

Photo by Steve Hosteter  
Shrimp Goby



# GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB TANK NOTES

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2017

ISSUE 75

## GVAC ANNUAL SWAP MEET

— JANUARY 28, 2017 —



**Time:** 10 AM – 2 PM  
**Location:** Home School Building Gym  
5625 Burlingame Ave SW  
Wyoming, MI 49509  
**Admission:** \$3 Individual, \$5 Family

For more information or to sell, **contact**  
**Mike Monje at [exstreamaquatix@gmail.com](mailto:exstreamaquatix@gmail.com)**  
6' Tables for sellers are \$10 each. No splitting, no parking lot sales.  
*NEW this year, Saltwater vendors coming!*



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Shealyn Sarns, GVAC Editor  
P.O. Box 325  
Grandville, MI 49418-0325

## 2017 CLUB BUDGET

### Coming Soon...

## 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

Finn Nielsen

Ken Zeedyk

Roger Miller

Ben VanDinther

Jeff Vander Berg

Patrick Miller

Mike Monje

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

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	3
Calendar of Events	4
Taxiphyllom sp. "Flame Moss"	4
2016 Awards	5
The Miracle Ich Cure	5
2016 BAP Final	6
Adventure in Mini Reef Cycling	7
2016 HAP Final	8
DIY Circular Seamless Floating Fry Net	9
'Lamprologus' multifasciatus	9





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GVAC,

It is with a heavy heart that I write my first President's Corner. The world lost an amazing man last month. Roger Miller was one of the kindest, most caring men I knew and was always willing to share his knowledge or a smile with anyone who was around him. He worked tirelessly for GVAC and in my opinion, is one of the main reasons we are the club we are today. I will never forget driving to what felt like the middle of nowhere to go see his fishroom. Everything was labeled and hung in an exact spot. I had never seen anything like it. He approached his fish room like he did with everything in life, with care, love and precision. I have never seen, nor will likely see again tanks that were maintained so beautifully, and I doubt that I will ever meet someone like Roger again. Roger was an amazing treasurer, fellow, aquarist, father, grandfather and person. He will be truly missed by all.

Winter brings us all back into our fishrooms as we try to avoid the snow outside. I encourage you

to take this time and try something new in the hobby. Whether that is a new species, a planted tank, trying out the BAP, HAP, CARES, other GVAC programs, or setting up a new tank, this is a great time of the year to dive deeper into the hobby that we all love. The Board of Directors and I are already working on bringing in some great new speakers and adding a few new events. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact myself or any other board member.

On January 28th, 2017, we will be hosting our Swap Meet at the Homeschool Building. This is one of my favorite events, and I encourage you to come participate, or try being a seller. I love the camaraderie and community that comes from this event, and I would love to see new people trying it out on either side of the table.

As Mike always said in his message, this is your club. If you have anything that you would like to see happen, please let me know. I am always willing to take suggestions and help in any way that I can. I hope that together we can continue to make GVAC the best club we can!

Swimming forward,  
Justin Sarns

## *In Memory of Roger Miller*





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

### JANUARY:

- 8: **GVAC Board Meeting**  
2 PM - Water Colors
- 14: **GVAC Meeting**  
7 PM Home School Buliding  
*Speaker: Heather Burke, Danios*
- 28: **GVAC Annual Swap Meet**  
*see page 1 for details*

### FEBRUARY:

- 4: Michigan Cichlid Association Auction  
Madison Heights, MI  
[www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com](http://www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com)
- 11: **GVAC Meeting**  
7 PM - Homeschool Building  
*Speaker: Rusty Wessel, Fishes of the Maya*
- 18: Motor City Aquarium Society Auction  
Madison Heights, MI  
[www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com](http://www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com)

### MARCH:

- 11: SWMAS Spring Auction  
Plainwell, Michigan  
[www.swmas.org](http://www.swmas.org)
- GVAC Meeting**  
7 PM - Homeschool Building  
*Speaker: Rick Preuss*
- 18: **GVAC Annual Spring Auction**  
*details on website and March Tank Notes*

## TAXIPHYLLOM SP. "FLAME MOSS"

By Kevin Hightower

A short time ago, after looking at aquascaping pictures by Mr. Bob Dempsey, I decided to try it for myself. I started out looking for a few plants, driftwood, and fish from my own collection. Soon I realized that I wanted to use some type of moss that I did not have. I quickly hit the internet and found out that there are a bunch of different types of mosses available to purchase. After a bunch of research, I purchased a 2" x 2" (\$12 on eBay) matted piece of *Taxiphyllum* sp. "Flame Moss."

