



GVAC Tank Notes

April—June 2012

Issue 56

Upcoming Meetings:

Spring Auction:	March 24
April:	Collecting in Peru Mike Monje
May:	TBA
June:	TBA

GVAC Spring Auction

SATURDAY MARCH 24

REGISTRATION 9AM TO 11AM
AUCTION 11AM TO ????

LOCATION: THE HOME SCHOOL BUILDING
5625 BURLINGAME, WYOMING, MI 49509

BUY & SELL AQUARIUM FISH, PLANTS AND SUPPLIES

NEW BUY IT NOW TABLE (see page 4 for more info)



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Photo of a beautiful Thorichthys sp. taken by Ken Zeedyk

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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.

GVAC Mailing address: Grand Valley Aquarium Club
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GVAC Website: www.GrandValleyAquariumClub.org

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

Presidents Message

Welcome to another issue of GVAC Tank Notes. Our club is off to another strong start this year. We've got a great line up of speakers and our events have been well attended. We are fortunate to have a number of other club's events going on this spring in Michigan, and a national organization is holding its annual convention a short drive away in Indiana. I am looking forward to enjoying everything the hobby has to offer in 2012.

This is a very active time of year for our hobby and hopefully you found time to attend some of the other area club's events this spring. February saw an auction in Detroit and a Killifish show in Niles, and March is very busy with auctions going on almost every weekend. If you are new to the club side of the hobby I highly recommend broadening your horizons and attending some events that are out of our immediate area. There are other great societies within a short drive of Grand Rapids and it is a great experience going to their events. Some of the nearby clubs are SWMAS (Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society) in Kalamazoo, MCAS (Motor City Aquarium Society) in Detroit, GDAS (Greater Detroit Aquarium Society) in Detroit, and MAS (Michiana Aquarium Society) in South Bend. Greenwater Aquarist Society puts on some good events in south Chicago and the GCCA (Greater Chicago Cichlid Association) has a huge swap meet coming up in April. The ALA (American Livebearer Association) has their annual convention coming up in Florida in April, and the ACA (American Cichlid Association) is having their annual convention in Indianapolis in July. The ACA convention is a great opportunity to see world class speakers, meet other hobbyists, and of course they have an amazing auction. It would be great to get a good showing from GVAC down there. Check out the events calendar on our website or in the GVAC newsletter for a listing of events, or visit the organization's web-

site for more details.

Remember to keep writing articles and taking pictures for our newsletter. They can be e-mailed to Patrick Miller. Patrick has been doing a great job of putting our newsletters together using GVAC original material, so help him out by keeping those articles coming. GVAC also has an award for Writer of the Year so that is added incentive for you to keep writing.

Happy fishkeeping,

Ken Zeedyk



Please support those who support GVAC

Blue fish Aquarium
 Preuss Pets
 Amazonas Magazine
 Aquatic Gardeners Ass. - Karen Randall
 Aquadine
 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
 Ocean Nutrition
 Pet Supplies Plus
 Pet Connection
 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

March 24	GVAC Spring Auction Home School Building Registration 9am—Auction starts at 11am
March 25	GWAS Swap Apollo Recreation Center 12521 South Kostner Ave, Alsip IL 60603 www.gwasoc.org
April 14	GVAC Meeting Topic: Collecting in Peru by Mike Monje Grow out contest round 1 judging
April 14	Michiana Buck-A-Bag Spring Auction Concord Mall 3701 S. Main (US33) Elkhart www.michiana-aquarium-society.org
April 22	GCCA Swap Belvidere Banquet Center 1170 West Devon, Elk Grove Village IL 60007 www.gcca.net
April 26-29	ALA Convention Ft. Lauderdale Florida www.ALA2012.com
May 12	GVAC Meeting Topic: TBA
May 19-20	Michigan Guppy Breeders Show Best Western Hotel, Romulus MI 48174 www.michianguppybreeders.com
May 19	MCAS Shop Hop Detroit area More details to come
June 9	GVAC Meeting Topic: TBA Grow out contest round 2 judging Grow out contest round 3 fish pick up
July 11-15	ACA Convention Indianapolis IN www.cichlid.org
July 14	GVAC Summer Picnic Location: TBA Members only

Tip From Bud Robinson

Tank notes for aquarists who use white Undertow gravel filters but can't find caps to cover extra upright holes. 35mm film canisters fit perfectly. They can be found at 1hr photo labs.

