

# The Lateral Line

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Meet a New Member



## BAP Report

June saw a new entrant into our BAP program. Jim (bristlenose) received points for his successful spawning of *Otopharynx lithobates*. With two more reports pending, I'm certain we'll be seeing lots of wonderful cichlids from this experienced breeder. Charles (tangfish23) spawned another first in club species with *Lamprologus* sp. "kinganga". The number of fish he generously submits into the program is a testament to his skill at propagating the fish he works with. GenoJ also entered the program this month with a class C spawning of *Tropheus moorii* "Moliro". Congratulations Gene! His article on this species appears in this issue as well. July looks like a good month as well for the HCCC BAP. Remember to check the member's fish exchange section for a current list of species available from our program. See ya's next month. ■ *Greg Steeves*

July 1, 2005

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### Upcoming Events:

- July 21st-24th. TCA hosts the ACA Convention.

Cover Photo:  
*Lamprologus ocellatus*  
 by Dave Hansen

### Current Standings

Name	YTD
Greg	385
Charles	255
David D.	240
Jeff	140
Robert	120
Dave H.	75
Nick	75
Nathan	75
Ryan	45
Robby	45
Diane	45
Terry	45

### Current Standings (cont.)

Name	YTD
Lisa	35
Duc	30
Kris	25
JJ	25
Paul	25
Kevin	20
Jim	20
Gene	20
Dave S.	20
Dani	15
Mike	15

# HCCC Monthly Photo Contest



**Member's Choice**

**First Place:**

*Pseudacanthicus spinosus*

By Dave Rinaldo

**Member's Choice**

**Second Place:**

*Lamprologus ocellatus*

By Dave Hansen



**Member's Choice**

**Third Place:**

*Altolamprologus* sp. Sumbu "Dwarf"

By Diane Tennison

(Continued on page 18)

# HCCC 2005 Spring Show

The old adage "we've come a long way in a short time" certainly applies to the Hill Country Cichlid Club. Although we don't have the experience of some of the long established clubs in the country, we are willing to tackle just about anything we feel like doing and so far it's come off with flying colors. We've had successful auctions, great meetings with excellent presentations by club members, and a Christmas party that was just outstanding. There had been talk since our formation as a club about the possibility of someday having a show. There are a lot of logistics that go into such an event (the HCCC doesn't do anything half way) but after some discussion we felt it was time to organize the first ever HCCC Spring show and Awards Banquet.

We've been fortunate to have a facility available to us at a reasonable rate for past events so it was decided that we would hold our show May 14th 2005, at the Bracken United Methodist Church Hall. From day one Dave Hansen did most of the planning, running around and organizing of pretty much everything that took place that day. Before summarizing what took place let me first make

honorable mention to a couple people. Nick Andreola has become known as the HCCC engineer. He developed our air delivery system. Jeff Johnson deserves huge thanks as well. He provided the racking system, along with transportation to and from the event.

Carolyn and Mike Holtz took care of the catering and decorating for the meal. Carolyn also made our delicious desert. Lee Ann designed a really nice poster. Thanks to everyone that helped pick up, carry, clean, and paint tanks. The spirit of the club really came through at set up and tear down. We were a well oiled machine.



Speaker Pam Chin

Photo by Greg Steeves

After all the planning, finally show day was

here! People arrived to see over 70 tanks all set up with some beautiful fish occupying them. We met some great people from Monterrey Mexico that drove up to take part in our festivities as well. John Nicholson kicked our presenters off with a informative show on discus. John is a great guy and has been a friend of the HCCC since day one. We were honored that he came down and gave such a great presentation. Pam Chin talked on Malawian cichlids next. Pam was the first speaker we ever flew in to talk to us and she

was an excellent choice. Caroline Estes of Amazonia International helped us by sponsoring Pam. It's nice to have friends! Next on our speaker docket was club favorite Carlos Cardenas, owner of River City Aquatics. Carlos hosted a question and answer session that was the hit of the show. To understand how interesting this was, you would have had to been there. The only problem was that we only allotted him an hour and a half. The time flew by and left everyone wanting more. I have a feeling that if it's ok by Carlos, his Q&A session might become a regular event at all future HCCC shows.



