

The Lateral Line

Volume 1, Issue 5

October 1, 2004

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Upcoming Events:

- Cichlid Day 2004 Auction
October 23rd,
- HCCC Christmas Party.

Cover Photo:
Altolamprologus
calvus "Yellow".
by James Kuhn

BAP Report

Last month brought some new rules for the Breeder Award Program. All entries must now have a 60 day waiting period prior to earning points. This is to ensure that fry survive before points are given. Continue to submit your BAP reports as soon as possible. Points will sit on a pending column until the 60 days are up or the fry are purchased by another club member as a BAP fry donation.

As you can see by the standings, things have tightened up. Greg no longer has a huge lead as Charles nears closer. Third place has now become very crowded as old members score more points and new members start submitting entries.

Keep those fish healthy and spawning and submit your reports right away.

Current Standings

Name	Score	Pending
Greg	320	
Charles	230	60
Robert	135	
Duc	105	
Paul	105	
Dave H.	90	
Lisa	60	
Blair	55	60
Brian	40	
Kris	25	20

Cichlid Day 2004 Auction

We are working hard to ensure everything goes smoothly for our first auction. Things will be organized a little differently than other auctions.

Since this is our first auction, it will be cash only. This will ensure that sellers can be paid promptly. Sorry for the inconvenience this may cause.

Unlike other fish auctions, there will be no charge for bidder numbers. This means you can show up, obtain a bidder number and not have to pay anything if you don't win an item.

Payment for an item will also be made right after it is won. The item will be brought to you and payment will be taken at the same time. This will allow bidders to leave at any time without having to check out.

These steps have been taken so things go

as smoothly as possible and to minimize the possibility of things going wrong. We want everyone, both bidders and sellers, to leave our auction feeling that everything went smoothly.

Our auction will be held on Saturday, October 23rd at 12:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome to participate. The location is the Bracken United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall off of I-35 just north of San Antonio (by Garden Ridge). Hobbyists and professionals will be bringing fish and other items. Non-members are welcome. Doors will open at 10:00 A.M. for early registration and to view auction items.

Snacks and drinks will be available at our concession stand. We will also have some HCCC wear available for purchase. Items include shirts and caps, all with an embroidered HCCC logo.

HCCC Monthly Photo Contest

First Place:

Altolamprologus calvus
Photo by Terry Isbell



Second Place:

Cyprichromis leptosoma
Photo by Robert De Leon



Third Place:

Alto. compressiceps 'Gold Head' Kantalamba
Photo by David Dockwiller



A special thanks Pam Chin for judging our second photo contest. This month's topic was Tanganyikans under 4 inches.

Interview with Pam Chin

By Dave Hansen

Pam Chin has been a cichlid enthusiast for many years. She is also the editor of the Pacific Coast Cichlid Association publication, The Cichlidae Communicate. Pam also writes the well know column titled "Ask Pam".

Dave: When did your interest in fish keeping begin and what was the first fish that you kept?

Pam: I didn't know I was interested in fish until I met Gary, my husband. He had fish tanks all over his house and I really enjoyed them. It was long before he figured out that I could change water and clean filters, and I guess the rest is history. The major problem with both spouses in this hobby is no control. We didn't start out with a goal to have so many tanks, over time it just happened. We started working with Discus and

Angels, which is a lot of work, the African Rift Lakes came next and they are much more forgiving! We are more cichlid diverse than we have ever been, keeping species from Malawi, Tanganyika, Central and South Americans. Gary has an amazing way with fish, I always think of him as my secret weapon, because what ever I drag home he is able to make them flourish. He doesn't like to travel, he is happy just staying home with his fish and his other bad habit; racing pigeons! I love to travel, and he is great about letting me go to fish events and on collecting trips. Providing I bring him home some neat cichlids!

Dave: I see you are a member of Babes in The Cichlid Hobby. What can you tell me about that group?

Pam: I am a founding member of the Babes In The Cichlid Hobby, where our goal is to make a difference in the hobby. All of the money we raise goes direct to the Guy D. Jordan Endowment Fund and the Paul V. Loiselle Conservation Funds administered by the

(Continued on page 4)

American Cichlid Association. The interest on these funds help finance cichlid research and conservation, a cause that is very close to our hearts. Secondly, we like to have fun, we our famous for our social events at ACA! And its a good thing, because at this years ACA, if it wasn't for the Babes In The Cichlid Hobby, there would have been no social events! Thirdly, in a hobby that is 99% male dominated, we enjoy watching the cichlid men in our life obsess over what we might be up to.

