The Lateral Line

Volume 2, Issue 5

November 2005

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HCCC Hill country cichlid club

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November 4, 2005

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- HCCC November meeting on the 13th
- HCCC Christmas party December 3rd

Cover Photo:
Neolamprologus helianthus
by Dave Hansen

BAP Report

Well this month wraps up the 2005 BAP year. It was an extremely busy month. Nick kicked things off and earned his Accomplished Breeder Award with spawns of P. nyererei "Python Island", M. lutea, L. sp. "pearlmutt" and C. afra "Cobwe". Lisa had a first in club spawn of Thorichthys meeki, another pond bred cichlid. Jake had his first spawn with L. caeruleus. Ryan earned his Breeder Award with spawns of P. steveni (first in club), Neolam. calliurus (first in club) and M. estherae. Charles had spawns of Copad. sp. "mloto" fluorescent, J. transcriptus "gombe", J. ornatus (first in club spawn), C. trewavase "Magunga", M. lutea, Pelvicachromis pulcher "yellow" and J. dickfeldi. This October's onslaught was enough to award Charles the HCCC Breeder of the Year Award. Great work! Next month we all start with a clean slate so crank up the Barry White and let your fish get their groove on! Thanks to all BAP participants for making the program such a success and I'm looking forward to another excellent year.

■ *Greg Steeves*

Final Standings

Charles	465
Greg	460
Jeff C.	250
David D.	240
Nick	220
Robert	135
Diane	110
Ryan	100
Jim	95
Dave H.	75
Nathan	75
Lisa	65
Duc	55

Final Standings

Terry	45
Robby	45
Dave S.	40
Gene	35
Kris	25
Jeff J.	25
Paul	25
Kevin	20
James	20
Mike	15
Dani	15
Jake	15

HCCC Monthly Photo Contest

First Place:
Mikrogeophagus ramirezi #2
By Yvonne Beever

Second Place:
Apisto steindachneri #1
By Donald Davis

Third Place:
Pteropyllum scalare
By Lisa Boorman

Judging by Hernán López-Fernández

Species Profile:

Aulonocara jacobfreibergi Mamalela

Aulonocara jacobfreibergi Mamalela or Lemon Jake is a maternal mouth brooder native to Lake Malawi's rocky shoreline at Mpanga Rocks, Chirwa Island. They are also found along the coast between South Rukuru River and Mpwandikucha Island. Also inhabit the area at Namalenje Island, and at the entire Cape Maclear area, from Domwe Island to Makokola Reef. They are also encountered at Chemwezi Rocks in the south, along Tazania shores at Undu Reef, Hongi Island and at Lupingu.. Native waters for this fish have a pH of 7.8 to 8.5. and the temperature at the water surface is 23 to 28 degrees C. I obtained six 1 - 1 1/2 inch long fish from JJ Tropiquatics. Males achieve a size of 5 1/2 to 6 inches and have a yellow shoulder area which carries over to the top part of the head and the lower face is blue. The main body area is pale compared to the bright yellow fins. Females achieve a size of 4 inches and are brownish, with dark brown vertical stripes.

Photo by Robert De Leon

The fish bred in a 55 gallon community breeder tank which contained Protomelas Taeniolatus, and Neolamprologus Leleupi. Small gravel and holey rock were the main components and no plants. The tank was filtered by a Emperor 400 Bio-Wheel and had an unknown pH, and water temp was at 80 degrees F. I performed weekly water changes equal to 20% of the tank volume. I used fluorescent lighting for duration of 15 1/2 hours each day. The fish were fed HBH Flake: "Seafood Lovers" and "Veggie Flake". No special diet was added to condition breeders.

During spawning the males yellow fins would intensify. The blue on face would also become brighter. The male cleared an area underneath an overhang of holey rock which was off limits to all. He would approach female who was surrounded by community fish and begin his "display of fins". Slowly he would lure her to the "selected area" and actual spawning would commence. The male circled, vibrating his displayed fins while dragging his anal and tail fins. The female would follow in a close circle, nipping at anal fins. This continued, her depositing eggs in gravel, retrieving them and then fertilizing the eggs. Normally I would watch for about 5 minutes and then return later to see if spawning was complete. With

spawning complete, the female would hide or attempt to blend in with other fish.

