Grand Valley Aquarium Club

GVAC Tank Notes

January — March 2012

Issue 55

Upcoming Meetings:

January:	Breeding Fish Scott Tetzlaff
February:	TBA
March:	TBA
Spring Auction:	March 24

ANNUAL WINTER SWAP MEET

SATURDAY JANUARY 21 2012
10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

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

BUY AQUARIUM FISH, PLANTS AND SUPPLIES

ADMISSION: $3.00 INDIVIDUAL, $5.00 FAMILY

For more information or if you would like to sell at this event contact Patrick Miller at pmlife4@att.net.

Rent a 6 foot table for only $10.00 each!

Inside this issue:

GVAC members talking fish in Tom Siegfried's fish room at the holiday party on December 10.

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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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Grandville, MI 49418-0325

GVAC Website: www.GrandValleyAquariumClub.org

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

Presidents Message

Hopefully, the beginning of 2012 finds you and your family doing well, and your tanks fully stocked. 2011 was a very successful year for GVAC and I'd like to start this year out by saying thanks to a couple people.

First off, I'd like to thank Roger Miller for his superb work at the position of Treasurer. Roger was my choice for the 2011 Aquarist of the Year award because of his reliability and dedication to the club. He has made many improvements in the position and it is running as well as I have ever seen. He has generated professional monthly reports and participated in every major event. He even managed to have the seller's checks from our marathon fall auction out in the mail by the following Monday! Pretty great to have a two day turn around for the sellers and I think this will pay off for future events. I appreciate all your hard work this year!

Secondly, I'd like to thank Patrick Miller. Patrick has always been dedicated to GVAC and has put many hours in to making the club successful. Besides publishing a great newsletter comprised of GVAC original material this last year also served as Recording Secretary on the BOD, awards chair, and HAP chair. Patrick also helped with a field trip this year and I'm sure many other things I have forgotten to mention. He is certainly one of the driving forces behind the club.

A few more people who did a great job this year were Dan Kraker, Ben VanDinther and Tom Siegfried. Dan got us some great raffle prizes again this year, Ben some great speakers and Tom did a great job organizing the BAP records and hosting the December Holiday party. There are many more people who donated time and effort to the club and I sincerely appreciate and thank you all.

I do have something new for this year that I am trying out and that would be yearly membership cards. Members who pay their 2012 dues will receive a GVAC membership card. This card will identify you as a GVAC member and when shown to participating retailers, such as Blue Fish Aquarium, it will get you a certain percent off items. I'm still working out the exact details on the discounts, so stay tuned for future announcements. Also, in case we ever end up having members only speakers or events, a club card may be helpful for that as well.

Happy fishkeeping,

Ken Zeedyk

Photo of Corydoras panda taken by Ken Zeedyk

Please support those who support GVAC

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Python Products, Inc.
Reef and Reed
San Francisco Bay Brand
Seachem Laboratories, Inc.
SpectraPure
Tetra
Wardley—A Hartz Company
Zoo Med Laboratories Inc.

Calendar of Events

January 14	**GVAC Meeting** **Topic: TBA**
January 21	**GVAC Swap Meet** **Home School building** **Contact Patrick Miller for information**
January 21	MCA Winter Auction 33845 24 Mile RD, Chesterfield 48047 www.michigancichlid.com
January 28	GWAS Winter Auction 12521 South Kostner, Alsip IL 60803 Registration 10:30am—Auction 12pm www.gwasoc.org
February 18	MCAS Winter Auction 876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison heights Registration 9am—Auction 10:30am www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com
February 25-26	MAS Killifish carnival www.michianaaquariumsociety.org
March 10	SWMAS Spring Auction Plainwell Community Center Registration 8:30am—Auction 11am www.swmas.org
March 17	GDAS Spring Auction 814 North Campbell RD Royal Oak, 48067 Registration 9:30—Auction 11am www.greaterdetroitaquariumsociety.org
March 24	**GVAC Spring Auction** **Home School Building** **Registration 9am—Auction starts at 11am**
April 14	**GVAC Meeting** **Topic: TBA**
April 26-29	ALA Convention Ft. Lauderdale Florida www.ALA2012.com
May 12	**GVAC Meeting** **Topic: TBA**
June 9	**GVAC Meeting** **Topic: TBA**
July 11-15	ACA Convention Indianapolis IN www.cichlid.org
July 14	**GVAC Summer Picnic** **Location: TBA** **Members only**

