



# Tank Topics

The Official Publication of  
The Greater Akron Aquarium Society



**December 2007/  
January 2008**

**In this issue:**

- *Back to Calnali*
- *Black Angelfish*
- *Pittsburgh Zoo Trip*



# THE GREATER AKRON AQUARIUM SOCIETY

**WHO ARE WE?** We are a local group of aquatic enthusiasts. Formed in 1952, the Greater Akron Aquarium Society is a non-profit, non-commercial organization. Our membership ranges from the beginning hobbyist to the advanced aquarist with many years of experience. The goals of our club are to promote the care, study, breeding and exhibition of aquarium related aquatic life and to promote interest in the aquarium hobby.

**MEETINGS:** Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m. at the Mogadore Community/Senior Center, 3857 Mogadore Road, Mogadore, Ohio. It is located East of Route 532 across from McDonald's in the former post office building (see map on inside back cover) Visitors are always welcome, it costs absolutely nothing to attend a meeting and look us over.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The cost is only \$750 for adults, \$10 for a couple or a family (includes children under 10 years of age) and \$5.00 for a junior membership (10 to 17 years) Membership provides an opportunity to socialize with other that share your interests, a subscription to our bi-monthly magazine, library usage and more.

**AGENDA:** Our meeting agenda is simple and informal. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. with a short business meeting. Immediately following is the program for the evening which usually lasts about 45 minutes. Our programs consist of a speaker, slide program, movie or perhaps a panel discussion always on a particular subject related to the hobby or various species of fish. Following the program is a short refreshment break. After which the winners of the Bowl Show are announced, the Breeder's Award Program fish are auctioned and tickets are drawn for the equipment and book raffles.

**THE BOWL SHOW:** Each month members can bring in fish for specific classes to compete for first, second and third place awards. The charge for each entry is only \$.25. Members also compete for annual awards by accumulating wins throughout the year.

**BREEDER'S AWARD and HORTICULTURE AWARD PROGRAMS:** members can receive recognition for spawning species of fish or propagating aquatic plants. All that is required is to turn in a minimum of six fry from the spawn that are between 30 and 90 days old. Members earn certificates for each species and can work towards plaques in different categories.

**LIBRARY:** At the library table are a number of books and other publications covering all areas of the aquarium hobby. Members may borrow the books for a month at a time. Also each month several books are raffled off.

**EQUIPMENT RAFFLE:** The raffle table has such items as tanks, fish food and aquarium accessories that are donated by national manufacturers, area dealers or purchased by the Society. Tickets may be purchased by anyone attending the meeting. Save your losing tickets for the Christmas Party raffle.

**ANNUAL SHOW:** The Ultra-Aqua show is held the first weekend of August at the Tallmadge community Center. This has become one of the largest all-species tropical fish shows in North America. It is an international gathering of hobbyists to display their fish in class competition, talk fish and to learn about the hobby from each other.

**TANK TOPICS:** is published on a bi-monthly basis for the members of the Greater Akron Aquarium Society. Articles and comments for this publication are welcome and encouraged. Such articles are to be submitted no later than the board meeting prior to publication. All articles may be reprinted as long as the author(s) and GAAS are given proper credit and two copies of the publication containing the reprint are sent to GAAS. Please send any correspondence regarding this publication to:

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Editor	Dave Williamson
Exchange Editor	Wayne Toven
Artists	Pat Maloney, Becky Sosenko, Steve Tyleshevski, Dan Frase

**This issue's cover:** A male Kribensis taken by Dave Williamson at the Pittsburgh Zoo's PPG Aquarium. For more pictures from our annual Fall trip see page 22 plus a couple of other random fish pictures throughout this issue.

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Check out our web site at: [www.gaas-fish.net](http://www.gaas-fish.net)

# President's Message

Bud White



Wow what an auction we had, 1000 items, 70 sellers and 275 buyers and there was a whole lot of good stuff. We thank Bob Rydel for all of the nice new equipment, he brought in, it was really a full house this time. If you were not there, then you really missed out on a real good chance to get something nice or different. We even had saltwater fish and live rock, some nice goldfish, and many other rare or different fish. I even took some home.

I want to thank our auctioneers for their efforts, Bruce, Carl and of course Joanne. They had to move a lot of items and they did it well.

