



The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Tank Topics

July/August 2012

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Some really colorful Koi enjoying the Florida sunshine! For more on Rich Serva's Florida fish adventure, check out his article beginning on page 7.

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Important Dates for 2012

March 4
Spring auction

July 14 & 15
Ultra Aqua 2012

November 4
Fall auction

Check out our website: 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 davew@gaas-fish.net

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

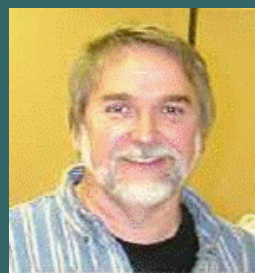
Dues Collected _____ Date Received _____

President's Message

Hello Folks, sorry for being absent from the meetings and forgetting to write Dave a message for the bulletin. For those who did not know, my wife Cathy had a stroke and we have working through that. She is doing well, not completely recovered, but getting there.

I do need to stress the point that we have had a lot of health issue within the board this year and we need your

help with the show more than ever. So please make plans to help. We will be setting up Friday July 13th at 7:00 PM at the Tallmadge Community Center. We have more than enough things to do, so that you will find something that you can help with. The more hands we have there, the quicker things get done. You need to be there. Also, don't forget to enter something in the show.



see you at the meeting
Bud White



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Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

Wow, what a blur the last couple of months have been! It was the end of April when Rich and I went to Florida for the American Livebearer Association convention (check out his article later in this issue). That was the first time I've ever flown for a fish show. It really was a nice way to do it, albeit a little more expensive than driving. I was not in the mood for 24 hours in the car, I'll pay extra and get there in a little over 4 hours! Next year will be a lot closer though, no flying required. I'm already planning on being there in Grand Rapids, Michigan!

In addition to the regular things that make time seem to fly by (you know, that 4 letter word WORK!) I've also gone back to part of one of my "past lives"... For the first time in many years I'm playing in a band again. Yep, I've dusted off the bass (the instrument, not the fish!) and



bought a new amp and everything so I guess I'm serious! You may be asking yourself at this point what does this have with aquariums? (and even if you're not, play along!) The connection is that we all have things going on in our little worlds that sometimes don't allow us to give full attention to our hobby pursuits. In my case that means I won't be able to be at our Ultra-Aqua Show all day Sunday like usual since we're scheduled to play a benefit show that day. Now all this rambling is not really about

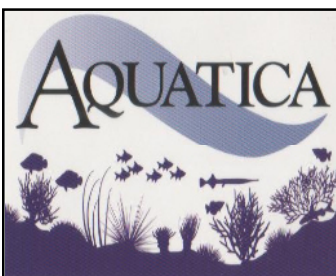
me and what I've got going on, it's really about our club and our membership. The more of us that can give a little bit to put on a function, the less that any one person is expected to do. I've seen some smaller clubs have a real problem with this situation, but we have a healthy core-group that knows how to get things done. So think about it, we'll need people for set-up on Friday July 13 (oooh, I'm scared!) and Sunday July 15 for judging assistants, auction help and tear-down. You could even try your hand at entering some fish on Saturday. It really can be a lot of fun.

While we're on the subject of "what can you do for your club", how about writing an article? (check out that smooth transition!) A little birdie (OK, he's not that little and his name is Wayne) has told me that some of you out there owe articles before you can get your HAP points for certain types of propagations. We're not above holding you hostage to get an article! But

seriously, we'd love to hear about how you got that plant to grow and reproduce. Of course, the same goes for fish and then there is the whole realm of "other" articles that are hobby related such as how-to's, fishy trips etc. So, if you enjoy reading about fish, aquariums and the like, why not turn it around and write about your experiences and or expertise. I'm willing to bet there is someone out there who'd be interested in hearing all about it. I know I would.



I'll see you at the meeting and Ultra-Aqua 2012!