Girardinus falcatus; A Profile

By Mike Monje

Overview

There are currently eight species under *Girardinus,* with G. rivas only recently described. *Girardinus falcatus,* otherwise known as the Goldbelly Topminnow (Eigenmann 1903), is a small livebearer with females reaching 2-½" and males 1-½", their overall body color is well, Gold. The females resemble an elongated female guppy, while the males, still having an elongated shape, have a much more pronounced dorsal fins giving them a bolder look. These are an unassuming little fish, very active swimmers and love a small planted tank.

Habitat

Their native range is streams and lakes throughout the island of Cuba and the Islands immediately surrounding Cuba. Most literature cite them living in a wide range of conditions, from stagnant muddy ponds, to clear fast streams.

Care

G. falcatus offers no problem with aquarium care, and requires little else but water. They are very hardy and highly adaptable. I've kept and bred them in everything from a 30 gal display tank, to a 3 gal nano tank. PH from the low 6's to 7.8 and temperature ranges from the high 60's to the low 80's.

Feeding

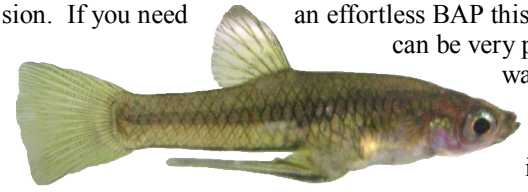
The aquarist will find that feeding *G. falcatus* presents no problems at all. They greedily accept whatever is offered. I've been feeding mine a rotating diet of Brine Shrimp Flake, Earthworm Flake, Frozen Glass Worms and Spirulina Flake. All are accepted with the same vigor. However, unlike their cousins *G. metallicus,* I've never observed these guys eating algae off the plant leaves.

Breeding

This species again presents no problems or special requirements when it comes to breeding, just add water. Males will utilize a sneak attack strategy for mating, it seems he only displays to intimidate other males (personal observation). The female will brood for 20 to 35 days depending on temperature and will generally drop 10 to 15 fry per brood. The parents don't really bother the fry, as long as there's some cover for the fry about 80% will survive. They fry can take crushed flake, Baby Brine Shrimp, and Cyclop-eez immediately. The fry grow very fast, again depending on temperature and will be ready to reproduce in 6 to 8 weeks depending on temperature.

Conclusion

I recommend this species if you're looking something different and rare in the hobby; they are well suited to small planted tank. I haven't tried this yet, but I imagine that a group of males would be a beautiful display in a heavily planted Nano-Tank, as they constantly display to one another but offer no other aggression. If you need an effortless BAP this is the fish, they can be very prolific, just add water. However, because they are uncommon in the hobby



Girardinus Falcatus male

2011 BAP Results

Mike Monje—33

Ancistrus Temminckii
Betta smaragdina
Caridina cantonensis sp. Tiger
Corydoras aeneus
Fundulopanchax spoorenbergi
Girardinus falcatus
Girardinus metallicus
Glossolepis incisus
Julidochromis dickfeldi
Limia melanogaster
Limia perugiae
Limia Tridens
Limia vittata
Limia zonata
Neocardina heteropode - red cherry shrimp
Neocaridinia cf. zhangjiajiensis
Neocaridinia heterapoda v. Yellow
Neoheterandria elegans
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Phallichthys fairweatheri
Poecilia gillii
Poecilia reticulata
Poecilia wingei
Poeciliopsis gracilus
Procamborus marmorkrebs
Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi
Pseudotropheus saulosi
Pundamilia sp Crimson Tide
Tanichthys albonubes
Tateurndina ocellicauda
Xenophallus umbratilus
Xiphophorus evelynae
Xiphophorus Pygmeaus

Tyler Mays—15

Amatitlania sp. Honduran Red point
Ancistrus sp. calico
Ancistrus sp. "Blue eye" L144
Aulonocara maleri "albino"
Australoheros sp. “red ceibal”
Hypsophrys nicaraguensis
Julidochromis marlieri
Labidochromis caeruleus
Labidochromis gigas "Mara Rocks"
Lethrinops sp. "Red cap Chirwa"
Nandopsis haitiensis
Neolamprologus cylindricus
Parachromis dovii " Yellow Costa Rican "
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Pseudotropheus demasoni

