

Why Should I Write for *Cichlid Chatter*?

Cichlid Chatter is your publication! It can only be as good as you help it to be. Keep in mind that you will need to write articles to achieve award levels in our BAP program. What *you* have to say is important. *Please...* share your knowledge with others. You'll be glad you did.

Suggested Topics

"What should I write about?" is the question we hear most often. Getting an idea for an article can be difficult, so here are a few recommended topics to write about:

- **Articles on Breeding Cichlids**
This type of article accounts for about most of the submissions we receive... and that's fine by us! If you have the knowledge and patience to breed Cichlids, rest assured people will want to read about it. It's a good idea to jot down a few notes so that things will be fresh in your mind when you sit down to write your article. Because this type of article is important to us, we've provided an outline for you to follow on the reverse of this brochure.
- **Tips and Hints**
Do you have a fishroom trick that is innovative, interesting or time-saving? Pass on your tip to others. Just write your idea down on a 3" by 5" card and give it to the editor at the next meeting. Or, e-mail to borstein@adobe.com.
- **How-To Articles**
No doubt you've got a way to use everyday household items in your fishroom. Or perhaps, you've just applied your wood-working skills to build the ultimate tank stand. Whatever the case, share your ideas with the rest of our members.
- **Humorous Articles**
If something strikes you as funny, write about it. Your article can be about a strange fish you have, something to do with kids, or laugh at yourself and write about a fishy goof of your own. Don't be shy!
- **Club Related Articles, Social Issues**
Write an article about club management or the environment. This is a good way to share your valuable opinion with other concerned club members.

Writing and Sending Your Article

We don't like to make rules, but it's good to keep the following guidelines in mind when you're putting together your masterpiece:

- **Choosing a Title**
Please use short, catchy titles (no longer than 24 characters including spaces). If your article is for the Breeders Award Program, add *for BAP* by your name.
- **Citing References**
Don't plagiarize! If you use a book or magazine as a reference in your article, please make a note of the complete title, publication date, pages cited, author, etc. If you directly quote, please clearly indicate that in your article .
- **Grammar and Spelling**
If grammar and spelling are not your cup of tea, don't worry about it. If you are unsure of a scientific name or spelling of a word, let us know by adding a mark after the word (for example: SP?).
- **Getting Help**
If you're not very confident about your writing ability, call the editor, Rick Borstein, at 847.478.8110. The editor will work with you to polish your work so you'll be proud.
- **Fact and Opinion**
Please don't introduce your opinion as a fact unless it can be substantiated in literature or is a generally accepted aquarium fact. Use words like "from my experience", "in my opinion," "I believe that," etc.
- **Send it Via E-Mail or Snail Mail**
Send your submissions to borstein@adobe.com. You can type your article right in your email program, or you can attach a word processing file or JPEG file for pictures. If you're not on-line, send articles and photos to: Rick Borstein, Chatter Editor, 337 Ronnie Drive, Buffalo Grove, IL, 60089.

See reverse for an easy to follow BAP outline!

Suggested Outline for Breeding Articles

A. Name of Fish

1. Common name (if it has one)
2. Latin name (if you know it)

B. Description of Fish

1. Color and general shape
2. Sex differences
3. Size at maturity
4. Temperament

C. Fish's Natural State

1. Geographic location
2. Climate of area
3. Water chemistry, if possible

D. Spawning Tank

1. Size
2. Water temperature and chemistry (if you know)
3. If chemistry altered, how?
4. What substrate, plants, etc.?
5. Type of filtration
6. Situation: light sources, distance from floor, traffic by the tank, etc.

E. Set-Up

1. Pairs or Multiples
2. How introduced to tank
3. Any special time of day
4. When to expect spawning
5. How long to leave set-up
6. Feeding during set-up

F. Conditioning

1. Were sexes separated?
2. How long were they separated?
3. Any special foods needed for conditioning?

G. Description of Spawning

1. What is spawning site?
2. Courtship and spawning actions
3. Spawning colors and patterns
4. Number and description of eggs

H. Raising the Fry

1. How long until eggs hatch?
2. Special care of eggs
3. Size and % of hatch
4. When do fry begin to eat?
5. What is the first food?
6. Second food?
7. Special care of young
8. Parental brood care
9. Filtration used with fry
10. Growth rate

I. Commentary

1. Difficulty obtaining pairs
2. Interesting habits of adults and fry
3. Any remarks or human interest material
4. Would you recommend this fish to others?
5. Are you still keeping this fish?
6. If you were to breed them again, would you do anything different?

Adapted from *American Currents*, Journal of North American Native Fishes Association.