

Photo by Rachel Roth



GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB TANK NOTES

APRIL - JUNE 2018

ISSUE 80

2018 AMERICAN LIVEBEARER ASSOCIATION MAY 4 - 6, 2018 | CROWNE PLAZA, GRAND RAPIDS



GRAND RAPIDS, MI | MAY 4-6, 2018

GVAC is hosting the 2018 American Livebearer Association! Join us for the weekend of May 4 - 6, 2018 at the Crowne Plaza on 28th St. for a weekend of guest speakers on a variety of livebearer fish topics, vendor's room, room sales, local events, a livebearer auction and convention banquet.

Visit the website below and look inside this newsletter for more information!

ala2018.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GVAC,

Spring is finally upon us! After months in our fishrooms we are about to move outdoors, and take our hobby with us! If you have never tried putting fish outside in a pond, give it a try this year. Cichlids, shrimp, livebearers and many other fish can be kept with minimal effort outside. Our featured speaker for May will be Patrick Miller, a fellow of GVAC, who is an expert on breeding tropical fish in a pond. This should be a great meeting to check out, and will hopefully encourage many of you to try this unique type of fish keeping.

The American Livebearer Convention is almost here! GVAC will be hosting the convention on May 4th-6th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The convention is a great chance to find rare and hard to find fish, and meet new people. I know I am very excited for the convention, and hope to see many of you there. Mike wrote up a very nice article on the convention, and I hope you take the time to check it out.

This past winter has been one of the most successful that GVAC has ever seen. We had one of the best auctions in our history, and had one of the largest swaps to date. This is thanks to our members and the hard work they put in putting these events together. It is wonderful to see the club growing, and seeing so many active members involved. I look forward to seeing where we can take this club together. As always, if you have any input or suggestions, or just want to talk fish, my door is always open.

Swimming Forward,

Justin Sarns
GVAC President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

MAY:

**4-6: American Livebearer Association
Crowne Plaza Hotel**

**12: GVAC Meeting
7 PM - Homeschool Building
Speaker: Rob McLure, Corydoras**

JUNE:

**9: GVAC Meeting
7 PM - Homeschool Building
Speaker: Justin Sarns,
Haplochromine Cichlids**

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2018 BAP

Jeremy Deroos – 12

ancistrus cirrhosus
Labidochromis Caeruleus
Neocardinia davidi
Neocardinia Hetropda
Neocardinia Zhangjiajensis
Oryzias Woworae
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Planorbis Cornus
Pocilia Wingei
Poecilia reticulata
Poecilia Wingei "Blue Star"
Pomacea bridgesii

Jeff Lusk – 7

Julidochromis marlieri
Labidochromis sp. "Hongi"
lepidolamprologus meeli
Melanoides tuberculata
Neolamprologus Brevis "Sun Spot"
Planorbis Rubrum
Tropheus Sp. Maculatus

Chris Carpenter – 6

Aulonocara sp. Lwanda
Cyphotilapia Frontosa
Cyrtocara Moorii

Lamprologus Calliurus
Lamprologus Leloupi
Maetriaclima lanisticola

Jonathan Kamps – 6

Neocardinia Davidi
Neolamprologus Brevis
Neolamprologus Calliurus
Neolamprologus Olivaceous
Physella Acuta
Planorbis Rubrum

RJ Morris – 4

Asolene spixi
Pocilia reticulata
Red Flamingo Guppy
Xiphophorus Helleri

Mike Monje – 3

Danio Rerio var. Franki
Danio Roseus
Rasbora Vulacrus

Justin Sams – 3

Amatitlania nigrofasciata
Aulonocara Maulha
Labidochromis sp.:
"Hongi Super Red Top"

Eric Clements – 2

Procambarus sp.
"marble crayfish"
Xiphophorus sp.