The pair laid approximately 36 very small eggs, unknown color. After spawning the female cared well for the eggs and stayed away from the male, continuing to hide among the rocks. I move the female 16 days after spawning to a divided 10 gallon tank with a sponge filter. Approximately 36 eggs representing I believe 100% of the total hatch were viable and released after 22 days. The fry were 1/8 inch, very light colored. Vertical stripes would soon appear resembling female's appearance.

Photo by Robert De Leon

No special care given as fry stayed with female. A sponge filter was used for filtration and later a gathering site for growing fry. The female cared for fry and would discharge fry when she fed. Then afterwards she would retrieve the fry. I started the fry off on Cyclop-Eeze and finely crushed flakes. Small quantity of larger flakes was also given immediately to help feed the female which was still present in tank. I started feeding larger crushed flake food to all with in two weeks. The fry grew slowly, in 2 months grew to a length just over 1/2 inches.

Of my female breeders: Red Empress, O lithobates, and Lemon Jakes, this is the only one I have observed to spit out fry during feeding time, then retrieve them afterwards. This fish spawned very easily in a community tank with Red Empress and leleupi. I enjoyed the spawning rituals because of the coloring and display of male's fins. I would recommend this fish to anyone that is enjoying Peacocks from Lake Malawi. Not aggressive unless spawning and only to a small selected area.

I have bred this pair several times and have repeated same steps each time. Increased fry output as female matures. Make sure to feed female and give enough time to gain health and strength before returning her to breeding tank. This was an enjoyable fish to breed not only because of the ease of spawning but it was a great educational sight for my grandchildren.

■ *Jim Beck*

Species Profile:

Astatotilapia burtoni

To those of us in the cichlid world, Astatotilapia burtoni is known as a popular haplochromine from the area in and around Lake Tanganyika. Surprising to many, Astatotilapia burtoni has a wide distribution encompassing much more than the afore mentioned waters. The range of A. burtoni include Lake Tanganyika and feeder waterways in Burundi, Zaire, Tanzania, and Zambia. Populations of A. burtoni have been recorded in Lake Kivu and in Rwanda's Lake Ihema, Lake Rumira, Lake Sake, and Lake Cyohoha. In general terms Astatotilapia can be found in waters from northern Lake Malawi to southern Lake Victoria. While many cichlids display variation in coloration dependant on locale, A. burtoni individuals also display significant variation within populations. There is a blue form from the southern portion of their range while the extreme northern populations display dull green body coloration. The more common forms of A. burtoni demonstrate a yellow to lime green body coloration, and another line that exhibit a rust red hue.

Photo by Greg Steeves

Astatotilapia burtoni typically inhabit shallow slow moving waters. As an opportunistic feeder, A. burtoni is omnivorous with a particular affinity for insects. In the confines of the aquarium, this haplochromine will subsist nicely on nearly anything presented to it including flake, frozen and live foods. Maximum size for A. burtoni is 15 cm but I have never had them grow any larger than 10 cm. Within their wild range this cichlid thrives within a wide spectrum of

water parameters. This transpires to an unforgiving cichlid in terms of water chemistry. So long as the water is clean A. burtoni will prosper. Males will become territorial with growth so it is important that your aquascape include areas where individuals in the colony might escape each other's line of sight. Tank decor could include rockwork, hardy plants such as many of the anubias species with a gravel or sand substrate.

Astatotilapia burtoni may be a great cichlid to introduce a novice hobbyist into the realm of haplochromines. Although one might consider it a good beginner fish, there will always be room for this colorful little cichlid with even the most experienced aquarist. A. burtoni combines well with many other cichlids and as such can be considered a community fish in an aquarium designed for a haplochromine community. You may well find that A. burtoni mixes with other cichlid lineages as well. The pleasing coloration and mild disposition make

Photo by Greg Steeves

Astatotilapia burtoni a welcome addition to many cichlid aquariums.

■ *Greg Steeves*

BAP Fish

The following fish are available to HCCC members only. This month's selection is limited due to our recent auction when all unpurchased BAP fish were sold. The sale of BAP fish at the auction raised around $100 for the club.

We are considering the possibility of having small auctions during monthly meetings in an effort to clear fish out of member tanks more rapidly. This will help those with limited tank space have room for more fry!

Labidochromis caeruleus 6 fry $5.00
Aulonocara kandeensis 6 fry $5.00
Aulonocara stuartganti "blue neon Magunga" 6 fry $5.00
Neolamprologus multifasciatus 6 fry $5.00

Species Profile:

Aponogeton madagascariensis

Family: Aponogetonaceae

Common Name: Madagascar Lace Plant

The genus name Aponogeton comes from the Greek words, a meaning without, pono meaning toil; ge meaning earth and ton meaning stretched. This probably refers to the effect of how the tubers grow their leaves up so quickly, without seeming to have to work at it.

Synonyms: Uvivandra madagascariensis, Aponogeton fenestralis, Aponogeton henkelianus, Aponogeton guillotii

Origin: Africa, Madagascar

Temperature Range: 15-26°C (59-79°F)

pH: 5-7.5

Light: Medium - High, but prefers a diffused light.

Difficulty: High, not a beginner's plant

Photo by Lisa Boorman

This plant is very easily identified. It has a unique growth pattern. The leaves are very disctinctive. The leaf on Aponogeton madagascariensis does not fill in completely like other plants. All that there is showing on the leaf are the veins and their support structures. This leaves the plant looking like delicate lace.

As with all things really worth trying for, Aponogeton madagascariensis is hard to find and hard to grow. It was in such a high demand that it almost went extinct in its native habitat. It has a tuber just like all the other Aponogeton sp. There are 4 varieties of Madagascar Lace plant. There is a narrow leaved variety called Aponogeton madagascariensis var. guillotii; Aponogeton madagascariensis var. fenestralis, and Aponogeton madagascariensis var. henkelianus. There is also the main variety, Aponogeton madagascariensis var. madagascariensis. Guillotii is a large plant and has purple flowers that can self-pollinate. The madagascariensis has a flower spike that is split into two at the top so that it's like having 2 spikes. These flowers are also self-fertile.

The leaves on this plant can grow to a height of 25-50cm (10-20") and a width of 25-30cm (10-12" approx). Since this is such a large plant, it will (if it grows for you!) turn into a tank showpiece. Propagation is achieved by the splitting the tuber or by seeds. The flower seeds are very difficult to germinate. Flowers are rare. Many specimens are produced with tissue culture. Aponogeton madagascariensis prefers diffused indirect

light as it originates in the wild from streams with shady banks and no direct sunlight.

This specialty plant has a large number of demands it places. It needs to be kept in tanks that are given lots of water changes. This goes to water quality. They also need a nutrient rich substrate. Even if you keep this plant in perfect conditions, it will sometimes just die on you for no apparent reason.

I received a few (4) tubers of this plant from a friend who knew I'd wanted them! The price was right. Generally, this is an expensive plant, but the tubers were of a price that made it worth his while to get a few of them. When I got home with the tubers, they went into a couple of different tanks. I placed 2 tubers into each tank. One tank is a 30 gallon with low light, but does get diffused daylight. This tank is kept at about 78°F. There are two sponge filters. There is one Bolbitis plant in there. It's got a light dusting of sand on the bottom and some wood and a few rocks for decoration for the Bolivian rams that inhabit the tank. The other tank was a 90 gallon discus tank. This tank is kept at 84°F. This tank is more heavily planted with Cryptocoryne griffithii, Hygrophilia angustifolia, and some small sag sp. There is a fairly thick layer of gravel in this tank. There are 2 Aquaclear filters and a sponge filter in this tank. This tank also has 2 fluorescent bulbs that are on for approximately 13-14 hours a day. This tank gets biweekly water changes at the very least, and get more as they are needed. I placed the bulbs on the bottom and let them do their thing. I did not bury any part of the tuber as I wasn't sure if that would let the Aponogeton bulb rot. All of the tubers sprouted leaves (In fact, a couple had a few leaves already growing when I got them!). One, however, did a lot better than the others did. It was quite near some of the Hygrophilia. Once the leaves reached about 4" long, a flower spike starting growing up from this plant. It's leaves started growing through the Hygro leaves and the tuber stopped being on the bottom, and was raised up a few inches from the substrate with roots reaching back down towards the gravel. It started growing its flower spike at a fantastic rate. You could see growth every day; sometimes as much as 6". Once it reached the surface, you could see the double spike on the top with its white flowers. I did try to help self-pollinate the plant but never saw any seeds come out of the process. The flower spike lasted for a few days and then started to melt. After this, the leaves really took off in their growth. As I write this, the leaves are about 12" long and 2" wide. So far, all of the tubers are still alive. If you have the space, the money and the proper setup for this plant, I HIGHLY recommend it to try.

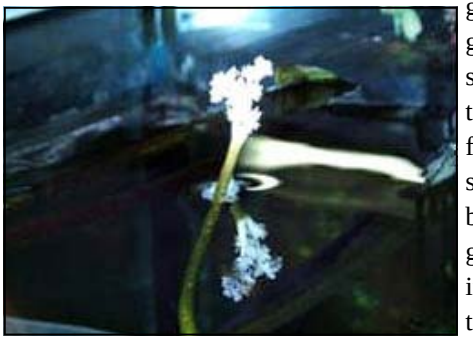

Photo by Lisa Boorman

■ *Lisa Boorman*

Species Profile:

Pundamilia nyererei

Okay, so I need to write an article to get BAP points for my "Ruti Islands" & my "Python Islands". How do I add anything to Greg's text book like article from the September and October '04 editions of the LL? I've been dreading this article and putting it off….then ….inspiration: From the July '05 photo contest judge, Les Kaufman, "In this sense, it is especially appropriate that the species bears the name of Tanzania's beloved "mwalimu" (Swahili for "teacher")." What an interesting bit of information! So, Greg has detailed everything about these fish, except their name. I'm going to try to shed a little light on that. Hopefully, after reading this, you will never have to mumble this species' name under your breath again.

Ruti Island Photo by Nick Andreola

Let's start with a very brief discussion on the genus name, Pundamilia. I just did light research on this but found fairly consistent information. Pundamilia is a derivative from another Swahili term meaning "zebra" or "zebra-like". The information becomes a little more variable in regards to correct pronunciation. **Poon**-da-ME-lee-a (as in **moon**) was the most common with **Pun**-da-ME-lee-a (as in **fun**) a close second. I can't say here which is correct. I'll probably use both and be right 50% of the time.

Now, let's get into to the details for the species name, nyererei.

First, what does it mean?

It actually is not a translatable word like "mwalimu". It is an honorific to the first President of Tanzania, Julius Kambarage Nyerere. Mr. Nyerere's place in Tanzanian culture is much like we think of George Washington. Tanganyika and Zanzibar united during his term to become today's Tanzania. He was instrumental in removing the dictator, Idi Amin, from power in neighboring Uganda. Ultimately, his economic policies were unsuccessful but, his legacy for truly serving the people with the power of the presidency is why Tanzanians and other Africans remember him. I read many anecdotes of his term in leadership and each one reinforces his basic goodness and efforts to improve the lives of

his people. One of my favorites had to do with a bunch of bureaucrats going to a meeting in a town some distance from the Capital. The bureaucrats wanted limos or buses to take them. Mwalimu made them walk and spend nights in the homes of regular citizens to remind the bureaucrats what everyday life was like for the people they were serving. Realizing his country needed an infusion of new ideas, he became one of Africa's very few leaders to voluntarily step down. This allowed for one of the rare changes of power in an African country unaccompanied by chaos or violence. Unlike many other leaders he did not steal millions or have multiple Swiss bank accounts. He retired to a small farm where he lived, taught and continued being a voice for the people until he died in 1999.

Python Island Photo by Nick Andreola

Now, how do you say it?

I've seen so many variations in my search on this man's name. Here are just a few of them:
From Australia's wetpetz.com-----nigh-**RARE**-ee

From allbiographies.com-----nye**rair**ay

From factmonster.com & infoplease.com----n**i"**u**r**a**'**r**a** (bold = line over them.)

