



# The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

## Tank Topics

April/May 2011

### Inside this issue:

President's Message Bud White	3
Editor's Message Dave Williamson	3
BAP/HAP Wayne Toven	4
Exchange Wayne Toven	5
Bowl Show Ken McGill	6
Allotoca goslinei Wayne Toven	7
Growth Program	8
Phalloptychus januarius Dave Williamson	9
Coming Events	10
Meeting Notice	10



### THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING!!!

The American Livebearer Association 2011 Convention is April 8, 9 & 10 at the Cleveland Airport Sheraton.

### DON'T MISS OUT!!!

This has been a public service announcement brought to you by the Surfer Guppy!

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	Louanne Coulter.....	<a href="mailto:reaqua@yahoo.com">reaqua@yahoo.com</a>

### Important Dates for 2011

March 6  
Spring auction

July 9 & 10  
Ultra Aqua 2011

November 6  
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

☐ New ☐ Renewal  
☐ Electronic ☐ Mail



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 \_\_\_\_\_

## President's Message

Wow what an auction we had! We started earlier, at 11 am instead of noon and the place was packed with standing room only and not much of that left either. That puts us to at least 300 people, that's a lot. The prices were very good and we had some very nice items, seemed like everyone was happy.

The next thing we have is going to be the American Livebearer Association Convention we are hosting at the Cleveland Airport Sheraton

hotel April 8-10. Go to our website for all the information <http://www.ala2011.com/> and plan to join us. It is something that does not come this way very often, it is a chance to meet people very involved with Livebearers, many from other countries and all are ready to talk about Livebearers.

We are also going to have at our April meeting the ALA Chairman, Allen Wood, speak on designing a fish room and of course featuring

livebearers. He covers a broad area so come with lots of questions.

Looks like the weather is on the up swing and we will be going outside for other activities, just don't forget your friends in the tanks when you do. They can't go out and still need you to keep the water changed.

We are taking sponsorships for the ALA and Ultra Aqua show classes. See me or Wayne Toven if you would like to sponsor a class.

See you at the meeting

**Bud White**



## Editor's Message



Here we are again in the midst of Spring Auction season again. With ours being one of the first in the area at the beginning of March you still have plenty of choices of others you can attend. From now until some time in May within a couple hour drive of Akron you can go to a fish auction nearly every weekend. And since we're on the subject, I might as well thank all those who turned out to help make our auction the success that it was. From the auctioneers to the runners, kitchen help and computer

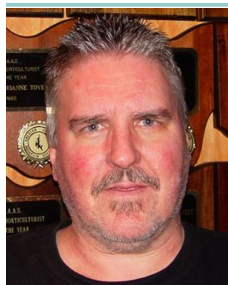
operators we are all volunteer help. But it is this help that allows this club to continue to operate. Thanks again to all who were there.

Next up, I have to say that this issue was a bit of a challenge for me to complete within my deadlines for a couple of reasons. Thankfully the next meeting is on the 7th of the month so it gave me an extra week to get it done, if not for that I would have been in deep trouble. Here is where I could use some help: we are completely out of articles to publish at this point, I actually had to "whip" one up to fill the pages. The other thing I would really appreciate is getting the things I need in a more timely fashion, so I don't have to cram it together at the last minute or having to try to track things down when I should be just assembling it. If we want to keep producing a truly local product, and I'd like to believe that we do, I need a little more input. Not whining, not complaining,

just sayin'.

In other upcoming news, this has been mentioned over the last few months, but now it's almost upon us; we (the Greater Akron Aquarium Society membership) are hosting the American Livebearer Association Convention April 8, 9 & 10 at the Cleveland Airport Sheraton. This is kind of a big deal, if you're at all interested in livebearing fish it will be the place to be. You'll never see as many rare and interesting fish (most of which you'll have the chance to purchase if you so choose) and get as much up-to-date information anywhere else. Like most specialty clubs' national conventions it travels around to different parts of the country, so when it's this close to home you don't want to miss it. You may have noticed that all the articles in this issue deal with livebearers, although it fits nicely with the convention theme, it was honestly just a coincidence.

Now on to a strictly personal topic. It just dawned on me the other day when I was noticing that the next meeting is April 2011 that I've just reached a major milestone in this hobby. That meeting will be the start of my 30th year as a member of this club. That's right, my first meeting was April of 1981! I was just out of high school and looking to do something to keep my interest in my hobby (which I'd already been at for 5 years at that point). I never would have thought at that time how much of an impact it would make in my life. When I think about it, where I live, who I see and talk to on a daily basis and even 21 years of my working life were directly impacted by my joining this organization and the people I've met both directly and indirectly through it. Honestly, no other single act in my adult life has made as big of an impact. I realize that not everyone has this reaction, but remember I'll see you at the meeting!



## BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

Here we are in the beginning of March and except for a few days here and there, I think Punxsutawney Phil was full of it this year. Things are supposed to improve, but as I sit typing this we are supposed to get 4 – 6 inches of snow tonight and 3 – 5 inches more tomorrow. Where on earth is this early spring? All of my ponds and tubs were frozen over until yesterday, but thanks to all the rain and temperatures in the 40's they are mostly thawed and over flowing. Speaking of being the first week of March we just had a very successful spring auction on Sunday the 6th, the crowd turnout was great and there were lots of quality items sold. I didn't buy much as the prices on things I wanted were beyond what I was willing to pay. On to the business at hand, in February we had 14 spawns and 4 plant propagations turned in at the meeting, in March we had 7 spawns and 19 plant propagations turned in between the meeting and the auction. Good work to all who are participating in the two programs, but we could benefit from some more people being active, last year we had a total of 14 contributing members. Let's keep this momentum rolling along!!!

### 2011 Spawn & Point Totals

	BAP Points		HAP Points	
Phil & Tiffany Hypes	7	100	5	60
Dan McMonigle	3	20	-	-
Joe Reich	3	20	-	-
Wayne Toven	3	25	-	-
Dave Williamson	3	30	1	15
Orin McMonigle	2	20	4	40
Bob Miller	2	15	-	-
Russ Kirkendall	1	15	-	-
Brad Johnson	-	-	16	200



