



Tank Topics

The Official Publication of
The Greater Akron Aquarium Society



April/May 2008

In this issue:

- *Archocentrus cutteri*
- *Allodontichtys hubbsi*
- *Rescheduled 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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Table of Contents

President's Message	Bud White	4
Editor's Message	Dave Williamson	5
Bowl Show/Special Activities	Dan Frase	6
BAP/HAP Report	Wayne Toven	8
Meeting Notice		10
Coming Events		11
Exchange Report	Wayne Toven	12
<i>Archocentrus cutteri</i>	Wayne Toven	14
Letter from Texas A&M		17
<i>Allodontichthys hubbsi</i>	Wayne Toven	18
Re-scheduled zoo trip		20
Swap Meet		22

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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 juvenile *Archocentrus cutteri* taken by Wayne Toven. To find out more about this interesting Central American cichlid check out Wayne's article starting on page 14.

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Check out our web site at: www.gaas-fish.net

President's Message

Bud White



I don't know about you, but this crazy weather is for the birds. I am usually very relaxed about the weather, nothing I can do to change it, but enough is enough! This is going into April and we are still hearing that it might snow. Someone needs to let mother nature know it is spring time, you know, SUN SHINE, HEAT, little green apples, things like that. Here's hoping she reads my message.

A little side note, due the snow storm medina aquarium society had to cancel their auction and has rescheduled it for **April 26th**. As far as I know it will be at the same place, hopefully minus the snow.

Our auction went very well, lots of good items, lots of people and we made rent money. I want to thank had some very good volunteers who auctioneered for us, it was a short notice. I came down with a sinus infection (not good for talking or auctioneering), and we found out that Joanne went into the hospital and things were looking slim for auctioneers. But Eric Bodrock, Eric Cappy, Chuck Bialon, Bruce Fraley, and Ken McGill stepped up and helped us out. Then what to our wondering eyes appear, Joanne comes in and says she was there to auctioneer for us. I tried to keep her away from it, but she slipped in anyway and finished the auction for us. What a great group of people, THANKS TO YOU ALL!

We are selling sponsorships for our show classes and at this point we only have 24 left. So if you want to help, sponsor one and we can get this done.

See ya, Bud



two turtles pet center
highland square
760 w.market
akron, ohio 44303

mon-fri 10-7
sat. 10-6
sun 12-5 (330) 374-6765



Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

Every year one issue of Tank Topics gives me fits trying to get it finished on time. You guessed it, this was it! I really don't have anything specific to blame it on except maybe a little procrastination on my behalf. (Who, me? Nah, you must be kidding!) But anyway, if you're reading it now and it's before the April meeting, that's a good thing. If it's late, oops, sorry!

One thing that would really help me out for some future issues would be some articles written by our members! You know who you are. Tell the rest of us about that swell thing that happened in your fish room (you know, how you were the first in the US to spawn that gazillion dollar fish) or how about this, tell us how you built your fish room (you've already heard about Rich's and my own rack designs, how about someone else?) Is there a specific type of fish or family of fish that you know more about than anyone else? Fill the rest of us in! Any subject related to our hobby can easily be transformed into an informative article for our members. I'm always being razzed about my "whining and complaining" looking for articles. This time I'm asking politely! Hey, I'm as guilty as the rest since I already owe Wayne two spawning articles to get my BAP points. (See, there is another article idea hint, hint!) If you come away from this with anything, it's just that it really is easy to write an article and let the rest of us know what you are up to with your fish. You might be surprised that what "pearls of wisdom" you take for granted just might be the missing piece of information that someone else needs to succeed with a specific project. And they'd never know that you had the answer all along if you don't write it down and let them see it!

Oh, and BTW, wasn't that Spring Auction something? Just enough items to make some good money, but not so many that we were there begging people to take the last items home. I can only hope that the Fall one goes as well. Until then, I'll see you at the meeting !

Bowl Show & Special Activities



Dan Frase

February's bowl show wasn't too bad - nine entries by four members. The March bowl show on the other hand had no entries. We need some participation by some of our newer members. Be sure to bring some bowl show entries to the next meeting - it's a great way to get an idea of how your fish would do in a show, and get tips on showing from the judges.

Our Spring auction March 2 was a big one. Lots of different things for all interests. Thanks to everyone who helped out and made it a success.

Our Spring behind-the-scenes field trip to Cleveland Zoo's Rainforest had to be cancelled due to the snow storm. Hopefully it will be rescheduled sometime this Spring. And our Spring collecting trip is coming up Sunday May 4th. We'll meet at the McDonalds across the street from the meeting location in Mogadore at 9:30 AM and head to the first location on Skelton Rd. (off Gilchrist Rd.) at 10:00.

We're still trying to determine what our Fall zoo trip will be - either the Toledo Zoo aquarium, the Newport Aquarium (across the river from Cincinnati), or the new aquarium in Atlanta, GA (we can dream, can't we?). Please use the sign-up sheet at the next meeting to let us know if you have a preference. Thanks.

February Bowl Show:

Suckermouth Catfish

1st - Wayne Toven

Snowball Pleco

Swordtails

1st - Rich Serva

Cortezi Male

2nd - Bob M.

Helleri Male

3rd - Rich Serva

Helleri Female

Characins

1st - Jeff Plazak

Alestes Tetra

2nd - Jeff Plazak

Albino Emperor Tetra

3rd - Wayne Toven

Characidium sp.

March Bowl Show

--NO ENTRIES--

Totals for the Year:

<u>Entrant</u>	<u>Total</u>
Wayne Toven	18
Jeff Plazak	16
Rich Serva	8
Bob Miller	3



How the Point System works:

1st - 4 points

2nd - 2 points

3rd - 1 point

1 point per entry, maximum 10 points per class

Remainder of 2008 Bowl Show Schedule

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



Guess the little rodent was right on about winter this year. If you haven't guessed, I'm talking about Puxsutawney Phil. That is all but over now though, the iced is almost melted off of all my ponds and tubs. Before you know it the spring flowers will be growing and blooming. Then as soon as the water warms sufficiently, the restocking of those ponds and tubs with the fish brought in last fall. Then it's down to business, *spawning*.

Speaking of business, February was still kind of slow with only 4 spawns turned in, and still no plants. With the annual spring auction March 2nd things picked up, 5 spawns were turned in at the auction then 4 more at the monthly meeting. As soon as I get my article typed up so I get credit for my spawn of *Allodonichthys hubbsi* that will make 10 spawns for March. That's a lot better people!! We also got our first HAP turned in at the March meeting, finally. Speaking of the auction, there was a lot of quality items sold, especially fish and live plants. So there should be more spawning going on, and plants growing and flowering, so the BAPs and HAPs should keep rolling in, at least I hope so. Don't forget for every tens spawns turned in by a member during the calendar year a 16 ounce can of brine shrimp eggs will be awarded. We already have a couple members with 4 spawns and three members with 3 spawns, keep up the good work!!

Thanks to Bud White for donating *way* more than enough gold barb fry to supply all the members who elected to participate in our growth contest this year. The contest will end at the November meeting where participants will bring their largest gold barb to be judged against each other. **Good Luck to all !!!**

February

<u>Species</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Points</u>
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BAP

Christina & Bud Biederman

<i>Pelvicachromis pulcher</i>	Kribensis	Cichlid s.s.	15
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Eugene Mayo

<i>Heros severus</i>	Lemon severum	Cichlid s.s.	5
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Rich Serva

<i>Poecilia sp. "Rio Jutiapa"</i>	Honduran molly	Livebearer	5
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Bud & Cathy White

<i>Neolamprologus pulcher</i>	Daffodil brichardi	Cichlid s.s.	15
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March

Species	Common name	Class	Points
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BAP**Dave Girard**

<i>Telmatochromis dhonti</i>		Cichlid s.s.	15
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Eugene Mayo

<i>Aulonocara sp.</i>	Orange peacock	Cichlid m.b.	15
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<i>Astatotilapia sp.</i>	Red tail Hap.	Cichlid m.b.	10
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Rich Serva

<i>Danio sp.</i>	Purple passion danio	Barbs, etc.	5
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Wayne Toven

<i>Xiphophorus birchmani</i>	Sheepshead swordtail	Livebearer	5
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<i>Allodonichthys hubbsi</i>	White patched darter	goodeid Livebearer	10
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Bud & Cathy White

<i>Puntius sachsii</i>	Gold barb	Barbs, etc.	10
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Dave Williamson

<i>Pseudotropheus ornatus</i>		Cichlid m.b.	15
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<i>Lamprologus leleupi</i>		Cichlid s.s.	15
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<i>Brachyrhaphis roseni</i>	Cardinal Brachy	Livebearer	5
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HAP**Dan McMonigle**

<i>Taxiphyllum alternans</i>	Taiwan moss	B - Vegetative	10
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	2008 BAP	2008 Pts.	Total Spawns	Total Pts.	2008 HAP	Total HAP	Total Pts.
Spawn & Point Totals							
Wayne Toven	2	15	99	1040		228	2305
Bud & Cathy White	2	10	204	1970			
Rich Serva	1	5	178	1265		59	630
Christina & Bud Biederman	1	15	11	145			
David Girard	1	15	7	100			
Eugene Mayo	3	30	3	30			
Dan McMonigle			36	380	1	98	995
Dave Williamson	3	35	224	1775		40	480

Meeting Notice

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Program: Jon Janda is going to present his DIY acrylic program

Bowl Show: Female Guppies, Platies, Aquatic Invertebrates



Thursday, May 1, 2008

Program: TBA

Bowl Show: Goodeids, Rift Lake Cichlids, Aquatic Plants



All general meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. at the Mogadore Community/Senior Center

Coming Events

April 5, 2008 – Great Lakes Cichlid Society - Spring Auction

Masters Church, 771 East 260th Street in Euclid. Registration starts at 9 AM, auction starts at 11. All species, plants and dry goods. Contact Dean at Merspaining@netzero.net, 330-656-0079, Marty at 330-650-0237, Bill at 216-692-9296 or Ron at 440-944-3245. web site: <http://www.greatlakescichlidsociety.net>

April 6, 2008 – Lorain County Aquarium Society - Spring Auction

Lorain County Community College, 1005 N. Abbe Rd., Elyria, Ohio
For more information: Barbara: (440) 774-4533, Ken (419) 668-7452 (fishy@neo.rr.com), Donna (440) 365-0941 or Brenda (440) 323-0733

April 18 – 20, 2008 - Missouri Aquarium Society Inc. - Show

www.missouriaquariumsociety.com

Saturday April 26th Medina County Aquarium Society Auction

Prince of Peace Church 3355 Medina Rd.(Rt.18), Medina, Ohio 44256
Contact Brian:440-237-5092 BrianShr@wideopenwest.com:
Teresa Biggs: 330-334-1447 aunttbiggs@hotmail.com
John Kaminski 330-225-0709 johnrkam@roadrunner.com
or contact MCAS (mcasfish@yahoo.com) or on the web at:<http://www.geocities.com/MCASfish/index.html>.

April 27 – Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society – Spring Auction

North Hampton VFD, 5149 North Pioneer Road, Gibsonsia, PA 15044
PA Turnpike, Exit 4, Butler Valley, Go North-Route 8, First light at East & West Hardies road turn LEFT Take the first LEFT onto North Pioneer. Firehall is on RIGHT For more information: Contacts: Don Tuttle 724-327-5163 and Bill Sensor 724-845-7171

May 3rd, 2008 Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts Spring Auction

Hamilton Township Community Building, 6400 Lockbourne Rd, Lockbourne, Ohio 43137, 614-491-3963. Featuring Fish, Plants & Dry Goods. 70/30 Split. Auction Starts At 11:00am with registration starting at 9:30am <http://www.columbusfishclub.org/>

June 29, 2008 – SCALES - Summer Auction

Perry Grange, Richville Dr. SW, Massillon, Ohio
For more information: Cal (330) 448-0084, John (330) 452-9027 (tbaad@neo.rr.com), or Don (330) 833-7194

Exchange Report

Wayne Toven



Hello club members. If you are interested in reading any of the articles I review, let me know and I will get a copy of it to you, hard copy or e-mail.

First order of business two members had their articles reprinted in another club's publication, see when you write an article other people really do read them. It also makes our editor happy when he gets articles, so get writing about a fish you spawned, about your fish room, about funny things that have happened (fish related), plants, anything to do with the hobby. Anyway **Rich Serva's** article "*How to Raise Daphnia My Way*" was reprinted in the Missouri Aquarium Society Inc.'s The Darter : Jan/ Feb 2008 issue. **Wayne Toven's** article "*Old Blue Eyes - Spawning Archocentrus spilurum*" was reprinted in Ohio Cichlid Association's Buckeye Bulletin : March 2008 issue.

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society : Jan 08

Scleromastix barbatus : a Catfish Revisited, by Charles Drew

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society, Tropic Tank Talk : Jan 08

Axolotls - a Better Perspective, by James K. Langhammer

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., Finformation : Jan 08

Synodontis schoutedeni Spawned, by Eric Bodrock

Breeding Iriatherina wernerii, by Ellen Bryant

St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, The Scat : Jan 08

Keeping & Spawning Neolamprologus similis, by Dave Unruh

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society, Swam : Jan / Feb 08

A Taste of the Tropica Sword - Echinodoras peruensis, by Heather Burke

Black Stripe Topminnows - Fundulus notatus, by Chase Klinesteker

Breeding Angelfish, by Debbie Ayers

Gambusia affinis : the Fish I Wouldn't Get Rid of, by Heather Burke

Allotoca goselinei, by Chase Klinesteker

Allodonichthys tamazulae - Goodeid or Baddeid, by Chase Klinesteker

Kitchener & Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales : Feb 08

Breeding and Raising *Synodontis petricola*, by Kevin Reimer

Alto. Calvus & Compressiceps ... There is a Difference, by Dave Henderson

Pacific Coast Cichlid Association, Cichlidae Communique : Jan / Feb 08

Archocentrus sp. "Honduran Redpoint", by Rolf Mader

Julidochromis regani, by Roger Hooks

What is Your Tanganyikan Cichlid Biggest Spawn Record, by Anthony Tu

Kitchener & Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales : Mar 08

Breeding Neolamprologus brevis, by Kevin Reimer

DIY Egg Tumbler, by Kevin Reimer

Lake Tanganyika's Unique Biotope, by Dave Henderson

Eastern Iowa Aquarium Association, Fin Flap : Mar 08

Propagating Flame Moss (Taxiphyllum sp.), by Joy Twentyman-Crock

Propagating Dwarf Riccia (Riccia sp.), by Joy Twentyman-Crock

Propagating Spiky Moss (Taxiphyllum sp.), by Joy Twentyman-Crock

St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, The Scat : Feb 08

Keeping & Spawning Cryptoheros myrnae, by Dave Unruh

Motor City Aquarium Society, Tropiquarium : Feb 08

Macropodus opercularis - "The Blue Paradise Fish", by Randy Stier

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society, Swam : Mar/Apr 08

The One - Spot Betta, Betta ocellata, by Chase Klinesteker

The Big Lipped Cichlid - Chilotilapia euchilus, by Chase Klinesteker

On Egg Eating Mouthbrooders, by Darrell Ullisch

The Celestial Pearl Danio Experience, by Heather Burke

Plant Raising Article - Echinodoras peruensis, by Pat Hartman

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Spawning Archocentrus cutteri, or Whatever

Wayne Toven



First things first, I found information in two books, Baensch's Aquarium Atlas #2, and Freshwater Fishes of Mexico. The Baensch atlas says that *A. cutteri* is a synonym for *Cichlasoma septemfasciatum* or *Cichlasoma spilurum*. It also states that *C. septemfasciatum* occurs in different race/color forms, habitats in Costa Rica are fast flowing clear rivers as well as quiet pools, with rocky areas and accumulations of leaf litter. Robert Rush Miller's book Freshwater Fishes of Mexico states that *A. cutteri* is a synonym for *A. spilurum*, in much the same habitats, but on the Atlantic slopes in Mexico just north of Belize, south through Belize and eastward into Honduras. So what are they and where do they come from? I don't know for sure, I bought them as *A. cutteri* and they came from the Greater Akron Aquarium Society's Ultra Aqua show auction in Tallmadge. *A. cutteri* is a small peaceful species, males reach an adult size of 4 3/4 inches, females 3 inches, their closest relative is *A. nigrofasciatum*, the convict cichlid.

Males have a taller body than the females with a high sloping forehead, and as is the norm for cichlids the male's pelvic, anal, and dorsal fins are longer and more pointed. Both sexes have seven vertical bars on the sides

of their bodies, that vary from pale to a very distinct dark color, and a dark blotch on the caudal peduncle. My female has a 2 1/2 inch body length, she is silvery white to pale gray. Depending on her mood and how the light hits her there is a bluish sheen on the back half of her body. On both sexes the seven dark vertical bars start on the belly go up the

side and into the dorsal fin, there is also a dark stripe from the mouth angling up to the eye. The females clear pelvic, anal, and dorsal fins have faint blue - white rays, pectoral fins are clear. The male's basic body color is pale gray, with golden yellow starting on the gill plate, around the pectoral fin, down into the belly, back to and including the base of the anal fin. The fin rays in the dorsal and anal fin are pale yellow, the dorsal fin also has a pale



red horizontal stripe in the middle of it. He also has the blue sheen on the back half of his body, and what really sets it off is the striking green color in the eye, it almost glows. The body shape and finnage are very similar to *A. spilurum*, coloration is different, and the *A. spilurum* have very blue eyes, so they might be related.

They are omnivorous, which means very easy to feed, they will eat almost anything that is offered to them, I fed flake, small floating pellets, freeze dried bloodworms and daphnia, and frozen bloodworms and brine shrimp. The pair resided in a 30 gallon long tank with a sponge filter, rocks, flower pots, a pvc tube, and floating plants, Tank mates consisted of a small *Ctenopoma acutirostre* and a small as of yet unidentified by me *Synodontis* catfish. Since the tank was not crowded 25% water changes were done about every 3 weeks, water temperature was 74 degrees F, PH was around 7.4, I haven't checked that in so long my test kit probably isn't good any more.

The pair picked a flower pot on it's side for a spawning site, a large clutch of clear eggs was laid on the inside of the pot. Both parents guarded and tended to the eggs, if I got too close with my camera the male would get in between the flower pot and me, so I couldn't get a see, but perseverance paid off and I got some good pictures. I never saw any white or fungused eggs, they must have taken care of any when I wasn't

watching. The eggs hatched in about 3 days, the wrigglers were in a pile in the back of the pot, a lot of the time the female was in the pot while the male patrolled the territory nearby. Occasionally when the female would stray from the pot the male would stick his nose in as if to check and see if the fry were behaving. After 4-5 days the fry emerged from the pot, they stayed on the bottom of the tank very close to the pot, the female stayed very close also, because of the *Ctenopoma*. As soon as she saw him she would chase him off and then right back to the fry, until he would get too close again, the male didn't seem to bother too much, since the female was doing such a good job. Typical male, let the female do most of the work. When the fry were free swimming in a few more days, they stayed in a school, while the parents patrolled nearby. I don't know if the parents herded the fry around the tank or just followed them, but one day they were near the pot, the next day around a rock in the center of the tank, the next day around the filter, next day a different rock at the other end of the tank, then back to the pot, they just kept moving around. To play it safe I siphoned out almost half of the fry and moved them to a 2 1/2 gallon fry tank, with a seeded sponge filter. I fed them crushed flake 2-3 times a day, same as the fry in the spawning tank. I upped the water changes to 30% every week for the small tank and 30% every two weeks in the big tank. I also removed the *Ctenopoma* to another community tank as the fry started to swim around a little more on their own. I noticed that the fry that were left with the parents seemed to grow just a little bit faster than the ones I removed even though they were getting more frequent water changes.

As with most of my spawning pairs they went to the next club auction, and I have been informed by the buyer that they have since successfully spawned for him. I do have six remaining fry that are over an inch long, so after a while I might have some more, but still might not know exactly what they really are.

References:

Baensch Aquarium Atlas #2
by Hans A. Baensch & Dr.
Rudiger Riehl

Freshwater Fishes of Mexico
by Robert Rush Miller





TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
College of Science
Department of Biology

Rich Serva
Greater Akron Aquarium Society
PO Box 494
Akron, OH 44309

March 3, 2008

Dear Rich,

The Department of Biology gratefully acknowledges the Greater Akron Aquarium Society's contribution of seven Quiet One 1200 water pumps, with a total value of \$150.63. The pumps will be used as part of a filtration system for our fishroom at the CICHAZ field station in Calnali, Mexico, in support of our ongoing research on evolution and behavior in the *Xiphophorus birchmanni-malinche* system.

Our scientific research on freshwater fishes would not be possible if it weren't for the support we receive – at every level – from serious aquarium hobbyists. We thank you for your support and look forward to keeping you updated on our research.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Gil Rosenthal".

Gil Rosenthal
Assistant Professor

Above is a letter we received regarding the donation GAAS made to the CICHAZ field station that Rich Serva mentioned in his article and program about his trip there last year. It's support from aquarists and aquarium societies that helps fund research and habitat studies on the types of fish that we are interested in. Generally governments and business aren't interested in the non-commercial "ditch fish" that we love so much. They are usually interested in the larger species that are popular as game fish or raised as food fish, as these species generate a lot more income than the small fish aquarists generally keep. Ask any aquarist and I'm sure they'll tell you that they all deserve research and/or protection regardless of size or economic value.



Allodontichthys hubbsi

Wayne Toven



Belonging to the family Goodeidae, one of the oldest and most primitive species of the genus *Allodontichthys* is *A. hubbsi*. A rough translation of *Allodontichthys* is fish with different teeth, the jaw teeth in the outer series are strongly tricuspid with prominent shoulders.

A. hubbsi were first described in 1980 by Miller and Uyenno. Their habitat range is the Pacific slope of the Rio Tuxpan and tributaries, and the upper part of the Rio Coahuayana basin, in the state of Jalisco, to the west of Mexico City. As with all other Goodeids they are endemic to Mexico, mostly in the central high plains at elevations of 1000 - 2300 meters.

Inhabiting moderate to fast flowing shallow waters, around stones and boulders of rocky riffles, they act much like the darters of North America. Thus one of their common names is the white-patch darter goodeid, the other common name is white-patch split fin. They develop small white irregular patches on the top of their bodies, the split fin comes from the male whose anal fin appears to have a split. The first 6 - 8 rays of the anterior (front) of the anal fin are crowded, shortened, and separated by a notch from the remainder of the fin, giving it the appearance of a mitten. This forms a primitive copulatory organ called an andropodium, this is a feature unique to goodeids, only the males have this. The females do not store sperm like other poeciliids (livebearers), so to produce fry a mating must occur. There is no penetration of the female as with other livebearers possessing a gonopodium, the male uses the andropodium to pass a bundle of sperm to the female. Also to stimulate spawning activity there should be a cooling down period to simulate winter, spawning will occur as the water temperature rises to the low 70's. These fish prefer cooler water temperatures so they are not your typical tropical fish, perfect for me since almost all of my tanks are unheated.

They should be kept in pairs as the males are very intolerant of other males, a large tank of at least fifty gallons or more should be used, tank mates can be small cichlids or other livebearers of similar size and tem-



perament. Adult females can grow to almost 3 inches in size the males will be slightly smaller, they are territorial thus the need for a good sized

aquarium. They are also diurnal, meaning they will be out actively feeding during the daylight hours, not hiding away. I have a pair that are housed in a homemade 50 gallon breeder, measuring 20"x48" and only 12" high, wish I had more of these tanks, I have nine of them set up now. There is gravel scattered over the bottom, with lots of small up to fist sized rocks, floating and potted plants, some cut up flower pots for caves, and a sponge filter. Tank mates consist of 6 young 2 1/2" *Geophagus* sp. red Bahias, a couple of *Synodontis greshoffi* about the same size, 6 *Danio* sp. orange fin, and my last remaining female *Schistura waltoni* loach. *A. hubbsi* are not the easiest fish to maintain and breed, they need well aerated, cool, clean, clear water, they are very sensitive to low oxygen concentrations, and as I stated above, a cooling period to simulate the seasons. My tank is located near a basement wall, in the summer it gets to maybe 75 degrees F. in the winter temperatures get down to maybe 67 - 68 degrees F. Ph is around 7.4. Everything seems to do fine in this set up.

This species is not very prolific, after a 60 day gestation period up to 10 fry, usually fewer are released, fry are around 5/8 of an inch at birth. When the fry are just released by the female there is a trophotaenia (umbilical chord) still attached, this is how the fry get nourishment inside the female during development, it drops off after a short period of time. This is another of the unique traits of goodeids that sets them apart from other livebearers.

I tried to get a picture of this, but when I got close with the camera the fry would sit on the bottom of my photography tank, it's hard enough to get a picture of small fry anyway, let alone one on the move. The par-



ents also have a pronounced tendency to cannibalize their fry, so I moved the female to a ten gallon tank with a sponge filter and lots of plants, when she got obviously plump with fry. It's very easy to tell when she's about ready to drop fry, as you can see from the pictures. Keep a close eye on her, as soon as she drops her fry, get her out. After two spawns in 2007 I had a total of 10 fry, as they grow they start picking on each other and killing each other, so I put the remaining fry in a tank with a group of *Skiffia multipunctata* as there was always fry in the tank to pick on. *A. hubbsi* are omnivorous carnivores, meat based and live foods should be used to condition parents for spawning, I fed black worms, daphnia, frozen brine shrimp and blood worms, but I also fed a good quality flake food daily.

Body color of both sexes is very similar most of the time, coloration varies depending on the mood of the fish, upper half of the body is yellowish - brown to grayish - brown, lower half varies from an off - white to pale yellow, there is also a pale bluish -green iridescence on their sides if the light strikes them at the right angle. Both sexes have a dark horizontal stripe mid - body that starts just above the base of the clear pectoral fins to the caudal peduncle, this stripe also gets lighter and almost disappears, again depending on the mood of the fish. The dorsal fin is located 2/3 of the way back on the body, the female's is about twice as long at the base as the males, this is unusual as males almost always have a larger and longer dorsal fin than the females. Both sexes have a torpedo shaped body, but as the male matures he gets an obvious hump on his back that starts just behind the eye to the dorsal fin. The ventral and anal fins of both sexes are translucent with a wide yellow margin, the caudal and dorsal fins are translucent yellow, with some spotting on the base of the dorsal fin. The random irregular small white patches on the back come and go, again I guess because of the mood of the fish. These fish are a very moody species, but so many things are factors in their mood, water



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conditions, any kind of stress, breeding time, me catching them to get more pictures, life is just stressful. When the female is fattening up with fry she changes her color to a grayish upper body and a white lower body and her fins are almost clear, except for the wide yellow margin on the ventral and anal fins. If you didn't know about these fish, and if you saw them at different times you might think they were another species. Well as I writing this article it's spring again, so I have to start watching for the female to start getting plump with fry, great another thing to put on my to do list, and get a nursery tank ready for her when it's time.

References:

Baensch Atlas #4 - by Hans A. Baensch & Dr. Rudiger Riehl

Aqualog of Livebearers and Half beaks - by Michael Kemkes & Dipl. Biol. Frank Schafer

Freshwater Fishes of Mexico - by Robert Rush Miller with collaboration of W. L. Minckley & Steven Mark Norris



Re-scheduled Behind-the- Scenes Tour at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's Rainforest

The Behind the scenes tour of the Cleveland Metroparks Rainforest will be on Sunday May 4th at 11 AM so we (GAAS members and friends) will meet at the MacDonald's in Montrose then caravan to the zoo. We will leave "MickeyDee's" at 10 AM so if people want breakfast they need arrive before 10. You will need to pay for entrance to the zoo in order to take the tour. For more info, contact Rich at riserva@juno.com



Swap Meet

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!)

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: Lyretail Platies

Plumetail Platies

Hi Fin Ruby Nose *Variatus*

Koi Swordtails-normal eyes

Want: *Characodon sp.*

"*lateratis* - Los Berros "

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Girardinichthys multiradiata

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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



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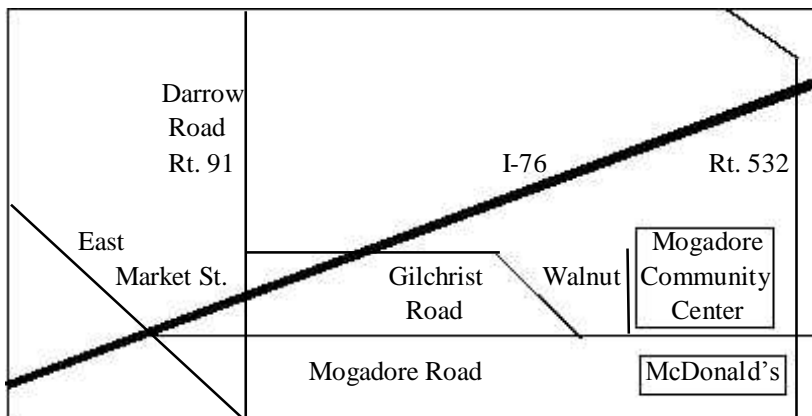
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How did you find out about GAAS? _____

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
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Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay