

The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Tank Topics

May/June 2013

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Important Dates for 2013

March 3
Spring auction

July 13 & 14 Ultra Aqua 2013

November 3 Fall auction



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_•		
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Check out our website: www.gaas-fish.net

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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:

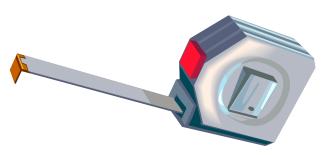
Editor/Tank Topics, P.O. Box 494, Akron, OH 44309-0494 or email to dwilliamson223@hotmail.com

The Greater Akron Aquarium Society Membership Form					
Name Age					
Address	Now — Donous				
City State Zip	New ☐ Renewal ☐ Electronic ☐ Mail				
Phoneemail	Adult (18 years and older				
How did you find out about GAAS?		1 year \$7.50			
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:	Family (includes children under 10) Junior (10-17 years)	2 years \$12.00 1 year \$10.00 2 years \$15.00 1 year \$5.00			
GAAS Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 494, Akron, OH 44309-0494	, ,	2 years \$7.00 Date Received			
	Dues Collected	Date Received			

Growth Program 2013

All members are urged to participate by coming to our May meeting to receive some FREE Five Banded Barbs to take home and grow them until the November meeting. Then bring in your biggest to compete for prizes!

No, you're not having déjà vu, we were going to try this last month with a different species but they didn't come in well so we 're trying again from a different supplier.



Editor's Message

Here we go again, there always seems to be one issue every year that gives me a hard time getting done, and this is it! Normally at this time of year I'd be pushing the idea of going to the American Livebearer Convention, but not this time. It seems too many people in my department at work wanted the last week of April off, so I didn't get it. I'm not real happy about that, but there isn't much I can do about it either since you've got to keep the paychecks coming in, otherwise you won't have money to buy fish with! I'll at least get something interesting out of it, I sent some money with Rich and Wayne to buy some fish. Granted it's not as much fun as doing it myself but it's better than nothing!

Well now on to the subject of 4-letter words (for starters: WORK) I've been rather distracted from my hobby (another one: FISH) due to a training program I've been in for nearly a year to try to get a different position that involves less (and here's a double: OVER TIME). It should be finished in mid-June so maybe I'll get back to raising FISH again. That is of course unless the (one last time: BAND) takes up any free time I can muster. We're already playing 2-3 weekends a month and now we've added un-plugged acoustic shows to the mix as well. Sometimes I feel like a hamster in a wheel. . . A whole lot of running around but it doesn't feel like I'm getting anywhere!

Next up, let's talk about the show coming up in July. Yeah, I know it barely feels like Spring has arrived, but the middle of July is only two and a half months away! That's really not that long (at least the way time seems to move in my world!) But anyway, what I'm getting at here is that it is time to start planning what you might want to enter in the show now so that it's easier to do when the time comes. Look around at your fish. You might wonder what makes a good show fish. The biggest thing to remember is that it should be a good example of it's species. Is it close to adult size? Does it show proper adult color patterns? Are the fins in good condition? How about the things that are specific to the type of fish (scales, barbels and so on). You may have heard the term "condition" in relation to fish in shows, basically it's body weight. Is it too thin to be considered a healthy example of it's species/gender? And believe it or not they can on occasion be overweight as well. It all boils down to doing a little homework to find out what exactly your fish is supposed to look like and how big it is supposed to be able to get. Balance this with conditioning aspects (no rips or scars in the fins or missing scales) and you may have found your show prospect. If it's something that could be damaged by tank mates between now and then, you may need to consider isolating it. One last consideration: make sure you have an appropriate



size container to show it in when the time comes. If it's a neon tetra a quart drum bowl will work but if it's an Oscar, you might need to consider something a little larger. It's easiest if the container you plan to use isn't one of your permanent set ups. You won't have to move things around and clean it out just to use it at the show for a couple of days. All this rambling is just to get you to think about putting some entries in the show this year if you haven't done it before. It's really not that difficult and it can be a lot of fun.

