



Tank Topics

The Official Publication of
The Greater Akron Aquarium Society



April/May 2009

In this issue:

- *Archocentrus nanoluteus*
- *White Clouds*
- *Xiphophorus xiphidium*



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

This issue's cover: A male *Archocentrus nanoluteus*. For more information on this interesting small cichlid, see Bob Miller's article on page 20.

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President's Message

Bud White



Wow, did we have a auction! It was one of our biggest at 1140 items, around 250 people and 80 sellers. It was a late night, it was over about 9:15 at night. I'd like to thank those that ran for us and also those that auctioneered for us: Eric Bodrock from Pittsburgh, Eric Cappy from Youngstown, Don Danko for Cleveland, Bruce Fraley from where ever he wants to be from and of course our own Joanne Toven. All these people are what make a club function successful, with out our friends we would be hard pressed to pull off such an action. All I had to do was ask and they did not hesitate to help (maybe the tears in my eyes helped). Danko who was just getting ready to leave, postponed leaving just to help. This year was much easier on me than last year, with Joanne sick and several others having to leave, I got to finish the last 2 1/2 hours of the auction. Believe me, my voice was cracking at the end. THANKS AGAIN TO ALLL!!!!

More good news, our show classes have been completely sponsored. Thanks to all of the willing and helpful people out there, and big thanks to the YOUNGSTOWN AQUARIUM SOCIETY, as they sponsored several of the big awards as well as a few regular classes. Thanks pals! Wayne Toven was very instrumental in getting the classes done, he made it to other club's meetings and auctions and asked for help with the sponsorships and was given plenty of it, thanks Wayne.

REMEMBER THE SHOW IS JULY 11 & 12 THIS YEAR, COME OUT AND SUPPORT IT!

Remember, that if you have any suggestions or ideas, please let us know, we accept change when it does good!

Cya, Bud



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Sunday 12-6

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Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

It finally seems that winter's grip is about broken for yet another year. Its come none too soon for me, I'm about tired of the snow and the cold for this year. Just yesterday I was out in the front yard and I saw the fresh green sprouts of all the new tulips, irises and daylilies that I planted last fall. I can't wait to see them all in bloom over the next few months. Even my pond plants are starting to look alive and I've seen that all my fish have made it through another winter. Things are looking up!

I'm sure that if you haven't seen news about it elsewhere in this issue, namely the President's Message on the facing page, we had one heck of an auction. When you're there still selling stuff at nine p.m., you know you've had a big auction. For as bad as the economy is supposed to be, you couldn't have proved it by the crowd that showed up. And they spent money too! Prices stayed pretty good throughout the entire day. Let's hope that we have as good a turn out at the Ultra-Aqua show this summer in July (see the full page ad elsewhere in this issue). One big worry that has been taken care of is that all of the classes have been sponsored. No last minute running around to get that handled. Special thanks have to go to Wayne Toven for orchestrating that and getting it done so soon.

Well now comes that time when I have to beg. That's right, I'm almost out of articles to use in the Tank Topics. Now don't think that's the only reason why I used the "Blast from the past" article, I've actually been planning on doing that for some time now, but its no excuse to not have any new material. I've wanted to go back and reuse some of the better articles written by our members over the past thirty plus years we've produced our own newsletter. A lot of our present membership doesn't know the writers, or not realize their previous accomplishments. That's not to mention the fact that some of the species of fish that were readily available then are quite rare in the hobby now. That's why I picked the article I did for the first "blast" article. Most everyone knows the author, and everyone knows the species of fish in the article. The important thing is that the information in these articles is still relevant, and if you haven't read it before it's as good as new to you!

I'll see you at the meeting!

Bowl Show & Special Activities

Ken McGill



Not so many entries in February and March as January. There were only 2 fish entered in the two months that didn't place, and none that didn't bring their owner some points for the annual awards. There is a message there. Lets see some more entries in April!

