Grand Valley Aquarium Club

GVAC Tank Notes

October—December 2012 Issue 58

Upcoming Meetings:

October:	Meeting Topic: Rare Fish
October 27	Fall Auction
November:	Meeting Topic: TBA
December:	Holiday Party & Awards

Inside this issue:

Auction Time!

GVAC Auction October 27

Location: Home School Building Gym
5625 Burlingame AVE SW
Wyoming MI 49509

Everyone is welcome and you do not need to be a club member to buy or sell.

Registration: 9am—11am

Auction: 11am—all items are sold!

Rules: www.grandvalleyaquariumclub.org under “Auction Rules” tab

Bag Limit: Each seller is limited to a total of 50 items.

Buy It Now: Up to 10 items per seller, table opens at 9am & closes at 12:30pm

Preregister: Contact Roger Miller, miller.roger1 @att.net, for a seller code.

A full list of Fall Auctions and workshops can be found on page 4.

2012 Board of Directors

President	Ken Zeedyk	616-772-4634	zekeshouse@wmol.com
Vice President	Ben VanDinther		aquariumservices@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Roger Miller		miller.roger1@att.net
Recording Secretary	Patrick Miller	616-336-5437	pmlife4@att.net
Corresponding Secretary	Jim Dutcher		jdutcher@khps.com
Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike Monje		exstreamaquatix@gmail.com
Members at Large	Tom Siegfried		tomsiegfried@charter.net
	Pat Hartman		phat711@sbcglobal.net
	Chris Carpenter		christojanet@hotmail.com
	Scott Tetzlaf		thefishguy@triton.net

Committee Chairpersons

Membership	Ken Zeedyk		zekeshouse@wmol.com
Public Relations	Ken Zeedyk		zekeshouse@wmol.com
Breeders Award Program	Tom Siegfried		tomsiegfried@charter.net
Hort. Award Program	Steve Hosteter		fishguy311@yahoo.com
Raffle	Jim Dutcher		jimdutcher@charter.net
Program Director	Ben VanDinther		aquariumservices@sbcglobal.net
Website Administrator	Ken Zeedyk		zekeshouse@wmol.com
Newsletter Editor	Patrick Miller	616-336-5437	pmlife4@att.net

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.

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

GVAC Website: www.GrandValleyAquariumClub.org

Reprint Policy:

Articles appearing in the Newsletter of the Grand Valley Aquarium Club may be reprinted in a newsletter (not on website or e-mail) by any non-profit aquarium organization as long as the author and GVAC are given written credit. Two copies of the publication in which the article is printed must be sent to:

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

Presidents Message

Its auction time once again! I've been in the club for a number of years, and I still get excited in the fall when all of the area clubs start having their auctions. I dream of attending them all, but reality usually hampers my ambitions and limits my attendance. I keep trying though. Please check out the calendar of events that Patrick has put together and do your best to attend these events. Carpooling with other GVAC members is always a good way to minimize costs. It's a good way to save gas plus you get the added benefit of talking fish during the trip. Road trips are also great opportunities to meet people in other clubs and see what species are circulating among them. Each time I attend another club's auction or show I learn something new, and often bring back ideas to try in GVAC.

I am really proud of all the activity in the BAP and HAP programs this year! GVAC has seen a huge number of BAP spawns turned in, and among these were some very unique and rare species. The HAP program has also seen a good number of vegetative and flowering turn-ins, which also included many species not seen in stores, (Blue Fish excluded). Thanks to Tom Siegfried and Steve Hosteter for managing these programs. It has been a lot of data entry for those guys. We are quite diversified as a club and I feel fortunate to be able to participate in such a group.

In closing, the Board of Director nominations and elections for the 2013 calendar year are coming up soon. Please consider volunteering for a position, (hint-hint, wink- wink), or one of the chaired positions. The positions don't require a huge commitment of time or effort, but are all essential to running a successful club.

Happy Fishkeeping and good luck at the auctions,

Ken Zeedyk

Elected Positions

The following is a list of Elected Board positions. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for any position.

President

Runs the club.

Vice President

Set monthly meeting programs/find speakers. Runs the meetings in the absence of the President.

Treasurer

In charge of keeping track of all GVAC funds.

Recording Secretary

Take minutes of general & Board meetings.

Corresponding Secretary

Contacts sponsors, solicits donations and runs raffles.

Sergeant At Arms

Runs yearly elections, keeps order at club events.

Members At Large (4)

Elected to represent club members on the Board of Direc tors.

In addition to elected positions there are many other opportunities to become involved with the club such as the BAP, HAP & Auction chairmanships. Volunteering to help at the big auctions, Swap Meet, meeting mini auctions or newsletter are also import in helping to make GVAC a fun club to be involved with.

