



The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Tank Topics

January/February 2013

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Party 2012
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shoulda
been there!**



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Important Dates for 2013

**March 3
Spring auction**

**July 13 & 14
Ultra Aqua 2013**

**November 3
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 raffle.

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.

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 dwilliamson223@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

1 year \$10.00

(includes children under 10)

2 years \$15.00

Junior (10-17 years)

1 year \$5.00

2 years \$7.00

Dues Collected _____ Date Received _____



President's Message

Well Happy New Year folks!

Hope the holidays were good for you and you are still in one piece after New Year's partying. I for one have had a couple of rounds with the flu bug over the last few weeks, getting better, just wish it was not so slow.

Anyway, if you made it to the Christmas party you know it was fun, if not then you missed out on a good time with fish friends, better luck next time.

We have our year's schedule ready and will be printing it soon. First thing will be the Spring Auction, March 3, so start getting things ready for that. That's all for me!



See you at the meeting



Bud White

Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

Wow, another Holiday season come and gone. I guess it's really true what they say about time picking up speed as we get older. I thought that getting out of working retail would help with alleviate the feeling of being rushed through this season, but it didn't work! I guess all the overtime they make us work to supply our retail stores ends up feeling the same. Oh well, I guess there's no rest for the wicked after all! (Apparently that's why Santa didn't bring me that 50" LED TV I was wanting. . . Maybe next year!)

I guess where I'm going with all this rambling is that this issue was not easy for me to get together this time. You see I had so much other stuff going on, it kinda got forgot about it until the week between Christmas and New Year's. So hopefully everyone got their copy in time for the January Meeting. I do have to thank all the BOD members who stepped up and got their board reports to me in record time. I think what I need to do is set up a calendar with publication dates and due dates for each issue throughout the

year and distribute it to all the board members and maybe I won't be the only one to think about it that way when I forget there can be someone to remind me!

You'll probably notice that content was a little lacking this time also. That's to be expected this time of year as there aren't many club functions going on (Face it, it's busy this time of year and besides it's cold outside, not exactly "tropical fish" weather!) Add to that the fact that we start all our annual competitions over so there isn't much information to put in most of the board reports. There is one very interesting article and this is where you come in. . . You could be our next published author! We are one of the few aquarium club publications that I see with all locally produced content. So many of them rely mostly on reprints from other clubs. To be honest including some reprints isn't a bad thing since many of the articles are very well done. It just doesn't say much about the health and wellness of the hobby in general if a club with 50 or 100 members can't produce 10 or 20

articles a year. Just sayin' You've heard me say this many times before (and I'm sure you'll hear it a few more) It's not that hard to let the rest of us know what you've been up to or seen in your fish tanks. Inquiring minds want to know!

One thing I don't want to leave out is that we've got some pictures from the Christmas Party scattered throughout this issue submitted by our historian, Russ.

I'll see you at the meeting!





BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

Th, Th, That's all folks! The Breeder's Award Program and Horticultural Award Program year officially ended in November. Now in December we start fresh for 2013, 2012 was not a very good year for either of our programs; I do not recall lower yearly totals since I have been Chairman, which has been for many, many consecutive years. It's not like breeding stock has not been available, with all the club auctions in our area I know as I have been to almost all of them there has been lots of fish for breeding. The grand totals for 2012 were: 21 spawns turned in and 14 plant propagations and flowerings.

Way back in November we had our annual club elections, and needless to say I was unopposed for reelection as the BAP/HAP Chairman, so I get to do this fun job for another year. By the way the BAP/HAP rules have been reviewed and revised, so if anyone needs a copy of the new rules I will have hard copies at the monthly meeting or they

can be downloaded from the club's web site. Then in December we had our annual Christmas party/ monthly meeting; where the **Breeder of the Year** plaque was presented to **Joe Reich**, and the **Horticulturist of the Year** plaque was presented to **Phil & Tiffany Hypes**, congratulations to all. Like I said the new BAP/HAP year started in December with a thud. All members are welcome to participate in the programs; it's not that hard, let's see if we can do better than 2012.

November 2012

Species	Common name	Class	Points
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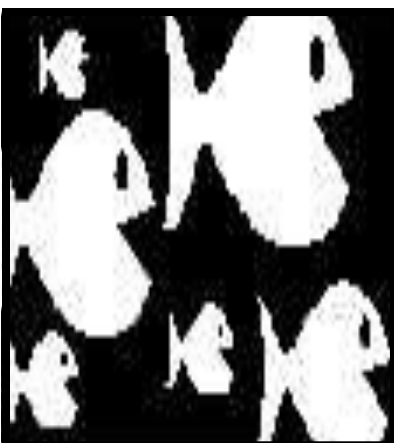
BAP

Wayne Toven

<i>Puntius semifasciolatus</i>	Gold barb	B, M, & R	10
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Final 2012 Totals	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
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Joe Reich	7	60	-	-
Phil & Tiffany Hypes	3	40	6	75
Wayne Toven	3	25	1	10
Dave Williamson	3	25	-	-
Dan McMonigle	2	20	5	60
Rich Serva	2	20	-	-
Don Youngkin	1	5	-	-
Brad Johnson	-	-	1	15
Orin McMonigle	-	-	1	15



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3 1/2- 1.5 mil All others - 2 mil

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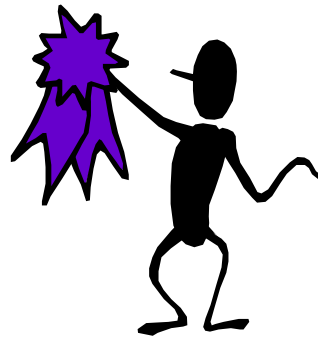
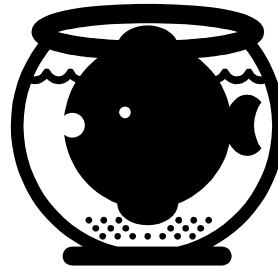
Tues-Fri 12-7 Sat: 10-6
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(Downtown Barberton)

Bowl Show & Special Activities

Don Youngkin



We're going to stick with the same classes we've used the last couple of years.



How the Point System works:

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

2013 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 Beta 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,



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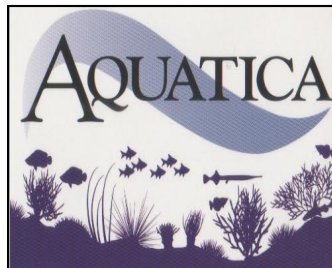
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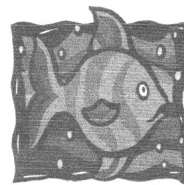


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Exchange Report

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.

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society

Oct 2012
Spawning Corydoras and Their Cousins, by Charles Drew

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society

Oct 2012
Some Notes on the Culture of Grindal Worms, by Juergen Kasprick

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc.

Oct 2012
Pimephales promelas in the Tub (Fat head/ Rosy red minnows), by Stan Chechak

Michiana Aquarium Society

Oct 2012
Camallanus Worms: an Aquarist's Nightmare, by Bruce Haynes
Cambarellus shufeldti – the Dwarf Cajun Crayfish, by Ben Slocum

North Jersey Aquarium Society

Oct 2012
Of all of the Eartheaters, This is the Real Cichlid Geophagus brasiliensis, by Chuck Davis
Cynotilapia afra Jalo Reef, by Tom Gillooly

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County

Tank Tales: Oct 2012
Breeding Melanotaenia lacustris, by Joel Antkowiak

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society

Nov 2012
Tiny Bubbles..... Make Me so Happy, by Ed Koerner
Living with Livebearers, Part 1: Xiphophorus nigrens, by Ed Koerner
Living with Livebearers, Part 2: Limia nigrofasciata, by Ed Koerner

Ohio Cichlid Association

Buckeye Bulletin: Nov 2012
How to Change an Energy Hogging Fluorescent Fixture to an Energy Efficient LED Fixture on the Cheap, by Kyle May
Corydoras sp. C091 First U.S. Spawn, by Steve Heinbaugh

Michiana Aquarium Society

Nov 2012
Pachypanchax arnoulti, by Don Brandt
A Guppy Experiment, by Kendall Artz
Ancistrus Catfish, by Shane Hill

North Jersey Aquarium Society

Nov 2012
Star of the Lake Nicaragua, by Chuck Davis

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society

Nov 2012
Viviparity: a Mode of Reproduction, the Male Reproductive Organ, the Gonopodium of the American Poeciliidae, by Richard C. Griffiths

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc.

Nov 2012
Hyphessobrycon columbianus (Red/blue Columbian tetra), by Stan Chechak

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society

Dec 2012
Completing My First Triple Play – Egyptian Mouthbrooders, by Ed Koerner
My Dive into the World of Invertebrates, by Jeff Loney

Michiana Aquarium Society

Dec 2012
Corydoras ehrhardti, by Vern Cloud

Pacific Coast Cichlid Association

Nov/Dec 2012
Sex Ratio Manipulation on Pelvicachromis taeniata, by Albert So
My Introduction to a Sand Sifter, by Rolf Mader

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society

Dec 2012
Cynotilapia axelrodi, by Larry Johnson
Spawning Corydoras venezuelanus (black), by Charles Drew

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County

Dec 2012
Breeding the Tequila Splitfin, Zoeneticus tequila, by Joel Antkowiak
The Christmas Killie (Aphyosemion striatum), by Joel Antkowiak

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc.

Dec 2012
Reproduction of the Bubble-Tipped Anemone in a Home Aquarium, by Darlene M. Madarish

Nomorhamphus towoeti the Black Halfbeak

Joe Reich



Halfbeaks are live bearing fish from Malasia. They have sleek, slender, torpedoe shaped bodies with a long beak attached and look like needle fish or north american gars. They are called halfbeaks because the top beak only reaches out about half the length of the bottom beak. At least usually. I'll go over that remark shortly. Their beaks allow them to take any insects that happen to alight upon the water with ease. For that reason they generally like to stay in the upper part of our aquariums, near the waters surface where they await a chance at a morsel of food. Wingless fruitflies are munched down with gusto! So far, of the three species of halfbeaks that I've kept and bred, none of them needed to be kept on a live food diet. Quality flake and pellet food has been the mainstay, with frozen bloodworms, brine shrimp and mysis shrimp added a couple times a week as a treat. On the rare occasion, I'll offer some wingless fruitflies or white worms. In short, feeding is not a problem! Even though these fish aren't piscivores, I wouldn't trust any half-

beak with fish small enough to become a meal! That includes newly dropped halfbeak fry! Yes, unfortunately they are cannibalistic. *Nomorhamphus* don't have any problem taking food from the bottom of the tank either, unlike *Dermogenys* which stays up at the top. Their "beaky" appearance, the fact that they stay small as compared to gars and needlefish, and the fact that they give birth are what attracts me to keep this "oddball" livebearer.

So now some information about our Black Halfbeaks. For starters, they aren't exactly black. But if I had to give it a common name, that would be a good choice! Like all halfbeaks, they are mostly light gray in color with a white, silvery underside. However our Black Halfbeaks do change color depending on their mood! I have seen them from nearly all black to regular gray, all in a matter of seconds! The coloration over the body is not very uniform. They could also easily be called marbled. One of my males looks like he has 3 evenly spaced light col-

ored vertical bands on one side, but the other side of him is entirely different with it nearly completely black. Sometimes the females will have a faint orange blush on their body just under the dorsal fin. The trailing edge of the anal fin of Black Halfbeaks is marked in black. From juveniels to adults of all color modes the black edging on the trailing edge of the anal fin is plain to see. Males don't have the black mark on the anal fin though. The ventral fins have a bit of black coloring in them just after the leading edge and closer to the body, other than that, the rest of the fins lack coloration. These halfbeaks might also be called "beakless" halfbeaks. These fish have stumpy little beaks compared to most other halfbeaks. You won't see one swimming around with a broken beak anyway. The bottom beak is just a bit longer than the top, so it definately looks like a halfbeak in that regard. At any rate, they have big mouths and can eat insects bigger than you think they would be able to. Something to be mindful of when choosing tank mates for them.

Black Halfbeaks come to us from the island formerly known as Celebes, one of many islands north of Australia. Today the island is known as Sulawesi. They can be found in Lake Towuti and also the surrounding basin area which includes Lake Matano, Lake Mahalona, Lake Masapi and Lake Lontoa. Lake Towuti is the largest of the lakes in Sulawesi with an area of 217 square miles and a depth of 666 feet and sits at an elevation of 961 feet above sea level. Lake Matano happens to be the 10th deepest lake in the world at 1,936 feet. All of the lakes are fed by mountain streams. Sulawesi is said to have 10,000 lightning strikes per day! That's a lot of thunderstorms if you ask me, so there is no shortage of fresh-

water feeding those streams. Their current habitat is possibly going to be changing, if it hasn't already. There are, or were, plans to build a nickel mine near Lake Matano as well as a lumber mill. Waste water runoff from either facility into the lake would be disastrous! Because of the possibility of water visibility being reduced, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed this fish on their "red" list. Red means that they are threatened. The lake water is very clear and many species in the lake rely on visual cues for mating, and silty polluted water would have an impact on their mating behaviors. So we aquarists must do our best to preserve this species before it has a chance to go by way of the Western Black Rhino, which was declared extinct as of January 2012! Of the 19 species of halfbeaks, almost all of them can only be found in Sulawesi.

Halfbeaks in general have a tendency to squabble amongst themselves. The so called "Wrestling" Halfbeaks tend to be more aggressive among their species. The Black Halfbeak is a lot more tolerant of their tank mates. In fact, I have to say that of the halfbeak species I've kept, they have to be the most docile. That makes keeping these guys a lot easier! Don't get me wrong here, they do still have their scrums. But the most damage I ever see is the occasional torn fin. Combat happens either between two females or between two males. I have yet to see any combat of male versus female. But I have seen an unreceptive female drive off the overly eager reproductive male. For the most part, combat consists of two fish facing off with their bodies parallel to each other. Fins are spread wide and the pectoral fins are held upright behind their heads. These displays

can either be aligned head to head or head to tail. When they are head to tail, both contestants start to swim around in tiny circles as if they are chasing each other. On occasion they will open their mouth a little to make their display look a little more ferocious. They also flare their gills the way cichlids do. Lightning fast, one fish will strike the other fish, or at least try to. Usually they break off combat with the end of the display and the winner will give just enough chase to the loser as if to say "beat it!" After a few minutes the same fish can be seen next to each other as if nothing had happened at all. When they are aligned head to head, they do just as cichlids do and send a blast of water with their tail fin toward the other fishes lateral line. I have also seen two males lock jaws. In that mode of combat they either play tug of war or try to push each other. This type of combat doesn't seem to last too long, but it can go on for several bouts. The loser is chased away after this type of combat a little more aggressively, but he isn't maimed or molested, at least not in the confines of my 20 gallon high

tank. I haven't seen any of the females do this type of combat, so it just might be something that the males do. I also have two mature pairs in a ten gallon tank and they seem to be doing well with respect to limited aggression. Perhaps maybe because they stay so close to the surface they seem to be somewhat shy. They don't exactly go and hide, but they do go to the back of the tank at the first sign of movement outside the tank. Once they realize it's feeding time, it becomes a feeding frenzy though. They will also come to the front of the tank to satisfy their curiosity once they see the threat of danger has passed.

Sexing these fish isn't too hard at all. Even half grown fish are easily sexed. The anal fin of the male is modified, and looks a lot like the anal fin of male goodies. Sort of like it hasn't unfolded all the way. Then there is the matter of size. Males are a lot smaller than females. My biggest male is around two inches in length from the tip of his beak to the end of his tail. The female is around three and a half to four inches in



length, but she probably weighs in over three times his weight, easily! When a male tries to breed with the female, he stays just below her and a little behind. It almost seems as if he is trying to be in her blind spot. Any other males that try to take up this position get chased away. The male will hover in the blind spot until he sees an opportunity. A male's courtship display looks the same to me as when he's displaying against another male in combat, with the pectoral fins held upright against their body and all fins spread wide. Unfortunately I have my halfbeaks in a community tank. So when any fry are dropped, most get eaten. So I haven't been able to tell how many fry are actually being released. If I had to throw out an average number, I'd guess maybe 10-15. The fry are big and around 1/2 inch long at birth. Some are able to take smaller wingless fruitflies on the very first day. Finely crumbled flake food has always been my first food offering for the fry, and they take to it pretty quick. Make sure to

have some floating vegetation in the tank so the fry have something to hide in. I have yet to see a female dropping fry immediately eat any. But when labor is all done she will be hungry! I do have and use one of those floating breeder fry traps, but it is old and I'm not sure if they still make them. What's unique about it is the slots for the fry to drop through, they are big compared to all the others I've seen. Halfbeak fry generally are too big to use most fry traps. I did come up with a handy do-it-yourself trap. My dishwasher decided one day that it would rather smoke up the house than wash dishes. The basket that holds the silverware had a mesh big enough for any newborn halfbeak fry to swim through! But it was quite a chore to remove the inner dividers. I attached some foam floats and all was good.

I don't do anything "special" in regards to water parameters. I have well water that comes out of the ground slightly on the soft side. The PH is between 7-8.

Temperature was kept around 75* F. The occasional water change. Some patience on my part. My above mentioned feeding regime. That was all that was needed in order to get them to spawn. Super easy! In closing this article I have to say that the game of life threw one of those curve balls at me. I didn't get to play with my fish for a couple days in a row. One thing about halfbeaks, they NEED to be fed! I purposely don't feed my fish once or twice a week, but two days in a row doesn't cut it with halfbeaks. My peaceful female Black halfbeaks decided that the male of half their size would be a good meal. An hour before I found the male all mauled, he was chasing the females in his mating ritual. I hope he was successful! The best thing I ever did was to put an aquarium in my computer room. Since I spend so much time on the computer it gives me a refreshing break to look at the tank full of halfbeaks and watch their various moods and behaviors. Something that I heartily recommend for everyone.



GAAS Spring Auction March 3, 2013

Tallmadge Community Center
80 Community Rd. Tallmadge, Ohio

Registration opens at 10 am, auction begins at 11

For more information:

Bud White (330) 848-3856 (bwhite@neo.rr.com),
Wayne Toven (330) 256-7836 (wtoven@hotmail.com)
Rich Serva (330) 650-4613 (rjserva@juno.com)



The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

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

Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

Meeting Notice

Thursday, January

Program: Rich Serva -
Everglades Adventure, see how our
intrepid Treasurer avoided being
eaten by alligators!

Bowl Show: Goldfish, Male Guppies,
Minnows, Danio & Rasboras

Thursday, February

Program: Video Presentation
Dr. Noga on fish diseases.

Bowl Show: Suckermouth Catfish,
Swordtails, Characins

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

Coming Events

Feb 9, 2013 – Ohio Cichlid Association Winter Auction

Holiday Inn Select
Strongsville, 15471 Royal-
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Registration: 10am to noon
Auction Begins 11am
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February 16, 2013 - Motor City Aquarium Society - Spring Auction

Madison Place, 876 Hor-
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auction starts at 10:30. For
more information:
www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com



March 3, 2013 – Greater Akron Aquarium Society – Spring Auction

Tallmadge Community
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