February Bowl Show Results:

Suckermouth Catfish:

1st - Wayne Toven

Swordtails:

1st - Bob Miller

2nd - Dave Williamson

3rd - Bob Miller

Characins:

1st - Jeff Plazak

2nd - Dave Williamson

3rd - Jeff Plazak



March Bowl Show Results:

Barbs:

1st - Jeff Plazak

2nd - Dave Williamson

3rd - Wayne Toven

Mollies:

1st - Dave Williamson

2nd - Jeff Plazak

Corydoras, Aspidoras, & Brochis

Catfish:

1st - Wayne Toven

2nd - Dave Williamson

3rd - Dave Williamson

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Explanation of the points: 4 for 1st, 2 for 2nd, 1 for 3rd, plus 1 pt per entry for each entry up to 5 pts in the class. So, if you sweep the class and bring 2 more entries in that class that don't place, you can earn 12 points!

<u>name:</u>	<u>points:</u>
Amy Mullens	2
Bill Koleszar	4
Bob Miller	7
Dave Williamson	39
Denny Bechtold	2
Jeff Plazak	25
Phil Hypes	1
Wayne Toven	16



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2009 Bowl Show Schedule

January:

Goldfish, Male Guppies,
Minnows Danios & Rasboras

February:

Suckermouth Catfish,
Swordtails, Characins

March:

Barbs, Mollies,
Corydoras Aspidoras & Brochis

April:

Female Guppies, Platies,
Aquatic Invertebrates

May:

Goodeids, Rift Lake Cichlids,
Aquatic Plants

June:

Native Fish, Rainbowfish,
Male Bettas

July:

Synodontis Catfish, Killifish,
Angelfish & Discus

August:

AO New World Cichlids,
Amphibians, Bog Plants

September:

Gouramis & Anabantoids,
Sharks & Loaches,
Photography

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



Looks like Punxsutawney Phil was right about winter, that is all but over now. Before we know it the spring peepers will be going nuts, the ponds warming up, and in a couple more months it will be time to stock those tubs and ponds. The spring auctions have started up so there are plenty of opportunities to acquire new breeding stock, new fish, or fish to freshen up existing gene pools. The new BAP/HAP year started off a little slow in Dec. with nothing turned in, Jan. picked up the slack with 7 spawns and 9 horticultural submissions. Then Phil poked his head out and things started rolling in, Feb. had 10 spawns turned in, and March was even better with 11 spawns, 1 flowering and, 4 vegetative propagations. We are well on our way of topping last year's grand totals in both of the programs; let's see if we can keep it going folks! We have our first members to reach the 10 spawn plateau already this year, Phil, Tiffany, & Zoe Hypes will be awarded a 16 oz. can of brine shrimp eggs at the next meeting. Congratulations!!!!

February

<u>Species</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Points</u>
BAP			
Phil & Tiffany Hypes			
<i>Aulonocara stuartgranti</i>	Orange peacock	Cichlid m.b.	15
<i>Neolamprologus meeli</i>		cichlid s.s.	15
<i>Otopharynx lithobates</i>	Z-rock	Cichlid m.b.	10
<i>Ancistrus temminckii</i>	Bristlenose pleco	Catfish	20
Robert L. Miller			
<i>Poecilia melanogaster</i>	Blackbelly Limia	Livebearer	5
<i>Amatitlania siquia</i>	Honduran red point	Cichlid s.s.	5
<i>Cryptoheros myrnae</i>	Topaz cichlid	Cichlid s.s.	5
<i>Limia tridens</i>		Livebearer	5
Rich Serva			
<i>Poecilia sp.</i>	Tiger Limia	Livebearer	5
Bud & Cathy White			
<i>Ilyodon whitei</i>		Livebearer	10

March

Species	Common name	Class	Points
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BAP

Bruce Fraley			
<i>Limia vittata</i>	Cuban Limia	Livebearer	5
<i>Heterandria Formosa</i>	Least killie	Livebearer	5
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Guppy	Livebearer	5
<i>Limia perugiae</i>		Livebearer	5