Chris Carpenter—12

Asolene spixi
Cyprichromis leptosoma
Limia melanogaster
Limia perugiae
Neocaridinia heterapoda
Neolamprologus caudopunctatus
Neolamprologus multifasciatus
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Planorbis corneus/rubrum
Poecilia wingei
Poecilia reticulata
Xiphophorus helleri

Patrick Miller—12

Haplochromis latifasciata
Chapalichthys encaustus
Ilyodon cortesae
Labeotropheus fuelleborni OB
Limia sulphurophila
Limia vittata
Poecilia gillii
Poeciliopsis prolifica
Pseudomugil gertrudae
Pseudotropheus acei
Sturisoma aff. Festivum
Xiphophorus nigrensis

Scott Tetzlaff—12

Astatotilapia calliptera
Australoheros sp. “red ceibal”
Cnesterodon decimaculatus
Copadichromis borleyi
Nandopsis salvini
Neolamprologus brichardi
Poecilia butleri
Poecilia gilli
Pseudotropheus sp. msobo
Synodontis petricola
Tateurndina ocellicauda
Tomocichla sieboldii

Ken Zeedyk—10

Corydoras aeneus
Corydoras melini
Corydoras paleatus
Corydoras panda
Eretmodus cyanostictus
Hyphessobrycon bentosi
Iodotropheus sprengerae
Neetroplus nematopus
Pelmatochromis buetikoferi
Tanichthys albonubes

Tom Siegfried—10

Amatitlania sp. Honduran Red point
Asolone spixi
Aulonocara kandeense
Clea helena
Ilyodon xantusi
Iodotropheus sprengerae
Neocaridina heteropoda
Planorbis corneus/rubrum
Xiphophorus maculatus
Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl

Travis Henkaline—8

Ancistrus sp.
Haplochromis latifasciata
Corydoras habrosus
Labidochromis caeruleus
Poecilia reticulata
Poecilia wingei
Pterophyllum scalare
Amatitlania nigrofasciata

Dan Kraker—8

Ancistrus sp.
Asolene spixi
Aulonocara stuartgranti
Cyprichromis leptisoma “Kitumba”
Labidochromis chisumulae
Neolamprologus multifasciatus
Placidochromis electra
Pseudotropheus williamsi “North Makonde”

Steve Hosteter—7

Amatitlania nigrofasciatus
Hemichromis bimaculatus
Limia perugiae
Neocardinia denticulate “cherry shrimp”
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Poecilia wingei
Tanichthys albonubes

Roger Miller—7

Ameca splendens
Ancistrus sp.
Hemichromis bimaculatus
Heterandria formosa
Labidochromis caeruleus
Tanichthys albonubes
Xenotoca eiseni

Jeff VanderBerg—7

Carassius auratus auratus
Neolamprologus sexfasciatus “Gold”
Oryzias woworae
Poecilia gillii
Poecilia vittata
Pseudotropheus perspicax “yellow breast”
Pseudotropheus sp. polit

Ben VanDinther—3

Devario auropurpureus
Nematobrycon palmeri
Procambarus sp marmorkrebs

Phil Wurm—2

Fundulopanchax gardneri
Limia melanogaster

Curt Bitterling—1

Skiffia bilineata

Tim Boelema—1

Neocardina heteropode sp. Yellow

Kenny Valentine—1

Gambusia affinis

Cyndi Westra—1

Pelvicachromis pulcher

BAP by the #’s

Number of people participating;

18

Number of fish spawned;

150

Number of unique species spawned;

109

Special Thanks

We would like to offer a special thanks to Bud Robinson for rounding up prizes for a special kids raffle at the fall auction. A complete 10 gallon set up was donated by Preuss Pets, a 10 gallon tank and a stand for a 10 gallon tank was donated by Pets Supply Plus on Alpine, and some bags of fish and shrimp were donated by Patrick Miller.

It is important to encourage the next generation of hobbyists and holding this type of raffle at both our Spring and Fall Auctions helps to get kids excited and includes the in the event.