Joe Gardner – 2

Neeolamprologus Olivaceous
Pseudotropheus Demoasoni

Eric Maxon – 2

Haplochromis sp. K.K. Beach
Xiphophorus hellerii

Scott Visser – 2

ancistrus cirrhosus
Maylandia lombardoi

Brian Miller – 1

Xiphophorus Maculatus

Rachel Roth – 1

Pocilia Reticulata

John Yost – 1

Ophthalmotilapia ventralis
"Chaitika"

2017 GVAC AWARD WINNERS

BAP Rookie and Breeder of the Year: John Yost

John took the BAP program by storm this year! With a total of thirty four spawns, John won both Breeder of the Year and Rookie of the year. Among his spawns are cichlids from Lake Victoria, Malawi and Tanganyika, a *Gymnogeophagus* species, livebearers and many others! I think we can expect some great things out of John in the next few years, both in breeding, and in his service to GVAC. Congratulations, John!

HAP Rookie and Breeder of the Year: Eric Maxson

Eric has been an active member of the club for quite some time, but he decided to try his hand at plants this year, and he did an amazing job at it! Eric turned in 40 vegetative propagations and 3 flowerings in his first year. If Eric puts his mind to it, he can do just about anything, and I am incredibly glad that he is a member of this club! Congratulations, Eric!

Writer of the Year: Chris Carpenter

Chris has served this club in a variety of ways. I have had the pleasure of watching him grow as an aquarist and presenter. His articles share his vast knowledge on all things aquarium, especially his love and passion for the smallest cichlids out there. Chris is an upcoming speaker in the aquarium world, and I am grateful to count him among our membership. Congratulations, Chris!

Youth Aquarist of the Year: Coty Major

Our youth members are the future of the hobby, and I am grateful to see how active they have become in the last few years. Coty is beyond deserving of this award. He participated in the BAP program, was active as a runner and helped sell raffle tickets throughout the year. As a teacher, I love seeing youth excited and involved, and it makes it even better when it's in the hobby that I hold dear. Congratulations, Coty, I look forward to seeing where you go in the next few years!

Spawn of the Year: Ken Zeedyk, African Clawed Frogs

This is a new award this year, and I think it's fitting that Ken won. Ken has bred many fish that none of us would even attempt. This year he decided to take it to the next level and bred an amphibian, the African Clawed Frog. He didn't just breed a few either, as everyone who attended a meeting this year knows! The patience and dedication it takes to spawn some of the species is remarkable, and if Ken keeps this up, we may have to name this award after him. Congratulations, Ken!



GRAND RAPIDS, MI | MAY 4-6, 2018

Convention Schedule

Friday, May 4

9:00 am: Collecting trip
 12:00 pm: Brewery & Shop Hop Tour
 4:30 - 7:00 pm: Registration is open
 5:00 pm: Goodied Working Group & Rare Fish Auction
 5:00 pm: Vendor Room Open
 7:30 pm: Southwest Michigan Aquarium Society Talk
 8:00 pm: Vendor Room Closes
 8:00 - 11:00 pm: Hospitality Suite Open / Room Sales
 8:00 pm: ALA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, May 5

9:00 am - 11:00 am: Registration is open
 8:00 am: Speaker - Patrick Miller, "Livebearers & Ponds"
 9:00 am: Vendor Room Open
 9:30 am: Speaker - Caleb McMahan, "Diversification & Biogeography of Middle American Fish"
 11:00 am: Speaker - Pat Hartman, "North American Goodied Working Group Study Tour"
 12 pm: Student Poster Presentation, Arely Ramirez Garcia
 1:00 pm: Speaker - Ben VanDinter, "Planted Tanks"
 2:00 pm: Show Room Closed for Judging
 2:30 pm: Speaker - Cory McElroy
 4:00 pm: Speaker - Jurgen Kasprick, "Live Foods, Their Use & Culture"
 5:00 pm: Wine Tasting
 5:00 pm: Vendor Room Closed
 6:00 pm: Banquet & Awards
 8:00 - 11:00 pm: Hospitality Suite Open / Room Sales
 Show Room Reopens After Dinner

Sunday, May 6

9:00 am: Auction Registration
 10:00 am: Fish must be out of Show Room
 11:00 am: Auction Begins

Thank you to our Sponsors!