Oh, and in case you noticed there is no President's Message in this issue. Unfortunately Bud has been sick and wasn't able to put anything together so hopefully he'll be back to "normal" soon!

I'll see you at the meeting!

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BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

Wow!! Is it really spring, or is Ma Nature playing tricks on us? Punxsutawney Phil seemed to be way off his game this year, somebody must have shined a flashlight on him and he saw his shadow. But the spring auctions are in full swing so it must be spring, the calendar says so. We had our very successful spring auction on March 3rd, I picked up some good fish, had to pay a little more than expected, but for quality fish if you want them, you gotta pay the price. There are quite a few auctions yet to come, so lots of chances to get some new breeder stock, juvenile fish, or fry to raise up for breeding. There have also been lots of live plants available for future propagating and flowering. Both the Breeder Award Program and the Horticultural Award Program are off to a rather sluggish start this year, hopefully things will pick up soon. Last year we had the least number of spawns submitted since I have been BAP/HAP Chairman, kind of disappointing, but sometimes other things take priority over the fish. I personally have been getting my outdoor tubs and ponds ready for the fish, cleaning out leaves mainly, there are small goldfish in three tubs that I did not put any in last year, must have been eggs on floating plant roots. I heard we got some new club members at meetings and the auction, if you need forms and rules for either of the programs they can be downloaded from the club's web site, or obtained from me at one of the monthly meetings.

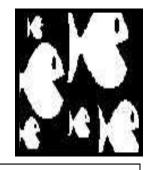
Don't forget to plan ahead for our Ultra - Aqua 2013 coming soon on July 13th and 14th, it is the largest number class all species show in North America, and the only all species show in Ohio. We are trying something new this year, we are going to have a swap meet on Saturday from 12 noon till 5 pm. Ray Lucas will also be there, we have missed having him the last few years, and we will be having dinner and a speaker Saturday evening, so plan on attending. Start getting your show fish in condition, bring them and maybe win some money, where else can your fish get you money without selling them? Of course I have entered fish in the show in the past, won with them, and then had someone want to buy them, if the price was right they were sold, one time tank and all.

March 2013

BAP

Melanoides tuberculataMalaysian Burrowing SnailAquatic animal5Puntius filamentosaBlackspot BarbB,M,&R10Aulonocara hansbaenschiRed Shoulder PeacockCichlid m.b.15Wayne TovenPhalloptychus januariusBarred Mosquito FishLivebearer5Don YoungkinLabidochromis caerueleusElectric YellowCichlid m.b.15HAPDan McMongileRumex sanguinensisRed Water DockG – vegetative10April 2013BAP	Species	Common name	Class P	oints
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Tanichthys micagammae Vietnamese White Coud B,M,&R 5	Tanichthys micagammae	Vietnamese White Coud	B,M,&R	5
Xiphophorus kallmani Bronze Swordtail Livebearer 5	Xiphophorus kallmani	Bronze Swordtail	Livebearer	5

2013 Totals	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
Rich Serva	5	30	-	-
Joe Reich 4	25	-	-	-
David Girard	3	25	-	-
Dan McMonigle	1	5	2	25
Wayne Toven	1	5	-	-
Don Youngkin	1	15	-	-









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Bowl Show & Special Activities

Don Youngkin

Jeff is building a lead, but it is still early in the year. There is still time to catch him. All are invited to bring in entries.

March Barbs

1st – Jeff Plazak Tiger Barb
 2nd – Jeff Plazak Albino Tiger Barb
 3rd – Wayne Toven Flamentosa Barb

Mollies

1st - Jeff PlazakMolly2nd - Jeff PlazakMolly3rd - Jeff PlazakMolly

Corydoras, Brochis & Aspidoras

1st – Wayne Toven Scleromastyx brochis

2nd – Jeff Plazak Cory

3rd – Wayne Toven *Corydoras erhardti*

April

Female Guppies

1st – Jeff PlazakFemale Guppy2nd – Dan McMonigleFemale Guppy3rd – Jeff PlazakFemale Guppy

