

*Photo by Kevin Hightower  
Outdoor pond set-up*



# GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB TANK NOTES

JULY 2016 - SEPTEMBER 2016

ISSUE 73

## GVAC ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

JULY 9, 2016



*Photo by Shealyn Sarns*

**Time:** 11 AM - 3 PM

**Location:** Hager Park  
8134 28th Ave  
Jenison, MI 49428

GVAC will be furnishing pop/water and sub sandwiches.

- Families with last name starting with A thru M please bring a salad/side dish to pass.
- Families with last name starting with N thru Z please bring a dessert/treat to pass.

Activities: Collecting in the local stream, GVAC's traditional bring a bag/get a bag fish swap & door prizes

*Please contact Justin Sarns for more information*

## 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Mike Monje, [exstreamaquatix@gmail.com](mailto:exstreamaquatix@gmail.com)

### Vice President

Justin Sarns, [sarnsj@gmail.com](mailto:sarnsj@gmail.com)

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Deb Hosteter, [taxmom56@hotmail.com](mailto:taxmom56@hotmail.com)

Dan Kraker, [mbunadan59@gmail.com](mailto:mbunadan59@gmail.com)

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

### Membership, Public Relations & Raffle:

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### Program Director & Swap Meet Chair:

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### Auction Chair:

Andrew Kalafut, [kalafuta@gvsu.edu](mailto:kalafuta@gvsu.edu)

### Breeder Award Program (BAP):

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### Bowl Show Chair:

Kristen Buskirk, [backdoor.kd@gmail.com](mailto:backdoor.kd@gmail.com)

## Reprint Policy:

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

## 2016 CLUB BUDGET

### Income:

Spring and Fall Auction:	\$5,000.00
Raffles:	\$1,000.00
Swap Meet:	\$770.00
Memberships:	\$1,000.00
Monthly Auctions:	\$1,450.00
Total:	\$9,220.00

### Expenses:

Monthly Room Rental:	\$1,600.00
Large Auction Room Rentals (2):	\$880.00
Swap Meet Room Rental:	\$280.00
Featured Speaker Fees:	\$1,700.00
Rare Fish Night:	\$700.00
Christmas Party:	\$900.00
Summer Picnic:	\$500.00
Insurance:	\$432.00
Newsletter:	\$500.00
Awards:	\$1,000.00
Website:	\$300.00
PO Box:	\$124.00
Misc. Expenses (forms, stamps, etc.):	\$304.00
Total:	\$9220.00

## 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

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

### GVAC Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 325  
Grandville, MI 49418-0325

**Website:** [www.gvaquariumclub.org](http://www.gvaquariumclub.org)

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. It's not too late to give your fish a summer vacation in a pond or a tub. If you've never tried this, you will be shocked

at how the fish color-up with a little sunshine. In addition sometimes the finicky spawners will perform better outside. This is a wonderful way to spend time outside with the family and enjoy your hobby.

In BOD news, we have paid for our meeting venue for all of next year. Also, we are trying to compile our speakers for next year. The club has given many great ideas on topics that you want to hear about, this is fantastic. It is your club and your ideas and contributions make GVAC the club that it is.

Please remember GVAC is your club, if there's an event 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 photos, and participation in the many club events and programs we sponsor, helps both the hobbyist and the club.

Best Fishes, Mike Monje

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## HAPLOCHROMIS SP KENYA GOLD

by Justin Sarns

If you are in the hobby long enough, you find that fish that you enjoy more than anything. Then for whatever reason you choose to sell the fish, and if you are like me, you immediately regret it. This happened to me with Haplochromis sp. Kenya Gold, an oral sheller from Lake Edward, one of the satellite lakes of Lake Victoria. This is a smaller Victorian, maxing out around 3.5 inches, although some can be smaller. The male is a brilliant gold with attractive black stripe through the eye and a red tail. The females are the typically drab victorian females with some black markings along the lateral line. They are relatively easy to spawn, and can be bred in tanks as small as a 20 long, provided that enough

rock is in the tank to provide shelter. The males can be aggressive to other males, and I wouldn't recommend more than one male in a tank, unless it's a large tank.

I purchased a pair in college and was lucky enough to breed them. Unfortunately, I had to move and sold off the pair thinking I could find fry that I had bred if I wanted them again. This was not the case. I searched high and low and could not find the fish anywhere. I thought I found it several times, but it turned out to not quite be the right fish. I was ecstatic to see a group show up at the last GVAC meeting, and sure enough they were the right fish. They are coloring up great, and I am hoping to spawn them and share some fry in the future. If you are looking for a different coloration out of a victorian cichlid, this is a great fish to try!

## PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT GVAC:

ADG/Aqua Design Amano USA  
 Amazonas Magazine  
 Aquarium Services  
 Aquatic Gardeners Association -  
 Karen Randall  
 Blue Fish Aquarium  
 Boyd Enterprises  
 CichlidBreeding.com  
 Cichlid Press  
 Dave's Rare Fish  
 Doctors Foster & Smith

Florida Aquatic Nurseries  
 Hagen  
 HBH Pet Products  
 Hikari USA  
 Kordon - Novalek  
 Marineland  
 OddballFish.com  
 Ocean Star International  
 OmegaSea  
 Penn Plax  
 Pet Supplies Plus

Preuss Pets  
 Python Products  
 Repashy Superfoods  
 San Francisco Bay Brand  
 Seachem Laboratories, Inc.  
 SpectraPure  
 Ted's Fishroom  
 Tetra  
 TFH - Tropical Fish Hobbyist  
 Watercolors Aquarium Gallery  
 Zoo Med Laboratories, Inc.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

### JULY:

7-10: ACA Convention  
Cincinnati, OH  
acaconvention2016.com

9: **GVAC Annual Summer Picnic**  
*see page 1 for details*

### AUGUST:

13: **GVAC Meeting**  
7 PM, Homeschool Building  
*Speaker: Dave Ramsey -  
From Apisto to Rift*

### SEPTEMBER:

10: **GVAC Meeting**  
7 PM, Homeschool Building  
*Speaker: Ben VanDinther -  
Saltwater & Aquatic Plants*

### OCTOBER:

8: **GVAC Meeting**  
7 PM, Homeschool Building  
*Speaker: Jim Powers - Loaches*

22: **GVAC Annual Fall Auction**  
Seller Registration begins 9:30 AM  
Auction begins at 11 AM  
Homeschool Building  
*Please contact the Auction Chair,  
Andrew Kalafut, to volunteer*

*Full GVAC Calendar for 2016 available on the  
website. GVAC Board Meetings are TBD.*

## BRISTLENOSE PLECOS (ANCISTRUS SP.)

By Kevin Hightower (Photos by the Author)

I bought my first bag of bristlenose plecos at a GVAC Auction in 2006. The bag contained 8 of them sold by Ken Zeedyk and they have continued in my tanks ever since. They are an easy pleco to keep, peaceful, and hearty (lifespan of 8-10 years according to Wikipedia).

I have a few different reasons why I like bristlenose plecos but the main one is that they do a great job at keeping your tanks clean. I keep around 30-40 active tanks at any one time and all my tanks have a group except the tanks that I have other L-series Ancistrus in to avoid cross-breeding. I keep them with cichlids, livebearers, planted tanks, and in community tanks.

Another reason I like bristlenose plecos is that I use them to encourage my hypancistrus plecos to breed. I have several groups of hypancistrus plecos and I will put 4-6 smaller ones (around 2") in with the adult hypancistrus to help the males learn how to guard their caves. Since the young bristlenose continuously move all around, the adult male hypancistrus will guard their own cave from letting anyone else in. When time comes for him to start breeding, he will guard the eggs better, because he has experience in guarding the cave and not letting anyone else in. This results in better parenting and a higher survival rate earlier.

I do not know exactly how many batches of bristlenose plecos I have had through the years but I'm guessing somewhere in the 50's with an average of 75-100 per batch. The biggest batch came in around 175 (hard to count) but it could have been 2 females eggs too, not 100% sure. I have sold hundreds and given away even more over the years. Sometimes I use

them as live food if I have too many and when I cull them out. As with any fish some of the weak ones die and runts form and that is when the circle of life happens.

### White Seam Tail and Tips

My group of bristlenose plecos seem to be unique when compared to other bristlenose plecos. All of mine have a white line where their tail starts and



*One week old fry showing white line and tail*



*One year old female, white tail and tips*

white tips on the end of their tail. I have observed other bristlenose plecos in stores, auctions, and pictures from the internet and have never seen this on any of them before. Not life changing by any means or make mine any better, but it's something that I have observed and now as I see them at auctions I know if they have come from my group along the way.



*Adult male with white tail*

### **Breeding Bristlenose Plecos**

I don't have any one method that I use for breeding bristlenose plecos and a lot depends on the size of the tank. My ideal set up consists of a 20 gallon long tank with 2 males and 3 females, 4 caves (I like the 1.25" round ceramic), driftwood, plants, and oak leaves (sometimes I use almond leaves). I'm not too particular on the substrate, could consist of rocks, sand, or bare bottom.

I feed my fish a variety of foods and I don't condition the bristlenose with anything special to get them to breed, basically let nature take its course. Once I find eggs in the cave, I start watching them close if I want to save the batch. After a couple days you will see the wigglers and then the egg sacks will go away after a few days. Once I start to see some color is when I pull the cave out of the tank. I use a small tote with about 2 or 3" of water from that tank, pull the cave out of the tank and pour the cave into the tote (sometimes using reasonable force to get them out). Most of the time the male will attach himself to the cave but a bunch of

small plecos will fall out. If I want to get all of them out, I will keep pouring until he falls out and put him back in the tank and get the rest out. Most of the time I leave a few in the nose of the cave and put them back into the tank. You will notice that if you put the male in without the cave he will go nuts and race all around looking for his cave and fry. I have even had one jump out of the tank because he grew too frantic looking around. I generally try to keep him calm and leave him a few to protect.

After I have all I need in the tote I will either put them in a tank I have ready for grow out with like sizes or just keep them in the tote with an air stone until I get one ready. If I do keep them in the tote I will put a couple pieces of cactus wood in there for them to munch on and / or hide in and place the tote somewhere warm. I try to keep the water at least 75 degrees. Many articles say to keep warmer but I've had great success at this temperature.

### **Sexing Bristlenose Pleco's at a young age**

Bristlenose Plecos are easy to sex out after they get about 1.5 to 2" long. First catch the pleco holding it face up and take your finger and rub lightly from the top of the head to the tip of the nose. If the area where you have touched is soft and kind of wet and squishy you have a male, and if it is hard and smooth you have a female. It sometimes takes a few times to get the right feel down but after a while anyone can tell the difference.

### **Summary**

To sum it all up, bristlenose plecos are a very hearty and easy pleco to keep and breed. They will live a good amount of time and generally inexpensive to buy. You can easily keep a group in a tank without them killing each other. I'm sure I've broken some rules for keeping and / or breeding them but these methods are what works best for me. Ever since I bought that first bag from Ken I have enjoyed keeping bristlenose plecos and will continue to do so for years to come.



*Photo by Steve Bernt  
Small Goldfish Pond*

**Justin Sarns – 12**

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

**Chase Klinesteker – 8**

*Synodontis petricola*  
*Poecilia wengei*  
*Xenotoca sp. "Minzita"*  
*Allotoca diazi*  
*Pseudomugil paskai*  
*Xiphophorus continens*  
*Poecilia sp. Rio Coatzacoalcos*  
*Alestopetersius smykalai*

**Chris Carpenter – 7**

*Julidochromis ornatus*  
*Variabilichromis moorii*  
*Neolamprologus olivaceus*  
 "Tembwe"  
*Lamprologus similus*  
*Gephyrochromis lawsi*  
*Hysophrys neematopus*  
*Skiffia multipunctata*

**Kevin Hightower – 7**

*Limia nigrofasciata*  
*Pomacea bridgesii*  
*Melanotaena splendida*  
*Corydoras pygmaeus*  
*Xiphophorus mayae*  
 "Panzos Guatamale"  
*Clea helena*

*Caridina cf. cantonensis*  
 "Black Crystal"

**Joe Spaniolo – 6**

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

**Joe Gardner – 5**

*Hemichromis lifalili*  
*Julidochromis regani*  
*Neotroplus nematopus*  
*Characodon audax*  
*Neolamprologus pulcher Daffodil*

**Eric Maxson – 4**

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

**Ken Zeedyk – 4**

*Allotoca dugesii* 'Europe 2013'  
*Corydoras gossei*  
*Xiphophorus kallmani*  
*Cambarellus pateurensis*

**Mitchell Hammer – 3**

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

**Allan Workman – 3**

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

**Dan Antcliff – 2**

*Pomacea bridgesii*

*Xiphophorus maculatus*

**Heather Burke – 2**

*Nanochromis splendens*  
*Astatotilapia calliptera*

**Dan Kraker – 2**

*Marmokreb sp.*  
*Aulonocara stuartgranti* "Ngara"

**Ben Van Dinther – 2**

*Devario aequipinnatus*  
*Melanotaenia praecox*

**Skylar Fish – 1**

*Julidochromis marlieri*

**Coty Mavor – 1**

*Poecilia wengei*

**Dan Ondersma – 1**

*Ampullariidae*

**Scott Tetzlaff – 1**

*Mbipia lutea* (Makobe Island)  
*Cryptoheros nanoluteus*  
*Lepidocephalichthys guntea*

**Darrell Ullisch – 1**

*Xiphophorus continens*

**Phil Wurm – 1**

*Poecilia obscura*

**2015 BAP BY THE NUMBERS**

**Number of Participants: 20**

**Total Points Earned: 73**

**RAINBOW EMPEROR TETRA**

**NEMATOBRYCON LACORTEI**

By Chase Klinesteker (Photo by the Author)

The Rainbow Emperor is not often seen in the hobby, although it is considered very beautiful and more colorful than its' relative, the Emperor Tetra, *Nematobrycon palmeri*. This is likely because it is difficult to breed and not prolific. One way to tell the 2 species apart is that the Emperor male has blue eyes and the male Rainbow Emperor has red in its eyes. It comes from western Columbia and the Rio San Juan. I recently acquired 5 fish (2 males and 3 Females) at a GVAC meeting and mini-auction on May 14, 2016. They were in 2 bags and the females looked very ragged, so much so that only one female survived, even though they were soon separated and treated for disease. The males had lacerated their fins severely, and their aggression is likely an important reason they are difficult to breed. Females will not back down from a fight, often to their disadvantage! They also can

be aggressive towards other species of fish if you only have a few individuals. They are a schooling species and are more peaceful in larger numbers. Males are larger, have slightly longer fins, and are more colorful than the females. Males also have an extended filament in the center of the caudal fin, but that is often chewed off from the fighting.

The Rainbow Emperor will eat a variety of foods, but they are not as gluttonous as the palmeri. In fact, females do not fill up with eggs, and it is hard to tell when they are ready to spawn. Soft, acid water is usually recommended at PH of 5-7, with temperatures 75-80 degrees. It is smaller than its cousin, reaching only about 2 inches. Plants, leaf litter, and dim lighting are preferred. The sexes were conditioned separately and then placed in a 2 1/2 gallon drum bowl of rainwater, large gravel on the bottom to hide the eggs, and spawning mops and plastic plants. A peat moss box filter was used to keep the water clear and acidify the

water. After 2 days and no action, I removed 1/3 of the water and replaced it with tap water. I noticed spawning activity right away, and left them in for 36 hours before siphoning to look for eggs. I expected to get 50 or more eggs because the plants were thick and they should not be able to eat many. The results were disappointing, as I could only find 12 eggs! I placed the eggs in rainwater and methylene blue to hatch and replaced about 50% of the water in the breeding bowl. 2 days later I collected 15 more eggs. That is another reason they are rarely seen in stores---they are not prolific, only lay one egg at a time, and are likely daily spawners. The eggs and fry are light-sensitive, and the fry are very tiny and need infusoria for about a week.

The Rainbow Emperor Tetra is a gorgeous fish that offers a challenge to breed. If you ever come across some, snap them up. You will not be disappointed!!



Photo by Chris Carpenter  
*Metriaclima sp. "lanisticola north"*



Photo by Cyndi Westra  
*Apistogramma Cacatuoides Triple Reds*

## BOWL SHOW RESULTS

### January:

Favorite Fish:

- 1st Matt Loeper
- 2nd Patrick Miller
- 3rd Patrick Miller

### February:

Central & South American Cichlids  
larger than 4"SL:

- 1st Mitchell Hammer

Bettas

- 1st Matt Loeper
- 2nd Matt Loeper
- 3rd Kevin Hightower

### April:

Favorite Fish:

- 1st RJ Morris
- 2nd Randy Morris
- 3rd Ken Zeedyk

**May:** No entries.

### June:

Guppies:

- 1st Rebecca Hernandez/Isaac Drew

Goldfish/Koi:

- 1st Matt Loeper
- 2nd Matt Loeper

**Kevin Hightower – 16****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*

**Matt Loeper – 11****Vegetative:**

*Cryptocoryne wendtii*  
*Pistia stratiotes*  
*Lemna minor*  
*Spirodela polyrhiza*  
*Nymphaea maculata*  
*Sagittaria subulata*  
*Hygroyza aristata*  
*Vallisneria spiralis*  
*Nymphodies* sp. *taiwan*

**Flowering:**

*Cryptocoryne wendtii*  
*Pista stratiotes*

**Ben Van Dinther – 8****Flowering:**

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

**Allan Workman – 6****Vegetative:**

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

**Peter Goetner – 5****Vegetative:**

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

**Steve Hosteter – 5****Vegetative:**

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

**Flowering:**

*Cryptocoryne Balansea*

**Heather Burke – 4****Vegetative:**

*Subwasertang*  
*Pistia stratiotes*  
*Limnoium laevigatum*  
*Ceratophyllum demersum*

**Dave Antcliff – 3****Vegetative:**

*Pista stratiotes*  
*Valisneria Spirilis*  
*Vesicularia dubyana*

**Roger Miller – 3****Vegetative:**

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

**Flowering:**

*Echinodorus barthii*

**Justin Sarns – 2****Vegetative:**

*Echinodorus uruguayensis*  
*Cryptocoryne pontederfolia*

**Darrell Ullisch – 2****Vegetative:**

*Cryptocoryne affinis*  
*Bolobitis heudelotii*

**Dan Kraker – 1****Vegetative:**

*Ericcia fluitans*

**Dan Ondersma – 1****Vegetative:**

*Pistia stratiotes*



Photo by Steve Bernt  
 OB Peacock

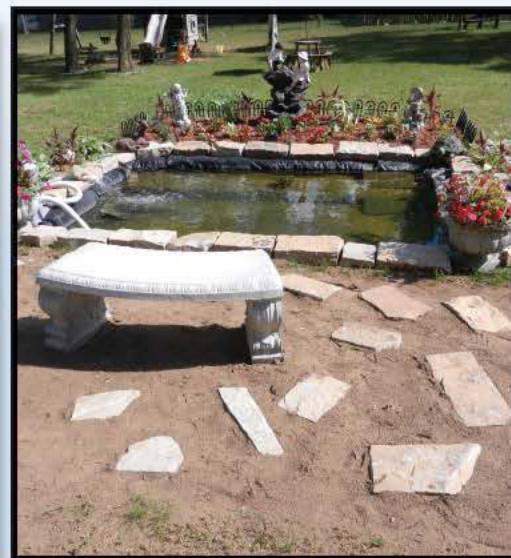


Photo by Eric Maxson  
 Pond set-up



# C.A.R.E.S. CORNER

## GVAC C.A.R.E.S. List (as of 12/31/15)



**Bitterling, Curt:**  
*Skiffia lermæ*

**Burke, Heather:**  
*Botia sidthimunki*  
*Tilapia synderae*  
*Xiphophorus Couchianus*

**Carpenter, Chris:**  
*Pelvicachromis*  
*sacrimontis*  
*Pytochromis sp. Salmon*  
*Hippo Point*

**Hartman, Pat:**  
*Ameba Splendens*  
*Girardinichthys*  
*Multiradiatus*  
*Skiffia Multipunctata*  
*Allotoca Catarinae*  
*Allotoca Diazi*  
*Xenotaenia Resolanae*

**Hightower, Kevin:**  
*Hypancistrus sp. L333*  
*Melanotaenia Bosemani*  
*Rainbow*  
*Melanotaenia Lacustris*  
*Glossolepis Incisus*  
*Pseudotropheus Saulosi*  
*Hypancistrus sp. L066*  
*Baryancistrus sp. L081*

**Hosteter, Steve:**  
*Xiphophorus couchianus*  
*Xiphophorus Kallmani*  
*Pseudotropheus Saulosi*

**Kalafut, Andrew:**  
*Glossolepis wanamensis*  
*Melanotaenia lacustris*  
*Melanotaenia boesemani*

**Klinesteker, Chase:**  
*Characodon audax*

**Kraker, Dan:**  
*Pseudotropheus saulosi*  
*Pseudotropheus*  
*Demasoni*

**Maxson, Eric:**  
*Pseudotropheus saulosi*

**Monje, Michael:**  
*Xiphophorus*  
*couchianus*  
*Zoogoneticus tequila*  
*Placidochromis sp.*  
*“Phenochilus*  
*Tanzania”*

**Morris, Randy:**  
*Glossolepis Wanamensis*  
*Glossolepis Incisus*  
*Melanotaenia Lacustris*  
*Melanotaenia*  
*Boesemani*  
*Zoogoneticus Tequila*

**Adam Persenaire:**

*Xystichromis phytophagus*

**Sarns, Justin:**  
*Paralabidochromis*  
*Chromogynos “Zue Island”*  
*Platytaeniodus sp.*  
*“Red Tail Sheller”*  
*Pseudotropheus Saulosi*  
*Ptychromis sp. Salmon*  
*“Hippo Point”*  
*Yssichromis sp.*  
*“Blue Tipped”*  
*Astatotilapia Aenocolor*

**Westra, Cyndi:**  
*Xystichromis Phytophagus*  
*Astatotilapia latifasciata*  
*Pseudotropheus Saulosi*  
*Cyrtocara Moori*

The C.A.R.E.S. website is being reconstructed and may take some time. See the C.A.R.E.S. Preservation facebook page for the most recent priority list.

### Registering your species-at-risk with the GVAC C.A.R.E.S. Program just got easier!

Go online to [www.gvaquariumclub.org/cares](http://www.gvaquariumclub.org/cares) and click “submit a species...” link, fill out the form and click submit. This is where you may submit new species-at-risk, revise your entries and submit for removal of any species you no longer maintain. For questions about the C.A.R.E.S. Program, contact Cyndi Westra at [ccyndiw@yahoo.com](mailto:ccyndiw@yahoo.com)

## C.A.R.E.S. SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: L333

by Cyndi Westra

This hypancistrus sp. from Brazil, grows up to 6”. The body has white lines on a darkbrown/black body.

Like most hypancistrus, L333 males develop odontodes around pectoral fins and head and are thinner than females when viewed from above. L333 prefers meaty foods, high temps at 78-88F and soft water.

A 20 long tank would be great for a group of L333’s. Sand, wood and many hiding places should make up their tank decor, along with some additional water movement. Plants can be used, but might be eaten. Small tetras or danios would be good tankmates. With a neutral pH, and soft water they will breed easily. Males will guard 50-60 eggs and after about 14 days, the fry will venture out.



Photo by Steve Christian (used with permission)  
L333



## A TALE OF TWO ANGELS

By Dave Antcliff (Photo by the Author)

Before, I joined, GVAC in the, Spring of 2015, I attended the annual, Spring Auction. It was because of many factors surrounding the, auction that me decide to become a member. I went as a guest buyer to see what deals, I could cash in on, and, I certainly was not disappointed! Besides purchasing some extremely affordable plants, I also bought several juvenile, Angelfish of the, Koi and, Black Lace varieties. I believe there were a dozen, Koi in one bag, and ten, Blackies in another bag. Once the, auction was over, I returned home with my newly boughten treasures which, I immediately placed in a 10 gallon tank for temporary keeping.

Around 4:00 a.m., without cause, mind you, I was jolted to full awakenedness! Instantly, I became aware something was amiss! It was the non-present sound of the ever present sound of trickling, and gurgling water! Some time during the night, the power to the tank had been interrupted! I was devastated obviously, to say the least! There were many dead and dieing fish at the bottom of my tank, including my two prized juvenile, Discus, I had named, Stripes and, Peaches. I cannot describe in words just how bummed out, I was! Half of my new, Koi were gone, all, but two of the, Black Lace Angels were lost, and my two, Siamese algae eaters, a.k.a., Flying Foxes, both had their entire heads out of the water, gasping for air, and bobbing like a couple of pencil bobbers!

Apparently, at some point after my falling asleep, one or more of my many cats had gotten hungry, had gotten up to their feeding station, I had set up for them next to my bed to remedy that issue, and in doing so, had accidentally bumped the power strip/cord enough to cause power loss to the tank!

I posted the mishap on, Facebook. Shortly thereafter, a friend, Eric Maxson, offered to sell me a a used 30g set-up. The price was right, so, I jumped on it! Once, I

got the set up home, I washed and cleaned out the tank, etc. Before, I beautified the tank with plants, rocks, and the likes, I transferred, the remaining, Angels, Flying Foxes, along with a few other fish into, the new digs to ensure enough space for all concerned. I did get around to adding the aforementioned tank additions, plants, etc. as they became available to, me, fish in!

Eventually, due to bullying behavior, I was obliged to remove the, Koi Angels. Well, that left, the two blackies to grow and eventually becoming the rulers of their domain! For the past several months, I've thought, Black, obviously so named, and, Blue, so named because of a pigment anomoly at the end of his anal fin, were both male. But, low and behold, my surprise and delight in, mid-January when, I spotted them acting erratically, then noticing eggs on an, Anubia leaf! Until that day, I had never had an, Angelfish lay eggs! Being their first spawn, they were really nervous, and restless. When, I noticed them eating the newly laid eggs, I sprang into action! I pinched off the leaves the eggs had been deposited on and placed them in a diy floating seamless fry net for protection. Boy, was, I in for an eye opening, jaw dropping surprise! A short time after removing the eggs, I was shocked and dismayed to see both parents sucking the eggs off the leaves, and through the fine mesh of the fry net! So much for baby Black Lace Angels!

On, Feb. 29, it came to my attention that, Black 'n' Blue were spawning for a second time! I was tempted to remove the eggs, but decided against it so, I could observe and learn more from the opportunity this miracle taking place only inches from my bed is affording, me! This time around, parents are much less nervous, and are more guarded and attentive! What a thrill this is for me! Being an amateur aquarist, this is a dream come true!



Photo by Shealyn Sarns  
Ngara Flametail Male - Phototank Experiment



## MY 1ST PHOTO TANK EXPERIMENT

By Shealyn Sarns (*Photos by the Author*)

After Mo Devlin's talk on fish photography last June, I was inspired to try this myself. I am a professional photographer and graphic designer, but I generally stick to landscape and portraits, so this was a whole new adventure for me. One thing that I did notice after Mo's talk was some confusion from members who don't have a lot of experience in photography, and I can definitely understand where many would have been lost. Part of what I wanted to do when I ventured into this realm of photography was to find a way that would help the general person without a lot of photography experience. With this article, I am hoping to share what worked for me and what did not.

### Tank Set-Up

Justin and I went out and bought a brand new 15 gallon tank on an iron stand, one with no scratched glass, no water spots, etc. There are the obvious reasons why that is important, because you don't want them in your photos but also I was worried about my camera's autofocus being able to focus on the fish rather than the scratches. What my problem then with the tank was that it's one that isn't normally set up in our fish room, so when I filled it there were air bubbles everywhere (on the photo above you can see bubbles on the fins). One day of sitting and using a net to move the bubbles mostly took care of that. I used a scrap piece of black velvet fabric to tape to the back of the tank rather than painting the tank. It worked great, minus the fact that it didn't want to stay on. I think that is a matter of personal preference.

### Lighting

This was the first thing that I wanted to tackle while thinking of the average fish keeper. While I have access to studio flashes, which is what Mo uses, not many do. First thing I tried to do is use two continuous

lights with soft boxes (my thought with this was that maybe I could eventually try it with shop lights that you can pick up at any hardware store and something to diffuse the light). Little did I know that the light on the bottom confuses the heck out of the fish! I had fish trying to swim down, swim upside down, etc. Once I turned off the bottom light, the fish swam normally again, but I lost that bottom light, which is one of the big things Mo talked about. So I ended up putting one studio flash on top and one on the bottom, both with umbrellas to diffuse the light. Continuous light will still be a project for another time...

### Reflection

I had some problems with reflections in the glass when I first started shooting. I could see tanks behind me, my hands, face, and camera lens in the glass when I took photos. I used the same black fabric as above and put it in front of my face and hands to take care of that part and had to turn off any tank lights that were behind me. For the reflection of the lens, I moved closer to the tank so that I didn't have to show as much glass.

### Fish Behavior

This was a tough one to fix even beyond the bottom light issue. The fish were not very happy in there, so I started by throwing some fake plants in the corners so that it would help the environment of the tank but also be out of the way for photos. Well, naturally, the fish liked to hide from me behind them. Then I tried leaving the room for a while to let them get comfortable in the tank. For the most part this worked. I can't say that the fish were excited about my light flashes either, but I tried to space it out. Eventually with all of this combined, I did get some nice photos of some of our fish.

For now, this is still a project, but I did have some success and even learned some stuff about fish behavior while doing this. Hoping to write another article in the future with more success!





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...

- Summer Picnic
- Pond Views
- Photo Tanks
- ...and more!