Please support those who support GVAC

Blue fish Aquarium
Preuss Pets
ADG/Aqua Design Amano USA
Amazonas Magazine
Aquatic Gardeners Ass. - Karen Randall
Aquamaid Supplies
Boyd Enterprises
Cichlid Press
CichlidBreeding.com
Doctors Foster & Smith
Florida Aquatic Nurseries
Hagen
HBH Pet Products
Hikari USA
Kordon—Novalek
Marineland
Oddballfish.com
Ocean Star International
Penn Plax
Pet Supplies Plus
Pet Connection
Python Products
Repashy Superfoods
San Francisco Bay Brand
Seachem Laboratories, Inc.
SpectraPure
Ted's Fishroom
Tetra
TFH—Tropical Fish Hobbyist
Wardley—A Hartz Company
Zoo Med Laboratories Inc.

Calendar of Events

September 29-30 Michigan Killifish Association Show/Auction
Quality Inn
2537Rochester Court, Troy MI
www.aka.org/mka

September 30 GCCA SWAP MEET
Best Western Plus 4400 Frontage Rd Hillside IL
10am—2pm
$5 admission
www.gcca.net

October 7 Greenwater Fall Auction
Apollo Rec Center 12521 S. Kostner, Alsip IL
Registration 9:30am—Auction @11am
www.gwasoc.org

October 13 GVAC Meeting
Topic: TBA

October 13-14 SWMAS Speakers & Auction
Krum Center 629 East Clay St. Schoolcraft, MI
Registration @ 9:30—Auction @ 11am
www.swmas.org

October 14 Circle City Aquarium Club Fall Auction
2930 Waterfront Parkway Indianapolis IN
Registration @ 8am—Auction @ 10:30am
www.circlecityaqclub.org

October 18-21 Catfish Convention
2300 Dulles Corner BLVD Herndon VA
www.catfishcon.com

October 20 GDAS Fall Auction
814 Campbell RD Royal Oak MI 48067
Registration 9:00am—Auction @11am
www.greaterdetroitaquariumsociety.org

October 21 GCCA Fall Auction
Doubletree Hotel
2111 Butterfield RD, Downers Grove
Registration 8:30am—Auction @ 10am
www.gcca.net

October 27 GVAC Fall Auction
Home School Building
Registration 9am—Auction starts at 11am

November 1-4 Aquatic Gardeners Association Convention
Crowne Plaza Hotel, ST Louis MO
www.aquatic-gardeners.org

November 3 Michigan Cichlid Association Fall Auction
33845 24 Mile RD Chesterfield TWP MI 48047
www.michigan.cichlid.freeservers.com

November 10 GVAC Meeting
Topic: TBA

November 11 GCCA SWAP MEET
Best Western Plus 4400 Frontage Rd Hillside IL
10am—2pm
$5 admission
www.gcca.net

November 16-18 OCA Extravaganza
Holiday Inn, Strongsville OH
www.ohiocichlid.com/Extravaganza.html

December 1 Kalamazoo Area Killi Association, Killi Day 12
Jim Graham 269-948-8328
Dave Hemmerlein 269-350-5674

December 8 GVAC Holiday Party
Awards presentation
Location to be announced
Members Only

December 8 MCAS Fall Auction
876 Horace Brown DR. Madison Heights MI
Registration @ 9am—Auction @ 10:30am
www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com

January 12 GVAC SWAP MEET
Home School Building
10am—2pm
Contact Patrick Miller pmlife4@att.net to sell
$3 per person or $5 for families

January 12 GVAC Meeting
Topic: TBA

January 27 Greenwater Winter Auction
Apollo Rec Center 12521 S. Kostner, Alsip IL
Registration 9:30am—Auction @11am
www.gwasoc.org

February 9 GVAC Meeting
Topic: TBA

February 16 MCAS Winter Auction
876 Horace Brown DR. Madison Heights MI
Registration @ 9am—Auction @ 10:30am
www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com

March 9 GVAC Meeting
Topic: TBA

March 23 GVAC Spring Auction
Home School Building
Registration 9am—Auction starts at 11am

April 6 Michiana Aquarium Society Spring Auction
Concord Mall, Elkhart IN
Registration 9:00am—Auction @11am
www.michiana-aquarium-society.org

April 25-28 ALA Convention hosted by GVAC
Grand Rapids MI
www.livebearers.org

Microsorum pteropus

By Mike Monje

How do you start an article on Java Fern? The first plant most hobbyists start with, arguably the easiest aquarium plant that nature ever created, and probably the most popular plant in the retail pet trade. So why bother to have an article about this plant at all, if everyone knows about it, and most people have kept it? Because, in this hobbyists opinion, it is arguably the most underrated and under-utilized plant in the hobby.

So, let's take a look at Microsorum pteropus, (aka Java Fern), in order to back up that last statement. Java Fern will survive under almost any lighting condition, *normal* aquarium lighting provides the best growth. Really high lighting seems to promote algae growth in the leaves, and ambient room light allows the plant to survive but not really grow. So, I'll qualify normal lighting as a standard fluorescent light strip, twin tube on a deeper tank. Java Fern is tolerant of almost *any* water conditions. I have them in extremely soft-water, I have them in very hard-water and back when I used to run a brackish-water tank, I kept them in those conditions as well. The plant does well in all of these water parameters. Because this plant shouldn't really be planted in the substrate, it can be attached to a rock, a piece of driftwood, a roughed up piece of PVC pipe or left to accumulate gravel pieces in its roots, (a personal favorite).

