



## The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

# Tank Topics

February/March 2010

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*Chromaphyseion splendopleure* 'Tiko Green' photo by Wayne Toven. Read all about how to raise this interesting species of African killifish in Rich Serva's article on page 7 of this issue. While on the subject of killies, in case you haven't heard the American Killifish Association's 2010 National Convention will be in our own back yard (Cleveland) this Memorial Day weekend. If you have any interest in this family of fish, you don't want to miss this show! This is a big draw with people and fish coming from all over the world. If you would like more information check out the AKA website or ask local members Rich Serva or Dave Williamson.

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### Important Dates for 2010

March 7  
Spring auction

July 10 & 11  
Ultra Aqua 2010

November 7  
Fall auction

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

## 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. Visitors are always welcome, it costs absolutely nothing to attend a meeting and look us over.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The cost is only \$7.50 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 during the summer 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, P.O. Box 494, Akron, OH 44309-0494 or email to [G\\_A\\_A\\_S@hotmail.com](mailto:G_A_A_S@hotmail.com)

### The Greater Akron Aquarium Society Membership Form

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

## President's Message

Welcome to the New Year folks!

Our first meeting of the year was a surprise, it was snowing bad and cold, with storm warnings on TV. With such conditions some board members called, stating that nobody would be at the meeting. But seeing how there was no way to let everyone know if we canceled the meeting, we held the meeting as usual and had about 35 members show up! Dedication in our club is great, thanks for coming fellow members. The one problem we did have was the speaker did not make it, but being the resourceful group we are, we used the time to do a review of a very nice book, *Rainbow Fishes Their Care and Keeping in captivity* by

Adrian R. Tappin. Rich sent me link to a site that hosted the file for free download (this is a free legal download), after I downloaded it I took the time to look at it and was amazed at the quality of the book, article and pictures were just great. It is in pdf format and uses adobe reader to view it, we projected it on the screen and went over some of the details, (of course with me narrating it had to be good, keep quiet Dave) The members seemed to like the book, so we are putting it on cd's to pass out to members at the meeting.

Need to remind everyone the clubs **SPRING AUCTION** is coming up. It will be March 7 at

the Tallmadge Community Center, same place it has been for several years now. Bring things to auction, bring your self to help, it is your club also.

Another item is the **ULTRA AQUA SHOW** coming up July 10 and 11, we need class sponsors and we need your help to get them. The classes are still \$20.00 each and the major trophies are \$35.00 each. Selling these makes or breaks the show. Without sponsors we have to take the money out of the treasury and that's not a good thing. So get out and help with this.

I do want welcome the new board members, Ron Drungil, Mike and Michael Berger. **WELCOME ABOARD FELLAS!** This year's board roster is full with all positions filled, and that's good thing for the club.

See you at the meeting,



**Bud White**

## Editor's Message



Every year this time I get to suffer the Winter blahs. I'm not completely sure that is a proper term or an actual malady but I'm going with it because that's how I feel at the moment. I'm tired of snow. I'm tired of cold. I guess I'm just tired of everything I don't really want to deal with. There now that I've gotten that off my chest, I guess we can get on to better things!

First up, I guess I should bring up the Spring Auction. In just a few weeks (five as of the time I'm writing this) will be our auction date March 7th. For those of you who have been through this with me a time or two, bear with me

since we have some new members. Our Spring Auction is our number one money maker of the year. It's what allows us to have a meeting hall every month, pay for the show site in July, and generally keep us afloat. What makes it all happen is our membership (also known as you, in case you hadn't guessed). We need as many of us there as possible to make it all happen. It's not just the major jobs like setting up the tables and chairs or running the registration desk or kitchen, it has a lot to do with the little things like running the items to the buyers and sweeping up the floor when it's all over with. I realize that with the present economic situation we're dealing with many people may have jobs that include weekends or unfortunately may not even have a job at all right now and that all affects the turn out we get at our functions. But if you can spare some time, even if

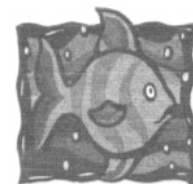
only to bring in some items to sell or sticking around to pick up a few new things to work with, we'd really appreciate seeing as many of our members as possible. Also feel free to tell anyone you know who may be interested to come along. That's where most of our new members come from, someone who hears about our show or auction and stops in to check it out.

