



# The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

## Tank Topics

October/November 2010

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**CH. sp. Minzita male**

A *Chapalichthys* sp. Minzita taken by Wayne Toven. Check out Wayne's article on page 8 to find out more about this interesting genus of goodeid livebearers.

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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:

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

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Junior (10-17 years)	1 year	\$5.00
	2 years	\$7.00

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

## President's Message

Well folks it has been a rather quiet time in fish land here, which is good because my work schedule has been rather heavy, working 7 days does

not give one much time to do much else (need to thank my wife Cathy for helping me out by doing water changes for me), be able to work is great,

but sometime there is to much of a good thing, oh well, I will quit whining and get on with the message.

Youngstown had a show, one of only two all specie shows in Ohio, ours was the other one, and I am told they did well and they made some money as well have some fun, Congratulations to Youngstown, hope you have many more.

I missed the last meeting due to flu, but was told the speaker and program was great, I can say we have not been disappointed by any speak we have had yet and we plan to have more, so if you have something in mind let us know.

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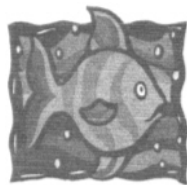
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### Enjoy the weather



**Bud White**

## Editor's Message



Like the song says "What a long strange trip it's been!" Well, that's been my life since the last issue. Here's the basic time line: End of July, plugging along working at Wet Pets just like I had for the last year and a half or so. Beginning of August, we're in the depth of the normal Summer slow season, but it seemed a little tougher than usual to get the funds to restock. Middle of August: had

to cut hours and even less funding (starting to look a little scary here). End of August: The plug was pulled! The official announcement of going out of business was made. Fast forward to the end of September and the end of an era is here. Not counting the "Dottie's" period (I don't know how long that was, it happened before I even knew where Akron was!) 38 years of business came to a slow, painful end. I was personally involved with the business for 21 of those years. Pretty sad to see it end that way, but it wasn't just us. I was letting suppliers know that we wouldn't be needing price lists any more and was told that we were only one of nine in the Northeastern Ohio area that met the same fate this year. Seems as though the hay-day of the independent (not part of a chain) pet store may be over. Granted, there are some that will make it into the future but the days of

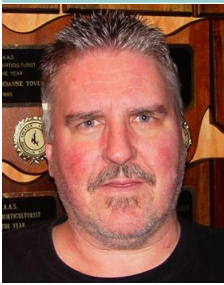
finding multiple pages of listings in the local Yellow Pages is past-tense in most areas. Something to keep in mind though: if the "mom & pop" type of shopping experience is what you like, now is the time to reward the remaining ones with your business or there won't be any of them left in the future. Not to worry about the crew though. Christina & I both had previous employers we were able to go back to, basically a year-and-a-half job speed bump. The rest were high-school and college students and can easily move on to something better or at least relating to their studies. As far as the owner was concerned, I could care less what happens to him after finding out that all along we were doomed due to the fact that his plan involved getting rid of the pet store and moving another one of his junk stores (we always got in trouble if we called it that

rather than a "discount store") into the building because the rent was cheap. Do I really care anymore? No, not really, since it won't change a thing. And I really do have to admit that if I hadn't taken the chance to be the Manager, I would have kicked myself the rest of my life always wondering what could have been.

On to happier thoughts, at least I can say that all those years working in the pet trade didn't kill the hobbyist in me. I still have a fish room up and operating and actually still enjoy it. Possibly keeping mostly non commercially viable fish has helped, I never got caught up in the idea that my fish room would make money!

Last but not least remember that our Fall Auction is coming up soon on November 7th. We need lots of people there to help make it successful. I'll see you at the Meeting!





# BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

Here it is September already, before long I will be trying to find somewhere inside to house all of the fish that are in the outdoor tubs. With the cooler temperatures lately that will be sooner than I would like. This is a recurring problem I have to cope with every fall, but somehow I manage. Being September, that means there are only two months left in the BAP/HAP year. There is still two months to get those spawns and plant propagations turned in before the Breeder of the Year Award and Horticulturist of the Year Award are presented at the December meeting. Then we start all over for 2011.