Java Fern takes all its nutrients from the water column making it an excellent nutrient sink. All this makes it a highly mobile plant, I move this plant to spawning tanks, to fry grow-out tanks and various display tanks. I have many pieces of this plant and move them around at will in my fishroom. In addition, Java Fern is probably the easiest plant to propagate. Simply leaving it to grow in a display aquarium will produce daughter plants off the ends of the leaves. A division can be made at any time by cutting the main rhizome. A third way to propagate this plant is to remove a leaf and let in float in the tank, it will form roots and become an independent plant in a relatively short time.

So we have a hardy plant that is highly adaptable, easy to propagate and can be moved from tank to tank with no ill effect on the plant. This plant has the added advantage of tasting bad to most fish (even the species that love to eat your prized plants). If these aren't enough reasons to love this plant, I have one more reason, Java Fern is available in eight different varieties.

Java Fern var. Standard:

The regular or standard Java Fern found in the hobby.

Java Fern var. Standard

Java Fern var. Windelof:

Leaves are lighter in color, the top of each leaf contains many little branches for a unique look. This plant is registered with Tropica and Trade Mark protected.

Java Fern var. Staghorn:

Looks much the same as var. Windelof, may simply be a hybrid to avoid Tropica's trade mark.

Java Fern var. Narrow Leaf

Leaves are about ¼" wide and longer than standard Java Fern.

Java Fern var. Philippine:

Leaves are wider than var. "Narrow Leaf" but more slender than 'Standard', a softer green coloration and has a unique twisting of the leaves.

Java Fern var. Split Leaf:

Leaves are narrow, about the same width and length as Narrow-Leaf, however, the end of leaves are "split" for a remarkable look.

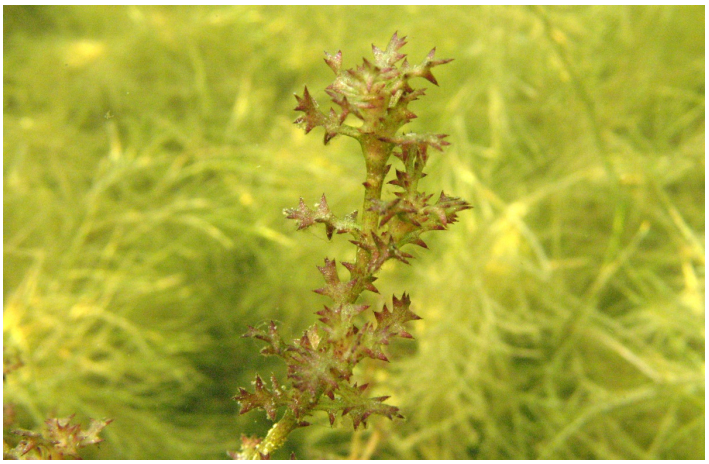
Java Fern var. Red

Removed from the market in 2007, sold by Tropica, the color only showed when the leaves were grown above the water.

Java Fern var. Tropica

Another Java Fern developed by Tropica, the leaves are broader and longer than Java Fern var. Standard.

All eight variants share the same husbandry requirements as the 'Standard' Java Fern. However, they offer variety to the hobbyist in the leaf shape, color and texture. Allowing for aquascaping varieties, without complicating the requirements for plant maintenance, so much so, that one could aquascape an entire tank with these low maintenance plants and create a very pleasing display with no plant specific requirements at all.



This is a photo of a very unusual aquatic plant that, surprisingly, is native to Michigan. The plant, Najas marina, lives up to its common name, spiny Naiad, as any swimmer who brushes up against will attest. Unlike the more common Najas sp. this plant can really 'stick' up for itself. Photo by Patrick Miller

2012 BAP Through September

Ken Zeedyk—22
- Bedotia gaeyi
- Chapalichthys encaustus
- Corydoras weitzmani
- Etheostoma caeruleum
- Gambusia affinis
- Julidochromis dickfeldi
- Ilyodon cortesae
- Labidochromis carealeus
- Oryzias woworae
- Pseudotropheus elegans "Acei"
- Phallichthys fairweatheri
- Polypterus senegalus senegalus
- Sclesomystax barbatus
- Tanganicodus irsacae
- Thorichthys maculipinnis
- Xenophallus umbratilis
- Zoogoneticus tequila
- Aspidoras cf albater
- Thorichthys sp. "Mixteco Gold"
- Corydoras similis
- Lepidocephalichthys guntea
- Clea helena
- Culaea inconstans

