



Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association

# The Cichlidfile

## 2012 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  
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 2309 Oswego Street Aurora, CO 80010 For more info call Sam at 303-364-7983 or email at samchin57@comcast.net

## Next Meeting

Our next meeting is this Sunday, February 10th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Englewood Recreation Center, 1155 W. Oxford Ave. Sarah Roberts from Maryland will be our speaker for February, talking about the fish of Lake Tanganyika. We'll have a mini-auction, a pot luck, Bowl Show, and door prizes.

## From your President...

A lot is happening in the club right now, and the pace is picking up as we march towards the single biggest event in the club's history, the ACA Convention in July. If you haven't thought about registering and attending, it's about time you do! Check out the website, [www.2013aca.com](http://www.2013aca.com) for all of the information you'll need, and to get your reservation in. I'd also love to see more and more RMCA members join the ACA. It is the best vehicle we have for the continuance of the cichlid hobby here in the United States, and our support can go a long way in helping things like the CARES program and other ACA initiatives. Learn more today at [www.cichlid.org](http://www.cichlid.org). The club itself has other important business, including an auction coming up. Are you ready? If not, be sure to attend next Sunday's meeting. As always, we will have auction supplies and will be reviewing a few key aspects of the auction rules and process. Changes are coming in the way we do auctions, and it will be well worth your time to make the meeting! There are some other changes coming in the next few months, and I think you'll all be pleased with them. If there was ever a time to become more involved in the club, that time is now!

*Keith*

[www.rmcichlid.org](http://www.rmcichlid.org)

## Spring Auction

Come one, come all to the Rocky Mountain Cichlid Association Spring Auction to be held on Saturday, February 23rd at the First Plymouth Congregational Church, 3501 South Colorado Blvd, Englewood, CO 80123. This is at the southwest corner of Colorado and Hampden. The auction will begin at 11:00 with the doors opening at 9:00 for sellers to register auction and quick sale items. Viewing of auction items begins at 10:00.

Watch for directions in the parking lot regarding unloading and parking. There is a convenient area to load and unload for the auction, but don't plan on leaving your vehicle there! Revenues have been down for the Cherry Hills Police Department. Don't give them an excuse to try and fill their short-fall.

Complete auction rules and seller sheets are available at <http://rmcichlid.org/wp/auctions/> .

Let's all work to make this a highly successful auction. Help spread the news about the auction by handing out flyers at your favorite establishments. The auction is always a good time to share in each other's success' as well as looking for new and interesting fish to stock your tanks with. Come on down and have a great time!

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## Auction Notes

Things didn't go as well at the Fall Auction as we would like. Here's a few notes on how you can help us make the auction go much better.

**Labels and Seller's Sheet**—Many people seem to prefer writing out their own labels. This wouldn't be a problem, as long as your handwriting is good. We had many bags at the last auction that the handwriting was illegible and made things difficult, not only for the auctioneer who is trying to get you a good price, but for the workers who have to write out the auction tag. Do yourself and the crew a favor and use the seller's sheet found on the auction page of the website. You don't have to buy the labels (just print them out on a sheet of paper and cut them out).

**Bagging**—Make sure you bag your fish well. Leaking bags slow down the process and you get charged a rebagging fee. Make sure your rubber bands are tight. Double bag whenever possible. Not only does it minimize the chance of leakage, but it creates gentle curves in the corners so your fish don't get trapped and die in the corners of the bag. This has been enough of a problem that there will be a station at registration to check all the bags for leaks, size of fish, and number of bags.

**Size of Fry**—Make sure your fry are of selling size. Our auction rules specify that the minimum size is 3/4 inch. This will be checked at the registration table.

**Number of Bags**—Sellers are limited to no more than fifty (50) items to be auctioned with no more than five (5) bags of the same species or color morph. For example, you could bring five (5) bags of P. Zebra 'red dorsal' and five bags of P. Zebra 'Chilumba'. You can not bring four bags of P. Zebra 'red dorsal' adults and four bags of P. Zebra 'red dorsal' fry.