Dave: What is your favorite fish and why?

Pam: I hate this kind of question, obviously I can't make up my mind. I can't even get it down to less than 5 or 6! I am better at narrowing it down by genus, rather than species. I am very interested in the Brichardi-complex, and so I am working with about 8 – 10 different species, I really enjoy all of them. I am over the deep end with Tropheus, I usually only have a couple of species at a time, but I don't know what happened, I am up to about 8 species of Tropheus right now. Then I have my two pet Parachromis dovii, that I am totally devoted to, the are so gorgeous and so smart! I am fascinated with Julidochromis, I have to have all

the species, all the time. I could go on and on....

Dave: I know you write a lot of articles and are active in many clubs. Is there a specific project you are working on now?

Pam: I really enjoy the organized hobby, and it has been very good to me. I have met so many people and have made friends for a lifetime all through fish clubs. In fact sometimes I wonder if it is the fish or the people I love more! I always have a couple of articles that I am working on, I enjoy writing and sharing my experiences with cichlids. However, right now the main project we are working on is the remodel of our fish house. The main change has been new metal stands for our tanks. You can take a look at what I have been up to at: <http://homepage.mac.com/pamchin/PhotoAlbum2.html>

Dave: Tell us about your life outside of fish keeping?

Pam: My real job is a buyer for a large commercial mechanical contractor. I buy everything we need to do the job from sheet metal screws to 500 ton chillers. It is a lot of fun, I get to shop all day and spend someone else money!



Xenotilapia flavipinnis Nyanza
By John Yull



Triglachromis otostigma
By John Yull

Eretmodus cyanostictus
By John Yull



Neolamprologus pulcher
By Dave Hansen

Petrochromis sp. Red Bulu
By Kris Haddad





Various Tropheus & Petrochromis
By Kris Haddad



Neolamprologus brichardi
By Terry Isbell

Altolamprologus calvus
By Terry Isbell



Neolamprologus multifasciatus Pair
By Greg Steeves

Altolamprologus calvus
By Greg Steeves



Julidochromis
marlieri "Gombi"
By Blair Howell



Neolamprologus brichardi
By Diane Tennison



Julidochromis marlieri
By Lisa Boorman

Neolamprologus leleupi
By Dave Hansen



Altolamprologus sp. Sumbu "Dwarf"
By Donald Davis



Cyprichromis leptosoma Kipili
By Donald Davis



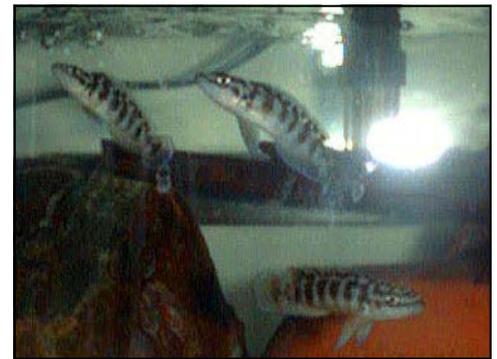
Julidochromis transcriptus Gombi
By Donald Davis



Altolamprologus calvus White
By Duc Nguyen



Julidochromis dickfeldi
"Midnight"
By Robert De Leon



Julidochromis Transcriptus
By Duc Nguyen



Chalinochromis brichardi
By Dave Hansen



Tanganicodus irsacae
By Duc Nguyen

All photos cropped for layout purposes

Pundamilia nyererei of Mwanza Bay

— by Greg Steeves

Last issue, Greg gave an introduction to the *Pundamilia nyererei* variants from Mwanza Bay. Three of the variants were covered and they included *Igombe*, *Python* and *Makobe*.