Mike Monje—22
- Bedotia geayi
- Caridinia babaulti sp. Green
- Girardincthys multiradiatus
- Girardinus microdactylus
- Girardinus rivasi
- Girardinus var. "yellow belly"
- Iodotropheus sprengerae
- Melantaenia lacustris
- Metriaclima greshakei
- Poecilliopsis prolifica
- Pseudotropheus elongatus "che were"
- Skiffia sp. V188
- Skiffia lermae
- Xiphophorus variatus La Minitzia Mx
- Gambusia affinis
- Phalloceros caudimaculatus
- Xiphophorus couchianus
- Xiphophorus xiphidum "Rio purification"
- Xiphophorus milleri Catameco MX
- Haplochromis sp. "35" Hap. Var. Tomato
- Archocentrus nigrofasciatum
- Copadichromis borleyi "Crocodile Rocks"

Justin Sarns—17
- Astatotilapia latifasciata
- Aulonocara "Dragon's Blood"
- Aulonocara stuartgranti Hai reef
- Haplochromis sp. 35 tomato
- Haplochromis "Xystichromis" sp. "Kyoga flameback"
- Labidochromis carealeus
- Mbipia lutea spotbar
- Neocaridina denticulata sinensis
- Neolamprologus multifasciatus
- Pundamilia nyererei sp "Crimson Tide"
- Pundimillia nyererei
- Haplochromis sp. Dayglow
- Ptyochromis sp Salmon Hippo Point
- Paralabidochromis sp Fire Uganda
- Crytocara moori
- Pundimilla nyererei Mwanza Gulf
- Macropodus opercularis

Patrick Miller—15
- Aspidoras cf. albater
- Badis cf. siamensis
- Corydoras venezuelanus
- Corydoras paleatus
- Girardinus falcatus
- Girardinus rivasi
- Giradinius uninotatus
- Limia tridens
- Limia zonata
- Oryzias woworae
- Phalloceros caudomaculatus
- Poecilia butleri
- Metriaclima greshakei
- Fundulus diaphanus
- Melanotaenia splendida splendida

Chris Carpenter—14
- Aulonocara jacobfreibergi
- Geophagus steindachneri
- Chlamydogobius eremius
- Labidochromis carealeus
- Lamprologus melaegris
- Lamprologus ornatipinnis
- Lepidiolamprologus hecqui
- Lepidiolamprologus hecqui
- Macropodus opercularis
- Xiphophorus maculatus
- Ancistrus sp.
- Optholmotilapia ventralis "Chitita"
- Pelvichachromis teaniatus Moliwe
- Neolamprologus occelatus

Roger Miller—11
- Amatillania nigrofasciatus
- Astatotilapia latifasciata
- Caridina cf. cantonensis "zebra"
- Clea Helena
- Corydoras sp. CW010
- Iodotropheus sprengerae
- Neolamprologus multifasciatus
- Pseudomugil furcatus
- Pseudotropheus demasoni
- Skiffia lermae
- Skiffia multipunctata

Tom Siegfried—8
- Ancistrus sp.
- Hemichromis bimaculatus
- Pomacea bridgesii
- Procambarus fallas f. virginalis
- Pseudotropheus saulosi
- Xenophallus umbratilis
- Ameca splendens
- Oryzias woworae

Kenny Valentine—7
- Ancistrus sp.
- Ilyodon cortesae
- Labidochromis carealeus
- Phalloceros caudomaculatus
- Pomocea sp.
- Procambarus marmorkrebs
- Xiphophorus helleri

Jeff VandderBerg—6
- Labidochromis gigas
- Limia tridens
- Protomelas spilonotus
- Corydoras panda
- Thorichthys meeki
- Protomelas kirkii

Dan Kraker—4
- Copadichromis borleyi
- Metriaclima zebra gold - Kawanga
- Placidochromis "Jalo Reef"
- Pundamilia nyererei - Mwanza

David Gruszecki—4
- Labidochromis carealeus
- Pseudotropheus aurora
- Xenophallus umbratillis
- Neocardinia heteropoda

Travis Henkaline—4
- Hemichromis bimaculatus
- Neocaridina denticulata sinensis
- Poecilia wingei
- Neolamprologus multifasciatus

Tim Monje—4
- Magaritatus
- Neoheterandria elegans
- Poecilia wingei
- Pociliopsis gracilis

Continued on page 8

THE PEAT SOLUTION

By Chase Klinesteker, photo by the author

I really enjoy keeping and breeding softwater fishes, especially characins. One of the big challenges in breeding these fishes is to obtain water that is soft, acid and bacteria free. Sphagum peat moss has been commonly used to obtain water of that type, but it can be messy and difficult to manage in an aquarium. Why peat moss? Because it is a very effective natural substance. Many do not realize, but it is often used to treat wastewater and remove heavy metals, cyanide, phosphates, oils, detergents and dyes. It has a high capacity for ion exchange with metal pollutants such as copper, zinc, lead and mercury. It also absorbs about 10 times its weight in oil, and is commonly used for oil spills. It readily removes chlorine, ammonia, and hardness from water, things the aquarist is concerned with. One of the best functions of peat moss in the aquarium is the reduction of bacteria. Peat moss is formed from plant matter slowly decomposing in a wet, low oxygen environment over thousands of years. It contains dozens of species of fungus that reduce or kill harmful bacteria (think penicillin). The eggs and fry of many species of fish can be very sensitive to bacteria in the water. And finally, peat moss releases tannins and organic acids that stain the water darker and block out light. Some fish eggs and fry are very sensitive to light.

It sounds like peat moss should be the perfect addition to any aquarium but the problem is that it is messy. If it is added directly to the aquarium, every move the fish make stirs it up and it is impossible to keep the tank neat and clean. Just try to collect eggs or catch fry or fish from a messy tank like that! I have put it in a box filter between filter floss and that works fairly well, but the fine particles are still in the water until the filter gets working well. I have tried putting it in 2 layers of nylon stocking, but the fine particles still come out into the water to mess up the tank. Soaking peat moss in a separate container and then drawing off the treated water to use for the fish is time consuming and cumbersome. It is mostly the extracts in solution dissolved from the peat moss that we want in the aquarium water, not the peat itself

Recently, my wife bought a new automatic coffee maker. The coffee filters for her old machine did not fit the new one. As I contemplated what to do with them (I have difficulty throwing anything away!) I thought about using them to contain the peat moss. I used hot water in a container and stirred in enough peat moss to make a thick soupy mix. This will get wet in just a matter of minutes. I then took a small handful of peat moss, squeezed out the excess water, and placed it in the center of the filter. By bringing up the edges of the filter and twisting the top like a fish bag, I could put a rubber band around it to secure it. This could be called a “peat orb”. Make sure there is not too much peat in the filter or it cannot be closed securely. The filter material is not super durable, so be careful not to twist too hard. These were tested over time and found to begin darkening the water in about 2-3 days, as well as preventing any fine particles from getting into the aquarium. When first placed into the aquarium, they will float, and 2 to 3 orbs in a 10 gallon tank may be about right. The orbs are easily placed and removed without disturbing the tank or filter, they can be easily made, and cost very little. Problems occurred with them after about 1 week, when they would break open and the tank would be full of floating particles of peat moss!

I then experimented using more durable but permeable forms of material including muslin cloth and polyester cloth, but found that they also would eventually deteriorate and break open, making a mess. I believe that the many species of fungus present in the peat moss could have a damaging effect on the material, as well as the fact that I have bristlenose plecostomus in most of my tanks. I found them frequently feeding on the peat orbs, probably to get at the fungus, and they could easily break down those materials with time. Currently, I am using box filters with filter floss below and above the peat moss and large gravel on top to weigh it down. If anyone can think of an easier way to get peat moss into an aquarium without a big mess, please let me know!

I would recommend to all aquarists to try and use peat moss in some way to benefit their fish, especially if their fish come from soft water habitats.

Photos!

We need your photos for the newsletter. Your pictures will help to make viewing the newsletter more enjoyable by helping to break up the text. Some can also be cropped and used as fish around the newsletter header. Furthermore, they can be used towards the requirement for your BAP & HAP levels.

2012 HAP Through September

Roger Miller—31
- Vegetative
  - Anubias coffeefolia
  - Cryptocoryne usteriana
  - Cryptocoryne walkeri
  - Echinodorus sp. “Red Flame”
  - Echinodorus amazonicus
  - Echinodorus bleheri
  - Eleocharis acicularis
  - Hydrotriche hottoniiflora
  - Lindernia rotundifolia
  - Lobelia cardinalis
  - Microsorum pteropus
  - Rotella nanjenshan
  - Vesicularia dubyana
  - Althernanthera reineckii
  - Bacopa monnieri
  - Egeria Najas
  - Glossostigma elatinoides
  - Limnobium laevigaturr
  - Lilaeopsis mauritiana
  - Ricca fluitans
  - Cabomba caroliniana
  - Cabomba furcata
  - Eichhornia crassipes
  - Ludwigia arcuata
  - Ludwigia palustris
  - Myrophyllum tuberculatum
  - Rotal sp. 'vietnam'
- Flowering
  - Eichhornia crassipes
  - Echinodorus quadricostatus var. xinguensis
  - Lindernia rotundifolia
  - Aponogeton Longiplumlosus

Mike Monje—23
- Vegetative
  - Ceratophyllum demersum
  - Cryptocoryne wendtii green
  - Cryptocoryne ponterderiifolia
  - Cryptocoryne Spiralis
  - Hygrophillia sp. Low Grow
  - Lemna minor
  - Ludwigia repens
  - Microsorum ptreopus
  - Najas guadalupensis
  - Nymphaea odorata
  - Pistia stratoites
  - Ricca flutans
  - Sagittaria subulata
  - Vesicularia dubyana
  - Vesicularia montagnei
  - Vallisneria nana
  - Hygrophili difformis
  - Thalia dealbata
  - Anubias Barteri
  - Cryptocoryne balansae
- Flowering
  - Nymphaea odorata
  - Nymphea var. Blue Aster
  - Thalia dealbata

Andrew Kalafut—10
- Vegetative
  - Cryptocoryne balansae
  - Cryptocoryne parva
  - Cryptocoryne wendtii bronze
  - Hygrophila difformis
  - Ludwigia repens
  - Bolbitis heudelotii
  - Cryptocryne walkerii
  - Rotala sp. 'Nanjenshan'
  - Staurogyne sp. 'low grow'
  - Sagittaria subulata

