



Tank Topics

The Official Publication of
The Greater Akron Aquarium Society



June/July 2008

In this issue:

- *Building a Wet/dry Filter*
- *Girardinichthys viviparous*
- *Lepidolamprologus elongatus*



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
 Building a Trickle Filter..... Rich Serva 14
Girardinichthys viviparous Wayne Toven 18
Lepidolamprologus elongatus Dave Williamson..... 20
 Swap Meet..... 22

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

This issue’s cover: A beautifully aquascaped tank taken by Dave Williamson at the Tennessee Aquarium. Use some of the plants we get at the next meeting and build your own worthy of a cover photo!

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President's Message



Bud White

Well folks:

I think things are starting to warm up, we might even get a couple of days in a row that might have some sunshine, let's keep the fingers crossed.

Those of you that made the meeting and got to hear Eric Bodrock talk about his way of spawning catfish, should have gone home with a lot of useful information, (now if someone would write the stuff down for me, I might remember it also), Eric has been a good friend for a long time and he really knows his fish stuff, he knows many of the people that write the books and talks to them regularly, so he is up to date on the changes and advances in the industry, if you missed it, then you really lost out this time.

Well we did it, we are committed to having a show August 2 & 3, we sent in the deposit on the show site and are going full bore on getting it done right, if you want to help out, come up and see me, or email me, always looking for more help, everybody makes a difference, whether the job being done is big or small, the more help, the easier it gets.

Our historian Paul Naxer, got a new job and has to work at night, which means he can't make the meetings, he said the he thought it best that he resign and let us find a replacement that could be at the meetings, well no sooner did I tell the board about the situation, we had Phil & Tiffany Hypes volunteer to do the job, thanks for stepping up and joining us on the board.

That pretty much does it for now.
Bud

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Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

We've finally done it. We've hit rock bottom! I have no more finished articles to use in the next issue. Unfortunately we still have one to produce before the show results issue (when we won't need any articles because it's all taken up with show related stuff) For a number of years we've taken great pride in the fact that all the material you see in the pages of Tank Topics was produced locally. Now don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with using a reprint article now and then from another club's publication, but some of them you see out there have nothing in them that was written by any of their members. I'd really hate to see us fall into that situation. Please consider telling the rest of us something about your hobby, we'd love to hear from you!

Next up, I'd like to thank Kathy Krynak from the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's Rainforest for a very interesting and informative behind the scenes tour. For those of us that also keep herps in addition to fish it was really neat to see that hobbyists and the professionals are pretty much on the same page both in the way we do things and that we can have the same goals. With populations of amphibians declining all over the world any species that are reproduced in captivity do two things; first they further the knowledge of how to breed them both with what works and what doesn't, and secondly even common species that are bred by hobbyists are that many more individuals that don't have to be taken from the wild. We hobbyists also have the ability to spread the word to others about being responsible with exotic species and to drive home the point to everyone we come in contact with to never, ever release captives into the natural environment. Thanks again for making another trip to one of my favorite places in the world (I've loved going to the Cleveland Zoo since I was a kid) yet another great time.

Last but not least, don't forget our Ultra-Aqua Show is coming up in a couple of months. More next time and I'll see you at the meeting !

Bowl Show & Special Activities



Dan Frase

Jeff Plazak is in the lead with 48 points, with Wayne Toven trailing at 33. It's still anybody's race. Be sure to bring your Native Fish, Rainbowfish, and Male Bettas to the June meeting.

As far as Special Activities go, the show and auction is August 2nd and 3rd at the Tallmadge Community Center. The auction is on Sunday and it starts at Noon. Please help out by running fish, selling raffle tickets, helping out in the kitchen, or however you want to contribute to your club. It beats the heck out of just sitting through the auction.

We'll be going to either the Toledo Zoo's Aquarium, or the Newport Aquarium (across the river from Cincinnati) this September. Be sure and sign up for your choice at the next meeting, or if you'd rather, send me an e-mail at danf@gaas-fish.net.

April Bowl Show:

Female Guppies

1st - Jeff Plazak	Gold
2nd - Jeff Plazak	Blue
3rd - Frank Mueller	Gold w/Red Tail

Platies

1st - Jeff Plazak	Blue Wag
2nd - Jeff Plazak	Lyretail

Invertebrates

1st - Nicole Schmid	6 Leg Starfish
2nd - Nicole Schmid	5 Leg Starfish
3rd - Wayne Toven	Wood Shrimp

May Bowl Show:

Goodeids

1st - Jeff Plazak	Goodea gracillis
2nd - Wayne Toven	Allodontichthys hubbsi
3rd - Wayne Toven	Ilyodon lennoni

Rift Lake Cichlids

1st - Wayne Toven

Julidochromis regani

Aquatic Plants

1st - Jeff Plazak

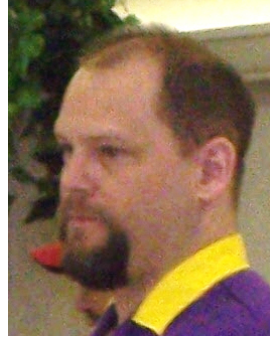
Cryptocoryne wendtii

2nd - Jeff Plazak

Moss Ball

Totals for the Year:

<u>Entrant</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jeff Plazak	48
Wayne Toven	33
Nicole Schmid	9
Rich Serva	7
Frank Mueller	4
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

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

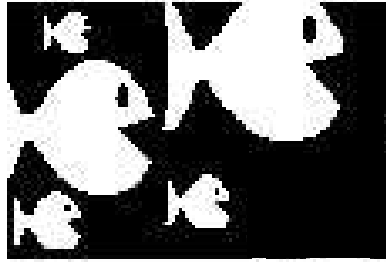
November:

All Other Livebearers, All Other Egglayers, All Other Catfish

BAP/HAP

Report

Wayne Toven



Happy Cinco de Mayo!!! Hooray another reason to celebrate. Hope you had a good one, as it will be in the past by the time you read this, maybe it will be closer to Mother's Day, so Happy Mother's Day!!! Speaking of mothers, the **Breeders Award Program** is what it's all about, get those female fish in your pairs or groups doing something for you to celebrate, becoming mothers. Then all you have to do is keep the fry alive for at least 30 days, preferably more, bring at least six fry between 30 - 90 days old, to the monthly meeting, or have them witnessed by a board member and write an article about them, our editor would really appreciate that, fill out a simple form and you are in the running for **Breeder of the Year**, which is presented at the December meeting / Christmas party. Another good thing is our incentive program, when a member turns in 10 spawns during the BAP year, which runs from Dec. - Nov., a 16 ounce can of brine shrimp eggs is awarded. We have one member well on their way to a can already.

Don't forget about our **Horticultural Award Program**, the person who turns in the most submissions, these can be vegetative propagations, flowerings, or sexual propagations, during the year will receive the coveted Horticulturist of the Year, also awarded at the Dec. meeting. With all the live plants that have been showing up everywhere some propagations should start showing up at the meetings. With summer just around the corner, pond and tub garden plants should start flowering. Hopefully everything will work out and we will get our plants for our identification program at our June meeting, that means even more plants to propagate.

By the way if anybody needs rules or forms for either program, there are two ways to get them. Go to our club website www.gaas-fish.net, click on the **BAP/HAP** at the top of the home page, then on the left hand side of the BAP/HAP page are the choices of programs and forms. In case you don't have a computer come and see me (Wayne) at the monthly meeting, I can give you a copy of whatever you need, rules or forms. We currently have 11 members participating in Breeder and Horticultural programs, but all active members are eligible to take part in the programs.

April

Species	Common name	Class	Points
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BAP**Denny Bechter**

<i>Ancistrus teminckii</i>	Bristlenose pleco	Catfish	20
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Bob Miller

<i>Metraclima sp.</i>	Red top zebra	Cichlid m.b.	15
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Dave Williamson

<i>Procatopus nototaenia</i> ‘Kribi’		Killifish	10
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<i>Copora nicaraguense</i>		Cichlid s.s.	5
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<i>Protomelas spilonotus</i> ‘Ivory top’		Cichlid m.b.	5
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HAP**Dave Williamson**

<i>Bolbitis huedeloti</i>	African water fern	G - vegetative	10
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May

Species	Common name	Class	Points
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BAP**Joe Reich**

<i>Synodontis petricola</i>		Catfish	20
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<i>Otopharynx tetrastigma</i>		Cichlid m.b	10
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<i>Machrobrachium sp.</i>	Red claw shrimp	Aquatic animal	10
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<i>Neocaridina denticulata</i>	Cherry shrimp	Aquatic animal	10
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Bud & Cathy White

<i>Ctenopoma kingsleyae</i>		Anabantid	15
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Dave Williamson

<i>Epiplatys lemottei</i>		Killifish	5
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<i>Fundulopanchax spoorenbergi</i>		Killifish	10
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HAP**Rich Serva**

<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>		B - vegetative	10
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<i>Ludwegia repens</i>		B - vegetative	10
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<i>Hygrophila difformis</i>	Water wisteria	A - vegetative	5
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2008 Spawn & Point Totals	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
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Dave Williamson	8	70	1	10
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Bud & Cathy White	5	50		
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Joe Reich	4	50		
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Wayne Toven	4	40		
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Todd Mayo	3	30		
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Rich Serva	3	30	3	25
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Denny Bechter	1	20		
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Christina & Bud Biederman	1	15		
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David Girard	1	15		
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Bob Miller	1	15		
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Dan McMonigle	1	10		
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Meeting Notice

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Program: We will import a number of plants that will be brought to the meeting, checked out and discussed in a hands-on Show 'n' Tell, then distributed to the membership as a free perk of membership.

Bowl Show: Native Fish, Rainbowfish, Male Bettas



Thursday, July 3, 2008

Program: The Greater Akron Aquarium Society will have a sponge filter workshop. Make your own DIY sponge filter with help from experienced members.

Bowl Show: Synodontis Catfish, Angelfish & Discus,
Killifish



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

Coming Events

Saturday June 14th 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>.

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

July 12, 2008 – Great Lakes Cichlid Society - Summer 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>

July 17th through 20th, 2008 American Cichlid Association Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

Hosted by the Atlanta Area Aquarium

Association (AAAA). <http://www.atlantaaquarium.com/> <http://www.aca2008.com/> to

reserve your room at the Hilton Atlanta Airport Hotel or call 404-767-9000

August 2 & 3 – Greater Akron Aquarium Society -

Ultra-Aqua 2007 Show and Auction

Tallmadge Community Center, 80 Community Rd., Tallmadge, Ohio

For more information: Bud White (330) 848-3856

(bwhite@neo.rr.com), Wayne Toven (330) 296-6322

(wtoven@hotmail.com) or Rich Serva (330) 650-4613

(riserva@juno.com)

August 16th & 17th Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society's

Whale of a Show at the Avalon Inn, 9519 East Market Street, Warren,

OH, 330-856-1900. Charlie Grimes is after dinner speaker. Contact

Tom mruaru2@aol.com 330-758-3043 or Mike 330-716-0889 air-

brush6@zoominternet.net

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.

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society : Mar 08

Honduran Red Points, by **Noel Nathaniel**

Spawning Rhabdalestes septentrionalis, by **Charles Drew**

Circle City Aquarium Club, Fancy Fins : Feb 08

Breeding the Yellow-tail acei Cichlid (Gephyrochromis acei Msuli), by

Fani Gunawan

Polka-dot Splitfin, Chapalichthys pardalis, by **Dustin Stonebraker**

Red Shoulder Severum, by **Bob Hargis**

Stripping Mouth-brooders, by **Mike Matthews**

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society : Apr 08

Spawning the Emerald Dwarf Rasbora, by **Charles Drew**

Michiana Aquarium Society, Michiana Tropical Times : Mar 08

Spawning Pelvicachromis pulcher; the Kribensis, by **Ben Slocum**

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County Tank Tales : Apr 08

Spawning Tilapia snyderae, by **Maria Deiderichs**

Aquarium Filtration, by **Dennis Heltzel**

Michiana Aquarium Society, Michiana Tropical Times : Apr 08

Nandopsis tetracanthus, the Cuban Cichlid, by **John Belke**

Pacific Coast Cichlid Association, Cichlidae Communique : Mar / Apr 08

Lamprologus stappersi, by **Kevin Plazak**

Neolamprologus olivaceous, by **Pam Chin**

Regina Aquarium Society, Fins & Friends : Apr 08

Looking for a Different Livebearer? How About an Endler?, by **Joe**

Meays

Eastern Iowa Aquarium Association, Fin Flap : May 08
Moving the Fish, by **Carol Sindelar**