Well the elections went very smooth, thanks to our seasoned VP, Jeff Plazak, most of the offices are filled and we are working on those that are not. So if you are looking to be on the board, talk to Jeff or myself, we would be happy to help.

I want to also thank Dave Williamson for holding the meeting once again, due to the fact the meeting hall did not have a roof on it, it was not available to us. It is supposed to be ready for us to use for the Christmas party. Speaking of that party, we're planning all the usual fun with the pot-luck dinner, gift exchange and raffle. I also hear there is a good chance that Santa will be bringing in some fish for us too!

The winner of the angel fish growth contest was Amy & Ron Mullens, their fish was about 1/4 inch bigger than mine (I think they cheated, they probably fed the fish and did water changes), anyway congratulations to them.

See you at the meeting, Bud.



*Monday-Friday 11-8,  
Saturday 10-7, Sunday Noon-5*

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# Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

Well here we go again, another year as the editor. I'll take it as a compliment that nobody ran against me (again!). There are a couple of exciting things on the horizon this year though. The main thing I'd like to mention is that starting with the next issue (February/March 2008) we are going to offer you to receive Tank Topics via email as a PDF. The important thing to remember is that it is strictly your choice how you would like to receive it. If you still want a paper hard copy mailed to you, you don't have to do anything. If you would like to receive the PDF version, please send an email stating that to our membership chairman Bob Miller at:

[bob@gaas-fish.net](mailto:bob@gaas-fish.net) that way there won't be any confusion he can just copy and paste the address you sent it from into the list. There are a couple of reasons we're offering this change. The first and probably most important is that due to the constantly rising postage costs, not having to mail all 150 plus copies out would save us quite a bit of money. The second reason is that by sending it out via email there is no photocopying involved so we can leave the photographs in their original color form rather than having to change them to black and white so they can be copied at a reasonable cost. And last but not least, some people have actually been asking us to do it that way for a while now. I just had to work out a few bugs (plus get a little advice/help from Ron Mullens) to make it come out right. Again, just remember that this change is strictly your choice, we won't try to force anyone to get it sent either way.

One other thing I have to mention is to not forget to try to make it to the December Meeting, our annual Christmas Party! The hall is finally finished (yeah - no more meetings in my basement!!!!) There are no formal programs at this meeting, just come and enjoy yourself. All the regular traditions are in place such as the pot-luck dinner, the giant loser's raffle, fishy gift exchange and the fish/plant give-away. Check out the Meeting Notice on page 10 for the full story.

I'll see you at the Christmas Party!

# Bowl Show & Special Activities



Dan Frase

It was a close contest this year, but Wayne Toven won again. Dave Williamson nearly caught up (if he had filled five more bowls at the last meeting, he would have won). Jeff Palzak came in third place. Be sure to bring yourselves and an appetite to the December meeting - there's no Bowl Show. See you all again in January - same schedule as last year.

As far as Special Activities go, we had a great Fall auction thanks to all who brought stuff to sell, bought stuff or helped out. It was a long one, but there was plenty of everything there for everyone.

Next year in Special Activity-land, we'll have our Spring auction, Spring collecting trip, Show auction, Fall zoo trip, and Fall auction. The zoo trip will be Toledo Zoo, unless there's sufficient interest in a trip to the Newport Aquarium across the river from Cincinnati. It's not a public aquarium (not very educational), but it's nice anyway. Please let me know if you have a preference.

## **October Bowl Show:**

### Arts & Crafts

1st - Nicole Schmid  
2nd - Nicole Schmid

Whale Shark Painting  
World of Silence - Clay Project

### AO Old World Cichlids

1st - Dave Williamson  
2nd - Wayne Toven  
3rd - Wayne Toven

*Tilapia sp.* Mamfe  
*Staetocranus cassarius*  
*Staetocranus tintani*

## **November Bowl Show:**

### AO Livebearers

1st - Dave Williamson  
2nd - Dave Williamson  
3rd - Dave Williamson

*Brachyraphis roseni*  
*Poeciliopsis scarlii*  
Orange Fin Halfbeak

**Totals for the Year:**

<u>Entrant</u>	<u>Total</u>
Wayne Toven	127
Dave Williamson	110
Jeff Plazak	25
Nicole Schmid	10
Heather Stansfield	8
Bob Miller	6
Dan McMonigle	2
Frank Mueller	1



