



Photo by Steve Bernt
OB Peacock Male



GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB TANK NOTES

JANUARY 2016 - FEBRUARY 2016

ISSUE 71

GVAC ANNUAL SWAP MEET

— JANUARY 9, 2016 —



Time: 10 AM – 2 PM
Location: Home School Building Gym
5625 Burlingame Ave SW
Wyoming, MI 49509

Admission: \$3 Individual, \$5 Family

For more information or to sell,
contact Patrick Miller at thriftyfisher@1791.com
6' Tables for sellers are \$10 each. No splitting, no parking lot sales.

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Shealyn Sarns, GVAC Editor
P.O. Box 325
Grandville, MI 49418-0325

2016 CLUB BUDGET

Budget is to be determined for 2016 by the Board of Directors. Look for the next issue of Tank Notes for the 2016 budget and please contact a Board of Directors member with any questions about the budget.

GVAC FELLOWS

The following is a list of Fellows of the Grand Valley Aquarium Club. These are members who have contributed to making GVAC a successful club. They have held many positions within the club and donated countless hours during those tasks that would not be completed without their hard work and dedication. New Fellows are nominated by current fellows and voted on by the general membership.

Tim Boelema

Finn Nielsen

Ken Zeedyk

Ben VanDinther

Jeff Vander Berg

Patrick Miller

Don't forget to thank them when you see them at meetings or other events.

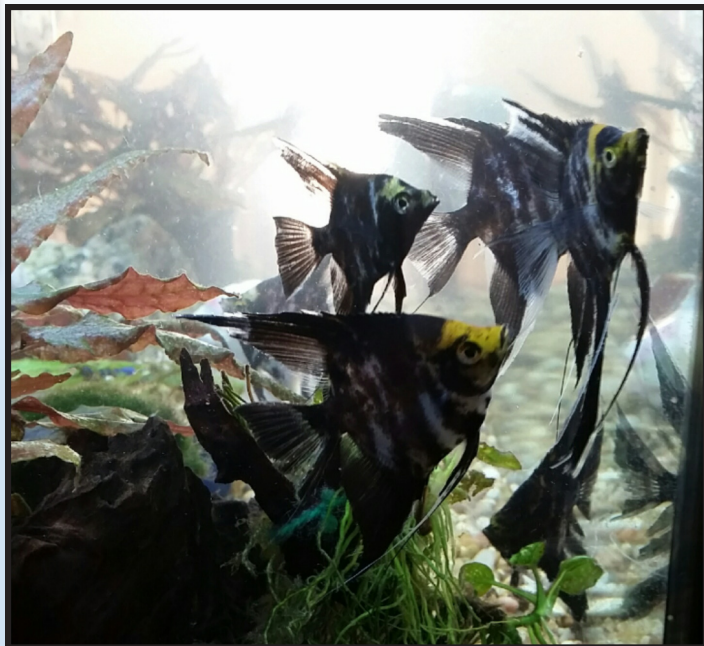
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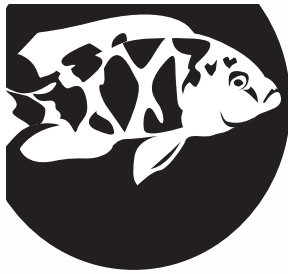
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*Photo by Robert Nerli
Black Koi Angelfish*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So 2015 was a banner year for GVAC and the hobby as well, we had some great speakers this year as well as good BAP, HAP & C.A.R.E.S. participation. GVAC started a monthly bowl show in 2015, it was met with moderate success, I would like to challenge members to participate in the Bowl Show, the more people who participate the greater the challenge! Please check the GVAC website for our 2016 speakers list, Bowl Show entries, and upcoming GVAC events.

In 2016 we have some great National events/shows close by. The American Livebearer Association convention is being hosted by Michiannia Aquarium Club, and The American Cichlid Association convention will be in Cincinnati. I would also like to plug an event that I truly enjoy, the Greater Chicago Cichlid Association puts on a fantastic weekend the GCCA Cichlid Classic; that is very affordable, (see their website for details <http://www.gcca.net>).

Make this year a year to try something different as a hobbyist. Attend a sister club's auction, or try a convention. Try out the HAP, BAP or C.A.R.E.S. program, try the monthly bowl show. Mix it up in your aquarium, try a planted tank, or try a summer tub. Bring your children to meetings, try to get them more involved in your hobby, they are the future of the hobby. Leave your hobbyist comfort zone a little.

Please remember GVAC is your club, if there's an event or speaker you'd like to see, please bring it up to board member. Donating your time and energy to the club helps to make us what we are, a fantastic club! Participation in HAP, BAP, C.A.R.E.S., writing articles, turning in photos, and participation in the many club events and programs we sponsor, helps both the hobbyist and the club.

Best Fishes, Mike Monje



Photo by Shealyn Sarns

Photo Tank Experiment with a Sailfin Molly Male

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PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT GVAC:

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Ted's Fishroom
Tetra
TFH - Tropical Fish Hobbyist
Zoo Med Laboratories, Inc.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

JANUARY:

- 9: **GVAC Annual Swap Meet**
10 AM - 2 PM, Homeschool Building
- 9: **GVAC Meeting**
7 PM, Homeschool Building
Speaker: Dominic Cerngul,
What Not To Do in a Fishroom

FEBRUARY:

- 6: Michigan Cichlid Association Auction
10:30 AM, Madison Heights
www.michigancichlid.org
- 13: **GVAC Meeting**
7 PM, Homeschool Building
Speaker: Pat Hartman,
Wild Livebearers I Have Known
- 13: Ohio Cichlid Association Winter Auction
11 AM, Strongsville, OH
<http://www.ohiocichlid.com/>
- 20: Motor City Aquarium Society Winter Auction
10:30 AM, Madison Heights
<http://www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com/>
- 27-28: Killifish Karnival
South Bend, IN
<http://www.michianaaquariumsociety.org/>

MARCH:

- 12: **GVAC Meeting**
7 PM, Homeschool Building
Speaker: Dave Hammerlein,
So you wanna go to an auction...
- SWMAS Spring Auction
11 AM, Painwell
<http://www.swmas.org/>
- 19: **GVAC Annual Spring Auction**
Starting at 11 AM, Homeschool Building

Full GVAC Calendar for 2016 available on the website. GVAC Board Meetings are TBD.



FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN

by Chris Carpenter (Photos by the Author)

The idea of keeping a saltwater aquarium was always intimidating to me, but after years of keeping freshwater aquariums with success and having grown tired of the inevitable question you get after you tell someone you have 30 aquariums at home “are any of them saltwater?” I decided to get my feet wet in the salty side of aquatic life.

I have always found saltwater aquariums to be breathtaking due to the color of the fish and live corals and for this reason I knew I wanted this tank to be on display in my home. I moved fish out and around to free up a 72 gallon bow front tank that sits in my living room. Once the tank was empty I started scouring Craig’s list ad’s searching for live or base rock. I came across an ad for a 75 gallon aquarium for \$10! I didn’t necessarily need the tank but I couldn’t pass it by for that price. I contacted the women selling the aquarium and was informed that someone had beaten me to the punch and was coming to pick it up the next day but that she had lots of other aquarium supplies available, including a bunch of base rock for 50 cents a pound. A huge steal! I lined it up and made the trip to Lansing a few days later. Not only did she have tons of rock, her whole garage was filled with tables that had massive amounts of saltwater aquarium supplies including the 75 gallon tank for \$10. Apparently the person that came for it couldn’t fit it into their car. I spent \$70 and walked away with almost everything I needed to get my tank started, including a 75 gallon aquarium for \$10.

I was now ready to get started. I started laying out the rock in the aquarium while it was empty so that I could place it exactly where I wanted. After approximately 50 different arrangements I finally found one that I could live with. I filled the tank with my saltwater mixed at a specific gravity of 1.024. I used tap water to get the tank started and saw no ill effects so I figured I would just continue using tap and that all the experts saying “you have to use reverse osmosis water” were just wasting time and money. I couldn’t have been more wrong, the tank burst into

a full on cyanobacteria bloom which leaves an ugly red slim on everything and is just plain ugly to look at. While there maybe some corners you can cut, this isn't one of them. I switched to Reverse Osmosis water and the tank cleared up in a matter of days.

Now that the tank was setup and cycling I had a long month to wait and do lots of research about compatible fish, corals and lighting options. The aquarium was running smooth with 4 power heads, protein skimmer, 30 gallon sump and quad T5 lighting but because my aquarium is glass and not drilled the sump with a hang on overflow box made me extremely nervous. I worried about a siphon break while I was gone and finding a living room filled with saltwater. I decided to make a few changes. I dropped the sump and skimmer altogether and went with 2 HOB marine-land filters and swapped out the T5's for LED's. One of the main differences between saltwater and freshwater is that the fish and corals are a lot less forgiving of poor or fluctuating water quality so I knew I needed to keep up on water changes and keep my filter pads clean.

After a month I tested my water and slowly started adding some fish. The first residents where a pair of Banggai cardinals which quickly became my favorites, probably due to the fact that they began spawning letting me know that I was doing something right. I added more fish all considered to be beginner/community saltwater fish. I wanted to start with easier fish as I was new to saltwater. Corals where added next

and again I went with beginner corals, LPS (large polyp stony), soft and mushroom corals. I've had a few losses with fish and coral but overall been pretty successful and have learned from my mistakes.

The aquarium has now been running for over a year with this setup. I do weekly to biweekly water changes and the fish and corals are doing very well. I absolutely love having this tank in my living room where its the first aquarium that anyone sees. The aquarium never seems to be finished because I'm always adding more coral.

If you are thinking about diving into saltwater, don't let it intimidate you. In my opinion it's not much harder than freshwater if you keep up on the maintenance. It's a little more work, research and a lot more expensive but there are deals to be found, just like in the freshwater community there are good people who want to help out and see you succeed and I would be happy to be one of those people.



THE AMAZING AMAZON MOLLY

by Scott Tetzlaff

The Amazon Molly, *Poecilia formosa*, is a freshwater livebearing fish. This fish is quite unique as it the reproducing population is entirely female. It reproduces through gynogenesis. Gynowhatsis? This means that the females must mate with a male but no genetic material from the male is used. The female is already carrying diploid egg cells. These eggs are clones of the mother. They have no need of the male's sperm. The act of mating in some triggers the development of these diploid eggs.

The common name of Amazon Molly came from this characteristic. The were named after the Amazon warriors an all female tribe from Greek mythology. They are not named after the Amazon River. The Amazon River Molly is *Poecilia amazonicus*. In fact, this species is found no where near the Amazon River. The are native to warm freshwaters of northeastern Mexico and to the southern parts of Texas.

The thought may have crossed your mind: If they produce only females where do the find a male to start

the egg development? Well in nature this species coexists with other *Poecilia* species of similar appearance . Usually, they are found with *Poecilia latipinna*, *Poecilia mexicana* and *Poecilia latipunctata*. I t is occasionally found with *Poecilia sphenops* as well. So the female mates with a male of one of these species to trigger the development of her eggs. On rare occasions a triploid male has appeared in the population. However, with no genetic information being exchanged it is still considered an all female species.

The Amazon Molly reaches sexual maturity between one and six months after birth. The can have as many as 100 fry in a batch of young. Fry are delivered every 30 to 40 days. That's a lot of fry. This greatly depends on food availability and temperature. They produce the most in water that is 80 degrees with an abundance of food.

I obtained these fish when I went to the American Livebearer Convention in 2008. I went to the Convention a couple of days early because they offered a couple of day trips. The Convention was in San Antonio, Texas. The one important to this article was the second trip to the Xiphophorus Stock Center. After we visited the

continued on page 7...

2015 BAP FINAL

Mitchell Hammer – 19

Ancistrus sp.
Amatillania nigrofasciatus
Archocentrus nigrofasciatus
Hemichromis bimaculatus
Melanochromis cyaneorhabdos
Metraclima estherae
Nimbochromis livingstonii
Protomelas taeniolatus
Pseudotropheus joanjohnsonae
Clea helena
Neocardina heteropoda
Amphilophus labiatus
Aulonocara stuartgranti
Copadichromis borleyi
Pseudotropheus socolofi
Zoogeneticus tequila
Aquidens pulcher
Cyphotilapia frontosa
Apistogramma cacatuoides "OF"

Chris Carpenter – 17

Julidochromis regani "kipilli"
Haplochromis thereuterion
Neochromis omnicaeruleus
Haplochromis sp 44
Tanginicodus irsacae
Lamprologus speciosus
Pelvicachromi sacrimontis
Cryptoheros chetumalensis
Pundamillia sp red flank
Paralabidochromis sauvagei
Neolamprologus gracilis
Lamprologus signatus
Lepidolamprologus sp. Meelli Kipili
Lepidolamprologus attenuatus
Poecilia obscura
Aulonocara stuartgranti "Chipoka"
Pytochromis sp salmon 'Hippo Point'

Patrick Miller – 14

Xiphophorus milleri
Allotoca catarinae
Poecilia reticulata
Poecilia obscura
Corydoras gossei
Allotoca meeki
Girardinichthys multiradiatus
Notropis chrosomus
Devario aequipinnatus
Aspidoras c35
Pseudotropheus sp. Perspicax
Xiphophorus kallmani
Melanotaenia praecox
Haplochromis sp. Ruby Green

Justin Sarns – 13

Placidiochromis sp. Electra Yellow
Limia sp. tiger
Neochromis sp. Entebbe
Xiphophorus evelynae
Puebla Platyfish
Copadichromis trewavasae
Mloto Likoma
Metraclimia sp. msobo deep
Xiphophorus alvarezii Rio Candleria
Xiphophorus mayae

Paralabidochromis sauvagei
Xenotoca variata "Jesus Maria"
Neochromis Greenwoodi
Aulonocara maylandi
Pundamilia sp. red flank

Ken Zeedyk – 11

Xenotoca variata
Astatotilapia aneacolor
Lepomis marginatus
Polypterus senegalus
Xiphophorus mayae "panzos Guatemala"
Pseudomugil gertrudae
Zoogeneticus purhepechus
Poecilia obscura
Etheostoma nigrum
Sewellia sp spotted
Neochromis Greenwoodi

Mike Monje – 10

Alunocara Hansbaenschii
Pundamillia sp. blue bar
Neochromis omnicaeruleus
Archocentrus centrarchus Flier Cichlid
Labidochromis sp. Zebra Lundo
Haplochromis sp. Kyoga flameback
Haplochromis sp. Fire Red Uganda
Haplochromis sp. Entebbe
Chromidotilapia guentheri
Oryzias woworae

Scott Tetzlaff – 9

Xiphophorus kallmani
Micropocelia minima
Poecilia sp coatzacoalcos
Xenotoca melanosoma
Julidochromis marksmithi
Gymnogeophagus sp. Neon Blue
Allotoca catarinae
Hemichromis elongatus
Pseudomugil cyanodorsalis

Darrell Ullisch – 8

Caquetaia spectabilis
Thorichthys sp. Coatzacoalcos
Steatocranus irvinei
Cryptoheros nanolutens
Nannostomus beckfordi
Sewellia sp spotted
Cryptoheros chetumalensis
Pseudomugil cf. paskai

Adam Persenaire – 7

Protomelas taeniolatus "likoma island"
Protomelas spilnotus
Protomelas taeniolatus "namenji island"
Aulonocara baenschii
Aulonocara maylandi
Labidochromis caeruleus 'lundo island'
Pseudotropheus cyaneorhabdos

Dan Kraker – 6

Metraclima msobo deep
Pseudotropheus sp. Perspicax orange cap
Neocardina heteropoda var. rili
Clea helena

Labidochromis sp. perlmutter
Poecilia sphenops

Roger Miller – 5

Moenkhausia pittieri
Julidochromis ornatus
Alfaro cultratus
Rasbora espei
Asolene spixi

Kevin Hightower – 4

Neocardina davidi var. cherry
L340 Hypancistrus pleco
Poecilia wingei
Labidochromis sp. perlmutter

Eric Maxson – 4

Apistogramma panduro
Aquidens patricki
Apistogramma trifasciata
Asolene spixi

Allan Workman – 4

Neochromis greenwoodi
Ancestries sp
Maylandia hajomaylandi
Neolamprologus helianthus

Chase Kilnesteker - 3

Apistogramma panduro
Pseudomugil cyanodorsalis
Poecilia obscura

Randy Morris – 3

Poecilia gilla "madre de dios" Costa Rica
Ancistrus sp bristlenose
Poecilia latipinna

Heather Burke – 2

Xiphophorus couchianus
Nanochromis parilius

Steve Hosteter – 2

Xiphophorus couchianus
Xiphophorus alvarezii

Dan Ondersma – 2

Xiphophorus maculatus
Amatillania nigrofasciatus

Cyndi Westra – 2

Astatotilapia latifasciata
Neochromis omnicaeruleus "Makobe II"

Charles Smith – 1

Pterophyllum scalare

Dave Swoveland - 1

Synodontis petricola

2015 BAP BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Participants: 22

Total Points Earned: 148

THE PERMANENT JULIE BREEDING AQUARIUM

By Mike Monje

If you're anything like me, and time is somewhat precious. I'd like to share an answer to high maintenance breeding. In addition to lower maintenance, this style of breeding lets you observe the fish's natural behavior and in my opinion will give your tank a higher aesthetic value. I know to some breeders aesthetic value isn't all that important, especially in a fish room, to me however I enjoy a tank that I can watch and observe, more than I enjoy fish production. The overall concept here is to setup a tank in which the adults can co-exist with the eggs and/or fry without consuming them all. Yes, in most instances you will lose some fry to predation, however the ones that make it will be the best of the best, culling will take place by natural selection. Plus I've found in this type of setup the parents will breed more often, this will help offset the predation that does occur. Please note this not a community aquarium, we are only keeping the selected species for breeding and only a pair or a trio, to minimize predation, and a dither fish or two.

To setup a permanent breeding aquarium you will need to start with selecting the proper fish for such a tank. Surprisingly, you will have a wide variety to choose from, there are many species from almost every family to choose from. If you do little research you can find a lot of species that can be maintained and bred this way.

For the purpose of this article let's take Juldiochromis species; these are a delightful torpedo shaped cichlid from Lake Tanganyika they will not only spawn in this type of setup. Succeeding generations will help the parents with the fry, really quite wonderful to watch.

