

GVAC Tank Notes

Upcoming Meetings:

July: Picnic
Members only

August: Chuck Davis

September: Kevin Plazak

October: Mike Hellweg

July—September 2013

Issue 61



Grand Rapids, Michigan
Hosted by the Grand Valley Aquarium Club

Chairman's Award

Presented To:

Scott Tetzlaff

In Recognition Of:
Most Points



Sponsored By: Ron Davis

Congratulations to GVAC member for winning the ALA Chairman's award for winning the most awards at the 2013 ALA Convention Show

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GVAC Members Only Picnic

July 13

Chris Carpenter's House

1112 Three Miler Road NE
Grand Rapids MI 49503

12-4pm

Main dish will be provided, bring a dessert or side to pass
Bring a fish get a fish swap, bring a pair or young group of fish for the swap
This is a chance to see Chris's fish room and talk fish in a relaxed environment

2013 Board of Directors

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C.A.R.E.S Liaison	Cyndi Westra	ccyndiw@yahoo.com

GVAC Fellows

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

Tim Boelema	Ben VanDinther
Fin Nielsen	Jeff Vander Berg
Ken Zeedyk	Patrick Miller

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

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Patrick Miller

GVAC Editor

PO BOX 325

Grandville, MI 49418-0325

Presidents Corner

Welcome to summer in Michigan, 80's then 60's, it's making it difficult to get my ponds going. Despite this GVAC has already hosted some great collecting trips, if you've never tried this I highly recommend giving it a go, we have a lot of native fishes that are aquarium suitable. Besides, it's fun to play in water! The HAP & BAP programs are running really strong this year! When you see Tom Siegfried around at our club events please thank him for his dedicated service to GVAC. Tom has served in many capacities within GVAC, BAP Chair, Raffle, Cor. Secretary. But due to his new work schedule Tom has stepped aside in these positions. He says at this point he hopes to remain an active member within GVAC. THANK YOU Tom for your service to GVAC!

I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating Kory Voorde as our new BAP Chair, Ken Zeedyk as our new Cor. Secretary & Raffle Chair. I would also like to congratulate Justin Sarns for stepping into a newly created role Auction Chairperson. Cyndi Westra has been instrumental in getting GVAC involved in the C.A.R.E.S. program and is our C.A.R.E.S. Liaison. Thank you and congratulations Cyndi.

As you are all aware, GVAC hosted the ALA convention this year. It was a resounding success, with many ALA members commenting it was the *best* convention in years! Because of the convention's success, GVAC is able to donate \$500.00 to the Vern Parish Fund, and \$500.00 to the Jim Langhammer Fund. These funds are run by the ALA and are for the preservation of Livebearing Fish and their habitats. Although many GVAC members donated time to this event, and I would personally like to thank them *all* for their dedication, a special Thank-you goes out to Tim Boelema for coordinating this event. GVAC really shined as a club during this convention, many people commented on what a great club we have, and I wholeheartedly agree!

Please remember GVAC is your club, if there's an event or speaker you'd like to see, please bring it up to board member.

Donating your time and energy to the club helps to make us what we are, a fantastic club! Participation in HAP, BAP, C.A.R.E.S., writing articles, turning in photo's, and participation in the many club events and programs we sponsor, helps the hobbyist and the club. Have a great summer and...

Best Fishes,

Mike Monje



Meeting mini auctions haven't been so mini in some time. With all of the fish that people have been turning in for the BAP program there is something for everyone.

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
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 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.