We had a third club member reach the ten spawn level, so a 16 ounce can of brine shrimp eggs will be awarded to Wayne Toven at the October meeting. We currently have 21 members participating in the Breeder and Horticultural Award Programs, that's what we need to see in a club, not just a few members doing it all, let's keep up the good work. We have had a lot more plant propagations and flowerings in the past couple of months, but that is to be expected since it is prime pond season.

2010 Spawn & Point Totals	BAP	Pts	HAP	Pts
Phil & Tiffany Hypes	15	150	24	235
Joe Reich	12	135	-	-
Wayne Toven	10	85	3	30
Dave Williamson	9	85	1	15
Dan McMonigle	6	60	8	80
Ron Drungil	5	45	-	-
Bruce Fraley	5	45	-	-
David Girard	3	40	-	-
Ken McGill	3	30	-	-
Bob Miller	3	30	-	-
Rich Serva	3	20	1	5
Miranda Boerema	2	10	-	-
Orin McMonigle	2	20	-	-
Frank Mueller	2	30	10	140
Alex Drungil	1	5	-	-
Russ Kirkendall	1	10	-	-
Jeff Plazak	1	5	-	-
Bill Schake	1	10	-	-
Bud & Cathy White	1	10	-	-
Denny Bechter	-	-	1	10
Nick Rezac	-	-	1	15

Species	Common name	Class	Points
<b>June 2010 BAP</b>			
<b>Phil &amp; Tiffany Hypes</b>			
<i>Asolene spixi</i>	Spixi snails	Aquatic animal	5
<i>Cryptoheros nanoluteus</i>		Cichlid s.s.	5
<i>Neolamprologus brevis</i>		Cichlid s.s.	15
<i>Callochromis stappersi</i>	Raspberry tail	Cichlid m.b.	10
<b>Dan McMonigle</b>			
<i>Aulonocara jacobfreibergi</i>		Cichlid m.b.	15
<b>Bud &amp; Cathy White</b>			
<i>Hemichromis bimaculatus</i>	Jewel cichlid	Cichlid s.s.	10
<b>HAP</b>			
<b>Phil &amp; Tiffany Hypes</b>			
<i>Hygrophila difformis</i>	Water wisteria	A - vegetative	5
		E - flowering	5
<i>Elodea densa</i>	Anacharis	A - vegetative	5
<i>Mentha cervina</i>	Water mint	E - flowering	10
<b>Dan McMonigle</b>			
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	Hairgrass	B - vegetative	10
		E - flowering	10
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Sweet manna grass	E - flowering	10
<i>Thalia dealbata</i>	Blue water canna	E - flowering	10
<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	Pink European lotus	E - flowering	10
<i>Nelumbo lutea</i>	Yellow American lotus	E - flowering	10
<i>Schoenoplectus zebrinus</i>	Zebra rush	E - flowering	10
<b>Wayne Toven</b>			
<i>Zephyranthes grandiflora</i>	Pink rain lily	E - flowering	10
<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>	Creeping water primrose	E - flowering	10
<b>September 2010 BAP</b>			
<b>Ken McGill</b>			
<i>Neocaridina denticulatus</i>	Cherry shrimp	Aquatic animal	10
<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>	Red crayfish	Aquatic animal	10
<i>Puntius ticto</i>	Odessa barb	Barbs, etc.	10
<b>Wayne Toven</b>			
<i>Barbus nigrofasciatus</i>	Black ruby barb	Barbs, etc.	10
<b>Dave Williamson</b>			
<i>Nandopsis hatiensis</i>		Cichlid s.s.	10
<b>HAP</b>			
<b>Phil &amp; Tiffany Hypes</b>			
<i>Vallisneria sp.</i>	Currituck	A - vegetative	5
<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Sweet flag	A - vegetative	5
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	American val	A - vegetative	5
<i>Canna generalis</i>	Red canna	E - flowering	10
<i>Alisma plantago</i>	Water plantain	G - vegetative	10
<i>Zephyranthes candida</i>	White rain lily	E - flowering	10
<i>Echinodorus cordifolius</i>		E - flowering	15
<i>Aponogeton distachyos</i>	Water hawthorne	E - flowering	10
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water mint	E - flowering	10
<b>Wayne Toven</b>			
<i>Hibiscus acetosella</i>	African rose mallow	G- vegetative	10