Ben VanDinther—5
- Vegetative
  - Cryptocoryne albida
  - Cryptocoryne blassii
  - Echinodorus quadracostada
  - Rotalla sp. “Magenta”
  - Rotalla sp. “Viet Nam”

Kory Voodre—6
- Vegetative
  - Anubia coffeefolia
  - Anubias nana
  - Ludwigia repens
  - Microsorum ptreopus
  - Vallisneria Americana
  - Anubias Barteri

Steve Hosteter—5
- Vegetative
  - Anubias coffeefolia
  - Cryptocoryne balansae
  - Echinodurus osiris
- Flowering
  - Pontederia cordata
  - Eichhornia crassipes

David Druszecki—3
- Vegetative
  - Vallisneria spiralis
  - Vallisneria nana
  - Vesicularia Dubyana

Phil Wurm—3
- Vegetative
  - Echinodorus amazonicus
  - Sagittaria Subulata
- Flowering
  - Nymphea sp. Denver Delight

Justin Sarns—1
- Vegetative
  - Nmyphoides sp. Taiwan

Patrick Miller—3
- Vegetative
  - Nelumbo nucifera
  - Cryptocoryne balansae
  - Cryptocoryne moehlmannii

Nicolas Johnson—1
- Vegetative
  - Riccia fluitans

Melissa Dehaan—1
- Vegetative
  - Echindorus sp. red flame

Ken Zeedyk—1
- Vegetative
  - Bolbitis heudelotii

Kim Oge—1
- Flowering
  - Aponogeton madagasariensis

BAP Continued

Scott Tetzlaff—4
- Amphilophus Amarillo
- Hemichromis guttatus
- Phallichthys fairweatheri
- Ptychochromis oligacanthus

Kory Voodre—4
- Ancistrus sp.
- Poecilia reticulata
- Xiphophorus helleri
- Herichthys cyanoguttatus

Tyler Mays—2
- Aulonocara baenschi
- Metriaclima estherae

Steve Hosteter—1
- Neolamprologus multifasciatus

Nicolas Johnson—1
- Xiphophorus evelynae

Andrew Kalafut—1
- Melanotaenia boesemani

Kim Oge—1
- Poecilia wingei

Ben VanDinther—1
- Nematobrycon palmeri

Phil Wurm—1
- Limia vattata

Why I choose not to BAP

By John Oxner

Having been a member in one to three fish centered clubs per year over the years has given me some insights that some may vehemently disagree with. That's part of life, I suppose. I do not try to tell others why they also should do as I do. So, please read this as one man's observations and opinions.

Almost every fish club has member competitions of some sort. The two most common are the BAP (Breeder's Award Program) and the HAP (Horticulture Award Program). Both programs are meant to encourage the members of the club to learn as much about several genus and species of fish as they possibly can and recreate as close as possible their natural surroundings. This in turn induces the fish to do what it does best, which is spawn or drop new fry. For this purpose both programs are fantastic avenues for the fish hobbyist to follow and use.

Having said that, I have to say, too many times I've seen people get so into the competition, getting recognition or getting their name on a plaque, that they lose the real meaning of being a fish hobbyist. All of us get into this hobby because we are fascinated by the aquatic world and it's inhabitants. Each of us develops a specific love for a certain genus or species of fish over time, but we are always also interested in learning as much as we can about all other species, or at least, we should be. In a club I belonged to years back, in order to get recognition for a spawn, the breeder had to bring in some fry as we do today. But also had to bring in the parents for judging. What were those parents judged on? Exactly how closely they continued to be an exact duplicate of their kin in the wild. How was their size? How was their color? Were the eyes the color of a fish at peace? How were the fins developed and maintained? You get the picture. The prize pair of your choice was THE PAIR you worked with. BAP wasn't just a race between competitors to see who could get the most species of fish to spawn. It was also a competition to see who was doing what was necessary to keep the strain as close to as pure and those in the wild.

As I visit various hobbyists fish rooms, I note that some continue to try to replicate fish that are a close match to those in the wild. But, I've also noticed that some keep several species of fish in one tank, over crowding it to the limit, and looking simply to find "a pair" they can pull out of that tank and put into a drop/spawn tank for a while. The parents are noticeably dwarfed or stunted. Their color could be better. Their eyes were on the cloudy side. Their fins are tattered and torn from having to fight with too many other tank mates to get any food at all. The fish existed for one purpose, in my mind. They were to help the Breeder get BAP Points. I can already hear folks lining up to beat on me for that one. But, in a few of the fish rooms of folks who seem to do well in the BAP competitions year after year, a few, I've seen what I state. And the problem compounds itself when those BAP fry are resold to another BAP participant as the fry already carry many of the recessive genes that came out so strongly in the parents. If you buy fish that have gone through 7-10 generations of breeding without wild caught being re introduced at least twice during those generations, the fish has lost so much of its wild attributes that it is almost not recognizable, in my opinion, as that strain.