Phil & Tiffany Hypes

<i>Hypsophrys nicaraguense</i>		Cichlid s.s.	5
<i>Labidochromis caeruleus</i>	Electric yellow	Cichlid m.b.	15
<i>Archocentrus nigrofasciatus</i>	Convict cichlid	Cichlid s.s.	5

Todd Mayo

<i>Aulonocara jacobfreibergi</i>	Eureka red	Cichlid m.b.	15
<i>Callochromis pleurospilus</i>	Kigoma flame	Cichlid m.b.	15
<i>Cyrtocara moori</i>	Blue dolphin	Cichlid m.b.	10

Dave Williamson

<i>Danio sp. TW-01</i>	Barbs, minnows, & rasboras		5
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HAP

Phil & Tiffany Hypes

<i>Anubias barteri</i>		E- flowering	20
<i>Riccia fluitans</i>	Crystalwort	B - vegetative	10

Dan McMonigle

<i>Barclaya longifolia</i>		B –vegetative	10
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Nick Rezac

<i>Hygrophila difformis</i>	Water wisteria	A – vegetative	5
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Dave Williamson

<i>Cryptocoryne pygmaeus</i>		C – vegetative	15
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Spawn & Point Totals

	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
Phil & Tiffany Hypes	10	120	8	85
Bob Miller	6	30		
Bruce Fraley	4	20		
Todd Mayo	3	40		
Deny Bechter	2	10		
Dave Williamson	2	10	1	15
Dan McMonigle	1	20	1	10
Rich Serva	1	5		
Bud & Cathy White	1	5		
Ken McGill	3	50		
Nick Rezac	1	5		

Meeting Notice

Thursday, April 2

Program: Stephan Tanner, owner of Swiss Tropicals, will speak on European Aquarium filtration.

Bowl Show: Female Guppies, Platies, Aquatic Invertebrates



Thursday, May 7

Program: Chris Bonner will speak on the New Cleveland Aquarium.

Bowl Show: Goodeids, Aquatic Plants, Rift Lake Cichlids



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

Coming Events

April 4, 2009 – 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 18, 2009 – Lorain County Aquarium Society - Spring Auction

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

April 19 – Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society – Spring Auction

North Hampton VFD, 5149 North Pioneer Road, Gibsonia, 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

April 23, through 26 – American Livebearer Association Convention

For more information: Rich (330) 650-4613 (riserva@juno.com), or www.livebearers.org

May 9th, 2009 Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts Spring Auction

Hamilton Township Community Building, 6400 Lockbourne Rd, Lockbourne, Ohio For more information:

<http://www.columbusfishclub.org>

or Pat Sabourin, 614-846-1038

(6-10 pm)



Spring is finally here!!!!



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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.

Circle City Aquarium Society, Fancy Fins: Aug. 08
A Jewelfish Quadruple Wammy, by Charley Grimes

Durham Region Aquarium Society, Tank Talk: Jan 09
Cryptic Emersion Part 7, by Derek P. S. Tustin
My Green Wet Thumb: Sublime Sagittaria, by Derek P. S. Tustin
Eyeballs on Oddballs: A Prehistoric Monster, by Derek P. S. Tustin

Eastern Iowa Aquarium Society, Fin Flap: Jan 09
It's a Bloomin Anubias, by Carol Sindelar

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales: Feb 09
The Planted Tank, by Ed Koener
In Search of E.B.J.D.s (Electric Blue Jack Dempseys), by Phil Maznyk

Sarnia Aquarium Society, Aqua Antics: Jan 09
Steatocranus casaurius the Buffalohead Cichlid, by Peter Melady

Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society, The Youngstown Aquarist:
Jan/Feb 09
New Brazilian Annual Beauties, by Curt Smith
Worse Than Convicts, by Curt Smith

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society, Jan 09
Searching For the Perfect Infusoria, by Charles Drew

Regina Aquarium Society, Fins & Friends: Jan 09
CO2 is the Key, by Siebert Kruger