On to a totally unrelated topic, an acquaintance of mine runs a bird rescue service ([www.thebirdnerdsrescue.com](http://www.thebirdnerdsrescue.com)) and since I know that many of us "fish geeks" also have a love of other living things I figured I'd throw this out there. Jen has rescued a group of Zebra finches (20 plus) and diamond doves (15 plus) that are all presently living at my house. If anyone is interested please drop me a note and possibly we can set up an adoption.

I'll see you at the Meeting!

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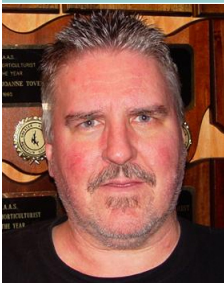
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## BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

Hope everyone had a safe and **Happy New Year!!!** Here we are in the middle of winter in January, and it actually looks and feels like winter. Whatever happened to the global warming? My electric bills seem to reflect that there is no such thing. Since it is so cold outside everyone should be getting more maintenance done in the fish rooms, so the fish should be happy, that means more growth and more spawning (hopefully). The BAP/HAP year actually started in December, when we had three spawns turned in at the monthly meeting/Christmas party. There sure was a lot of good food at that meeting, then we had the fish and plant giveaway, there was a lot of good stuff from which to choose. Back to business, one of the spawns turned in was a first for the club, congratulations goes out to Phil & Tiffany Hypes for the successful spawning and rearing of the fry of Indian lemon loaches. Now comes the calendar year of 2010, in January we had our first vegetative propagation submitted for the Horticultural Award Program. Then the spawns started flowing, a grand total of eleven were turned in, I think that is the most we have had in one month for a long long time. We are off to a great start in the new calendar year, now we just need to keep that going. Don't forget for every ten spawns turned in by a member in a BAP/HAP year a 16 ounce can of brine shrimp eggs will be awarded

### December 2009

Species	Common name	Class	Points
<b>BAP</b>			
Phil & Tiffany Hypes			
<i>Acanthocobitis zonalternans</i>	Indian lemon loach	Sharks, loaches, eels	15
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	All black guppy	Livebearer	5
<i>Procambarus sp. marmoratus</i>	Blue marble crayfish	Aquatic Animal	10

### January 2010

Species	Common name	Class	Points
<b>BAP</b>			
Phil & Tiffany Hypes			
<i>Pelvicachromis pulcher</i>	Kribensis	Cichlid s.s.	15
<i>Cryptoheros sp.</i>	Honduran red points	Cichlid s.s.	5
Rich Serva			
<i>Micropoecilia sp.2</i>		Livebearer	5
<i>Aphyosemion splendopleure</i>	Tiko Green	Killifish	10
<i>Planorbis corneus</i>	Red ram's horn snail	Aquatic Animal	5
Wayne Toven			
<i>Lamprologus hecqui</i>		Cichlid s.s.	15
<i>Ilyodon lennoni</i>		Livebearer	10
<i>Chapalichthys sp. Minzita</i>		Livebearer	10
<i>Poecilia salvatoris</i>	Liberty molly	Livebearer	5
Dave Williamson			
<i>Danio kyathit</i>	Barbs, minnows, & rasboras		5
<i>Varibilichromis moori</i>		Cichlid s.s.	15

### HAP

Nick Rezac			
<i>Echinodorus cordifolius</i>	Marble Queen Sword	C- Vegetative	15

2010 Spawn & Point Totals	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
Phil & Tiffany Hypes	5	50		
Wayne Toven	4	40		
Rich Serva	3	20		
Dave Williamson	2	20		
Nick Rezac			1	15