Please make sure you support all of our sponsors.

Spelling and current name information taken from Fishbase.org

SAWBA RESPLENDENS---THE ASIAN RUMMYNOSE

By Chase Klinesteker, photo by the author

The Asian Rummynose, Sawba resplendens, is also known as the "Naked Microrasbora", "Asian False Rummynose", "Rummynose Rasbora", and "Sawbwa Barb". There still is debate on what group of fishes they belong to: rasboras, barbs, danios, or possibly their own classification. The term "Naked Microrasbora" refers to the fact that they have no scales and are therefore more sensitive to medications, especially those containing copper. "Resplendens" refers to the brightness of this fish. They are found in Lake Inle, Myanmar (Burma) South Asia and were described by Annandale in 1918.

Lake Inle is shallow and swampy, with hard, alkaline, peaty water and dense vegetation. The average depth in the dry season is 7 feet and in the rainy season, 12 feet. Water hardness comes from the surrounding terrain which is limestone base rock. It is the second largest lake in Myanmar with a surface area of 45 square miles, and is found in mountainous terrain at an altitude of 2,900 feet above sea level. During February, water temperatures can dip down to 57 to 64 degrees, which may be helpful in us understanding how to breed these fish. There are 9 species of fish found nowhere else in the world, including Sawbwa resplendens, the Crossbanded Dwarf Danio (Microrasbora erithromicron), and the Inle Danio (Inlecypris auropurea). 70,000 people live in 4 cities and many small villages bordering the lake. Most are self-sufficient farmers working manmade floating gardens producing fruits and vegetables. Many locals live in stilted homes and use hand powered small boats for transportation. The floating gardens are resistant to flooding since the water level can vary up to 5 feet seasonally. The conservation status of this lake is considered vulnerable due to pesticides, fertilizer, cattle grazing and sewage disposal.

Asian Rummynose males are very striking with a bright red head and tips of the forked caudal fin and body of steel blue-grey. Females are silver with clear fins, no red coloration and are usually smaller than the males. They are not often seen in fish shops and there seems to be a preponderance of males in the fish available. This is a somewhat difficult fish to keep due to its sensitivity to water conditions and temperature requirements. It likes to be kept fairly cool in clean, hard water. They show the best color when water temperature is in the low 70s' and heavy vegetation is present, including floating plants. They are found in the wild in very large schools and become quite shy in an aquarium unless there are 6 or more together. Being from a lake, it probably does better in quiet waters without heavy aeration or power filters, so sponge or box filters might work better. To harden the water, a box filter filled with dolomite or coral gravel works nicely. They are very peaceful and only should be put with other small peaceful fish. Best would be a species tank. This fish is lively but somewhat nervous so it frightens easily and is a jumper, so keep their tank covered! It is a small fish, rarely getting more than 1 ½ inches.

The Asian Rummynose eats most all foods but needs some help to take flake foods. It should be fed a variety of foods, including spirulina for vegetable matter, but live and frozen foods should be fed as their staple. It has a small mouth, so larger foods should be avoided. Live baby brine shrimp, small daphnia, black worms and grindle worms are some of their favorites.

My success breeding Sawbwa resplendens has been very limited, having collected some eggs and raised a few fry. Many have had difficulty breeding this fish, and my hope is that information I have gathered will stimulate others to be more successful. I set up a young healthy pair in a 2 ½ gallon tank with a small crushed coral under gravel filter to harden the water. Sexing is easy, as the female is smaller with no color in the nose or tail.

Live or plastic plants and a mat were used for cover. After about a week, the pair was comfortable and eating live and frozen foods well. Water temperature was 75 degrees and regular water changes were being done. The female seemed full of eggs and the male colored up well, but no eggs were collected for a long time (the gravel or mat is siphoned with a cylinder siphon and that is checked for eggs). Finally, in desperation, I made a 2/3 water change with RO water and began finding some eggs. I suspect the drop in water hardness imitated what happens at the start of the rainy season in lake Inle, which is likely when they spawn. The eggs were small, clear and few in number. They were hatched in a 1 gallon jar of medium-hard water with methylene blue to reduce fungus. In 2 days the eggs hatched and the fry were thin, glasslike slivers with a large head. They began to swim slowly in a tail-down fashion with a bend at the neck and are adept at hiding. It was necessary to feed infusoria or APR for over a week before the fry would take baby brine shrimp. The fry seemed difficult to feed, sensitive to pollution and I managed to only raise 3 to maturity the first time. Subsequent spawns have produced more fry but never in great numbers. They are slow growers and mature in 6-9 months. The eggs of this fish may be adhesive, and some reports indicate they lay them on the underside of broadleaf plants. Because they are shy fish, subdued lighting may help in getting them to breed.