BUY IT NOW TABLE

At the GVAC Spring 2012 auction we will be trying out a "Buy It Now" table during the auction. This is designed to accomplish two things. One, it will allow for sellers to bring valuable fish that they might not want to risk selling for less than they would like. Second, it allows the club to reduce the length of the auction by removing a portion of items out of the bidding process while keeping the number of items offered for sale as high as possible.

The process for the buy it now table is listed below. For the most part we are following the Motor City Aquarium Society process for the buy it now table so if you have been to one of their auctions you will be familiar with the process.

1. The buy it now table will run from 11am until 12:30pm. All items that are not sold by 12:30am must be picked up by the seller before 1pm and will be recorded as a \$0 sale. Unsold items not picked up by the seller before 1pm will be entered into the auction with no minimum bid and as the third color to be sold.

2. Buy It Now items are sold at a 70/30 split as standard auction items

2. Each seller is allowed to put up to 5 items onto the buy it now table.

3. Bags on the buy it now table are to be labeled as a normal auction item and include; seller ID, bag number, scientific name, quantity, sex seller name, and phone/email. A separate sticker with the price of the item should also be included. (Using a separate sticker for the price allows for it to be removed if it doesn't sell and you want to put it into the auction.)

4. When the item is sold a bidder slip will be filled out. The bidder slip is then processed as a standard auction sale.

5. There is no negotiating for Buy It Now items. The price listed is the price of the item, no exceptions.

Example;

Patrick brings in 37 items for sale. He would like to have the maximum of 5 items put onto the Buy It Now table. He will receive 5 buy it now stickers, 8 priority stickers, 8 green stickers, 8 blue stickers, and 8 yellow stickers.

Patrick sells three of his Buy It Now items. He opts to have the one unsold item entered into the auction and one unsold item removed from the auction. A bidder slip for \$0 is filled out for the item he is taking out of the auction. For the item that is being put into the auction; the Buy It Now sticker is removed and a sticker of the third color to be auctioned is added. The bag is then put onto the proper table and is treated as a standard auction item.

Buying from the Buy It Now table is easy. If you find an item that you would like to buy you need to let the person working the table know that you would like to buy it. They will fill out a bidder slip, put your bidder number on it and have you sign it. Once finished you are free to take your purchase. You will pay for your Buy It Now purchase when you check out and pay for the rest of the items you purchased.

We look forward to seeing you at the auction and hope you find everything that you are looking for.

2012 BAP Through March

Mike Monje—10

Bedotia geayi
Caridinia babaulti sp. Green
Girardinthys multiradiatus
Girardinus microdactylus
Girardinus rivasi
Girardinus var. "yellow belly"
Melantaenia lacustris
Metriaclima greshakei
Pseudotropheus elongatus "che were"
Skiffia sp. V188

Roger Miller—8

Astatotilapia latifasciata
Caridina cf. cantonensis "zebra"
Clea Helena
Iodotropheus sprengerae
Skiffia multipunctata
Neolamprologus multifasciatus
Amatillania nigrofasciatus
Corydoras sp. CW010

Justin Sarns—7

Astatotilapia latifasciata
Aulonocara "Dragon's Blood"
Aulonocara stuartgranti Hai reef
Haplochromis "Xystichromis" sp. "Kyoga flameback"
Labidochromis carealeus
Neocaridina denticulata sinensis
Pundamilia nyererei sp "Crimson Tide"