Greater Chicago Cichlid Association, Cichlid Chatter: Jan/Feb 09
The Hybrid Issue, by Rick Borstein

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Feb 09

Spawning Corydoras simulatus, by Charles Drew

Cyphotilapia frontosa, by Larry Johnson

Michiana Aquarium Society, Michiana Tropical Times: Feb 09

The Amazing Amazon Molly, by Scott Tetzlaff

Neolamprologus brichardi, by Bud Rambow

Circle City Aquarium Society, Fancy Fins: Feb 09

The Rainbow Goodeid – Characodon lateralis, by Dustin Stonebraker

Durham Region Aquarium Society, Tank Talk: Feb 09

Blue Green Algae Infestation, by Rick Glencross

Cryptic Emersion Part 8, by Derek P. S. Tustin

My Green Wet Thumb: Azoo and the Seven Balls, by Derek P. S. Tustin

Sarnia Aquarium Society, Aqua Antics: Feb 09

Breeding Synodontis petricola, by Bruce Hart

Melanotaenia praecox – the Neon Dwarf Rainbow, by Peter Melady

South Western Michigan Aquarium Society, Swam: Mar/Apr 09

The Goo Obo Gudgeon – Allomogunda nesolepis, by Chase Klinesteker

Chromaphysosemion biteniatus, the *Striped Lyretail*, by Chase

Klinesteker

Breeding Honey Gouramis? Another Case of Mistaken Identity and a

Pair of Prolific Fish, by Heather Burke

Bagging Fish, by Chase Klinesteker

Nannacara taenia, the *Striped Dwarf Cichlid*, by Chase Klinesteker

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Nailing Down the Spike Tail Platy

Xiphophorus xiphidium

Wayne Toven

I have been maintaining and spawning a higher percentage of livebearers in the past few years than anything else. The majority of those have been goodeids, not because they are prettier and more colorful, but due to the fact that a lot of them are endangered or extinct in the wild. They come from Mexico, and due to habitat destruction and pollution they are becoming harder and harder to find. Thanks to the American Livebearer Association many of the species are still in existence. Their annual convention is where I have found several of the species on my wish list, but there are still more I would like to obtain.



On to the topic of this article, it is not a goodeid but a wild type platy, *Xiphophorus xiphidium*, which also comes from Mexico. I bought a bag of 6 individuals at a fish club auction in the spring of 2008, the ones I purchased were of the two spot variety. There are two variations, one has a single large spot on the middle of the caudal peduncle, and the other has two small spots, one at the top and one at the bottom of the caudal peduncle. First identified in 1933, *X. xiphidium* is one of the smaller species of platies belonging to the family Poeciliidae. They originate on the Atlantic slope of Mexico around Tamaulipas, in the Rio Soto la Marina system north of Mexico City. Their habitats consist of springs and pools in the streams and tributaries of the Rio Soto. Water conditions vary from clear to muddy with mild to moderate currents. Substrate can be mud, clay, gravel, or rocks, normally with abundant vegetations of algae, *potamogetons*, and *ludwigia*.

The body is the typical platy shape with a pointed mouth; the males grow to a maximum of 1.5 inches and the females up to 2 inches. Normal body coloration is a yellowish olive with a silvery white belly, often there is a dark horizontal band or a zigzag stripe on both sides at backbone level.

The males can also have dark transverse bars or spots on their sides, and both sexes of mine have the two dark spots on the caudal peduncle. All of the fins are clear; the dorsal fin of the males has very light yellowish olive markings in between the rays near its base. The other sexual differences in the males are a short slightly pointed sword on the lower edge of the caudal fin, and of course the gonopodium. The gonopodium is a modified anal fin used by the male to pass sperm to the females. *X. xiphidium* is not a highly productive species, broods are rarely more than 24 fry, and the gestation period is 5-7 weeks. Fry predation is normally not a problem, due to the small size of the adults, which means a small mouth. Feeding is not a problem; I used a basic flake food with a little extra vegetable flake mixed in, an occasional feeding of frozen brine shrimp or bloodworms, and the algae in the aquarium for them to graze on.