## **How the Point System works:**

1st - 4 points

2nd - 2 points

3rd - 1 point

1 point per entry, maximum 10 points per class

## **2008 Bowl Show Schedule**

**January:**

Goldfish, Male Guppies, Minnows Danios & Rasboras

**February:**

Suckermouth Catfish, Swordtails, Characins

**March:**

Barbs, Mollies, Corydoras Aspidoras & Brochis

**April:**

Female Guppies, Platies, Aquatic Invertebrates

**May:**

Goodeids, Rift Lake Cichlids, Aquatic Plants

**June:**

Native Fish, Rainbowfish, Male Bettas

**July:**

Synodontis Catfish, Angelfish & Discus, Killifish

**August:**

All Other New World Cichlids, Amphibians, Bog Plants

**September:**

Photography, Gouramis & Anabantoids, Sharks & Loaches

**October:**

Arts & Crafts, Marine Fish, All Other Old World Cichlids

**November:**

All Other Livebearers, All Other Egglayers, All Other Catfish

# BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven



The year is over! The **BAP/HAP** year that is. Starting in December the slate is wiped clean, we are all tied at zero. But before that the i's are all dotted and the t's are all crossed and the totals are in. For 2007 our **Breeder of the Year** is **Dave Williamson** and the **Horticulturist of the Year** is **Dan McMonigle**. The awards will be presented at the December meeting. By then it might look like the season it is supposed to be.

Everybody listen up, like I have already said we are starting fresh, so let's see if we can do better in 2008 than we did this year. We only had a total of ten members participate this year, that is four less than last year. Get the fish in condition, feed them well, do your water changes, and make sure you have at least one or more of each sex. I bought a young "pair" of livebearers earlier this year, but upon closer examination just recently discovered that they are a pair of males. Guess that explains why they have not spawned yet. That is why it is best to get at least six young fish of a species if possible, to obtain a pair or more for spawning purposes.

We had our elections in November and I am once again the **BAP/HAP** chairman. If anyone is in need of a copy of the rules and forms for either BAP or HAP let me know and I will get them to you via email or hard copy.

## October 2007

<u>Species</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Points</u>
<b>BAP</b>			
<b>Dave Williamson</b>			
<i>Limia</i> sp. "Tiger"	Tiger Limia	Livebearer	5
<i>Gephyrochromis moori</i>		Cichlid m.b.	10
<i>Characodon</i> sp. Amado nervo		Livebearer	10

## **HAP**

<b>Dan McMonigle</b>			
<i>Marsilea minuta</i>	One leaf clover	C	15
<i>Cyperus helferi</i>		G	10
<i>Wolffiella gladiata</i>		A	5
<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>		G	10
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	Hairgrass	B	10



<i>Eriocaulon setaceum</i>	Pipewort	G	10
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**Rich Serva**

<i>Rotala rotundifolia</i>		B	10
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<i>Rotala indica</i>		B	10
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**November 2007**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Points</b>
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**BAP**

**Joanne Toven**

<i>Xiphophorus birchmani</i>	Sheep-head Swordtail	Livebearer	5
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**Wayne Toven**

<i>Archocentrus septemfasciatum</i>	Cutteri Cichlid	Cichlid s.s.	5
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**Dave Williamson**

<i>Aplocheilichthys normani</i>	Norman's lampeye killie	Killifish	10
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<b>2007 Spawn &amp; Point Totals</b>	<b>BAP</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>HAP</b>	<b>Points</b>
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Dave Williamson	18	155	2	30
Wayne Toven	11	105		
Bud & Cathy White	3	25		
Christina Biederman	2	20		
Malachi Brasch	2	25		
Rich Serva	2	15	2	20
Frank Mueller	1	15		
Jeff Plazak	1	20		
Joanne Toven	1	5		
Dan McMonigle			55	600



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# Meeting Notice

**Thursday, December 6, 2007**

**Program:** Christmas Party!!! Come and enjoy an evening of fun, food and fish! The club provides the main dish (ham) and liquid refreshments, and everyone is asked to bring a side dish or desert item pot-luck style. Then there is the annual “losers” raffle. Bring all of your non-winning raffle tickets from this year and trade them in 10 for 1 for our huge Christmas Raffle. No tickets are sold this month. All of our year-end awards will be presented and a “fishy” themed gift exchange. Bring in a wrapped item that you think another “fish geek” would like and take home a different one. Try to keep it in the \$10-\$15 price range. This is always a fun time. And last but definitely not least, I hear there just might be a shipment of fish fresh in from the North Pole available for our members that night!