Photo by Greg Steeves

After the speeches came time for show judging and set up for the banquet. Our show was judged by Caroline, Carlos and Pam. They certainly had their work cut out for themselves as there were awesome fish on display. After a short break, everyone was brought back in the hall and seated for the meal. We had a great buffet of Texas BBQ followed by Carolyn's wonderful desert. I overheard Diane bribing someone by promising to bring them a chocolate covered strawberry. Dave Hansen was our emcee and in his usual flair had everyone laughing and having a good time. Awards were presented for both BAP

and the show. John Yull took best in show with his *Eretmodus cyanostictus*. There was a really good showing from the catfish grouping and next show will likely see an enlargement of this category. After the awards were passed out, everyone was given a ticket and prizes were drawn. Everyone was given a goodie bag as well. Thanks to all our sponsors that made our prize drawings possible. Pam Chin finished off the evening with a presentation on Tanganyikan cichlids. I think the entire day turned out much better than anyone could

have hoped and we all had a great time. I'm sure the next spring show will be equally as successful and should serve as a stepping stone for 2007 when the HCCC hosts FOTAS!

■ Greg Steeves

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**Species Profile:****Altolamprologus sp. 'Sumbu dwarf'**

Altolamprologus sp 'Sumbu dwarf' is a substrate spawner native to Lake Tanganyika. The climate is sub-tropical with temperatures in the mid 70's to 80's and native waters for this fish are pH of 7.5. I obtained three 1 inch long fish from an individual (Eric Hailey) . Males achieve a size of 2 inches and have the typical Altolamprologus compressed body shape. Females achieve a size of 1 inch and have a white body with some black vertical stripes.

The fish bred in a 20 gallon long tank which contained sandy gravel and was planted with Anubias barteri . The tank was filtered by a sponge filter and had pH of 8.0. I performed weekly water changes equal to 20% of the tank volume. I used fluorescent lighting for a duration of 14 hours each day. I fed the fish brine flake food, spirulina flakes and baby brine shrimp.

When spawning, the males and females turn a dark color (sometimes completely black) and do quite a bit of displaying in front of the female's shell. The only way I could tell that

the fish spawned was because the females would stay in their shells and not leave sometimes for over a week. Even when I attempted to feed the fish, only the male would come out to feed.

After spawning, the female retreated to her shell and did not come out for approximately a week. The male continued his normal behavior and did not harass the female any



Photo by Diane Tennison

further. The female was the sole caregiver of the eggs/fry. I pretty much left the parents with the fry. I counted approximately 15-20 fry. I am feeding them a combination of crushed flake food and Cyclopeze. The fry were a white-ish color and have an elongated

cylindrical shape. Some fry already show black markings as well as a yellow-ish tint. They are approximately 1/2 an inch and are eating well.

The fry didn't require any special care on my part. I left them in the 20 gallon tank with the adults. I plan on moving them if the adults show any aggression towards them. The tank

used sponge filter for filtration. Once the female released the fry, she did not exhibit any tendency to care for the fry. However, the adults seem to be ignoring the fry and not preying on them. I started the fry off on Cyclop-Eeze. After seven days I started feeding crushed flake food. The fry grew slowly.

When breeding this fish, you have to be patient. It takes quite a while for the males and females to mature. It took me quite a while before these fish spawned for me. I believe it was over a year from the point of me getting them. At the



Photo by Duc Nguyen

beginning, I housed them with some other dither fish and they exhibited no signs of spawning, so after about 8 months, I removed the other fish and setup a species tank for them. I believe that's the best way to successfully induce these fish to spawn. Overall, their behavior is extremely interesting. They are basically a miniature version of the calvus/compressicep and also exhibit shell dweller behavior as well (they dart in their shells when danger approaches). While breeding *Altolamprologus* sp. 'Sumbu dwarf' was challenging, I would recommend them to other hobbyist. Although they are not the most attractive

fish, their behavior more than makes up for this.

I noticed that the females would pick out one particular shell that they chose as their 'home'. I noticed that when the females were very adamant at guarding their shells, I suspected that a spawn was approaching. Then a few

days after that, the female completely secluded herself in the shell. Even when feeding the fish, the females will not come out. Eventually, after about a week or so, I noticed the fry hopping around the tank. I do not believe I would do anything differently in future spawns. As of today,

the adults have not shown any aggression towards the fry.