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BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

According to the calendar summer is almost here, but by the looks of the Breeder's Award Program for the past two months, the fish appear to be on summer vacation already. There were no spawns turned in at the May or June meetings, remember you get a voucher good for \$1.00 worth of raffle tickets for each spawn. For a total of 10 spawns turned in by a club member during the year a 16 ounce can of brine shrimp eggs will be awarded. Hopefully some members are holding out to turn spawns in at the show auction next month. That's right it's only a month away, July 14th will be here before you know it. So get those show fish in good condition, get them used to being looked at closely with a flashlight, so they are not shy and trying to hide when they get to the show. Put those fish to work for you and get them to earn some money for once in their lives, instead of just sponging off of you.

We have just reviewed and updated the Breeder Award Program and Horticultural Award Program rules, they will be posted soon on the web site for downloading or see me at the meeting for a hard copy. The horticultural rules are going to be enforced a little more stringently. A written report must be submitted to get credit for vegetative propagations for classes C, and D, and sexual propagations for class F. This does not have to be an extensive article, although one would be greatly appreciated by our editor, but informative enough to show that you took interest in the plant to care for it properly, and propagate it. If you need to read an article on how to write an article, I have several in my publication article review files, let me know and I will get one to you. I have written several articles on plants and fish; it's not that hard, if I can do it anyone can do it!

May 2012

HAP

Species	Common name	Class	Points
Dan McMonigle			
<i>Aponogeton longiplumosus</i>		C – vegetative	15

June 2012

HAP

Phil & Tiffany Hypes			
<i>Typha minima</i>	Dwarf cat tail	E - flowering	10
<i>Houttuynia cordata variegata</i>	Chameleon plant	E – flowering	10
<i>Hymenocallis liriosme</i>	Spider lily	E – flowering	10

Dan McMonigle			
<i>Iris laevegata</i>	Variagated water iris	B – vegetative	10
<i>Iris laevegata</i>	Variagated water iris	E – flowering	10
<i>Aponogeton natans</i>		E – flowering	15

2012 Standings	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
Joe Reich	3	25	-	-
Phil & Tiffany Hypes	2	25	5	70
Rich Serva	2	20	-	-
Wayne Toven	1	5	-	-
Dave Williamson	1	10	-	-
Brad Johnson	-	-	1	5
Dan McMonigle	-	-	4	50
Orin McMonigle	-	-	1	15



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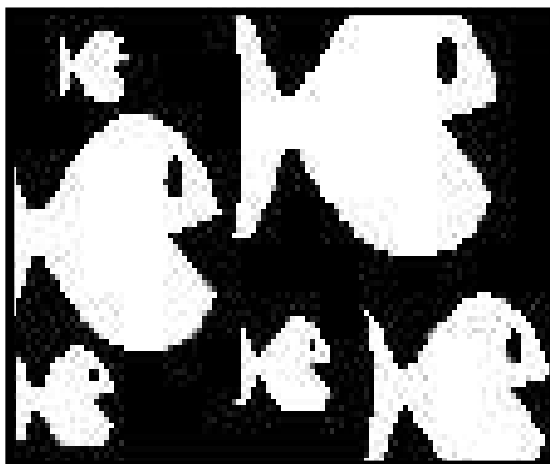
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Bowl Show & Special Activities

Ken McGill

Well, we had decent turnout for the May & June bowl shows. The only problem is that almost all the entries were Wayne's. The rest of you can show too! Bring your nice fish in to show. If you're going to show at the annual show, it's good practice.

May Results:

Goodeids

- 1st - Wayne Toven - *Xenotoca variata*
- 2nd - Wayne Toven - *Ataeniobius toweri*
- 3rd - Wayne Toven - *Skiffia fracesae*

Rift Lake Cichlids

- 1st - Wayne Toven - *Neolamprologus falcicula*

Aquatic Plants

- 1st - Wayne Toven - *monoselenium tenerum*

June Results:

Native Fish

- 1st - Wayne Toven - Stone Cat

Rainbowfish

- 1st - Wayne Toven - *Glossolepis wanamensis*
- 2nd - Wayne Toven - *Melanotaenia mccullochi*
- 3rd - Wayne Toven - *Glossolepis incisus*

