



Photo by Chris Carpenter
Lepidolamprologus bouleengeri



GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB TANK NOTES

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2017

ISSUE 78

GVAC ANNUAL FALL AUCTION

— OCTOBER 21, 2017 —



Time: Auction Begins at 11 AM
(Seller Registration 9:30 AM - 11 AM)

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

**Have questions or would like to volunteer?
Contact John Yost (johnyost2012@gmail.com)**

Everyone is welcome and you do not have to be a member to buy or sell! Please visit www.gvaquariumclub.org/auctions for auction rules. Each seller may sell up to 50 bags. Contact Deb Hosteter to preregister at gvactreasurer@gmail.com.
Additional parking is available behind the building at the HSB.

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Justin Sarns, sarnsj@gmail.com

Vice President

Chris Carpenter, cichlidwhisperer@icloud.com

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Membership & Public Relations:

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Swap Meet Chair:

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Auction Chair:

John Yost, johnyost2012@gmail.com

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Hort. Award Program (HAP):

Deb Hosteter & Ben VanDinther

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C.A.R.E.S. Coordinator:

Cyndi Westra, ccyndiw@yahoo.com

Raffle Chair:

Eric Maxson, ericmaxon@hotmail.com

2017 CLUB BUDGET

Income

Auctions	\$5,370
Raffles	\$900
Swap Meet	\$840
Memberships	\$1,100
Monthly Auctions	\$1,200
Total Income	\$9,410

Expenses

Home School Building	\$3,600
Picnic Venue Rental	\$120
Summer Picnic	\$700
Christmas Party	\$900
Rare Fish	\$400
Speaker Fees	\$2,200
Insurance	\$436
State of Michigan	\$20
Website	\$120
Awards	\$600
P.O. Box	\$130
Newsletter	\$130
Misc.	\$54
Total Expenses	\$9,410

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.

GVAC Mailing Address:

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Website: www.gvaquariumclub.org

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Reprint Policy:

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GVAC,

The fall has always been one of my favorite times of year. The crisp, cool air (not this last week),

the fresh apples, marching band and the changing colors have always made this season a joy. It also means the annual return to our fish rooms that may have been neglected slightly throughout the summer. It also means that our annual fall auction is just around the corner.

The fall auction will be on October 21st this year. If you haven't been to this event, I highly encourage it. Whether as a buyer, or a seller, the auction is a great day of fun with other fish geeks. We always need volunteers to help with the auction. If you are interested, please let myself or John Yost know. If you have any individual questions about the auction, please let myself or another board member know.

There is one major change to the auction this year. We are going to be enforcing a limit on dry goods that run through the auction. Sellers will be limited to five dry goods to run through the auction. Additional dry goods are welcome to be sold through the buy it now table, however only five can be put through the auction. This includes items that are rolled into the auction after the buy it now table closes. If they do not sell, they must be taken home. Items that are left become property of GVAC and sellers can be charged a fee of \$10 for disposing of the item. Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you for your cooperation with this new policy.

Nominations for next years Board of Directors will be at October's general meeting. I would love to see some new people getting involved and running for a BOD seat. The BOD

is responsible for the administration of the club, and we have a great time doing it! All positions will be up for election, including President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Sergeant at Arms, Treasurer and Member at Large. If you are interested in running for a position or have questions, please see a board member.

GVAC is your club, and if there is anything that you would like to see happen, please let me know!

Swimming Forward,

Justin Sarns
GVAC President

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PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT GVAC:

ADG/Aqua Design Amano USA
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Aquarium Services
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Karen Randall
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Cichlid Press
Dave's Rare Fish
Doctors Foster & Smith

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Hagen
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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:

OCTOBER:

- 1: Greater Chicago Cichlid Association
Swap Meet
4800 Hoffman Boulevard
Hoffman Estates IL 60192
<http://www.gcca.net/>
- 8: SWMAS Auction
E Clay St, Schoolcraft, MI 49087
www.swmas.org
- 14: **GVAC Meeting**
7 PM - **Homeschool Building**
*Speaker: Cory Mcelroy of Aquarium
CO-OP, Puffer fish*
- 21: **GVAC Annual Fall Auction**
9:30 AM - **Seller Registration**
11 AM - **Auction Begins**
Homeschool Building
- 28: Motor City Aquarium Society Auction
876 Horace Brown Drive
Madison Heights, MI 48071
www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com

