



Tank Topics

The Official Publication of
The Greater Akron Aquarium Society



August/September
2008

In this issue:

- *Ctenopoma kingslayae*
- *Chocolate Gouramis*
- *Xiphophorus nezahuacoyotl*



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:

Editor/Tank Topics
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Or email to G_A_A_S@hotmail.com





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

This issue’s cover: Arroyo Gallitos spring in Mexico where Rich Serva collected *X. nezahuacoyotl*. Find out more about his trip and this species in his article beginning on pg. 19 of this issue.

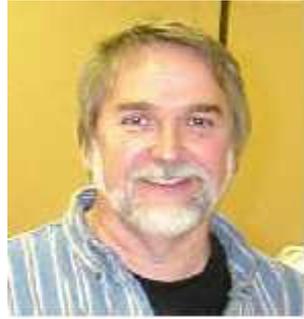
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Check out our web site at: www.gaas-fish.net

President's Message

Bud White



Well folks, It's show time and the club needs your help, we will be setting up on Friday August 1st at 7:00 pm at the Tallmadge Community Center, there is something for everyone to do, the more help, the faster things get done and we can go home, if you can't lift heavy things, then you can help put on the table cloths or the skirting around the tables, this is a club thing and you need to help with it.

Then don't forget to bring an entry in, even if it is only one, you will get much more out of the show if you do.

Cya then, Bud



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Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

Wow, I can't hardly believe it, but it's Show time once again. It almost seems like we've just done that not too long ago, but I know it's been a whole year. I guess when you've been through it as many times as some us, time gets a little warped (BTW, this will be my 24th show with GAAS). Or maybe it's just me that's warped, I'll leave that up to you to decide.

But anyway, the serious part of all this is that we need your help to make this event a success. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting that "all members need to be there at specified times for the whole weekend" like I've seen some clubs try to do. Notice I said try. In my experience, it's never a good idea to be heavy-handed with the jobs when you're dealing with a volunteer organization. All it seems to ever deliver is resentment among the members and then you still end up with the same percentage of people doing all the real work. It's a much better plan to ask politely for help and then the people who show up to do it actually want to be there. There is plenty to do if you're interested in helping out. And most of it doesn't really require any special skills or physical abilities, just stop up to the registration desk and ask I'm sure there will be something you can help out with. Any help will be greatly appreciated since the more of us that are there to do the work, the less any single person has to do and the more everyone can enjoy themselves. Remember, above all else, that this is still a hobby and it's supposed to be fun!

You'll notice by the three new articles in this issue that my plea for material in the last issue was answered. Thanks to those who helped me out. Now you get to hear it again, but there is good news too. Yes we still do need more articles for future issues, but the time crunch is lifted due to the fact that we won't be using any articles in the next issue due to the fact that it is mostly filled with the show results. So that gives you all nearly four months to pen that literary masterpiece that you've been thinking about. OK, I realize that may be a bit of an exaggeration, but you get the idea. The rest of us would love to hear about what's going on in your fish room!

I'll see you at Ultra-Aqua 2008 and the meeting!

Bowl Show & Special Activities



Dan Frase

Jeff Plazak is still in the lead with 60 points, with Wayne Toven trailing very closely at 57. It's still anybody's race. Be sure to bring your AO New World Cichlids, Amphibians, and 'Bog' Plants to the August 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.

June Bowl Show:

Natives

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

Fundulus diaphanus
Black Nose Dace
Blue Fin Killie

Rainbows

1st - Wayne Toven

Glossolepis multisquamatus

Bettas

1st - Jeff Plazak

Betta

July Bowl Show:

Synodontis Catfish

1st - Wayne Toven
2nd - Wayne Toven
3rd - Jeff Plazak

Microsynodontis batesii
Synodontis petricola
Synodontis petricola

Angels & Discus

1st - Jeff Plazak

Angel

Killifish

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

Spotless Orange *Australe*
Blue Gularis
Aphyosemion striatum

Totals for the Year:

<u>Entrant</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jeff Plazak	60
Wayne Toven	57
Dave Williamson	13
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

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



Summer is in full swing, although with all the rain we have been getting it looks more like spring, instead of spring peepers, it's the bullfrogs and gray tree frogs that are making all the noise. The outdoor tubs are all stocked, awaiting fry; the water irises are almost done blooming, the water lilies are blooming right and left. Things have been very slow on the Horticultural Award Program front with only 7 items submitted so far and the year is more than half over. The Breeder's Award Program is still putting along with 5 spawns in June and 6 in July. Let's see if we can do a little better next month. With the annual "Ultra Aqua" show and auction coming up, BAPs and HAPs can be turned in at the auction on Sunday or at the regular monthly meeting.

We had our first member reach the 10 spawn plateau, Dave Williamson was awarded a 16 ounce can of brine shrimp eggs at the July meeting, let's get those fish spawning, there are more cans to award, but only 4 months left in the BAP/HAP year.

June 2008

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

David Girard			
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Guppies	Livebearer	5
<i>Aulonocara jacobfreibergi</i>	Eureka red peacock	Cichlid m.b.	15

Dave Williamson

<i>Lepidiolamprologus elongatus</i>		Cichlid s.s.	15
<i>Poecilia sp.</i>	Rio Jutiapa molly	Livebearer	5

HAP

Dan McMonigle

<i>Peltandra virginica</i>	Arrow arum	G-vegetative	10
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July 2008

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

Frank Callesen			
<i>Amatitlania nigrofasciata</i>	Convict cichlid	Cichlid s.s.	5
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Blue metallic guppies	Livebearer	5

Philip & Tiffany Hypes

Xiphophorus helleri Gold wag swordtail Livebearer 5

Rich Serva

Characodon sp. "Los Berros" Livebearer 10

Neocaridena denticulata Cherry shrimp Aquatic animal 10

Bud & Cathy White

Fundulopanchax gardneri "Misaje" Killifish 5

HAP

Wayne Toven

Microsorium pteropus Java fern F-sexual prop. 20

2008 Spawn & Point Totals BAP Points HAP Points

<u>2008 Spawn & Point Totals</u>	<u>BAP</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>HAP</u>	<u>Points</u>
Dave Williamson	10	90	1	10
Bud & Cathy White	6	55	-	-
Rich Serva	5	50	3	25
Joe Reich	4	50	-	-
Wayne Toven	4	40	1	20
David Girard	3	35	-	-
Todd Mayo	3	30	-	-
Frank Callesen	2	10	-	-
Denny Bechter	1	20	-	-
Christina & Bud Biederman	1	15	-	-
Philip & Tiffany Hypes	1	5	-	-
Bob Miller	1	15	-	-
Dan McMonigle	-	-	2	20



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Meeting Notice

Thursday, August 7, 2008

Program: Dave Williamson: What I did on my summer vacation, collecting tropical fish in the Peruvian Amazon.

Bowl Show: Amphibians, Bog Plants, All Other New World Cichlids



Thursday, September 4

Program: TBA

Bowl Show: Photography, Sharks & Loaches, Gouramis & AOV Anabantoids



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

Coming Events

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 (rjserva@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 airbrush6@zoominternet.net

Saturday September 6th 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>.

September 19, 2008 – Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society - Fall Auction

Lordstown Admin. Bldg 1455 Salt Springs Rd. S.W. Lordstown, OH
44481. Fish Plants, dry goods. Reg.11 AM, Auction starts at noon.
Tom mruaru2@aol.com 330-758-3043 or
Mike airbrush6@zoominternet.net 330-716-0889

October 16-19 All-Aquarium Catfish Convention - Expedition Amazon 2008

Laurel, Maryland. Speakers: Julian Dignall, Devon Graham, Hans-Georg
Evers, Wayne Leibel, Lee Finley, Ingo Seidel.
Contact: Andrew Blumhagen - 240-472-4216 or
visit <http://www.catfish2008.com> and <http://www.pvas.com/>

September 27, 2008 – Great Lakes Cichlid Society - Fall 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>

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.

There was one reprint of **Wayne Toven's** article *Spawning Archocentrus cutteri* or *Whatever*, in **Great Lakes Cichlid Society's** Cichlid Evening Post: May/Jun 08 issue.