Being a purist at heart in most every pursuit I undertake, I've always done what I could to maintain species tanks. I may throw a few young bristle nose plecos in each to help with algae control, but that's the most mixing of genus I'll do. It does require one keep more tanks than most would in order to keep various strains of one's special interest separated into their own living quarters but I believe it is best. For the past few years now I've begun keeping Corydoras catfish. I have a smaller fish room, so I can only keep about 20 of the 380+ species known. Even with just those 20 species, I've found I cannot set all my waters at the same parameters and expect each one to give me fry. Based on where they are found in South America, they require waters with different PH, different temperatures and different amounts of tannins in the water. Some of the Corys breed only in very soft water with a PH below 5. Some of the strains will only breed in very hard water with a PH above 7.5. Trying to keep them all in the same types of set up would most certainly do at least some of the species serious harm. Keeping too many in a smaller tank will always stunt the snout growth of the fry. Once stunted, they'll never get back on track to become a replication of their kin in the wild. So I, myself, for my purpose, don't BAP as I'm not interested in the points, the rewards of recognition or a plaque. I am only interested in the rewards of keeping as pure a strain of Corydoras as I can.

As I stated at the beginning of this article, this is one man's observations and opinions. I've visited many fish rooms from folks that BAP and noted they are as concerned with keeping their genus and strains as close to the wild relatives as they can. Participating in BAP certainly does not make anyone a hobbyist who lacks interest in keeping strains pure. I've written the above simply as my way of telling others to participate with care. Always be aware that your job as a keeper is to improve the life of the fish you keep in any way that you can. Those that pursue keeping the purist strains they can and like the competition of the BAP programs enable others to buy prize fry. That, in the end, is the goal each of us is responsible to achieve.

Congratulations to GVAC's own Chris Carpenter for a great showing at the Michiana Aquarium Society 'Tropical Magic 2012 Show' where he won Best Display along with many other awards.

3 Myths About Keeping Victorian Cichlids

By Justin Sarns, photos by the author

Victorian Cichlids or furu are an amazing group of fish. The behavior, the color and the variety make them a Cichlidiofile's dream. Add on top of that the fact that these beautiful fish are disappearing from the wild and the furu of Lake Victoria should be among the most popular Cichlids in the hobby. Yet, they aren't. These beautiful fish are often denied room in our aquariums because of a few common myths about the color and behavior of the furu. This article will try to shed some light on these myths in the hope of debunking them and earning these fish the place that they deserve in our fishrooms.

Myth #1: All Victorians are red.

It is true that many Victorians are red. However, to say that all Victorians are red is the same as saying that all Malawian Cichlids are blue, although a majority are, not all are. Many of the Cichlids found in Lake Victoria and the surrounding areas do have a large amount of red on their body. Some species such as Haplochromis sp. 35 and Pundimillia Nyererei are among the brightest red in the world. This red is mixed with yellows, greens and even blues. In some the red becomes the accent and not the focus, and on some it disappears all together. Haplochromis sp. Kenya Gold is a yellowish gold Haplochromine with a color that can rival the famous Yellow Lab. The Red Tail sheller once again breaks the myth with its blue body and red tail. The Golden Duck, Matumbi Hunter, Neochromis Greenwoodi, and many others have only tiny amounts of red if any. The red is just like the blue of Malawi, common but not in every fish, and even in the ones who have the red or blue each species is unique.

Haplochromis sp. Red Tail Sheller

Myth #2: All Victorians are incredibly aggressive.

Again as with any myth, this one is based in truth. There are some Victorian Cichlids that make even the most aggressive Pseudothropheus look like guppies! However, just because a few are incredibly aggressive doesn't mean all the fish in the lake are. Several species of Victorians are as calm as some of the Peacocks and Haps of Malawi. Haplochromis sp. Ruby Green is a relatively calm Victorian. The male rarely chases females. Haplochromis sp. Red Tail Sheller can be even calmer! Multiple males will live together and show coloration and to top that off, they rarely chase the females and leave all other fish in the tank alone. Other species such as Haplochromis sp. Flameback are even so low on the totem pole when kept with Malawian Cichlids that they don't even show color! Just like other types of Cichlids there is a variety of behaviors and aggression levels. The aggression found in the rougher species can be managed through overcrowding, choosing proper tank mates and providing a large rock structure to hide in. The calmer ones are even easier to maintain. Plus, for a Cichlid person, the aggression is half the fun!

Halplochromis sp. Kenya Gold

Myth #3 Victorians can't be kept together.

As with the past two myths this one is also based in truth, perhaps more truth than the preceding two myths. Victorians will interbreed if given the chance, just like Malawian cichlids. There are precautions that can be taken to avoid the chance of them mixing. However, if the end goal of maintaining the species is to propagate it, the fish should be kept in species only tanks, or in tanks without other Victorian species. In a pinch, some experts say that species with very different colorations and head/body shapes can be kept together. Species such as Ptyochromis sp. Salmon and Paralabidochromis Chromogynos have been successfully kept together. If this is tried extreme caution must be taken and the fish should be carefully monitored to ensure that hybridization does not occur. When in doubt it is best to keep the fish separate.