Circle City Aquarium Club, Fancy Fins : Apr 08
Spawning the Electric Blue Crayfish, by **Mike Matthews**
Colombian Tetra, by **Bob Hargis**
Danio feegradei, by **Charlie Grimes**
Sexing Crayfish, by **Mike Matthews**
Spawning Labidochromis sp. mbamba, by **Fani Gunawan**

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., Finformation : Apr 08
Corydoras aeneus (Bronze Catfish), by **Stan Chechak**

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society, Tropic Tank Talk : Mar 08
Corydoras similes, by **Carl Krajniak**

Durham Region Aquarium Society, Tank Talk : May08
Cryptic Emersion - Part 1 (of 10), by **Derek P.S. Tustin**
Visiting Cano Palma - a Trip to a Mini - Paradise, by **Tom Mason**

Delaware County Aquarium Society, Fin Fax : Mar 08
Grindal Worms the Final Solution (Maybe), by **Bob Kulesa**

Kitchener Waterlolo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales : Apr 08
Mosses For the Masses, by **John Skerrett**
Breeding Neolamprologus multifasciatus, by **Kevin Reimer**
Ultra Violet Sterilizers, by **Zenin Skomorowski**
H2O and the Aquarist... There's More to It Than You Think, by **Phil Maznyk**
Mother Nature's Filter, Filtration For the Marine Aquarium, by **Gary Brown**
Julidochromis transcriptus "Gombi", by **Al Ridley**
Discus Dilemma - Do I Or Don't I?, by **Judy Hunter**
Fish Photography For the Beginner, by **Phil Maznyk**

St Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, The Scat : Apr 08
Spawning Farlowella acus, by **Dave Unruh**

Missouri Aquarium Society Inc., The Darter : Mar / Apr 08
Reproduction of Aponogeton boivinianus, by **Derek Walker**
How to Breed the Blue Acara, the Hard Way, by **Rick Smith**

Sarnia Aquarium Society, Aqua Antics : Apr 08
Neolamprologus brichardi, by **Ron Urry**
Cryptocoryne wendtii, by **Ed Bosker (Chatham)**

An Economical Trickle Filter System

By Rich Serva

I was helping a friend set up a filter on a tank with a heavy bio-load. Filter-wise all he had at his disposal were some small outside power filters and sponge filters along with some water pumps. He was setting up a tank with some recently caught wild swordtails that came from a moderate to fast moving stream and they fish were showing some stress from the processes of capture and transportation. My friend said that he had some success setting up bucket filters on tanks so that is the direction we went. We ended up mounting a sponge filter on a water pump then attaching tubing to the pump outlet. The tubing ran up to a bucket filter (bucket full of rocks with a hole near the top on the side) where it splashed back into the tank. Well this hybrid filter seems to work so I started formulating a plan to make another dozen filters; however, they would be a little more efficient and a little gussied up.

The Water Pump & Sponge Filter

Finding the power heads or water pumps would be no big deal. We just needed some that could attach to tubing or PVC piping. I did quickly find that in the world of power heads and water pumps, every manufacturer seemed to pick a different direction when choosing inlet or outlet



Figure 1 Sponge filter with power head attached

to standing size piping or NPT threaded pipe. After looking at a half dozen pumps, I decided that the Penatair Quiet One 1200 would best fit my needs. It puts 296 gph and is plumbed with 1/2 inch NTP threaded piping on inlet and outlet. With that part covered it was time to move on to the sponge filter.

The million dollar question was how to hook PVC piping to the sponge filter. As it was that was an easy fix. Start with an Aquarium Technology filter then remove the clear lift tube and bullseye connector. Take a schedule 40 3/4-inch PVC connector (threaded to straight pipe) and sand down the threads. It does not take that much sanding before the threaded end can connect to the strainer on the filter (see Figure 1). After you add a reducing bushing (3/4 slip to 1/2 inch treaded), you can plumb the pump or power head to the filter.

The Trickle Filter

Next, comes the question of how to build a wet/dry (trickle) filter. For the filter box, I used two Rubbermaid "Clear Impressions" containers, one for the sump and one for holding the filter media. I have also heard people refer to that type of container as a shoe box or sweater box container.



Figure 2 Container to hold media

The container used to hold the wet/dry media has holes drilled in the bottom for emptying the chamber (see Figure 2).



I drilled a hole in the lid to mount the spray bar and 2 smaller holes to cable tie the spray bar in position. This will serve as the connector the hose coming from the water pump (see Figure 3).

Figure 3 Lid with hole for spray bar attachment

The spray bar is a simple apparatus made using a 1/2-inch male threaded to barb connector, 1/2-inch PVC 90 degree (threaded to slip) elbow, a 1/2-inch street 90 degree (slip) elbow, a length of 1/2-inch PVC pipe and a 1/2-inch pipe end cap. The length of pipe has hole drilled in it. A close up of the spray bar is shown in Figures 4 & 5.



Figure 4 Spray bar parts

The container used as the filter sump can have 2 or 3 1-inch holes to handle the water flowing from the filter media. The filter sump is a good place to put crushed coral or dolomite for hardening the water or ammonia absorbing media.



Figure 5 Spray bar mounted on lid

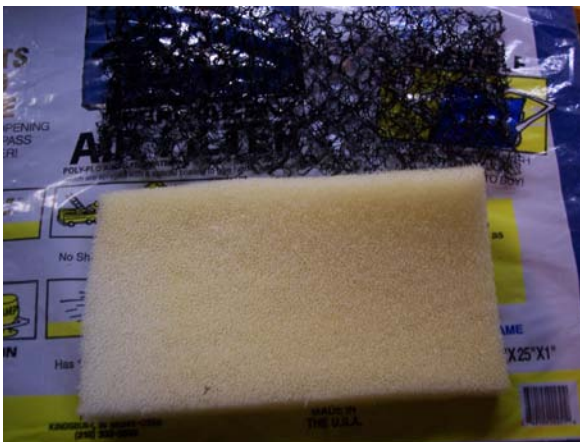


Figure 6 Filter media

There are a number of different media types that can be used and it is somewhat a question of preference whether to use bioballs, ceramic, Blocksom, Enkamat, sponge foam or filter pads (Figure 6). Most anything can be purchased easily on line. I even

found a low cost furnace filter that seems to do the trick. Figure 7 is the completed wet/dry filter compartment.



Figure 7 Assembled wet/dry filter

Anyway, you attach the pump inlet to the sponge filter and a hose to the pump outlet then connect the hose to the barbed end of the spray bar. You set the trickle filter on the top of the tank so water coming out of the filter pours back into the tank. Now you have a low cost wet/dry filter that is safe to use even if there is a power failure.

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Sailing Along With the Black Sailfin Goodeid - *Girardinichthys viviparus*

Wayne Toven

My interest in livebearers has mostly been with the family *Goodeidae*, over half of the livebearers I have spawned have been Goodeids, some of them can grow to a rather large size, and they do quite well in ponds outside, perfect for me. This is about the Black Sailfin Goodeid, also known as the Amarillo - *Girardinichthys viviparus*, it is one of the two species representing the genus, the other is *G. multiradiatus*. It was first discovered in 1837 by Bustamante. It's native habitats are quiet clear to murky waters with a mud substrate of lakes, ponds, canals, and ditches in and near Mexico City. *G. viviparus* was listed as an endangered species in 1989, due to habitat destruction and pollution.

There is a peculiar sexual dimorphism in this species, the average number of rays in the dorsal fins: males 24 - females 19, and the average number of rays in the anal fins: males 26, females 21. Like most other Goodeids the females grow larger than the males, females up to 7 cm (2.8"), males up to 5 cm (2"). They prefer hard alkaline water with a Ph of 7.5 - 8.5 at temperatures ranging from 68 - 72 degrees F, with live plants and bright light (sunlight). Reproduction in the wild occurs from February through October, the gestation period is 49 - 56 days, a brood can be up to twenty fry. The male has the typical Goodeid andropodium, the modified mitten shaped anal fin, dorsal and anal fins are also longer than the females. Neither sex has much color on the body it is basically a washed out light brown, there is a little bit of silver iridescence on and around the gill plate, both sexes also have a gravid spot. My dominant male has more black in the dorsal and anal fins than the other males, he also has a black line on the top and bottom of the caudal peduncle, the area right in front of the tail. The females have black on the bottom of the belly back to the tail.

I acquired my stock in Detroit in mid 2005, I started with nine juveniles and adults, these were housed in a fifteen gallon tank with a sponge filter and lots of live plants. I use mostly *Najas* grass and Java moss so there are floating plants and plants on the bottom for future fry to hide in, just in case I miss some. Full spectrum florescent lighting is on a twelve hour timed circuit, the live plants do quite well, every so often I have to thin out the *Najas* grass it keeps trying to fill the tank, I'm not complaining, I just move it to other tanks and outside in the summer, or sell it at auctions. I have so many tanks that 30% water changes are done every two weeks, almost all of my tanks are unheated so they are room temperature

72 - 73 degrees F. For the best health Goodeids should not be kept above 75 degrees F. Feeding is very easy they eat anything I put in the tank: flake, frozen blood worms and brine shrimp, freeze dried blood worms and daphnia, and live glass worms, blood worms, and daphnia.

In my fish room the first spawn occurred in October, a 5 1/2 gallon nursery tank with a sponge filter and live plants was used, I didn't know if they were baby eaters or not, better safe than sorry. A very plump 1 1/2" female dropped all of five fry, but the Breeder's Award Program requires six fry, oh well have to wait till next spawn, and hope there are more. Late in April of 2006 another young female, maybe the same one I don't know, got so fat I thought she was going to explode, she was moved to a nursery tank again. There was a slight problem, it was American Live-bearer Convention time, we were going to New Jersey for three days, she was on her own. When we got back she was thin, she looked like a deflated balloon, her sides were prune, it looked like she soaked in the tub too long, oh wait she's a fish I don't think she can soak too long! There were eleven fry almost 3/8" long too big for the female to eat, so I left her with them to build up her strength before returning her to the species tank. They were fed crushed flake two to three times a day, and 50% water changes were done every week. When the female was looking good again she was moved out, the fry are doing quite well, they have doubled in size in a month and a half.

The adults were moved outside to a thirty five gallon tub with water lilies, *Najas* grass and marginal plants, as soon as it got warm enough, it is the second week of June. I have not seen them since I put them out, I will have to take some flake food out to entice them to the surface, so I can see how they are doing. The fry have been moved to the fifteen gallon tank the adults used to occupy. Last year I had four species of Goodeids out in ponds and tubs all of them did well. I fed them some flake food every other day or so to supplement the live foods and algae they were fed by Mother Nature. I keep so many live plants, water lilies, pond weeds, and marginal plants that use up the waste made by the fish as fertilizer, that I don't do water changes, I don't filter my ponds or tubs, small fish don't put out the waste that large goldfish and koi do. I have one pond well it used to be a pond, actually an above kiddie wading pool, six feet in diameter and eighteen inches deep, it has been in place for thirteen years, it has never been cleaned, filtered or had water changes done on it. It is now a swamp, the side walls are only about seven inches high, in the spring of 2005 I was reaching for a pot and slipped, I broke a chunk out of the side wall nine inches down and three feet wide, so I just cut the rest down to that height. there is probably one to two inches of dirt in the bottom, the marginal and swamp plants have done much better the past two years, since the water is not as deep. It seems to have a slow leak now so next spring it will be retired, I have a replacement kiddie

wading pool, waiting in the wings, I might just fill it partially with dirt and then have the water only about four inches deep. Sorry about the rambling on about the ponds and swamp, but I ran out of information about the fish.


References: Freshwater Fishes of Mexico, by Robert Rush Miller with collaboration of W. L. McKinley and Steven Mark Norris
Livebearing Fishes, by John Dawes
Atlas of Livebearers of the World, by Lothar Wischnath
Aqualog of All Livebearers and Halfbeaks, by Michael Kempkes



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Too Many Fish, Too Little Tank: How to be sort of successful raising *Lepidolamprologus elongatus*

Dave Williamson

For starters let's just say things didn't go quite as planned with this species and that is why I'm writing a Breeder's Award article rather than turning in the fish. I admit it, it's all my fault. In reality, anytime something goes wrong with your fish deep down you know that it's always something you did, or as you'll see later on, something you didn't do when you should have. But anyway, on with the story. . .

It all started with finding a few bags of *Lepidolamprologus elongatus* fry at one of our auctions a year or so ago. I've always had a soft spot for "lamps" which for the uninitiated are an assemblage of many species of Lake Tanganyikan cichlids. At one time they were all classified as be-

longing to the genus *Lamprologus*, but as always seems to happen, that “super genus” was broken up in to smaller, more closely related groups. The *Lepidolamprologus* group consists of species that are elongated in body shape with large heads and big mouths. Some of the fish in this group have large protruding teeth as adults which gives them a rather formidable look. The coloration of this species in particular is what I like to call “pleasing but not gaudy”. The base body color is a light tan and there are a couple of rows of elongated rectangular blotches down the flanks. On top of those there are also a few rows of small shiny gold spots running horizontally. All in all a nice looking fish, but nothing really fantastic.

What all “Lamps” do have in common is their breeding behavior. These fish form distinct pair bonds and set up housekeeping in a cave or crevice of some type. This species, in common with others of the group I’ve worked with, are very defensive of their spawning site but don’t seem to be all that interested in protecting their fry specifically unlike most other substrate spawning cichlids. Once the fry are free swimming they’re on their own if they wander away from the safety of the cave. That was the first problem I was having with this fish. I’d had them for roughly six months and I could tell they were wanting to spawn because the dominant male had taken over a flower-pot cave and was doing his best to drive everyone else away. Other species of “Lamps” I’ve had took it one step further and would kill the non-breeding individuals if I didn’t take them out of the tank. These guys didn’t do that, in fact when they weren’t actually preparing to spawn they all hung out together so I never got around to trying to get the other fish out. After they had spawned a couple of times and the fry disappeared, I figured that the other adult fish were probably eating them when they wandered too far from the spawning site. The next time they spawned, I siphoned out a group of the babies as soon I saw them starting to swim around. I was surprised at how many there were, at least fifty when I moved them to a 2-1/2 gallon tank of their own. From that point, everything seemed like it was going fine. Once their yolk sacks were completely absorbed they started eating live baby brine shrimp and then a week or so later were even attacking crushed up flake food. After a few weeks they were growing well and were starting to look little miniature versions of their parents. This is where I made mistake number two; I didn’t split them up or move them to a larger tank at this stage. Too many fish, too small of a space and feeding heavily all contributed to a tank wipe out. I lost all of the fry over the course of about four days.

And finally here’s the colossal mistake I made: Thinking I had a whole bunch of fry to work with, I had sold the adults at one of our auctions before turning in the fry for my BAP award. Classic case of “don’t count your chickens before they hatch!” Trust me, I won’t be doing that again!

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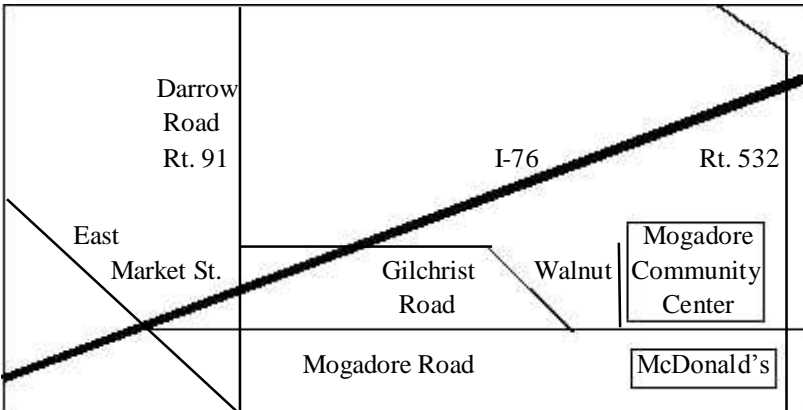
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