Hamilton District Aquarium Society: May 08

Breeding the Dwarf Cajun Crayfish, by Charles Drew

Eastern Iowa Aquarium Society, Fin Flap: Jun 08

Propagating Echinodoras quadricostatus v. *quardicostatus*, by Joy Twentyman-Crock

Regina Aquarium Society, Fins & Friends: Jun 08

Slippery Customers, by Paul Mansfield

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc., Finformation: May 08

My Experiences Attempting to Spawn Corydoras pygmaeus, by Regina Spotti

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society, Tropic Tank Talk: May 08

Pelvicachromis sp. *Aff. Pulcher* or *the Giant Krib*, by Carl Krajniak

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County, Tank Tales: May 08

Filtration Part 2, by Dennis Heltzel

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society, Swam: May/Jun 08

Archiaphyosemion schmidti, by Scott Tetzlaff

Skiffia lermæ: the Lerma Goodeid or *Olive Skiffia*, by Scott Tetzlaff

Cunning's Barb, by Scott Tetzlaff

Puntius nigrofasciata, a Striped Gem, by Scott Tetzlaff

Success At Last: Rearing the Celestial Pearl Danio, by Heather Burke

Just What is an Orange Hatchet Fish?, by Scott Tetzlaff
Some Tips on Preventing Egg Eating in Livebearers, by Darrell R. Ullisch
Thick Lipped Gourami, by Scott Tetzlaff
Microworms in a Cup: Culturing With Ease, by Heather Burke

Pacific Coast Cichlid Association, Cichlidae Communique: May/ Jun 08
They're Not Just Convicts Anymore, by Daniel Spielman

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society, Swam: Jul/Aug 08
Procambarus alleni, by Debbie Ayers
Hamilton District Aquarium Society
A Cherry of a Shrimp, by Scott Tetzlaff
Melanotaenia eachamensis, the Lake Eacham Rainbow Fish, by Scott Tetzlaff
The Flame Rainbow, by Scott Tetzlaff
Breeding Anomalochromis thomasi, by Darrell R. Ullisch
Synodontis petricola, by Debbie Ayers
Raisng Skeeters, by Scott Tetzlaff

Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales: May 08
Moss Walls, by John Skerrett
Artificial Plants... Are They Right For You?, by Phil Maznyk
My Cyprinid Community - Part 2, by Zenin Skormorowski
Underwater Rainforests, by Gary Brown

St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, The Scat: May 08
Neolamprologus helianthus, by Dave Unruh
Endler's Livebearer, by Pam Danyluck

Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales: Jun 08
Man Eating Plants, by John Skerrett
Aponogetons and Me, by Stephen Crawford
Replicating the Tropical Sun, by Gary Brown
Bunches and Bunches of Baby Bushies, by Cam Turner
After Dark in Our Aquariums, by Phil MAznyk

Sarnia Aqaurium Society, Aua Antics: May 08
Vallisneria – (Wild Celery, Eelgrass), by Ed Bosker
Pretty Peacocks, by Lisa Boorman

St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, The Scat: Jun 08
Neolamprologus marunguensis, by Dave Unruh

Observations on spawning *Ctenopoma kingsleyae*

Bud & Cathy White



Ctenopoma kingsleyae is an anabantoid that hails from Africa and have been called climbing perch. They are a grey-brown color, reach up to 8 inches in length and eat anything it can put in its mouth and swallow.

I acquired my pair at our spring auction, the only difference between the two was that female was much more robust in the chest area and thicker in the body just before the tail, both are 8 inches long. They are kept in a 55 gallon tank, with under gravel filtration and nothing else, no plants or rocks, by themselves. They eat anything we put in the tank, dry foods, frozen brine, and blood worms. The female is generally more aggressive than the male and would at times harass him, nothing serious, just a push or shove when he would swim by. He generally avoided getting to close to her when she got in those moods.

When spawning, things changed, he would harass her when she showed to be filling up when eggs. The spawning was in typical anabantoid style, he would wrap around her and she would release the eggs while they drifted to the bottom of the tank, the eggs floated to the top. This went on for several times, when they where done, the top of the tank looked like it was loaded with foam or soap bubbles. The male became very aggressive when the female could or would no

longer spawn, he took to beating on her and drove her into a corner. I had to separate them with a divider to protect her. Neither fish paid any attention to the eggs after spawning.

The eggs hatched in about 24 hours and there were easily several thousand fry, I siphoned a small section of them from the corner of the tank and still ended up with 400 fry, the rest were left with parents, they survived about 2 weeks and then were gone. The ones I saved I put in a 20 gallon long and started feeding sponge squeezings for a couple of days, then baby brine shrimp. They ate everything, after two weeks, started feeding crumbled flake food, this they ate with gusto also.