GVAC PRESENTS ALA 2018 CONVENTION

There is still time to register!
Register online at ala2018.org

Convention Rates:

Speakers - \$75 | Banquet - \$40 (available until May 2)

Special Tours:

Collecting Trip - \$10 (must purchase Michigan fishing license)

Shop Hop & Breweries Tour - \$20

Show Entries - \$3 each

Welcome the ALA Convention, May 4, 5, & 6. If you've never experienced a convention or a fish show, here is a prime opportunity. Better yet, here's a chance to work behind the scenes at a convention. There will be speakers and presentations, a huge auction on Sunday. I know we just had our GVAC auction, but at this auction there will be species that you've only read about! I remember my first ALA convention, I couldn't believe some of the rare livebearers that were available!

GVAC as a club is truly blessed with some of the people in our club and the availability we have to rare fish and plants. With that being said, let's put this into perspective. Pat Hartman who has bred over 150 species of livebearers, attends this convention to obtain fish he hasn't had a chance to work with yet! Ben VanDinther, who has over 160 HAP vegetative, attends for the same reason and to obtain plants he hasn't worked with yet! In addition Ben will be giving a hands on demo/talk on aquascaping for livebearers, and rumor has it the fully aquascaped tank will be up for raffle during the weekend!

Here's an opportunity to see and participate in the largest livebearer show in the nation! To meet and talk to people in the fish hobby that truly are legends in this hobby! To attend the largest livebearer auction in the nation! To see and have the opportunity to obtain fish that you thought only existed in books! To hear almost as many speakers in a weekend that you'd hear all year long going to meetings! Goodie bags, Raffles, Industry leaders, food, room sales, (of Fish, Plants, Inverts). Where else can you wander the hallway of the second floor talking with people, shopping, eating & drinking...?

A driving force in the decision, by your Board of Directors, to host this convention was to present the members of GVAC an opportunity to experience a National Convention and Show without the added expense of travel. It's been five years since we hosted a National Convention and we have many new members, and youngsters involved in the club. I simply cannot over state this, attending a show/convention like this will do more to energize and educate you in this hobby than any other single event or project that you can do! It is my biggest dream to see each and every one of you during this weekend! Whether you're attending the convention, working on the convention with us, bringing your family to see the show, attending the auction, shopping in the vendor room, there's something for each and every one of you on this weekend!

- Mike Monje



AFRICAN BLACKSTRIPE BARB, *BARBUS MACROPS*

By Chase Klinesteker (Photos by the Author)

Above: Female Barbus macrops

The African Blackstripe Barb is rarely seen in the aquarium hobby, and little information or pictures of it can be found on the Internet. I obtained 6 fry at the GVAC Christmas party in December of 2012. It was labeled as *Barbus martorelli* but later found to be *B. macrops*. It is quite attractive with large reflective silver scales and a prominent black stripe from the nose, through the eye, and into the tail. Reflected light can also show iridescent blue and green. It is the perfect barb: peaceful, active, robust appetite, schooling, tolerant of water chemistry changes, will not eat plants, but tough enough to take care of itself. It is ideal for a larger community tank, as it gets 4-5 inches in size. It hails from West Africa and the Chad basin. They are migratory and can swim very fast, so current in their tank might help. Cover their tank well, as they can jump.

BREEDING

There were no known breeding reports for the African Blackstripe Barb on the Internet or other references that I checked. Yet I found them to be breedable and very prolific. Hopefully, my experience with them will encourage others to breed them and make them more available to hobbyists. They grow fairly slowly, but once they reach 3-3 1/2 inches, females begin to plump out a bit, and males are slimmer and smaller. A few attempts to breed a single pair did not produce eggs, and I noticed that the female seemed to bully the male. This likely indicated that they spawn better in groups. When a female became full of eggs, I placed her in a 20 gallon long tank with 2 males and lots of plastic plants at a temperature around 78 degrees. Undergravel filtration was used along with Grand Rapids tapwater. A box filter of peat moss was added to darken the water, as they seem to prefer subdued lighting. The reverse trio spawned within 2 days, laying hundreds of tiny, whitish, non-adhesive eggs. I removed and rinsed some eggs to see if a better hatch would occur in rain

water, but found it to be the same (70%) in both. In a couple of days, the eggs hatched, but it was around 4 days more before they were free-swimming. They will take newly hatched brine shrimp right away, making them easy to raise.