Patrick Miller—5

Badis cf. siamensis
Corydoras venezuelanus
Corydoras paleatus
Limia tridens
Aspidoras cf. albater

Kenny Valentine—4

Labidochromis carealeus
Phallocheros caudomaculatus
Ilyodon cortesae
Procambarus marmorkrebs

Ken Zeedyk—4

Julidochromis dickfeldi
Labidochromis carealeus
Pseudotropheus elegans "Acei"
Xenophallus umbratilis

Jeff VandderBerg—3

Labidochromis gigas
Limia tridens
Protomelas spilnotus

Chris Carpenter—2

Aulonocara jacobfreibergi
Geophagus steindachneri

Travis Henkalin—1

Poecilia wingei

Dan Kraker—1

Placidochromis "Jalo Reef"

Ben VanDinther—1

Nematobrycon palmeri

Kory Voodre—1

Xiphophorus helleri

2012 HAP Through March

Roger Miller

Vegetative

Cryptocoryne usteriana
Echinodorus sp. "Red Flame"
Echinodorus amazonicus
Hydrotriche hottoniiflora
Echinodorus bleheri

Ben VanDinther

Vegetative

Echinodorus quadricostata
Cryptocoryne albida
Cryptocoryne blassii
Rotalla sp. "Magenta"
Rotalla sp. "Viet Nam"

David Druszecki

Vegetative

Vallisneria spiralis
Vallisneria nana

Andrew Kalafut

Vegetative

Ludwigia repens
Cruyptocoryne balansae

Kory Voodre

Vegetative

Vallisneria americana

Big Dog Shop Hop VI

May 19 is the date for the 6th annual Big Dog Shop Hop put on by our friends in the Motor City Aquarium Society (MCAS). If you haven't been to a Big Dog Shop Hop in the past then you are really missing a great day of fish and fun.

This year promises to be the best year yet with new stops and old favorites. While the schedule hasn't been completely set you can count on stopping at some great stores such as Fantastic Fins, Highland Tropical, Moby Dicks and more.

Additionally, if you haven't been to an actual Michigan breeder/wholesaler you haven't seen true fish heaven. We are lucky enough to be stopping at two of them again this year and you won't want to miss opportunity. Normally, they are not open to the public so getting a look around and opportunity to purchase their fish directly is a real treat.

The tentative schedule for this trip is as follows but watch for updates at the April and May meetings and check the website for updates.

7am	Leave the I-96 exit 52 park & ride
8:30am	Meet MCAS members in Brighton
9am	First stop at Oyer's Home Fish Hatchery
	Stop for lunch after first 3 or 4 stops
	Moby Dicks Pet Store & more stops
6:30pm	Dinner at Bad Brad's BBQ
	Return to I-96 exit 52 park & ride

Please let Patrick Miller, pmlife4@att.net know if you are going and interested in carpooling.

2012 GVAC Swap Meet

The 2012 GVAC Swap Meet was a great success. Thanks to everyone that came to sell and buy. Once again this year, we had a significant snow fall the night before the Swap. Unfortunately, the snow and bad roads were enough to keep a few sellers who had to drive from Chicago and Detroit home but did not dampen the fun of those who were able to make it.

Part of the great success that we had was due to the great sponsors of this event.

Hikari

Ocean Nutrition

Seachem

Tropical Fish Hobbyist

ZooMed

These companies all provided help so that we could once again provide gift bags to the first 25 paying attendees. From the line of people with smiling faces at the start of the swap they were very happy with those bags which were packed with items to help them be successful in our hobby. When you are looking for products please support those companies that support GVAC. We would also like to thank Roger Miller and Jim Dutcher who did a great job working the registration table and keeping track of everything.

The 2013 Swap Meet is scheduled for January 19, 2013 and we can't wait for another fun event.



The Truth Behind Water Changes, As I See It?