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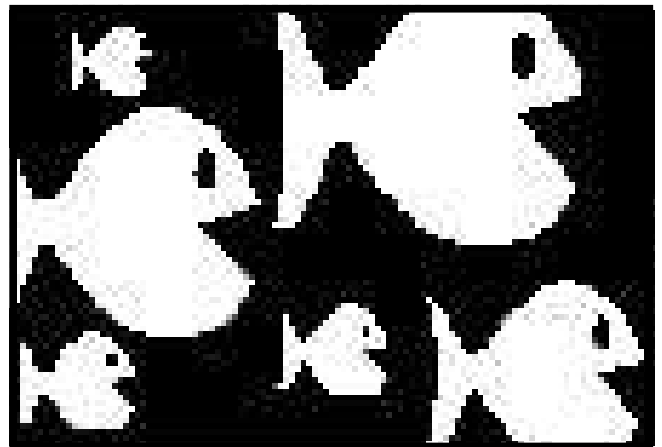
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## Exchange Report

Wayne Toven

If anyone is interested in reading one of the articles listed below let me know and I will get a copy of it to you, email or a hard copy at the meeting.

### Cambridge District Aquarium Society,

Aquatic Views: Nov. 09

*Acclimating Wild Discus or Who's Bright Idea was this?* By Carl & Mari-Anne

McCleary

*Buffalo Head Cichlid (Steatocranus casarius),* by Anthony McAslin

### Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society,

Fincinnati: Jan/Feb 10

*Spawning Ophthalmotilapia boops*

(Nkondwe), by Todd Leising

*Spawning Pterophyllum scalare – aka Angel-fish,* by Steve Smith

*Albino Angelfish of Many Colors,* by Steve Smith

### Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc.,

Finformation: Dec 09

*Lamprologus brevis,* by Roberto Prati

### Hamilton & District Aquarium Soc.: Nov 09

*How to Grow Show Quality Fish,* by Charles Drew

*Discus Made Simple: Part 3,* by Joe Bastianpillai

*Gouramis the Bubblenest Builders,* by Ken Kirkwood

### Hamilton & District Aquarium Soc.: Dec 09

*Breeding Corydoras schultzei,* by Charles Drew

*Discus made Simple: Part 4,* by Joe Bastianpillai

*Veil Tail Cherry Barbs,* by Charles Drew

### Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society,

Fins & Tales: Dec 09

*PlantEd Tank: Wishing for a Red Christmas,* by Ed Koerner

*Tank Cycling Tips: Good Bugs,* by Terry Clements

### Missouri Aquarium Society Inc., The

Darter: Nov/Dec 09

*Spawning Thorichthys ellioti,* by Gary McIlvaine

*Benitochromis batesi "Pouma",* by Patrick A. Tosie Sr.

*Organize Your Wire Clutter,* by Andy Walker

### Sarnia Aquarium Soc., Aqua Antics: Nov 09

*Melanotaenia boesmani,* by Peter Melady

*Marsh Marigold (Caltha palustris),* by Ron Urry

### Sarnia Aquarium Soc., Aqua Antics: Dec 09

*The Lake Tebera Rainbowfish,* by Peter Melady

*Aponogeton madagascariensis – Sexual Reproduction,* by Lisa Boorman

### St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society,

The Scat: Jan 10

*Girardinus falcatus – the Gold Belly Topminnow,* by Dave Furness

*Xiphophorus alvarezii – the Upland Sword,* by Dave Furness

I, by Dave Furness

### Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society,

The Youngstown Aquarist: Nov/Dec 09

I by Brian LaNeve

*Neolamprologus brevis "Sunspot",* by Dave Ayres

### Motor City Aquarium Society,

Tropic Tank Talk: Nov 09

*Acquiring Cryptocoryne,* by Ted Held

*Feather – Fin Pearl Fish,* by Leo S. Long

### Pacific Coast Cichlid Association,

Cichlidae Communique: Nov/Dec 09

*More than Just a Hobby,* by Richard Kong

*Lamprologus minutus,* by Rolf Mader

### Michiana Aquarium Society,

Michiana Tropical Times: Nov 09

*Girardinus metallicus – the Black Chinned Livebearer,* by Ben Slocum

*Silver Angelfish – Pterophyllum scalare,* by Ben Slocum

### Michiana Aquarium Society,

Michiana Tropical Times: Dec 09

*Characodon lateralis – the Rainbow Characodon,* by Donald Brandt

### Greater Detroit Aquarium Society,

Tropic Tank Talk: Dec 09

*Some Things About Carbon Dioxide and Plant Nutrients,* by Elmer Morehouse

*Michigan Rainbows,* by Bob Muller



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# Bowl Show & Special Activities

Ken McGill

Let me start with a special thanks to Jeff Plazak for running the bowl show for me. I come from quite a ways off and it looked like the odds of getting to the meeting without sliding into the ditch somewhere that night were pretty slim.