Pundamilia nyererei are not large fish. Maximum length is around three inches with the females usually

being a bit smaller. Nearly all the female *Pundamilia nyererei*, regardless of locale, look similar. Basic coloration consists of a tan brown body with straight vertical striping. Fins are translucent and colorless for the most part with slight tingeing of blue in the dorsal fin. It is the males of this species which we concentrate on because color and body patterning is unique enough to

be able to pin down what variant we are dealing with. *Pundamilia* have a nearly straight slope to the forehead. The mouth contains three to five rows of randomly spaced bicuspid and unicuspid teeth. Along the lateral line *nyererei* have small, deeply embedded scales. This is very evident when comparing these fish along side any of the *Paralabidochromis* species. All males of this complex are brightly colored, with red being predominant in most cases. Throughout the southern portion of Lake Victoria, *Pundamilia nyererei* are restricted to small pockets where it would appear that they have evolved as an isolated group. The most obvious barrier that keeps differing *nyererei* locales from interacting is open water. These fish frequent the shallows where they feed mostly on the small creatures associated with algal growths. There are local populations far removed from each other that are similarly colored, but it is unlikely that these fish came from a common ancestor. More likely, this is a case of parallel evolution.

Locale variants of *Pundamilia nyererei*:

Ruti Island

Head coloration: Lips are lined blue with the top lip being brighter than the bottom. A thick black bar runs between the eyes. Lower half of the head is black extending underneath the jaw. An undefined thin black bar runs behind the eyes and around the forehead. Top of the forehead is colored orange.

Body coloration: The entire underside of the body from the tip of the jaw, extending well into the gill plate, is black. Seven black bars are super-imposed on a bright yellow body. The yellow coloration extends to the dorsal fin. The black

body bars are thick 3/4 way up the body and fade the top 1/4 towards the dorsal. Five bars are dominant on the body with the last two towards the tail not being as clearly defined. Bottom 3/4 of the caudal peduncle is black with an orange hue running along the spine.

Fin coloration: The region of the dorsal fin where it meets the body has a black line running along its length. The front 2/3 portion of the dorsal is bright yellow. The back dorsal section is yellow fading to almost colorless. The anal fin is of the same yellow coloration as the dorsal with the front portion being darker than the end. The back portion of the anal fin is hued red. The brightest, most vibrant yellow, is found in the middle of the anal fin. Three to six egg spots dot the back portion. The tail fin starts out jet black and fades to translucent with a faint hint of red.

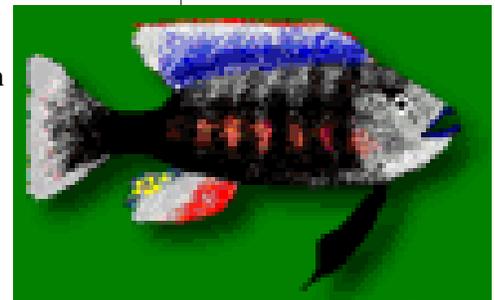


Ruti Island
Artwork by Greg Steeves

Nansio Island "red flank"

Head coloration: The basic head coloration is a dull gray to steel blue color. The throat is shaded lighter to almost white. Bottom lip is lighter colored than upper lip. A bar runs from the corner of the mouth into the eye and thickens as it streaks around the head. A light barely distinguishable bar runs between the eyes halfway up the forehead. An orange spot can adorn the gill plate, This is found in some individuals and not in others.

Body coloration: The underside of the body is a red orange coloration fading



Nansio Island
Artwork by Greg Steeves

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lighter to yellow towards the tail. Seven black bars run from the belly right to the dorsal region on the back. A red hue is present throughout the body but much lighter along the belly and darkening towards the dorsal. The region of the caudal peduncle is dark blue black.

Fin coloration: The dorsal fin is turquoise in some individuals and blue in others. Dorsal has a red border running along the top in a thin line. The beginning of each ray is red and fades to the blue color halfway up the fin. The tail fin is black in the region immediately extending from the caudal peduncle and deep red for the remaining portion. The anal fin is the same red coloration as the tail with five to seven yellow egg spots. The pelvic fins are black, fading to red in the upper back section.

Anchor Island

Head coloration: This nyererei is instantly recognizable by its incurved cranial slope, that is the forehead is somewhat concave compared to other nyererei which have a straight declining slope. Lips are a blue green color. Bottom part of the head is black with the throat region being lighter, nearly white. A clearly defined black line runs between the eyes. The upper 1/3 portion of the head is red and this coloration extends into the body. Another black bar runs between the eyes up into the forehead.