[www.rmcichlid.org](http://www.rmcichlid.org)

## What Does Membership Mean to You?

**What does being a member of the RMCA mean to you?** Our meetings are open to anyone, as are our auctions and mini-auctions (okay, you get a better cut from the auctions as a member). We send our newsletter out to many more people than are on our official member rolls (might I add, worth the cost of membership by itself!). You could say that it is a great place to seek advice from others that love the hobby. But I've never noticed that we check the membership rolls before we answer a question on the forum or at a meeting.

So, what is so special about being a member of the RMCA? The Board was wondering the same thing at our meeting in January. Our conclusion is that we need to do more. One thing that we are working on is to improve our presence on the web. Keith has done a magnificent job on developing the website. Can it use improvement? Sure! But it's a great starting point! How do we make it better? That's up to you. **Tell us what you want to see.**

How about that Holiday Party last year? Yeah, the one that was cancelled for lack of interest as well as planning. We have set our Summer Picnic for August 3rd at Bob Grauer's house. The Holiday Party has been set for December 14th. No one has stepped up to host it yet. My personal goal is to generate enough interest that we can't hold it at someone's home but have to hold it at a local restaurant. Instead of just frivolity, friendship and a gift exchange, we want to make it into a club awards banquet. Of course, that takes awards. More on that in a bit. Where do you want to hold it? Let me know—I'm in charge of finding a home for the party. Me being a classy guy and all, I'm leaning towards Hooters. **If you have a better idea, I want to hear it!**

Now, on to awards. We intend to keep it simple for the first year. We're going to re-energize the Breeder's Award Program (BAP). I'll roll that out next month. The Board is thinking of having a Hobbyist of the Year award as well as a Newcomer of the Year award. **What should we use as criteria for these awards?** I'm starting a discussion on the Forum. Give me your ideas there. We want to have more awards in the future. Your thoughts on that would be appreciated too.

We've been trying to get greater participation at the mini-auctions at the monthly meetings. Our success in this matter has been lukewarm at best. We realize that currently prices don't match what we get at the regular auctions, but with sharing, the prices will go up. Some clubs normally have over 100 bags at their monthly mini-auctions. Plan ahead. We only allow five bags of the same type of fish at our auctions. Do you have additional fish that you can't bring to auction. Hmm ... I think I have an idea of where to sell them.

How about the potlucks at the meetings? They have been steadily improving, but I know we can do better. If we all bring something, the potluck can be the main reason for coming to the meeting. I know I could do better.

**What else can we do?** We haven't raised dues for a number of years, and we don't intend to. Let's brainstorm and get all ideas on the table. How about belly-dancing at the meetings? Although I don't think Keith would look good in those veils. Can we improve the Bowl Shows? Speakers? How about the times and location? Do Sunday evenings work for you? Let me know! Let your voice be heard! Except yours, Matt, we've heard enough from you (I'm joking!). Everything is on the table right now!