The Asian Rummynose is one of the most attractive small cyprinids in the hobby. They maintain popularity despite limited availability. I encourage others to try them, since the more we learn about keeping and breeding them, the more available they will become.

Hypsophrys nicaraguensis

By Tyler Mays

Hypsophrys nicaraguensis is also known as the parrot cichlid and in my opinion is a wonderful Cichlid which hails from Central America. If you have ever seen these guys in full color, you know why they got the nick name parrot cichlid. Both the males and females are quite beautiful with nice coloration and flowing finnage. Some may argue that the females are actually the more attractive, but I think both the sexes are equally attractive in their own respect.

The male H. nicaraguensis will max out at around ten inches and the females will reach about half that size. These cichlids are quite mellow for their size, but they are no push over either. They get along pretty well with suitable tank mates and are not overly aggressive. They do become a bit territorial when courting and guarding their eggs or fry.

Photo provided by www.livefish.com.au

Something I found interesting about this cichlid is the fact that their eggs are non adhesive and a bright yellowish orange in coloration. In the aquarium, the pair will excavate a suitable area to deposit their eggs. This is usually a pit that they have made in the substrate, or it can be a nice well sheltered spot in the aquarium that they feel secure in guarding. My pair used one of the back corners of the aquarium. The eggs were in a nice pile right on the bare glass bottom. The parents do quite a good job at defending their territory but due to a crowded tank and a sneaky ancistrus, I decided to incubate the eggs artificially.

In order to do this, I first made my incubator, which consisted of a one gallon jar, a piece of foam rubber trimmed to fit snug in the mouth of the jar, and a piece of rigid air line tube. First, I made sure my jar was clean and then filled it half way with tap water that was approximately the same temperature as the water in the aquarium. I then siphoned as many of the eggs from the tank into the jar as I could without picking up too much debris or causing too much of a ruckus in the tank. After I was done collecting the eggs from the tank, I siphoned enough tank water to fill the jar within about two inches of the top. At this point, I put one milliliter of hydrogen peroxide into the incubator water, I repeated this every twelve hours until I noticed the eggs starting to hatch. (The peroxide helps to protect the eggs from fungus and bacteria while incubating. This method has worked very well for me on a number of other fish that I have incubated.) After the addition of the peroxide, I pierced straight through the center of the foam rubber with the rigid air line tube. At this point I fit the foam rubber into the mouth of the jar and slid the rigid air line tube straight down the center to within a few inches off the bottom of the jar. The air flow was adjusted so that there was a nice gentle current flowing over the eggs and maybe moving them around a bit. You do not want the current so strong that the eggs are bubbling and bouncing all over the place.

Depending on the water temperature the eggs will start to hatch in about three to four days. These little wrigglers have an adhesive substance on the back of their heads, so you will notice them sticking to each other for a few days. At this stage, I gently stir the water once in a while and adjust the aeration to provide them with a nice current but not so much that it blows them all over the place. Within three to four days of hatching, all the fry should be free swimming. If needed, do a small partial water change on the jar. When I see that all the fry are free swimming, I add a small amount of fresh hatched artemia to the jar. I add it to the jar because it is a small area and the fry don't have to swim too far while looking for their next target. Once I am satisfied that they are eating well, I acclimate the jar and dump them all into a ten gallon tank and grow them out for the next few months. This grow out tank usually has just bare bottom and is equipped with a sponge filter. Depending on the size of the spawn, you may have to divide them up into a number of grow out tanks as they grow.

These guys accept a wide variety of foods and grow well with good tank maintenance.

Next time you have the chance, give them a try!