GVAC Tank Notes

July 13	GVAC Picnic @ Chris Carpenters house Members only
July 25-28	ACA Convention Denver CO www.cichlid.org
August 10	GVAC Meeting Chuck Davis
September 14	GVAC Meeting Kevin Plazak
September 21-22	Michiana Aquarium Society Show & Auction Concord Mall, Elkhart IN Registration 9:00am—Auction @ 11am www.michiana-aquarium-society.org
September 21	MCA Fall Auction Madison Place 876 Horace Brown Dr Madison Heights MI Registration 9am—Auction 10:30am www.michigancichlid.com
September 22	GCCA Swap Meet Best Western Plus 4400 Frontage Rd Hillside IL 60162 10am—2pm www.gcca.net
September 29-30	Michigan Killifish Show & Auction Quality Inn 2537 Rochester Court Troy Michigan 48083 Www.aka.org/mka/annual_show.htm
October 6	GreenWater Aquarist Society Fall Auction Apollo Recreation Center 12521 South Kostner Alsip IL 60803 www.gwasoc.com
October 12	GVAC Meeting Mike Helleweg
October 12-13	SWMAS Fall Workshop & Auction Plainwell Community Center 798 E. Bridge St Plainwell MI 49080 Registration 9:30am—Auction 11am www.SWMAS.org
October 19	GDAS Fall Auction 814 North Campbell RD Royal Oak, 48067 Registration 9:30—Auction 11am www.greaterdetroitaquariumsociety.org
October 26	GVAC Fall Auction Home School Building 5625 Burlingame SW Wyoming MI 49509 Registration 9:30am—Auction 11am

November 9	GVAC Meeting To be confirmed
November 9	MCAS Fall Auction Madison Place 876 Horace Brown Dr Madison Heights MI Registration 9am—Auction 10:30am www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com
November 22-24	OCA Extravaganza Holiday Inn Strongsville www.ohiocichlid.com
December 14	GVAC Year End Party Location: TBA Members only
January 11	GVAC Winter Swap Home School Building 5625 Burlingame SW Wyoming MI 49509 10am—2pm

GCCA Swap Meet Road Trip

GVAC members, we are looking at putting together a group trip to the GCCA (Greater Chicago Cichlid Association) Swap Meet on September 22. If you have not been to anything but GVAC events the GCCA Swap is a great event to attend. They have more than Cichlids. Along with other fish species, there will vendors with fish foods, driftwood and tank décor and more. You can view the list of vendors, as the date gets closer they will post vendors on their website www.gcca.net, and arrange presales. There is a \$5 cover charge for the Swap which is not covered in the \$20 cost listed below.

We will be renting a van like we did with the Big Dog Shop Hop in 2012. The cost for this trip would be \$20 to help cover gas and van rental. This fee would be non refundable. The Van will be a 15 passenger van. We would need a minimum of 10 people to go forward with the trip. We would limit the first van to 12 people so that we can fit styros. If there is enough interest we will rent a second van.

The Swap is from 10am—2pm central time. We would leave from the Hudsonville Park & Ride (I-196 exit 62 just north of the highway) at 7:30am Eastern time. We would leave the swap no later than 2pm Central time so that we are back to the Park & Ride between 6-7pm Eastern time. (Have I confused you yet?)

If you are interested in participating in this trip email Patrick at pmlife4@att.net. If there are enough people who express interest by the August meeting we will start to accept the \$20 fee and sign people up at that meeting.

Proposed Agenda (all times Eastern)

7:30am Leave Hudsonville Park & Ride

10:30am Arrive at GCCA Swap Meet

3pm On the road back to Michigan

6-7pm Arrive back at the Hudsonville Park & Ride

Potamogeton gayi Slender Pondweed

By Roger Miller

Potamogeton gayi is an aquatic stem plant native to Southern South America. It is an ideal aquarium plant as it pretty undemanding as to water values (ph & hardness - although water values in its native habitat suggest soft, slightly alkaline might produce the best growth) and only requires moderate lighting. It is no so often commercially available, as it once was, having now been displaced by newer and more decorative species.

I purchased a group of cuttings from an on-line vendor in August of 2012. The cuttings were placed in a 29 gal. tank (that houses several different plants along with 6 blue rams) with a substrate consisting of Flourite black sand. Water is a mix of tap (1/3) and R.O. (2/3) so it is fairly relatively soft, water changes are performed on a biweekly basis. A Fluval 205 canister filter handles the filtration and light is provided by a Marineland LED fixture, specifically made for planted tanks, and is on for 10 ½ hours a day. Dosing of Flourish and Flourish excel is done weekly at the manufacturer recommended levels. CO2 is provided for 6 ½ hours daily (CO2 is not necessary for this species, but it was already being supplied to the tank as most of my plant growing tanks receive CO2 supplementation).

This species did very well right from the start. Growth was exceptional and relatively rapid. As this is a stem plant vegetative reproduction can be accomplished by cuttings, but this plant, once acclimated, also reproduces (quite rapidly) by branching of a creeping rhizome.

The stem is thin and dainty and the leaves are long and slender giving the plant a delicate and grace full appearance. I think this makes it a nice looking plant and it's a shame that it is not more readily available.

All in all, this plant is very easy to care for, grows quite quickly, reproduces readily by creeping rhizome and doesn't have any special needs. The only possible drawback, is that once it starts sending out rhizomes there will be plants appearing where you might not want them. Other than that it is a great little plant.



Potamogeton gayi

Cheap CO2 Injection For The DIY Hobbyist

By Steve Hosteter

After keeping live plants in my aquariums for many years I decided it was time to up the game. I started years ago with low light plants such as Anubias and java moss. This kept my interest for years allowing extra filtration and a place for fry to hide all with no change to my tank setups. Two years ago I stepped it up a notch and set up a tank (30l) with growing plants being the main focus of the tank. I splurged on a T5 HO light and plant substrate. This tank greatly widened my ability to keep a large variety of plants but also lead me to the title of this article. If you would like to give co2 injection a try in your planted tank here is a list of the parts I used in this project:

1 empty 2l soda bottle

3' of airline

1" round air stone

Tape or silicone to seal the airline to the lid

The recipe for CO2 was 2 cups sugar dissolved in 1.25l of hot water, when cooled to room temp I added 1 tsp. active dry yeast and 1 tsp. baking soda.

Finding many failures keeping fine leaved stem plants I began to look into CO2 injection. The possibilities are endless and there are a great number of premade kits available but, my budget for this was next to nothing so with a little online search I came across the 2 liter method. My thought was why not try it. It fit my budget of next to nothing plus the my sister in law is a baker so I can get yeast and sugar for free! So I bought a bottle of soda and let the kids get a buzz so I could use the empty, grabbed some old airline and air stone and some tape and had at it. First I drilled a small hole in the lid so the air line was difficult to pull through (had to use a small needle nose pliers to get it through) and pulled an inch of line from the outside in. Next I filled the bottle 2/3 full of hot tap water and added 2 cups of sugar shook the bottle until it dissolved and let it set on the counter until it was at room temp. Then I added a tsp. of active dry yeast and a tsp. of baking soda to the bottle screwed the top on tight and wrapped it with tape for good measure. I sat the bottle behind my tank and placed an old air stone on the end and dropped it in the water behind some stem plants.

After one week I noticed a big difference in my plants even those fine leaved stem plants were doing much better. But, the bottle fizzed out after 7 days and the bubbles were huge so I tried to move the air stone and found a problem, the old air stone fell apart in my hands. So a trip to the lfs and a new air stone along with a fresh mix in the 2l bottle and wow the bubbles were a lot smaller with a 1" ball air stone and the second bottle kept a consistent flow for two weeks!

All in all this method has worked very well for me and the cost couldn't be cheaper. To me DIY is part of the hobby I am always looking for ways to make or adapt items to make life more interesting in the fishroom.

2013 BAP Totals January - June

Tom Siegfried—20

Macropodus opercularis
Labidochromis caeruleus
Nimbochromis venustus
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Pundamilia nyererei 'Mwanza Gulf'
Limia melanogaster
Limia perugiae
Poecillia butleri
Xenotoca eiseni 'Tamazula'
Melanotaenia maccullochi
Corydoras aneus
Labidochromis chisumulae
Neolamprologus multifasciatus
Pseudotropheus williamsi North Ma-konde"
Tropheus duboisi white band
Xiphophorus helleri
Julidochromis regani 'kipili'
Pseudotropheus blue dolphin 'Manda'
Chromidotilapia guentheri
Pelvicachromis taeniatus 'Moliwe'