■ *Duc Nguyen*

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**Species Profile:****Otopharynx lithobates**

Otopharynx Lithobates or Yellow Blaze Lithobate, is a maternal mouth brooder native to the rocky shoreline of Lake Malawi, Africa. The climate is sub-tropical with temperatures between 23 - 28 degrees C on the waters surface. And native waters for this fish are pH of 7.8 - 8.5. I obtained six 1.5 - 2 inches fish from JJ Tropaquatics. Males achieve a size of 6 inches and have a dark blue body with yellow blaze and yellow stripe on dorsal fin. Females



Photos by Greg Steeves

achieve a size of 5 inches and are tan or beige with 3 blotches or spots in a vertical row on each side. My male has reached a size of 5 inches and the female approximately 4 inches.

The fish bred in a 46 gallon corner tank which contained small gravel and had no plants. The tank was filtered by an Emperor 280 Bio-Wheel and had an unknown PH with water temp of 80 degrees F. I performed weekly

water changes equal to 20% of the tank volume. I used fluorescent lighting for duration of 15 hours each day. I fed the fish HBH Flake "Seafood Lovers" and "Veggie Flake". No special foods to enhance spawning were added.

When spawning, the blue color of the male intensifies. Females tan bodies become a shade darker. The male's colors intensified and displayed them in the "Peacock" manner. He would dart at female in an attempt to attract her. This process seemed long, and I did not actually observe spawning.

Since I did not observe actual spawning, it was unknown to me that the pair created approximately 40 plus unknown



color eggs. After spawning the female returned to hiding among the rocks. I did not have much luck with the first 2 spawns, but each spawning after that has increased the

number of fry now produced. I wait 16 days before removing female so not to stress her while I remove rocks from breeding tank. She is placed in a divided 10 gal tank w/sponge filter. Approximately 48 eggs representing 99-100% of the total hatch were viable and hatched after 28 days. Fry remained still on bottom or side of glass for the first day and they were very small with very little yolk sac remaining.

Feed fry 2 - 3 times a day, with water change every 3 days for first 21 days. The tank used a sponge filter for filtration, which I do not clean during the entire time of raising the fry until they are moved to a larger tank. After releasing the fry, the female made no attempt to let fry back in or to care for them. I started the fry off on Cyclop-Eeze & finely crushed flakes. After 21 days, I started feeding crushed flake food in larger sizes. The fry grew slowly.

Dominant males do not accept either sex of the same species or any other fish in their area. During spawning, aggression can be hazardous to the females as well as the males. This was not easy for me to have an actual spawning. Not enough hiding places at first resulted in damaged or dead females. Females very skittish and I lost first two batches of fry. This fish may not



Photo by Spencer Jack

be the hardest of the Africans to spawn, but is more challenging than "Red Emperors" or "Lemon Jakes" to me. I would recommend you have more patience and knowledge when you attempt to spawn these fish.

This was my fifth time spawning this pair. First two attempts failed due to my impatience in trying to protect the female. Aggression by

dominant male led to the loss of one female and damage to two other males. Finally I moved all the males and left only two females in breeding tank. Also I increased rock structure to provide more secure areas.

In a breeding tank, both sexes will hide in the rocks and are not visible at all times. In a community tank, a solo male, though nippy, is very visible and very pretty.

■ *Jim Beck*

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**Species Profile:****Tropheus sp. Red "Moliro"**The Tropheus Bug Bites

After many years of not keeping tropical fish, I decided after our move to Texas in 2000 to revisit the hobby I enjoyed as a teenager. To say that things had changed since then would be an understatement! I decided to set up a 65 gallon Lake Malawi tank and went with the multi-species of males route with a few "rogues" from other areas. The biggest tanks I had previously were 20 gallons so this was a "huge" tank for me. The family and I enjoyed the Malawi tank, however, I was harboring thoughts of a new tank.