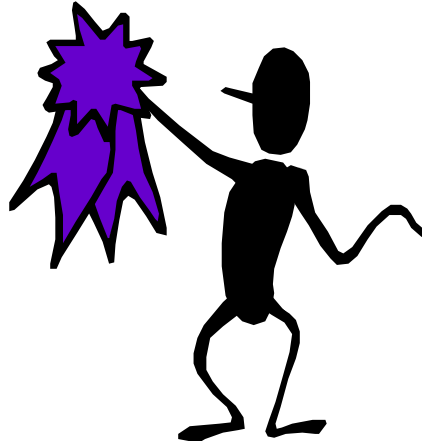
Male Bettas

- 1st - Wayne Toven - dragonscale betta
- 2nd - Jeff Plazak - male betta



Totals for the year:

Name:	Total:
Wayne Toven	74
Jeff Plazak	64
Don Youngkin	10



How the Point System works:

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

2012 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

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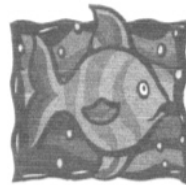


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Exchange Report

Wayne Toven



Here's how this works, incase you forgot, I go through publications from various fish clubs across North America that our club exchanges with, I read original articles from club members, not reprints because I have probably read them in the past. If anyone would like to read one of the articles that are mentioned below, let me know and I will get a copy of it to you via email or a hard copy at a meeting.

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County,
Tank Tales: Apr 2012

Blackworms Unrefrigerated, by Lonny Langione

The Lyretail Killie, by Joel Antkowiak
The Continuation of Harvey – My Axolotl, by Robin Antkowiak

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County,
Tank Tales: May 2012

Danio margaritatus – the Celestial Pearl Danio, by Lonny Langione
The Golden Killies, by Joel Antkowiak

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County,
Tank Tales: June 2012

Limia perugiae, by Richard Bressler
King of the Killies (Fundulopanchax sjoestedti), by Joel Antkowiak

Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society,
Fincinnati: May/June 2012

Summary of My Breeding Experience with Various Loricaridae (L-201, L-260, L-333), by Steve Smith
A Hatchery for Raising Loricaridae Fry (L-01a, Royal farlowellas, etc.), by Steve Smith

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society,
Tropic Tank Talk: Apr 2012
Curtain Spawning Mop, by Lou Sandberg

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: Apr 2012
Scriptaphyosemion geryi "Maferiya", by Roberto Prati

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: May 2012
Barbus jae, by Regina Spotti
Orizyas latipes (Japanese rice fish), by Stan Chechak

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: May 2012
New Era Fish Foods, by Charles Drew

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society: May 2012

Corys Be Crazy, sterbai Corys, by Jayne Glazier
The Wonderful World of Cichlids, by Jeff Loney
X Does Not Mark the Spot, by Ed Koerner
Excuse Me Sir; Did You Know You Have a Funny Nose? by Jeff Loney

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society: June 2012

Living with Livebearers – Goodea atripinnis, by Ed Koerner
An Unknown Fish – Oryzias javanicus, by Jeff Loney
Size Doesn't Matter and Other Myths, by Ed Koerner

Medina County Aquarium Society, All
Wet Gazette: Apr 2012

The Marbled Crayfish, by John Kahl

North Jersey Aquarium Society, Reporter: May 2012
Blue Angels, by Joe Graffignino
How to Get Your Summer Tub on, a Practical Guide, by Ted Coletti

North Jersey Aquarium Society, Reporter: June 2012
Water Lilies for Summer Fish Tubs, by Ted Coletti

Ohio Cichlid Association, Buckeye Bulletin: May 2012
My Experience with Tatia intermedia, by Steve Heinbaugh

Pacific Coast Cichlid Association,
Cichlidae Communique: May/June 2012
Taxonomically Speaking, by Sam Borstein

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society, Swam: May/June 2012
The Glowlight Tetra, an Ideal Fish, by Chase Klinesteker
To Feed Live Baby Brine Shrimp, Or to Feed Decapsulated, by John Oxner

St. Catharines & Are Aquarium Society, the Scat: May 2012
Keeping and Breeding Betta pugnax, by Dave Unruh

Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society, the Youngstown Aquarist: May/June 2012
Aspidoras albater, by Brian LaNeve

July 14 & 15 Ultra-Aqua 2012 Annual All Species Fish Show Tallmadge Community Center 80 Community Rd. Tallmadge, Ohio

For more information:

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Wayne Toven (330) 256-7836 (wtoven@hotmail.com)

Rich Serva (330) 650-4613 (rjserva@juno.com)



American Livebearer Association Convention 2012 Side Trips to Aquatic Plant Nursery and Fish Farms

By Rich Serva

What can I say? It was 9:45 AM in the lobby of the Fort Lauderdale Airport Hilton Hotel on the day before the official start of ALA 2012 and we were going to leave on a unique Convention side trip to an aquatic plant nursery and a couple of fish farms. This is something that I have been looking forward to since registering 2 months prior.

Gold Coast Aquarium Society planned this out pretty good. We were issued wrist bands telling us within which group we belonged and a group of full sized vans pulled up to the lobby entrance so it was a question of finding our driver and getting into our vans for the first stop – plants, plants, and more plants.

Florida Aquatic Nurseries was founded in 1957 by Dr. William McLane but before I go on with the Nursery a little back story on Dr. McLane would not hurt. Bill McLane earned a PhD in ichthyology from the University of Florida and went to work in applied fisheries research for the Florida Game and Fish Commission. He retired and moved to Ft. Lauderdale in 1955 with a thought that he would like to like to start a nursery that was plants only. It was a risky idea but most plants in the hobby were actually wild collected. . Two years later the dream was a reality.

Encouraged by Al Greenberg of Everglades Exotic in Tampa, Bill started small. He bought a small piece of property on the outskirts of Ft. Lauderdale and built a few dozen concrete vats by hand to grow his aquarium plants in. A few customers were willing to take an aquarium plants only shipment and the business was off to a start. Using quality

and dependability as his guiding principles the business grew steadily.

In 1972 Bill decided to retire and his sons, Brad and Bruce became the next generation of owners and the business kept growing. The aquarium plant business expanded from 6 full time employees in 1977 to over 100 in 2000. There were no greenhouses in 1977 and over 100,000 square feet today. The company has two properties, the one we visited was 5 acres but they have a nursery further away that is twice that size.

In 2004 Bruce retired and Brandon, Brad's son joined the company as Vice president. Brandon previously earned a degree in Horticulture from University of Florida and worked as a retail nursery manager for 3 years in the Atlanta area before joining the company.

Depending on the plant and the need the plants are grown emersed in trays (roots only are under water) or they are grown immersed in outside vats. Numerous new varieties of aquatic plants - many new waterlily hybrids and aquarium plant cultivars original to Florida Aquatic Nurseries are being developed and should be released within the upcoming years.



Brad McLane beginning the tour

Brad gave us a tour of the facility giving us plenty of time to snap photos and ask questions. The greenhouses still had the tarp like protective sides attached in case of a cold snap. As they proceed into summer the greenhouses have the sides removed and the roof offers the only shade and protection from the elements. Looking across at the array of healthy looking plants, I would hazard a guess that they know what they are doing. Most of the emersed plants were being grown in trays whereas the cutting plants were being grown in the outside vats. Nice healthy plants such as various species/varieties of Acorus, Alternanthera, ammannia, Anubias, Aponogeton, Bacopa (doesn't that sound like a dance move?), Barclaya, Blyxa, Bolbitis.....Anyway, I think that you got my point. There were lots of nice healthy plants to look at and friendly folks working and answering question. I could have gone on their web site and "borrowed" lots of perfect photos of nice plants but instead you can look at my less than perfect photos that still show you just how nice the plants are.



Ready to go to distributors



Sword mother plants used to start new pots

For more information on Florida Aquatic Nurseries check out their web site at <http://www.floridaaquatic.com/>.



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Dra. Rueda and her graduate student, Alejandra asking questions of FAN worker setting out new potted plants



Lots and lots of vats with a large shaded tray grow out area in the background



One of the vats of Madagascar Lace Plants



One of the lily vats

Our next stop was for lunch (yes, I ate fish) then on to the fish farms.

Neighborhood Fish Farm is a locally owned family business that began nearly 40 years ago. In 1971, They began breeding their own fish and distributing with locations at the Tropicair Flea Market and Coconut Grove in the 70s and 80s, the Farm opened up for retail business in the 80s and has since grown to accommodate a large variety of types of fish from all over the world, while maintaining the best possible prices for the greatest selection available in South Florida.



Some of Neighborhood Fish Farm Vats

Having been born and raised on the Fish Farm, Will Bradwell returned to take over the family business after college. I suspect that some people were expecting to visit some large fish farm with many acres of in-ground ponds and only a fleeting hope (on our part) of seeing some fish. It is true that seeing the big ponds and indoor facilities to separate stocks and prepare them for shipment would be great. Instead all we got to see

are a bunch of large outdoor vats with a variety of colorful species – you know that does not sound so bad taken in that light. Although African cichlids are not my thing the flashes of blue and yellow were something to behold. There were large colorful koi and a beautiful red sailfin molly in a breeding vat. I know that were a number of people in our group that went home with some nice color varieties of swords and platies. We also spent quite a bit of time sorting through a couple of vats containing halfbeaks; they were fast little suckers. I expect that they were all Demogenys pusillus but they sure were nice looking fish. They had nicely filled out bodies; although we were not plagued by insects while outside there must have been plenty for the halfbeaks to eat. Anyway, the fish had nice gold-yellow fins with a fair amount of red, especially on the males.



Seriously guys, they are halfbeaks. There are both sexes and they are colorful. You better just buy them now.



Lots of colorful goldfish

You can find out more about Neighborhood Fish Farm and Summerland Fish

Farms (see below) by going to http://tropicalfishmiami.reachlocal.com/?scid=1446637&kw=9473220:14132&pub_cr_id=3500738683.

The Summerland Fish Farm business part was sold this past year by Phil Marraccini to the owners of Neighborhood Fish Farm. It was a smaller farm but held its own separate breeding area for many of the fish being raised and sold.



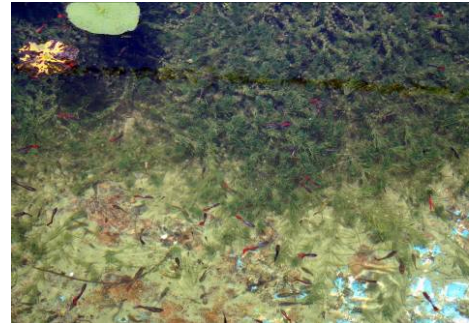
A mixed vat of African cichlids and goldfish

Although this facility may have been less impressive, it had a unique feature that made it more important in its own right. Next door to the fish farm was a Milkshake/Smoothie business owned by the son of Philip Marraccini who sat and talked to us about the history of Summerland and tropical fish farms in Miami. Phil used to write articles/fact sheets called The Ichthyophile, Fish-lover's Notebook which were used by



The mandatory cute couple photo of Nancy and John. It works because she carries him.