From southerncenter.org----nyeh-reh-reh

From answers.com, yourdictionary.com & bartleby.com ----ny*e-re-re* (each *e* as in pet)

You getting the idea that nobody knows how to say it? Here's a bit from Englishman Clive Allen: "I would also draw your attention to that name Nyasaland. That odd combination of N andY is very common in Africa and it is the closest that our alphabet can get to describing the actual sound made in many African languages. Europeans will pronounce it as Nigh-assa-land or Nee-assa-land, using the Y as a vowel, but it is in fact a consonant. The correct pronunciation is (as closely as I can de-

scribe) Nnnn-yah-sah-land. This is true wherever N and Y are seen together so that the once President of Tanzania (ooh, another Z!), Mr Nyerere, is not Mr Nigh-uh-rare-eeh (as inevitably pronounced by European news broadcasters) but Nnnn-yeh-reh-ree."

Python Island Photo by Nick Andreola

With so many options available to choose from on the internet, I decided to go directly to the source----and ask Africans how they say it. Fortunately, I work in a large multinational corporation. I was able to ask my question to Nigerians, Kenyans, Ethiopians…unfortunately no native Tanzanians but, Mr. Nyerere is such a beloved figure throughout Africa that all these people knew instantly who I was talking about (even though I'm afraid I butchered his name in my questions!). This, then, is how the name is pronounced in Africa: nye= nnnnyeh (think of the Russian "nyet" for the rolling ny sound/same "e"sound as in p**e**t or th**e**m)

re-re= reh-reh---I'd like to be able to use something simple for us southerners like Ray-Ray so that even Jim-Bob would understand but it's much more subtle than that. It ends up using the same "e"sound as in pet or them.

Add slight emphasis to the first two syllables and you have it: nnnny**eh**-r**eh**-reh.

Now let's complicate it and get the scientific, Latin "i" stuck on the end of it. How to pronounce the "i" and where to place the emphasis become issues. I am much more familiar with Latin in regards to plants. Here's a brief snippet from a botanical website I go to:

"**Commemorative names** (eponyms): Taxa may commemorate personal names or surnames such as Alice Eastwood's Daisy, Virginia's Warbler, and Wilson's Honeycreeper. These names are treated as latinized possessive nouns (Alice's = *aliciae*, Wilson's

= *wilsoni*). The classical accent may be determined by the Latin form of the name. If Wilson were latinized as Wilsonius the pronunciation of *wilsoni* would be "wil-SO-nye." If Wilson were latinized as Wilsonus, the pronunciation of *wilsoni* would be "WIL-so-nye." Archival records indicate inconsistency in latinization of names, so some flexibility exists in pronunciation, and there is precedent in both classical and modern Latin for conservation. Thus "WIL-so-nye" (Rule 2c) is preferable to "wil-SO-ni," whereas *andersoni* is best treated as "an-der-SO-ni" rather than "an-DER-so-ni."
aberti = "a-BER-tye" = Rule 2a
aliceae = "al-IS-ee-ee" = Rule 2c
calderi = "CALL-de-rye" = Rule 2c
hendersonii = "hen-der-SO-nee-eye" = Rule 2c
lewisii = "lew-ISS-ee-eye" = Rule 2c
virginiae = "vir-JIN-ee-ee" = Rule 2c"

Python Island Photo by Nick Andreola

I know of several native plants using eponyms; Gregg's salvia=Salvia greggii 'GREGG-ee-eye' and Drummond's phlox= Phlox drummondii 'druh-MUN-dee-eye' for examples. Unfortunately they both end in a hard consonant. There is one that may help; Swasey's berberis= Berberis swaseyi 'SWAY-zee-eye'. Using that as a benchmark, I would say "nnnnyeh-reh-reh-eye" is appropriate. That leaves us with 3 choices for the emphasis: "NNNYEH-reh-reh-eye"or "nnnyeh-REH-reh-eye"or "nnnyeh-reh-REH-eye" Using the phlox example and how it sounds rolling off my own tongue as I sit here like some kind of moron saying it aloud, I'm going with "nnnyeh-REH-reh-eye" I figure I've got a 1 in 3 chance for being right! Either way it's sure to be more accurate than what I used to say, "Nigh-er-eye", and closer to the tribute to this unique man that was intended.