Victorian Cichlids are a fascinating group of fish. They are always on the move, always displaying, and in most cases they are very active breeders. It is important that these fish find a place in our aquariums. They are disappearing from the wild every day due to pollution, human development, and the introduction of food fish that prey upon the furu. There are species that once existed in Lake Victoria that will never be seen again. Thanks to hobbyist groups such as C.A.R.E.S. species that are extinct in the wild are available in the hobby and others are being preserved. These fish need our help to remain on this planet! Hopefully, this article has dispelled a few of the common myths surrounding these amazing animals and soon they will be found in more fishrooms!

Pseudomugil furcatus (Forktail Blue-eye or Furcatus rainbow)

By Roger Miller, photos by the author

Pseudomugil furcatus is a stream-dwelling species form Eastern Papua New Guinea. Maximum size is up to 6 cm (2 ½") with 4-5 cm (1 ½ -2")being the norm. The margins on the dorsal, anal and upper edge on the pectoral fins are yellow. Pelvic fins are completely yellow with narrow black upper and lower margins on the caudal fin.[1] It is an attractive fish with the males being much more colorful than the females.

The pectoral fins are high on the body and somewhat elongated and narrow in appearance, the yellow color on the upper margin of the fins make them appear narrower than they actually are. So much so that they tend to look like small wings, in my opinion, which makes them appear to try to be flying, rather than swimming, through the water. These are very active fish and they are constantly on the move.

The pairs that I have were purchased, from Juergen Kasprick on last years (2011) Big Dog Shop Hop 5, as juveniles. Initially placed in a 5 ½ gal. tank they were transferred to a10 gallon tank when they attained 1 ½ - 2'' (total) in size. This tank is maintained at a temp. of 74 deg. F. and is filled with water directly as it comes from the tap. Filtration is by sponge filter and water changes of 50—75% are made weekly. The grouping of tanks containing this tank (five 10 gallon tanks) is lighted by a single 40 watt florescent bulb that is on for nine hours a day.

Anticipating that spawning would occur, in the tank, a large bunch of Ceratophyllum demersum (hornwort) was placed in the back to provide a spawning medium and provide the fry with places to hide. Several weeks elapsed with no fry appearing in the tank. At this point spawning mops (1 floating & 1 sinking) were placed into the tank. The thought being that maybe the fish did not find the hornwort a suitable spawning medium. Another month came and went, still no fry were apparent in the tank. Being a little discouraged and frustrated, at this point, the spawning mops were removed and checked for eggs. Happily, several eggs were found within the mop's strands. These I picked, carefully, from the mops and placed in a small container containing water from the tank to which Methylene Blue had been added. An air stone was added for water circulation and the container then placed on the shelf (close to the ceiling) above the tank rack in my "fish room". The container of eggs was kept at the ambient room temp. of 72 deg. F. as no heater was used. The container was checked daily, for several days, for the appearance of fry. Finally on the ninth day, just when I was about to dispose of the eggs thinking them to be infertile, a single fry was found. Over the next eight days 1 or 2 fry (once 3) would appear in the container every day. After the eighth day no more fry appeared and any remaining eggs were disposed of after another 4 days passed. It is apparent that this species, rather than laying a group of eggs at once, lays only a few eggs a day over several days.

Fry were removed (as soon as they were found) and placed in a 2 quart glass bowl, with an air stone, where they were fed a mix of microworms and liquid fry food for several days. After approximately 2 weeks they were big enough to take very finely crushed flake. The fry are very small, when first hatched, and 3 months passed before they reached ¾ - 7/8" (total length) at which point I turned them in for B.A.P..

I am now convinced that spawning has been occurring in the tank for some time but any fry that hatched out quickly became "lunch" for the adult fish.

Pseudomugil furcatus is a peaceful and attractive species that remains relatively small (under 3"). They would make a good addition to many community tanks by adding a splash of color and a lot of activity.

1.Location and taxonomic information from:" **Rainbowfishes** in Nature and in the Aquarium" by Dr. Gerald R. Allen.

GVAC SWAP MEET January 12

Don't forget to sign up to be a seller at the next SWAP MEET. Tables will again only be $10ea and are 6' long. Each table allows for admittance for one person, you can buy more than one table but tables may not be split. This is a chance for you to network with other hobbyist and make a little money to help pay for your hobby. Please contact Patrick Miller to reserve your table(s).

New this year we will also be having a show, stay tuned for details.

Admittance will once again be $3 per person and $5 per family.

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

GVAC has membership cards this year. This is the first time that our club has done something like this and there is a benefit to having them.

GVAC T-Shirts

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

Store Discounts

Blue Fish Aquarium*

10% off livestock

20% off bulk food (does not include 5lb boxes)

Club nights Tuesday & Wednesday 20% off livestock.

*Must show GVAC membership card to receive discounts

The Wonderful World of. . . *Goodeids*