Platies

1st – Jeff Plazak Platy **2**nd – Jeff Plazak Platy

Aquatic Invertebrates

1st - Wayne TovenProcambarus clarkii2nd - Wayne TovenAtyopsis mullecens3rd - Jeff PlazakMarble Cray Fish



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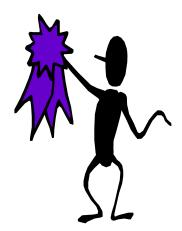
highland square 760 w.market akron, ohio 44303

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Annual Point Totals

Jeff Plazak 67 Wayne Toven 38 Don Youngkin 5 Dan McMonigle 3



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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

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

Mav:

Goodeids, Rift Lake Cichlids, Aquatic Plants

Inne

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,

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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.

First off there was a reprint of Joe Reich's article *Nomorhamphus towoetii* – *Black Halfbeak* in the Mar/Apr issue of <u>Missouri</u> **Aquarium Society's** The Darter.



Michiana Aquarium Society,

Michiana Tropical Times: Feb 2013

Guinacara sphenozona, by Ben Slocum

<u>Society Inc.</u> Finformation: Feb 2013

Cryptoheros cutteri (Cutter's cichlid), by Stan Chechak Spawning Corydoras aeneus, Albino, by Leslie Ernst

Missouri Aquarium Society,

The Darter: Mar/Apr 2013
The Gold Barb Puntius semifasciolatus, by Mike Hellweg
The Princess of Burundi Neolamprologus brichardi, by Mike
Hellweg

Red Belly Pirahna: Killer Fish or Big Sissies? By Cory Koch

<u>Greater Detroit Aquarium Society</u>, Tropic Tank Talk: Mar 2013 Research into Ichthyophthirius multifiliis Control, by Leslie Ernst

Aquarium Club of Lancaster
County, Tank Tales: Mar 2013
Xiphophorus couchianus – Monterey Platy, by Richard Bressler
When 1 + 0 = a Pair, by Joel
Antkowiak

Regina Agaurium Society, Fins

and Friends: Mar 2013

Spawning Apistogramma cacatuoides, by Greg Mallet

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Mar 2013

Metriaclima sp. Membe Deep, by Larry Johnson

<u>Greater Cincinnati Aquarium</u> <u>Society</u>, Fincinnati: Mar/Apr 2013

Emersed Aquatic Plant Growth: Part 1, by Rob Woehr

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: Mar 2013

Spawning "My" Hypancistrus sp. L-236, by Eric Bodrock

Raising and Spawning Tropical Fish, by Stan Chechak

<u>Kithchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society</u>, Fins & Tales: Apr 2013

Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries – Cherry Barbs & Cherry Shrimp, by Al Ridley

<u>Hamilton & District</u>: Apr 2013 My Do – It – Yourself LED Lighting Project, by Gina Hayward Werewolves of the Amazon, by Norm McEvoy



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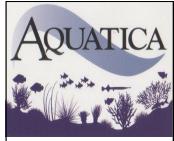
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An Easy Aponogeton to Propagate (Aponogeton natans)

Dan McMonigle



Wayne Toven and I went in together last year on buying a shipment of plants from an importer. One of mine was *Aponogeton natans*. The plants I received were small, with hardly any bulb. As they grew, they began to develop bulbs, still not as big as most *Aponogeton* bulbs you would buy. One thing I was warned about was to trim any floating leaves off so that the underwater leaves would flourish. I had enough of these to let



some of the plants go to all floating leaves if they wanted to. They did. These plants grew faster and had more blooms than the ones with only underwater leaves.

To get the flowers to produce seeds, rubbing two of them together when they were close enough worked well. You could also use an artist's brush to transfer the pollen. You can see some of the seeds on the spent flower stalks. Many of the seeds already have fallen off and drifted to the tank bottom and the filter intake screen.



My camera auto-focuses on the water spots on the tank glass so the pictures of tiny seedlings an inch tall or less are fuzzy.