Chris Carpenter—14

Lamprologus callipterus
Pseudotropheus saulosi
Pseudotropheus williamsi "North Ma-konde"
Steatocranus tinanti
Tropheops macrophthalmus
Gambusia holbrooki
Xenotoca eiseni 'Tamazula'
Haplochromis tomato sp. 35
Julidochromis dickfeldi
Maylandia lanisticola
Metriaclima estherae
Melanotaenia splendida
Corydoras aeneus
Corydoras paleatus

Kory Voodre—13

Geophagus steindachneri
Steatocranus tinanti
Thorichthys sp "Mixteco Gold"
Gambusia holbrooki
Limia melanogaster
Poecillia butleri
Neocaridina heteropoda v. Red rilli
Corydoras paleatus
Corydoras aeneus
Apistogramma macmasteri
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Haplochromis Sp. 35 "Tomato"
Poecilia wingei

Mike Monje—11

Ancistrus L279
Julidochromis marlieri
Julidochromis ornatus 'chitika'

Heterandria formosa
Xenopohorus captivus
Ilyodon cortesae
Poecilia butleri
Ancistrus sp3 calico
Haplochromis sp. Red tail sheller
Xiphophorus nezahualcoytl
Macropodus ppercularis

Ken Zeedyk—11

Hemigrammus erythrozonus
Aspidoras spilotos
Corydoras venezuelanus
Rhinogobius rubromaculatus
Poecillia butleri
Danio albolineatus
Elassoma okefenokee
Jordanella floridae
Girardinus metallicus
Girardinus falcatus
Ichthyosaura alpestris apuanus

Justin Sarns—9

Metriaclima greshakei
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Protomelas spilontus 'Mara Rocks'
Thorachromis brauschi 'Lake Fwa'
Xiphophorus helleri
Protomelas taeniolatus
Haplochromis Sp. Ruby Green
Aulonocara jakobfribergi Eureka
Astatotilapia nubila

Jeff VanderBerg—8

Ancistrus sp.
Ctenochromis horei
Mikrogeophagus ramirezi
Pterophyllum scalare
Chapalichthys encaustus
Xenophallus umbratillis
Xenotoca variata
Ampullaria cuprina

Roger Miller—8

Mikrogeophagus ramirezi
Girardinus metallicus
Xiphophorus variatus
Iriatherina werneri
Melanotaenia madagascar
Corydoras melini
Apistogramma cactuoides 'double red'
Pterophyllum scalare

Cyndi Westra—7

Altolamprologus calvus
Cynotilapia sp. White top hara
Cyrtocara moorii
Neolamprologus multifasciatus
Neolamprologus pulcher

Placidochromis phenochilus

Patrick Miller—6

Pelvicachromis taeniatus 'Moliwe'
Girardinus metallicus
Neoheterandria elegans
Danio roseus
Brachyrhaphis olomina
Nomorhamphus towoetii

Kim Oge—6

Corydoras paleatus
Neolamprologus multifasciatus
Corydoras Panda
Ancistrus Sp.
Oryzias woworae
Pelvicachromis pulcher

Tim Monje—5

Ancistrus sp.
Girardinus falcatus
Procambarus fallas f. virginalis
Clea helena
Macropodus opercularis

David Gruszecki—4

Metriaclima lombardoi
Poecilia reticulata
Xenotoca eiseni
Xiphophorus helleri

Scott Tetzlaff—4

Cryptoheros chetumalensis
Gephyrochromis lawsi
Poecillia orri
Laetacara thayeri

Tim Boelema—2

Brachyrhaphis roswithae
Girardinus unnotatus

Melissa Dehann—2

Xenotoca variata
Melanotaenia splendida

Travis Henkaline—2

Aulonocara sp. Red dragon variety
Neolamprologus brichardi

Steve Hosteter—2

Labidochromis caeruleus
Ilyodon cortesae

Tyler Mays—2

Synodontis petricola
Pterophyllum scalare

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Julidochromis dickfeldi, A Profile

By Mike Monje

Overview

Julidochromis dickfeldi is a slender torpedo shaped cichlid native to the southwestern area of Lake Tanganyika. This is my personal favorite of all the *Julidochromis* species, I simply love the blue that mature specimen's get along their dorsal fins. Dr. Wolfgang Staeck first typed this fish in 1975, it has risen and fallen in popularity, (in the hobby), ever since I can remember.

