

GVAC Tank Notes

July — September 2011

Issue 53

Upcoming Meetings:

July:	Summer picnic Members only
August:	Game Show
September:	Anabantoids Kirby Adams
October:	S. A. Cichlids David Ramsey

Summer Picnic July 9



Some GVAC Members talking fish at the 2009 picnic which was held at Ken Zeedyk's house

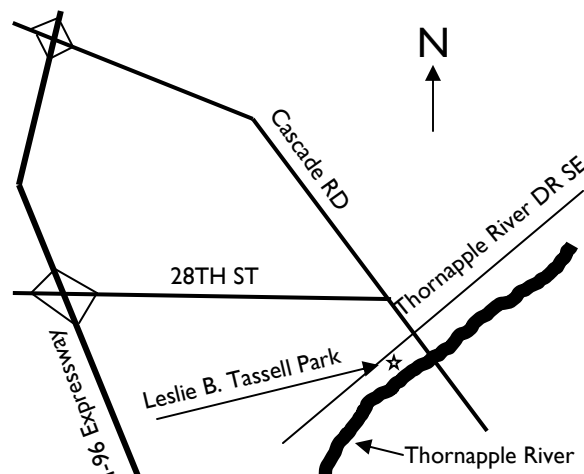
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This year's GVAC picnic is on July 9 and will be held at Leslie B. Tassell Park on the Thornapple River in Cascade. The picnic will start at 10:30am and run until 2pm. There will be door prizes. There will also be a fish exchange for those who would like to participate; just bring a fish, pair of fish or a plant to trade. The club will provide Deli meat, buns and soda. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

After this years picnic Chase Klinesteker has offered to open his fish room for tours. He does a lot in a small space you will probably be able to buy some great fish.

We hope to see you there.



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GVAC Fellows

The following is a list of Fellows of Grand Valley Aquarium Club. These are members who have contributed their effort to making GVAC a successful club. They have held many positions within the club and donated countless hours doing those tasks that would not be completed except for their hard work. New Fellows are nominated by current fellows and voted on by the general membership.

Tim Boelema

Fin Nielsen

Jeff Vander Berg

Ben VanDinther

Ken Zeedyk

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

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Patrick Miller
GVAC Editor
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Grandville, MI 49418-0325

Greetings from Zeeland

Welcome to another issue of GVAC Tank Notes. I hope this issue finds you having fun working on your tanks and breeding your fish. Summer can be challenging for my indoor fish keeping projects, but I do my best to keep up on water changes. I find many other distractions outside with the nice weather but my little ponds on my deck help to keep up my interest, especially now that I have some nice native fish in them.

Hopefully those of you who attended the June meeting were inspired by Patrick Miller to try and breed some tropical fish outdoors this year. Many types can be successfully kept and bred outside using the techniques Patrick talked about and you can also raise some nice water plants at the same time. Check in with Patrick if you need a refresher. I personally enjoy keeping and trying to breed native killifish outside. The *Fundulus notatus* and *Fundulus dispar* stay at or near the surface and are always fun to watch. The “stars” on the tops of their heads make them easy to spot and besides being a readily visible occupant they do a nice job of keeping the mosquito larvae in check. I already have found some *notatus* eggs in the spawning mop, so maybe I’ll get fry again this year.

Since I’m on an outdoors kick I’ll mention that I’m looking forward to our summer picnic location this year. Always fun to try something new and the Leslie B. Tassell Park on the Thornapple River in Cascade is very nice. Hopefully the weather cooperates, but even if it doesn’t we have the pavilion to use. We’ll have some food, talk some fish, do the usual “Bring a Fish get a Fish Swap” and have a raffle drawing of some donated goods. If you haven’t done the Bring a Fish Get a Fish Swap before this just entails bringing a bag of fish or plants, (preferably something nice). Those of you who bring a bag of fish will get a number. The numbers will then be put in a hat and drawn at random. If your number is picked you get to go up and pick from the bags of fish that other people have brought. We keep going until everyone has a turn, then we start over and go until all the bags are gone. This is always a fun event and you can score some nice stuff too! The after party visit to Chase’s fish room will definitely be a highlight as well. Hope to see you there.