# Exchange Report



**Wayne Toven**

The articles mentioned below are original articles by members of other club's in their publications. If you would like to read one let me know and I will get a copy of it to you one way or another. First of all a reprint of Wayne Toven's article Keeping and Spawning Phalichthys amates amates was in the July/August issue of the Missouri Aquarium Society Inc. the Darter.

## **Circle City Aquarium Society, Fancy Fins: Aug. 2010**

Shrimp Reproducing Strategies,  
by Mike Matthews

DIY Brine Shrimp Hatcher & My  
Recipe, by Mike Matthews

Aphyosemion striatum, by Charlie  
Grimes

## **Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society, Fincinnati: Sep/Oct 2010**

Beyond Breeder Award Program  
Conservations for the Aquarium  
Hobbyist, by Lenny Llambi

Ancistrus "Red and Black",  
by Jerry Riegel

Breeding Corydoras adolfi,  
by Steve Smith

## **Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc, Finformation: July 2010**

Spawning Peckoltia sp. L134 Leopard  
Frog Plecostomus or Gold Banded  
Peckoltia, by Eric Bodrock

Breeding Livebearers, the Odyssey,  
by Stan Chechak

## **Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc, Finformation: Aug. 2010**

Pseudomugil connieae, by Eric Bodrock

Artemia salina (Brine Shrimp),  
by Joe Doyle

## **Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Sep. 2010**

Spawning the Savannah tetra,  
by Charles Drew

## **Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales: Sep 2010**

DIY Thinking Outside of the (Glass)  
Box, by Tianna Bertolo

Jayne's Pond Journal: June- July,  
by Jayne Glazier

Living With Livebearers, by Ed Koerner

My First Tropheus, by Ed Koerner

## **Michiana Aquarium Society, Michiana Tropical Times: July 2010**

Apistogramma pebas, by Matt Bielski

Some Tips on Multiple Tank  
Maintenance, by Jerry Ranson

## **Michiana Aquarium Society, Michiana Tropical Times: Aug 2010**

Nannacara taenia – the Striped Dwarf  
Cichlid, by Ben Slocum

## **Greater Detroit Aquarium Society, Tropic Tank Talk: July 2010**

Daphnia Culture Made Simple – part 1,  
by Doug Sweet

## **Greater Detroit Aquarium Society, Tropic Tank Talk: Aug 2010**

Daphnia Culture Made Simple – part 2,  
by Doug Sweet

## **Ohio Cichlid Association, Buckeye Bulletin: Aug 2010**

What Are You Prepared to Do?  
(power failure), by Kyle May

Dissecting the Hobby, by Dan Woodland

## **Ohio Cichlid Association, Buckeye Bulletin: Sep. 2010**

Dissecting the Hobby – How to Handle  
the Electric Bill, by Dan Woodland

## **Pacific Coast Cichlid Association, Cichlidae Communique: July/Aug 2010**

Tropheus Anonymous, by Pam Chin

An Introduction to *Cichlasoma*,  
by Dave Locey

## **St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, the Scat: Sep 2010**

Jack Dempsey – *Rocio octofasciata*,  
by Dave Furness

Pterophyllum leopoldi, by Dave Unruh

## **Missouri Aquarium Society Inc, The Darter: July/Aug 2010**

Keeping and Breeding *Lamprichthys  
tanganicus* – the Tanganyikan Killifish,  
by Kurt A. Zahringer

A Different Type of Jewel –  
*Hemichromis frempongi*,  
by Patrick A. Tosie Sr.

Back to Burkina Faso: Bringing Home  
Jewels and Whales That Can Kill, by  
Lawrence Kent





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# Bowl Show & Special Activities

Ken McGill

We have quite a race going on with only 24 pts between 1st and 3rd place. But everybody else can play too.