Their water conditions should be neutral to slightly alkaline, Ph of 7.2 – 8.2, at temperatures between 72-77 degrees F. I housed my starter group of six; two males and four females in an unheated 20 gallon high tank with floating plants, *anubias*, a piece of driftwood, and a sponge filter. *X. xiphidium* is a peaceful fish best kept in a species tank in large numbers. They can however be kept in a community aquarium if tank mates are small and not aggressive, or outside in the summer in a small garden pond or tub with lots of plants. I will probably try them outside this summer to see if they do any better than inside, although they did quite well in my fish room. Since I only had six fish to start with I added a few tank mates; 6 licorice gouramis, a few neon tetras I had, an L56 pleco to help with the algae, and a cory to clean up the food that drifted to the bottom. *X. xiphidium* seems to spend the larger majority of their time in the upper half of the aquarium. As of this writing there are a more adults and lots of fry of various sizes, I have sold some at auctions and given some away, so I must be doing something right with them.

References:

Baensch Aquarium Atlas #1 – Dr. Rudiger Riehl & Hans A. Baensch

Freshwater Fishes of Mexico – Robert Rush Miller

Live Bearing Fishes a Guide to Their Aquarium Care, Biology, & Classification -

John Dawes

Dr. Sterba's
Aquarium
Handbook –
Gunther
Sterba



Blast from the Past . . .

Tanichys albonubes *The White Cloud Mountain* *Fish (A Steal for 25 Cents)*



BAP Report originally appeared in the May 1978 issue of Tank Topics

Rick Johnson

During the period I was Breeder's Award Chairman, I noticed a distinct trend of newer aquarists and of those attempting to get their first spawn to always try for the livebearers first. Perhaps they have a good spawn of guppies and swords and are satisfied. But to try an egglayer is really too much to think of as we all know how hard they are! But in all fairness, the white cloud and the zebra danio can be just as easy to spawn, if not easier, as a pair of common livebearers. So here is a cheap (inexpensive), flashy, hardy little fish that is ideal for the community tank, that is always swimming out in view and eats as if there is no tomorrow, that should be the first egglayer to be attempted, if not the first spawn of all. Yet it is laughed at when mentioned by the more "advanced hobbyist" as keeping them. Why?

The white cloud has a venerable past and has been around for a long time in the hobby. It originates in China, and has received its common name from the locale, White Cloud Mountain. As the story goes, almost too cute to be true and in fact it may be a lot of baloney, it was first found by a small Chinese lad named Tan while swimming in the cold clear streams around White Cloud Mountain. Thus, its scientific name was also derived from this little collector – *Tanichthys* (which translates to "Tan's fish") *albonubes* (literally translating to "white clouds"). Almost enough to base a soap opera on, isn't it?

White clouds are sometimes called the poor man's neon, another deroga-

tory remark that brings chortles from the gullets of “advanced aquarists” and such. Actually, this only attests to its brilliant colors which are basically light brown or tan with a brilliant silver-blue streak running along the side from the eye to the caudal peduncle. The caudal and dorsal fins have a rich red color covering most of them with the dorsal outlined in light sky blue. What more could you ask for 25 cents? (Ed. Note: O.K. so after 31 years of inflation the going retail price for white clouds has increased to around \$1.29. They are still very affordable, even at today’s prices.)

Maintaining the White Cloud Mountain Fish is probably easier than most aquarists would want to admit. All that is needed is clean filtered water in a suitable size tank. No heater is required as they can be quite comfortable in temperatures down to the lower 50’s F. Their one drawback might be in the fact that they are a slight bit uncomfortable in warmer waters that most aquarists keep their tropical in – above 74 degrees. However they can tolerate these temperatures quite well but are probably better off around 70 degrees. pH and hardness are quite acceptable from the 6.0 to 8.0 range and from soft to moderately hard water, so there are really no drawbacks as to your water quality. If you have other freshwater specimens living, then the white cloud will probably flourish.