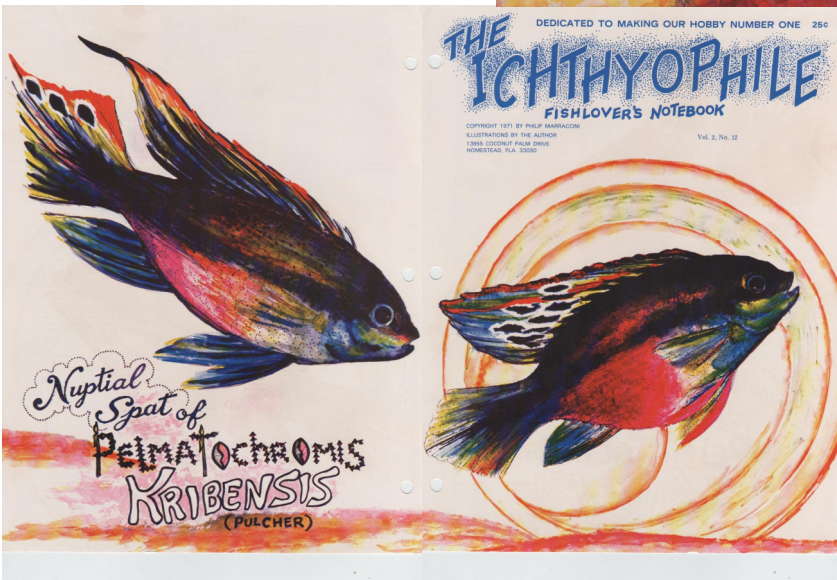
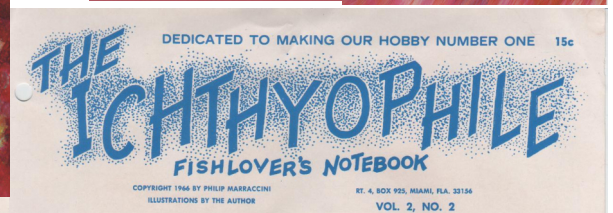
pet store owners when selling fish bred at the Summerland facility. There was a copy in the seating area which we perused while sipping smoothies and talking to the son. It was a warm day. The scrapbook was cool, the conversation was cool and I got the chance to cool. Thanks Gold Coast Aquarium Society for the memories.



A grow out vat full of young red guppies



"I do not always drink smoothies but when I do, I drink very berry"



The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

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

Meeting Notice

Thursday, July 5

Program: – Dan Ritter on Tanganyikan Cichlids

If you have ever wondered about some of the most unusual freshwater cichlids from lake Tanganyika, Dan Ritter will show you some great ones that he keeps and often breeds. Dan plans to bring some to the meeting where they will be auctioned off.

Bowl Show: Synodontis Catfish, Killifish,
Angelfish & Discus

Thursday, August 2

Program: – Charlie Suk, on Bettas

Let Charlie tell you about bettas! Charlie is a betta breeder and president of the Medina County Aquarium Society.

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

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

Coming Events

July 14 & 15 – Greater Akron Aquarium Society - Ultra-Aqua 2012 Show and Auction

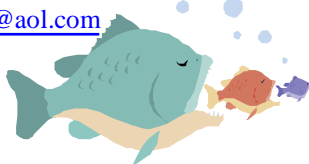
Tallmadge Community Center, 80 Community Rd., Tallmadge, Ohio
For more information:
Bud White (330) 848-3856
(bwhite@neo.rr.com),
Wayne Toven (330) 296-6322
(wtoven@hotmail.com) or
Rich Serva (330) 650-4613
(rjserva@juno.com)

August 19, 2012 – Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society - Summer Auction

J.V. Johnson Community Center, 800 Gillmer Rd - Leavittsburg, OH 44430
Registration 11am to 1pm - Auction begins at Noon
For more information:
Tom (mruaru2@aol.com)
330-758-3043

September 13 - 16, 2012, NANFA Convention

Salt Fork State Park, Eastern Ohio
For more information:
Brian Zimmerman
(smbass444@yahoo.com)
or 330-417-9476



September 16, 2012 – SCALES - SWAP MEET

5PM – 8 PM (Doors open @ 4PM for set-up)
Perry Grange, 6300 Richville Dr. S.W., Massillon, Ohio
Individuals & Vendors
Welcome, \$10 per 8' table (space is limited)
Deadline for securing your space is: August 31, 2012
For more info or to secure your table, contact
John Baad (330) 452-9027 or
(tbaad@neo.rr.com)