Happy fish keeping,



Young painted and soft shell turtles photographed by Ken

Please support those who support GVAC

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 ADG/Aqua Design Amano USA
 Aquarium Fish Magazine
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 Pet Supplies Plus
 Python Products, Inc.
 Reef and Reed
 San Francisco Bay Brand
 Seachem Laboratories, Inc.
 SpectraPure
 Tetra
 Wardley—A Hartz Company
 Zoo Med Laboratories Inc.

Calendar of Events

- July 9** **GVAC Picnic**
Members only
Location: Leslie B. Tassell Park
2900 Thornapple River Dr, Cascade MI
- July 21-24 American Cichlid Association Convention
Washington DC
www.ccadoesaca.com/why.html
- August 13** **GVAC Meeting**
Topic: Game Show
- September 10** **GVAC Meeting**
Topic: Anabantoids by Kirby Adams
- September 25 Michiana Tropical Magic & Auction
Concord Mall in Elkhart IN
www.michianaaquariumsociety.org
- October 8** **GVAC Meeting**
Topic: South American Cichlids by
David J. Ramsey
- October 15 SWMAS Fall Auction
Registration @ 9:30 Auction starts @ 11am
Ken Krum Center in Schoolcraft
www.swmas.org
- October 29** **GVAC Fall Auction**
Location: Home School Building
- November 12** **GVAC Meeting**
Topic: Aquatic Plants
- December 10** **GVAC Christmas Party**
Members only
Location TBA
- December 10 MCAS Fall Auction
Registration @ 9am Auction starts @ 10:30am
876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights MI
www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com

If you have an event that you would like to put into the GVAC calendar please contact the editor at least 4 months before the event so that it can be put into the proper issue of the newsletter.

Big Dog Shop Hop V

If you missed this years shop hop you missed a lot. GVAC thanks Randy and MCAS (Motor City Aquarium Society) for hosting this event for the 5th straight year. It just keeps getting better.



Xenophallus umbratilis

By Mike Monje

One of my favorite dwarf live-bearers is *X. umbratilis* or The Golden Teddy. The Golden Teddy is just that and has a rich golden colored body, males at about an inch and females slightly larger at about an inch and a half. The males are a much slimmer build than the females, though both are very streamlined, and yes as the name indicates the males have a rather large gonopodium. The dorsal fin is a deep black with red in it and the eyes are jet black. Overall a very striking little fish that shows real well in a planted tank.

My current collection, obtained from Pat Hartman at a local swap, has the collection site Arenal Volcano, Costa Rica and I must say is probably the best looking strain of *X. umbratilis* that I have worked with. I truly enjoy working with species that I can setup in a permanent breeding tank and *X. umbratilis* lends itself very well to just such a setup. I have mine in a 20 long tank planted with *Rotala rotundifolia*, some crypts and duckweed on the surface. Really to much tank for such a small species, they would just as well in a ten gallon tank. The tank temperature is room temperature, I run no heater in this tank, and the water averages about 72 degrees.

Spawning takes place much in the manner of most Poeciliid species, some displaying for the female and some just plain opportunistic ambushing. Like their Poeciliid cousins they are only opportunistic fry eaters. Some interesting notes on this species that I've learned over the years. They seem to grow sssllllloooowwww. Taking a full eight weeks usually a little longer to reach adulthood and interestingly enough they won't breed at all before they reach this stage. They also seem to be a bit slow in the I'm ready to breed again category. Personally, I find these to be attributes of the species as they will not breed you out of tank space as most Poeciliids will. Females will generally throw 10 to 15 fry during a spawn and leaving the fry in with the adults you can expect about a 75% survival rate.

The adults feed readily on flake food, I supplement mine with decapsulated Brine Shrimp eggs and frozen Glass Worms. The fry do real well on the decapsulated Brine Shrimp Eggs and crumbled Flakes. I've kept this species at least half a dozen different times over the years and have never had a problem with disease, breeding or selling the offspring. If you have a small tank, want to try something really different and just as stunning this is the fish to try.



Golden Teddy male, photo by Patrick Miller

HAP January—June

Ben VanDinther

Vegetative

Pogostemon rectum
Cryptocoryne moelmanni
Echinodorus sp. *Vesuvius*
Aponogeton Longiplumulosus
Echinorus sp. *tenzande feverfeder*

Flowering

Aponogeton natans
Bacopa caroliniana
Cryptocoryne tonkinensis

Sexual

Aponogeton Natans

Roger Miller

Vegetative

Lemna minor
Egeria densa
Cryptocoryne wendtii "red"
Nymphaea lotus zenkeri "red"
Myriophyllum simulans
Hydrocotyle leucocephala
Hygrophila difformis

Flowering

Anubias barteri nana

Patrick Miller

Vegetative

Hydrocotyle leucocephala
Lemna trisulca
Anubias barteri
hygrophila sp. low grow

Flowering

Menyanthus trifoliata

Tom Siefried

Vegetative

Ceratophyllum submersum
Cryptocoryne Balansae
Cryptocoryne lutea
Anacharis Egeria densa

Scott Tetzlaff

Vegetative

Lomariopsis lineata

Jeff VanderBerg

Flowering

Cryptocoryne usteriana

Chase Klinesteker

Flowering

Cryptocoryne usteriana

GVAC Tank Notes

Did you know that there was an Aquarium Society in Grand Rapids in 1957? Not only was there a club but Chase Klinesteker was a member of that club. Recently Chase found the letter below and sent me a copy of it with the following comments.

Patrick, I thought you and the GVAC members might be interested in these meeting minutes I just found. Especially interest-

ing would be if any members remember some of the people mentioned in these minutes. I received them from the secretary while I was in Germany for the summer in 1957.

I was indeed interested and believe it is always interesting to see what people were doing in the hobby back in the day. If you know anyone mentioned in the letter let Chase know.

FISHY NEWS FROM A FISHY GOSSIP

Hi ! Not stopped yet-

The meeting of June which had it's session at the home of Mr. Robert Mallory, at 106 Rose St. SW. had a turn out of 10 members and 1 guest. Due to the absence of the President, the Vice President, Mrs. Elsie Leys called the meeting to order. The substitute for the minutes of the May meeting were read and accepted and the Treasurer's report was given. The correspondence was read.

Mr. Mallory informed the club that he had tried to check the tanks at Mary Free Bed but that the ward where the tank is placed was quarenteened with measels and would be till at least July 2. Mrs. Beulah Ignasiak mentioned that the tank from the nursery had been taken to Roger DeYoung's to be mended and she would assist in resetting it when it was fixed.

Mrs. Elsie Leys and Frank York are designated to check the tanks before the July meeting and Mr. Robert Higgins before the picnic in August.

The subject of the picnic was again brought up and some discussion on what should be had in the line of food was held. It was decided to table this till the July meeting till a estimate could be made on how many plan to attend. It was however decided to have potato salad and hot dogs.

Mrs. Elsie Leys submitted a letter which she had recieved from Tropicals of Chicago in which the club is offered the magazine at a reduction. The retail price being 25¢ a copy but the club can subscribe for 5 copies for a dollar with the club retaining 30¢ out of each dollar. This was considered a good investment by those present, so it was decided to take the offer. The minimum of subscriptions being 10. Marian Rupke is making a list of all those wishing to subscribe and also collecting the charge for the magazines. She will also call those who were absent to determine if they are interested in this offer.

Mr. William Kubiak informed the club of his resignation from the possition of Secretary and also from the club. Mr. Robert Mallory volunteered to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Kubiak until the end of the term. We are sorry to see Mr. Kubiak leave but he knows what is best for him.

Three bottles of Brine Shrimp eggs were given as door prizes. They were won by Robert Higgins, Virginia McGaughey, and Marian Rupke.

After the meeting was adjourned Mrs. Mallory served coffee and cookies to the group. We extend our thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Mallory for opening their home to us for the meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Mrs. Elsie Leys, 135 Palmer NE. on July 26, at 8:00 PM.

NUFF SAID-

See you in the sweet bye & bye
Marian Rupke

Ancistrus sp. (Dwarf Albino Bristle-Nose pleco)

By Roger Miller photos by the author

The Ancistrus species of catfish are found in fast running streams and rivers in South America. They are often called bristlenose catfish, brushy-nose catfish or even bristlenose plecos.



*Bristle nose (Ancistrus sp.)
with yolk sack (1-30-2011)*

They derive their nicknames from the characteristic tentacles which grow on their snouts. Though these tentacles, (which are not hard or stiff as their nicknames imply) may be present in both sexes, they are usually much more developed in the males. Often these tentacles will grow quite large, branching one or more times.

They are predominantly vegetarian and are known as efficient algae eaters. As with most types of algae eating fish they will eat some types of algae but not others. Fortunately or unfortunately, depending upon your perspective, they will soon clean out the tank of, what they consider, edible algae. They will then need to be provided with a diet high in vegetable matter - boiled/blanched lettuce leaves, spinach, zucchini, etc. (Mine seem to prefer spinach).

The two specimens that I have were purchased, individually as juvenile fish (appx. 2" long) at the 2009 GVAC spring auction (the first fish auction I ever attended). Upon arrival at home they were placed in separate tanks. I didn't think much about them after that as I only saw them occasionally. Each of their tanks had an abundance of live plants and decor (rock, driftwood, etc.) which provided numerous locations where they could conceal themselves—which they took very seriously. It wasn't until early this year (2011) when both fish happened to be out in the open on the same day at about the same time that I became aware that I had both a male and a female.

Up until this time I had not thought about attempting to try to spawn these fish, but with the realization that I had a pair I decided to attempt it and see what would happen.

I made a tank available for them and transferred them into it. The transferring was easier said than done, as many of you well know. These fish can be amazingly fast, dart from hiding place to hiding place and wedge themselves into spots that you cannot get them out of until they are ready to come out on their own. I managed to net the male, from the tank that he was in, without

rearranging it too much. The female, however, made things somewhat more difficult. After chasing her around the tank, removing the driftwood and most of the rock in the process, she wedged herself into a hole in the one remaining piece of rock in the tank and refused to be removed from it. This forced me to transfer rock and all to the waiting tank (I removed the rock the next day after she vacated it).

The new tank was approximately 15 gallons with live plants, a couple small pieces of driftwood and two "cichlid stones" (which are ceramic caves crafted to appear like rocks or stones). It is filled with untreated tap water (from a well) with a pH of 7.4 - 7.6 and a GH of 12 - 14. Filtration is accomplished by a small h.o.b. power filter, temperature is maintained at 74 - 76 degrees F. and a twin tube T5 light fixture, 48 watts total, on for 12 hours a day (for the plants). A water change replacing 50 - 75% is done once a week using tap water.

Many Ancistrus species, if given the right conditions, will readily spawn in the aquarium and mine were no exception. Their preferred spawning location is usually a cave, tube, pipe or whatever with only one opening for the male to guard. Once the eggs are laid the female is done and the male takes over as the sole guardian until the eggs hatch.

My pair chose one of the "cichlid stones" to spawn in and it wasn't long before I saw the first fry. The first spawn resulted in only 6 fry. One of which died before the 60 day requirement for B.A.P., making me wait until the next spawning which wasn't long in coming. Subsequent spawns have been substantially larger, 20 - 30+ fry. The adults have no interest in the fry and leave them alone so they can remain with the parents without worry. The fry readily eat what the adults are fed (sinking algae wafers and spinach). Even though they are vegetarians they have never bothered any of the live plants in their tanks.

The fry grow relatively quickly reaching 1 1/4" - 1 1/2" in ten to twelve weeks, after which body length growth slows some as they start to put on body mass also. Adults grow to 3 1/2" - 4 1/2".

They are a very peaceful species and one to be recommended for a peaceful community tank.



Ancistrus sp. male & fry

2011 BAP January—June

Monje, Mike—19

Ancistrus Temmincki
Corydora aeneus
Glossolepis incius
Julidochromis dickfeldi
Limia perugiae
Limia Tridens
Limia vittata
Neocardina heteropode - red cherry shrimp
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Phallichthys fairweatheri
Poecilia gilli
Poecilia reticulata
Procambarus marmorkrebs
Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi
Pseudotropheus saulosi
Pundamilla sp Crimson Tide Super Red Crimson Tide
Tanichthys albonubes
Xenophallus umbratilis
Xiphophorus Pygmaeus

Tetzlaff, Scott—10

Astatotilapia calliptera
Australoheros red ceibal
Copadichromis borleyi
Nandopsis salvini
Neolamprologus brichardi
Poecilia gilli
Pseudotropheus msobo
Synodontis petricola
Tateurndina ocellicauda
Tomocichla sieboldii

Mays, Tyler—10

Ancistrus calico
Australoheros red ceibal
Julidochromis maleri
Labidochromis caeruleus
Labidochromis gigas "Mara Rocks"
Lethrinops red cap chirula
Neolamprologus cylindricus
Parachromis devii "Yellow"
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Pseudotropheus demasoni

Siegfried, Tom—8

Asolene spixi
Aulonocara kandeense
Clea helena
Ilyodon xantusi
Neocaridina heteropoda
Planorbis corneus/rubrum

Xiphophorus maculatus
Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl

Carpenter, Chris—7

Asolene spixi
Cyprichromis leptosoma
Limia perugiae
Neolamprologus multifasciatus
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Planorbis corneus/rubrum
Poecilia reticulata

Zeedyk, Ken—6

Corydoras panda
Eretmodus cyanostictus
Iodotropheus sprengerae
Neetroplus nematopus
Pelmatochromis beutokofferi
Tanichtys albonubez

Henkalin, Travis—5

Ancistrus
Corydoras habrosus
Poecilia reticulata
Poecilia wingei
Pterophyllum scalare

Miller, Roger—5

Ameca splendens
Hemichromis bimaculatus
Heterandria formosa
Labidochromis caeruleus
Xenotoca elseni

Hosteter, Steve—4

Limia perugiae
Neocardinia denticulate "cherry shrimp"
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Tanichthys albonubes

VanDinther, Ben—3

Inlecypris auropurpurea
Nematobrycon palmeri
Procambarus sp marmorkrebs

VandenBerg, Jeff—3

Carassius auratus
Oryzias woworae
Pseudotropheus perspicax yellow breast

Miller, Patrick—3

Limia sulphurophila
Poecilia Gillia
Sturisomia aff. Festivum

Kraker, Dan—2

Aulonocara stuartgranti
Labidochromis chisumulae

Boelema, Tim—1

Neocardina heteropode sp. Yellow

Curt Wins!

Our very own Curt Bitterling did very well at the 2011 ALA (American Livebearer Association) convention show this year. Not only did he take first place in deep bodied Goodeids and wild type swordtail but he won the Robert Rush Miller Award (Best in Show) for wild type livebearers. These were nice fish and a testament to how well Curt is a keeping and breeding these very challenging fish.

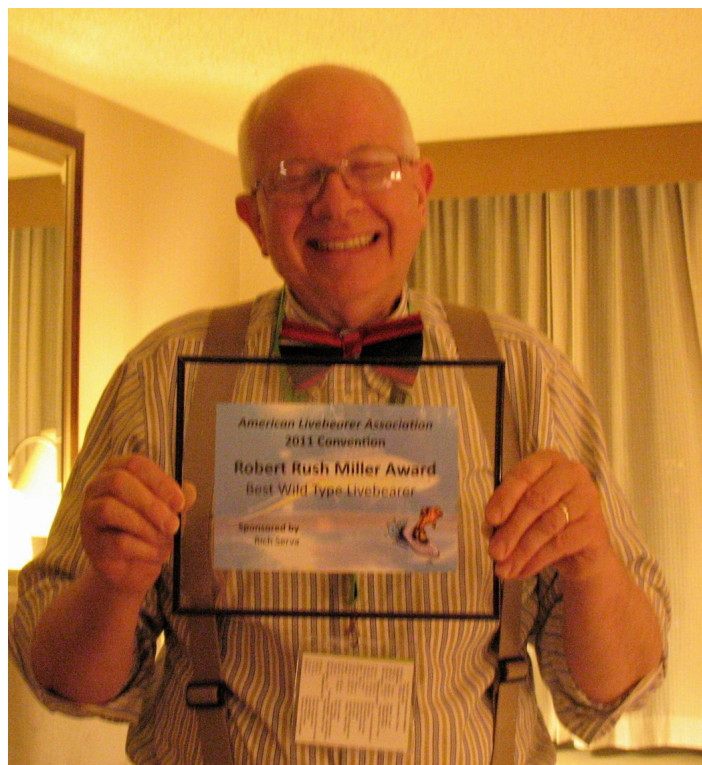
If you haven't been to an ALA or other national convention (there is one for Cichlids, catfish, native fish and others) you should think about attending one of these great events. Most of these conventions last for three days, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, however, some will start on Thursday to allow for extra activities such as collecting trips.

The normal schedule for these conventions includes speakers and side trips on Friday and Saturday. These conventions normally end with a very big auction on Sunday.

You will have the opportunity to meet many people from all over the country and in many cases the world. Many people at these events are just like you and breed their fish and they have them for sale. You will also find fish that have been recently collected in the wild and have not been available to hobbyist before.

Most of these conventions have shows where you can not only show your fish but find out what makes a good show fish. You will be able to talk to people who have been breeding these fish and find out their tricks and techniques.

Once again Congratulations Curt we can't wait to see what you do in the future.



A poor picture of Curt's X. helleri which won Best Wild Type Livebearer at the 2011 ALA convention.



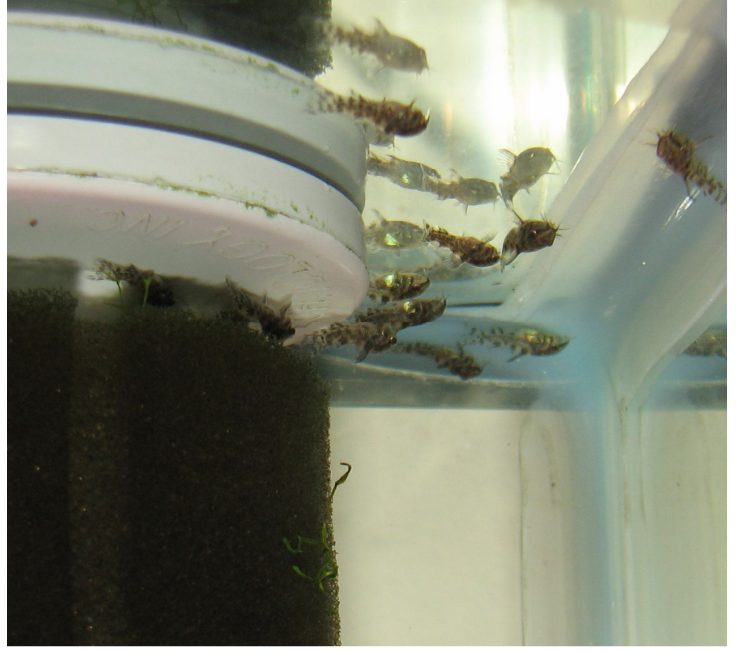
Photo of Curt's winning Skiffia multipunctatus male



Pat Hartman selling fish during the "room" sale part of the ALA convention

Grand Valley Aquarium Club
PO BOX 325
Grandville MI 49418
Address correction requested

Photos by Ken Zeedyk of his *Corydoras paleatus* fry.
Please submit pictures of your fish to the editor, Patrick Miller. I
am always looking for material for the newsletter and pictures are
the next best things to writing an articles.
Thanks



Grand Valley Aquarium Club

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 7PM
Holliday Inn Express
Great room, just turn right at the big fish tank
6569 Clay Ave SW
Grand Rapids MI
There is no fee and everyone is welcome to attend!