Spawning the white cloud is a very simple matter. In fact, its ease often confuses some aquarists to such an extent that they go to great extremes trying to set up a breeding tank with elaborate devices etc. All that is needed is a 2 or a 5 gallon tank, clean water, and possibly some floating cover such as duckweed or riccia (optional) and a bottom cover of some type – either a spawning mop, that plastic spawning grass that is sold in the aquarium shops, a clump of Java moss or other type clump plant, or even marbles or a nylon mesh grid. Even a good cover of mulm is ideal. Such a large list is included to point out that all that is really needed is something to cover the eggs after they are laid to keep the parents from devouring them. Use whatever you can scrounge up or have on hand. The white cloud can be spawned and fry reared in a bare tank if one wants to avoid all the “troubles” of setting up a spawning tank for them. When you stop to think about it, is this set up any more difficult or expensive than that used trying to breed and raise guppies? And remember, these are egglayers!

Sexing white clouds if the fish are mature is a very simple process. The females are larger and very plump whereas the males are slender. A white cloud female with eggs is easy to spot and they are usually filled with eggs and ready to spawn constantly if the minimum conditions are maintained in the tank they are kept in. Select about three or four ripe females and the same number of males and separate them by placing the males in the set up breeding container. Water that is taken from the hous-

ing tank can be used in the breeding set up if it is clean. A half and half mixture with tap water is probably better as it stimulates spawning more. The temperature should be somewhere between 70 and 75 degrees. Leave the males in the spawning tank for about one day and don't bother to feed them. The food, if uneaten, can lead to fungussed eggs. The next day, plop the females into the tank with the males. Cover the tank so they can't jump out and in about two or three days net all the fish out and return them to their regular tank.

At room temperature the eggs will hatch in about two days and the fry can be seen laying on the bottom or sticking to the sides of the tank. They resemble slivers of glass. Wait about three days after the fry have hatched before feeding them. There is no need to feed them before as the egg sac will be giving them all the nourishment they need. Any food you place in the tank before the egg sac is absorbed will lay on the bottom uneaten and foul the water. First foods are microworms, baby brine shrimp or very finely crushed flakes. If mulm is present in the tank in a good quantity, the fry will find all the food they need for the first week or two. Supplemental feedings of the above foods can be made once or twice a day. Green water and infusoria can be fed but are totally unnecessary although they provide a good grazing food if fed in addition to the above foods. A tank that has been set up for a while and has contained plants such as duckweed, riccia, or java moss with water that has been in use in the community tank will contain detritus and organisms which promote infusoria and rotifers for grazing. This is why a completely sterile tank or freshly set up breeding tank isn't usually as desirable as a broken-in set up.

The fry are extremely small and slightly slow growing. They resemble neon tetras at a very small size and many aquarists have been very surprised to see baby neons swimming about in their community tank, only to later find that they are white clouds.

If the first attempt at spawning fails, wait about a week and start again, only this time raise the water temperature a few degrees (to approximately 75 -77 degrees) after both sexes are placed in the breeding tank. A sponge filter is perfect for raising the fry as it won't trap them or suck them up and promotes a good growth of infusorians for grazing. A well-used sponge filter is an asset to any breeding set up. An already established sponge filter can be placed in the spawning set up with the breeders if you wish, but is unnecessary.

To give an example of the ease of spawning white clouds, I include this almost-too-much-to-believe story. While visiting a local aquarium shop I decided to buy a dozen white clouds to spawn and later place along tank of mixed characins, barbs and dwarf cichlids I was currently working on.

Well, the shop had a sale on at the time and both white clouds and zebra danios were on sale and both were mixed together in a ten gallon tank – all 500 or more of them! To boot, they were extremely small and were very busy swimming in every direction possible. The store was crammed and there was only one young part-time clerk there to handle the whole place. After waiting for about thirty minute, all the time debating whether I had the heart to do it to him (I did), I asked for a dozen white clouds. He grimaced as there was still a large number of people waiting with more coming, and solved his dilemma by swiping the net through the tank, catching a slew of fish, and dropping them in a bag while saying there should be at least a dozen white clouds in the lot.

When I got them home and put them in a spawning tank I had previously set up, I ended up with a grand total of three white clouds and about fifteen zebra danios. Well, I decided I might as well spawn the danios since they were there and, after catching all the duckweed, riccia, Java moss and the filter at least twice with the net, I decided to leave the little white clouds in with them.

A week later a few fry were seen hopping about the bottom under the Java moss and the nylon net trap, so all the fish were swooped out together and I proceeded to raise the zebra danio fry. When a month or so passed, I was mildly surprised to find that they were all white clouds! Three lousy little white clouds had out spawned fifteen zebra danios! That takes a little doing.

So the white cloud isn't all that bad after all, is it? Try them when attempting your first spawn and you can learn many of the basics needed when attempting other egglayers that are a little more difficult, and at the same time have the pleasure and benefit of getting a spawn. The price is right, usually about four for a dollar, and the flashiness and hardness and ease of breeding makes them a steal. Besides, who hasn't bred guppies?

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Cryptoheros nanoluteus

Bob Miller



Another member of the so-called “Convict” group is *Cryptoheros nanoluteus*. Hailing from Panama they are typical in size and shape of others from the *Cryptoheros* clan. The males reach about 4.5” TL and the females about 3.5 TL. They share the same laterally compressed shape as others that are in this group; Honduran Red Points, Convicts, Blue-eyed cichlids, Topaz cichlids and several others most of which are not your local fish store fare and often can be obtained only if you know the “right” person.

“Nanoluteus” are small, non-violent and quite attractive especially during breeding. They resemble Honduran Red Points except the vertical black bars are somewhat broken and irregular and the background color is a lovely yellow instead of blue-grey. They are happy under most reasonable conditions, temp in mid 70’s, hardness doesn’t seem to matter, ph also doesn’t seem to limit their activities or affect their health. Coming from Central America., ph on the high side 7.4 – 8.2+ and mid 70 temp is right to their liking.

As with their other “cousins”, they will begin spawning at about half their adult size. They will pair up without a lot of the more common

cichlid sparring and tussling you may be used to if you've raised any South American Cichlids. They won't bother the plants, although they will do a little digging in the gravel. A flower pot (4") turned on its side is very attractive to them and with a little luck; you'll be rewarded with a clutch of eggs before you know it..

My pair spawned the first time about 1 month after I got them, about 50 eggs from a 2" male and a 1 ½" female. The eggs hatched and the fry disappeared before they were free swimming. The next time I noticed they had spawned was about 2 months later. I say noticed because they are in a 20 H with 4 Gold Barbs I got from somewhere, about 20 various sized *Limia Vittata* and so much *Najas* grass that the fish can barely find room to spawn and I can hardly see into the tank. Only after I moved the flower pot closer to the front of the tank was I rewarded with another noticeable spawn.

This time there was probably 100-125 eggs that hatched in 5 days at 76 deg. and the fry took another 6 days before Mom took them out of the pot and moved them to the back of the tank. I began feeding them de-encapsulated Brine Shrimp and finely crushed flake food. Along with the plants and natural detritus in the tank, their bellies were always full. I will hopefully save enough young this time to turn them in for the BAP. I will also have enough to sell a few at the spring auction and maybe give away to those that ask about them.

The nanoluteus is another small, quiet pretty fish that needs no special care and will not take a lot of space. They will also reward you with great parental care typical of cichlids and even BAPs if you so desire.



Spring Auction 2009



Left side, top to bottom,
some of our auctioneers:
Eric Cappy, Bruce Fraley
and Eric Bodrock.

Right side: The Kitchen
Man, Bill. Bob manning
the Chinese Raffle and
Membership table. One of
the raffle prizes, a really
unique collection of fish
stamps (thanks Jeff, the
ebay king!) Lots and lots
of items to sell, that's why
it took nine hours!