Habitat

J. dickfeldi are found in rocky, rubble littered zones, usually between 5 and 15 feet of water. Being from Lake Tanganyika their native water is very hard pH 8.5 - 9.2 and dH 8.0 – 12.0, that being said I keep and breed mine in tap water pH 7.4 – 7.6 and dH 8.0 (usually), I do keep some crushed coral in their substrate as a buffer. These fish don't usually wander around much once they establish a territory. Which makes them an excellent species to breed in a smaller tank, (I have personally bred them in a 10 gallon tank, although I recommend at least a 15 gallon).

Care

J. dickfeldi offers very few problems to the aquarist. Wild caught specimens tend to be fussy with water parameters, (I tried *wild-caught* once and lost them due to not matching the Lakes water parameters). However, tank bred specimens are much more forgiving on water parameters. I recommend talking to the hobbyist you obtain your specimens from to get their water parameters, and try and your water chemistry close to theirs. Once your fish have settled in they are very hardy and somewhat forgiving on water parameters.

Feeding

The aquarist will find that feeding *J. dickfeldi* presents no problems at all. They greedily accept flake, frozen, and small pellets. I've been feeding my breeding pair a rotating diet of Brine Shrimp Flake, Spectrum small pellets, and Frozen Blood Worms, with an occasional treat of Live Baby Brine Shrimp. When I notice breeding behavior I add Cyclops-Eez to their feeding regime, and increase the amount of Live Baby Brine Shrimp in their feedings.

Breeding

J. dickfeldi is a monogamous, secretive cave spawner, it's not always easy to tell when they've spawned, (I've personally never seen their eggs). However, when I notice that one is missing during their normal feedings I can always be sure that they're guarding a spawn. Like clockwork I will find fry flitting about their rock pile in about a week. If you buy a group of six juveniles, you will notice, as they grow that some fish are cowering in the corners of the tank. If these fish are moved to another tank, you will be seeing fry soon. When a pair starts to form they drive all others from their territory, this creates a strong pair bond that should last a lifetime for these fish.

Conclusion

I highly recommend that you try a *Julidochromis* species. The husbandry of Julies is pretty much the same, no matter which species you try.

2013 ALA Convention Story

By Joe Verdino an ALA Member taken from www.livebearers.org

After an uneventful 21 hour straight drive from Florida to Michigan, it was 7am, I found myself standing at the doors to the hotel. The glass parted, I entered, my eyes took a few seconds to adjust to the light, no doubt I was road weary. I scanned the room, a familiar figure came into view, sitting in one of the oversized lobby chairs. White Semper fi hair cut, a chiseled face, and a cup of coffee confirmed a friend I made at the 2012 convention was already here. Gerard, greeted me with an early morning energy that escapes most people, the next thing I knew I had been standing there for 15 minutes, somehow the road trip no longer had it's full weight on my back.

My initial thought was to sleep through Thursday and get a great early morning start on Friday. By 11am I had tossed and turned for 4 hours and I knew sleep would evade me like it does a child the night before going to Disneyland. I also made sure to wake my roommate because there is no sense in letting someone else sleep, oh... um..., I mean miss out on the fun. So Tom and I made our way back to the lobby only to find a hoard of seasoned fish keeps had taken over the place. It seems we showed up just in time to join in on the fish shop tour.