NOVEMBER:

- 5: **GVAC Board Meeting**
2 PM - **Justin Sarns' Home**
- 11: Michiana Aquarium Society Swap
www.michianaaquariumsociety.org
- 16-19: Ohio Cichlid Association Extravaganza
15471 Royalton Road
Strongsville, Ohio 44136
www.ohiocichlid.com
- 11: **GVAC Meeting**
7 PM - **Homeschool Building**
*Rare Fish with Fish Profiles,
Mini Aquascape contest*

DECEMBER:

- 1: Greater Chicago Cichlid Association
Swap Meet
4800 Hoffman Boulevard
Hoffman Estates IL 60192
<http://www.gcca.net/>
- 9: **GVAC Annual Holiday Party**
Grand Ravines North County Park
9920 42nd Ave, Jenison, MI 49428
**go all of the way back to the building at
the end of the road*



A SHELL DWELLER FROM LAKE MALAWI?

By Chris Carpenter (Photos by the Author)

If you know me, I'm sure your aware of my passion for the "Shell Dwellers" of Lake Tanganyika. I promise, I do keep other types of fish. In fact, I occasionally keep Malawi cichlids, and when I found out there was a shell dweller from Lake Malawi, I had to have them!

A quick search on the internet for *Metriaclima lanisticola*, will bring up multiple images of a little brown striped fish, with a blue face. Not the most attractive fish, for a lake known to have beautiful, brightly colored cichlids. A web search will also expose a lot of confusion surrounding *M. lanisticola*.

They are very often misidentified as *Pseudotropheus livingstonii*, by both scientists, and hobbyists alike, due to the fact that they look very similar.

I started my search for a group of *M. lanisticola* and didn't have much success, in fact it took me approximately two years, until I finally found some on Aquabid. The price was right, and I was stoked to finally find them. I placed an order for six, and seven healthy 1.5" fish arrived. I placed them in an aquarium with large shells. They immediately took to the shells... for about 2 days. Once they settled in and became comfortable, they completely abandoned the shells. I must admit, I wasn't thrilled. I raised the group to breeding size, got a few spawns, and traded them to friend.

A few years went by and my knowledge of fish and shell dwellers had grown. One thing I learned, or so I thought, was how to tell the difference between *M. lanisticola* and *P. livingstonii*. I came to the realization that the fish I had in the past were actually *P. livingstonii*, not the Malawi shell dweller.

A few years later, while attending a GVAC auction, I spotted a bag of six juvenile *Pseudotropheus livingstonii*, I bought them, in the hopes that they were misidentified, and were actually *M. lanisticola*. I raised this group to breeding size and thought for sure

they were *lanisticola*. I even had another trusted fish enthusiast agree with my thoughts. As time went on, I questioned it more and more. I was fortunate enough to get a picture to the cichlid guru, Ad Konings who stated they were *Pseudotropheus livingstonii* 'Likoma Island', no more question. The search started again.

Five months into a daily routine of checking online sellers, and I finally got a hit on Aquabid again. This time I was equipped with more knowledge, and a definitive way to tell the difference between the two fish. I asked the seller for pictures, and they were indeed the real deal. I ordered six fish, but only three survived the shipping process. I contacted the seller, who made things right by shipping out six more fish, of which only three made it safely. I wasn't happy with the loses, but I had six fish which turned out to be 4 males and 2 females.

After keeping both *lanisticola* and *livingstonii*, digging through a ton of misinformation online, and

scouring my books. I can now say that there is an absolute way to tell the difference between these two fish. Aside from the adult size, *Metriclima lanisticola* adults average 2.75", while *Pseudotropheus livingstonii* top out around 6", but it takes years to grow them to adult size. The tell "tail" difference is in the caudal fin. *M. lanisticola* have yellow and blue striations, while *P. livingstonii* do not, and it's very distinct.

I still have this group of Malawi shell dwellers, and I plan to keep these peaceful mbuna long term. They don't associate with the shells as much as my Tanganyikan's, but they use them more than the *livingstonii*. I've even caught them trying to rearrange the shells to their liking. I'm currently raising fry from this group, and plan to watch their behaviors closely. After all I went through to find the true "Malawi Shell Dweller" they're not going anywhere soon.



MEET THE AQUARIST - COTY MAJOR

Hello, My name is Coty Major and I am so glad to be in GVAC. I actually was not a fish person, but my grandpa (*Eric Maxson, GVAC Member*) actually was the one that got me into fish. One day he told me he bought me my first pair of fish and I asked him what kind of fish was it. He said guppies and I was so excited and when we got to his house, he has a lot of fish tanks and he set up a tank for my fish. We finally got them into the tank and a few months later I had over 500 white pastel guppies. I actually turned in fry for BAP of *Peocillia Reticulata* (White pastel guppies), *PeiciliaWingei* (Blond sword endlers) and *Asolene Spixi* (Spixi snails). In November I am planning on turning fry in for BAP of Bristlenose Plecos. My goal is to win the Young Aquarist of the Year award for 2 years in a row.

I am going to give you some information on the fish I BAP:

- White pastel guppies -The guppies, also known as Million fish or rainbow fish, is on the most widely distributed tropical fish and on the most popular freshwater aquarium fish species it is a member of the family Poeciliidae.
- Blonde sword endlers - *Peolilia wingei*, known to aquarist as endlers or endlers livbearers, in the genus. Peninsula in Venezuela they are proafisiant breeders and often hybridize with guppies.
- Spixis snails - *Asolene* is a genus of freshwater snails with an operculum, aquatic gastropod mollusks in the family Ampullariidae, the apple snails. The distribution of the genus *Asolene* includes South America.

2017 BAP JANUARY - SEPTEMBER

John Yost – 27

Lamprologus speciosus
Paralabidochromis sauvagei
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Pseudotropheus saulosi
Sciaenochromis fryeri
Yssichromis sp. "blue tipped"
Aulonocara stuartgranti
Haplochromis sp. "Hippo Point Salmon"
Pundamilia nyererei
Xiphophorus hellerii
Poecilia wingei
Poecilia wingei Campoma
Xiphophorus kallmani loc: Catemald, Mexico
Planorbis rubrum
Ancistrus sp.
Asolene spixi
Julidochromis marlieri
Melanoides tuberculata
Neocardina heteropoda
Poecilia reticulata
Skiffia multipunctata
Tramitichromis intermedius
Neolamprologus olivaceous Trembwe
Astotalapia calliptera Chizumulu
Mbipia lutea "Makobe Island"
Astatotilapia brownae
Gymnogeophagus sp. Blue Neon

Justin Sarns – 8

Astatilapia burtoni
Aulonocara baenschi
Copadichromis borleyi
Aulonocara sp. Usisya Type Tanzania
Haplochromis sp. K.K. Beach
Astatotilapia sp. Callipitera Blue
Placidochromis phenochilus 'Gissei'
Pseudotropheus gallanes

Chris Carpenter – 6

Yssichromis sp. "blue tipped"
Pseudotropheus interruptus
Pseudotropheus livingstonii "likoma island"
Poecilia wingei "Campoma"
Nematobrycon palmeri (amphiloxus)
Lepidolamprologus boulengeri

Rachel Roth – 4

Sciaenochromis fryeri
Pseudotropheus interruptus
Pundamilia nyererei
Yssichromis sp. "blue tipped"

Joe Spaniolo – 3

Asolene spixi
Barbus fasciolatus
Neolamprologus brichardi

Kevin Hightower – 2

Limia vittata
Procambarus sp. Marmokrebs

Coty Major – 2

Peicilia wingei
Asolene spixi

Mike Monje – 2

Puntius titteya
Xiphophorus kallmanni

RJ Morris – 2

Pocelia reticulata
Xiphorporus heleri

Cyndi Westra – 2

Julidochromis marlieri
Canio roseus

Joe Gardner – 1

Goodea gracilis

Paul Johnson – 1

Neocardinia davidi var. cherry

Eric Maxson – 1

Australoheros sp. Red Ceibal

Patrick Miller – 1

Corydoras schwartzi black

Darrell Ullish – 1

Chromidotilapia kingsleyae

Ken Zeedyk – 1

Sewellia sp SEW03

2017 BAP BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Participants: 16

Total Points Earned: 64

STEATOCRANUS TINANTI, THE SLENDER LION HEAD CICHLID

By Scott Tetzlaff

Steatocranus tinanti, the slender lion head cichlid, is a rheophilic West African cichlid found in the lower stretches of the Congo River. Rheophilic means it lives in fast flowing waters. *Steatocranus tinanti* is translated from Greek as Fat=steato, Skull=Cranus, Stretch=fin, Forelock=antina. This refers to the large heads of the fish and it's elongated look. It was first described by Poll in 1936.

Steatocranus is a small genus endemic to West Africa. All but one member, *steatocranus irvinei* from Ghana, are found in the Congo River. There are 9 described members: *Steatocranus bleheri*, *Steatocranus casuarius*, *Steatocranus gibbiceps*, *Steatocranus irvinei*, *Steatocranus mpozoensis*, *Steatocranus rouxi*, *Steatocranus tinanti* and *Steatocranus ubanguiensis*. There are at least seven more are undescribed species. All have reduced swim bladders. Coming from fast river currents rather than swim, they hop around the aquarium bottom.

Steatocranus tinnati are easy fish to keep. They tolerate a wide range of hardness and pH. Males attain a length of 6 inches and females four and a half inches. They become sexually mature at around three inches. Males are larger and have longer fins. These fish are quite peaceful. The only time aggression occurs is during spawning and the defense of their spawning territory. They are omnivorous and eat any type of food placed in their tank.

I have made three attempts at spawning these cichlids. The first two times I purchased some from a local fish store. I am now convinced they were all males. The third time was the charm. I found them on a list of an importer. I sent in an inquiry and an order for them and some other species. A reply came back that he only had a few and they were probably males. So I dropped them off the order. To

make a long story short, there was a delay on the order and when everything was ready to ship on my order a new batch of *Steatocranus tinanti* had arrived. I added six were added to my order. They were young but I believed I had two pair and two others that were undeterminable.

The female takes care of the eggs and fry. The male defends the territory. Both parents take part in the raising of fry. *Steatocranus* is a cave spawner. I've read a pair should be fine in a ten gallon tank. However, I placed my new purchases in a 20 long with a sponge filter and a pile of rocks around in small flower pot. Just because it seemed appropriate to match the shape of the fish and the shape of the tank. As they grew I could see a definite male taking up residence in a rock cave near the flower pot. Eventually, I found the larger male and a smaller female sitting next to each other in the cave mouth. A couple of weeks later the female disappeared to the flower pot. The extras had been exiled to the other end of the aquarium. None of them seemed any worse for wear so they were left in the tank. After about a week of this arrangement I became impatient. I stuck a siphon (airline tubing) into the flower pot. Out came 20 fry.

These fry are very fast growing. I mean very fast growing. I placed them in a five gallon tank. They were fed decapsulated brine shrimp eggs and crushed flake food. As they grew I added some HBH fry crumbles. There was never any leftovers.

The problem with raising *steatocranus tinenti* is obtaining them. They can be found, but not on a regular basis. Also it can be difficult to find a compatible pair. They form a strong pair bond. So it is probably best to try to find younger specimens prior to the age of pairing up.

If you do chance into some I recommend taking them home. Their unique behavior, lack of a swim bladder and almost human like faces, make them a very entertaining aquarium fish. With over three hundred tanks they still grabbed my attention everyday.



*Photos by Shealyn Sarns
Fish from Summer Collecting Trip*

Eric Maxson – 40

Rotala sp. "mini Butterfly" (V)
Limnobium laevigatum (V)
Lemma minor (V)
Echinodorus barthii var 'Red Melon' (V)
Abubias barteri nana 'petite' (V)
Abubias barteri nana (V)
Pogostemon sp. 'Kimberley' (V)
Nymphoides sp. 'Taiwan' (V)
Limnophila sp 'Mini Vietnam' (V)
Vallisneria spiralis (V)
Ceratophyllum demersum (V)
Microsorium pteropus 'Windelov' (V)
Limnophila belem (V)
Sagittaria subulata (V)
Cryptocoryne wendtii sp. 'Bronze' (V)
Salvinia minunas (V)
Limnophila sp. 'Green' (V)
Cryptocoryne wendtii sp. 'Red' (V)
Hygrophila sp. 'Tiger' (V)
Ammania gracilis (V)
Myriophyllum pimamahum (V)
Ludwigia ovalis (V)
Marsilea quadrifolia (V)
Ludwigia reopens (V)
Parviflorus v. Tropical (V)
Echinodorus amazonicus (V)
Rotala rotundifolia (V)
Hemianthus micranthemoides (V)
Eleocharis Montevidensis (V)
Myriophyllum spicatum (V)
Vallisneria gigantea (V)
Alternanthera reinechii carinalis (V)
Ruellia Brittoniana chi-chi (F)
Dracena Sanderianc (V)
Crypt Pontederiisolia (V)
Ludwigia dark red (V)
Anubias Nangi (F)
Ozelot sword (V)
Echinodorus Kleiner Prinz (V)
Kleiner Bar Sword (V)

Brian Miller – 12

Ceratophyllum demersum (V)
Lemnideae (V)
Echinodacus parui florus (V)
Myrio filigrec (V)

Fontinalis antipyretica (V)
Echinodacus amazonicus (V)
Hygrophila sp tiger (V)
Nymphaea zenkeri (V)
Crypt wendtii bronze (V)
Crypt wendtii red (V)
Lagenandra meeboldi (V)

Peter Goetner – 4

Bulbitis heteroclita (V)
Hydrocolyte tripartita sp. 'Japan' (V)
Piptospatha ridleyi (V)
Valisneria spiralis (V)

William Shobway – 3

Riccia fluitans (V)
Valisneria americana (V)
Naja guadalupensis (V)

Steve Hosteter – 1

Micranthemum umbrosum (V)

Justin Sarns – 1

Phyllanthus fluitans (V)



Photo by Shealyn Sarns
 Guest Speaker visits Water Colors with Justin and Mike



DIY AQUARIUM LIDS

By John Yost (Photo by the Author)

In trying to complete my fish room I determined I needed 12 lids for 10-gallon tanks and two lids for a 55-gallon tank. After calling around to local fish stores, I was told each 10-gallon glass lid was \$11.99 and each of the two lids for the 55-gallon was \$15.99. This totaled \$175.86 before tax for just lids!

With a little research and help from a friend, we found a video from Cory McElory (from Aquarium Co-Op) demonstrating how to make DIY aquarium lids. With this research from Cory's video and some shopping around for materials I was able to complete all the lids I needed for \$58.95. For my DIY lids I used a 4' x 8' Polycarbonate Clear Twinwall Panel (6mm) from Menards for \$42.99, a fine tooth saw blade for \$9.99, and three bags of 3/4" wooden drawer pulls from a local craft store for \$1.99 each.

After an hour of measuring and cutting the Polycarbonate to size and gluing on handles I had 16 lids for 10-gallon tanks and four lids for two 55-gallon tanks. This is more than I needed so I was able to help out a couple fish friends and have spares all for a third of the cost for new glass lids.

Of course glass lids are probably better, but being able to have lids for tanks for a third of the cost allows more funds for the fish.



*Photo by John Yost
Titan*



*Photo by Shealyn Sarns
Humphrey*



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

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.***

GVAC APPAREL!

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

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