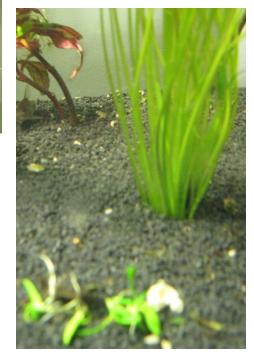
It turned out that the seeds that got stuck on the intake screen grew faster than the ones on the sand. The seeds grew their leaves on the outside of the filter screen but their roots were inside it in the flow. They



could be pulled off if you did it before the roots tangle together. I have not figured out what to do with the ones that grew there while we were on vacation for a month.

The floating leaves are flat and smooth edged and a solid green. But if you look at them from a low angle with the light in front, they look silvery. In the photo this comes out looking brownish, but any other angle shows green leaves.

One thing that I found confusing about this plant was that all of mine started out with the flat smooth leaves, and not the wavy ones pictured for this species. However if you follow the directions given and trim off all of the floating leaves, the underwater leaves grow bigger, longer, and develop the wavy look in the aquatic plant catalog.



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My First Tetra Spawn, Without Really Trying

Wayne Toven

This is something new for me; I've kept a few different tetras in the past but never tried to spawn them. If only I had known how easy it was, I would have tried sooner. Recently at an early summer fish club auction, I bid on a spawning group of 5 Buenos Aires tetras, and I got them surprisingly cheap, possibly because it was a cichlid club auction, so you can get fish other than cichlids, that is why I go to so many of them.

The species was first described in 1907 by C. H. Eigermann and given the name Hemigrammus anasitsi. They were described again in 1923 by E. Ahl and named Hemigrammus caudovittatus and again in 1928 by E. Ahl and named Hyphessobrycon erythrurus as he considered them to be a different species. But in 1989 L. R. Malabara re-assigned them to the genus Hyphessobrycon and given the name H. anisitsi, which is what they are known as today. No matter what they are called, they originally came from the Buenos Aires region of Argentina on the southeastern coastline of South America. Their natural range is from the Rio de la Plata, the Rio Parana basin in Brazil, Paraguay, & Argentina, and the Rio Uruguay basin in Brazil. In these areas they inhabit streams, small rivers, lakes, and ponds. This area is about the same distance from the equator as Los Angeles, Ca. and Charlotte, N.C. so Buenos Aires tetras are able to tolerate lower temperatures, than most other tetras which come from the tropics.

In the home aquarium they are very tolerant when it comes to water parameters, and can be maintained at temperatures ranging from 60 – 86 degrees F, in either hard or soft water, and at a Ph ranging from 6 - 8. B.A. tetras are active, peaceful, hardy, long lived, schooling fish that should be kept in groups of 5 or more. They should only be housed in a dimly lit aquarium with adequate swimming room, a sand substrate, rocks, driftwood and plastic plants, as they will eat live plants. Tank mates should be similar sized tetras, rainbow fish, larger rasboras, barbs, and bottom dwellers such as botias and loricariids, but they can also be used as dither fish for non aggressive cichlids.

Buenos Aires tetras females can grow to almost three inches, males just a little bit smaller and slimmer in the body. Coloration is the same in both sexes, silvery body, with a narrow bluish line that starts behind the gill and ends at the caudal fin, where there is a diamond shaped black spot, and a little bit of red at the top of the eye. The fins are a red – orange, and are more brightly colored on the males. Some color variations have been bred, from

albino to ones with yellow fins and tail. Of my group of two females and three males, four were normal coloration and one male was of the yellow fin variety.

When I brought them home from the auction, I had no empty tanks in the fish room, but being early June the water was warm enough in my 110 gallon outdoor tubs behind the garage, and they were just waiting for fish to be moved into them. So the Buenos Aires tetras went in one, the *Melanotaenia praecox* rainbows went in one,



the *Brochis splendens* went in one, and some of the other fish I bought that day went into others. The tubs had water lilies, irises, other marginals and an abundance of hornwort in them that was growing well. The tubs are unfiltered except by the plants, I don't do water changes on them I just top them off with fresh water when needed, and they get approximately 9 – 10 hours of direct sunlight, so the plants do quite well.

