prohibited species later in this document for any questionable species.”

In addition, I have added the current list of species to the end of the HAP Rules. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive, it is what was current at the time of writing. I will update the list as new information becomes available.

Prohibited Species List:

Certain plant species have not only become established in the wild, but have actually done so well that they are now considered a noxious weed or a nuisance species. Local, State, and Federal Government agencies spend many millions of dollars every year trying to control them. No responsible hobbyist should ever keep, sell or otherwise distribute, or discard any of these species in the wild or even down the drain. In fact, interstate distribution or sale and/or interstate transport of these species is illegal. Responsible hobbyists should destroy all plants on this list by drying and burning. Composting is not an acceptable way to dispose of these plants. The species below are on the Federal list. Currently,

as of the end of 2003, the State of Missouri Department of Agriculture only lists Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, as a prohibited Aquatic Species. Possession, sale or any other type of distribution of Purple Loosestrife without a special permit issued by the Missouri Department of Agriculture is prohibited.

| <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Scientific Name</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mosquito Fern, Water Velvet | <i>Azolla pinnata</i> |
| Mediterranean Caulerpa | <i>Caulerpa taxifolia</i> |
| Rooted or Anchored Water Hyacinth | <i>Eichornia azurea</i> |
| Hydrilla | <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> |
| Common Hygro, Miramar Weed | <i>Hygrophila polysperma</i> |
| Chinese Water Spinach | <i>Ipomoea aquatica</i> |
| African Oxygen Weed | <i>Lagarosiphon major</i> |
| Giant Ambulia | <i>Limnophila sessiflora</i> |
| Purple Loosestrife * | <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> |
| Melaleuca | <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> |
| Arrow-leafed Monochoria | <i>Monochoria hastata</i> |
| Monochoria | <i>Monochoria vaginalis</i> |
| Duck Lettuce | <i>Ottelia alismoides</i> |
| Arrowhead | <i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i> |
| Wavy-leaf Salvinia | <i>Salvinia auriculata</i> |
| Giant Salvinia | <i>Salvinia biloba</i> |
| Herzog's Salvinia | <i>Salvinia herzogii</i> |
| Giant Salvinia | <i>Salvinia molesta</i> |
| Wetland Nightshade | <i>Solanum tampicense</i> |
| Exotic Bur Reed | <i>Sparganium erectum</i> |

In addition, while *NOT* on the Federal or Missouri list yet, the following two species are listed on most State's lists of prohibited species so hobbyists should be aware of their status and avoid these as well. They will probably both be added to the Federal list in the coming years:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Water Hyacinth | <i>Eichornia crassipes</i> |
| Water Lettuce | <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> |

Club Hopping

Steve Edie

Feb 22 -- Chicago: GCCA Swap Meet

Mar 6 – Peoria, IL: Tri-County Tropical Fish Society – Spring Auction

Mar 14 – Milwaukee: Milwaukee Aquarium Society – Auction

Mar 19-21 -- Hartford, CT: Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies -- 29th Annual Convention

Mar 20-21 – Lawrenceville, GA: Atlanta Area Aquarium Association -- Spring Workshop

Mar 27-28 – Green Bay, WI: Green Bay Aquarium Society – Fish Frenzy Weekend

Apr 2-4 – Fridley, MN: Minnesota Aquarium Society – Show

Apr 13 – Seattle: Greater Seattle Aquarium Society – Auction

Apr 16-18 – Kalamazoo, MI: American Livebearer Association – Annual Convention

Apr 17 – Cincinnati: Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society – Spring Auction

Apr 17 – Bloomington, MN: Minnesota Aquarium Society – Auction

Apr 18 -- Chicago: GCCA Swap Meet

Apr 23-25 -- St Louis: Missouri Aquarium Society Inc - Annual Show

May 1-2 – Monroeville, PA: Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society – Show

May 2 -- Kansas City: HAAS Fish-O-Ramma

May 2 – Milwaukee: Milwaukee Aquarium Society – Fish-O-Ramma – Swap Meet

May 22-23 – St Louis: Gateway Guppy Association – Show

May 28-31 – Breckenridge, CO: American Killiefish Association – Show

May 28-30 -- Chicago: Greater Chicago Cichlid Association -- Cichlid Classic

June 17-20 – Columbia, SC: North American Native Fishes Association – Annual Convention

June 26-27 – St Louis: St Louis Water Gardening Society – Pond-O-Rama

July 22-25 -- Denver: American Cichlid Association 2004 Annual Convention - hosted by Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association

Sept 10-12 – Portland: Greater Portland Aquarium Society – Annual Show

Sept 19 -- Chicago: GCCA All-Species Auction

Oct 17 – Milwaukee: Milwaukee Aquarium Society – Auction

Oct 24 -- Chicago: GCCA Swap Meet

Nov 6 -- Cincinnati: Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society – Fall Auction

Nov 12-14 – Maryland: Aquatic Gardeners Association Annual Convention

Nov 28 -- Chicago: GCCA Swap Meet



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Raffles; Hospitality Room; and a Giant, Day Long, All Species Auction on April 25th.