After a visit to Armke's a few years ago with my wife, we saw some fish I had truly never seen before - Tropheus. These fish and the non-stop activity we saw in their tanks of Tropheus fascinated us. In addition, my wife found their unique shape "cute". She actually found them more interesting than I did at that time. But in discussing the fish with some of the staff and their enthusiasm for the genus, I became more interested in these fish. So the research began for me on these fish from Lake Tanganyika. I was surprised at really how little good information from experts was available. However, "The Cichlid Room Companion" is a good start (<http://www.cichlidae.com/>) along with Ad Konings' books on Lake Tanganyika. That which was available was fairly consistent in describing the general behavior and keeping Tropheus. You need to obtain a fairly large number of fish to start with to address their

aggressive intra-specific behavior and allow them to establish their hierarchy. It is very difficult to introduce new members later on to the colony, as the existing members will dispense with the intruders. One should have a large tank with lots of hiding areas and with ultra-perfect water conditions. Also, their dietary requirements and propensity for intestinal maladies probably present the biggest challenge in successfully keeping them. Unfortunately, there are more than a few articles that can be found on the Internet that describe the agony of losing an entire colony of fish. Thus, it is for these reasons that several articles conclude that these fish are not for the "novice" and present a challenge even to "expert" fish keepers. In addition, there are so many color varieties now known that there is something for everyone. OK, so now I was really intrigued. By no means an "expert" I was really interested in keeping these fish.

Taking the Tropheus Plunge

Last year shortly after River City Aquatics opened, I asked for a quote on an Oceanic 125 gallon set up for my Tropheus experiment. I figured the best way to sell the idea of a new tank to my bride was to position it as a new piece of "fine furniture" hence the Oceanic choice and she was receptive to the idea of me trying to keep Tropheus. Well, we got side tracked along the way opting to put in a water garden last summer. That is another story. However, last December I went back and

asked if I could get the set up quoted again. To my surprise, Carlos Cardenas still had the original quote tacked up on his board and said



Photo by Gene Janulis

it was still good. I asked him why he kept it and he said it was one of the first quotes he did when they opened. Destiny staring me in the face right there and then, I placed the tank order. However, I suspect Carlos knew I'd be back once the *Tropheus* bug had bit me.

So the decision was made I was going to set up a *Tropheus* tank but now I was faced with the decision of what *Tropheus* to procure? Also, I was unsure if I would be a "purist" and go with one species or for some variety get two different species. This is a challenge as well because depending on what you read and want to believe there are between four to over 12 species within the *Tropheus* lineage. This posed an interesting challenge as well. I decided to go with two species and trust Mr.

Koning' and Carlos' advice and choose one "red" species and one "black" species. This seemed safe as one is from the south side of

the lake and the latter from the north side. In the event of successfully spawning the fish, I certainly did not want to run the risk of any hybrids.

So the tank was set up in early January. In addition to the 125-gallon tank (72

x 18 x 23), it was equipped with a 300-watt heater, lighting, Cherry Oak stand and canopy and an Eheim 2260 canister filter. The flow from this filter is awesome. Originally, I was going with something smaller but in the interest of obtaining optimum water conditions I decided to go big.

I was going to be patient and let the tank naturally cycle. I decided to add some *Synodontis multipunctatus* to get the nitrogen cycle going. Yes, I now know the method of spawning for these cats. My original decision was made to keep only fish from Lake Tanganyika in this new tank and my research did not extend to the catfish from Tanganyika I was going to add. Oh, well. The poor catfish were being tossed unmercifully around the tank due to the flow from the 2260. I put

in a few pieces of small holey rock to give them refuge while I shopped for some show pieces to complete my set up for the future arrival of the Tropheus I had yet to decide on and order. After all, I had weeks ahead of me before the tank had cycled and was ready for the addition of 40-50 Tropheus.

Five days after being set up I received a call from Carlos on a "great" deal on a group of Kiriza and Moliro Tropheus. So much for patience, I ordered 25 of each. Now I needed that big holey rock.

I also added Bio Spira from Marineland Labs to do get a jump-start on the bacteria colony that was needed to handle this fish load so soon. Three rock showpieces (180 lbs total weight) were chosen the same day the fish had arrived. Rock was placed, fish

were added and I crossed my fingers that the fish would do OK without having the tank fully cycled. The ammonia peaked at 0.75 ppm during the first two days and was 0.00 ppm by the fourth day. Nitrite peaked at 1.00 ppm on days 4-5 and was still at 0.25 ppm a week later but was 0.00 at day 10. This stuff does work and I recommend it for a new tank.

The biggest challenge during this period was

that on day 4 the colonies had Ick. In particular the Moliro group. I did the usual. I did a water change, temperature was slowly raised to 82o, salt and Quick Cure was added. This was a particularly challenging bout of Ick as it took a week of Quick Cure treatments before all signs were gone. Fortunately, during these first two weeks of Tropheus keeping there were no fish losses.

These fish are so, so active. They are highly social and gregarious. One can spend hours

watching their behavior. Watching the males stake out and defend territories and vying for the attention of the females is non-stop. If you want a place to sit quietly and meditate, sitting in front of a tank of Tropheus is NOT the place.



Photo by Gene Janulis

#### Breeding of Tropheus sp. Red "Moliro"

The Moliro group averaged about 1-1 ¼ inches in length when I received them and the Kiriza group was much smaller ranging from ½ - 1 inch. So the Moliro group had an initial edge in size on the Kiriza group. They have been growing quite rapidly and now all average over 2 inches in total length. I feed them once per day. Currently they are

receiving ½ tbs. of OSI Spirulina flake, 1/3 tsp. of Dainichi Veggie Deluxe (Baby - Sinking) and 1/3 tsp. of Dainichi Veggie Deluxe (Small - Sinking).

I am quite rigorous in my tank maintenance and chemistry. I do 50% water changes weekly and use Seachem Tanganyika Buffer and Cichlid Lake Salt to maintain water parameters. Water chemistry is as follows:

pH = 8.8 (it will drop over the course of the week but it is 8.8 after the water change)

NH3 = 0 ppm

NO2 = 0 ppm

NO3 = 10-20 ppm

KH = 16-20°

GH = 14-16°

The Moliro Tropheus can undergo quite dramatic and quick color variations. When in "fright" mode they show a barred pattern with some red, blue and green. Top males and females are dark burgundy red, almost black with some lighter red areas. They also have blue in the base of their dorsal, anal and pectoral fins. Male's eyes when interested in spawning take on a bit of yellow color, which provides a stark contrast with their nearly black heads.

Almost two months after adding the fish I observed a female Moliro holding and the next day I observed a spawning first hand. The

male gets the attention of a receptive female, she lays an eggs picks it up. It is fertilized as the male "dances" in front of her, the two of them forming a "T". In a week after my initial observation, I had at least four females holding. They move so much and there is so much activity in the tank that I cannot be sure of my count. The fish were less than 2 inches in length and I was surprised that they could spawn so early. I decided to let nature take its course as I did not expect that these young fish would hold the eggs long enough to strip



Photo by Gene Janulis

them. In addition, I had no desire to try and capture them. I began looking for any signs of Moliro fry after three weeks. I did not observe any fry in the six weeks following my initial holding observation. After returning from a business trip I observed one fry on my return, this was seven weeks after the initial spawning. Several were still holding. No

telling if this fry was from the original round. The day after I observed the first fry I spotted another and then another. A total of five have been released since the end of April to mid-May. No additions since then although there are again some holding. They are growing quite rapidly and the largest is almost ½ inch in length. They have a hint of red but sport a strong barred pattern at this young age. It is interesting to note that even at this early age they engage in typical *Tropheus* behavior of chasing one another and attempting to lip lock to establish dominance.

Overall, my short experience (less than six months) with *Tropheus* has been enjoyable and interesting. However, there have been some

bumps. There have been some skirmishes. I have lost one Moliro due to aggression and have a Kiriza sporting one eye. Those teeth that are so well adapted for algae grazing are also quite good at picking a scale off of a rival as well. Somebody always seems to have a nipped fin or two. Also, there have been a few times when I observed a sluggish fish or two at feeding time. I immediately did a 50% water change at those times and everything got back on track. Actually, they always seem more relaxed after a water change and feeding.

■ *Gene Janulis*

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### Species Profile:

## Haplochromis sp. "red back scraper"

While exploring the northern portion of Mwanza Gulf in 1991, Yves Fermon and Ole Seehausen discovered a beautiful cichlid, *Haplochromis* sp. "red back scraper" habituating papyrus and reed beds along the shores of Nyegezi Bay. They were able to collect a sampling that included one holding female. All *Haplochromis* sp. "red back scrapers" in our aquariums today are descendants from this one collection. Unfortunately, this colorful little haplochromine has not been seen in the wild since and is thought to be extinct.

Yves grouped *Haplochromis* sp. "red back scraper" as a pseudonyererei and he originally referred to it as *Haplochromis psuedonyererei*".

Although still undescribed, *Haplochromis* sp. "red back scraper" shares specialized dentition with *Haplochromis* sp. "purple yellow" and *Haplochromis* sp. "blue obliquidens". The wild populations of *Haplochromis* sp. "red back scraper" were in all likelihood algae scrapers.

In captivity, *Haplochromis* sp. "red back scraper" is an undemanding colorful addition to an aquarium. The species appears to be closely related to *Haplochromis* sp. "purple yellow". Dominant males have split coloration on the body. The bottom portion is colored a yellow green while the top, below the dorsal an orange red. The dorsal fin is beautifully colored bright red at the base

merging to blue at the edges. Six to eight vertical bars line the flanks. Male coloration can vary from this bright description to a much darker, yet similarly marked coloration. Males can reach a size of four inches, females slightly



smaller. Females hold clutches of over thirty larvae. Haplochromis sp. "red back scraper" is a maternal mouthbrooder. Spawning occurs on a flat surface with the classic haplochromine circling and scooping eggs. Gestation lasts 17 days. The female will allow the fry back into the buccal cavity for a few days post release. After this the young are left to fend for themselves.

Our group of Haplochromis sp. "red back scraper" is housed with Harpagochromis sp. "golden duck" and Haplochromis sp. "madonna". All three of these species vary greatly in both body shape and coloration. We do this to discourage any intra species breeding. The mix seems to work well. They are housed together in a 65 gallon tanks with

power filtration. All three species are undemanding and do well on a diet of basic flake. They are not so aggressive as some other Victorian Basin cichlids.

Hopefully wild populations of Haplochromis sp. "red back scraper" are yet to be found, but as with so many other Lake Victoria cichlids, it might now be up to the hobbyist to ensure the existence of this beautiful little treasure.

■ Greg Steeves

Photos by Greg Steeves



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# Meet a New Member

*This month Dave Hansen is on the hot seat. Dave is certainly not a new member, but not everybody might know him. Dave has been with the club since it all began. Dave is in charge of the club's finances as well as club events. He's also an auctioneer for our auctions as well as the MC of our special events.*

*Interview conducted by Terry Isbell.*

**Terry:** What brought you into the hobby?

**Dave:** I got my first tank when I was pretty young. It was a 20 long and what a fricking disaster that was. I had a salvini, firemouth, 2 albino channel cats, and get this...a snakehead. I knew nothing about nothing and it was crazy. I did everything possibly wrong. This was well before the internet and most of my info was gathered from the LFS owner. Turns out years later he knew nothing as well...the blind leading the blind. I kept some fish off and on over the years and kept pretty much everything at one point. Finally when I was a bit older and married and things settled down I started to get into the hobby again and knew I wanted to keep cichlids and it has been great ever since. This time around I was fortunate to be around people who knew what they were doing.

**Terry:** Do you have any particular favorite species you have or would like to keep?

**Dave:** One simple answer...no!!! I like pretty much everything. If I had to pick a favorite group it would be the Pundamelia from Lake

Victoria. I have mostly Tangs and Victorians now and would really like to get into the West Africans as well.

**Terry:** Can you describe your ultimate dream set up?

**Dave:** Funny you should ask. I am currently designing my fishroom slated for construction this year. My wife was feeling good one day and gave me a spare 17 x 12 room that we had as my fishroom. The first requirement is it has to be clean and organized. Ultimately for me it is about looking and enjoying my fish. I don't like cluttered setups where you can't just sit down and relax. I like a uniform look and will keep tank sizes down to 2 or 3 different sizes, 20 long, 55 and 100's. I debated central vs. individual filtration for quite awhile and have decided on individual filtration for the tanks. A must will be a automated water changing system. I believe the focal point should be the tanks and will have darker fixtures for stands and probably some track lighting highlighting the tanks. A small portion of the room will have a small bookcase for my books and magazines and possibly food storage, including a small fridge for frozen food and to keep bulk quantities of dry fresh till needed. I also am trying to come up with a nice way to relay info from each tank including fish, spawn dates, dietary requirements, etc. I am playing around with a computer touch screen which would like to a database for that part of the project. I could go on for-

ever and surely will share more info with the club as I get farther into it.

**Terry:** What are some of the things or ideas you have in mind for the future of your tanks?

**Dave:** Not messing around too much with anything right now so I can concentrate on the fishroom.

**Terry:** What are some of your Boys favorite fish and according to them.. why?

**Dave:** Pony, my oldest loves yellow labs, which I have none of right now. His favorite of the existing fish are a group of 1M/3F Pseudotropheus saulosi, because they are pretty and they nibble on his fingers when he feeds them. Zachary, the youngest is only 20 months old and loves anything that is on the bottom row of tanks. Right now some brichardi are in one tank, and ocellatus and callochromis in the other. I clean hand prints off the glass everyday. The fish don't even mind him anymore. Usually once a day I pull either a rubber ball or matchbox out of the tanks that he has dropped in the tanks. I put a latch on the bottom row but that took him all of 2 days to discover. The fish nibble on his hands constantly and he laughs pretty hard.

**Terry:** Now for some more personal background to know you better. Where did you grow up what was it like?

**Dave:** I was military brat. I was born in Ft. Polk, LA. From there we went to Alaska, Boston, New York, and Germany. At about 10 I started living with my Aunt and Uncle in

Michigan and stayed there till I was 23-24. I absolutely love Michigan and would love to move back there. Most of my family is there. I love the area and the weather. My wife says I can go back...she will visit me!!! I especially loved the winter. I snow skied often and played a lot of hockey.

**Terry:** Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

**Dave:** No idea. I recently was promoted at work and hope that trend continues. I am finishing up my degree right now on nights and weekends. I have 119 hours, so not too much further to go to completion. Who knows where that will lead me to in the future?

**Terry:** Any other pets?

**Dave:** We have a black lab named Marty. She is absolutely wonderful with the boys. We got her at about 5 months old and she is 7 now.

**Terry:** About the club, is there anything you would change in the club or forum, good or bad?

**Dave:** The club is great. I really would like to see more people get involved. The club will be what we want it to be, and the base there is really fantastic. No one should be shy about stepping up with ideas. We can always use more energy in the club. Some of us do quite a bit and would love to see other get involved, not because we get tired of it, but so they can have the same experience and joy that we get from being involved!!

# HCCC Monthly Photo Contest



Due to the manner in which this month's judging took place, several other photographs were considered by members to be worthy of winning it all.

*Lamprologus meleagris/stappersi*  
By Terry Isbell

*Corydoras* sp. C121  
By Dave Rinaldo



*Parambassis pulcinella*  
By Dave Rinaldo

# BAP Fish

*Members of the Hill Country Cichlid Club are entitled to purchase Breeder Award Program fish at a great price. This list changes often as new fish become available and other members take advantage of this great program.*

Sciaenochromis fryeri 6 fry \$5.00  
 Pseudotropheus flavus 6 fry \$5.00  
 Pseudotropheus flavus Adult pair \$5.00  
 Pseudotropheus elongatus 6 fry \$5.00

Aulonocara baenschi 6 fry \$5.00  
 Metriclima estherae 6 fry \$5.00  
 Otopharynx lithobates 6 fry \$5.00  
 Lamprologus sp. "kinganga" 6 fry \$5.00  
 Aulonocara jacobfreibergi 6 fry \$5.00

If you are interested in any of these fish, please contact Greg (Gas) via the discussion board.

**The Texas Cichlid  
 Association  
 host this year's ACA  
 Convention**



**Radisson Hotel Plaza  
 Fort Worth, TX  
 July 21-24, 2005**

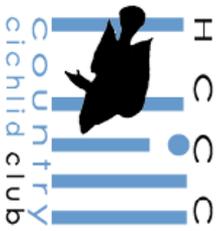
This summer brings a very special event to Texas. The Texas Cichlid Association ([www.texascichlid.org](http://www.texascichlid.org)) will be hosting this year's annual American Cichlid Association convention.

Confirmed speakers for the event include:  
 Ad Konings, Willem Heijns, Al Klee, Laif DeMason, Wayne Leibel, Spencer Jack, Ric Perez and Howard Schmidt.

At this year's convention you will also find vendor displays, silent auctions, raffles, the largest cichlid show and a Texas-size cichlid auction on Sunday.



**For more information visit [www.texascichlid.org](http://www.texascichlid.org)**



**The Lateral Line**

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