On the tour I got to see what "a real pet shop" looks like, I say this because what they call mom and pop in Michigan is two to three times the size of a mom and pop store in Florida. While on the tour some interesting things happened, like the behind the scenes tour of one store that has a QT facility and it's own breeding program. Apparently Tom thought there was a tropical fish shortage on the way because he was buying up everything in sight. I even heard one of the Michigan guys say "keep Tom busy so I can buy these fish before he sees them". Those are my kind of people, friendship is one thing, but when it comes to fish all bets are off. The tour ended with "a tour of Scott's fish room", and the term room is an understatement. Scott's fish live in a nicer house than many people would have. Oh, and he also just happens to breed just about everything that has fins. I know the next time I need to find a species, I plan to call Scott first.

So lets move on to Friday, with a good nights sleep and the whole day in front of me, I decided to get my fish in the show early. Then I spent a good portion of the morning taking pictures of the other show entries. One thing I didn't plan on was a show with about 175 entries, my camera called it quits after category #11 out of 19 so I only got pictures of maybe half of the fish. This show was outstanding by any standard in that it had size, variety, and quality. I saw some wild fish that were by far the best examples you could ever see, domestics with amazing size and perfectly proportioned, even the up and coming entries looked to be contenders for next years show.

With the fish show in the rear view mirror Saturday was a mix and mingle marathon. I heard some great presentations from the line-up of speakers. I had the chance to speak with Mike Hellweg and get some great information in response to a few questions I asked. Later in the day I found myself in the company of the ALA president Ron Davis, past president Rit Forcier, and the legendary Rich Serva. Can you believe they let all these guys into the same room at the same time? I'm not sure how I made it past security, but I got in there and took in as much information as I

Continued on page 10

2013 HAP Totals January - June

Roger Miller

Vegetative

Cryptocoryne albida
Echinodurus 'Tanzende Fevefeder'
Blyxa aubertii
Blyxa japonica
Hydrocotyle sibthorpinoides
Lysimachia nummularia
Rotala sp. 'Bangladesh'
Salvinia oblongifolia
Nesaea pedicellata
Nesaea crassicaulis
Salvinia cucullata

Flowering

Alteranthera reineckii 'Cardinalis'
Blyxa aubertii
Cypress heliferi
Phyllanthus fluitans
Polygonum kawagoeanum
Echinodurus 'Tanzende Feuerfeder'

Sexual

Persicaria kawagoeanum

Justin Sarns

Vegetative

Anubias coffeefolia
Aponogeton ulvaceus
Cambomba pulcherrima
Cryptocoryne usterana
Cryptocoryne wendetti 'red'
Hygrophilia corymbosa
Hygro polysperma 'Vesurius'
Ludwigia repens
Microsorium pteropus
Rotala magenta
Shinnersia rivularis
Vallisneria Americana

Flowering

Anubias coffeefolia
Aponogeton ulvaceus
Echinodorus sp. 'Ozelet'

Mike Monje

Vegetative

Limnium spongia
Hygrophilia pinnatifida
Shinnersia rivularis
Ranunculus inundates
Nymphoides sp. Taiwan
Persicaria sp. "Kwawgoeanum"
Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides
Echinodurus angustifolius

Flowering

Iris pseudacorus

Steve Hosteter

Vegetative

Heteranthera zosterifolia

Rotala sp. 'Bangladesh'

Subwassertang

Rotala sp. 'vietnam'

Lysimachia nummularia

Ludwigia repens

Andrew Kalafut

Vegetative

Cabomba caroliniana
Ceratopteris thalictroides
Echinodurus angustifolia 'vesuvius'
Echinodorus bleheri
Echinodorus parviflorus 'tropica'
Myriophyllum mattogrossense

David Gruszeki

Vegetative

Aegagrophilia linnaei
Ceratophyllum demersum

Melissa DeHaan

Vegetative

Vallisneria Americana
 (synonym *gigantea*)

