

Dec. 2006

PISCATORAL PEARLS

A review by Kurt Johnston

WOW! It has been 1 year since I took over the pleasure of writing Piscatorial Pearls. I hope you have all enjoyed reading the reviews as much as I have enjoyed reading the articles from all the different club publications. It has been a real education for me as I have read and reviewed more than 100 stories and gave you the lowdown on some 20+ Internet websites. It is positive proof that you are never too old to learn. I am really looking forward to 2007 as I am sure that there will be more great websites to discover and some great articles written by our fellow hobbyists that I will enjoy reading and reviewing for our club.

Let's start this month's review with a look at 2 good articles written by Chuck Davis in the July 2006 issue of the NJAS REPORTER. The first is an article titled "Spawning Behavior Observations" that is a real good short story about breeding a pair of *Cichlasoma carpinte* and a few other observations. Chucks second story is a real nice article titled "The Gentle Giants" that is a great story about several South American Catfish that are peaceful but grow to sizes of 12 inches or more.

Next we will travel west to Pittsburgh and a story in the July 2006 edition of the GPASI FINFORMATION. This story is by Wally Cox and is titled "Spawning *Corydoras paleatus*". Wally gives us a good detail about his experience breeding this popular little catfish.

Our next article comes to us from the July 2006 issue of the Motor City A.S.'s TROPIQUARIUM. Titled "*Poecilia latipinna*" by Chuck Riffenburg this story tells us about some interesting observations that Chuck had made about this fish that is so common that many of us may have forgotten just how interesting they can be.

Next stop is in Chicago for a story in the July/August 2006 edition of the GCCA's CICHLID CHATTER that is titled "Frontosa Keeping My Way" written by Mike Garibaldi. Mike gives one of the more detailed articles that I have read regarding breeding, keeping and raising this popular African cichlid.

Our next 2 articles come to us from our friends in Michigan and are in the July/August issue of the SWMAS's SWAM. The first article titled "Breeding *Variabilichromis (lamp.) moorii*" by

Chase Klinesteker is a very well written and detailed article about the cave spawning Tanganyikan cichlid. George and Vickie Coy wrote our next article titled "The Secretive Fish: *Aspidoras menesezi*". This article is really a good article that details the manner that the Coys used to raise and breed this little South American catfish.

The Diamond State Aquarium Society brings us the next article titled "Reefkeepers" in their August edition of THE GRAVEL GOSSIP. This article by Marty Ziegler is part 1 and is subtitled "Setting up a reef tank" and appears to be written in a beginners mode. After all, I can understand it! Looking forward to part 2!

Finally, I think everyone in the Greater Akron Aquarium Society decided that the Aug/Sept 2006 issue of TANK TOPICS is the one to write stories for. We have 5 good stories this month starting with "Multiplying Water Hawthorn by seed" by Wayne Toven that gives you pretty much all the info you need for propagating this beautiful plant. Next is an article by Dan McMonigle titled "Can you remove scratches from glass?" that basically answer that question. Edith Mills wrote our next article titled "O.B. Peacocks" that takes us from the purchase of 6 1/2" fry to the breeding and fry raising of this mouthbrooder. Next is an interesting article by Dave Williamson titled "A question of proper identification" that shows us how important it is to verify the identity of any fish we buy. And finally Rich Serva gives us his persona; observations of "*Xiphophorus gordonii*" in an article by the same name.

...from the Internet

I am going to end this year with a website that I have found particularly intriguing and always helpful. That website is [AquariaForums.com](http://www.aquariaforums.com) formerly known as KingVinnie's Aquaria Pages (<http://www.aquariaforums.com/>). This website has many different features, some of which are not finished yet but, the heart of this website is the DIY Plans Database which currently boasts well over 300 different DIY plans for many different aspects of our hobby. If you like to save money or just like to play around seeing if you can make something, this is the place to go first.