The three biggest factors for choosing Flame Moss included:

- Growth pattern
- Hardy
- Grows under any lighting

The number one thing that caught my attention was the unique growth pattern. I like how it grows straight up, in almost a candle flame pattern, most mosses seem to spread more horizontally and bunch up. This works good for me because I am using it on a piece of Mopani Driftwood and have attached it to the "branches" of the driftwood. Hardy and lighting were a close second and third. I didn't want anything fragile and I did not want to set up any high output lighting.

A few other facts about Flame Moss:

- Natural hideout for fish and shrimp
- Slow growing
- Does not need CO<sub>2</sub>
- Growth of 1.5" to 2.0"
- Origin is unknown

It is going to be a few months before this tank gets completely established. I doubt if I will ever have a final product because I am always changing things around and I'm ok with that. I am confident that I have made a good selection in using *Taxiphyllum* sp. "Flame Moss" you should too.

## PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT GVAC:

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Ted's Fishroom  
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Watercolors Aquarium Gallery  
Zoo Med Laboratories, Inc.



## 2016 AWARDS

**Aquarist of the Year:** Kevin Hightower

**Youth Aquarist Award:** Coty Major

**Breeder of the Year:** Justin Sarns

**BAP Rookie of the Year:** Kevin Hightower

**Horticulturalist of the Year:** Kevin Hightower.

**HAP Rookie of the Year:** Matt Loeper

**Writer of the Year:**

Kevin Hightower & Dave Antcliff

**Individual Level Awards:**

**Grand Master II Breeder:**

Chase Klinesteker

**Master II Breeder:**

Ken Zeedyk

**Master Breeder:**

Chris Carpenter

**Expert Breeder:**

Dan Kraker

**BAP Levels:**

Chase Klinesteker 400 Tag

Ken Zeedyk 150 Tag

Chris Carpenter 100 Tag

Joe Gardner 90 Tag

Justin Sarns 80 Tag

Dan Kraker 60 Tag

Ben VanDinther 60 Tag

Mitch Hammer 20 Tag

Eric Maxson 20 Tag

Kevin Hightower 10 & 20 Tag, BAP plaque

**HAP Levels:**

Kevin Hightower 60 & 70 Vegetative Tag,

5, 10 & 15 Flowering Tag

Phil Wurm 50 Tag

Steve Hosteter 40 Vegetative Tag,

10 Flowering Tag

Ben VanDinther 25 & 30 Flowering Tag

Pete Goetner 10 Vegetative tag, HAP plaque

Matt Loeper 10 Vegetative Tag, HAP plaque

## THE MIRACLE ICH CURE

By Peter Goetner

Setting up a coral reef marine tank, of course fish were also part the ticket. This was a new tank, so 'new tank syndrome' also came into play, and of course my fish got Ich, "Cryptocaryon irritans" is the Marine form of this disease. Now on saltwater fish this could mean certain death, as this disease comes back over and over again. You can get rid of this disease by treating it with copper to save the fish. This is not an option if you have corals in your tank. Copper will kill all soft and hard, (stony), corals. As far as I knew there were / are no medications for "Ich" that will not harm your corals.

A valid way to treat only your fish is to put them in a different tank. This however was not an option, since I could not use chemicals, my thought was to go online and see others do. On one thread on Reef Central "Ginger Powder" was mentioned. So since I had everything to lose anyway, I headed to Meijer and bought a small jar. I dissolved an 1/8 teaspoonful in some water, and dumped it in the tank. Since there was no visable change, I kept treating the tank for 30 straight days. The "Ich" disappeared from the fish and never came back in five years. You don't find this kind of information in a book!

Three weeks ago I changed my reef Tank to a Freshwater Planted Tank. Why, because that's what hobbyists do! A week after I added a few plants and they started to grow, I added a few fish. 3 siamensis, 2 pepper cories, 5 zebra danios, and a pair of Reds Von Rio. What about "New Tank Syndrom"? you guessed it, after spawning all over the tank one evening I noticed the Von Rio's had Ich. I was really mad and upset, and decided to sleep on it. As I lay in bed and went through this in my mind, I remembered the Ginger Powder! I did not want to raise the temperature, (the usual treatment for Ichthyophthirius, the freshwater version of this parasite), I was afraid I may lose some expensive plants. I also did not want to add medications because this would interrupt the natural balance of the aquarium.

Guess what, I would try Ginger Powder this time on my planted Freshwater Tank. I found my five year old bottle of Ginger Powder, dissolved an 1/8 teaspoon into some water and dumped it into the tank. Already the next day the Ick was gone! To me this is a miracle cure, very hard to believe.



Photo by Steven Christian, green phantom pleco



# 2016 BAP FINAL

## Justin Sarns – 15

*Haplochromis thereuterion*  
*Tramitichromis intermedius*  
*Haplochromis sp. Red back scraper*  
*Astatotilapia brownae* Munyono Bay  
*Poecilia latipinna*  
*Xiphophorus maculatus*  
*Labidochromis sp. mbamba*  
*Aulonocara stuartgranti* "Ngara"  
*Yssichromis sp. "blue tipped"*  
*Placidochromis sp. Jalo*  
*Enterchromis Paropus*  
*Aulonocara Iwanda*  
*Pseudotropheus interruptus*  
*Skiffia multipunctata*  
*Xiphophorus kallmani*

## Kevin Hightower – 14

*Limia nigrofasciata*  
*Pomacea bridgesii*  
*Melanotaena splendida*  
*Corydoras pygmaeus*  
*Xiphophorus mayae*  
"Panzos Guatamale"  
*Clea helena*  
*Caridina cf. cantonensis*  
"Black Crystal"  
*Corydoras paleatus*  
*Poecilia wingei*  
*Xenophallus umbratilis*  
*Xiphophorus kallmani*  
*Gambusia affinis*  
*Asolene spixi*  
*Melanoides tuberculata*

## Chase Klinesteker – 13

*Synodontis petricola*  
*Poecilia wengei*  
*Xenotoca sp. "Minzita"*  
*Allotoca diazi*  
*Pseudomugil paskai*  
*Xiphophorus continens*  
*Poecilia sp. Rio Coatzacoalcos*  
*Alestopetersius smykalai*  
*Metynnis argenteus*  
*Nematobrycon lacortei*  
*Apistogramma cf. luelingi* Cristal  
*Taeniacara candidi*  
*Asolene spixi*

## Chris Carpenter – 10

*Julidochromis ornatus*  
*Variabilichromis moorii*  
*Neolamprologus olivaceus*  
"Tembwe"  
*Lamprologus similis*  
*Gephyrochromis lawsi*  
*Hysophrys neematopus*  
*Skiffia multipunctata*  
*Allotoca dugesii*  
*Pseudomugil paskai*  
*Julidochromis marlieri*

## Dan Kraker – 9

*Marmokreb sp.*  
*Aulonocara stuartgranti* "Ngara"  
*Aulonocara stuartgranti*  
*Pseudotropheus demasoni*  
*Labidochromis sp. Zebra Lundo*  
*Gambusia holbrooki*  
*Xiphophorus maculatus*  
*Paralabidochromis sp. Rock krib*  
*Tropheops tropheops* Makokola reef

## Joe Gardner – 8

*Hemichromis lifalili*  
*Julidochromis regani*  
*Neetroplus nematopus*  
*Characodon audax*  
*Neolamprologus pulcher* Daffodil  
*Chromidotilapia guentheri*  
*Julidochromis dickfeldi*  
*Jordanella floridae*

## Joe Spaniolo – 6

*Corydoras sp. CW010*  
*Aequidens pulcher*  
*Neocaridina heteropoda*  
*Caridina cf. cantonensis*  
*Corydoras schwartzi* black  
*Pomacea diffusa*

## Scott Tetzlaff – 6

*Mbipia lutea* (Makobe Island)  
*Cryptoheros nanoluteus*  
*Lepidocephalichthys guntea*  
*Colisa lalia*  
*Laetacara araguaiae*  
*Gambusia puncticulata puncticulata*

## Ken Zeedyk – 6

*Allotoca dugesii* 'Europe 2013'  
*Corydoras gossei*  
*Xiphophorus kallmani*  
*Cambarellus pateurensis*  
*Chapalichthys peraticus*  
*Yaoshania pachychilus*

## Heather Burke – 5

*Nanochromis splendens*  
*Astatotilapia calliptera*  
*Cleithracara maronii*  
*Pseudocrenilabrus multicolor*  
*Asolene spixi*

## Dan Antcliff – 4

*Pomacea bridgesii*  
*Xiphophorus maculatus*  
*Poecilia wingei*  
*Planorbis rubrum*

## Johnathan Kamps – 4

*Poecilia wingei*  
*Apistogramma cacatuoides*  
*Mikrogeophagus altispinosus*  
*Peocilia reticulata*

## Eric Maxson – 4

*Pseudotropheus saulosi*  
*Poecilia wengei*  
*Zooneticus tequila*  
*Aequidens pulcher*

## Mitchell Hammer – 3

*Neolamprologus gracilis*  
*Paralabidochromis sauvagei*  
*Haplochromis xystichromis*

## Rachel Roth – 3

*Labidochromis textilis*  
*Neocaridina heteropoda*  
*Aequidens patricki*

## Allan Workman – 3

*Cyphotilapia frontosa*  
*Labidochromis sp. mbamba*  
*Neocaridina Davidi*

## Mike Monje – 2

*Synodontis petricola*  
*Xiphophorus kallmani*

## Ben Van Dinther – 2

*Devario aequipinnatus*  
*Melanotaenia praecox*

## John Yost – 2

*Aulonocara maylandi*  
*Cyphotilapia Frontosa burundi*

## Skyler Fish – 1

*Julidochromis marlieri*

## Steve Hosteter - 1

*Julidochromis ornatus*

## Matt Loeper – 1

*Neocaridina heteropoda*

## Coty Major – 1

*Poecilia reticulata*

## Dan Ondersma – 1

*Ampullariidae*

## Darrell Ullisch – 1

*Xiphophorus continens*

## Phil Wurm – 1

*Poecilia obscura*

## 2016 BAP BY THE NUMBERS

**Number of Participants: 23**

**Total Points Earned: 127**



# ADVENTURES IN MINI REEF CYCLING

By Steve Hosteter

Around the turn of the last millennium I thought I would take the plunge into saltwater aquariums. I purchased a twenty long and several T8 light strips then I added a skilter filter and a powerhead. Bang I was all set up or so I thought, I added twenty pounds of crushed coral and purchased the same amount of live rock. At that time I thought my tank was ready to stock so I stuck hundreds of dollars in crabs, fish, corals and anemones all in a two week period. Many of you reading this are already knowing where this went. Within a week I lost all my corals and most of the inverts, green algae covered all the rocks and most of the sand. Apistia anemones filled in where the algae didn't so I thought let's do a huge water change and solve this. I got out the trash can poured in the salt mix and filled the supposed amount of tap water. I stirred until it looked right and tested the salinity voila I crashed the tank! After a few weeks and a empty bank account, I gave away the sole survivor a clown fish and trashed the rest of the substrate and rock. I pledged I would never again try saltwater ever again or so I thought.

Over the past few years I have been drawn into the allure of saltwater. I slowly began to collect dry rock and chat the ears off anyone I knew that was into saltwater reef tanks. I was well pleased with the jump in technology for saltwater aquariums and the cost of much of the equipment had come down. But the most important component was the availability of pre mixed saltwater. So in February after a trip to Florida I ordered a fresh new tank a 35 gallon cube. I set it up with 40 lbs of live sand and 30 lbs of dry base rock. After a week of tuning the heat and water flow I added 10 lbs of premium live rock and a Peppermint shrimp. One thing I had learned was unlike freshwater aquariums, saltwater aquarium conditions are delicate and small water changes are safer than large and so started the weekly 4 gallon water changes. Over the next few months I watched the water parameters and slowly added more invertebrates and fish. I have gone through a round of diatom blooms and than bubble algae. Briopsis algae brought in my first unexpected challenge.

With its upset I began to search for a solution and after many conversations I started treating or dousing the tank with a large amount of magnesium. It slowly began to clear out the outbreak and also seemed to encourage coralline algae. Now over four months into this project and fairly confident I would do well I started to add corals. The tank was now looking like a reef. Then well Murphy's law kicked in.

A new bane had taken residence, Cyanobacteria. This was not as much of a surprise but a slack in maintenance. Phosphate was the main

culprit so I cut back feeding and started twice weekly water changes to remove the cyanobacteria. It helped but I wasn't getting ahead. After some more reading and talking with others I cut back my light output and added phosban pads to the filter. Now it was really cleaning it out and looking good so here six months into the reef I thought the cycle was done.

Well it wasn't, hair algae began to pop up. I had added an emerald crab and it was feeding on it but not as fast as I would like so I added another. It helped but I knew it was not a long term solution. I had seen several tanks with macro algae in it to out compete for excess nutrients so a message to a fellow club member and I had some to add. At the same time I saw the same member adding Livebearers to his salt tank and found out they eat algae as well.

As of the time I am writing this I now have had a single Mollie in my tank for a few days and all I can say is WOW what an algae eating machine. I know that this is not an ideal method of reef cycling or management but it is working for me. I have not lost any livestock and everyday I see positive changes in the overall health of the tank. I also have learned that cycling a saltwater tank is a slow long-term process. I believe a lot of this has to do with the dynamic relationships between all the organisms in the tank from bacteria all the way up the chain to the fish. This balance doesn't due well with rapid changes that we often do in a fresh water set-up. Things change slowly because of this. That being said I think it adds to the appeal and mystic of a reef tank.

In conclusion and for a simple fyi as it stands this is my current setup a 35g deep blue cube. I am running a 250gph hang on the back skilter filter, a single korilla nano, a 150watt submersible heater and a black box led light set at its lowest white output and about 25% of the blue. Livestock is six Nassarius snails. One trouchus snail and three turbo snails. Three emerald crabs, a pistol shrimp and a peppermint shrimp. Two clowns, shrimp gobie and a sailfin mollie. A colony of star polyps, a toad stool leather, a Kenyan tree and some trumpets. And of course some macro algae.



Photo by Coty Major, Youth Aquarist Award Recipient



# 2016 HAP FINAL

## Kevin Hightower – 29

### Vegetative:

*Myriophyllum mattogrossense*  
*Vesicularia montagnei*  
*lilaeposis brasiliensis*  
*Rotala* sp. "Yao Yao"  
*Hygroyza aristata*  
*Anubias nana* var. 'Petite'  
*Aegagrophila linnaei*  
*Anubias nangi*  
*Ludwegia repens* var. 'Narrow Leaf'  
*Cryptocoryne affinis* var.  
'Metallica Red'  
*Lobelia cardinalis*  
*Sagittaria platyphylla*  
*Rotalla ludica*  
*Hydrophilia corymbosa*  
*Cryptocoryne crispata* var.  
*Ludwigia* sp. *Atlantis*  
*Typha latifolia*  
*Iris ensata*

### Flowering:

*Nelumbo lutea*  
*Typha latifolia*  
*Iris ensata*  
*Diochromena colorata*  
*Anemosis californica*  
*Saururus cernuus*  
*Lindernia grandiflora*  
*Caltha palustris*

### Sexual:

*Typha latifolia*  
*Iris ensata*  
*Iris pseudacorus*

## Matt Loeper – 20

### Vegetative:

*Cryptocoryne wendtii*  
*Pistia stratiotes*  
*Lemna minor*  
*Spirodela polyrhiza*  
*Nymphaea maculata*  
*Sagittaria subulata*  
*Hygrooeryza aristata*  
*Vallisneria spiralis*  
*Nymphodites* sp. taiwan  
*Echinodorus amazonia*  
*Typha minima*  
*Limnobium laevigatum*  
*Iris pseudacorus*  
*Peltandra virginica*  
*Eichhornia crassipes*  
*Ceratophyllum demersum*

### Flowering:

*Cryptocoryne wendtii*  
*Pista stratiotes*  
*Plantago aquatica*  
*Nymphaea alba*

## Peter Goettner – 12

### Vegetative:

*Sylvania minima*  
*Heteranthera zosterifolia*  
*Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides*  
*Eichhornia crassipes*  
*Pistia stratiotes*

*Anubias nana*  
*Nymphodites* sp. Taiwan  
*Vesicularia dubyana*  
*Rotala indica*  
*Ceratophyllum demersum*  
*Higrophillia difformis*  
*Spirodela polyrhiza*

## Ben Van Dinther – 8

### Flowering:

*Lindernia roundifolia*  
*Althernantum reiniekii*  
*Cryptocoryne undulata*  
*Anubias barteri*  
*Crinum calaminstratum*  
*Hydrocotyle leucocephala*  
*Eleocharis acicularis*  
*Anubias congensis*

## Steve Hosteter – 6

### Vegetative:

*Vallisneria Gigantea*  
*Cryptocoryne* sp. 'Florida Sunset'  
*Pogostemon erectus*  
*Rotala* sp. "Yao Yai"

### Flowering:

*Cryptocoryne Balansea*  
*Echinodorus Osiris*

## Allan Workman – 6

### Vegetative:

*Cryptocoryne usertiana*  
*Cryptocoryne undulata*  
*Hygrophila angustifolia*  
*Bacopa monnieri*  
*Monosalenium tenenum*  
*Nymphaea maculata*

## Peter Goetner – 5

### Vegetative:

*Myriophyllum aquaticum*  
*Riccia flutans*  
*Micranthnum*  
*Ludwigia repens*  
*Utricularia* sp.

## Heather Burke – 4

### Vegetative:

*Subwasertang*  
*Pistia stratiotes*  
*Limnium laevigatum*  
*Ceratophyllum demersum*

## Dave Antcliff – 4

### Vegetative:

*Pista stratiotes*  
*Valisneria Spirilis*  
*Vesicularia dubyana*  
*Cryptocoryne Crispatala*  
*Balansea*

### Flowering:

*Eichhornia crassipes*

## Justin Sarns – 4

### Vegetative:

*Echinodorus uruguayensis*

*Cryptocoryne pontederfolia*  
*Echinodorus schuelteri*  
*Ludwigia Ovalis*

## Roger Miller – 3

### Vegetative:

*Echinodorus barthii*  
*Buibitis heudelotti*  
*Spathiphyllum wallisii*

### Flowering:

*Echinodorus barthii*

## Darrell Ullisch – 2

### Vegetative:

*Cryptocoryne affinis*  
*Bolobitis heudelotii*

## Ken Zeedyk – 2

### Flowering:

*Aponotegeton natans*

### Sexual:

*Aponotegeton natans*

## Dan Kraker – 1

### Vegetative:

*Ericcia fluitans*

## Dan Ondersma – 1

### Vegetative:

*Pistia stratiotes*

## Rachel Roth – 1

### Vegetative:

*Lemnoideae* sp.



Photo by Chris Carpenter  
'Lamprologus' multifasciatus (article on page 9)





## DIY-CIRCULAR SEAMLESS FLOATING FRY NET

By Dave Antcliff (Photo by the Author)

There's an old saying, "necessity is the Mother of all inventions", it was necessity that prompted me to invent, the seamless floating fry net! It was during a conversation with my good friend, Eric Maxson that the idea was hatched.

He had stated, and, I agreed, that conventional square or rectangular fry nets have seams where, tiny fry can get trapped and, unfortunately lose their young lives. After returning home, I pondered this issue to great length, and, I came up with the idea of a purse, er, pouch type design. This meant it would have to be round! After scrounging around a bit, I collected the necessary items. After completion, and a thorough search of, ebay I wished, I had the funds to get, my invention patented! Here is a photo of that creation. Take note of the happy, safe fry within the net.

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## 'LAMPROLOGUS' MULTIFASCIATUS

By Chris Carpenter

One of the first cichlids I ever kept and successfully bred was 'Lamprologus' multifasciatus. To this day they are one of my favorite fish and the catalyst for an obsession with Tanganyika cichlids and more specifically the "shell dwellers." If you're not familiar with the term "shell dweller" it refers to a fish that uses empty snail shells as shelter and breeding site. In Lake Tanganyika the preferred shell is of the snail *Neothauma tanganyiesence* which are extremely rare in the hobby but are easily replicated with turbo snail or my favorite escargot shells. I recommend keeping 3 to 4 shells per fish. At first glance this fish might seem a bit drab but once you get close, and you'll need to because they are considered the smallest cichlid in the world, you notice the very cool pattern of light bands on a dark body and their beautiful blue eyes. Males of

this species reach a maximum size of 2" with females averaging just over 1". The name "multifasciatus" translates to multi = many, fasciatus = banded.

If you do a quick search online for these fish you'll find that they come up under the name *Lamprologus*, *Neolamprologus* and even *exLamprologus*. For now, the correct genus is 'Lamprologus' with the single quotes meaning a fish that is waiting to be reclassified, you'll find this with many of the fish from Lake Tanganyika since the genus *Lamprologus* has been awaiting reclassification for 16 years.

'Lamprologus' multifasciatus is a harem breeder meaning one male will take multiple females. They form large colonies with multiple generations of fry coexisting in the same aquarium. I once had a 125-gallon aquarium with hundreds of multi's of all sizes, at feeding time it was an awesome sight seeing all the fish rise from their shell beds to eat. If you're a cichlid lover or new to cichlids and don't have a large aquarium free, no need to worry because these fish are so small they don't demand a large tank. I prefer to keep them in a 20 long or larger but I have kept and bred many shell dwellers in 10 gallon aquariums. If keeping them in a 10 gallon I recommend having a single pair, they are cichlids after all and cichlids are territorial. Each multi will claim a shell and defend it vigorously, even from you, often attacking your hand if you get too close. Sand is a must if you want *L. multifasciatus* to be comfortable and exhibit one of their greatest character traits. These fish will spend all day digging and scooping sand with their mouths and spitting it out of their territory. In fact, they will totally rework the aquascape to their liking, usually resulting in their shells being on bare glass and mounds of sand surrounding.

Once they have settled in they should breed readily if basic requirements are met. Routine water changes, temperature of approximately 75-80 and a varied diet. When I want to trigger a spawn three to four days straight of live black worms or frozen brine shrimp usually does the trick. The female will lay her eggs inside her shell and if the shell is large enough the male will enter and fertilize, if the shell is smaller the male will release his milt while the female exits the shell. Brood sizes are not typically not very large. 10-15 fry is what I expect to find. As long as there are no predators in the aquarium I find there is no need to pull the fry since multifasciatus are extremely good parents. Once you see the fry they are large enough to accept live or frozen baby brine, mysis, micro worms or crushed flake.

If you enjoy watching your fish, then 'Lamprologus' multifasciatus is a must have fish! Comical, beautiful and endlessly entertaining, I promise you'll be hooked.





GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB  
 P.O. Box 325  
 Grandville, MI 49418  
 Address correction required

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## GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of every month at 7 PM (See inside for detailed schedule).

### MEETING LOCATION:

Home School Building Gym  
 5625 Burlingame Ave SW  
 Wyoming, MI 49509

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

#### Store Discounts at Blue Fish Aquarium\*

10% off livestock  
*Club Nights - Tuesdays & Wednesdays*  
 20% off livestock  
 10% off bulk food and frozen food  
 (does not include 5 lb boxes or live food)

#### Store Discounts at Watercolors Aquarium Gallery\*

20% off livestock

**\*Must show GVAC membership card to receive discounts.**

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## GVAC APPAREL!

- T-shirts
- Jackets
- Hats
- Coolers
- ...and more!

*Order forms available at club meetings, see Andrew and Heather Kalafut to order.*

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## IN THIS ISSUE...

- 2016 Awards
- BAP and HAP Final Lists
- DIY
- Mini Reefs
- ...and more!