■ *Nick Andreola*

Species Profile:

Protomelas sp. "Steveni Taiwan Reef"

Protomelas sp. "Steveni Taiwan Reef" or Taiwan Reef, is a maternal mouthbrooder native to the sediment-free rocky habitat of Lake Malawi, Africa. The climate is sub-tropical with temperatures in the mid 70's to 80's and native waters for this fish are pH of 8.0. I obtained six 1 1/2 inches long fish from Armke's . Males achieve a size of 6 inches and are bright blue head with a white blaze, a vivid red anal fin and yellow on the body with the occasional black bars. Females achieve a size of 5 inches or so and are silvery with black bars.

The fish bred in a 55 gallon tank which contained pool filter sand and was decorated by large black rocks. The tank was filtered by an Emperor 400 and an Eheim 2026 and had a pH of 8.0. I performed weekly water changes equal to 25% of the tank volume. I used fluorescent lighting for a duration of 14 hours each day. I fed the fish NLS, Dainichi with cyclopeeze, and mysis shrimp.

When spawning the color of the male becomes bright and very vivid especially the blues and the black bars completely disappear. The female doesn't change much other than becomes a bit darker The male wallowed out a spot in the sand next to a piece of rock on the left side of the tank and chased all the other tank mates to the opposite side of the tank. The male would wait in the spot and the female would come over and get in the hole where the male would then shimmy for her. They did the little T dance where she would drop an egg then swoop around and pick it up in her mouth.

The pair laid approximately 25 eggs. After spawning, the female retreated to a hiding place to avoid harassment by the male. I waited for about two weeks then stripped the female and returned her to the main tank. Approximately 25 eggs representing 100% of the total hatch were viable and hatched after two weeks. The fry were a dark silvery color and still had a small bit of yolk sacs left but were pretty much free swimming.

The fry didn't require any special care on my part. I moved them to a 10 gallon tank in a breeder net. The tank used an Aquaclear 20 with a sponge prefilter for filtration. I started the fry off on Cyclop-Eeze. After two weeks I started feeding NLS growth.

This seems to be a very easy fish to breed. Once a male becomes dominant the females will breed with him quite readily. This is an exciting and beautiful fish to watch. I would recommend this fish as a beginner fish. They like a sand bottom and love rockwork to swim in and out of. A truly wonderful addition to any tank.

■ *Ryan Robinson*

Species Profile:

Labidochromis caeruleus

Labidochromis caeruleus is probably one of the most popular cichlids. The fish's peaceful demeanor and monomorphic trait contributes to this fish's high demand. In the trade, this fish has adopted the name "Yellow Lab". Labidochromis caeruleus is endemic to Lake Malawi. It was first described by G. Fryer in 1956. According to Konings, the yellow morphs of Labidochromis caeruleus were first exported by Pierre Brichard in 1986. Brichard acquired a pair in Sweden and bred them for several years near Lake Tanganyika in Burundi. A great deal of confusion was caused among hobbyists when Brichard exported the fish under the name Labidochromis tanganicae.

Photos by Jake Wand

As described by Konings, Labidochromis caeruleus is distributed in the northern part of Lake Malawi. On the west coast, the distribution occurs between Chirombo Point and Charo, both points being in Malawi. On the east coast, the distribution occurs between Cape Kaiser, Tanzania and Londo, Mozambique. In the wild, the fish can be found in shallow depths among boulders. Konings describes this fish as being non-territorial and roams through the territories of other fish who apparently tolerate their presence.

I obtained four juveniles from River City Aquatics to cycle several tanks. After a couple months the group had its first spawn. I let the females hold to full-term the first few times. I've used this same group to cycle three tanks and they currently reside in a Malawi community tank. Labidichromis caeruleus breed regularly throughout the year in captivity. I highly recommend these fish to any aquarist, regardless of experience. Labidochromis caeruleus make a great addition to any community tank and provide active colors for hours of enjoyment.

Konings, Ad. Malawi Cichlids in Their Natural Habitat, 3rd Edition. El Paso: Cichlid Press, 2001.

■ *Jake Wand*

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