I have a 20 long tank with an 8" x 8" piece of egg crate on the bottom of the tank; several pieces of slate sit directly on the egg crate, slightly off center in the tank. I used about 1/2" of sand to cover the bottom of the tank and the egg crate. Then simply stack slate alternating pieces to create a lot of caves and overhangs. Juldiochromis are secretive cave spawner, when they parents disappear for a few days start watching the rockpile for fry! When I see fry I feed Baby Brineshrimp to the tank, making sure I get this food very near to where the fry are hanging out. Once these fry grow to about a .75" of an inch in length the parents will spawn again, I've had as many as four generations in the tank at a time! A word of caution though, once they start sexing out, usually at about 1.75" to 2" the parents will make short work of them.

In order to keep the parents from turning their

aggression on one another, this can happen even if the pair has been compatible and breeding for years on end. We can place a few dither fish in the setup. When choosing dithers we need a robust, quick fish that will be tolerant of the water conditions for Julies, and not eat too many of our fry. Smaller barb species work well, I really Cherry Barbs for dither fish, they are pretty, they are quick and hardy, plus they are inexpensive to replace.

I have had multiple setups of Julies over the years. I always set their tank up in this fashion. It is an inexpensive, yet beautiful display. That will allow you to experience the natural breeding behavior of this delightful cichlid.

continued from page 5...

Stock Center we had lunch at a restaurant that had previously been an Aquatic Plant Wholesale operation on the San Marcos River. It had been arranged for us to collect in the area. There was a slight delay to the adventure due to our guide to forgetting the collecting gear. The group was really eager once the nets arrived. Ah but the collecting trip story is another article. Along the river were pools of water that were left after the spring floods. This is where we found the Amazon Mollies, The water was in the upper 70's and completely packed with vegetation. Scooping through the vegetation we caught *Poecilia latipinna*, *Poecilia Formosa*, *Gambusia affinis* and occasionally a small sunfish of some kind. You can tell the *Poecilia formosa* from the *Poecilia latipinna* in three ways. *Poecilia formosa* have an opalescence on their belly. This really stands out when you pull the out of the water. The red striations on *Poecilia formosa* do not appear on the belly as they do on *Poecilia latipinna*. The dorsal fin ray count is smaller on *Poecilia formosa* as well.

In addition to the trip there were several talks from academia on this species. One interesting topic was on mating choices by male *Poecilia latipinna*. It seems males do not prefer to mate with *Poecilia formosa*. The act of mating appears to be accidental or occurs if no other females are around. The few of us in the area that brought some home have also observed that the Amazon mollies seem to be quite aggressive with *latipinna* females.

This species is rarely found in the hobby. If you get an opportunity give them a try. There are a few things to remember. They require a lot of vegetable matter in their diet. Without vegetable matter they will simply waste away. The location where they were found was very dense vegetation. They also require warm water upper 70's to low 80's.

In my experience they did not seem to bother their fry. You will need to find a male of a similar species if you want babies. Keep them spawning.

2015 HAP FINAL

Kevin Hightower – 31

Vegetative:

Sagittaria subulata Dwarf sagittaria
Fontinalis antipyretica Willow Moss
Ludwegia peruensis
Cryptocoryne balansae
Cabomba aquatic
Echinodorus uruguayensis
Echinodorus muricatus
Cryptocoryne wendtii
Anubias barteri var wrinkle leaf
Bolbitis asiatica
Bacopa monnieri Moneywort
Cryptocoryne willisii
Echinodorus Osiris Melon Sword
Hygrophilia difformis Wisteri
Heteranthera zosterifolia star grass
Riccia fluitans crystalwort
Lemna minor Duckweed
Rotala rotundifolia
Echinodorus echlueteri
Ammania senegalensis
Ammania gracilis
Althernanthera reineckii
Ludwigia muelleri
Hydrocotyle tripartite
Iris pseudocorus (water iris)
Vallisneria nana
Pista Stratiotes (water lettuce)
Eichhornia crassipes (water hyacinth)

Flowering:

Nymphaea odorata (Water Lilly)
Iris pseudocorus (water iris)
Eichhornia crassipes (water hyacinth)

Mike Monje – 12

Vegetative:

Taxiphyllum sp peacock
(Peacock Moss)
Bucephalandra var. "Mini Catherine"
Bucephalandra var. "Micro"
Echinodorus var kleiner bar
Nymphaea zenkeri

Crinum Calamistratum
Bucephalandra var Super Blue
Blyxia Japonica
Bucephalandra var bukit batu
Fissidens fontanus
Microsorium var windelov

Flowering:

Anubias minima

Justin Sarns – 11

Vegetative:

Mynophyllum simulans
Echonodurus sp. Red Rubin
Cryptocoryne beckettii
lobelia cardinalis
Ludwigia sp 'Red'
Rotala macandra
Taxiphyllum alternans
Taxiphyllum barbieri
Vallisneria nana
Ludwegia muelleri
Vesicularia montagnei

Steve Hosteter – 6

Vegetative:

Ludwigia sp 'Atlantis'
Lobelia cardinalis
Cryptocoryne beckettii
Altemanthera philoxeroides
(Alligator weed)
Sagittaria lancifolia
(Arrowhead duck potato)
Eichhornia crassipes (water hyacinth)

Dan Kraker – 5

Vegetative:

Sagittaria subulata (dwarf sag)
Versicularia dubyana (java fern)
Pista Stratiotes (Water Lettuce)
Ranunculus Flammula
(Small creeping spearwort)
Micranthemum Umbrosum
(Giant baby tears)

Roger Miller – 4

Vegetative:

Staurogyne repens
Nuphar japonicum
Spirodela polyrhiza

Flowering:

Nuphar japonica

Heather Burke – 1

Flowering:

Pistia stratiotes (water lettuce)

Melissa DeHaan – 1

Vegetative:

Spirodela polyrhiza Giant Duckweed

Patrick Miller – 1

Vegetative:

Limnobium Laeigatum Frogbit

Dan Ondersma – 1

Vegetative:

Pistia Stratiotes

H. Scott Bultman – 1

Vegetative:

Hydrocotyle leucocephala
(Brazilian Pennywort)

HAP BY THE NUMBERS

Participants: 11

Total Points Earned: 74

THE LIFE OF AN AQUARIST

By Dave Antcliff

Fish, fish, fish, the nature of our trade, each of us hobbyists hoping ours will make the grade. Cichlids, Live bearers and those that spread eggs, creatures found to be fascinating, and beautiful and not because of a great pair of legs! These darting little marvels with colors that bedazzle and are amazing to our eyes, can also bring tears and long mournful sighs. Rooms consumed by tanks filled with water, the low hum of pumps, that never seem to bother, these are tools that help us to enjoy a hobby, like a tot with a toy! A house full of tanks that contain snails, plants, and fish, for some an accomplished dream for others just a wish



Photo by Steve Bernt

C.A.R.E.S. CORNER

GVAC C.A.R.E.S. List (as of 9/30/15)

Bitterling, Curt:

Skiffia lermac

Burke, Heather:

Botia sidhimunki
Tilapia synderae
Xiphophorus Couchianus

Carpenter, Chris:

Pelvicachromis sacrimontis
Pytochromis sp. Salmon
Hippo Point

Hartman, Pat:

Ameca Splendens -
Rio Teuchitlan, Mexico
Girardinichthys Multiradiatus -
SanMiguel Spring
Skiffia Multipunctata-
Laeo de Camecuaro, Mexico
Allotoca Catarinae
Chapalichthys Peraticus
Xenotaenia Resolanae

Hightower, Kevin:

Hypancistrus sp. L333
Melanotaenia Bosemani
Rainbow
Melanotaenia Lacustris
Glossolepis Incisus
Pseudotropheus Saulosi
Hypancistrus sp. L066
Baryancistrus sp. L081

Hosteter, Steve:

Xiphophorus couchianus

Kalafut, Andrew:

Glossolepis wanamensis
Melanotaenia lacustris
Melanotaenia boesemani

Klinesteker, Chase:

Characodon audax

Kraker, Dan:

Pseudotropheus saulosi
Pseudotropheus Demasoni

Maxson, Eric:

Pseudotropheus saulosi

Monje, Michael:

Xiphophorus couchianus
Zoogoneticus tequila
Placidochromis sp.
"Phenochilus Tanzania"

Morris, Randy:

Glossolepis Wanamensis
Glossolepis Incisus
Melanotaenia Lacustris
Melanotaenia Boesemani

Adam Persenaire:

Pseudotropheus saulosi
Xystichromis phytophagus

Sarns, Justin:

Paralabidochromis
Chromogynos "Zue Island"
Platytaeniodes sp.
"Red Tail Sheller"
Pseudotropheus Saulosi
Ptychromis sp. Salmon
"Hippo Point"
Pundamilia sp.
"Blue Bar" Hippo Point
Yssichromis sp. "Blue Tipped"
Astatotilapia Aenocolor

John Shafer II:

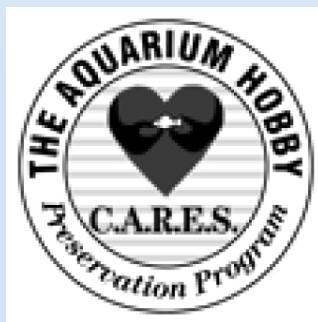
Cyrtocara Moori
Haplochromis sp. 44
Haplochromis sp.
Redfin Picbald
Placidochromis Phenochilus

Westra, Cyndi:

Neochromis Greenwoodi
Xystichromis Phytophagus
Astatotilapia latifasciata
Pseudotropheus Saulosi
Neochromis Omnicaeruleus
Makobe II
Cyrtocara Moori

**Please contact Cyndi with any corrections*

To view the species list, go to www.carespreservation.com and select tab "Priority List". To register a species and receive a blank form or ask questions, email Cyndi, GVAC C.A.R.E.S. Coordinator at ccyndiw@yahoo.com



VALLISNERIA AMERICANA 'GIGANTEA'

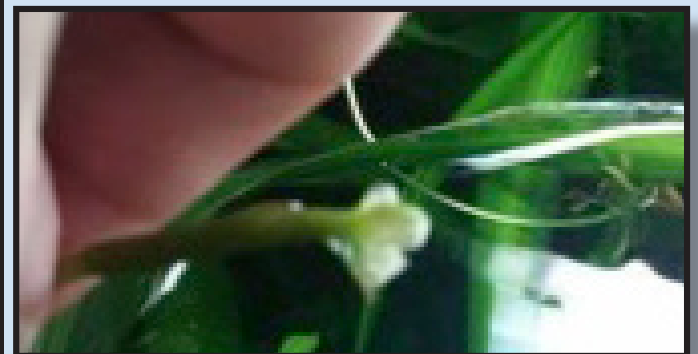
By Kevin Hightower (Photos by the Author)

Early in 2014 I purchased some vallisneria plants from eBay. The description was vague and had no scientific name but the price was right and purchased it. I figured that I could grow them out and eventually get a better understanding of what they were, worst case I was only out a few dollars.

I decided to plant the 3 small val plants that I received in my 150 gallon tank to see what they would do. That way I could keep a better eye on them and see what I had. As normal, the first few weeks they did not grow much but had decent color. As they adapted, the color turned a dark green and after a couple months I believe they hit the top of the water. I thought it was cool that I had raised these plants from next to nothing to now about 28 inches tall.

A couple more months passed and I knew they had kept growing because they were floating at the top and were starting to block the light. I knew it was time to trim them up and figure out exactly what kind I had. After I took the lids and cover off I had a good idea that I had Vallisneria Americana 'gigantea' because after I separated the leaves and hung them over the side of the tank they were around 8 feet long, almost touched the floor! To my bigger surprise I found about 6 skinny runners and at the end of them were small flowers.

I still keep the Gigantea in several tanks and I have sold many different runners. In some tanks I let it grow out and float at the top because it is great hiding spot for fry and other small fish, and some I keep trimmed up. No fish seem to bother it too much, some of the tank mates include many different plecos, Angel fish, Acaras, Frontosas amongst others.



2015 AWARDS

GVAC members have been very active in breeding fish and propagating plants. This year we had 22 members participate in the BAP program turning in 148 spawns. The HAP program also flourished with 68 vegetative propagations and 6 flowering plants turned in by 11 members. 2015 was the first year in a long time for the bowl show, we had good participation. We will run the bowl show again in 2016 GVAC is a members club and it is great to see so many people participating in club events.

Aquarist of the Year: Chris Carpenter.

This award recipient is chosen solely by the President of GVAC. Chris has been active in GVAC, since he joined, by this I mean he volunteers at events, has been, (and currently is), a B.O.D. member, has been Breeder of the Year, and has given Cichlid talks at our Club. Chris is always willing to share his considerable Tanganyikan Cichlid knowledge with anyone who seeks him out, he's never too busy to help or share with a fellow hobbyist. After talking to Chris for about thirty seconds anyone can tell he loves this hobby! Chris's enthusiasm for the aquarium hobby, and for our club is evident in his attitude and behavior, in my opinion Chris is the type of hobbyist we should all try to be. Always learning, always sharing with fellow hobbyists, and always sharing his time with the club and with the members. I'm a better hobbyist because of Chris's example. Congratulations Chris!

Breeder of the Year & BAP Rookie of the Year: Mitchell Hammer.

I think we have seen this before, but it is always amazing to see someone so successful as a rookie. Mitchell sure likes those Cichlids, of his 19 BAP submissions, 15 were Cichlids, but he didn't just breed Rift Lake Cichlids or even just African Cichlids but Rift Lake, West Africa and South American Cichlids. He also threw in a catfish, Livebearer and a couple species of shrimp. It will be fun to see what he breeds in 2016.

Horticulturalist of the Year: Kevin Hightower.

It can be hard to keep aquatic plants alive, let alone to turn in a bushel of different propagations as Kevin did. Not only did he manage to turn in 28 vegetative propagations but he also turned in 3 flowering plants. In getting his green thumb wet, he kept the club in plants.

HAP Rookie of the Year: Heather Burke & Dan Ondersma.

The rules for HAP Rookie are a little different; you must be new to the program to win this award. While turning in one plant might not seem like a lot,

many aquarists never are able to successfully grow even one plant. We are happy to see them participating and hope they continue to build on their success.

Writers Contest: Kevin Hightower & Mike Monje.

It stands to reason that two people so active in the BAP and HAP programs would also be the people with the most submission to the newsletter. Both Kevin and Mike also wrote some of the most unique articles, Kevin's "Data, Data, Data" and Mike's "Auction Primer" are just two that stand out. Thanks for sharing your experiences in the hobby with us!

Bowl Show Champion 2015: Patrick Miller.

For the first year of the program we had pretty good participation in the program. It is clear that Patrick enjoys showing of his fish by earning 23 points. We are happy to see some of his nice fish and look to see if he can repeat his results in 2016.

Individual Level Awards:

Master Breeder II: To obtain this level, the member must spawn 150 species
Ken Zeedyk

Horticulturalist: To obtain this level, the member must propagate 30 species with at least 5 flowering
Kevin Hightower

BAP Levels:

Chris Carpenter 90 Tag
Mitchell Hammer 10 Tag & Plaque
Patrick Miller 140 Tag
Mike Monje 110 Tag
Adam Persenaire 10 Tag & Plaque
Justin Sarns 60 & 70 Tags
Darrell Ullisch 80 Tag
Ken Zeedyk 150 Tag

HAP Levels:

Melissa DeHaan 10 Vegetative & Plaque
Kevin Hightower 30, 40, 50 Vegetative 5 Flowering
Mike Monje 60 Vegetative
Justin Sarns 70 Vegetative
Steve Hosteter 30 Vegetative

BOWL SHOW

What is a Bowl Show?

A Bowl Show is a mini fish show. It works like this: Each month at our regular meeting there will be two categories in which each member can enter fish. One or more judges will examine each entry for size, color, general health, overall appearance, etc., to determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category. In addition to receiving an award for that months show, 1st place is awarded five points, 2nd place three points, and 3rd place one point. At the end of the contest year, the member who has accumulated the most points will be presented a bowl show champion award for that year. This is an excellent opportunity to show fellow members your prized fish.

How do I enter?

Bring in your fish in the categories of the month along with a flat sided display container large enough to house the fish (don't forget to bring in water to put in the container). There will be a display table available for your fish. Members are allowed a maximum of two entries per month in the Fish of the Month categories and one entry in the Favorite Fish category. Entries in the favorite fish category can be any species and will be voted on by the general membership.

Who is eligible to enter?

Any member in good standing.

Who will be judging the entries?

One or more judges will be selected each month. The judge(s) will vary month by month.

Are there any other rules?

In consideration of our speakers, all entries must be set up before 7pm. Late entries will not be accepted! If you plan to make an entry, please get to the meeting early so other members will have time to ooh and ahh over your fish. Entries may be removed after the winners are announced. The Bowl Show Chairperson will keep a record of all points and announce the winner at the end of the year awards party. Entries should be labeled with the scientific and common name of the fish. An individual fish can be entered no more than one time during a contest year. Please, do not tap on the glass or disturb the entries in any way!



Photo by Kory Voodre

Example of a Bowl Show set up by Chris Carpenter



Photo by Shealyn Sarns

GVAC Bowl Show, March 2015

Schedule for 2016

	Category 1	Category 2
January	Favorite Fish	
February	Central & South American Cichlids larger than 4"SL	Bettas
March	Livebearers other than Guppies	Killifish
April	African Cichlids larger than 4"SL	Favorite Fish
May	Catfish other than sucker-mouth catfish	Rainbow fish and Blue Eyes
June	Guppies	Goldfish/Koi
August	Angels, Discus & Uaru	Characins
September	Anabantids other than Bettas	Favorite Fish
October	African Cichlids smaller than 4"SL	Sucker-mouth catfish
November	Central & South American Cichlids smaller than 4"SL	Favorite Fish



GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB
 P.O. Box 325
 Grandville, MI 49418
 Address correction required

GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of every month at 7 PM (See inside for detailed schedule).

MEETING LOCATION:

Home School Building Gym
 5625 Burlingame Ave SW
 Wyoming, MI 49509

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

GVAC Apparel

Store Discounts at Blue Fish Aquarium*

- 10% off livestock
- 20% off bulk food (does not include 5 lb boxes)
- Club Nights - Tuesday & Wednesday
- 20% off livestock

***Must show GVAC membership card to receive discounts.**

GVAC APPAREL!

- T-shirts
- Jackets
- Hats
- Coolers
- ...and more!

Order forms available at club meetings, see Andrew and Heather Kalafut to order.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- BAP and HAP 2015 Finals
- 2015 Awards
- 2016 Bowl Show
- “Fear of the Unknown”
- ...and more!