Even with the bad weather, we're off to a good start! Three participants with 10 entries. Bill Schake is in the lead with double digits already in our annual points competition. Keep up the good work guys. And the rest of you can play too!

## January Results:

### Male Guppy

1st place -	Bill Schake
2nd place -	Jeff Plazak
3rd place -	Bill Schake

### Goldfish

No entries

### Entrant Point Totals:

### Minnows Danios & Rasboras

1st place -	Wayne Toven
2nd place -	Bill Schake
3rd place -	Wayne Toven

Bill Schake	13
Jeff Plazak	4
Wayne Toven	7

## 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:** Sailfin Red Eye/Red Swordtails, Hifin Red Swordtails (normal eyes), Red Eye/Red Swordtails (normal dorsal), Black / Red Marble Swordtails, Plumetail Platies, Hifin/Plumetail Platies, Wild X. helleri, Lyretail Platies, Albino Swordtails, X. montezumae

See pictures of fish at

[www.platy-plus.com](http://www.platy-plus.com)

**Rick Graham**

[platyplus@neo.rr.com](mailto:platyplus@neo.rr.com)

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## How the Point System works:

- 1st - 4 points
- 2nd - 2 points
- 3rd - 1 point
- 1 point per entry,
- maximum 12 points per class

## 2010 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

## An Easy Way to Breed the Tiko Killifish, *Chromaphyosemion splendopleure*

By Rich Serva. photos by Wayne Toven



Fish of the genus *Chromaphyosemion* inhabit small pools and freshwater streams in the coastal lowlands of western Africa from Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon and Gabon. *Chromaphyosemion* was described by Radda (1971) as a subgenus of *Aphyosemion* (Myers 1924); however, more recent publications have elevated *Chromaphyosemion* to genus status. The various species in *Chromaphyosemion* can be easily distinguished from all other *Aphyosemion* species by several characters. In *Chromaphyosemion* there are two dark lateral bands in both sexes. Fish of the *Aphyosemion* genus usually have one or no dark lateral bands. In addition, males can change their coloration rapidly depending on stress or dominance position.

So many different *Chromaphyosemion* species may be present in such a small area of Africa because the large rivers could have been a barrier to species expansion. *Chromaphyosemion* are never found in deep water environments (even in the surface layer) or where a strong current exists.

### Description of the species

*Chromaphyosemion splendopleure* is a killifish that comes from coastal regions (West Coast of Africa) of southeastern Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and northwestern Gabon.

*Chromaphyosemion splendopleure* is most likely a true species and was best

described by Brüning (in 1929), based on specimens from the Tiko area. In 1930 Meinken gave a more detailed description and deposited examples from the Tiko area in the Berlin Museum. Three different *Chromaphyosemion* species (*C. splendopleure*, *C. volcanum*, and *C. poliaki*) are known to be present in the Tiko region which begs the question whether one of the other two species was used in the original description. *Chromaphyosemion splendopleure* belongs to the Splendopleure-group which consists of *Chromaphyosemio splendopleure*, cf. *splendopleure*, sp. aff. *splendopleure*, *poliaki* and *volcanum*.

In *splendopleure* the unpaired fins are mainly orange with yellow streamers while the cf. *splendopleure* have mainly blue-green with yellow streamers. The body colors differ in respect to the dorsal scales. In the former they are copper-red to reddish metallic with red to orange body color

*Chromaphyosemion splendopleure* are known from Moliwe, Bamukong, Tiko, Yoke, Bombe and Kumba, which is an area from the foothills of Mount Cameroon to the region south of Lake Barombi Mbo. Most of the rivulets, in which this form is found, are tributaries of the River Mungo.

