



Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association

# The Cichlidfile

## 2013 Officers

President: Keith Kiggins  
Vice President: Kevin Fehringer  
2nd Vice President: Lynn Hopkins  
Secretary: Ed Duggan  
Treasurer: Sam Chin  
Sergeant-at-arms: Corey Theis  
Member at large: Terry Havalka  
Member at large: Matthew Grant  
Programs/Speakers: Bob Grauer  
Membership: Terry Havalka  
Webmaster: Keith Kiggins  
Publications: Kevin Fehringer  
Pub. Asst.: Natasha Hedgecock  
Grow-out: Steve Huff  
Bowl Shows: Corey Theis  
Hospitality: Corey Theis

## Membership

Membership to the RMCA is \$15 per year, due January of every year. Membership applications any other time are prorated. Meetings are the second Sunday of each month unless otherwise posted. We meet 9 months out of the year, not in July, August, or December. Membership checks can be sent to Sam Chin PO Box 172403, Denver, CO 80217 For more info call Sam at 303-915-4992 or email at samchin57@comcast.net

## Next Meeting

Our next meeting is next Sunday, September 8th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Englewood Recreation Center, 1155 W. Oxford Ave. There will be a question and answer session in lieu of a speaker for this meeting, as well as a review of our highly successful ACA convention. We'll have a mini-auction, a pot luck, Bowl Show, Growth Contest and door prizes.

## From your Vice-President...

Yeah, I know! The temperatures have been in the 90's and it still feels like the middle of summer. But fall is just around the corner, and that means it's time to turn your attention back to your tanks. Remember those things? Water-filled boxes with cool-looking things swimming around in them. I suspect you've been throwing some food at them throughout the summer, and maybe even thought about the occasional water change. But it's time to begin giving more attention to them.

Yes, that means the RMCA is getting back in the swing of things after taking the summer off, if you can call it that! Things were a bit chaotic back in July putting the finishing touches on preparations for the American Cichlid Association convention. We had a GREAT response from the club helping out with the convention, and it was greatly appreciated! You guys (and gals) are amazing! By all accounts, it was among the best that the ACA has seen, and you made it happen. We'll have a DVD presentation that we'll present at the meeting for everyone to see, as well as a discussion about it, good and bad.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

*Kevin*

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## ACA Convention—Wrap-Up — by Bob Grauer

Well here we are, the ACA 2013 has come and gone. What an incredible time! Obviously we as a club could not have pulled this off without the help of you, the club members. I was amazed at the amount of help we got. The greatest majority of our membership pitched in above and beyond the call of duty and it showed. I had emails and phone calls from people asking what they could do. What a satisfying experience. To all of you who participated, helped, attended - a huge hearty **THANK YOU!!!!!!**

When we first started talking about this, I had 2 goals, first for everyone to have a good time (which they did) and secondly to not lose money (which we didn't). Anything after that was bonus. We had one of the best speaker lineups

imaginable for cichlids, covering all the areas, Felipe from Uruguay talking about the fascinating cichlids from his part of the world and tours , Heinz from Switzerland with his awesome photography on Lake Tanganyika, Ad Konings talking about Tropheus and anti netting in Malawi, Greg with his Victorians and CARES, Mike with Apistos and collecting, Mo Devlin with his awesome photography, and Joe Middleton talking about collecting in Central America. Something for everyone!

The show tanks donated by UPG and stocked by the fish farmers of FL really gave an insight into the colors and the diversity available. The hotel guests (of which there were many, including the kids, were always stopping to look and ask questions. I think we may have quite a few converts coming to our meetings over the next few months. What about the excitement of the kids with the decorating contest? This is an awesome program that was started by my friend Discus Hans (he also sent some beautiful discus) that has been taken over and taking off getting a whole new generation into the hobby.

The camaraderie between all of the cichlid enthusiasts is something to behold. Where else can you go to be a fish geek, nut, nerd, whatever and be surrounded by other folks with similar interests, never getting bored, nowhere but an ACA Convention? The craziness of the auctions, the after hours in the hospitality room, the tours and the parties can't be explained until you've been part of it. Three to four days of fish and parties.

I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend the last 11 ACA Conventions around the country and have made numerous friends and acquaintances that I only see once a year. These are special times that mean so much to me. Once you start going, you too will feel that way. Just ask a few of our members who have been to them.

Many of you have talked about going to Louisville for the convention next year and I hope you do. Now, for those of us who worked endlessly, this will be your chance to look at them because they're the ones now working, and you just get to enjoy. Start making your plans, reserve the time and lets party!!!



*One of the beautiful display tanks at the ACA. Aquarium, hood and stand donated by UPG. Fish donated by Florida Exotic Fish Sales, Photo by Matt Grant*

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## Invasive Species by Kevin Fehringer

Earlier this year, I sent out an email urging you to take action against a bill that had been introduced to the U.S. House of Representative, H.R. 996, otherwise known as the Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act. This bill proposes to limit the number of potentially invasive species of animals imported or otherwise sold in the United States. The only fish on the “approved white list” are goldfish. I’m happy to report that this bill has not seen ANY action since it was introduced back in March, and people that are in the know speculate that it won’t go anywhere. However, I believe that we need to look at the conditions that made introduction of a bill of this nature possible.