By Mike Monje

I have been very blessed as a man and as a hobbyist. I've had the good fortune to visit many places and spend time with hobbyists in many other parts of the world, and to visit fishes in their homes in many places around the globe. For that I am truly thankful and grateful. Through all of this I've learned one very valuable lesson. Nature in all her wisdom and glory does *water changes*! Not only that, she does them often, aggressively, and with purpose.

While snorkeling a reef in Barbados the tide literally pulled me along a trench that the currents had carved through the reef. This was an amazing experience, I was effortlessly pulled along by the currents, and I observed the corals and fish as I was pulled along the length of the trench. However, it was during the long swim back up this trench that I was able to more closely observe my surroundings and you wouldn't believe how the corals and fish responded to this influx of fresh seawater. It was truly breath-taking. Their colors were brighter, the corals were open, polyps fully extended, and the activity of the fish was heightened. It was truly a beautiful sight. This phenomenon occurred twice daily, flushing the old water off the reef and replenishing it with fresh seawater from the expanse of the open sea.

While fishing for Apistogramma's in the Peruvian Amazon I was amazed that these little cichlids lived in as little as three inches of water, cluttered with leaf litter, and water so murky that you couldn't see the leaf litter at a depth of three inches! How could they possibly survive let alone reproduce under such conditions. With a little observation you could see the currents moving the water, constantly replacing old water with new. The pond only looked stagnant! Upon closer inspection you could see the small streams, almost totally obscured by the grassy meadow, feeding into and out of this pond. These small feeder streams kept replacing the water, even during the dry season. During the rainy season when the Amazon reaches flood height, this pond totally connects to the main river and all the water is replaced with fresh water from the main river.

While watching streams, creeks and rivers we all see the current, our immediate observation says that species in such an environment require water movement in our tanks. While in some species this is true, the wider view is that the water is constantly being replaced! New water from tributaries, run-off, or lakes is constantly being flushed through the system creating this current. The nutrients provided by this new water may be more of key to housing some of these animals than the actual current is. While in the Amazon Rainforest this truly becomes clear even to the casual observer, most fish are found in areas of lower current, the water however is constantly being replaced. In the flooded forests you can observe the water level changing height from one day to next. This is truly an amazing thing to observe and to try and comprehend the amount of water necessary for nature to accomplish this.

Bass fishing with my father, both now and while I was growing up, his favorite spots on the lake are where the creeks are connected to the lake, two of them flow into the lake, and two of them flow out of the lake. Nonetheless Dad has always maintained the best fishing was by the creeks. Of course he's right;

the changing water provides micro-organisms for the bait fish and crustaceans, which of course attracts the predators. While we consider a lake to be a closed system most of them have springs, creeks, or a channel that connects them to another body of water.

While sitting on bench just watching the water plummeting over Niagara Falls, it was hard to comprehend all the water being pulled over the falls is coming directly out of the inter-connected Great Lakes and their tributaries. The largest freshwater Basin in the world all draining to the ocean over these falls, and being replaced with new water at a rate that keeps the levels relatively stable!

In Michigan and around the world there are small ponds that go completely dry at times. A whole host of aquatic species have adapted to these waters, laying their eggs in the mud allowing them to dry. When the rain comes the pond is refilled with freshwater, allowing the eggs to hatch and start the cycle all over again all due to a massive *water change*.

While visiting a business associate's house in Bombay India, he had this beautiful fish only Marine tank. No lights, it was located on his Back Patio, no filtration, (he replaced the seawater with fresh seawater every morning). The sand and rockwork were from the beach close to his house and he occasionally replaced those as well. The tank was sheltered from direct sunlight to keep the temperature somewhat stable. However, he maintained this tank without any fancy equipment, in fact without any equipment at all, it was all about the water changes!