## August

### AO New World Cichlids

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

### Amphibians

- 1st - Bill Schake  
2nd - Dave Williamson  
3rd - Bill Schake

### Bog Plants

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

## September

### Anabantoids

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

### Photography

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

### Sharks & Loaches

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

Name:	Total:
Jeff Plazak	86
Bill Schake	69
Wayne Toven	62
Dave Williamson	36
Phil Hypes	13
Ron Drungil	10
Michael Berger	4
Miranda Boerema	2
Bill Koleszar	1



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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



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# The Beach Hole Fairy

By Orin McMonigle



On vacation in June of 2010 we visit a local beach in Norfolk, Virginia. There are a number of people fishing and a few joggers but it's very different from the sterilized, synthetic, public beach we visited in Virginia Beach the previous day. There are bunches of washed-up seagrass dotting the beach along with the occasional large clumps of dead *Gracilaria* macroalgae. Sea lettuce (*Ulva lactuca*) is mixed in with the sea grass. The beach is mostly sand but there's larger gravel where the water hits the shore that looks like freshwater aquarium gravel. I find two large pebbles with an interesting green macroalgae attached, *Enteromorpha flexuosa*. (When I get home I remember why I never keep *Ulva* or *Enteromorpha* as the blue-legged hermits employed to keep down hair algae make quick work of these plants despite ignoring other macroalgae.)

About fifteen feet from the shore I notice holes from 0.5" to 1.5" in diameter. I've seen these before on beaches and dig up the area and never find anything. That doesn't stop me from digging up a few holes. I tell my daughters and elder niece I'll give \$2 if anyone can figure out what's in these holes. For all I know it's a mouse, snake, or fairy. We're all working on our own holes for ten minutes when I notice a little white figure shoot out of the shallow pit my 9-year-old is digging and watch it head straight for the water (she tells me later she never even saw it and was still busy digging). Two seconds and fifteen feet later I'm grabbing it from the crashing waves. It gives me a pinch but this one doesn't hurt



much or draw blood. It's a handsome, light-colored land crab with a sandy, dappled carapace and very tall eyes. It's about twice the size of a fiddler crab and appears to be a male from the narrow tail (folded against the body). Many holes later I find a second crab, a little bigger. We put them in one of my 3.5-year-old twin nieces' play buckets with a little water and the youngsters temporarily take possession of the crabs. A third male crab pinches me and leaves its claw hanging in my skin with a little blood so I let it go to regrow it's arm. We head home for the pool and some relaxation.

In the morning, with the promise of \$2 a crab, my daughters are the only ones who will come back with me to the beach. I want to find a female. It doesn't take long to find the first crab but a female is another story. The holes go off at all different directions (I thought they



were going towards the beach till I tested that theory) but never straight down. They're only about eighteen inches deep but the problem is once you lose track of the hole you lose the crab. Dig all you want and you won't find it. A shovel might make it easier but most likely you'd end up chopping the crabs in half or burying them in a pile they won't dig up till after you leave. Of course large shovels on a beach may also bring unnecessary attention.

We ended up finding eleven more crabs of which the second to last was a female and the last a monster male. He's the size of a large moon crab but with much

thicker, larger legs. His hole is close to twenty feet from the water but he makes it to the surf. These crabs are crazy fast and I know this one might do more than draw a few drops of blood. When ghost crabs hit the water they only go about two feet in and stop, if they kept going we'd have seen half as many crabs. The pinching claws are difficult to avoid in the water. I pin him with a child's sand shovel and pick him up. When I am about to put him in our bucket of crabs I notice a few separated legs. A large male with a 1.5" carapace has been a bit angry. The smaller ones showed little aggression but I should have anticipated this.

Overall there was one female out of fourteen crabs. Her claws and build were similar to the males but her tail was twice as wide (crab tails fold up against the carapace). We tried around sixty holes and only got one out of four overall but three of the last five as practice made it easier. The beach was a few miles long so if I had a few weeks I could dig up a few thousand to see if the high male to female ratio is consistent.