Body coloration: Seven black vertical bars adorn the body. The barring is so wide that this fish has the appearance of having a solid black belly region. Smidges of purple red speck between the

bars and becomes more predominant towards the dorsal.

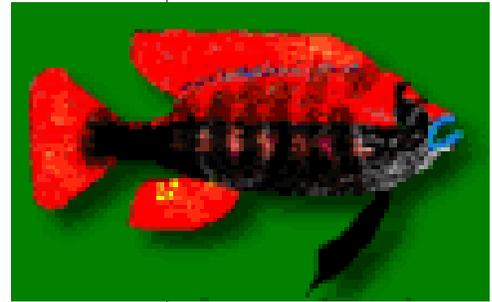
Fin coloration: The dorsal is a solid red and of the same shade and coloration as the upper regions of this fish are. The anal and tail fin is colored solid red as well. Three to five egg spots are located in on the further reaches of the anal fin. Long black pelvic fins flow underneath.

Zue Island "red head"

Head coloration: Bottom lip is lightly colored a white blue. Basic face coloration is pink. Three faded bars run across the forehead. The throat region is deep red and merges into the pink of the face. A faded vertical bar runs across the face and through the eye.

Body coloration: Seven clearly defined vertical bars are clear on the body. The belly region is orange and fades to yellow then pink towards the dorsal. The section of the body above the anal fin is green. A lighter blaze runs across the spine.

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Anchor Island
Artwork by Greg Steeves

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Fin coloration: The dorsal fin is bright blue lined and spotted red as it extends. The tail fin is transparent and red colored. The anal fin is a blue green with three to five egg spots. Pelvic fins are black along the first two fin rays and fade to lightly colored red.

Luanso Island

Head coloration: Basic head color is steel gray with a blue sheen. Three well defined lines run across the forehead. The first bar is right above the lips and does not run completely across the snout. The middle bar runs between the eyes midway down the cranial slope. A thick black vertical bar stretches from the corners of the mouth, through the eye and across the top of the forehead. Lips are light blue. A black patch stretches from the throat and covers the gill plate.

Body coloration: Underside is black. Seven black stripes run vertically up the body and fade out 2/3 the way towards the dorsal. A yellow background is visible between the body bars and fades to red near the dorsal. Caudal peduncle is yellow on top and black on the bottom.

Dorsal fin is bright blue speckled in red and black where it meets the body. Tail

fin is black where it emerges from the caudal region and then turns bright red. Anal fin is blue with red markings along the fin rays. First two fin rays in the anal fins are black. Five to seven egg spots are found near the upper back portion of the fin. Pelvic fins are black.

Pundamilia nyererei is well represented in the southern portion of Lake Victoria.

There are well over twenty differing locale variants found in the Mwanza Gulf region alone. I have included the more common varieties that we as hobbyists are likely to see. The eastern coast of Lake Victoria is largely un-surveyed when compared to the south, so it would stand to reason that we may see more amazing variants as exploration continues. These fish instantly become favorites of aquarists. Their small size, vibrant coloration, and non demanding requirements, along with their ease of reproduction are factors that will hopefully keep *Pundamilia nyererei* in our tanks for generations to come.



Zue Island
Artwork by Greg Steeves



Luanso Island
Artwork by Greg Steeves

DIY Light Fixture

— by Nick Andreola

I have been shopping for some new light fixtures for my 2 'new to me' 45 Gal. Breeders for a while now. On one side, the high cost of many of the 36" double tube units, \$100 and up, and on the other side, the cheap looking cheesiness of the more affordably priced units has made choosing difficult.

A month or so ago, I ran across a couple

of 24" double fixtures at a garage sale. They looked barely used and the price was extremely reasonable. The little wheels in my mind started turning. I unscrewed the ballast cover on one of them and behold, the ballast was rated for 24" through 48" bulbs! The little wheels cranked up to high speed and my choice was made.

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I bought the fixtures and set out to make an inexpensive, yet still attractive, housing. I decided to build with wood so the housings would blend with the overall look of the double-decker stand I'm working on. Another design criteria I decided to incorporate was to have the housing straddle the tank, making it impossible for electricity and water to meet! A few close calls while cleaning my other tanks established that I'm a klutz and this would be an important safety feature!

I've been using one of the homemade fixture/housings for a few weeks now. I absolutely love it. I think they look better than the cheesy ones and were way less expensive than the others. Functionally, they couldn't be better. Because the housing rests on the tank's rim, I am able to remove my homemade Plexiglas cover completely during clean ups. I can leave the lights on for better visibility and just slide the unit front to back as needed with no chance of a shocking experience for me or my fish.

I followed Carlos' suggestion on bulb choice and used 1 Hagen Powerglow and 1 Marineglow. I think the combination is fantastic. Here are a couple of photos of the finished units. On the first one I built, I just installed the entire 24" fixture into the housing. For the second one, I took the parts from the fixture and made it into a 36" unit. I like the 36" version so much better that I will upgrade the first. If you are interested in construction details, the complete 'how-to' is in the DIY article section. www.xdeleon.com/hccc/articles/DIY-light.pdf



Species Profile: *Cyprichromis Leptosoma*

— by H. Blair Howell

Cyprichromis leptosoma or the sardine cichlids, as they are called in the hobby, come from Lake Tanganyika where they live in schools numbering in the 1000s or more. They are one of the only true schooling cichlids known. They occur in a number of different geographical variants each displaying a different coloration and each variant occurring in both a blue and a yellow tailed morph. While the females remain a dull dusky color the male's colors can be quite stunning.

Cyprichromis are found around rocky shorelines and in open water all over the lake. They prefer a temperature of 74 - 78 degrees and as with all rift lake cichlids like hard alkaline water.

In the aquarium *Cyprichromis* should be kept in groups of at least 6 individuals or more. They are sensitive to water quality and good filtration is a must. They are great for a Tanganyikan community tank because they occupy the upper layers of the tank.

Some care should be taken in choosing tank mates for *Cyprichromis*. They should never be housed with *frontosa* as they are a primary food source in the wild.

Cyprichromis can be very entertaining to watch as the male are constantly displaying either to females or to display dominance. When spawning, the males will stake out a three dimensional area in the open water at the top of the tank. They defend this area vigorously against intrusion by other males while trying to entice the female to enter. As a rule they are quite non-aggressive but I have seen them chase away fish much larger than

themselves while defending their territory.

I have one male that is particularly aggressive in defense of his territory which he always stakes out right near my highly aggressive male Hap. sp. 44's territory in my 125. On more than one occasion I have seen the male 44 and the Cyp get into a face off. Ultimately the sp. 44 always backs down. While they look quite fragile it has been my experience that these guys can be quite tough. By no means are *Cyprichromis* aggressive towards other fish though, they in fact seem to have a calming effect on the tank. This is especially true with my *Julidochromis marlieri* gombe.

I was never able to get a photograph of him because he was always hiding in the rocks before I added the *Cyprichromis*. He now will come out and patrol an area around his rocky home and I have gotten several good shots of him.

Breeding *Cyprichromis* is not difficult provided they feel secure in their environment. Once a male has successfully lured a female into his territory he will



Male
Photo by Blair Howell



Displaying male
Photo by Blair Howell

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display for her with his dorsal and anal fin clamped tight against his body and his mouth protruding. In this way he induces her to lay an egg. She then turns around and catch the egg in mid fall. Once the egg is in her mouth she nuzzles the male's ventral fins fertilizing the egg and the dance is repeated. Depending on the size and condition of the female she may lay up to 20 or 25 eggs.

Cyprichromis are a very active and fun

to watch addition to any large Tanganyikan community tank. This fish is always in demand and is a great fish to breed. All in all I would recommend them to any Tanganyikan enthusiast.



Female
Photo by Blair Howell

Species Profile: Haplochromis sp. 44 "Red Tail"

— by H. Blair Howell

By far one of my favorite denizens of my 125, Haplochromis sp. 44 "Red Tail" is a truly interesting fish to watch. When I first moved my male to the 125 he almost immediately staked out a territory behind some rocks in the back corner of the tank. He has viciously guarded that territory ever since. I had a leleupi that had its territory in the rock pile at the behind which the sp. 44 had his territory. It gave the 44 fits trying to chase the leleupi away as it would just dash into holes in the rocks. It was funny to watch them go round and round the rock pile (The sp. 44 never caught the leleupi which now belongs to a friend of mine).

The tank is also home to a Pundamilia nyererei "Makobe Island" who has his territory at the far end of the tank and although their territories are located at opposite ends of the tank they often meet in the center of the tank for sparing matches. I got them both from the same source and they grew up together in a 150 and have spared for as long as they've been in the same tank. The P. nyererei is the reason the sp. 44 has a miss-shaped mouth, an injury that occurred when they were both youngsters.

I had the male for a couple of months before I found him a female. She was quite a bit younger than him and I was almost afraid to put her in with him as I know how aggressive they can be. I was surprised to find that while he does display for her often he has never physically attacked her. They can be very aggressive and care should be taken in choosing tank mates for them. I would never keep them in a tank under 55 gallons if there are to be other species of cichlids in the tank with them.



Hap. Sp. 44
Photo by Blair Howell

My male is still a youngster at about 4 ½ inches. He should max out at about 5 inches. The female is only about 2 ½ inches. In the wild they are found on Lake Victoria's east coastline where they feed on insects and insect larvae. In the aquarium I feed a good quality flake which they take greedily.

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About 2 weeks after I got the female I noticed that she was starting to give in to the male's advances and follow him to his territory. Spawning didn't take place right away. It was about a week later that I came home from work and found her holding. For about a week, I let her hold in the tank she was in but the male kept trying to spawn with her again. To avoid him she would hide behind intake pipe for my filter.

At about 1 week holding I pulled her from the 125 and put her in a 10 gallon I set up taking water from the 125

to fill it. At about 3 weeks I stripped her of 9 fry and returned her to the 125.

The fry were very active from the start. All but one have grown fairly quickly (one has remained much smaller than the others). I have been feeding them Cyclop-eeze and crushed flake.

I would highly recommend this fish to anyone. They are a blast to watch.

Eichhornia crassipes "Water Hyacinth"

— by Lisa Boorman

Common Name: Water Hyacinth or Common Water Hyacinth.

Named for: 19th century Prussian politician Johann Albrecht Friedrich Eichhorn (1779-1856). He was the minister for education and public welfare.

Family: Pontederiaceae (Pickerelweed family): Members of this family are mainly tropical perennial aquatic herbs found in freshwater. The pickerelweeds (*Pontederia*) range north into temperate regions, including most of the Eastern United States and Canada.

Distribution: Originally from South America. This plant has been introduced all over the world and has become a major pest. Introduced to Central America, North America (California and southern states), Africa, India, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

Description: The plants can vary in size from about an inch to over 3 feet in height. The thick glossy green leaf blades can be up to 1 foot long and 6" across. Generally speaking, the plant does not reach these sizes in cooler areas. Water hyacinth leaves are attached to petioles that are often spongy and inflated. There are many fibrous feathery looking roots which trail in the water from the underside of the plant. The inflorescence is a spike with pretty light-blue to violet flowers. There can be 8-15 flowers for each inflorescence. Each spike can grow up to a foot. Each flower has 6 bluish-purple petals joined at the base to form a short tube. One petal bears a yellow spot. These flowers last only one day.

Care: Water hyacinth is not winter hardy. It does best at temperatures ranging from 25-30C (77-86F). The minimum temperature needed to keep it is 12C (54F). It does not do well at this temperature.

Habitat: Water hyacinths can grow over a wide diversity of water areas such as lakes, streams, ponds, waterways, ditches, and backwater areas. Water hyacinths acquire their nutrients directly from the water. As such, they have been used in wastewater treatment facilities. They prefer and grow most prolifically in nutrient rich waters. Due to the nature of their reproduction they are highly productive. Wind and currents help contribute to their wide distribution. Water hyacinth forms dense rafts in the water and mud. The feathery root system of *E. crassipes* provides nesting habitat for fish, invertebrates and insects.

Reproduction: Water hyacinth can reproduce sexually by seeds and vegetatively by budding and stolon production. Daughter plants sprout from the stolons. It does not take this plant long to double its size in optimal conditions (6-18 days). The seeds can germinate in a few days or they can remain dormant for up to 15-20 years. They usually sink and remain dormant until periods of stress (droughts). When water is available to them again after a drought, the seeds often germinate. It seems that the majority of the reproduction of water hyacinth is by creating daughter plants. This is where the problems with this plant come into play. A large concentration of these plants create a mat of vegetation.

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These mats exclude everything else. When the plants reach 'plague' proportions, the mats can impede water flow, and create areas for mosquitoes to reproduce. The water under these mats become low in oxygen making it difficult for fish to survive in some areas. Areas of these mats become impenetrable to boats and other forms of water recreation. The removal of these plants from waterways is a major cost to many countries. "Eichhornia crassipes, water hyacinth, is believed to have been introduced into the U.S. in 1884 at an exposition in New Orleans; within 70 years of reaching Florida, the plant covered 126,000 acres of waterways (Schmitz et al. 1993)".

Water hyacinth is not considered a pest here (Canada) since it dies in the winter. Therefore, we can appreciate the beauty of the plant and not be quite so concerned about accidental escapes into the native habitat. We purchased two healthy looking plants from a specialist pond store as the ones in the pet stores looked messy (brown spots and some melting leaves). We gave one away to my father for Father's Day. The other we placed into our small pond in the backyard. The pond is a preformed pond, of approximately 150 gallons. We do not have a filter on the pond. To keep mosquitoes and other water pests at bay, we keep fish in the pond as well. This year we have some Florida Flagfish and Sailfin Mollies. We keep an assortment of plants in there as well as Eichhornia. We also keep a hardy water lily (*Nymphaea* 'Laydekeri Lilacea'), Corkscrew Rush (*Juncus effusus* 'spiralis'), *Sarracenia* sp.

(pitcher plant), Louisiana Iris (*Iris lacustris*) (collected locally) and native Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*) (also collected locally).



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The water hyacinth didn't really do much at the beginning as the pond is only in direct light during the morning hours. After almost a month, the plant began to propagate itself with daughter plants. As of writing this article, there are approximately 20 water hyacinth plants in the pond. Several of those plants have also flowered. I wish the flowers lasted longer since they are so pretty. This particular plant has a delicate purple colour, with the one petal having a pretty yellow spot in it. The yellow spot was surrounded by blue.

View of flowering *Eichhornia crassipes* (Water Hyacinth) in our pond.

There is another benefit to this plant if it does try to take over your pond. It's very good at removing nitrates from your pond, and as such when you remove it,

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Eichhornia crassipes

you are removing the nitrates the plant has "sucked" up from the water. The excess plant that you remove is great in compost heaps and will break down easily. If you do keep this plant in a pond with fish, remember that goldfish and koi will eat the roots if they access to them and this will retard the plants growth and may even kill the plant.

Overall, I would recommend this plant to anyone with a pond, as long as they are in an area where they do not have to worry about accidental introductions to the native environment.

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Friends of the HCCC

— by Robert De Leon

This past month we had our first meeting with a new supported of the Hill Country Cichlid Club. Armke's Rare Aquarium Fish was kind enough to host our get together and Keegan really had a nice spread waiting for us when we arrived.

The food was great and for those of us that we still there at the end, we got a tour of the back-room with all the working groups and growing fry.

Next time we are in the market for some new fish,

please support those that support us. We benefit tremendously from their support, the least we can do is patron their stores.

Armke's Rare Aquarium Fish

a proud supporter of the HCCC

Member discounts:

20% off livestock

www.ohiexchange.com/armke/

1058 N. Business 35

New Braunfels, TX

(830)629-1191

Below is a list of businesses that have expressed support for the Hill Country Cichlid Club. If they are near you, please stop by and let them know that they are appreciated.

- **Amazonia**
Austin, TX
- **Alamo Aquatic Pets**
San Antonio, TX
10% off livestock
- **CB Pets**
Spring Branch, TX
10% off
- **Lisa's Lair Bookstore**
Online books
Various Discounts



HCCC Cichlid Day Fish Auction

The Hill Country Cichlid Club would like to invite fish enthusiasts to join us for our fish auction. Hobbyists and professionals will be bringing fish and other items. Non-members are welcome to attend and take part.

Event: Cichlid Day Auction

Date: Saturday October 23, 2004

Time: 12:00pm until it's over

Location: Bracken United Methodist
Church Fellowship Hall
20377 FM2252
San Antonio, TX

- Fish Auction
- Dry Goods
- Raffle Items
- Cash Only Please
- Doors open at 10:00am

For maps and more information as it becomes available, visit our website at: www.xdeleon.com/hccc