**Bowl Show:** None, just come and enjoy the party. The Bowl Show Championship will resume beginning in January.



**Thursday, January 3, 2008**

**Program:** our own Christina Biederman on her method of spawning and raising *Synodontis petricola*.

**Bowl Show:** Goldfish,  
Male Guppies,  
Minnows Danios & Rasboras

# Coming Events



## The Greater Akron Aquarium Society Spring Auction

70/30 Split (70% proceeds to seller)

**When:**

Sunday, March 2nd  
Registration begins 11:00 a.m.  
Auction begins at 12:00 noon

**Where:**

Tallmadge Community Center  
80 Community Road,  
Tallmadge, Ohio  
Phone (330) 633-4523  
(day of auction only)

**For More Information:**

Bud White (330) 848-3856  
[bwhite@neo.rr.com](mailto:bwhite@neo.rr.com),  
Wayne Toven (330) 296-6322  
[wtoven@hotmail.com](mailto:wtoven@hotmail.com) or  
Rich Serva (330) 650-4613  
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more!*



# Exchange Report



Wayne Toven

I am doing the reviews for another year unless I loose the ability to read. So if you are interested in reading an article I have mentioned, let me know and I will bring you a copy to the monthly meeting or email it to you. I review original articles by club members from the many publications we receive through our exchange program.

There were a couple of reprints in other publications, first is in the **Bulletin of the American Livebearer Association** - July/August 07 #196 was *Skiffia multipunctata* by **Wayne Toven**, and in the **Calgary Aquarium Society's** - The Calquarium : April 07 was *Through the Leleupi Loophole*, by **Wayne Toven**. See, when you write articles other people do read them, and if I can write an article so can you.

On to the reviews, there are fewer and fewer original articles being published, lots of reprints of old articles.

**Eastern Iowa Aquarium Association**, Fin Flap : Nov 07  
*Propagating Echinodorus quadricostatus "tenelus"*, by **Kelly Foreman**

**Motor City Aquarium Society**, Tropiquarium: Oct 07  
*Discus Discussion Part 2*, by **Ron Albers**

**Pacific Coast Cichlid Association**, Cichlidae Communique: Sep/Oct 07  
*Spawning the Quetzal; Vieja synspilum*, by **Daniel Spielman**

**Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc.**, Finformation: Sep 07  
*Aspidoras dipinnal*, by Eric Bodrock  
*Characodon audax "the Black Prince Goodeid"*, by **Regina Spotti**

**Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc.**, Finformation : Oct 07  
*Pseudomugil ivanstoiffi*, by **Regina Spotti**

**Michiana Aquarium Society**, Michiana Tropical Times: Sep 07  
*Pelmatochromis nigrofasciatus*, by **John Belke**

**Sarnia Aquarium Society**, Aqua Antics: Oct 07  
*The Black Neon Tetra Hypphessobrycon herbertaxelrodi*, by **Bruce Hart**

**Durham Region Aquarium Society**, Tank Talk: Oct 07  
*Eyeball on Oddballs: the Fiery Fire Eel*, by **Derek P.S. Tustin**

**Raleigh Aquarium Society**: Oct 07  
*Pelvicachromis .. Not Just the Kribensis*, by **Genn Brewer**

**Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society**, Fins & Tales: Nov 07  
*Tanganyika's Deep Dark Giants*, by **Phil Maznyk**  
*Green Thumbs – Linnophila sessiliflora*, by **John Skerrett**  
*Apistogramma sp. Agassizii*, by **Stephen Crawford**



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# *Black Angels*

Bob Miller

I bought a bag of six, nickel-sized black-lace angelfish about a year ago at a local fish auction. They were nice looking, but nothing special. I had been wanting some for some time and the price was right, so.....