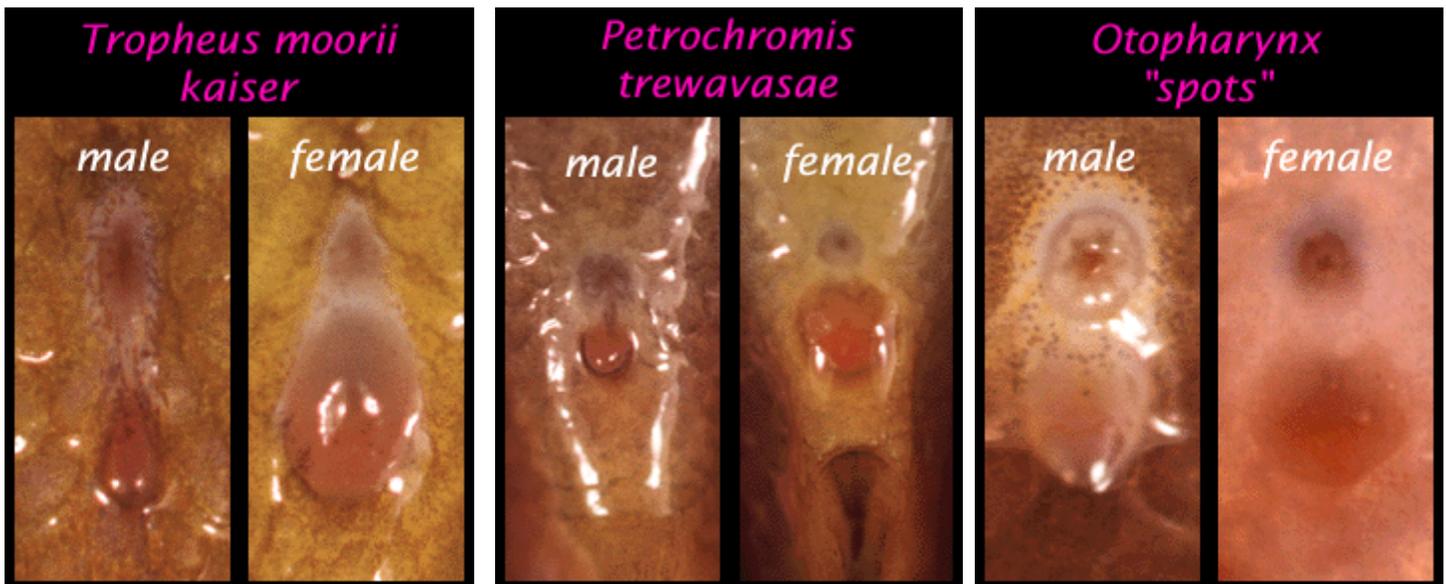
[www.rmclid.org](http://www.rmclid.org)

## Male or Female? How to Sex Cichlids

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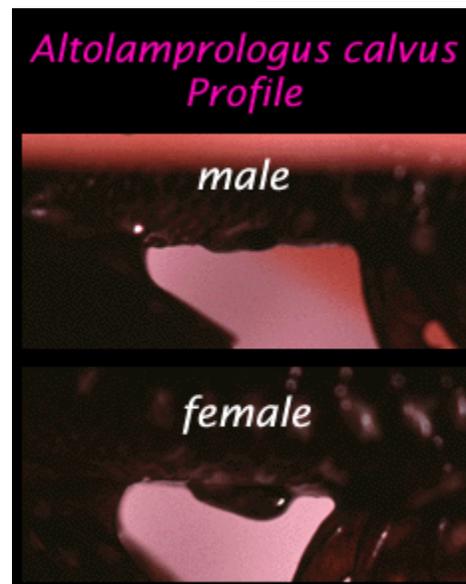
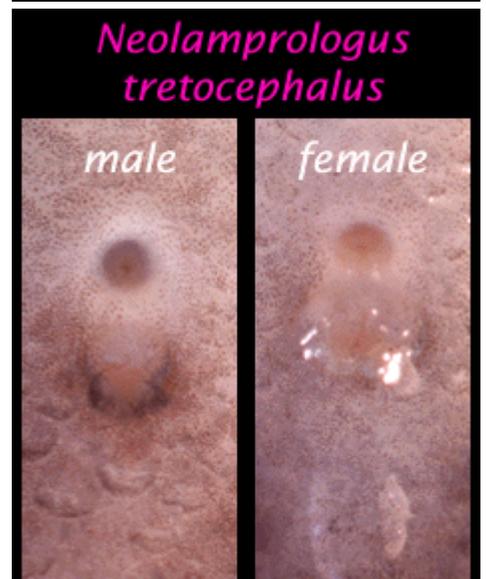
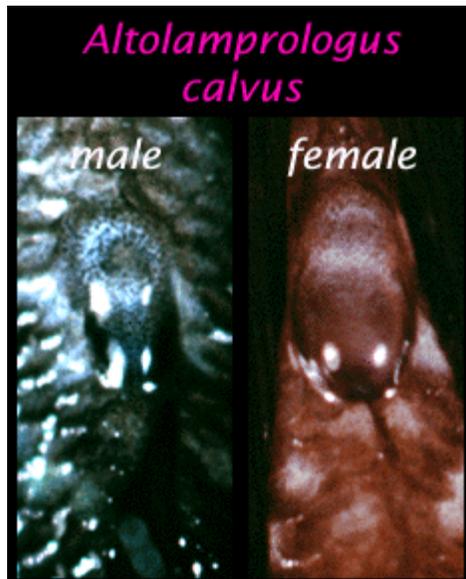
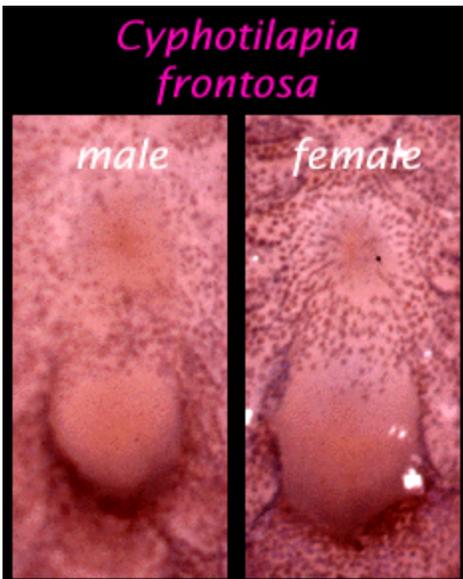
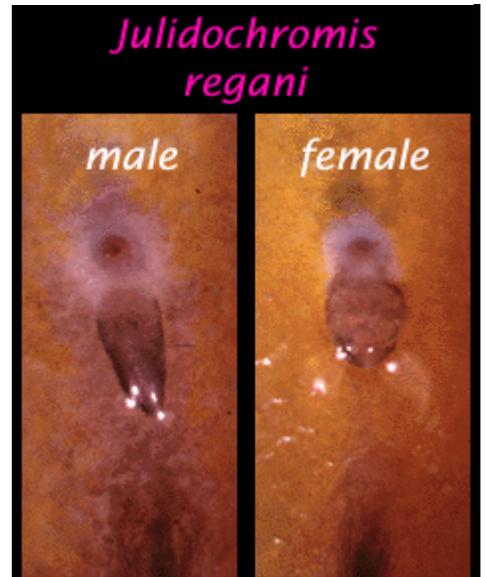
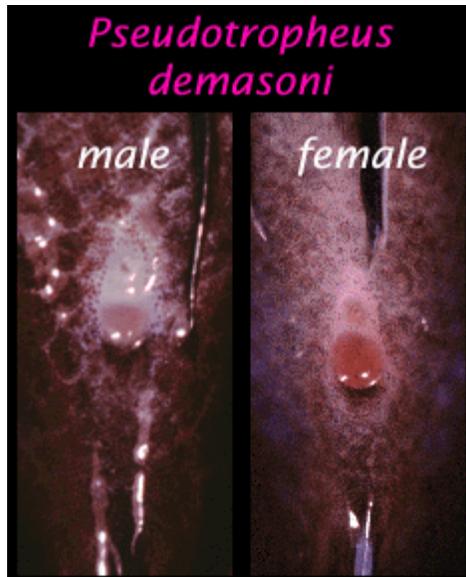
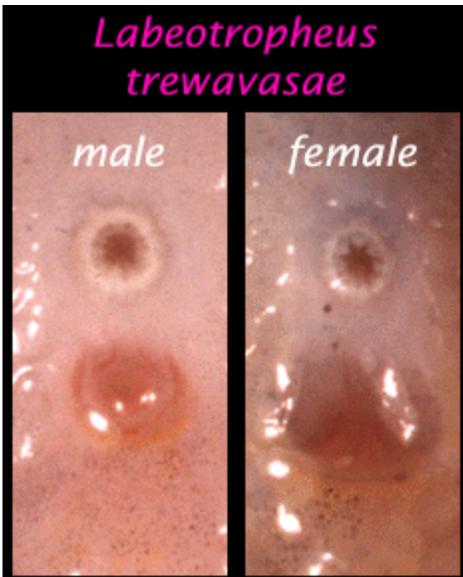
One of the questions I am most commonly asked is how to determine the sex of fish. The only positive way to determine the sex of sexually monomorphic species (males and females look similar) is by examination of the vent. This practice is commonly referred to as venting. What is the vent and where is it? The vent is the opening between the anus and the anal fin where the fish will excrete either eggs or sperm. The vent is also referred to as the genital papilla. For females the term ovipositor (egg tube) also refers to the vent. The photo on the left shows you where to look. In this article most of the photos are taken with the fish oriented with the head of the fish pointing away from you and turned upside down. In addition all specimens photographed were sexually mature adults. With experience you will be able to determine the sex of some species as early as three to four months of age with a high degree of accuracy.

The first six species pictured below are of mouthbrooding cichlids. Female mouthbrooders will lay an egg which is much larger in diameter than their substrate egg laying counterparts. Therefore the diameter of the vent is also much larger and easier to distinguish. Just look at the photos of the *Tropheus moorii* and *Petrochromis trewavasae* to see how easy these species are to sex. Conversely some substrate egg layers can be a bit more difficult to distinguish. *Neolamprologus tredocephalus* for example does not have near the differences in vent size and will require a little more experience to determine males from females. In some cases there will also be a pigment difference between the male and female vent. *Julidochromis regani* is an example of a species in which the male will have an elongated tapered papilla. In these species you can move your finger across the vent from left to right and the papilla will also move. In the photo below of *J. regani* I moved my finger from left to right. As you can see the papilla is pointing in the direction in which I moved my finger.



[www.rmcichlid.org](http://www.rmcichlid.org)

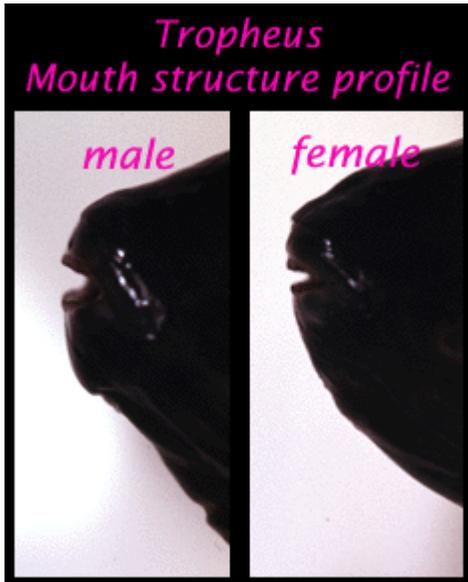
## Male or Female? How to Sex Cichlids (cont.)



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## Male or Female? How to Sex Cichlids (cont.)

The last photo below is a profile picture of the mouth of *Tropheus moorii*. I have included it in this article because it is an extra tool in determining male from female. As you will notice the upper and lower lips of the adult male *Tropheus* tend to be much thicker and more pronounced than the female. *Tropheus* can be easily sexed by examining the vent but this will help you predetermine the sex as soon as you pick the fish up. This thickening of the lips is much more pronounced in older adults than in young adults.



The tools I find essential in the venting process are a jeweler's loupe, an Optivisor and a good light source. The jeweler's loupe should have at least a 20mm lens. An Optivisor is the brand name for a head mounted magnifying lens. Both of these items can be purchased at a jewelry supply store. In addition I would recommend four buckets. Why four buckets? In the first bucket you will place all the fish to be sexed. Place a bucket on the left and right side of the one with all the fish. As you look at the fish and if you can make a determination of male or female, put the males in the right bucket and the females in the left bucket. If you aren't sure what it is, put it in the fourth bucket. This will prevent you from handling this fish too many times. You will probably end up going through the undetermined bucket several times. Why did I put the males in the right bucket? Well, because males are always right! Just a joke, no hate mail please.

While examining the fish do not keep them out of water for more than about 30 seconds. Try to keep the number of times you examine a fish to no more than 3 times. I would recommend that you first try this procedure with hardy Mbuna as opposed to some of the very delicate Tanganyikan species. In addition be sure that when you handle the fish that you have a wet hand. Vent sexing fish is an acquired skill that you will become more proficient at with the more fish you examine. In the beginning you may hardly see the differences in some species, but after some experience they will become much easier to determine.

## Congratulations to our January Bowl Show Winner(s):

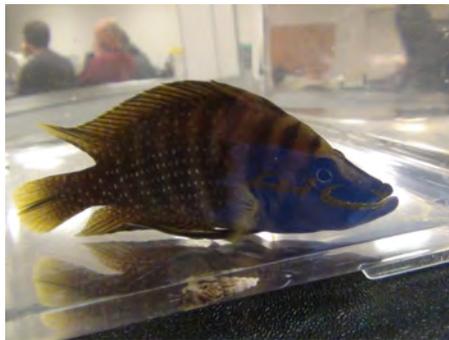
**Malawi**—1st Chuck Pollet - (*Aulonocara baenschi*), 2nd Jesse Schumacher - (*Dimidochromis compressiceps Albino*), 3rd Chuck Pollet - (*Aulonocara baenschi Albino*)

**Tanganyika**— 1st Dallas Barrett - (*Altolamprologus Calvus Yellow*), 2nd Kevin Fehringer - (*Eretmodus cyanostictus*)

**Other African / Asian**— No Entries (Free auction bucks available for the taking!)

**New World**— 1st Dallas Barrett - (*Apistogramma agassizii*)

**Open (Favorite Fish)**— 1st Kevin Fehringer - (*Synodontis eupterus*), 2nd Terry Havalka - (*Synodontis eupterus*), 3rd Chuck Pollet - (*Synodontis eupterus*)



Dallas Barret's *Altolamprologus calvus* "Yellow"



The Invisible Man's West African X-ray Cichlid

Chuck Pollet's *Aulonocara baenschi*



Dallas Barrett's *Apistogramma agassizii*



Kevin Fehringer's *Synodontis eupterus*

## Future Speakers



**February Speaker**—Sarah Roberts—Author of “Lake Tanganyika : Petrochromis, Gobies, Sand Sifters, and the Odd-Ball Cichlids of Lake Tanganyika” (Longstocking)

Sarah has been a hobbyist for over 20 years, but it wasn't until more than halfway through those 20 years that she found her passion—cichlids from Lake Tanganyika. Born in California, moved to Australia and now residing in Maryland she has always lived near an ocean, which bred her other passion—SCUBA. Sarah lives with her husband, cat and 1100 gallons of tanks, which include some rare cichlids from Lake Tanganyika and some exotic plecos. Her husband and herself are currently moved into a new house and are building a large hatchery in their detached

800 square foot garage. She is a member of the ACA and has been on the Board of the CCA for several years. In 2011 she won second place for the ACA spawn of the year. Currently she runs the BAP program for the CCA. Sarah is an administrator at [EastCoastCichlids.org](http://EastCoastCichlids.org) and [LakeTang.com](http://LakeTang.com) along with being moderator on several cichlid based websites.

**March Speaker**—Anthony Tu has been involved with tropical hobby more than 29 years. At twelve years of age, he started to breed beta fish which he caught them from a neighbors pond in South East Asia. His passionate of African Cichlids began in 1995 and he joined the PCCA since 1998. In fact, he joined the ACA (American Cichlids Association) in 2000 and ACA 2000 convention was his first ACA convention in 2000, he has specialized of keeping and breeding Cyphotilapia.

He currently maintains 12 variant of Cyphotilapia. Last April 2008, he was awarded as a Master Breeder from the PCCA's Breeder Awards Program. He wrote several frontosa articles and those articles republished on several fish club journals in U.S. Anthony is currently the PCCA's Web Master Chair and a member of Board of Directors.



In fact, Anthony gave several talks at major fish clubs such as: Pacific Coast Cichlid Association, San Francisco Aquarium Society and Silicon Valley Aquarium Society, Sacramento Aquarium Society, Greater Chicago Cichlid Association, Capital Cichlid Association and California's Organization of Aquatic Show Tropicals. All his lectures are using PowerPoint, video clips and most of all pictures in his lectures are taken by him.