My sister-in-law mentioned before we left that morning that the beach was in a pretty bad area but the prostitutes and drug dealers really don't cross the street to the beach side. Human traffic, beach cleaners and vehicles have eradicated ghost crabs in many areas. With the constant development of beach areas I wonder if some bad neighborhoods will be enough to keep this species thriving in future centuries.

Background (not really a beach hole fairy)

*Ocypode quadrata* is easy to identify since it is the only ghost crab found

along the Atlantic coast of the United States. A few dozen other species are found in the genus worldwide and are also called ghost crabs. Specimens have one large and one small claw, but not highly exaggerated like fiddler crabs. The specimens I found were left handed or right handed. The carapace of smaller specimens is dappled and looks like sand whereas the largest four including the female had a grayish carapace. This species feeds on washed up plants and invertebrates and eats a variety of things in captivity from dog food to live crickets. It is considered a terrestrial species since it has no paddles and has legs built for walking on land but it probably spends some time in the surf. Larvae are planktonic and probably can't be reared in captivity without substantial time and equipment investment. This is true of nearly all crabs including the commonly kept moon crabs and fiddlers.

#### Captivity

Bringing the crabs home was without

losses compared to fully aquatic species. Very little water was used since rancid water from their own wastes would kill them quickly. Four years ago I tried bringing back a number of blue crabs -- and a spider crab that lasted barely half a day-- and lost a third of them in transit, likewise they were kept in little water or they would have all rapidly poisoned themselves (the voracious blue crabs lived many months but kept climbing out of the aquarium to run around the house and I eventually stopped looking for them). Comparatively, none of the ghost crabs died.

I gave most of them away a few days later and kept two of them. One had 3/4" of water and one only damp sand. The one in the water lasted only another ten days since it was kept in a small cage without filtration. Although the seawater was changed every few days it wasn't enough. The one on the sand was fed crickets and roaches and constantly dug new tunnels. It kept very active then on day 33 it looked dead. I had been wetting

the sand (with fresh water since salt doesn't evaporate) but may have let it grow a little less wet. I threw the lifeless crab in my reef tank to see if some water might help (I don't know how fresh water would affect the animals). I was 99% sure this wasn't going to do a thing. Twelve hours later the crab was back to his regular self.

#### Conclusion

The species makes a loud gurgling noise when captured. It seems, at least in part, to be relative to the amount of water in the gills. The noise discontinues when they are kept on damp sand. Also, unless placed in water for a while the noise is not nearly as loud as in freshly captured individuals.

It was a lot of fun to 'discover' these beach hole fairies I had never seen nor heard of. I doubt ghosts crabs will ever be a popular pet but the experience makes me want to try some of the various crabs I see at the local fish store.

## Another Chapter in the *Chapalichthys* Saga

Wayne Toven

*Chapalichthys pardalis* female



In the Goodeid family the genus *Chapalichthys* was established by Meek in 1902 based upon *Ch. encaustus* described by Jordan and Snyder in 1900. There are currently 2 maybe 3 species in the genus, or are there? The 2 identified species are *Ch. encaustus* the barred goodeid and *Ch. pardalis* the polka dot or panther split-fin. The books I used for information agree that *Ch. encaustus* is a valid species. Then in 1963 Alvarez del Villar described 2 species, *Ch. pardalis* and *Ch. peraticus* in one paper so it is unsure if they both belong to one species or are 2 distinct species. Members of the genus are similar in size and shape to *Ameioblennius*, they are relatively deep bodied, have small pointed heads,

the dorsal fin is set well back on the body, and males have a larger dorsal fin and an andropodium.

The range of *Ch. encaustus* is Lago Chapala and Rio Grande de Santiago in the state of Jalisco, and also Lago Cuitzeo and Rio Tanhuato in the state of Michoacan. Both states are on the west coast of central Mexico, Michoacan is west of Mexico City, angling slightly southwest to the coast, and Jalisco is northwest of Michoacan.

The color of *Ch. encaustus* is olive-gray on the upper and otherwise silvery, there is a faint dark stripe along the lateral line from the gill plate to the caudal pedun-

cle. Also along this stripe is a series of black markings, varying from spots to vertical bars, sometimes one or the other or both. The fins are basically transparent, caudal fin however can have a yellow margin, which has been noted to fade away if the Ph drops below neutral. The water parameters should be medium to hard, moderately alkaline, with a temperature range from 68-78 degrees F, but they prefer the cooler end.

They are omnivorous so foods should vary, flake with a vegetable base, frozen and freeze dried, and live when possible. *Ch. encaustus* females can grow to around 3 1/4 inches, while the males only 2 1/2 inches. One book says a large fe-



male can drop up to 50 fry, while another says around 10 fry is a normal brood size, fry are usually a good ½ inch when they are born.

The books say *Ch. pardalis* attain a similar size, but has black spotting over the whole body, males tend to have the yellow margin on the caudal fin. The *Ch. pardalis* I kept in the past were the olive-tan color, dark speckling on lower 2/3 of the body, both sexes had yellow margins on the dorsal, anal, and caudal fins. Their range is Presa de San Juanico and Lago de la Magdalena in Tocumbo in the state of Michoacan. According to two sources this range is fed by a spring but is now almost entirely made into a concrete swimming pool and its outflow. Substrate was originally silt, mud, gravel, rocks, and boulders. They like clean clear water need good filtration with little circulation, dark substrate, and plenty of plants. They also like cool temperatures between 68-73 degrees F with a Ph of 7.2-8. Same kind of foods as *Ch. encaustus*. Again few young, rarely more than 12 are born and due to their large size of ½ inch are not bothered by the older fish.

*Ch. peraticus* which is Greek for odd or unfamiliar are maybe a smaller species, females only grow to 2 5/8 inches and males to 2 inches. Their body color is a yellowish silver with a white abdominal area, females have a mid body spot pattern along the lateral line, fins of both sexes are a dull yellow. The caudal fin of the male has the yellow margin with a dark band also; other fins have a dark edging. When viewed at the proper angle the males also have iridescent spangling on the upper half of their body, in colors varying from pink to blue to greenish-blue. They were originally found in San Juanico, Cotija, and Estado in Michoacan. Their care and breeding is the same as *Ch. pardalis*.

Now on to the whole point of this article, at a club auction in 2008 I obtained some *Chapalichthys sp.* Minzita, I have to assume that Minzita is a location (town) because it was not called a Rio, Aroyo, or Lago. They looked like your typical Goodied, silvery body, not much to look at. This past summer like a lot of other livebearers they went outside to one of

my 110 gallon tubs behind my garage, with lots of plants and water lilies. I fed them flake food once a day and left the rest up to Mother Nature. I figured they were mature enough to spawn, over a year old, but never saw any fry. None of the books I used for my research said anything about what age they reached sexual maturity. Well the weather started cooling off around the end of September so it was time to bring the inside for the winter; they took up residence in a 30 gallon long tank, one of my favorite size tanks. They had floating plants a sponge filter and a sand substrate, probably should mix in some dolomite to bring the Ph up, more to their liking, but their tankmates are a few kuhli loaches, a pleco, and a few *corydoras*. The largest female is around 2 ¾ and the males about 2 ¼ inches not counting the tail. Their coloration varies, when I caught them outside the upper third of the body was olive-tan, rest of the body silvery with a white abdominal area. The females had black spotting, almost all below the lateral line, the spots were small on the belly and got larger toward the tail and the lateral line, the males had no spotting or very few pale spots on the belly. Sometimes the males had a faint dark stripe along the lateral line and sometimes nothing. They seemed to get a little more of the olive-tan color on the body than they had outside, might be due to lack of bright sunlight. The spotting stayed pretty much the same on both sexes. One night a couple hours after the room lights went off I was down feeding the catfish, I happened to look at the *Ch. sp.* Minzita with a flashlight. Both sexes

had bluish iridescent spangling on the body, mostly above the lateral line, and the males had a faint yellow margin on the tail with a faint dark band to the inside of the yellow, the tank they are in is pretty well scratched on the inside, the problem with used tanks, someone did a lot of scrubbing, so I cannot get a very good picture of the males. During the day the yellow margin is not present, but some males still have the faint dark band on the tail. Fry production seems to be about the same as the other species, around 10 fry ½ inch long at birth. So is this another species or just a marking variation? We'll just have to wait until the scientists decide to do some work and figure it out.