So what happens without water changes? In the entire world I know of only body of water that nature doesn't perform massive water changes with, Lake Tanganyika. This lake is almost totally isolated, while it does have freshwater draining into it, there is only one river flowing out of it, the Lukuga River. Evaporation accounts for approximately 95 percent of the water lost. So what happens without water changes? Well Lake Tanganyika is more than 4700 feet deep, yet once past a depth of approximately 350 feet, it contains no oxygen, the surface temperature varies less than 6 degrees Fahrenheit to a depth of 3000 feet, and therefore it has no thermal turn-over as other lakes do. The pH can be higher than 9.0! The suspended mineral content is so high that it precipitates and forms underwater flows that coat the rocks. So we have a lake, the second deepest in the world, that can only contain life in the upper levels where water is replaced due to evaporation and run-off. So even in a body of water that doesn't have massive water changes, aquatic life only survives in the portion of the lake that does perform *water-changes*.

So what's it all mean? A great fish-keeper once asked me about water changes, I replied that "I did some, but not regularly," he asked, "why not?" My response was, "my tanks were doing just fine without regular water changes." "Ok," he said, "but how much *better* would they do with them?" This started me down this path of observation and the practice of regular water changes, and yes my tanks do A LOT better with them. Algae problems are reduced, in some cases eliminated, fish grow faster, they show better coloration, spawn more frequently, the plants do better, and tank / filter maintenance is actually reduced. Simply topping off our tanks leads to an organic build-up similar to that of Lake Tanganyika, while doing water-changes removes excess nutrients, adds trace elements, and more closely replicates what nature does, and that's what we're trying to do, replicate nature in a glass box.

Liquid Addiction

By Chris Carpenter, photos by the author

I am not always the most talkative or outgoing guy so I thought this might be a good way to let some people know how I came to be a cichlidiot.

One day we made a trip to a local fish shop looking for apistogrammas. None to be found! An employee of the shop convinced me I should get a pair of Kribensis “Pelvicachromis Pulcher”. AHHH CICHLIDS!! I was hooked! Then they had babies! Awe! I started researching and collecting more fish, mostly from Lake Tanganyika. That’s when I found “Neolamprologus multifasciatus” (my personal favorite) a rather bland looking fish, but all that personality and spunk packed into such a little body. That is the fish that started my obsession with the shell dwellers from Lake Tanganyika.

It is my personal goal to keep and breed every type of shellie. Many of my now 33 aquariums are inhabited by shellies or there fry. I also house and breed many other types of fish. I enjoy and keep many types of Tanganyika, Malawi, W. African and S. American Cichlids. I also have a soft spot for Gobies.

I have been sober now for 6 years and keeping fish for 11, truly a fishaholic for 3. I have learned a ton in the past few years due to our very own Grand Valley Aquarium Club, the wonderful speakers

and great members sharing their wealth of knowledge. Thank you all! I also read many books, listen to pod casts, surf the web and truly obsess. I know I drive my wife nuts sometimes with how much I talk about it. I like my fish have come out of my

I have had a couple aquariums throughout my youth along with some goldfish that lived in bowls until they were to big and where then released into a local pond (oops). I also had a one eyed piranha for many years in my 20’s (knowing what I do now, he was very neglected and should have lived much longer).

I am married to a great women and have three children (2 boys and 1 girl) . When my first child was born my wife, Janet wanted to put an aquarium in his bedroom. She also wanted to find some unique fish. I remember she brought home a book, that I cannot recall the exact title of but I do remember asking her “what’s this book about cichlids” that I pronounced “kitchlids” I have come a long way since then.

Well, that one aquarium turned into 5 and I had a lot of fun picking out fish to go into the tanks that Janet was going to maintain. What I have not mentioned yet is that for many years I had a serious Alcohol and drug addiction. I will not get into all of the details about how I hit my bottom but needless to say I did. I had a tough decision to make! Thankfully, I have a good head on my shoulders and many great people in my life who helped me make the right choice, to stop drinking and using! My first year of sobriety was very difficult. I lost a lot of relationships and had to find new coping skills and desperately needed a hobby. I tried a few different things to occupy my time and got bored very quickly, all the while still enjoying the aquariums that I was now helping to maintain.

shell. I have made some very good friends and learned the coping skills I needed and I have most certainly found my hobby. I love my aquariums!