Species	Common name	Class	Points
<b>BAP March 2011</b>			
Phil & Tiffany Hypes			
<i>Ancistrus sp.</i>	Pucallpa Bristlenose pleco	Catfish	20
<i>Ancistrus cf. cirrhosus</i>	Albino bristlenose pleco	Catfish	20
<i>Neocaridena denticulata</i>	Cherry shrimp	Aquatic animal	10
Russ Kirkendall			
<i>Telmatochromis burgeoni</i>		Cichlid s.s.	15
Dan McMonigle			
<i>Melanoides maculata</i>	Malaysian burrowing snail	Aquatic animal	5
Bob Miller			
<i>Heterandria formosa</i>	Least livebearer	Livebearer	5
<i>Characodon lateralis</i>	Rainbow goodeid	Livebearer	10
Frank Mueller			
<i>Labidochromis caeruleus</i>	Electric yellow	Cichlid m.b.	15
Joe Reich			
<i>Nomorhamphus towoetii</i>	Halfbeak	Livebearer	10
<i>Tanichthys albonubes</i>	White cloud	Barbs, etc.	5
<i>Hypsophrys nicaraguense</i>		Cichlid s.s.	5
Dave Williamson			
<i>Micropoecilia sp. 2</i>		Livebearer	5
<i>Phalloptychus januarius</i>		Livebearer	5
<i>Ancistrus temminckii</i>	Bristlenose pleco Albino	Catfish	20
<b>HAP March 2011</b>			
Brad Johnson			
<i>Lindernia rotundifolia</i>	Variegated	B – vegetative	10
<i>Cabomba furcata</i>	Red cabomba	B – vegetative	10
<i>Mayaca fluviatilis</i>		B – vegetative	10
<b>BAP April 2011</b>			
Phil & Tiffany Hypes			
<i>Julidochromis transcriptus</i>		Cichlid s.s.	15
<i>Telmatochromis temporalis</i>		Cichlid s.s.	15
<i>Xiphophorus maculatus</i>	Milk & ink platy	Livebearer	5
Dan McMonigle			
<i>Procambarus sp.</i>	Blue & purple crayfish	Aquatic animal	10
Orin McMonigle			
<i>Procambarus sp.</i>	Blue & purple crayfish	Aquatic animal	10
<i>Xenia sp.</i>	White pom pom soft coral	Marine invert	10
<b>HAP April 2011</b>			
Phil & Tiffany Hypes			
<i>Echinodorus cordifolius</i>	Queen marble sword	C – vegetative	15
<i>Echinodorus sp.</i>	Kleiner bar sword	C – vegetative	15
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Variegated stem taro	G – vegetative	10
<i>Colocasia antiquorum</i>	Imperial taro	E – flowering	10
<i>Colocasia antiquorum</i>	Imperial taro	G – vegetative	10
Brad Johnson			
<i>Hygrophilla polysperma</i>	Green hygro	A – vegetative	5
<i>Microsorium pteropus</i>	Trident Java fern	D – vegetative	20
<i>Bacopa caroliniana</i>	Bacopa	B – vegetative	10
<i>Ludwigia arcuata</i>		B – vegetative	10
<i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i>	Four leaf clover	C – vegetative	15
<i>Marsilea minuta</i>	Dwarf four leaf clover	C – vegetative	15
<i>Blyxa japonica</i>		C – vegetative	15
<i>Staurogyne sp. Bihar</i>	Bihar hygro	A – vegetative	5
<i>Bolbitis huedelotii</i>	African fern	G – vegetative	10
Orin McMonigle			
<i>Chaetomorpha linum</i>	Chaeto	G – vegetative	10
<i>Caulerpa sp. 'evil'</i>	Evil caulerpa	G – vegetative	10
<i>Caulerpa prolifera</i>	Prolifera	G – vegetative	10
<i>Caulerpa serrulata</i>	Razer caulerpa	G – vegetative	10
<i>Valonia sp.</i>	Green bubble	G – vegetative	10



# Exchange Report

Wayne Toven



There was one reprint of Wayne Toven's article Keeping and Breeding Brachyrhaphis sp. Costa Rica in the Missouri Aquarium Society Inc. Jan / Feb issue of The Darter.

If you would like to read any of the articles listed below, let me know and I will get a copy of it to you.

**Aquarium Club of Lancaster County,**  
Tank Tales: Feb 2011

My Experience Breeding Jewel Cichlids, by Scott McLaughlin

Building a Fall Through Breeder, by Michael Steffen

Pseudotropheus sp. Cobalt Red Top, by Jay Stephan

**Circle City Aquarium Club,** Fancy Fins: Feb 2011

Rainbow Gudgeon (*Tateurndina ocellicauda*), by Charlie Grimes

Raising Rainbow Fry, by Mike Matthews

Pseudotropheus salosi, by Charlie Grimes

Steatocranus casuarinus – Blockhead or Buffalohead Cichlid, by Michael Dunagan

Spawning *Betta albimarginata*, by Mike Matthews

**Durham Region Aquarium Society,**  
Tank Talk: Jan 2011

Pseudocrenalabrus nicholsi, by Dave Hansen

Year of the Rainbowfish, Rainbowfish – An Introduction, by Derek P. S. Tustin

The Names You Know, the People You Don't: Dr. Marinus Boeseman

**Durham Region Aquarium Society,**  
Tank Talk: Feb 2011

Year of the Rainbowfish –

Melanotaenia, by Derek P. S. Tustin

The Names You Know, the People You Don't: Dr. Herbert Axelrod

**Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society,** Fincinnati: Mar/Apr 2011

Moscow Tiger Bronze Guppies, by Tony Anderson

Royal Farlowellas or *Sturisoma*

panamense, by Steve Smith

Pseudotropheus demasoni, by Jerry Riegel

Neolamprologus cylindricus, the Cylinder Cichlid, by Michael A. Risko Jr.

**Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society**  
Inc. Finformation: Jan 2011

Spawning the Emerald Rasbora –

Microrasbora erythromicron, by Leslie Keefer

Apistogramma bitaeniata, by Wally Cox

Two for the Price of One, *Puntius titteya*

– Cherry Barb, *Puntius oligolepis* –

Checker Barb, by Stan Chechak

**Hamilton & District Aquarium Society:** Feb 2011

Preventing Fish Loss, by Charles Drew

Apistogramma barlowi, the

Mouthbrooding Apisto, by Jessica Bullock

**Hamilton & District Aquarium Society:** Mar 2011

Spawning the *Ancistrus sp.* Pucallpa, by Charles Drew

Spawning the Chinese Algae – Eater, by William Berg

Flowering *Barclaya longifolia*, by Charles Drew

**Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society,** Fins & Tales: Jan 2011

Just Add Salt, by Cameron Turner & Tanya Morose

Building My Dream Stingray Pond, by Brandon Carlos

HAP penstance (an HAP article), by Brent Lemanski

Living With Livebearers, by Ed Koerner

Playing the Shell Game, by Ed Koerner

**Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society,** Fins & Tales: Feb 2011

Done With Discus, by Cam Turner

Just Add Salt, by Cameron Turner & Tanya Morose

Breeding Bristlenose Plecos, by Brent Lemanski

Hydrogen Peroxide as Algaecide, by Jayne Glazier & Cam Turner

**Long Island Aquarium Society,**  
Paradise Press: Dec 2010

Koi Angels, by Margaret Peterson

**Long Island Aquarium Society,**  
Paradise Press: Jan 2011

Easy Lyretails, by Jack Guida

**Michiana Aquarium Society,** Michiana  
Tropical Times: Feb 2011

The Marble Crayfish – *Procambarus marmokrebs*, by Ben Slocum

**Medina County Aquarium Society,**  
All Wet Gazette: Mar 2011

Synodontis petricola, by Tom Evers

Corydoras aneus (Albino), by Bill Flowers

**Ohio Cichlid Association,** Buckeye  
Bulletin: Feb 2011

Raising and Breeding *Amphilophus flaveolus* (part two), by Jonathan Dietrich

Safe & Effective Tips for Transporting Fish, by Dan Woodland

Keeping the Water in Your Aquariums:

Tips for Aquarists to Maintain a Healthy & Harmonious Home, no author listed

**Pacific Coast Cichlid Association,**

Cichlidae Communique: Jan / Feb 2011

Chitande Island Lake Malawi, by Pam Chin

**Sarnia Aquarium Society,** Aqua  
Antics: Feb 2011

Astatotilapia aeneocolor, by Jack VanderAa

Success With the Red Top, Ice Blue Zebra, by Peter Melady

**Sarnia Aquarium Society,** Aqua  
Antics: Mar 2011

Pristella maxillaries, by Jack VanderAa

Electric Yellows, by Peter Melady

**St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society,** the Scat: Feb 2011

Gold Barbs (*Puntius semifasciolatus*), by Dave Unruh

**St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society,** the Scat: Mar 2011

Red Claw Macro Shrimp

(*Microbrachium dayanuro*), by Dave Unruh

# Bowl Show & Special Activities

Ken McGill

First of all, Thanks Dave! for handling the bowl show for me in March. I was under the weather and the weather was bad too!

We had 10 entries in February and 15 in March. Not too bad. Dave held on to the lead he set in January. We have a new participant: Larissa Jackson. Welcome Larissa. The rest of you can give it a try too. There is plenty of time to catch Dave, Jeff, & Wayne.

## February:

### Suckermouth Catfish (2 entries)

1st -	Wayne Toven	Pleco sp.
2nd -	Wayne Toven	<i>Otocinclus affinis</i>

### Swordtails (5 entries)

1st -	Jeff Plazak	Orange Swordtail
2nd -	Jeff Plazak	Black Swordtail
3rd -	Jeff Plazak	Orange & White Swordtail

### Characins (3 entries)

1st -	Dave Williamson	Congo Tetra
2nd -	Dave Williamson	Blind Cave Tetra
3rd -	Wayne Toven	African Red Eye Tetra

## March:

### Corydoras, Brochis and Aspidoras (7 entries)

1st -	Dave Williamson	<i>Corydoras nanus</i>
2nd -	Wayne Toven	<i>Brochis splendens</i>
3rd -	Dave Williamson	<i>Corydoras habrosus</i>

### Mollies (6 entries):

1st -	Jeff Plazak	Green Molly
2nd -	Jeff Plazak	Green Molly
3rd -	Larissa Jackson	Gold Sailfin Male

### Barbs (2 entries):

1st -	Dave Williamson	Cherry Barb
2nd -	Wayne Toven	Black Ruby Barb



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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

## 2011 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 Betta splendens

### 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

## 2011 Points Totals:

Name:	Total
Dave Williamson	37
Jeff Plazak	34
Wayne Toven	24
Larissa Jackson	3

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## Toeing the Line with *Allotoca goslinei*

By Wayne Toven

Yes it's that time again, for another one of those articles about an obscure goodeid livebearer, *Allotoca goslinei*. As it is with a lot of other livebearers from Mexico, *A. goslinei* is critically endangered in the wild. Originally the species comes from the Pacific slope in the Rio Potrero Grande, Rio Ameca, and the upper part of the Rio Ameca basin around Jalisco Mexico. They were first described in 1987 by Smith and Miller and were named in honor of Dr. William

*A. goslinei* has the stocky elongated body shape typical of most goodeids, females can grow to 6 cm just shy of 2 ½ inches, while males stay slightly smaller. The head is pointed with an upturned mouth, for feeding at the surface. The leading edge of the dorsal fin starts well back on the body, about even with the anal fin; the dorsal fin of the male is larger and well developed, and the male also has an andropodium. In case any of you has forgotten the andropodium is the

on their sides. This tends to make me think that the banding is a fright or stress marking. The body coloration is much the same for both sexes; the upper half is brown to golden-brown with some dark mottling, the lower half to the belly is pale tan. The gill plates are somewhat translucent as they appear to be a rosy red color, due to the gills beneath them; there is also an iridescent patch on the upper front of the gill plate. Along the midline of the body from just behind the eye to the caudal peduncle, there are a few larger dark spots; over these spots is some bluish iridescence which varies from just a sprinkling to almost a solid band. On to the fins, the anal fin is an opaque white color, while the dorsal and caudal fins are not quite as opaque with a yellow tint.



*A. Gosline*. The natural habitat is shallow waters up to or depending on how you look at it down to a depth of 4 feet, with a slow current to none during the dry season. Substrates consisted of gravel, rocks, sand, and mud, with vegetation of filamentous algae and patches of floating plants.

This is a peaceful, timid species and it is recommended that it be kept in a species tank. Water parameters should be: Ph of 7 – 7.6 with a hardness of 5 – 20 dGH, at temperatures ranging from 68 – 74 degrees F, drops in temperature and marked fluctuations in water quality are not tolerated.

modified anal fin the males use to pass sperm packets to the females. Female goodeids cannot store sperm like the poeciliids can; they must mate for each spawning. Speaking of spawning the gestation period is around 60 days, and a brood can consist of up to 20 fry 1 cm in size. The books also recommend that they be spawned in pairs. The fry are sexually mature at 3 months of age.

Their common name is the banded goodeid; according to the book they have a series of up to 15 vertical bands on the side of the body. I never noticed any bands on the males or females I have, and only when I have caught them for photos have I seen a few faint bands

I first had the opportunity to obtain some *A. goslinei* at the American Livebearer Association convention in 2009; there were some in the auction but they went for way more than I was willing to pay. Oh well, I will just have to keep looking and hoping. Well in the fall of 2009 I went to the Erie Aquarium Society's auction in Erie, Pa. and to my surprise there were four bags, each containing a young pair, scattered on the tables. The first one came up and someone bid \$3 so I went \$4, and that was all the bids, so I got at least a pair, but since the seemed to be very little interest there was hope for getting more. After most of the auction I wound up getting all four pairs for



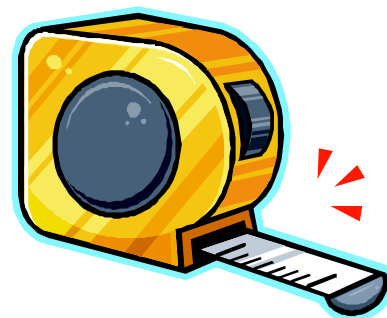
a grand total of \$14, needless to say I was quite pleased. The only way to get some of the more unusual and rare species is to make a road trip to out of state auctions, or national conventions, so that is what I do. I came home with my prize and separated them by sex, to grow them up to adult size and condition them for spawning. The 4 males and 4 females each got a 10 gallon tank with sand substrate, floating plastic plants, and a sponge filter. Being omnivores they were fed flake, frozen blood worms, and very small floating pellets, they grew well and looked good.

By early summer I decided to put them outside in one of my 110 gallon tubs behind my garage, with hornwort, water lilies, and various marginal plants, I fed them flake food about every other day, and let Mother Nature take care of the rest. I couldn't see putting just 1 pair in a 110 gallon tub so all 4 pairs went in. I noticed when I fed them that there seemed to be only the adults, I never saw any fry, well maybe they just hide real well, I can only hope. In mid fall before

the temperature got too low they were netted out of the tub, all 8 of the adults, at least I didn't lose any of them, and to my surprise 6 fry of three different sizes, must have been three different spawns, or at least two spawns. Back inside the house they reside in a 55 gallon tank in my laundry room just off of the floor since they like cooler water temps. There is a mix of sand and gravel substrate, rocks for hiding, floating plants, and sponge filters. I know the book said to put them in a species tank but I have too many fish, they just had to put up with some other tank mates, there are cherry barbs, some small danios, and some *Scleromastix barbatus*. They seem to be all getting along, the *A. goslinei* don't seem to be timid they are always out swimming around. I just keep on watching for a female to start getting a little chunky, they don't blimp out like some of the other goodeids do, as soon as I see one she will go into a 10 gallon breeder trap tank, to see if I can get some more fry successfully that way. The waiting is the hardest part

## 2011 Growth Program!

Be at the April meeting to pick up some baby albino bristle-nose catfish



and bring them back to the December Christmas party for judging. There will be separate awards for the largest male and female. The only other requirements are that you are a member and if your fish wins be willing to write an article on what methods you used to grow it.



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# The Ultimate “Little Gray Ditch Fish” *Phalloptychus januarius*

By Dave Williamson



There has been a joke amongst live-bearer keepers for years that so many of the rare and sought-after species are not really all that appealing to look at compared to what most people think of when dealing with tropical fish, hence the description you see above in the title. OK, so maybe this one is silver rather than gray, but you still get the point. What it does have going for it is rarity. You can be the first on your block to have a chance at killing off a really rare fish (yeah, they're kind of delicate too). It's everything that the true “fish geek” wants!

Seriously, these little guys (and I mean little, maximum size for males is about an inch, females about a half inch larger) hail from the vicinity of Rio de Janero in Brazil and adjacent parts of Bolivia & Paraguay making them some of the most Southerly *poeciliid* livebearers. This is also where they get their species name as Rio de Janero translates from Portugese as “January River.” The genus name refers to the bent gonopodiums of the males and this trait is the main thing that separates this genus from close relatives *Cnestrodon* and *Phalloceros*.

You might at this point wonder how and why did I end up with this fish? Well it all boils down to the fact that the American Livebearer Convention will be hosted by The Greater Akron Aquarium Society this Spring. Every year some rare fish are either donated by or purchased from labs that are studying them. And that is where these guys came from. The good or bad news, depending on how you look at it was they were shipped well in advance (like about 8 months!) of the event and needed to be housed somewhere. Just so happened I

had some empty tank space and I'm always up for trying something new. (Yeah, I know I'm a BAP slut!)

So, armed with the information they're rare, delicate and they like some salt in their water, I was given a bag of roughly a dozen little silver fish of various sizes and ages and told “go for it” and to bring back what I had to the convention next April. Well almost immediately the adults started to drop one or two a week and I began to think “here we go, I'm going to kill off the rarest fish in the world and everyone will think my fish-room has turned into a black hole of doom!” Thankfully, a few weeks into it I noticed a few fry darting around the leaves of a floating piece of Anubias so I just kept up maintenance I had been doing which consisted of small feedings of crushed flake food, frozen adult brine shrimp and live baby brine shrimp alternated once or twice a day, that combined with a 30% weekly water change and the addition of a tablespoon of Instant Ocean salt to a ten gallon tank. By New Years all of the original adults were gone but the juveniles had grown up and were producing fry regularly. You never saw a lot at a time, 2 to 4

new little guys would turn up every couple of weeks, but they were steadily increasing in numbers. I can see where they got the common name of “Barred Millionsfish” because like guppies, they are prolific when there is a colony of them and they are definitely into togetherness.

Then as luck would have it, I talked to some of the other aquarists that this group of fish had been distributed to and found out that most everyone else had similar results to mine with the adult fish dropping off. Only time will tell if that was caused by this species not being long lived or if is one of those fish that doesn't take well to being moved to different conditions.

When all is said and done, I feel I've done my part. I'll be bringing more individuals to the convention than I started with, and on top of that by writing this article I even get my BAP points for a fish that I don't really “own”. I couldn't ask for anything better!

## References:

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

Atlas of Livebearers of the World: Lothar Wischnath



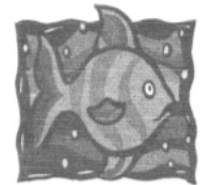
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## The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

P.O. Box 494  
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Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

# Meeting Notice

## Thursday, April 7

**Program: Allen Wood: Designing a Fish Room**

Allen Wood, Chairman of the American Livebearer Association 2010-2011 will speak on designing a fish room of course featuring livebearers!

**Bowl Show:** Female Guppies, Platies,  
Freshwater or Marine Invertebrates

## Thursday, May 5

**Program: Eric Graham: Why a Water Garden?**

Eric Graham, manager of Landscapes and Water Gardens for AQUA DOC will give a talk titled "Why a Water Garden?".

**Bowl Show:** Goodeids, Aquarium Plants,  
Rift Lake Cichlids

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

## Coming Events

**April 8, 9 & 10, 2011 – American Livebearer Association Convention**  
Sheraton Inn & Conference Center Hopkins Airport, 5300 Riverside Drive, Cleveland, OH, 44135  
For more information: Contact: [rich@ala2011.com](mailto:rich@ala2011.com), Website: [www.ALA2011.com](http://www.ALA2011.com)

**April 9 – Great Lakes Cichlid Society - Spring Auction**  
Euclid Sq Mall. 100 Euclid Sq Mall Euclid, OH 44132 in the Euclidean Room (North West Entrance).  
Contact Dean at [Merspainting@netzero.net](mailto:Merspainting@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.greatlakescichlid-society.net>

**April 17 2011– Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. - Spring Auction**  
North Hampton VFD, 5149 North Pioneer Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044  
PA Turnpike, Exit 4,  
For more information: Contacts: Don Tuttle 724-327-5163 and Bill Sensor 724-845-7171

**May 7, 2011 - Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts (CAFÉ) Spring Auction**  
Hamilton Township Community Center, 6400 Lockbourne Rd., Lockbourne, Ohio 43134  
For more information: [columbusfishclub@hotmail.com](mailto:columbusfishclub@hotmail.com)