Oh yeah, and down there
in the corner is what hap-
pens when you fall asleep
at an auction!

I have
NO Home
So I Sleep
Here
I Need a Job and Money





Stephan M. Tanner

Short bio



I have been an active fish keeper since the mid 1980s. Back in Switzerland where I was born, I got my first tropical fish tank when I was 14 years old. The interest in biology and nature pushed me to earn a master's degree in molecular biology (1995) and finally a Ph.D. in human molecular genetics (1998). During my undergraduate years, I worked in the Spiezer Zoo, a nice local fish store with quality fish and great service. In the spring of 1998, I moved to Columbus, Ohio for a postdoctoral fellowship in cancer research with Prof. Albert de la Chapelle, at The Ohio State University. After four years, I became a Research Scientist and since the fall of 2005, I am a Research Assistant Professor in Human Cancer Genetics in the Department of Molecular Virology, Immunology, and Medical Genetics at OSU.

As for my fascination with fish, in 1992 I became a member of the German Barb, Tetra, Loach, and Catfish association, the VDA AK BSSW. I felt instantly comfortable among highly devoted specialists, many of which are still my close friends. In 1994, a new editor for the quarterly publication *BSSW Report* was wanted and I held this position until the end of 2006. I occasionally travel to Germany for fish related meetings and to visit friends that I have made throughout the fabulous German hobbyist community.

The origin of the Swiss Tropicals Limited Liability Company www.swisstropicals.com/ had a simple reason. I set up a fish system with over 60 tanks to accommodate all the fish that I am interested in. Breeding – which is naturally the ultimate goal – produces many offspring. Trading a few fish is not an issue but selling them by the hundreds would eventually bring the IRS or the state treasurer to my doorstep. To avoid any legal issues, I decided to set up a company that does proper business and pays taxes. In addition, I have valid US Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA import licenses that allow me to bring back fish and plants legally from my trips. Since spring 2008, I am also the exclusive US and Canadian importer of Poret® filter foam from EMW filtertechnik in Germany.

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(330) 848-3856
bwhite@neo.rr.com

Rich Serva
5407 S. Celeste View
Stow, OH 44224
(330) 650-4613
rjserva@juno.com

Wayne Toven
619 Industry Rd.
Ravenna, OH 44266
(330) 256-7836
wtoven@hotmail.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!)

HAVE: Plumetail Platies, Crown-tail and Lyretail Platies, Hifin Variatus, Hifin/Plumetail Platies, *Zoogoneticus tequila*, *Xiphoporus montezumae*, *Xiphoporus nezahualcoyotl*, Hifin Black Swordtails

Want: *Girardinichthys multiradiatus*, Half Beak livebearers

See pictures of my fish at
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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



Dues Collected _____ Date Received _____

Name _____ Age _____

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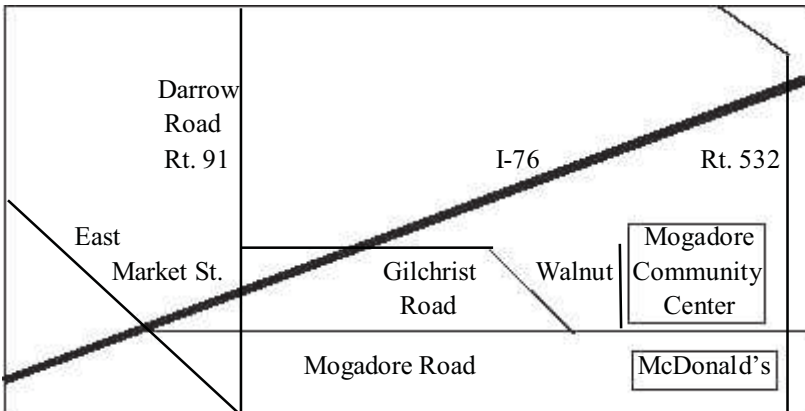
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

How did you find out about GAAS? _____

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

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



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

Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay