Grand Valley Aquarium Club

GVAC Tank Notes




July—September 2014 Issue 65

Upcoming Meetings:

July:	GVAC Picnic Members Only
August:	Ted Judy The Power of #s
Sept:	Rachel O'Leary Nano Aquaria
October:	Mike Hellweg Wild Bettas
Oct. 25	GVAC Fall Auction

Inside this issue:

Members Only Picnic

July 12

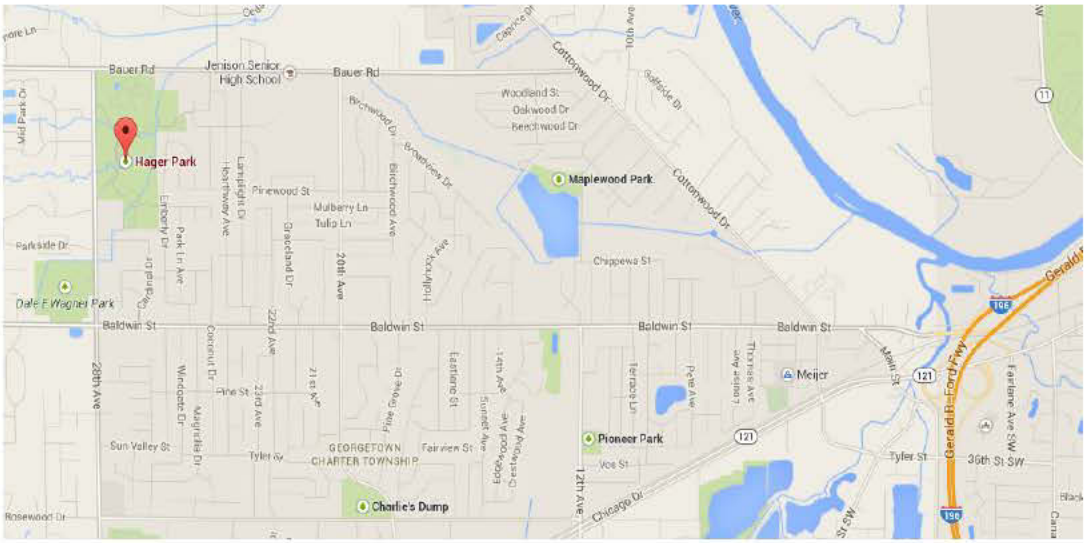
Who: This event is only open to members and their families. Please RSVP to Mike Monje exstreamaquatix@gmail.com or Justin Sarns sarnsj@gmail.com

When: 5pm to 9:30pm

Where: Hager Park, 8134 28th Ave Jenison MI 49428
We will be in the Picnic Building

Food: The club will provide food and drinks

Activities:
*Door Prizes
*Bring a bag get a bag fish swap (Bring a nice pair or group of fish or plants and get a bag of fish or plants)
*Collecting, there is a stream running through the park next to the picnic shelter for those who would like to do some exploring.



President's Corner

Welcome to summer in Michigan, my ponds going great guns, it's turning out to be banner summer for tubing and ponds! It's hard to believe that the year's half over already! GVAC has been fortunate, we've had some great speaker's this year, and more to come! Ted Judy, Mike Hellweg, Rachel O'Leary will be speaking yet this year! In the past Ben VanDinther has arranged GVAC speaker's, and he did a fantastic job! This year Justin Sarns has been arranging our speaker's and I think he's done a first rate job with it. I'd like to thank Ben for a job well done, and Justin for taking over this responsibility and doing a great job with it. Next time you see Ben, please thank him for his service to GVAC.

I would personally like to thank Tim Boelema for coordinating and presenting the GVAC Legacy Award, which was presented to Pete Goettner, at our June meeting. As a club we are very lucky to have some of the real heavy hitters in the hobby affiliated with us. These are great mentors, and an unending resource for any club member. Congratulations Pete!

Cyndi Westra has been instrumental in getting GVAC involved in the *C.A.R.E.S.* program and is our *C.A.R.E.S.* Liaison. If you currently don't participate with *C.A.R.E.S.* I would encourage you to look into this program.

I know that it's summer, and we're all busy, but remember fall auctions and fish weekends are just around the corner. So now's the time to spawn some fish; for sale at these events. Fish that have a little more grow-out time / get a little better price, and that lets us spend a little more on some new species. The circle of life for a fish-nut.

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. Have a great summer and…

Best Fishes, Mike Monje

Please support those who support GVAC

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	Scott Tetzlaf		thefishguy@triton.net
	Kory Voodre		kvoodre@gmail.com
	Cyndi Westra		ccyndiw@yahoo.com

Committee Chairpersons

Membership	Ken Zeedyk		zekeshouse@wmol.com
Public Relations	Ken Zeedyk		zekeshouse@wmol.com
Breeders Award Program	Kory Voodre		kvoodre@gmail.com
Hort. Award Program	Steve Hosteter		fishguy311@yahoo.com
Raffle	Ken Zeedyk		zekeshouse@wmol.com
Program Director	Justin Sarns		sarnsj@gmail.com
Website Administrator	Ken Zeedyk		zekeshouse@wmol.com
Newsletter Editor	Patrick Miller	616-336-5437	Thirftyfisher@1791.com
Auction Chair	Justin Sarns		sarnsj@gmail.com
C.A.R.E.S Liaison	Cyndi Westra		ccyndiw@yahoo.com

GVAC Fellows

The following is a list of Fellows of 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 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	Ben VanDinther
Fin Nielsen	Jeff Vander Berg
Ken Zeedyk	Patrick Miller

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

GVAC Mailing address: Grand Valley Aquarium Club
PO BOX 325
Grandville, MI 49418-0325

GVAC Website: www.GrandValleyAquariumClub.org

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Patrick Miller
GVAC Editor
PO BOX 325
Grandville, MI 49418-0325

Fish Calendar of Events

July 12 **GVAC Picnic**
Location: Hager Park, Jenison

July 10-13 ACA Convention
Louisville KY
www.aca-convention.com

August 9 **GVAC Meeting**
Speaker: Ted Judy
The Power of Numbers

August 24 GCCA Swap Meet
4400 Frontage Rd Hillside IL 60162
10am—2pm
www.gcca.net

September 13 **GVAC Meeting**
Speaker: Rachel O'Leary
Nano Aquaria

September 20-21 Michiana show and Auction
Concord Mall
3701 S Main, Elkhart, IN
Auction September 21
Registration 9am—Auction 11am
www.michianaaquariumsociety.org

October 11 **GVAC Meeting**
Speaker: Mike Hellweg
Meet the Wild Betta Species

October 18 MCA Fall Auction
Madison Place
876 Horace Brown Dr Madison Heights MI
Registration 9am—Auction 11am

October 25 **GVAC Fall Auction**
Home School Building
5625 Burlingame SW Wyoming MI 49509
Registration 9:30am—Auction 11am

November 8 **GVAC Meeting**
Topic: Iron Aquascaper

November 8 MCAS Fall Auction
Madison Place
876 Horace Brown Dr, Madison Heights MI
Registration 9am—Auction 10:30am
www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com

November 20-23 OCA Extravaganza
Holiday Inn Strongsville
www.ohiocichlid.com

December 7 GCCA Swap Meet
4400 Frontage Rd Hillside IL 60162
10am—2pm
www.gcca.net

December 13 **Awards Party**
Location: TBA

Aponogeton undulatus

By Roger Miller photo by the author

Aponogeton undulatus is a true aquatic plant that is native to India and (likely) some of the surrounding countries. Leaves are a medium green in color and up to 35cm (14") long with slightly undulate edges with petiole (stem) up to 25cm (10") long. This species rarely flowers, but it does readily reproduce vegetatively and is the only Aponogeton that does so.