For more information: Gary (314) 837-6181

Masishowinfo@aol.com

Or Check our website:

www.missouriaquariumsociety.org

Seeing Red

Article Review by Terry Atherton

I will dedicate the article for this issue of Darter from "Aquatic Gardener" from the September 03 issue of Tropical Fish Hobbyist. Richard Sexton is the author, and the name of his writing for this month is "Seeing Red" concerning the effect of color of aquarium plants on the color of fish. The color in focus here is RED. Richard states that although plant pigment has a lot to do with it, there are other factors in relation to color prevalence. LIGHTING is the first one. Bright lights will make red plants redder, more so that red or blue lights over the aquaria. Red plants reflect red lights back, not absorbing it. Then, NUTRIENTS. Iron is essential in making a redder plant, using bottled liquid iron. It is possible to set up a whole aquarium of just red plants; among them he lists are *ammania*, a large bunch plant. *alternanthera*, a "scarlet hygro", others are pinkish-brown, then crimson-magenta. Then there are *rotala*, *vallisneria*, and *barclaya*. There is indeed a wide choice here for the aquarist to pick in decorating his or her tank, provided nearby pet shops have them available. I myself have turned a reflector light on my fish and have gotten such pleasure out of them flitting around the green water, but adding ornaments that don't have to be cared for makes my task easier. The ornaments can be varied and colorful too. This was a brief but fine article.

Service and Show Awards

Does anyone want to be the Show Champion next year? One of the requirements is to enter 5 monthly bowl shows. So, as well as grooming your entries for the annual show, consider bringing in entries to the bowl shows. You could end up with the most annual show wins and super bowl wins your category (novice or hobbyist), but miss out on the champion award - don't let this happen. The Novice of the Year and Hobbyist of the Year also could use some renewed attention. Points are awarded for club participation and various services to the club. The various committee chairs are supposed to report the points to the Points Tabulator to determine the award recipients. One way to gain points is to publish an original article in the Darter, hint, hint. Anyway, it is the start of a new year, and I'd like to see more friendly competition, which means collecting the points so they can be included. We need all the officers and committee chairs to be active in submitting the points, so the tabulator can provide updates, so we can announce the standings and encourage participation. Rules for both the Novice and Hobbyist of the Year and Novice and Hobbyist Show Champions are on the following two pages.

NOVICE OF THE YEAR and HOBBYIST OF THE YEAR

Each year the Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. recognizes the outstanding contributions of those members performing services for the society. during the calendar year (Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31), points are awarded for service and involvement in the activities of the society. In January of each year, *Novice of the Year Award* and *Hobbyist of the Year Award* are presented to the members accumulating the most points during the preceding year. the minimum following requirements must be satisfied to qualify for these awards:

1. A minimum of eight (8) points must be earned for attendance at the general meetings.
2. You must enter the Annual Show.
3. A minimum of ten (10) points must be earned for service to the society other than listed above. These points do NOT include any meeting attendance points earned.

Service points will be awarded to individuals only (Mr. Smith, Mrs. Smith, Child Smith, etc.) and NOT to families (Mr. and Mrs. Doe, Doe Family, etc.)

* * * * *

PARTICIPATION AND SERVICE POINTS SCHEDULE FOR AWARDS OF *NOVICE OF THE YEAR* and *HOBBYIST OF THE YEAR*

| SERVICE | POINTS |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Attendance at any meeting | 1 |
| Officers of the Society (President, VP, Secretary, & Treasurer) | 3/mo. |
| Member of Executive Council (excluding Officers) | 2/mo. |
| Committee Chairperson (as listed in THE DARTER) | 2/mo. |
| Publication Editor | 5/mo. |
| Society Printer | 2/mo. |
| Bowl Show Judge | 1/mo. |
| Donating Refreshments | 1/mo. |
| Donating Door Prize | 1/mo. |
| Working for an Auction (assigned by Auction Chairperson) | up to 10 |
| Working for Annual Show (assigned by Show Chairperson) | up to 15 |
| Working for Super Bowl | up to 3 |
| Programs given (no points given for programs required by BAP rules.) | 5 |
| Published original article or original artwork for THE DARTER One page in length or longer Half page minimum length (A maximum of 30 points per year will be credited for articles. Committee reports are considered a responsibility of the chairperson and will not earn points. No points will be awarded for articles required by BAP rules.) | 5 2 |
| Collating THE DARTER | 1/issue |
| Advertisements sold for THE DARTER (new ads only) | 1 |
| Special Services | As awarded by Executive Council |

If you have any questions, contact the Points Tabulator.

Effect.(ive 1/88)

POINTS SYSTEM FOR SHOW CHAMPIONS

NOVICE SHOW CHAMPION and HOBBYIST SHOW CHAMPION

The society offers friendly competition and the chance to display your fish in the form of an Annual Show, a Super Bowl Show and monthly bowl shows. Points are awarded for entering these competitions and for placing 1st., 2nd., or 3rd. At the end of each calendar year the points are tabulated and awards are presented to the novice and hobbyist members who have earned the most show points during that year. the minimum eligibility requirements to qualify for these awards are as follows:

1. You must enter the Annual Show.
2. You must enter Super bowl.
3. You must enter at least five (5) monthly bowl shows.
(This does not include super Bowl.)

Show points will be awarded either to an individual or family unit, as indicated by the entrant(s) at the time of their first showing. However, it will be the entrant(s) responsibility to continue to enter under the same name(s) throughout the rest of the year.

* * * * *

SHOW POINTS SCHEDULE
FOR AWARDS OF *NOVICE SHOW CHAMPION* and *HOBBYIST SHOW CHAMPION*

Monthly Bowl Show Entries (Entries are limited to three (3) per member per class each month.)

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| 1st. Place | 5 points |
| 2nd. Place | 4 points |
| 3rd. Place | 3 points |
| Non-placing entry | 1 point |

Annual Show and Super Bowl Show Entries (unlimited entries)

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 1st. Place | 15 points |
| 2nd. Place | 10 points |
| 3rd. Place | 5 points |
| Non-placing entry | 2 points |

(Only 5 entries will be credited to the entrant, those which receive the highest points.)

In addition, recipients of Best of Show, Judge=s Award, and Best Novice Exhibit will receive a bonus of 5 points for each major award received.

If you have any questions, contact the Points Tabulator.

(Effective 1/88)

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