GVAC Spring Auction
March 24

Home School Building
5625 Burlingame Wyoming MI 49509
Registration 9am—Auction 11am

Limit 50 bags per person/family and limit of 5 bags/items of any one color, type or variety per seller.
All items must be labeled with the sellers name, phone #, item #, species name, quantity in bag and any other pertinent information
Proper fish bags must be used. Double bagging is recommended.
For complete rules please see the website www.grandvalleyaquariumclub.com
We look forward to having you there and to another great auction.

2011 HAP Totals

Roger Miller
- Vegetative
  - Anubias barteri var nana
  - Cryptocoryne wendtii "red"
  - Ceratopteris thalictroides
  - Egeria densa
  - Echinodorus barthii
  - Echinodorus angustifolia vesucius
  - Echinodorus sp. Frans Stoffels
  - Echinodorus sp. ozelot
  - Echinodorus quadricostatus var. xinguensis
  - Hydrocotyle leucocephala
  - Hygrophilia coryombosa
  - Hygrophila difformis
  - Lemna minor
  - Limnophila aromatica “hippuroides"
  - Ludwigia repens
  - Nymphaea lotus zenkeri "red"
  - Myriophyllum simulans
  - Utricularia gibba
- Flowering
  - Anubias barteri nana
  - Echinodorus amazonicus
  - Echinodorus sp. Frans Stoffels
  - Echinodorus sp. ozelot
  - Echinodorus sp. "Red Flame"
  - Pistia stratiotes

Ben VanDinther
- Vegetative
  - Pogostemun rrectum
  - Cryptocoryne moelmani
  - Echinodorus sp. Vesuvius
  - Aponogeton Longiplumulosus
  - Echinorus sp. tenzande feverfeder
- Flowering
  - Aponogeton natans
  - Bacopa caroliniana
  - Ceratopteris thalictroides
  - Cypress helferi
  - Cryptocoryne tonkinesis
- Sexual
  - Aponogeton natans

Patrick Miller
- Vegetative
  - Anubias barteri
  - Hydrocotyle leucocephala
  - Hygrophila sp. low grow
  - Lemna trisulca
- Flowering
  - Menyanthus trifoliata

Tom Siegfried
- Vegetative
  - Ceratophyllum submersum
  - Cryptocoryne Balansae
  - Cryptocoryne lutea
  - Egeria densa
  - Sagittaria subulata
  - Spirodela polyrhiza

Scott Tetzlaff
- Vegetative
  - Lomaripsis lineata

Jeff VanderBerg
- Flowering
  - Cryptocoryne usteriana

Chase Klinesteker
- Flowering
  - Cryptocoryne usteriana

Cyndi Westra
- Vegetative
  - Anubias nana

Ken Zeedyk
- Vegetative
  - Echindorus sp. Kleiner prinze

Totals

Participents	9
Vegetative	36
Flowering	14
Sexual	1

Chapalichthys encaustus

By Patrick Miller

There are fish that come and go in every fish room. Sometimes a fish will stay because it has eluded breeding attempts and other times it will stay because it is a favorite species. However, there is another reason why you may decide to keep a fish and that is to help maintain and preserve it.

At the 2011 American Livebearers Association (ALA) convention, I decided to participate in the ALA’s species maintenance program (SMP). The purpose of the ALA’s SMP is to protect endangered livebearer species by ensuring enough ALA club members are keeping and breeding these fish at any one time.

A number of livebearers are threatened in the wild, especially Goodeids, which only come from the Mexican highlands. This area is very dry and what water does exist is under pressure by expanding human population. Because of this, most Goodeids are vulnerable, threatened or critically endangered. There are a few species that are now extinct in the wild and only exist in a few labs and hobbyist tanks. It is because of the low number of people maintaining this fish that the 2011 ALA target fish was Chapalichthys encaustus.

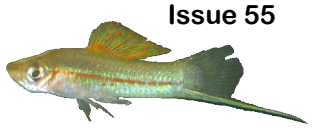
I was not sure what to expect with this fish when I bid on it and took home an adult pair and young group. Some Goodeids can be very difficult not only to breed but also just to keep alive. C. encaustus are an attractive fish and one of the better looking Goodeids. They have a greenish body with black bars down their sides with a faint yellow band on the back of their tail fin. Males and females look somewhat similar but can be easily differentiated by the males Andropodium (split on their anal fin). This species can attain a total length of up to 4” in females with males staying slightly smaller.

