

# The star of the aquarium fair

Biologist Andreas Speinert is an expert on Malawi Cichlids. His advice is much-sought after.



These discus fish with their radiant colours look like models in a fashion show. Photos: Gerd Wallhorn

## David Huth

The world's largest trade fair for aquarium-keeping in the "Landschaftspark Nord" (in Duisburg, Germany) not only awards prizes to the many exhibitors, who are presenting the newest innovations in the aquarium and ornamental fish industry. The trade fair also has a comprehensive series of lectures on offer, in

which aquarium enthusiasts can inform themselves about how they can provide suitable conditions for even the most exotic of aquarium inhabitants. And some fish species are quite demanding, so that there is a lot to keep in mind, to make them feel comfortable.

The expert Dr. Andreas Speinert knows the fussy Malawi Cichlids inside out. He is among the experts at the "Zierfische und Aquarium" Fair (Ornamental Fish and Aquarium Fair), who are most in demand. Even though his lecture is not until Saturday, he's already at the fairground at the "Landschaftspark" on the opening day. "For a fair like this it's worth taking a few days off work", he says.

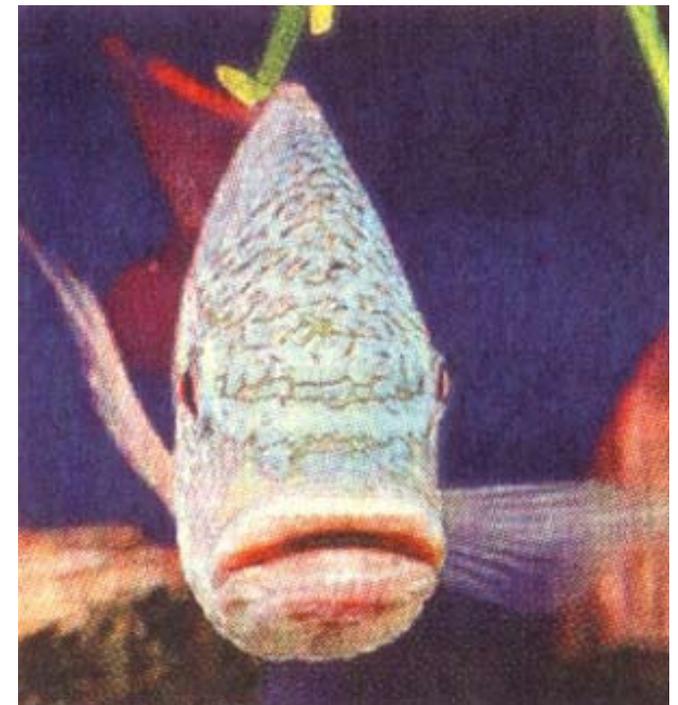
As a well-known expert, he doesn't get the chance for a quiet stroll around the fair, however. Among aquarium enthusiasts, the author is quite a star. Visitors come over to speak to him, ask to have their photo taken with him, or ask his advice about their home aquarium. Andreas Speinert's main aim in his lectures is to inform how the welfare of aquarium fish can be maximised. "I explain how to keep aquarium fish in conditions that are as natural as possible", he says. However, what sounds simple in theory is often not so simple in practice. Malawi Cichlids are especially demanding and fussy, but also very beautiful fish, if

provided with appropriate living conditions.

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## ONLINE

More photos available at:  
[www.DerWesten.de/dusiburg](http://www.DerWesten.de/dusiburg)



Malawi Cichlids are an eye-catcher for the visitors