The fry are a grey color with a dark spot front of the tail and just get lighter or darker in color as they get excited or frightened. They do not seem to pay much attention to each other and all dash to the top when feeding time comes. Piranha have nothing on these guys at



feeding time! There is nothing left of the food, none ever make it below the water line, they are not shy about eating. The growth rate was amazing, I had 3 inch fish in 60 days of feeding. Of course I did have to thin them out to be able to keep up with them, many went to auctions and friends. Not one fry died in the tank, even when it became over crowded due to the fast growth rate.

Another Trip to the Candy Store, Searching for Chocolates

Wayne Toven



I've been keeping fish for (holy cow!) well over a third of my life, just over 20 years now. Where on earth did the time go? I think I spent too much of it going to work, but that all changed three years ago when I retired. Now I work more than ever, but it is at home, (where it matters), the fish room has exploded to approximately 130 aquariums, ranging from 10 gallons up to 265 gallons. I have filled the basement, and taken over the laundry and family rooms. The family room has most of the large tanks, two 120 gallons, two 150 gallons, and the prize, a seven foot long 265 gallon. Then outside are seven in - ground preformed ponds varying in size from 135 gallon up to 275 gallon, ten 110 gallon tubs, and three 35 gallon tubs. All of these contain various pond and aquarium plants, and during the summer fish, normally mostly livebearers, but this year I am trying some barbs (checkered and golds), rainbows (*Glossolepis incisus*), and cichlids (*Geophagus Red Bahia*) also. I am about to move a pair of *Ctenopoma kingsleyi* into one of the larger ponds to see how they do, and see if I can get them to spawn. Sorry about the tangent there, for most of my fish keeping years there have been anabantoids, a few unusually colored male *Betta splendens*, then to wild type bettas, then came the *Ctenopomas*, commonly called African bush fish. In the past I saw on occasion, not very often, the delicate and hard to maintain licorice and chocolate gouramis, I was always told that they are very touchy and prone to bacterial and skin parasites. So needless to say

they were put on the “do not even bother with these fish” list.

The *Sphaerichthys ophromenoides ophromenoides* is the most often seen species known as the chocolate gourami, if you want to call less than ten times I've seen them in 20 years often, I don't. In the wild they are found in densely overgrown slow moving streams, ditches, and shallow pools. The water is always soft and acidic with a very low mineral content, and usually a shade of brown, at a Ph of 4.5 – 6.6, temperatures can range from 77 – 89 degrees F. The basic body shape is oval, very laterally compressed, and brown in color with three to four golden yellow vertical stripes, the first is just behind the eye over the gill plate, the other two or three are on the back half of the body. The dorsal and anal fins are brown with a small margin of the same golden yellow as the stripes; the anal fin can also have some golden yellow spotting on it. The caudal fin is basically transparent; it can have some red rays in it and might have a golden yellow edge at the top and bottom. The main sexual dimorphism is the shape of the dorsal fin, the males is slightly longer and pointed, where the females is rounded. They grow to a grand size of 5 cm, which is just under 2 inches for you American aquarists.

Courtship involves displaying of fins and mutual circling among the plants near the bottom in a quiet corner of the aquarium. Spawning activity can be recognized when the female arches her body, and as the male swims into the curvature of her body his entire body quivers, at which time I assume the eggs and milt are released. They fall to the bottom where they are picked up by the female, with the males assistance, she then swims off to a secluded area of the aquarium and incubates the eggs in her mouth for 14 to 18 days. Spawns are from 20 to 40 fry, and are ¼



inch long when released; they can immediately take newly hatched brine shrimp.

In the summer of 2006 we took a road trip to North Tonawanda, N.Y. to see Pete Mang. While looking through the multitude of tanks, I spotted some chocolate gouramis, they are just too neat looking, so I disregarded the “do not bother with these fish” list and purchased six young adults. I was not able to sex them at the time, but as the rule goes: with six fish you “should” get a pair, or is that egg roll? The chocolates are a peaceful timid fish; they should be housed in pairs or a small group in a species tank, I’m not sure but if more than one male is present there may be a little “fighting” to establish dominance. I brought home my prize along with a styro full of other fish. I housed them in a 20 gallon high aquarium with a slowly bubbling sponge filter, as they do not like a lot of water movement, lots of plants and a chunk of driftwood. They do have a tank mate though, a lime spot pleco, I figured he would have no reason to bother the chocolates, he’s not a female! Small water changes of 10 - 15% should be done regularly and often, about every 7 – 10 days. I hadn’t read a lot about chocolate gouramis yet, so the aquarium was unheated, the temperature was around 74 degrees F. I learned the hard way about temperature, one day after a water change, they all had clamped fins and I don’t know if it was ich or oodinium, due to the brown color of the water, I quickly put in a heater to bring their water temperature up to 78 degrees F, did another water change and treated with medications for three days. Luckily they recovered quickly with no ill effects, so now I make sure when I do a water change that the water is just a little bit warmer than the tank is. Feeding is easy, good quality flake, frozen bloodworms and brine shrimp, and live foods: daphnia, brine shrimp and black worms are offered a couple times a day.

If you’re wondering where I came up with the title to this article, here is the explanation. Unfortunately within a few weeks of bringing them home one of them died, now that they have grown and I am able to sex them, I discovered that I have five healthy females. The one that died, with my luck, was probably a male! So ever since then, with fewer and fewer pet shops, I have been searching for more chocolates, with absolutely no luck whatsoever. I knew I should have bought more when I had the chance!

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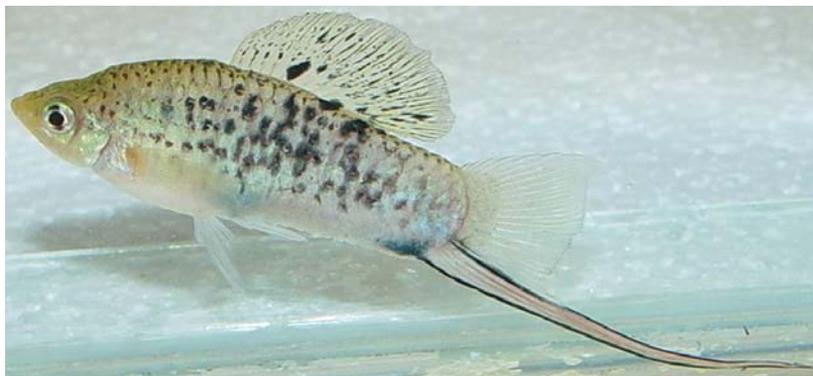
Bettas, Gouramis, And Other Anabantoids – Labyrinth Fishes of the World By Jorg Vierke

Labyrinth Fish – the Bubble Nest Builders By Horst Linke

Baensch Aquarium Atlas #1 By Dr. Rudiger Riehl and Hans A. Baensch

Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl, the Northern Swordtail of Tamaulipas Mexico.

Rich Serva



Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl was described as a separate species by Rauchenberger, Kallman and Morizot (1990). It had originally been described as a population of *Xiphophorus montezumae*. In Rauchenberger's paper the nine (9) northern swordtails are split into 3 clades of related species - *montezumae* clade, *cortezzi* clade and *pygmaeus* clade. The *montezumae* clade contains two sister species, *X. montezumae* and *X. nezahualcoyotl*, and a third closely related species, *X. continens*. Prior to the 1990 paper, the population of *Xiphophorus montezumae* that was distributed throughout the hobby was actually *X. nezahualcoyotl*.

Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl has a dark pigment on the dorsal and ventral edges of its sword. The dark dorsal edging appears first at the farthest end of the sword and it lengthens towards the body as the fish matures. The sword has yellow pigment within the dark edges. The sword is usually curved in immature males, but becomes straight as the individual's tail becomes longer. Many populations carry the Cb trait for an oval blot on the caudal fin close to the peduncle. This spot is most apparent with dominant individuals. Individuals carry the grave spot near the upper caudal fin margin. The caudal fin carries 11-14 rays, typically having 12 or 13. Thin vertical bars are apparent on some dominant individuals. *X. nezahualcoyotl* carries the trait for multiple (2 or 3) longitudinal lines of pigment (one line at the lateral line) which is zigzagged following the edges of scales.

Since the northern swordtails can be difficult to distinguish and fish can

too easily be distributed throughout the hobby with the wrong name, the following traits are some ways to differentiate *X. nezahualcoyotl* from *X. montezumae* and *X. cortezi* which closely resemble it. *X. montezumae* has a sword length of 48-62 mm in natural populations. The maximum sword length in *X. nezahualcoyotl* is 48 mm. Both *X. nezahualcoyotl* and *X. montezumae* have 2 or 3 dark longitudinal lines with one at the lateral line, whereas *X. cortezi* only shows one dark line. *X. cortezi* also carries the trait for yellow dorsal fin and yellow in the caudal fin (all yellow or yellow dorsal and ventral margins) whereas *X. nezahualcoyotl* does not.

Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl is not found below the Rio Tampaon - Rio Santa Maria axis. It is naturally found in the extreme head waters of the Rio Tamesi drainage system. It is found in Rio Sabinas, and Arroyo el Encino Rio Frio. It is also found in the springs near La Muralla and Ocampo and the springs west of Santa Maria de Guadalupe. (These springs empty into Rio Tamesi during the rainy season.) They are found in Arroyo Gallitos, springs at Callejones and a stream near Ricardo Flores Magon. They are found in the Rio Tampaon tributaries. In the Rio Valles system with populations in Rio los Gatos, Rio el Salto (to falls below Micos and warm springs at El Jaduhe) and Rio Tanchachia. The fish is found in small springs and large pools usually around rock bottoms.

There is considerable on-going research which could further break down nezzies into sub species or even multiple species. For now there is only one species but later there may be more species to distribute.

During this year (2008) we traveled to Arroyo Gallitos where the Tula to Ocampo road crosses the stream. Gallitos is one of the streams in the limestone mountains of the Eastern Sierra Madre range that is formed underground high in the mountains and emerges in the high country just to disappear back under ground before reaching a main body of water. According to the Rauchenberger paper Arroyo Gallitos is an internal drainage. As we entered the valley it was quite easy to spot the stream. Although it was only May 11th the rainy season was over and the land was beginning to parch. The valley was a far cry from the citrus orchards that we saw earlier in the day as we made our way down Route 101 from Brownsville. The land was brown with mainly scrub brush; however, in front of us was a line of green trees that twisted and turned along the length of the valley.

Already the water flow was negligible. Most of the small pools must surely disappear during the height of the dry season. It was already mid day and the temperature had peaked at 103 degrees F. It was warm but the dry heat was tolerable as we sat under the conifer covering that protected the stream. The stream was clear with a rock bottom with no vegetation to speak of besides the tree canopy. We used minnow traps in

the rocky bed of the Arroyo which quickly filled with fish. This worked to our convenience since the day was quickly moving along and it was still a long ride before the fish reached their final destination at the CICHAZ field station.

The care of nezzies is pretty much like any of the larger Panuco swords. Give the fish some room with good filtration. Although these swords can live on flakes, they thrive with live and frozen foods. If the fish are fed well then the fry can easily grow and mature in the parents' tank. Personally I find these fish perfect for out door ponds. If the ponds are positioned in a place that is shaded some of the day the fish have no problems with the hot days and cool nights that NE Ohio has to offer in September allowing the nezzies a long out door season.

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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 , Crown-tail Platies , Plumetail Platies , Hifin Variatus , Hifin Swordtails , Red Eye Swordtails and *Zoogoneticus tequila*.

WANT: *Xiphoporus montezumae* and *Girardinichthys multiradiatus*.

See pictures of my fish at www.platy-plus.com

Rick Graham (330) 494-5904
email: platyplus@neo.rr.com

W. E. T. FISH BAGS

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10x24	\$4.50	\$8.00
3 1/2- 1.5 mil	All others - 2 mil	

Wayne Toven (330) 296-6322
or wtoven@hotmail.com

Have: 5 zinc coated farm stock tanks - 250 to 300 gallons - in good shape \$40 each, must take all

Francis
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The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

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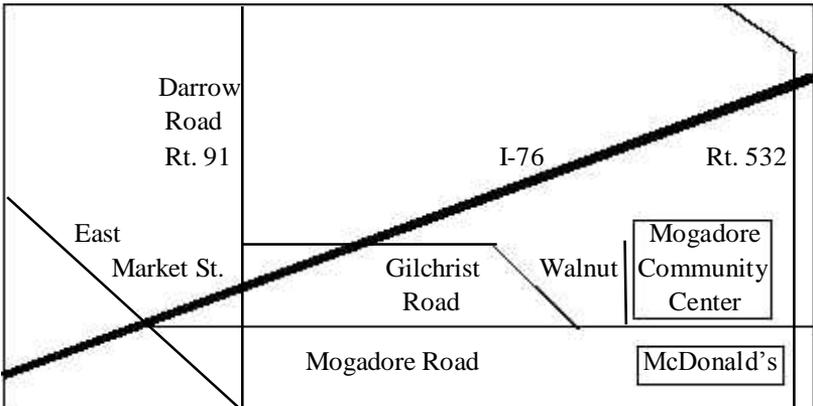
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