Vegetative reproduction is accomplished by globular tubercles forming on the petiole. From these tubercles leaves, roots & branches grow. After 2-6 weeks these then separate, or can be separated, from the petiole and planted.

From the original 2 plants I started with, I now have a decent size group of plants (10+) not including ones I have sold at auctions. These plants are maintained in a 90 gallon tank where the leaves and petioles grow long enough so that 1/3 to 1/2 of the leaf floats on the water surface. Water in the tank is relatively soft (2/3 R.O. & 1/3 tap) and maintained at a temperature of 82-84^{0}F (this is so for the benefit of the fish species contained within). Lighting is supplied by six T5HO fluorescent bulbs (6700K & 54 watts each) With 2 bulbs on 10hrs/day, 4 bulbs on 5hrs/day and all 6 bulbs on 2hrs/day. Flourish and Flourish Iron are dosed weekly (usually) at something resembling the manufactures recommendations. CO_2 is supplied 6hrs/day, and although not a requirement for this species it is certainly beneficial. A nutrient rich substrate is recommended and even though the substrate, in this particular tank, is a 50/50 mix of fluorite (regular) and gravel over a sand base (don't ask), the plants do quite well. *Aponogeton undulatus* does not spread out like many *Aponogetons*, but rather grows up so they don't take up a lot of space, but the leaves floating on the surface do have a tendency to shade plants below. This needs to be taken into consideration when planting shorter growing species close by.

My experience mirrors available data on the cultivation of this species. Given proper conditions this plant will do exceedingly well providing you with lots of little plants that you will need to find homes for.

Brachygobius Doriae

By Chris Carpenter photos by the author

Among the family *Gobiidae* is a very interesting little fish named *Brachygobius doriae* also known as the Bumblebee Goby. They are quite common in pets shops as I am sure they catch the eye of many adults and children. Their common name comes from the fact that they have very bold black and yellow stripes resembling a bumblebee. Even though Bumblebee Gobies are small they are quite bold. I have often wondered if their black and yellow markings are a visual cue to use caution. *B. doriea* is a very small fish growing to a maximum size of approximately 1" to 1.5". The way they hop around the tank and perch is very fascinating. Bumblebee Gobies have fused pelvic fins which act like a small suction cup allowing them to stick to the side of the glass. I have kept *B. doriea* many times in the past but never attempted to spawn them, in fact I had a hard time keeping them alive and thriving for any long period of time.

I was gifted 6 *B. doriea* last year by my fellow fish friend Kory Voodre. This time around my goal was to keep them alive, thriving and successfully breed them. I had an established 5 gallon tank running with a substrate mix of very fine gravel and sand, sponge filter and a temperature of 78 degrees. I placed two cichlid stones in the tank, one in the very front of the tank and the other in the very back. I positioned the stones so that I could easily view inside them. I removed 30% of the fresh water and replaced it with a salt water mix giving the tank a salinity of 1.006. In went the gobies. I kept this salinity constant and watched and enjoyed their antics. I fed them live black worms, mosquito larvae and an assortment of frozen foods. Don't bother fouling your water with flake food because they wont touch it! It became clear to me that I had 2 males and 4 females. The males are the smaller sex while females are slightly larger and rounder. Both males staked out a cichlid stone while the females seemed to move about freely. I was feeling a little lazy while

doing my routine water changes and decided to change only a small amount of water in the goby tank, adding only fresh water rather than my measured sea salt mix. Well, sometimes being lazy pays off because that was the trigger. The very next day I noticed a male buzzing around the entrance of his cave and the female he was attempting to entice now had very vibrant yellow lines. I watched for a while and then got distracted. I checked the cichlid stone the next day and their were at least a hundred eggs on the roof of the cave, the male was guarding and fanning them. I debated leaving him in the cave and tank and removing everyone else but I opted to move him and the cave to a separate tank. I used 50% of the water from the breeding tank to setup another 5 gallon rearing tank. Once the move was complete the male paid no attention to the eggs so I decided to move him back to the spawning tank. The cichlid stones I used have openings on both sides which worked out perfectly because I was able to place an air stone in from the back side and tilt the stone so that the bubbles could run out the front. I kept a close eye on the eggs and they developed very well. After approximately 8 days I had a mass of tiny silver slivers with one black dot. The babies are extremely small and I wasn't prepared to feed them. I decided to use Golden Pearls, Cyclopeeze and microworms as their fist foods. It was not successful. The babies were dying. I would find them floating around occasionally pushing forward but obviously very weak clinging to the last minutes of life. By the end of the first week they had all passed and it was my fault. I was not pleased.

For the second spawn I did all of the same steps aside from the first foods. I decided to try using sponge grunge. I would squeeze out a sponge filter from an established tank releasing microscopic organisms into the tank for the fry to feed on. It was working very well and the fry made it past the critical first 3 days until the heater in the tank malfunctioned and the water temperature dropped into the 60's. They all died. It wasn't my fault. I was not pleased.

The third times the charm is what I thought when I found eggs once again. I installed a new, more reliable brand of heater, added 4 small moss balls and a clump of java moss for an added source of food. The eggs hatched and once again I used sponge grunge for the first 3 to 4 days, then started feeding microworms. The fry grew fairly slow for the first couple of weeks but the growth rate picked up once I increased my water changes and added live baby brine shrimp and frozen daphnia to their diet.

They now look like miniature versions of their parents, even sticking to the glass. I hope to turn these in for my Breeder Award Point very soon. I must say I am quite proud of myself for successfully breeding and raising the bumblebee goby. If you want a fascinating little fish and a breeding challenge I highly recommend them but don't go into it looking to make lots of money off the fry because the pet shops sell them for $3 a piece. Too much work for that kind of return, however, the satisfaction of accomplishing a personal goal is priceless.

Group of Gobies, it is hard to get a clear photo of such a small fish.

2014 BAP January—July

Mike Monje—9
Clea helena
Cichlasoma amazonarum
Astotilapia nubilia
Astotilapia callipitera
Xiphophorus alvarezi
Aspidoras spilotus
Archocentrus multispinosus
Xiphophorus helleri
Xiphophorus continens

Heather Burke—8
Danio margaritatus
Danio choprae
Pseudosphromenus dayi
Limia perugiae
Alfaro cultratus
Neocaridina heteropoda var. yellow
Moenkhausia pittieri
Tylomelania sp. yellow

Chris Carpenter—8
Neolamprologus leleupi
Girardinus falcatus
Melanotania Boesmani
Xystichromis phytophagus
Aulonocara stuartgranti maleri
Steatocranus irvinei
Brachyraphis doriae
Zoogoneticus Tequila 'Lake Chapalo'

Justin Sarns—8
Labidochromis caeruleus zebra lundo
Neochromis omnicaraleus
Xystichromis phytophagus
Sciaenochromis fryeri
Astotilapia callipitera
Archocentrus multispinosus
Poecilia reticulata
Aulonocara hansbaenschi

Patrick Miller—7
Metriaclima estherae
Phallichthys tico
Nomorhamphus ebrardtii
Thorachromis brauschi
Poecilia sp. Coatzacoalcos
Phallichthys fairweatheri
Phallochthys januarius

Kory Voodre—6
Lamprologus ocellatus 'gold'
Zoogoneticus tequila 'Lake Chapala'
Sciaenochromis fryeri
Placidochromis phenochilus 'Tanzania'
Aulonocara stuartgranti Chipoka
Amphilophus citrilnellus

Allan Workman—5
Tropheus sp. Red Kachese
Pundamilia nyererei "Python Island"
Labidochromis sp. Mbamba
Iodotropheus sprengerae
Aulonocara baenschi

Melissa DeHaan—4
Glossolepis multisquamata 'Pagai'
Neolamprologus multifasciatus
Glossolepis dorityi
Chilatherina fasciata Faowi Village

Eric Maxson—4
Anscistrus sp.
Symphysodon aequifasciatus
Pterophyllum scalare
Poecilia reticulata

Roger Miller—4
Fundulopanchax gardneri
Xiphophorus mayae 'Parzos Guatemala'
Haludaria fasciatus
Limia nigrofasciata

Adam Persenaire—4
Tramitichromis intermedius
Placidochromis phenochilus 'Tanzania'
Copadichromis sp. 'fluorescent'
Anscistrus sp.

Tom Siegfried—3
Geophagus steindachneri
Cynotilapia sp. White Top Hara
Julidochromis regani Kipili

Ben Bouwkamp—3
Pseudotropheus sp. "acei"
Lepidiolamprologus hecqui
Limia vittata

Scott Tetzlaff—3
Tilapia tholoni
Protomelas spilonotus 'Mara Rocks'
Rasbora volcanus

David Gruszecki—3
Aulonocara baenschi
Copadichromis borleyi
Xenotoca eiseni

Dan Kraker—2
Labeotropheus trewavasae 'lundu'
Characodon lateralis "Los Berros"

Ken Zeedyk—2
Cryptoheros chetumalensis
Oreichthys crenuchoides

Steve Hosteter—1
Rocio octofasciata

Nicole Westra—1
Poecilia reticulata

Michael Miles—1
Poecilia reticulata

Andrew Kalafut—1
Melanotaenia lacustris

Dave Gruszecki—1
Aulonocara baenschi

Randy Morris—1
Otopharynx lithobates

Steve McDonald—1
Girardinus metallicus

BAP By the Numbers

# of Participants	24
# of Spawns	90
# of Species	73

We are halfway through the year and it is shaping up to be another great year for the BAP program. I hear lots of reports on the GVAC facebook page of people breeding multiple species of fish in outdoor tubs. With so many participants and no single person distancing themselves, Breeder of the Year and BAP Rookie of the Year races are wide open.

Don't forget that we have a new Specialty Award Program. These new awards are based on fish that are turned in for BAP and designed for those who wish to specialize in a specific family or group of fish. These specialty awards are self driven which means that each member is required to inform the BAP chairman when they have fulfilled the requirements. More information on these awards can be found on Page 7

Specialty Award Program

In addition to the Plateau Awards for the Breeders' Award Program, there are also Specialty Awards, which may be earned. Those participants who choose to restrict their maintenance and/or breeding to a given family or group of fish, are able to earn special recognition, under the auspices of the Breeders' Award Program. More generalized BAP participants may also apply for Specialty Award recognition within their various categories of achievement, Specialty Awards represent success with a prescribed number of species, under the existing BAP guidelines as to fry count, rearing term, and reporting requirements. The Specialty Awards are supplements to, and governed by, the ongoing Breeders Awards Program.

As BAP participants are granted listings and points, these spawns may be applied toward the granting of Specialty Awards under the appropriate categories. No ongoing ledgers will be maintained; periodic BAP Printouts will serve as evidence of Specialty Award status. Specialty Award forms should be requested from Breeders' Award Program Chairman but maintained and submitted by each individual as a given category is chosen. Specialty Awards are granted according to the number of spawns required under each category.

To receive each specialty award an article must be submitted. The Specialty Award Categories are as follows:

	Specialist	Master	Grand Master
1. Cyprinids (family Cyprinidae)	25	50	100

	Specialist	Master	Grand Master
2. Anabantoids	15	25	50

	Specialist	Master	Grand Master
3. Catfish	15	25	50

Master must include:

10	New World species
2	Old World species
1	USA indigenous species

Grand Master must include:

20	New World species
4	Old World species
2	USA indigenous species

	Specialist	Master	Grand Master
4. Cichlids (New World)	25	50	100

Master must include:

10	Central & North American species
5	South American species
5	Dwarf (2 Apistogramma species)

Grand Master must include:

20	Central & North American species
10	South American species
10	Dwarf (2 Apistogramma species)

	Specialist	Master	Grand Master
5. Cichlids (Old World)	25	50	100

Master must include:

5	Lake Malawi species
5	Lake Tanganyika species
2	Dwarf species (< 5"/12cm total length)
2	Lake Victorian species
2	West African species

Grand Master must include:

10	Lake Malawi species
10	Lake Tanganyika species
5	Dwarf species (< 5"/12cm total length)
5	Lake Victorian species
5	West African species
5	Riverine species
1	Asian species
1	Madagascar species

	Specialist	Master	Grand Master
6. Characins (order Characiformes)	15	25	50

	Specialist	Master	Grand Master
7. Killifish (family Cyprinodontidae)	25	50	100

Master must include:

3	New World plant spawning species
5	New World Soil spawning species
5	Old World Plant spawning species
2	Old World Soil spawning species
3	Native U.S. species

Grand Master must include:

7	New World plant spawning species
10	New World Soil spawning species
15	Old World Plant spawning species
4	Old World Soil spawning species
6	Native U.S. species

	Specialist	Master	Grand Master
8. Livebearers	25	50	100

Master must include:

5	Goodeids
3	Limia species
5	Xiphophorus species
1	Halfbeak

Grand Master must include:

15	Goodeids
6	Limia species
10	Xiphophorus species
2	Halfbeaks

New Tank Notes Editor

It was 5 years ago that I became the editor for the newsletter. I had very little idea of what I was getting myself into and how much time it would take. Those first couple issues were pretty rough. However, as time has progressed and my skills became better, the newsletter, like the club, has grown.

Because of club member (your) contributions, over the last 5 years we have not had to republish any articles from other clubs or sources. The content of this newsletter has been 100% by club members. GVAC should be very proud that we have a club that contributes so much to the local hobby by sharing our experiences through the newsletter.

I am happy to report that the we will have a new editor, Shea, for the next issue. With our continued contributions to the club and newsletter, Shea will do a wonderful job.

If you haven't contributed it is never too late. I would encourage you to write an article or take a photo and submit it for publication. We all benefit and become better hobbyists when we share what we have learned.

Legacy Award

GVAC is very lucky to have many well respected aquarists among its members. From time to time it becomes important to recognize those who have contributed to making this hobby what it is. For that reason GVAC has created a Legacy Award.

Pete Goettner becomes the second member to receive this award for his lifetime work in the hobby. If you have been a serious fish hobbyist in West Michigan over the last 40 years you have probably had the pleasure of meeting Pete and learning from him.

But it is not just for longevity that the Legacy Award is presented, it is for work in creating a better hobby. If a person where to go to just about any aquarium store they will find Betta splendens. Most likely among those fish you will find a variety called the Halfmoon Betta. Pete was the first person to develop this now common and spectacular aquarium fish.

For the countless hours that Pete has put into the hobby, both creating the Halfmoon Betta and his involvement in and support of the local and international hobby through his willingness to share his knowledge, GVAC is proud to present Pete with the Legacy Award.

2014 HAP January—July

Mike Monje—15
- Vegetative
  - *Vallesneria Spiralis*
  - *Microsorium pteropus* var 'Trident'
  - *Echinodorus* var 'Vesuvius'
  - *Echinodorus* var 'Pinwheel Melon'
  - *Microsorium pterops* 'Needle Leaf'
  - *Cryptocoryne lutea*
  - *Ludwigia* var. 'Narrow Leaf'
  - *Anibias nana* var. 'Narrowleaf'
  - *Cryptocoryne parva*
  - *Ceratopteris thalictroides*
  - *Pogostemon helferi*
  - *Nesaea* var. 'Golden'
  - *Bolbitis heudelotii*
  - *Ludwigi* var. 'Atlantis'
- Flowering
  - *Anubias nana* var. 'Narrowleaf'

Steve Hosteter—11
- Vegetative
  - *Nymphaea zenkeri*
  - *Bacopa monnieri*
  - *Cryptocoryne usteriana*
  - *Hydrocotyle leucocephala*
  - *Salvinia natans*
  - *Ceratophyllum demersum*
  - *Staurogyne repens*
  - *Rotala nanjenshan*
  - *Echinodorus tennellus*
- Flowering
  - *Cabomba furcate*
  - *Nymphaea zenkeri*

Justin Sarns—11
- Vegetative
  - *Nesaea crassicaulis*
  - *Lilaeopsis novae-zelandiae*
  - *Cabomba furcate*
  - *Cyperus Helferi*
  - *Ceratophyllum submersum*
  - *Nymphaea Stellata*
  - *Heteranthera Zosterifolia*
  - *Echinodorus parviflorus*
  - *Cryptocoryne spiralis*
  - *Cryptocoryne parva*
  - *Susswassertang (Pellia sp)*
- *Flowering*
  - *Iris Pseudacorus*

Roger Miller—8
- Vegetative
  - *Spathiphyllum wallisii*
  - *Micranthemum umbrosum*
  - *Ludwigla sp "Atlantis'*
  - *Marsiela sp*
  - *Cryptocoryne bekettii*
  - *Pogostemon helferi*
  - *Rotala Magenta*
- Flowering
  - *Anubias Coffeefolia*

Andrew Kalafut—7
- Vegetative
  - *Najas guadalupensis*
  - *Blyxa japonica*
  - *Echinodorus xingu*
  - *Heteranthera zosterifolia*
  - *Rotala* sp. 'Vietnam'
  - *Persicaria* sp. 'Kawagoeanum'
- Flowering
  - *Persicaria* sp. 'Kawagoeanum'

Melissa DeHaan—5
- Vegetative
  - *Ceratophyllum demersum*
  - *Sagittaria subulata*
  - *Echinodorus angustifolia*
  - *Ludwigia palustris*
  - *Microsorum pteropus*

H. Scott Bultman—4
- Vegetative
  - *Heteranthera zosterifolia*
  - *Hygrophila angustifolia*
  - *Limnobium laevigatum*
  - *Rotala indica*

Bob Wesolowski—3
- Vegetative
  - *Echinodorus bleheri*
- Flowering
  - *Anubias nana*
  - *Cryptocoryne usteriana*

Ken Zeedyk—2
- Vegetative
  - *Sagittaria subulata*
  - *Ceratopteris thalictroides*

Ben LeClear—1
- Vegetative
  - *Echinodorus amazonicus*

Patrick Miller—1
- Vegetative
  - *Aponogeton undulatus*

The *Pseudosphromenus dayi* Saga

By Heather Burke

Sometime in late 2012, I was browsing the tanks at Blue Fish Aquarium only to discover I would make an imminent purchase out of a tank full of Spiketail Paradise Fish. Why? The answer lies in the two fish embracing under the sponge filter while on display for sale. They had to be mine, I knew right then and there. So I insisted on those individual fish who had the audacity to do their thing in public. It became an unforgettable quest for BAP point acquisition, which often ended in fishy suicide but ultimately rewarded me with countless spawning attempts with a fish that I now liken to the piscine version of a rabbit.

Pseudosphromenus dayi is perhaps the coolest fish you don't know. The males develop a very keen spike on their caudal fin and also sport dramatically pointed anal and dorsal fins. Strips of blue accentuates a peachy complexion. The female is apparent but less showy. They make for a cute couple. And they only spawn in pairs, annihilating all that stands in their way. My first go at spawning the fish (and the first of many, many pairs) happened in a 5 gallon mini-bow tank stocked with green shrimps and plants. The babies were not horribly bothered here and the pair spawned frequently and even under the lens (not surprising given witnessed events). I began to see successive batches of fry raising in the same tank. The numbers dwindled over time (naturally), but it pleased me all the same to poke around and find them continuously. I guess I didn't have the set up to raise them much separately. When I finally tore down the set up to do something new, I fetched the largest fry and held them for further growing out. Unfortunately, this resulted in offspring that could and did jump out of the gap in the tank cover. I lost all of 6 fry but one, which meant BAP was an elusive goal. The parents had spawned again, but the fry succumbed to Oodinium and soon after the parents were lost as well. Trial one shed much light on the fish. But the fish were not alive to speak of any longer. It frustrated me to no end.

My second attempt later down the road proved more fruitful. Blue Fish had again received a shipment of Spiketails and I bought my next pair. These are the terrors that took down a 2.5 gallon bow-front full of shrimp and a few odd fish. Then they did their deed. I got them to spawn almost without break. Housed communally, the male tended to the nest in one corner until I disrupted it for fry removal. And then days later I would do a water change and they would spawn again….The female was getting a bit ragged after a while. The next thing to happen, however, was the abrupt power outage in late December 2013 that would change everything. I had to move all of my fish in the span of about 2 hours as the house grew colder and colder. Much had to be combined into only 6 tanks total in my storm shelter so to speak. It pays to work at a pet store that can accommodate fish in need. At any rate, the next day I found my male on the floor in quarantine and scowled. At this point, I had been prepared for jumpers and I had a backup trio shipped in from New York. I was even more upset when I lost these the next month moments after getting them into their new tank. I had one girl left and not a lot to go on.

My only saving grace was that I had saved a good portion of fry from the spawning events that took place with my second pair of Spiketails. I sent the spawn that occurred the day before the outage with Antonio in the breeding room at Preuss Pets. I am happy to report that he did well with those and we should be able to offer them for sale soon. I kept my portion of fry and with that, and a well-covered 2.5 gallon bowfront, I was finally able to get a dozen fry to survive and plenty enough to BAP. It was the end of the saga that started sometime in the fall of 2012 and culminated in the witnessing of March 2014. My final words on the subject are this*: Pseudosphromenus dayi* is a marvelous little Anabantiod and probably the easiest you'll ever spawn. The trick is the raise the fry and contain them long term. I still have a pair of them left, but have hesitated to let them spawn. I might have to start round 3….for the sake of my own personal enjoyment derived from such splendid creatures!

Plants and African Cichlids

By Justin Sarns

When I first got into aquaria, the shapes and colors of African Cichlids, and the beautiful flora of a planted tank fascinated me. I was quickly told that the two could never mix. Now, there is some truth to that statement. For example, stem plants that need CO2, high light and have poor root structure would never survive. However, there are many plants that do well with African Cichlids when they are used properly. The most obvious group of plants are the Anubias plants and Java ferns. These plants have hard leaves that taste bitter to fish (so I have been told). I have had a large Anubias in with a colony of Pseudotropheus saulosi and I have never had a single leaf nibbled on. I have also had great success with Vallisneria and Rotala, although the Rotala was not in the tank for long since I didn't like the look.

I have also had good luck with plants and Cichlid fry. My current fry tank has a pot of dwarf sag, a Red Rubin Sword, and several other swords and lotus plants. The fry don't touch the plants, and they seem to like hiding in the stems.

If you are considering mixing plants and Cichlids, it is important to think about what species. Generally, Mbuna are a poor choice for any plants with the exception of Anubias. Haps and peacocks do much better, as they are less likely to consume plants in the wild.

The final thing to consider is plant placement. Africans have a habit of digging through the sand or gravel and uprooting plants. Plants that attach to rocks are ideal since they can't be dug up. Potting other plants or surrounding them in rocks can help keep the plants anchored in the tank.

Africans and plants can coexist if the proper steps are taken. The plants help provide a more natural environment and provide hiding places for young fish and old fish alike.

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

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!

Membership Benefits

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With Membership Card	$10ea
Without Membership Card	$15ea

Store Discounts

Blue Fish Aquarium*

10% off livestock

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Club nights Tuesday & Wednesday 20% off livestock.

*Must show GVAC membership card to receive discounts

Cory Habitat in Peru, photo by Mike Monje

Cories collected in the habitat from the photo shown above, photo by Mike Monje