Males are slightly larger than females but reach no more than 3 inches in overall length. These fish prefer softer con-

ditions but water from the Akron water department proved adequate for breeding conditions.

### Personal observations

*Chromaphyosemion splendopleure* proved to be an easy fish to maintain. I set up two pair up in a 15-gallon tank containing Java moss. They were less picky than most killifish and they accepted baby brine, live black worms, frozen blood worms, frozen brine and flakes as food. These fish are fairly shy and spent most of their time hidden in the moss. As a result I ignored them other than at feedings.

After a few months I started noticing fry in the tank. I figured "nice and easy" so leave the fish alone. Soon those fry starting growing up but no new fry were spotted. In an effort to collect fry to turn in for BAP the juveniles were removed to a separate tank. I only found 5 fry so the fish were left separated and I went back to ignoring them. Before long I began to notice small fry again. I suspected that the larger fry were feeding on the tiniest fry since this can be a problem with killifish.

### References:

Agnèse, J.-F., F. Zentz, O. Legros, D. Sello. Phylogenetic relationships and phylogeography of the Killifish species of the subgenus *Chromaphyosemion* (Radda, 1971) in West Africa, inferred from mitochondrial DNA sequences. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 40, 332–346 (2006)

Genade, T.. *Chromaphyosemion Confusion*. *Southern African Killifish Society Letters*, Vol. 3, Number 2, 2003.

Sonnenberg, R. The distribution of *Chromaphyosemion* Radda, 1971 (Teleostei: Cyprinodontiformes) on the coastal plains of West and Central Africa. E-article





## DIY - LED Lighting

By Joe Reich

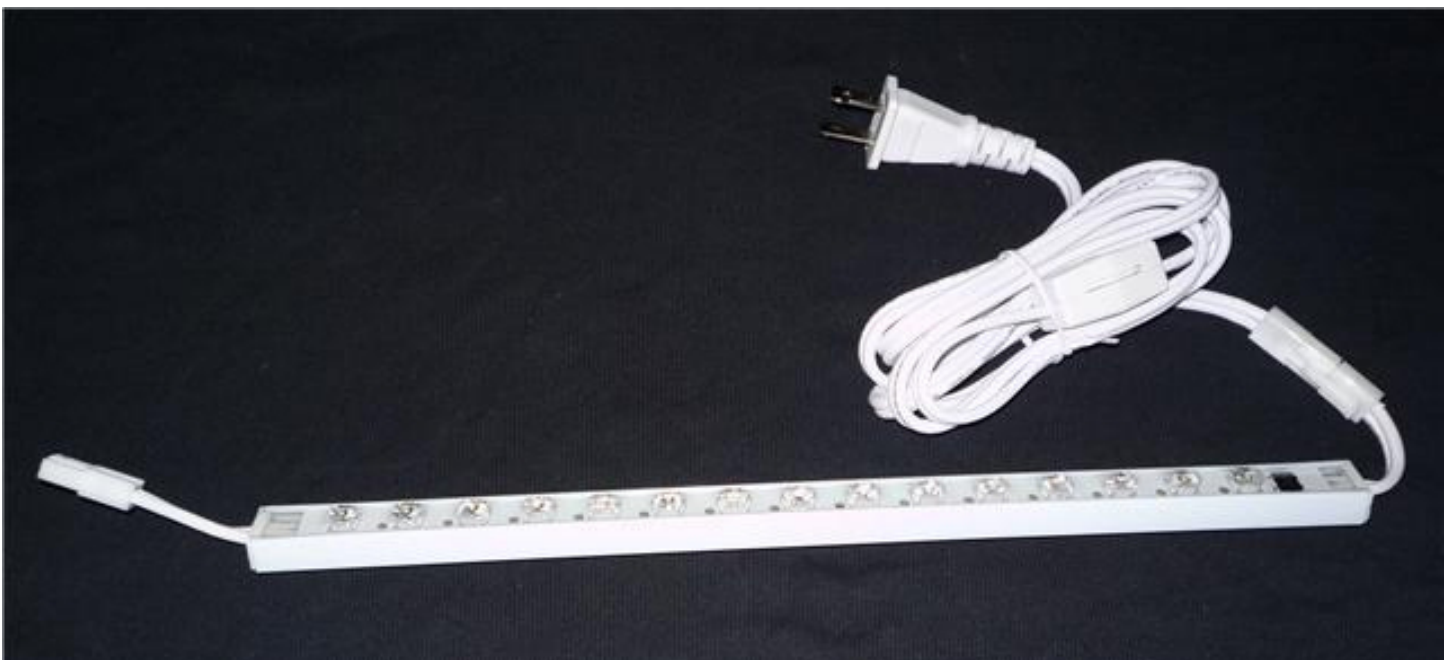
Every month I get a reminder from my electric company that I watched TV, did my laundry and had cold storage capabilities via my refrigerator. And, oh yeah, lets not forget keeping my aquatic pets alive. I keep explaining to my power company that they don't have to keep reminding me. But alas, they insist. Looking at my bill every month got me to thinking though that maybe I should make my little fish room a little more efficient, a little greener as it were.

Hmmm. I already had a central air system that did away with a few power filters, didn't seem like much at the time, but dog gone if my electric bill didn't go down some. I certainly liked the fact that I was spending less money on my electric bill, and the concept of actually saving money by not spending it had my head spinning! I'm gonna have to get in touch with the patent office and have that idea patented. So I started looking elsewhere to see if I could shave a little more watts off my kilowatt hour consumption. I'm one of those people that likes to have a light over every tank. After all I do like seeing my fish, so it goes without

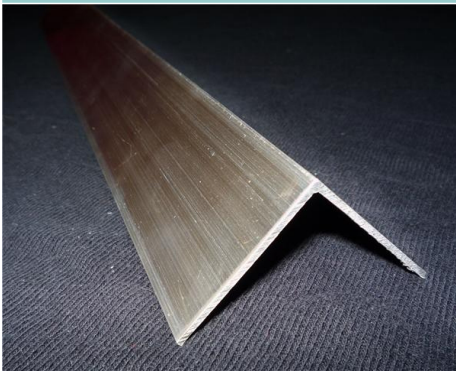
saying that lighting is a big power consumer in my fish room. Even though the room has two windows, it's not enough to light up the room, let alone the tanks, what with being down in a section of my basement and all. My tanks were lit up by regular "cool" white flourescents. The standard 40 watt bulb types. At the time I set those up I thought it was the ultimate in efficiency. But technology has come a little farther these days. Right now I have an aquarium that uses the T-8 flourescents, which makes it more economical to run than using the standard T-12 type bulbs. However, that efficiency comes a bit more pricey than the standard bulbs and it makes me wonder if it was really worth going that route. As compact flourescents started coming down in price I started eyeing those. They ultimately were passed over in my choice because they don't have one yet that throws a nice color light beam. However, in my search I stumbled onto some LED light strips. I debated myself for a few minutes about buying them as they cost around \$22 for a 16 inch strip, but the wattage was less than 1.5 watts! No pain, no gain!

I bought them. When I got home I tested the light over a 20 gallon long tank. It didn't look too bad! A bit on the dim side as the light was about 6 inches above the tank held in place by a plastic zip tie to a 40 watt bulb. Laying the strip light on top of the tank lid though is where these lights really showed their worth!! The light color looked excellent! Ever so slightly on the blue side and the fishes colors were outstanding! My little experiment was working, so I went back to the store the next week to buy more. It was disappointing though that only the shallow tanks looked nice and bright with them. I tried it over a 29 gallon, way too dim for my liking. But hey, I have a lot of 10's, 15's, and 20 longs where I can save electricity on. Not to mention 2 1/2's and 5's.

So here's a description of the lights. They are made by a company called Zylotech. The biggest strip light is 16 inches long with a 3/4 inch height and width. The outer case is plastic and all the electronics, including the LED's are encapsulated by a clear epoxy. No rusting here! The 16 inch light has a total of 22 LED's lined up in a single row. They come with a cord that has a rotary click switch on the end, and the cord plugs into a small pigtail on the end of the light. The opposite end of the light has







another pigtail that can be plugged into another strip light, that way you can link up a bunch and use only one power cord. Pretty nifty! They also come with little mounting brackets and a couple of screws so that you can mount them under a kitchen cabinet. I haven't had any need of the brackets though for my application. Oh yeah, almost forgot it's 120 volts and uses less than one and a half watts per strip light! The 12 inch strip light is exactly like the 16 inch, except of course it's only 12 inches long and only has 15 LED's. It almost uses a whole watt! They also make a puck (as in hockey) style light. I thought that maybe since they were round and seemed to concentrate more LED's into a smaller diameter that they would be brighter for deeper tanks, but that's another little experiment that failed. Like I said, no pain, no gain. They do look awesome though over a gallon jar! I imagine that it would look equally good over a fish bowl too. The puck lights also use about a watts worth of electric and can be chain linked together as well. There are other manufacturers of LED strip lights,

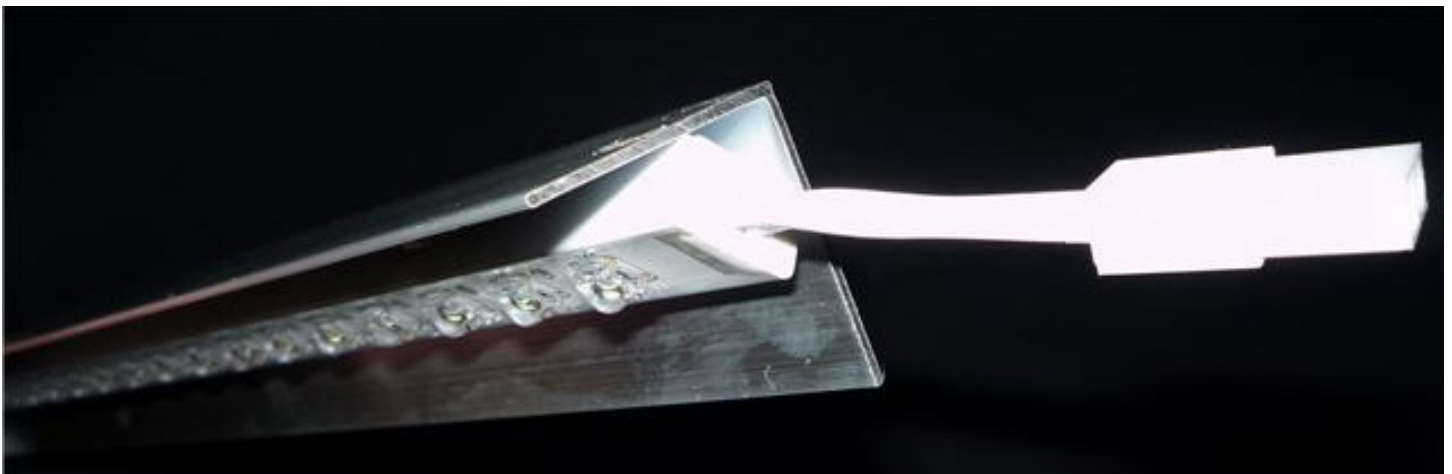
and I did buy one made by Sylvania that cost less, but the lighting output is too yellow. Zylotech is the brand I'll stick with! And the only place I found them is at a store called Menard's.

So now that I had the lights, it was time to make a fixture that would hold them. Sitting just "as is" from the manufacturer on top of the tank wouldn't allow the strip light to sit squarely on the lid. That had to change! I bought some 2 inch by 2 inch aluminum angle from Home Depot (Lowe's has it too but will always be out of stock for whatever you're looking for) and cut them with a miter saw to the length of the strip light. Then I filed the edges enough to just knock off the burs. I chose aluminum because it won't rust and at some point or another it will get wet. The aluminum also reflected a little more light into the tank, which was a plus. My 40 watt fluorescent fixtures are about 10 years old and rusting! I do, however have to keep these fixtures away from salt! Salt loves to eat aluminum. After my angle was cut to desired length, I used a degreaser to remove oily deposits. Then I mixed up a 5 minute epoxy and brushed some on the corners of the light fixture and clamped the strip light inside the angle at a 45 degree. When it was cured (I let it set a good 15 minutes) it was ready for the tank! All I did was let them sit on the tank top. Just doesn't get any simpler! What did it cost me to make them? Well the 16 inch strip lights were \$22 a piece, but I've found them on sale for \$16. The 12 inch strip lights are \$17,

but then again, I got them on sale for \$14. Aluminum angle was in the neighborhood of \$28 for an 8 foot piece and pushed the cost up considerably. However, I justified them by saving time in construction. Some people might not look at it that way, but I was happy and that's what mattered. I also bought some 12 inch and 16 inch pigtail extensions, they came in really handy and cost around \$1.50 apiece. I linked up 9 strip lights and only used one plug. Nice!

In conclusion I must say that I'm extremely happy with this little project to say the least! My electric bill has been steadily going down as I make more lights despite me adding a few more tanks. Even after buying the aluminum angle stock, the payback on this lighting set up will only be around a year and a half. Other lighting set ups can't touch that claim!!! I also don't have to buy any replacement bulbs, just another thing to consider when going to a more efficient lighting set up. LED's also last a lot longer than bulbs, typically 14,000 hours or more! For the time being I'll have to make do with the lower light output LED's if I want them over my deep tanks, but I have a feeling that technology will catch up. One of my aquatic catalogs already has some LED lights made specifically for aquariums, but the prices! OUCH!!!!

I'll leave you with one final thought, it probably wouldn't be too hard to convert a plastic Perfecto hood into an LED light. Hmmm.



## The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

P.O. Box 494  
Akron, OH 44309-0494

Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

# Meeting Notice

### Thursday, February 4

**Program:** Orin McMonigle, "The Bug Man" returns with more interesting arthropods

**Bowl Show:** Suckermouth Catfish, Swordtails, Characins

### Thursday, March 4

**Program:** Dan McMonigle: Fixing Broken Tanks (We'll try again!)

**Bowl Show:** Barbs, Mollies, *Corydoras* *Aspidoras* and *Brochis* Catfish

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

## Coming Events

### Feb 13, 2010 Ohio Cichlid Association Winter Auction

Holiday Inn Select Strongsville, 15471 Royalton Road. Cichlids, scavengers, plants and dry goods only. Registration 10-12 AM, Auction begins at 11. Visit [www.ohiocichlid.com](http://www.ohiocichlid.com) for more info

### February 27, 2010 - Motor City Aquarium Society - Auction

**new location:** Madison Place 876 Horace Brown Dr Madison Heights MI 13 Mile Rd @ I-75, 1 block east of I-75, south on Montpelier to end Contact John Premilovich if you wish to pre-register: [zap-pa9001@wowway.com](mailto:zap-pa9001@wowway.com)

**February 28, 2010 –  
SCALES - Spring Auction**  
Perry Grange, Richville Dr.  
SW, Massillon, Ohio  
For more information: Cal  
(330) 448-0084, John (330)  
452-9027

**March 7, 2010 – Greater Akron  
Aquarium Society – Spring  
Auction**  
Tallmadge Community Center,  
80 Community Rd., Tallmadge  
For more information: Bud White  
(330) 848-3856  
([bwhite@neo.rr.com](mailto:bwhite@neo.rr.com)), Wayne  
Toven (330) 296-6322  
([wtoven@hotmail.com](mailto:wtoven@hotmail.com)) or Rich  
Serva (330) 650-4613  
([riserva@juno.com](mailto:riserva@juno.com))

**April 22 through 25, 2010 –  
American Livebearer Asso-  
ciation Convention**  
The Detroit Marriott - South-  
field, in Southfield, MI. More  
information can be found at  
[www.ALA2010.com](http://www.ALA2010.com)

**April 25 – Greater Pitts-  
burgh Aquarium Society  
Inc. - Spring Auction**  
North Hampton VFD, 5149  
North Pioneer Road, Gibso-  
nia, PA 15044  
For more information: Con-  
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5163 and Bill Sensor 724-  
845-7171