

# SomeThingsFishy

March 2017



## Toronto's Ripley's Aquarium Just Dazzles

**Dave Holland**

### *You've heard about Ripley's Aquarium, and not yet visited?*

It's one place you won't soon forget. I visited in late fall with my Aquarium Society and I'm already anxious to return.

Ripley's is located right next to the CN Tower, quite aptly in Toronto's Entertainment District. This attraction, swimming with creativity, is a carefully crafted fusion of Aqua-Museum and the Cirque du Soleil. Canada's largest indoor aquarium offers the biggest shark collection on the continent, one of the world's most extensive jellyfish exhibits, 100+ year old giant lobsters, and "petting pools" for stingrays and bamboo sharks. While this is home to over 16,000 animals from all over, its allure is not merely the multitude of aquatic species on exhibit, but also how you are able to view them.

Magical and fantastical, the novelties begin right at the entry with a columnar saltwater tank rising high out of a large doughnut-shaped freshwater African cichlid tank. At first glance –and perplexingly– exotic fish that would never see each other in their natural habitats, or for that matter in captivity, appear to be living together. Closer scrutiny reveals the two separate tanks have been designed in such a way that these very different groups of colourful fish are, in reality, living quite independent of one another, but together only in an optical illusion.

The meandering halls create a sense of childlike anticipation in all ages for visitors with surreal exhibits of amazing sea creatures unfolding before you with every turn, from those of the Great Lake Basin to the giant toothy predators of the oceans' depths. The Aquarium is not without categorized geographical organization and as we passed through the massive galleries of Great Lake Basin Fish, to my amusement, a friend from my Aquarium Society was quick to recognize many fine specimens from his years as an angler, and proceeded to explain



## Club Announcements

### Upcoming Events

NEO-Fish Spring Auction March 19th

Youngstown Auction March 26th

Erie Spring Auction April 2nd

CNYAS Auction April 29th

Greater Pittsburg Spring Auction April 30th

American Livebearer Assoc May 4-7th

American Killie Fish Assoc May 26th -28th

Akron Show June 10-11th

ACA Detroit July 13-16th

**TFCEC Swap Meet August 26th**

Catfish-Cataclysm Sept 22-24

**TFCEC Fall Auction November 11th**

#### NEXT MEETING

**Monthly General Meeting**  
Tuesday March 21, 2017

Chicken Coop, VFW Post 8113, 299  
Leydecker Road in West Seneca.  
@ 7:00

Program: Kapil Mandreker  
Bowl Show Categories:

Goldfish/Koi/AOV  
Mini-Auction, Raffle, Fishy-fishy, Officer  
Elections

how unbelievably tasty even the eel would be if brined, smoked and spiced just right with a little garlic – an effort quite lost on me who despises seafood. I had an appreciation for that exhibit, however, as it was both interesting and educational to see all the creatures which live right in our own waters and not just those from far off seas.

The various displays make you forget you are even in an Aquarium as they are all aquascaped with attention to authenticity; rather you have the perspective you are scuba-diving with the sea creatures as a visitor to their underwater world. The pièce de résistance for me was the acrylic tunnel that snakes underneath a cavernous lagoon where you are surrounded 180 degrees by an amazing diversity of tropical aquatic life. Sharks, fish, sting-rays, and giant turtles are swimming all around you and this acrylic tunnel offers the visitor an exceptional glimpse of their brilliant colours, behavior, agility, size, speed, and in several cases, rows of dagger-like teeth! The tunnel is truly a feat of engineering and is perhaps where Ripley's parts company with other more conventional aquariums. The fish and sea creatures are scientifically discussed on informational panels throughout, and children are by no means forgotten with many interactive displays.

Everything is flawlessly maintained, clean and there is no trace of odour even around the sting ray touch tanks. At the end of our tour, we had a fleeting glimpse into the state-of-the-art Life-Support-Systems room showing 12 of the Aqua-Museum's filters, along with many tank monitors. All very methodically colour-coded with paint, it appears like the engine room of the Queen Mary 2, but is really

only a small percentage of the equipment required to operate the facility. The Aquarium uses 5.7 million litres (1.5 million U.S. gallons) of water in its display tanks and filtration requires over 127 million litres (33.5 million U.S. gallons) to be pumped daily. The piping painted blue represents freshwater lines and green ones saltwater. As the Aquarium houses over 16,000 aquatic animals, it must store enough pre-conditioned tap water in reserve to replenish all the water in its tanks, not only for evaporation purposes, but in the event of emergencies. This water, kept in reserve, must be replaced regularly as it will not remain safe for use indefinitely as a result of potential bacteria and other water issues that arise with time. The discharge water is released incrementally at off peak hours into the city drainage system so as not to exceed system capacity restrictions.

Upon leaving the remarkable Aqua-Museum, I looked way up and recalled the once dazzling 'Sparkles' nightclub of the 1980s atop Toronto's iconic CN Tower. The highest dance club in the world was then a Mecca for locals, tourists and anyone looking to have fun with friends in the unique atmosphere with an array of creative special effects. While it has disappeared into the clouds forever, Canada's largest indoor aquarium, appears to have captured easily as much interest, not as a nightclub, but as a "sparkling" entertainment venue in its own right, appealing to the adventurous side of a broad mix of people and ages at the local, national, and international level. I encourage everyone to make the effort to visit this incredible attraction - a truly worthwhile experience.

**Article By: Dave Holland**  
**St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society**  
**December 2016: Vol. 29, #4.**



**Aspidoras cf. taurus Eggs**  
 - photo: Joe Doyle

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### MEETINGS

The Tropical Fish Club of Erie County, Inc., meets the third Tuesday of the month at The Chicken Coop, VFW Post 8113, 299 Leydecker Road, West Seneca NY. Meetings start at 7:00PM. All are invited.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Tropical Fish Club of Erie County is to bring hobbyists of tropical fish and aquatic plants together, those who are interested in breeding, raising, showing, or just plain looking at fish and aquatic plants. Also to aid members through lectures, films and slide presentations on different aspects of the tropical fish hobby.

### EXCHANGE POLICY

The Tropical Fish Club of Erie County will send a copy of this newsletter to any club who sends us a copy of their publication.

### REPRINT POLICY

Any article may be reprinted by another aquarium society, providing the source and author are given credit, and a copy of your publication is sent to us.



## Spawning *Aspidoras cf. taurus* - Joe Doyle

Purchased F1 fry from Rob McLure while in Milwaukee for a killifish convention (WAKO - Wisconsin Area Killifish Organization). This is the story about this fishes origins, where the parents were collected in the wild, and how they got their name:

Quote from Rob McLure:

"Aspidoras are F1 from my first set of WC Aspidoras from Guapo, near Goiana, Goias, Brazil. When originally trying to identify them we separated them into 2 groups based on size, snout length, and color pattern. Hans Evers suggested that based on the location the group of larger fish were what we have always called Aspidoras cf. Taurus in the hobby. The smaller ones were identified as Aspidoras fuscoguttatus. This was verified by Erik Schiller in Germany when I sent him some F1s from each group. More recently however Luiz has said he feels they are both just different looking variants of A.fuscoguttatus. I am keeping them separately just in case, and because they are different. For now, even though we know for certain that the larger ones are not Aspidoras taurus, it makes sense to me to keep calling them Aspidoras cf. Taurus, just to keep the 2 different groups separate. This is how they have been known in the hobby for a long time, and how they are labeled in Identifying Corydoradinae Catfish by Ian and Hans. If anyone has a better idea, please let me know."

When I was in Rob McLure's fish room, I saw the wild parents of the fish I took home. They were a good 2 inches in size. Even Rob commented they were the largest species of aspidoras he had ever seen.

Like all aspidoras species, these fish lay eggs in fast flowing water. Rob mentioned a trick he used to get eggs laid where he wanted them by placing an air line tube in the middle of the glass. In a week after placing airline on the glass with a suction cup, 12 eggs were laid the day before a snow storm. 7 of the 12 hatched, rest fungused and we're removed. On the next occurrence of a precipitation event, the catfish laid a batch of 19 eggs on the glass. The second batch of eggs clumped together, and when one of the eggs started to fungus, I separated the clump into individual eggs by gently pulling them apart from the mass one egg at a time with tweezers and a big magnifying glass having a light attached and on a pivoting arm. The eggs had a rubbery attachment to each other and had to apply more pressure than usual to separate. They are tough eggs, with no ill effects to follow. Highly recommend getting one of these magnifying glass with a round light. I use it for all sorts of fish related projects, but mostly for picking eggs out of mops for killifish and catfish.

I didn't think the catfish were old enough to spawn. They were 3/4 an inch when I brought them home and now an inch and a quarter; 2 inches being maximum size. They were 3 months at purchase, adding another 3 months, so 6 months old to spawn. That's pretty quick for a catfish. They are very social and do best kept in groups. There are 9 fish in my group. The 7 gal cube tank they live in gets 50% water changes weekly. Setup is sand substrate, sponge filter, 1 open ended air line on one of the glass walls in front of tank, and no heater. Simple enough. Never expected them to spawn in this setup. *cont. p.5*



## Chairman's Message

- Randy Seufert

[tfcprez2@gmail.com](mailto:tfcprez2@gmail.com)

Is it over yet??? Oh, my what an Auction. We had a HUGE amount of items to sell, and we got through them all. Thanks to Bill for standing there with me all day, selling items and some for some great prices. Thanks to those who sat and wrote chits and the runners that got the items to the buyers. Another Big Thanks to Chris Gifford who moved all the items from the table to the front. We were down many members that normally would be there due to illness, hopefully everyone is getting better. A long day, but a good fund raiser for the club. The kitchen crew kept everyone fed too. Thanks to all!!!

I would also like to thank all the members from other clubs, from PA, NY, Ohio and Canada that came to our auction. It was great to see you all at the Auction. The Raffle we had was well received, we did well and that is thanks to our Sponsoring Manufactures and stores. Make sure you check out all those who helped us out on our sponsor page.

This month we will have Kapil Mandrekar as our speaker. He has been to the amazon and he will tell about that and swimming with wild Discus. Please join us for this program, bring your friends too.

Well time for a little Rest and Relaxation, oh that's right we are heading to Akron Ohio to do another auction.

See you at the meeting  
Randy



# It'll just be a minute

– Dawn M. Domagala

## TFCEC Board of Directors meeting 02/07/2017

Attendees: Tom Rizzo, Tom Heisler, Eddie Rahiem, Mark Baumgart, Randy & Terri Seufert, Donna & Peter Reukauf, Dawn Domagala, Larry Gibbs and Bill Wroblewski. Commenced 7pm

Bowl Show in June there will be one class: Novelty 10 gallons or less.

Auction: Feb 26th: In an effort to keep people in the building longer, the door prize will be drawn at 6pm. A 40 gallon set up donated by Mark Baumgart.

Auction Program: Eddie Rahiem got a new auction program for club review. Randy Seufert received a new auction program for club review. After review, the club decided to use Randy's Excell based program.  
Computer: Board approved Randy Seufert buying a new laptop for the club, the old one was running windows XP.  
Set up time: 2 pm Saturday March 25th.  
Food: All food & drink has been purchase buy Tom Rizzo & Mark Baumgart  
Other: Have sellers fill out envelopes to have checks mailed to

Treasures report: Was read and accepted.

Committees:

BAP: Tom Heisler & Peter Reukauf have volunteered to take over for Tom Rizzo.  
WAP: rules to be updated soon.

Swap Meet: August 26th @ The Coop

Ways and Means: Many manufactures have been sending donations in, which will be in the Raffle or auctioned off.

Programs: (Randy Seufert & Chris Hardy)  
Feb: Tannins video  
March: Kapil Mandrake swimming with wild discus

April: awards banquet

May:

June: Jonathan Stazinsky

July: 10th Pond Tour/picnic in conjunction with Niagara Frontier Koi & Pond Club. See Dawn Domagala 716-860-6186 for more details.

July 30th Picnic @ Sprague Brook park starting at 11am

August:

Sept: Larry Johnson

Oct

Nov

Dec: Christmas Party

New Business: John Bukaczeski paid restitution to club and a motion was granted to allow him to participate in limited club activities.

Field Trip to Smith Creek Farms Hatchery in Bliss NY is being looked into by Randy Seufert. Details to follow.

Motion was made to cutdown from 5 sheet pizzas to 4 at meetings.

Adjourned 9:03

## TFCEC general meeting 02/21/2017

Meeting called to order by President Randy Seufert @ 7:30

Secretarys report is published in newsletter

Treasurers report by Donna Reukauf was read and approved.

Membership: One new Member

Auction: Volunteers are needed for set up and break down February 25 @ 2pm.

BAP: 2

HAP: none

Ways & Means: 11 items for auction this weekend.

Program: Tannins video

New Business: club purchased new lap top computer for auction. March program Kapil Mandrekar from Syracuse, trip to Amazon, swimming with discus.

Bowl Show winners announced.

Fishy/fishy \$39.00

Raffle

Auction

Adjournment at 8:40pm



# Spawning *Aspidoras cf. taurus* by Joe Doyle

(from p.3)

When it came time to hatch the eggs, I didn't use any chemicals or fungicide. I try not to use anything unless absolutely necessary. I was told to use methylene blue in a Lee specimen container for first day with the eggs. Empty half the water each day and refill with fresh aquarium water. By the time the eggs hatch, the methylene blue should be completely out of the water column. If any eggs turn blue, they should be removed as they are infertile. Finally, run a high output airstone. I don't use airstones on my air system, so I used an open air line which had the same effect of pushing water around the eggs and tossing them a bit. When the eggs hatched, I saw fry with yoke sacks hunkering down in the dead spots in the container to avoid high flow. Removed fry using an eye dropper. Moved to a 7 gal cube grow out containing a layer of sponge grunge and a few small plants. Fed paramecium, banana worms. And bbs enriched with either selco or spirulina powder.

My water is 130 tds out of tap, temperature

69F, conductivity 350, Gh 7, kH 4. Eggs hatched in 5 to 7 days. If the temperature would had been 80F they would have hatched in 3 to 4 days according to the seller. Kept both adults, and separately fry, on sand substrate.

Raised fry with corydoras panda fry. Easy to distinguish difference's by pattern markings. Both eat same foods.

If you get a chance, why not work with breeding a Cory not often seen in the hobby, such as *Aspidoras cf. taurus*.

Hope to see you soon at an auction or convention. Always keeping my eye open for that next new fish to spawn. If you see me looking intently at a bag, ask me "Hey Joe, how much would you be willing to pay for that fish?"



## 2017 TFCEC Officers

### Board of Directors

President	Randy Seufert	716-649-9165	tfcprez2@gmail.com
Vice President	Bill Wroblewski	716-398-3122	wildbill41361@aol.com
Treasurer	Donna Reukauf	716-207-1250	princess.donna@live.com
Secretary	Dawn Domagala	716-860-6186	dawnmd@gmail.com

<b>BOD 2018 Term</b>	Peter Reukauf	716-649-3974	petespoint@juno.com
<b>BOD 2018 Term</b>	Larry Gibbs	716-826-6755	
<b>BOD 2018 Term</b>	Tom Rizzo	716-713-4279	triz316@verizon.net
<b>BOD 2018 Term</b>	Tom Heisler	716-408-6540	tfcectom@gmail.com

<b>BOD 2017 Term</b>	Teri Seufert	716-649-9165	tkoala529@aol.com
<b>BOD 2017 Term</b>	Mark Baumgart	716-200-9869	gardner@aol.com
<b>BOD 2017 Term</b>	Chris Hardy	724-415-7852	cphardy85@gmail.com
<b>BOD 2017 Term</b>	Eddie Raihim	415-871-1313	eddierahaim@hotmail.com

## Committee for 2017

BAP: Tom Rizzo and Bill Wroblewski

HAP: Chuck Mule

WAP:

Auction: Randy Seufert

Swap Meet: Randy Seufert

Bowl Show: Larry Gibbs

Ways and Means; Randy Seufert  
and Bill Wroblewski

Publication: Josh Vito

Membership: Chris Hardy

Library: Bill Wroblewski

Awards Banquet: Larry Gibbs

Picnic: Teri Seufert

Holiday Party: Larry Gibbs and Mark Baumgart

Programs: Randy Seufert and Chris Hardy

Fishy/Fishy: Ed Osika

Raffle: Bill Wroblewski



**Tropical Fish Club  
of Erie County  
Present  
Kapil Mandreker  
Tuesday March 21st  
7:30 PM  
at the Chicken Coop  
299 Leydecker Road, West Seneca, NY**

Kapil Mandrekar, is currently a Ph.D. student in Aquatic Ecology/Ichthyology at SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry located in Syracuse, NY. As a Ecologist/Ichthyologist my current research focuses on ecology and conservation of the MEGAFISH arapaima in the lower Amazon regions near the urban center of Santarém (Para State, Brazil). This area has multitude of different aquatic ecosystem and home to a diverse array of tropical fishes, including a hot spot for many of the most sought after wild discus fish strains. I have made 5 trips to the amazon since starting my degree. In the past I have studied Central American cichlids and Cave fish. Other than Brazil, I have traveled, observed fish from Belize, Mexico, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, India and throughout many places in the USA.

I was born in Toledo, OH and when my parents brought me home from the hospital, they brought me to a house rich aquarial. When my family moved to Kalamazoo, MI; my Father and I joined Southwest Michigan Aquarium Society (SWMAS) and I have been a member since the age of 3 years. Growing up in SWMAS has exposed me to many amazing hobbyist that took the time to teach me about keeping and breeding all kinds of fishes. I have kept to a wide variety of fishes and have kept/bred everything from cichlids, killifish, livebearers, characins, labyrinth fishes, cyprinids, goldfish/koi, fancy bettas, planted aquariums, saltwater, oddballs, catfish and more! Before I graduated from High school I used to run over 40 aquariums and 5000 gallons of indoor/outdoor ponds. I am also currently a part time manger at ABC Reefs Two LLC. (Liverpool, NY) where we focus on bringing in rare freshwater/marine fishes, inverts, plants and more. I am a current member of the Central New York Aquarium Society since moving to Syracuse. I currently run anywhere between 7-10 aquariums and been focusing on a little bit of everything.

I look forward to speaking with the Tropical Fish Club of Erie County during the March meeting on my experiences with collecting and swimming with wild Discus fish. I also will share some of my other experiences in the Amazon and discuss keeping wild discus in home aquariums.

Cheers!

Kapil Mandrekar

Ph.D. Student, Department of Environmental & Forestry Biology , SUNY- College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
Syracuse, NY

Store Manger , ABC Reefs Two LLC, Liverpool, NY



**JULY 8th NORTH TOWNS  
Pond Tour & Picnic**

*In conjunction with*



Dawn Domagala for  
details (716)860-6186



**Classifieds**

**Bags for Sale**

- 3x10x2mil \$5.00/100
- 5x15x2mil \$6.50/100
- 6x16x2mil \$6.75/100
- 6x24x2mil \$9.75/100
- 8x15x2mil \$8.50/100
- 10x20x2mil \$11.25/100
- De-capsulated Brine Shrimp Eggs \$16.00 per pound
- \*Pricing subject to change
- See Bill Duzen at the meeting

**Help Needed:  
Newsletter**

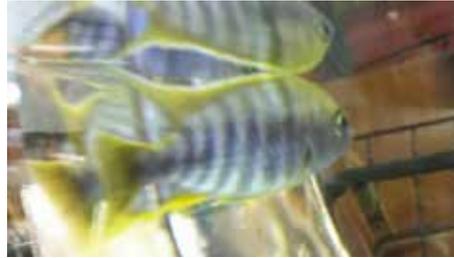
My time has become more limited of late, and I would like to give another member the chance to assemble the newsletter each month.

Please let me know if you would like to take over as Newsletter Chair.

**- Josh, Editor**  
[tfceceditor@gmail.com](mailto:tfceceditor@gmail.com)

*YOUR AD HERE:* any club member in good standing can submit text ads with optional attached photo

*Reminder, all newsletter content is due the LAST Tuesday of the previous month. (to allow for printing) All content can be sent to the following email*  
**TfcecEditor@gmail.com**



Photos: Bill Wroblewski

# February 2017 Bowl Show

## Fish of the Month - Pairs

- 1. Melanotania trifaciata - Peter Reukauf
- 2. Long Fin Aneus Corydorax - Randy & Teri Seufert
- 3. Pundamila macrocyphala - Donna Reukauf

## Any Other Variety

- 1. Aulonocara jacobfriebergeri - Donna Reukauf
- 2. Marble Angel - Bill Wroblewski
- 3. -

## Fish of the Month - Livebearers

- 1. Male Swordtail - Bill Wroblewski
- 2. Nebula Steel Guppy - Donna Reukauf
- 3. Platnium Lyretail Molly - Dawn Domagala

## People Choice

- Not available for print

Have something you want to share? Write an article or snap a photo of your prized aquatic. I'll publish it in the monthly newsletter.

Email your article with separately attached images to

**TFCECeditor@gmail.com**



TFCEC  
c/o Randy Seufert  
5725 Herman Hill Road  
Hamburg, NY 14075

March 2017 - Vol 30 Issue 3

Tropical Fish Club of Erie County

## Regular Meeting Day for March Tuesday, March 21, 2017

**Program: "Swimming with Discus" - Kapil Mandreker**

The meeting will be held at the usual location, The Chicken Coop, VFW Post 8113, 299 Leydecker Road, West Seneca NY. Meetings start at 7PM.

Reminder to all members - All Membership dues are due in June! If you still need to pay your 2016 dues, they can be paid at the next meeting or you can send them via postal mail, c/o Randy & Teri Seufert to **5725 Herman Hill Road, Hamburg, NY 14075**.

Dues are as follows:

Individual - \$12

Family - \$18

Junior - \$6

# Thank you to our 2017 club sponsors!

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