THE CHALLENGE

There are numerous fish species out there that have little or no information on keeping or breeding them. Many species are threatened by environmental degradation, yet could be valuable to Mankind in the future. Biological diversity on this Earth of ours is the key to understanding life. The more we strive to maintain and understand that diversity, the better off we are.



African Blackstripe Barb fry, a portion of one spawn

YOUTH AQUARIST PROGRAM

GVAC's Youth Aquarist program has really picked steam. A point is earned for every BAP and HAP turned in, an additional point is earned simply by attending the meeting, in addition another point can be earned for working during the meeting, (auction runner), and yes you get a point for working at any other GVAC event also. The previous years this has been very easy for me to keep track of, now that the program is really starting to take off, I'd like a little help checking my records. Please email or PM me with your current stats so I can check them against my records, I've been taking notes in my phone at meetings. This is not very efficient so I'll be adding a google doc to our webpage after the ALA weekend. I'm so proud of GVAC and our Youth Aquarists for embracing this program! Let's keep this program growing and moving forward!

**Please Email Mike Monje at:
exstreamaquatix@gmail.com**

Brian Miller – 22

Alternanthera Ficoidea (V)
Alternanthera Reineckii (V)
Anubias barteri Var *nana* (V)
Anubias Barteri Var *Nana Petite* (V)
Bolbitis Hetetoclitia (V)
Bolbitis heudelotii (V)
Caulerpa sertularioides (V)
Chaetomorpha (V)
Cryptocoryne Affinis (V)
Cryptocoryne Aponogetifolia (V)
Cryptocoryne Usteriana (V)
Egeria Najas (V)
Hydrophila solicifolia "blue" (V)
Hygrophilic Corymbose (V)
Microsorium pteropus Var *narrow* (V)
Microsorium pteropus Var *Windelov* (V)
Najas guadalupensis (V)
Nuphar stellata (V)
Nymphaea Zenkeri (F)
Riccia Fluitaus (V)
Sagittaria subulata (V)
Vesicularia dubyana (V)

Jonathan Kamps – 13

Alternanthera Reineckii "mini" (V)
Anubias afzel (V)

Aubias Barteri (V)
Anubias barteri coffeefolia (V)
Anubias barteri Var *nana* (V)
Cryptocoryne Pontederiifolia (V)
Cryptocoryne Usteriana (V)
Cryptocoryne Wendtii (V)
Echinodorus Amazonicus (V)
Eleocharis sp. "Mimi" (V)
Glossostigma elatinoides (V)
Microsorium pteropus (V)
Vallisneria America (V)

Peter Goettner – 8

Alternanthera Reineckii (V)
Araceae (V)
Cryptocoryne Moehlmanni (V)
Cryptocoryne Wendtii (V)
Echinodorus Horizon tales (V)
Echinodorus red flame (V)
Lomariopsis sp. (V)
Microsorium pteropus (V)

Eric Maxson – 8

Oriental swords (V) (F)
Cryptocoryne Blassii (V)
Cryptocoryne Usteriana (V)

Echinodorus (F)
Echinodorus Fran's Stoffels (V) (F)
Echinodorus Ozelot Sword (V)

Eric Clements – 4

Ceratophyllum demersum (V)
Echinodorus (V)
Nymphoides Hydrophylla (V)
Roatala Rotondifolia (V)

RJ Morris – 4

Ceratopteris Cornuaia (V)
Cryptocoryne Wendtii Tropica (V)
Echinodorus Amazonicus (V)
Nymphoides Hydrophylla "Taiwan" (V)

Kevin Hightower – 2

Cryptocoryne Pontederiifolia (V)
Cryptocoryne walkeri (V)

Justin Sams – 2

Limnophila indrea (V)
Micranthemum (V)

Jeremy DeRoos – 1

Najas Guadalupeensis (V)

TIGER BARB?

By Mike Monje

Probably the most recognizable fish in the aquarium hobby is the Tiger Barb. Arguably, the reason most people don't like or keep barbs is the Tiger Barb. There's little doubt that this fish is a jerk! Personally I believe that the only way to keep this fish is in a school of at least fifteen, (always an odd number in any school of barbs), in a species only tank, with lots of cover and plenty of open space for swimming. Kept this way these fish make for an awesome display. However, very few will dedicate a tank for this. Therefore, I highly recommend that the hobbyist avoid this fish.

With that for an introduction, let's take a better look at this fish. *Puntigrus tetrazona*, the Tiger Barb, the *Puntigrus* Genus was described by Kottelat in 2013 to describe 5 or 6 species that all share the Tiger Striping, (more on this later). There is little doubt that this is a beautiful fish, easily bred/farmed, hardy, and very active. The perfect equation for the fish farms that supplied the hobby early on in the hobbies development. So, this species was produced prolifically for the hobby and offered at a very reasonable price, (still is for that matter). When the stores dropped 20 or 30 fish into their tank for display / sales; there wasn't an issue, as this species spreads out its aggression in such an arrangement. A display / sales tank with 20 to 30 Tiger Barbs swimming and darting about makes for an appealing sight and an impulse purchase for the hobbyist. So, the hobby birthed a staple, (i.e. Bread and butter fish), that was always available at a reasonable price. The hobbyist would purchase one or two and within days or hours see their Angelfish fins shredded, everybody hiding in the corners of the tank avoiding the prowling Tiger. The most common course of action in this situation, remove the threat, and swear off barbs forever.

With my new found love of Barbs, this fish intrigues me, not so much as I want to keep it. However, I am intrigued by the fish itself and its relationship to the hobby that I love.

Puntigrus tetrazona, (Bleeker 1855): lateral line

incomplete; 12 circumpeduncular scales; 19-21+2 scales in the lateral row; dorsal fin mostly black with paler outer margin; pelvic fins black in middle, hyaline at base and tip; dark body bars relatively wide, covering up to 2.5 scales.

Wait, What...Black Pelvic fins, Black Dorsal Fin with pale outer margin? That's NOT our Tiger Barb.

Puntigrus anchisporus (Vaillant 1902): lateral line complete; 14 circumpeduncular scales; 21-23+2 scales in the lateral row; dorsal fin Black with a red outer band; pelvic fins red.

So, here we go Red Pelvic Fins, Black Dorsal with a Red Outer Band that's our fish. No wait, our fish has an incomplete lateral line, and in the ornamental strain, (Green Tiger Barb), the Pelvic Fins have varying degrees of Black. Once again NOT our fish.

Puntigrus partipentazona (Fowler 1934): lateral line incomplete; dorsal-fin mostly black with red anterior portion and red outer band; pelvic fins reddish to yellowish; dark blotch on the dorsal-fin uniquely extending onto the body, covering 3-4 scale rows.

This isn't our fish either, while the lateral is incomplete, and the Dorsal Fin is Black with a Red Band, the pelvic fins are Reddish to Yellowish.

To further cloud the issue, *P. tetrazona* hails from Sumatra, while *P. anchisporus* hails from Western Borneo, and *P. partipentazona* is from Indochina. In the early days of the hobby collection points, even country of origin for that matter weren't tracked all that closely. Subtle differences in coloration weren't really considered important, let alone the possibility it was another species, or subspecies.

So what is it? I submit that its *Puntigrus domesticus*, yea ok I made that up. However I submit there's a lot of validity to it. The Tiger Barb available in our trade does NOT match any known or described *Puntigrus* species. The early days of the hobby hybridization could've happened quite easily. I submit that our Tiger Barb is a varying combination of the three *Puntigrus* species I discussed here. Meanwhile, the hobby is referring to it as *Puntigrus tetrazona*, this is incorrect, but widely accepted.



GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB

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Address correction required

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Shealyn Sarns, GVAC Editor
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Grandville, MI 49418-0325

GVAC FELLOWS

The following is a list of Fellows of the 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 during those tasks that would not be completed without their hard work and dedication. New Fellows are nominated by current fellows and voted on by the general membership.

Tim Boelema	Ben VanDinther
Finn Nielsen	Jeff Vander Berg
Ken Zeedyk	Patrick Miller
Roger Miller	Mike Monje

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

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