BAP Continued

Dan Kraker—1

Haplochromis sp. Red Tail Sheller

Mike Miles—1

Procambarus sp. marmorkrebs

Jeff Riemersma—1

Pelvicachromis pulcher

Kenny Valentine—1

Poecilia reticulata

Phil Wurm—1

Pomacea bridgesii

BAP by the numbers

Number of Participants 24

Number of fish turned in 141

Number of species Too many

Glass Magic

By Chase Klinesteker

I prefer to use glass for aquarium covers. It has many advantages over using plastic or acrylic. Glass is more rigid, fits more accurately, transmits light well, doesn't discolor, and is easier to cut and clean. It affords an excellent seal from evaporation and heat loss for our aquariums. Glass has 2 main disadvantages in that it costs more and can break if dropped. Costs can be reduced if one obtains used glass. One source for used glass is old picture frames that are often thrown away, as well as old door and window glass. Cutting glass is not difficult. On a flat surface, a glass cutter will score the piece along a straight line by using a ruler or yardstick. Then the score is tapped from the other side along the line and broken along it. It is important to use a medium sandpaper along all edges of the cut glass and the corners to smooth and finish it. Smooth edges will greatly reduce the chances of future breakage of the piece as well as prevent cut hands.

The second disadvantage of glass tops is that they can break if dropped. Often they break in 2 pieces rather than shatter. It is very disappointing to have an accurately cut piece of glass fit a specific tank, and then see it in 2 pieces! Oh, If I could magically make it one piece again! I then managed to dig deep into my ancestry for a frugal solution. This turned out to be clear packaging tape. Fit the 2 pieces of glass accurately together on a flat surface and press a 2 inch wide strip of tape along the crack. Then turn it over and tape the other side. Use Scott's Heavy Duty Shipping tape as it is much stronger. The result is a surprisingly strong, even slightly flexible piece that fits perfectly. It will not work submerged, but should be fine as a tank cover. Volia', glass magic!



Photo of a wild caught *Brochis splendens*. Taken by Kory Voodre.



GVAC Collecting Trip

On June 8 GVAC held a collecting trip to the Flat River at Fallasburg Park. This is a favorite spot to poke around as there is a lot of fish diversity in this stretch of the river. It also offers easy access and allows for people to spread out and explore many different habitats.

On this collecting trip there were approximately 18 species of fish collected and include;

Rainbow Darters

Johnny Darters

Blackside Darters

Rock Bass

Small Mouth Bass

Blue Gill

Pumkinseed Sunfish

Northern Hogsucker

Redhorse sp.

Common Shiner

Bluntnose Minnow

Rosyface Shiner

Spotfin Shiner

Chub

Fathead Minnow

Yellow Bullhead

Channel Cat

Unidentified species as well

If you always wondered what fish are actually swimming around in our local waters joining in during the one of our collecting trips is a great way to learn and have some fun. Who knows, after collecting in Michigan you might be motivated to go to collecting in Peru, Mexico or some other part of the world.

Have fun and fish on!



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

Holiday 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

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could hear. Later in the evening, during the banquet, I was lucky enough to hear my name called as one of the raffle winners and Rit presented me with a very nice bottle of wine, he did seem to have a very tight grip on it though.

At this point I figured there was no way the convention could get any better. Little did I know there would be a couple of surprises just a few minutes later. They were calling out the winners of the fish show and that's when they called my name. I was clapping and looking around the room to see who stood up when someone at my table said "Joe, that's you", shocked I stood up and made my way to the front of the room to receive my honors. Shortly after sitting down, I heard my name called again, this time I recognized it, and I was lucky enough to claim another accolade. What an amazing honor, my second convention, and my first time ever showing some of my fish, other people noticed them and thought they were special.

Now we move to Sunday, the big auction day, now the gloves come off and friendships get put aside. I had my list of "must have" species and I wasn't about to let anyone take them away. They would be mine, all mine, you can't have them because they are mine. Well, I guess someone had got a copy of my list because all those fish that were "mine, all mine" were being bought by not me. So I decided if I was going to hang with the big dogs, I better buck up and learn how to bark. Soon I was checking off the list and claiming fish that I thought I might never get a chance to even see, never mind own. So the top 3 on my list were all on the ALA priority list and now I'll be working tirelessly to get these fish acclimated, feeding, and hopefully reproducing, so that next year I can do my part and have them available for the next wide eyed newbie that shows up in a world of wonder.