Keeping these fish is without issue. My fish are kept in a 20-gallon long. Given how fast they reproduce and how big they get, the tank should probably be larger but a well-maintained 20-gallon tank is fine. As with all of my tanks, their tank is heavily planted. Fry will benefit from hiding spaces in the way of Najas grass or other thick vegetative growth. However, the fry are large and I have not seen the adults take much interest in them. For feeding, a good flake food will suffice as a base but live or frozen food should be included.

This is an attractive fish that deserves to be kept and distributed in the hobby. That is why C. encaustus has a home in my fish room.

You should consider participating in a species maintenance program. There are several different programs depending on what type of fish interest you. These programs can be rewarding and of course there is always the BAP point and the ability to tell your friends you are doing something to help conserve nature.

If you would like to give this species a try, please contact me or look for these fish at GVAC auctions.



Livebearer Search

Words are up, down, left, right and diagonal. Good Luck!

Allotoca
Ameca
Ataeniobius
Characodon
Goodea
Ilyodon
Skiffia
Xenotoca
Anableps
Jenynsia
Alfaro
Belonesox
Brachyrhaphis
Carlhubbsia
Flexipenis
Gambusia
Girardinus
Limia
Phallichthys
Poecilia
Poeciliopsis
Xiphophorus
Dermogenys
Priapella

L H W E F X S E N A I B F N H Q E Y O A R B J W D K L H M L N K Z H L S Z Y P P
U H Q J Y Y T U S Y F E Y Y H D V U J E N X D G J X Z G Y D S J O C Q D Z I L S
M U C H A R A C O D O N B X G B V V S J L A Y P P Z F P Q G D G L Q Q N A V R A
O Y N B B K G B O W U B P K X E B F U M Z L E W A J N E W G J R O V U F A A P H
L A W L U I E E H T B I Z F O W P O E C I L I O P S I S F X V X Y A P I W F P Q
K L H C S A D Y V B N R D Q B C T G Y N Q D J E N Y N S I A S B W B R A Y D A D
L A Z M P N E U E C M R V G X U L S Z A N H O Y U J L S Y Y N G S K K E M M Q J
T K P E B Y R A Q N X Z F E I C U E C V A K P P A U V I H O J I S V X Q H Z V D
L Q K B T A M Z U Z O C L N K R Y L H M E E N B D P V T M K I U F A T W G R H V
M E I W R P O A F K M Q Z H G K Z G C V H A W C R L H V F I K D Y E N I A L H Q
B G U M W M G Z E M H S J L A I X F O S L A H Z J C G J C R A O L X A V G X W G
A B O A N Q E X L J S U N I D R A R I G E T H C I J A I P G W K J R L D T N H L
M L H B P V N G F Y K J S L Z B B P Q S P N B L Z G L C V K H Z H N F B D Q R A
A P L J S L Y H Q L P B T O X U S C A V H X L N H Y A P S H Y X B X A Q P B H M
O J O E C F S G Q I B O P W D D R D G X C A L L O T O C A C T Z I P R T J D I V
V G F A P T L R P U Q O Z T E N J L F L H P Y D P Y B A O S U S T C O T F B O Q
V P O I T A G D H R U M Y N I D L E S P S R O Y L X Z R W E H P M C C S E A I X
J A K E R I I L S S E H C Y S Y I L P O L N W W B D I Z D T X E E C Y Z J N E R
U K I K X R R R H I T Z E T B M Q A T A E N I O B I U S Z B Y M E N Z N G T V F
I R X U L A B W P H X F O K B K G N Q L C D H E A T Z L A I S U B M A G O H N W
W L G X C C E O U P I Z M P H T Z K W I X T L I W L T N Q M O T T B T Y B F Z T
I D K O A O L W U A P X A A A H P F P H I O Q Z R B S A G K G X E F M F C L O O
M X I Q K T V A U H H R M W Q O X O A T N U O E R A U W Y E E G Y Y H X I E W H
L P A A G O W E O R O W T B S Y G I E E Z L D H N L L A I K X J H E I M U X L W
P Z Z I C N H A T Y P X I X N B F K S C K R V A W M U U A E D O O G M J Y I B F
K F F J U E P I Y H H J U W C F S O O S I F B L K B P V M P F Y D B S E V P O S
N G C M Z X M Y T C O G O J I I X A N Q B L Q Z X M Y B U Y M Z L I T N P E Y C
J O T O H R O A X A R S B K C S N V B X E L I C B G D R P R I U T Q A K A N J V
J Q Y H O E R L W R U T S C U J Z F K P O P X A C Q X C T R W C E T S D B I Z Q
B U S N L Z Z H T B S X X W V D I W S J I D Q E V L K J Y S K T T O E D I S A K

This photo of a very nice looking Gymnogeophagus gymnogenys (Arroyo yerbalito) was taken by Tyler Mays.

GVAC 2012 Awards

2011 was another great year for the GVAC BAP & HAP programs. We had 18 people participate in the BAP program and another 9 members participate in the HAP program. In the BAP program, we had 109 different species of aquatic animals spawned and in the HAP program, we had 36 vegetative propagations of plants. This has produced a great amount of opportunity for people to obtain fish and plants that just can't be found outside of local breeders. Here is what the winners of the programs did to win their respective contests:

Aquarist of the Year; **Roger Miller.** GVAC is a fun organization to be a part of because of the involvement from members like Roger. In 2011, Roger did not only what was asked of him but looked for more ways to be involved. As treasurer, he has worked hard to put the club records into the computer. He has also taken over the roll of running the mini auctions at meetings and helps with the registration at the large auctions. Roger did all of this while still breeding 7 species of fish and winning Horticulturalist of the Year. Thank you for all of the work that you have done to make GVAC a successful club.

Breeder of the Year & BAP Rookie of the Year; **Mike Monje.** 33 spawns in 2011. After years of breeding fish, Mike has finally decided to participate in the BAP program and this year he did it in a big way. Mike's list of spawned fish include catfish, Livebearers, Cichlids, Killifish, shrimp and more. Mike's double awards of Rookie Breeder of the Year and Breeder of the Year are well earned. It will be fun to see what he does in 2012.

Horticulturalist of the Year; **Roger Miller.** 24 propagations which include 6 flowerings is impressive. In 2010 Roger was the HAP Rookie of the Year and propagated 13 plants. It will be interesting to see if he can keep up this pace.

HAP Rookie of the Year; **Cyndi Westra.** 1propagation. She was the only GVAC member who was new to the program. Aquatic plants can at times be tricky and at others downright impossible to grow. It is because of this that it is so rewarding to have your plants grow and thrive. If you haven't participated in the program, 2012 might be your year.

Writers Contest; **Mike Monje.** With three articles published in 2011, Mike receives this little-known award. The writers award was created to help encourage members to contribute to the newsletter. Mike's articles have been interesting and informative to read and we look forward to more.

Additional Awards

In addition to the competitive awards listed above, GVAC has BAP and HAP awards to help members mark milestones in their hobby and encourage participation in the club programs. Each of the following awards requires the participant to turn in an article or photo for publication in the newsletter.

BAP Awards

Patrick Miller, tag for 90 spawns
Ken Zeedyk, tag for 90 spawns
Mike Monje, plaque and tags for 10, 20 and 30 spawns
Dan Kraker, tag for 20 spawns
Tom Siegfried, tag for 20 spawns
Chris Carpenter, plaque and tag for 10 spawns
Steve Hosteter, plaque and tag for 10 spawns
Tyler Mays, plaque and tag for 10 spawns

HAP Awards

Grand Master Horticulturalist; **Ben VanDinther.** You can tell Ben has been having fun with the HAP program. He is the first club member to achieve this award which takes 75 vegetative propagations, 15 flowerings and 5 sexual propagations . Additionally, to achieve the award, Ben also needed to turn in the proper number of articles and photos. This was truly a task worthy of its title. One wonders how long it will take him to get the club to add more HAP levels or programs.
He also earned a tag for 120 vegetative propagations, 25 flowering and 5 sexual propagations

Patrick Miller, Master Horticulturalist award
Roger Miller, tag for 20 vegetative propagations and 5 flowering

Congratulations to everyone who won a BAP or HAP award and best of luck in 2012.

GVAC Holiday Party










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!

Shots from the OCA