You see I have an addictive personality and I have swapped liquid addictions.



Janet Carpenter; . . . there are many more that this picture doesn't show.....sigh..... AND this is part of my bedroom.....



Orange laser Cory Corydoras sp. CW010

By Roger Miller photos by the author

The Orange laser Cory is a naturally occurring species from South America. Information as to what country or countries it is found in was not able to be located, lots of pictures but no information as to natural location or habitat. One online source did list one of the common names for it as Peru Orange Stripe Cory which, perhaps, may be an indication of where it is found.

This is currently an undescribed Corydoras species which, at this time, has the designation of: Corydoras sp. (CW010). I have no idea what the CW010 part of the designation means so if anyone could enlighten me, feel free to do so.



10 weeks old (appx. 1")

As is typical of the majority of Corydoras species, they are small catfishes, my four specimens averaging about two inches in total length. General body shape is consistent with the majority of the Cory species. Basic body coloration is a dull bronze with an orange stripe (on each side), just below the dorsal fin, that runs from the back of the eye to the adipose fin. The fins and ventral side are also orange in color, matching the body stripe.

The coloration can make for a very eye catching fish, especially when they are in motion, such as when they are in a bag at auction as was the case with the ones I obtained.

My fish were purchased at the GVAC fall auction of 2011. At home, they were placed in a tank (approximately 15 gal.) with several live plants, where they promptly disappeared only rarely to be seen unless they were actively being searched for (to make sure they were still alive).

About four weeks later, a few eggs were seen on some plant leaves and the glass. As I prefer to put as little effort as possible, into raising fish, I allowed the eggs, along with the ones from the next spawn about two weeks later, to remain in the tank allowing nature to take its course. When the third spawn occurred, and with no fry having been seen in the tank, the eggs were collected to be hatched separately (as have all subsequent spawns).

The eggs were placed in a two-quart bowl with an air stone, for water circulation, with a couple of drops of methylene blue to prevent fungus. Hatching occurred two days after collection.

The fry were fed micro worms exclusively for the first 10 days or so, after which they were supplemented with a commercial powdered fry food. As they grew, larger types of sinking foods were introduced.

Now at about ten weeks of age, the fry are $\frac{3}{4}$ " – 1" long (including caudal fin) and will eat almost anything that sinks to the tank bottom.

Conditions in the spawning tank are as follows:

Lights (twin tube T5HO) on for 12 hrs. daily (for the plants in the tank), temperature is 74 degrees F, pH 7.4-7.6, ammonia 0, nitrite 0, nitrate 5ppm, KH 7-8 dg., & GH 12 dg.



2012 GVAC Budget

Income:

Spring and Fall Auction:	\$3800.00
Raffles:	\$1200.00
Swap Meet:	\$520.00
Memberships:	\$700.00
Monthly Auctions:	\$900.00
Total:	\$7120.00

Expenses:

Monthly room rental:	\$1060.00
Large auction room rentals (2):	\$880.00
Swap meet room rental:	\$280.00
Featured speaker fees:	\$2146.00
Monthly speaker fees:	\$370.00
Christmas party:	\$150.00
Summer picnic/ACA	\$500.00
Insurance:	\$214.00
Newsletter:	\$600.00
Awards:	\$360.00
Website:	\$300.00
PO Box:	\$96.00
Misc. expenses, (forms, stamps, etc):	\$164.00
Total:	\$7120.00

Budget was reviewed and passed at the January 10, 2012 Board meeting.

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 49548
www.Grandvalleyaquariumclub.org

There is no fee and everyone is welcome to attend!



Photo by Tyler Mays of two male Lethrinops sp. Red Cap Chirwa

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