Sources:

Livebearing Fishes: a Guide to Their Aquarium Care, Biology, and Classification: John Dawes

Aqualog of All Livebearers and Half Beaks: Michael Kemkes & Dipl. Biol. Frank Schafer

Freshwater Fishes of Mexico: Robert Rush Miller

Atlas of Livebearers of the World: Lothar Wischnath

Baensch Aquarium Atlas #2: Dr. Rutiger Riehl & Hans A. Baensch

Baensch Aquarium Atlas #3: Hans A. Baensch & Dr. Rutiger Riehl

My Experiences: Wayne Toven



Ch. sp. Minzita female

## The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

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

Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

# Meeting Notice

**Thursday, October 7**

**Program:** Monster Fish Rescue.

**Bowl Show:** ,  
Arts & Crafts, Marine Fish,  
All Other Old World Cichlids

**Thursday, November 4**

**Program:** Elections and a short program by Dan McMonigle about the Melbourne Aquarium, the Great Barrier Reef, mudskippers, and the Queensland Rain Forest.

**Bowl Show:** All Other Livebearers, All Other Egglayers, All Other Catfish

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

## Coming Events

**October 2, 2010 – Greater Detroit Aquarium Society - Fall Auction**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 814 Campbell Road, Royal Oak, Michigan. Registration starts at 9:30 to 11:00, auction starts at 11:00. For more information contact Bob Muller at 248-398-0195

**October 9, 2010 – Medina County Aquarium Society - Fall Auction**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3355 Medina Rd. (Rt. 18), Medina, Ohio 44256  
Auction Starts at Noon, Registration

tion 10:00-1:00  
More info: Call/Email: Teresa Biggs 330-334-1447  
[aunttbiggs@hotmail.com](mailto:aunttbiggs@hotmail.com),  
John Kaminski (330) 225-0709,  
[johnrkam@roadrunner.com](mailto:johnrkam@roadrunner.com)

**October 17, 2010 – Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society - Fall Auction**

J.V. Johnson Community Center, 800 Gillmer Rd - Leavittsburg, OH 44430 Registration 11am to 1pm - Auction begins at Noon  
For more information: Tom Mrura-  
[ru2@aol.com](mailto:ru2@aol.com) 330-758-3043 or  
330-770-3131 (day of auction only)  
Web site: [www.yatfs.com](http://www.yatfs.com)

**October 24th, 2010 Erie Aquarium Society FALL Auction**  
West Ridge Fire Hall; 3142 W 26th (Rt 20) Erie, PA 16506  
(1 block east of Hoss's restaurant)  
Registration starts at 10am.  
Auction begins at 11:00am

**November 7, 2010 – Greater Akron Aquarium Society – Fall Auction**  
Tallmadge Community Center, 80 Community Rd., Tallmadge, Ohio  
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  
([rserva@juno.com](mailto:rserva@juno.com))

**November 13, 2010 – Motor City Aquarium Society - Fall Auction**  
Madison Place, 876 Horace Brown Dr., Madison Heights, Michigan.  
Registration 9:00 to 10:30, auction starts at 10:30.  
For more info:  
[www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com](http://www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com)

**November 19-21 2010 Ohio Cichlid Association's Extravaganza** at the Strongsville Holiday Inn at Rt. 71 & 82 in Strongsville.  
[www.ohiocichlid.com](http://www.ohiocichlid.com)  
Contact Don Danko don-fish@Ameritech.net 440-526-0755 or Marc DeWerth madbigfoot@aol.com or visit [www.ohiocichlid.com](http://www.ohiocichlid.com).