**[www.rmcichlid.org](http://www.rmcichlid.org)**

## Growth Contest

April Meeting—*Aequidens tetramerus* due back

May Meeting—*Aulonocara baenschi* due back

September Meeting—*Tropheus duboisi* due back

Just a quick note as a result of the board meeting held January 26th. It was decided that we are going to limit the purchase of growth contest fish to one “group” of fish (however many fish are being sold to each participant) for each **PAID** club membership. For example, if Joe Blow gets a family membership for himself, his wife and son, he can only purchase one group of fish, not one each for himself, his wife and son. We’re hoping to get some great fish in this year, and we want to maintain the spirit of the growth contest and not see the fish immediately sold to a LFS or on Craigslist.

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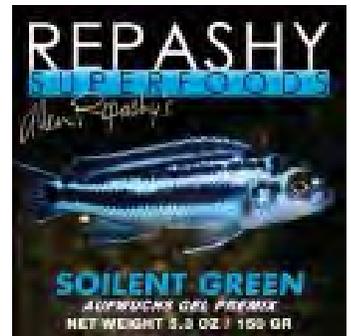
## Trading Post

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 [fehringerk@central.com](mailto:fehringerk@central.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, 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)!



### Bag Buddies

Kevin Fehringer has Bag Buddies available in bags of 20 just in time for the auction. Just like Jungle START RIGHT aquarium water conditioner, BAG BUDDIES protects your fish for the trip home by reducing stress in fish, promoting fish’s natural slime coat, removing harmful chlorine, neutralizing heavy metals and adding beneficial electrolytes. Plus BAG BUDDIES does even more by calming fish, releasing oxygen into the fish bag, and reducing ammonia buildup. BAG BUDDIES provides you with the convenient use of controlled dose tablets, eliminating the guesswork of measuring and the use of messy squirt-type products. You’ll help fish arrive home safely in top quality condition and better overall health.

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## February Bowl Show Categories

Please visit the [Bowl Shows Page](#) on our website for the complete schedule.

### Malawi:

GROUP 2: Alticorpus, Buccochromis, Cheilochromis, Corematodus, Cynotilapia, Diplotaxodon, Fossorochromis, Hemitaeniochromis, Labeotropheus, Lichnochromis, Mylochromis, Nimbochromis, Petrotilapia, Protomelas, Scieanochromis, Taeniochromis, Trematocranus.

### Tanganyika:

GROUP 2: Asprotilapia, Baileychromis, Boulengerochromis, Chalinochromis, Cyathopharynx, Ectodus, Gnathochromis, Haplotaxodon, Julidochromis, Lestradea, Loboichilotes, Ophthalmotilapia, Perissodus, Pseudosimochromis, Spathodus, Telmatochromis, Trematochromis, Tylochromis, Xenotilapia.

### Other Africans/Asians:

GROUP 2: Allochromis, Astatotilapia, (A. aenocolor, A. desfontainii, A. latifasciata, A. nubila), Chilochromis, Cyclopharynx, Enigmatochromis, Etroplus, Haplochromis, Hemichromis, Konia, Lipochromis, Mbipia, Neochromis, Oxylapia, Paratilapia, Pelvicachromis, Prognathochromis, Pterochromis, Pundamilia, Saratherodon, Steatocranus, Thoracochromis, Xystichromis.

### New World:

GROUP 2: Acaronia, Andinoacara, Archocentrus, Australoheros, Bujurquina, Chaetobranchus, Cleithracara, Cryptoheros, Guianacara, Heroina, Hoplarchus, Krobia, Mesonauta, Nandopsis, Paraneetroplus, Pterophyllum, Satanoperca, Tahuantinsuyoa, Thorichthys, Vieja.

**Open:** Rainbows

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## Save The Date!



February 10th—RMCA Meeting,  
Englewood Recreation Center

February 23rd—Spring Auction

March 10—RMCA Meeting, Englewood  
Recreation Center

April 14—RMCA Meeting, Englewood  
Recreation Center

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