We as hobbyists need to be cognizant that the reason that a bill of this nature can even be dreamed up is a history of animals and plants introduced into areas where they previously didn’t exist, often times to the severe detriment of native species. We are all aware of pythons in Florida, zebra mussel in the Great Lakes and snakeheads in many locales. I’ve watched with interest discussions on Facebook about fish that escaped (or were released) in waters in Florida, have successfully bred there, and are now considered by some to be “wild-caught” if they are pulled out of a Florida canal. There seems to be cause for concern that we hobbyists are less than responsible and our actions cause great harm to our environment.

I recently ran across an article that I wanted to share with you about an animal known to most of us—the assassin snail (*Clea helena*). Many of us (yes, me too!) have put these in our aquariums in an attempt to reduce or eliminate the Malaysian trumpet snail or pond snails frequently found in our tanks. There is absolutely nothing wrong with doing this. However, this article warns us that these snails have the potential to become invasive in the United States if not managed properly. The authors even cited anecdotal evidence that an aquarist in Seattle had put these in a pond and they successfully over-wintered there. If allowed to reproduce in U.S. waters, they have the potential of devastating native gastropod (snail) populations, upsetting the eco-balance. I’m not saying that this snail is evil and any responsible aquarist should not even consider keeping it. However, I reprint this article just to raise awareness that even seemingly innocuous inhabitants of our tanks have the potential of causing problems if we don’t act responsibly.

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## A Carnivorous Aquatic Gastropod in the Pet Trade in North America: the Next Threat to Freshwater Gastropods? By Arthur E. Bogan and Eric H. Hanneman



North America has been subject to a wide variety of alien species being introduced both actively and passively into our freshwaters. Some are food items introduced intentionally, such as the Asian Clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), while others are introduced by accident, such as the Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and the New Zealand Mudsnail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*). Both of the species have rapidly become major invasive pest species.

Another species that has been in the aquarium trade in the United States since about 2007 that may become a major pest is the predatory Assassin Snail (*Clea helena*). This species also goes by the names Snail Eating Snail, Killer Snail, or Bumble Bee Snail. It is sold in the aquarium trade as a biological means to control aquaria overrun by other snails including Physa sp., Ramshorn Snails (*Planorbella* sp. or *Helisoma* sp.) and the introduced Livebearing Trumpet Snail, also known as the Malaysian Trumpet Snail, Red-rimmed Melania (*Melanoides tuberculata*). Livebearing Trumpet Snails are often moved around on aquatic vegetation in the aquarium trade and easily become a major pest in aquaria. Assassin Snails will also eat introduced Mystery Snails

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## A Carnivorous Aquatic Gastropod in the Pet Trade in North America: the Next Threat to Freshwater Gastropods? By Arthur E. Bogan and Eric H. Hanneman (reprinted with permission by the authors) (continued from page 4)

*Clea helena* (Meder in Philippi, 1847), also listed as *Clea (Anentome) helena* and *Anentome helena*, is one of six species in the genus *Clea* reported from Malaysia and Indonesia, Thailand, and Laos was originally described from Java (Van Benthem Jutting 1929; 1959; Brandt 1974). *Clea helena* is a member of the predominately marine gastropod family Buccinidae and is reported not to be restricted to running water and is found in lakes and ponds (Brandt 1974). The predominate native food of the Assassin Snail is decaying animals, live worms and snails (Brandt 1974). Reports from aquarists indicate it also consumes fish eggs and attacks shrimp. [See also Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clea\\_helena](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clea_helena) [Accessed 6 March 2013].



*Clea helena* reaches a shell length of 18-28 mm, the shell is elongate conical, ranging in color from yellow or straw colored to brown, uniform colored or with one to three brown to black spiral bands, shell with axial ribs and six to eight whorls. Aperture is large and is about two thirds of the shell length, with a basal siphonal canal (Brandt 1974). This species is reported to be most active at night, lays clear soft eggs, one egg laid every 10 days or so. Eggs take about three weeks to hatch and four or more weeks to mature to adulthood. In this species, the sexes are reported as separate.

Use of the Assassin Snail is reported in European literature as a successful biological agent for control of other harmful snails in aquaria (e.g. Butot 1954; Van Neil 1954; Behrendt 2009; Schiffbauer 2009; Smid 2009). We have not seen any articles in the literature for North America. Mienis (2011) cautioned about the wide sale of the Assassin Snail throughout Israel and the potential for devastation of the native aquatic gastropod fauna. The Invasive Species Compendium <http://www.cabi.org/isc/?compid=5&dsid=108187&loadmodule=datasheet&page=481&site=144> lists *Clea helena* but notes “It has not been reported in the literature as an invasive species but is potentially a threat in warmer regions for a number of reasons.” They continue with “it is able to reproduce under aquarium conditions. Finally, under aquarium conditions at least, it will readily consume small aquatic snail species that it would not encounter in its natural habitat, and there is no reason to suppose it would be any less predatory if introduced populations became established outside the species’ natural range.” An aquarist observed *Clea helena* had been kept in aquaria outside over the winter in the Seattle area and the snails survived. This does not bode well for this species being too limited by climate in the United States.

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## Congratulations to our June Bowl Show Winners:

**Malawi**—1st Erik Witek - (*Labidochromis* sp. MBamba), 2nd Kevin Fehringer - (*Pseudotropheus* sp. Perspicax “Orange Cap” Ndumbi), 3rd Steve Weary - (*Pseudotropheus acai*)

**Tanganyika**— 1st Erik Witek - (*Neolamprologus tretacephelus*), 2nd Kevin Fehringer - (*Eretmodus cyanostictus*)

**Other African / Asian**— 1st Erik Witek - (*Paralabidochromis* sp. Fire)

**New World**— 1st Kevin Fehringer - (*Geophagus* sp. Tapajos “Orange Head”), 2nd Kevin Fehringer - (*Cichlasoma dimerus* “Belle Union”)

**Open (Botia)**— 1st Kevin Fehringer - (*Botia kubota*)



Eric Witek's *Labidochromis* sp.  
MBamba



Erik Witek's *Neolamprologus*  
*tretacephalus*



Erik Witek's *Paralabidochromis*  
Sp. Fire



Kevin Fehringer's *Geophagus* sp.  
Tapajos “Orange Head”



Kevin Fehringer's *Botia kubota*

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## Growth Contest



It's time! Bring back your *Tropheus duboisi* for judging this month! Time to find out whose steroid cocktail works the best for these fish!

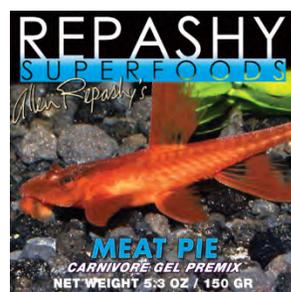
## Trading Post

The Trading Post section is dedicated to helping you raise awareness of fish or equipment that you'd like to sell or give away. If you have something you wish to advertise on the Trading Post, email [fehrringerk@ecentral.com](mailto:fehrringerk@ecentral.com) by the end of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

## Repashy Foods!

Bob Grauer has Repashy foods gel foods available. Choose from Soilent Green for Aufwuchs eaters (algae-types), Community Plus for omnivores, Meat Pie for your carnivores, Morning Wood for your cellulose eaters, Spawn and Grow for your fry, or Shrimp Souffle for your scavengers. If you haven't tried it yet, what are you waiting for?! If you have tried it, you gotta be out by now!

Bob also has cichlids for sale from Lakes Malawi, Tanganyika, and Victoria. Email him to find out what cool fish he has available at [balibob5151@gmail.com](mailto:balibob5151@gmail.com)!



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## September Bowl Show Categories

### Malawi:

**GROUP 1:** Abactochromis, Aulonocara, Champsochromis, Copadichromis, Cyathochromis, Dimidochromis, Exochochromis, Gephyrochromis, Iodotropheus, Lethrinops, Metriaclima, Nyassachromis, Pallidochromis, Platygnathochromis, Rhamphochromis, Stigmatochromis, Tramitichromis, Tyrannochromis.

### Tanganyika:

**GROUP 3:** Astatotilapia (*A. burtoni*, *A. paludinoso*, *A. stappersi*), Bathybates, Callochromis, Ctenochromis, Cyphotilapia, Enantiopus, Grammatotria, Hemibates, Lamprologus, Limnochromis, Microdontochromis, Oreochromis (*O. karomo*, *O. malagarasi*, *O. niloticus*, *O. tanganicae*), Petrochromis, Reganochromis, Tangachromis, Telotrematocara, Triglachromis, Variabilichromis.

### Other Africans/Asians:

**GROUP 1:** Alcolapia, Astatoreochromis, Chetia, Congochromis, Divandu, Etia, Gobiocichla, Harpagochromis, Iranocichla, Limbochromis, Macropleurodus, Nanochromis, Orthochromis, Paranochromis, Pelmatochromis, Platytaeniodus, Pseudocrenilabrus, Ptyochromis, Pyxichromis, Schwetzochromis, Teleogramma, Tilapia

### New World:

**GROUP 3:** Aequidens, Amphilophus, Astatheros, Biotodoma, Caquetaia, Cichla, Crenicara, Dicrossus, Gymnogeophagus, Heros, Hypselecara, Laetacara, Mikrogeophagus, Neetroplus, Paratheraps, Retroculus, Symphysodon, Teleocichla, Tomocichla.

**Open:** Adult Pairs

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## Save The Date!



**September 8—RMCA Meeting, Englewood Recreation Center**

**October 13—RMCA Meeting, Englewood Recreation Center**

**November 2—RMCA Fall Auction, First Plymouth Congregational Church**

**November 10—RMCA Meeting, Englewood Recreation Center**

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