Being omnivorous they will eat a wide variety of foods, like I said before they will eat live plants, so the hornwort will be like a continually open buffet, but I did feed them flake food once a day to supplement whatever Mother Nature provided them, probably mostly Tank Topics Page 9

mosquito larvae. If maintained in an aquarium and live plants are not present a good quality spirulina based flake should be provided along with live and frozen foods like blood worms, brine shrimp, or daphnia, and small floating pellets.

As for breeding B. A. tetras they are egg scatterers, so mine probably used the hornwort. They will however eat the eggs and the fry if given the chance, which is probably why I only got 13 fry from them all summer. For spawning in aquariums use a fine leaf plant like hornwort or Java moss, or use yarn spawning mops, or a mesh with holes large enough for the eggs to fall through can be placed over a gravel substrate. They can be spawned in groups or in pairs. For pairs spawning separate males and females to separate conditioning tanks and feed them well, when females are obviously plump and full of eggs pick the plumpest female and the most colorful male, and put them together in the spawning tank in the evening, and they should spawn early the next morning. Keep an eye on them, when the female is thin again remove the pair as they will eat the eggs. The eggs will hatch in 24 - 36 hours, and the fry will be free swimming in 3 – 4 days. Infusoria type food needs to be fed for the first few days, when the fry are large enough microworms, baby brine shrimp, and crushed flake food can be used. The fry grow relatively fast, at least mine did, the ones that survived, probably because of the constant food supply. As usually happens in my fish room once a spawn is submitted for our Breeder Award Program, the breeder group and remaining juveniles are moved on to someone else through a club auction, unless they are something special, to make room for other fish. Since these were so easy to spawn outdoors, I will more than likely be trying some other tetras or barbs or rainbows or something this summer.

Source:

Baensch Aquarium Atlas: Dr. Rudiger Riehl & Hans A. Baensch

Buenos Aires tetra fact sheet: Voices: Yahoo.com

Buenos Aires tetras: About.com

Tropicalfishkeeping.com



GAAS Ultra-Aqua Show and Auction July 13 & 14, 2013

Tallmadge Community Center 80 Community Rd. Tallmadge, Ohio

Saturday Show Registration: 10-5

Sunday Auction Registration: 10, Auction begins at 11

New this year:

Saturday Afternoon Swap Meet: Noon-5

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)

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The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

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

Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

Meeting Notice

Thursday, May 2

Program: Ken McGill, Collecting Native Fish

Bowl Show: Goodeids, Rift Lake Cichlids, Aquarium Plants

Thursday, June 6

Program: Hands-on Workshop: Build your own sponge filter

Bowl Show: Native Fish, Rainbowfish, Male *Betta splendens*

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

Coming Events

May 4—Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts Spring Auction Courtyard Columbus West 2350 Westbelt Drive Columbus, Ohio 43228 Registration for sellers and buyers begins at 9:30 AM. The Auction starts at 11:00am. For more information contact columbusfishclub@ hotmail.com or call 614-562-5710 http://www.columbusfishclub.org/auction spring.php

May 5—Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Spring Auction

North Hampton VFD Turnpike, Exit 39 Registration will open at 9:30 AM and close at 1 PM. Auction will start promptly at 11 AM. WWW.GPASI.ORG Wally Cox 412-420-7985 walmich@verizon.net OR Joe Doyle 724-602-7564 BrokenBox@gmail.com June 29, 2013 - GLCS Summer Auction

Pipefitters Union hall, near the I-480 and I-77 interchange Reg. 9 AM, auction starts at Noon. All species, plants and dry goods. Contact Dean at dmersinas@gmail.com, 216-906-1800, Marty at 330-650-0237, Bill at 216-692-9296 or Ron at 440-944-3245. Web site: greatlakescichlidsociety.net July 13 & 14 – Greater Akron Aquarium Society -Ultra-Aqua 2013 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)