I put them in a 55 gallon tank with 12 Koi angels, slightly larger, sponge filter, pH 7.8 and temperature about 76F. I've raised a lot of angels in my 45 years of fish-keeping and they are not fussy about water conditions in general. Just keep it clean and do regular water changes and they should be happy. They were fed frozen Brine Shrimp, quality flake food containing both animal and vegetable matter and the occasional bit of live food (earthworms and white worms mostly).

Over the following months the Koi angels reached fifty-cent body size and began to pair off. I removed 3 pairs and gave the other six fish away. At this time the Black angels were growing steadily, but more slowly than the Koi's and were showing no signs of pairing.

Finally I noticed 2 of the angels were staying together and seemed to always be around the power filter tube. The other four were grouped together on the other side of the tank.

I carefully watched the pair for the next few days and noticed as they would move up and down the filter tube picking at the surface and apparently cleaning it of foreign material. As they diligently worked on the tube they would occasionally take a break to chase any of the other fish that wandered too close. They would also use these times for strengthening their pair-bond by doing the fin flaring, shimmy and shake cichlid dance.

The next day I went downstairs for the morning feed before work and noticed the young pair slowly and carefully laying eggs and fertilizing them on the filter tube they had so carefully cleaned the day before. I returned later that day and observed they had completed the spawning and now were actively guarding the clutch of about 140-150 clear eggs.

About 4 days after the eggs were laid they began to hatch. They hung from the filter tube by a tiny thread attached to their head. The parents kept moving the fry over the next couple of days and the fry went from the "hopping" stage to free-swimming. At this time I began feeding baby Brine Shrimp, both live and de-encapsulated, supplemented with Egg Yolk enriched flake food.

At about four weeks the fry began getting a more adult diet ...Beef Heart, finely chopped earthworms, chopped white worms as they began growing into that familiar angel shape.

When they reached dime-size at about 9-10 weeks it was quite a sight to see 100+ small angels swimming all around the tank with the parents watching. It was also time to move them to a larger grow-out tank for the next couple of months.

The preceding events are actually a compilation of about 10 spawns before this pair got it right. They would spawn and eat the eggs, spawn and watch the eggs start wiggling and eat the fry, spawn and watch the eggs hatch and eat the eggs until, at last they got it right and managed to raise a clutch of eggs to free-swimming.

This particular pair is also the most aggressive angels I have ever owned. They are now about silver dollar sized and when have eggs or fry they will try their best to get through the glass to your face. When they are fed their heads and backs will come out of the water to literally take the food right out your fingers.

All in all a nice, young, good-looking pair of black angels that spawn about every 10-12 days. If you get the chance, try some, you may find you like them.



# *Back to Calnali*

*or*

*My trip to Centro  
de Investigación  
Científica de las  
Huastecas  
"Aguazarca" Cal-  
nali, Hidalgo,  
México  
(CICHAZ)*



Rich Serva

In 1997 I took a trip to Mexico with Derek Lambert to collect live-bearers, especially swordtails. Anyway, back then I told anyone who listened to my stories that I would go back to Mexico in a heartbeat. Well, many heartbeats later I got my opportunity.

I have known Gil Rosenthal for a number of years now having interacted with him back when he was a recipient of the Vern Parish Fund grant and then a speaker at the 1999 American Livebearer Association Convention and more recently at the 2006 Convention. Through the years I have supplied Gil with a little “hobby experience / swordtail maintenance information” for lots of cool research articles on swords. During one of those email exchanges, the return to Calnali was incubated. If you want to find out more information on CICHAZ, which is part of the Rosenthal Lab at Texas A&M University, go to <http://www.bio.tamu.edu/users/rosenthal/>.

Some of the ongoing special projects supported through CICHAZ are “mate choice and evolutionary genetics in hybrid zones” (mainly *Xiphophorus malinche* and *Xiphophorus birchmanni* hybrid zones), “evolutionary ecology of mate choice in swordtails (genus *Xiphophorus*)”, and “ecological effects of an introduced cichlid, *Archocentrus nigrofasciatus*, on





native Mexican cichlid communities”.

Anyway, that is probably enough background so we will move on. My trip to Mexico was pretty uneventful. No point in talking about delaying the trip due to passport problems or missed flights due to being practically being stripped searched at the airport. I did make my flight from Atlanta to Mexico City and the signs within the terminal directing me to buses. I caught a 1<sup>st</sup> class bus to Pachuca where I caught a local bus to where you turn off the 105 Highway to head to Calnali. Although I was worried that I would miss my stop, it was quite easy to get that far. Now I was only 24 km from my destination. I got into a taxi at the bus stop and off we went to Aguazarca, a neighborhood outside of the town of Calnali. We arrived in the neighborhood as a thunderstorm was ending. They left me at a local taco stand where no one spoke English. Before long the owner's nephew who was well schooled in hip hop English showed up and directed me to CICHAZ. I was only 4 houses away. I knocked at the door and the grad students let me into the candle lit building. Unfortunately, the power was knocked out by the storm. Gil showed up a little later and I sat in on a briefing of the next day's events while eating a bowl of tasty soup.



This is the point where I should probably introduce the cast of characters at CICHAZ besides Gil. Rhonda (his wife) and Carmen (their daughter) were also part of CICHAZ making it an extended home, not just a field station. Chi-Cheng Wat and Zach Culumber were two grad students working on projects. Zach Cress was a grad student as well as being the laboratory's technician. I would like to thank Gil & Rhonda for allowing me to be part of the CICHAZ experience and thank everyone for making me feel welcome during my stay.

Although I could write a narrative of the day by day activities, I am choosing to write what could happen in a typical day. The one thing that never changed was the early morning activities. People wandered down

for breakfast between 6 to 8:30 AM. Not that there was a 2 hour gap in wake up times but rather if the day's activities called for getting up at 6 AM that is what happened. If the night before was a late one and there was no pressing need to get up then people got a little extra rest.

Breakfast was cereal, oatmeal or leftovers; whatever you decided to fix. Afterwards the students handle the tank maintenance, water changes and setting up new tanks for fish to be collected that day. During this portion of the day I scooped out fish and took photographs of them in the outside tanks set up for chemical cue testing. Although there was plenty of room inside for setting up a photography tank, the use of natural light and no need for a flash made outside the better spot for photos.

From here the rest of the day was governed by how many collection spots were we attempting for the day and how far we needed to travel? You could be pretty much assured that one or two collecting spots were on the agenda of any one day. A full day of collecting would mean three or four locations. Most locations called for around an hour or more of collecting time with the associated travel time between the spots.

Collecting followed the same fire drill; load the truck with coolers, load the traps & bait buckets (if they are not already in the truck), load the trap bait (sounds



better than bring the bag of dog food), bring maps, bring cameras & video gear, and bring any personal stuff you want to take (cameras, swim trunks, drinking water, etc). At that point it was time for us to load ourselves in the truck and be on our way. Unfortunately for us traveling was not fast going. Although most of the roads were fairly smooth, most travel was up and down winding every which way. A short trip as the crow flies usually turned into a half hour to an hour drive. It was OK. There were lots of beautiful scenery and the slug-bug or donkey game to keep everyone busy. Slug-bug is pretty self explanatory. The donkey game awarded points to the first person to spot donkey or mules and subtracted points for calling donkey when in fact it was a horse or cow. The main purpose of the games seemed to keep everyone awake so they could help keep the driver awake; the days were sometime long and an alert driver on a twisty road was a good thing.

Once we landed at a potential site then everyone had their jobs. Gil went

down to the water and started scouting out swordtails and potential sites to place the traps. Chi-Cheng got out the video equipment and snorkel & mask to find adult swords. She and Gil picked out the site then she set up the camera. The Zachs set up traps with bait and began placing the traps in the water. I helped then started taking photos. If the water was too shallow to effectively video tape, then Chi-Cheng helped set up traps.

Once the traps were set then came some free time for photography or floating in pools of cool mountain water or sitting in the shade. The traps were periodically checked then re-set or moved to different locations. The guys would scout out up and down streams for pools to reposition traps. There really was not a lot of time for dawdling. Usually there was a set number of fish to be collected at the site before it was time to move on to the next site or time to head back to the field station. Whether the fish were for DNA investigations or behavioral work or ultimate transport back to the University would make a difference in whether only adults were needed or a mix of adults and juveniles would work. Once fish were used in the behavioral work, they needed to be taken back to their collection sites and released.



During my stay at CICHAZ a variety of studies were in progress. Predator / prey studies were taking place that look at the response of populations to potential kingfisher predation. The other study was looking at the thermal tolerances of hybrid populations and comparing that information with tolerance testing of pure populations of *Xiphophorus malinche* and *Xiphophorus birchmanni*. Another study in preparation while I was there was looking at the effects of chemical cues on the behaviors of the fish. All interesting studies that will help further define these Panuco swordtails.

Although the thermal tolerance studies kept us busy most nights, we also made adjustments for special events. We needed to reschedule one evening's work around a local festival that featured "Luchadors". For those of you who never heard of the movie "Nacho Libre", think of the World Wrestling Federation with flamboyant costumes and movements. At the end of our day of collecting we stopped in for a couple of hours of enter-

tainment before heading back to the field station.

Market day was on Sunday and it came but once a week so you tweaked your schedule to fit in a trip to the market. We picked up meat and vegetables for upcoming meals and dug through second hand plumbing supplies for useful items for the fish room. Lunch was served at a side walk stand then we looked through tourist trinkets to take back home.

One afternoon we went to a festival in a nearby village, Acuapa. The neighbor couple was quite fond of this event since they met at the same festival 12 years prior. It made a nice leisurely start to the afternoon and probably bought more goodwill between CICHAZ and their most immediate neighbor than money could buy. After the festival we headed off quickly to a collection site not too far from the village.



We even managed to have a movie night one evening. Chairs, the laptop and the video projector were hauled up to the roof where a movie was projected on a large wall. Everyone sat and relaxed after a long day.

Upon occasion we had some quiet time to converse or be entertained by the neighbor kids and Carmen.

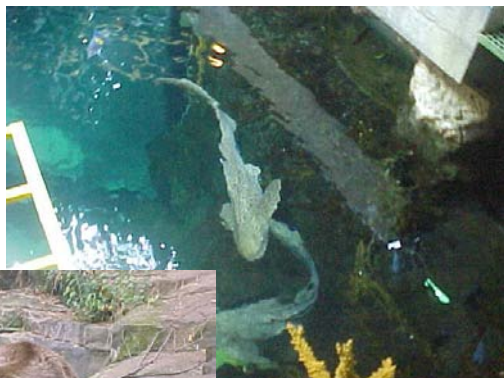
So what did I do during my summer vacation? I did a little work. I looked at lots of fish while in Mexico; no, I did not bring any fish back. I took plenty of photos to refresh my memory. For me CICHAZ was a very positive experience; we should all learn a little something every day and that I did.

One of the surprising things was watching the grad students and their professor in a 24/7 atmosphere. The days were well planned and the work was well coordinated. My guess is that has a lot to do with Gil and his approach towards teaching and life.

Note from the author: The set up and operation of CICHAZ is funded mainly through the procurement of government grants. As hobbyists we could show our support for that work. The donation of wet/dry or canister filters for 50 gallon or larger tanks and water pumps/powerheads in the 300 gph range and larger would do wonders in improving the bio-load capacity of the Calnali fish room. Items could be new or used, but in good shape.



# ***Pittsburg Zoo and PPG Aquarium Photos***



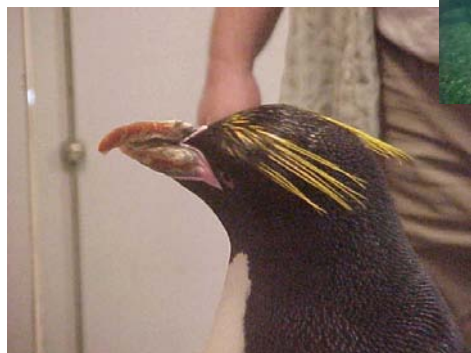
A couple of zebra sharks as seen from above the large saltwater display tank during our behind the scenes tour.



A grizzly bear. Not that it had anything to do with our tour, but he was just a big, cool critter!



The rock-hopper penguin we all got to pet. That's something I never thought I'd do in my lifetime!



Just some of the interesting fish on display both fresh and saltwater.



# Swap Meet

## Wanted:

T-shirts or patches from any or all aquarium clubs. Any size, and condition to be used in a craft project.

**Joanne Toven**  
(330) 785-4047

## Have:

### Shipping Styros

for sale.

Small (7"x10"x7"deep) and medium (9"x11"x11"deep), with covering boxes available.

\$1.00 for small

\$2.00 for medium.

E-mail me at

[LadysSolo@aol.com](mailto:LadysSolo@aol.com)

**Carolyn Hanlon**

Welcome to our Aquatic Classifieds - a place where you can list fish and aquatic items that you would like to sell or trade or are interested in buy or trading for. There are a few simple rules to prevent problems and abuses of the system:

1. You must be a members of GAAS to list either Haves or Wants.
2. No retail or commercial sales establishments will be permitted to list.
3. Only hobby related items will be listed.
4. Ads are limited to six items only and may only be run for three issues of Tank Topics. (You must give the Editor notice before the publication deadline to have an ad re-run!)

## Have:

Lyretail Platies

Plumetail Platies

Hi Fin Ruby Nose *Variatus*

Koi Swordtails-normal eyes

## Want:

*Characodon sp.*

"lateratis" - Los Berros "

*Skiffia sp.* "Black Beauty "

*Girardinichthys multiradiata*

## Rick Graham

phone (330) 494-5904

email: [platypus@neo.rr.com](mailto:platypus@neo.rr.com)

## W. E. T. FISH BAGS

	50	100
3 1/2 x 12	\$2.50	\$4.00
6x14	\$3.00	\$5.00
6x18	\$3.50	\$6.00
8x20	\$4.00	\$7.00
10x24	\$4.50	\$8.00
3 1/2- 1.5 mil	All others - 2 mil	

**Wayne Toven** (330) 296-6322

or [wtoven@hotmail.com](mailto:wtoven@hotmail.com)

## STEALTH BETTA

Home to All Species/IBC Best in Show Winners. Current spawns include Red, Brass/Copper cross plakats and imbellis. Upcomming spawn BIS winner Hanzo the Halfmoon black lace copper. All fish are from IBC show stock. I have Halfmoon, Doubletail and Plakats. I specialize in Copper, Red Opaque, Marbe and Imbellis. Please call or email for availability or if you have any questions.

[stealthjrt@hotmail.com](mailto:stealthjrt@hotmail.com)

**Coleen Timmons** (330) 328-6946

# The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

## Membership Form

☐ New      ☐ Renewal

Adult (18 years and older)	1 year \$7.50
	2 years \$12.00
Family (includes children under 10)	1 year \$10.00
	2 years 15.00
Junior (10-17 years)	1 year \$5.00
	2 years \$7.00



Dues Collected \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

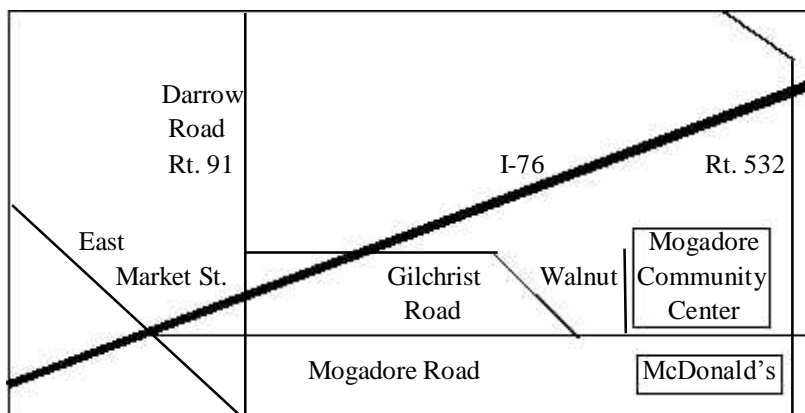
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about GAAS? \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are due one year from the date of joining. Completed membership forms can be turned in at a meeting or mailed to the membership chairman at this address:

GAAS Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 494, Akron, OH 44309-0494



The Greater Akron Aquarium Society  
P.O. Box 494  
Akron, OH 44309-0494

**Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay**