



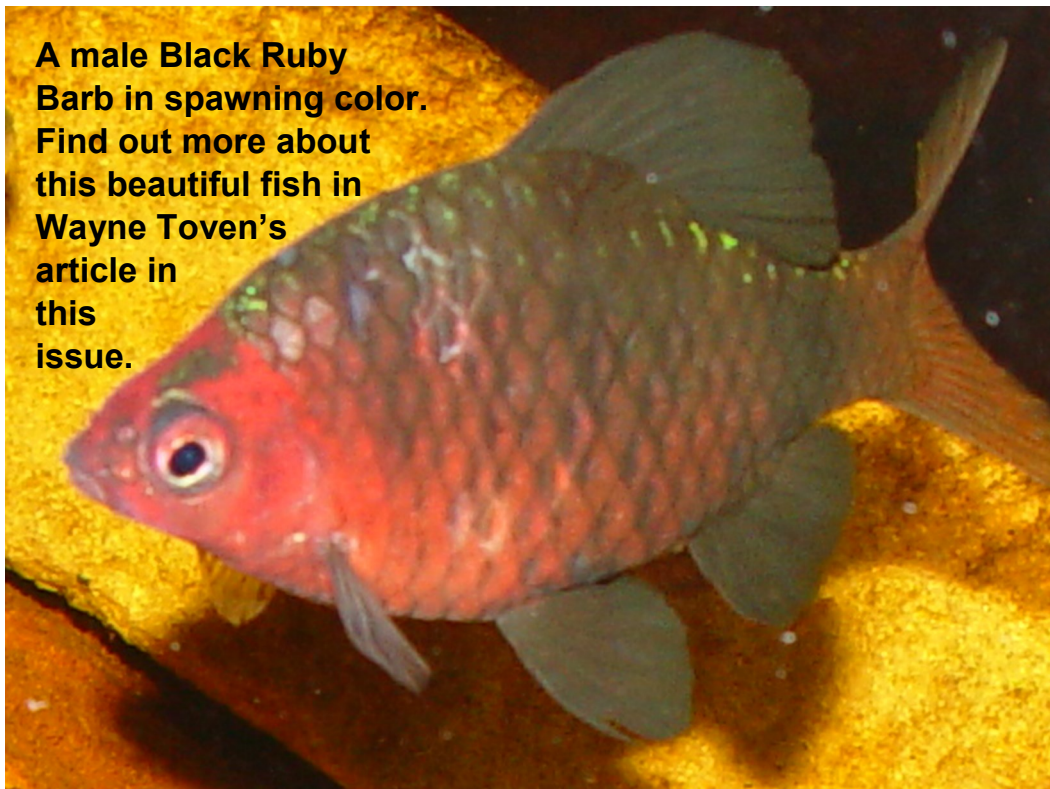
Tank Topics

January/February 2014

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A male Black Ruby Barb in spawning color. Find out more about this beautiful fish in Wayne Toven's article in this issue.



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Important Dates for 2014

March 2
Spring auction

June 21 & 22
Ultra Aqua 2014

November 2
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:

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☐ New ☐ Renewal
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Adult (18 years and older)

1 year \$7.50
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 (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 _____



For starters, how about a little Christmas music?

So this is Christmas,

and what have you done?

Another year older,

and a new one just begun.

And so Happy Christmas,

I hope you had fun.

With the near and the dear ones,

the old and the young.

In case you didn't recognize it this, it is part of John Lennon's song *Happy Xmas (War is Over)* and I just thought it summed up how I was feeling about this season this year. No major message, just think about it for a minute.

Anyway. . . We are on our way to a new year! And with that in mind we did have our annual elections in November, if you want to call them elections. What actually happened was all the present board of directors members were willing to keep the positions they had and no one was running against anybody so we just accepted the group in one year or nay vote and bingo we're done. Our functions last year were successful, so let's keep up the good work and have another fantastic year.

One kind of major change for 2014 is that we chose to move our Ultra-Aqua show date to the 21 & 22 of June from the second week of July where it's been for the last couple of years. The reason for this is to avoid competition with the ACA convention which will be within driving distance this year. We've had that problem in the past so moving it back a couple of weeks should help to avoid conflicts in the future. Also a few of the board members found that it would fit their schedules better due to work responsibilities and pre-scheduled vacations amongst other things. Since there aren't any other fish shows in the area during the summer months any more, it seemed a logi-

cal decision.

While were on the subject of national fish conventions, (pretty cool segue, wasn't it!) I might as well bring up the American Livebearer Association Convention which will be in St. Louis, MO this year if you're up for a road trip. A couple of years ago I went to the one in Florida, so going long distance for a fish convention is really not that big of a deal like I once thought it was. I'll have to see how the vacation time at work pans out before I say if I'm going or not, but if I can work it out. . .

As you read this issue, you'll probably notice that the articles are both on the same the same subject. Yeah, I'd like to say that it was planned all along to do a series of themed issues this year. Well in all honesty, it wasn't but here's the scoop on how it worked out. You see I had only one article in reserve to use (Wayne's) and since I was going to eventually write a BAP article on this species of barb anyway it seemed natural to do it now and pretend it was a themed issue. Well, now that I've come clean about it that's where you come in (I'll bet you know where I'm going with this) that's right we need articles! I hear from some of our members that "I'm working on an article" or that "they've got one done and just need to get it to me" or something like that. The main thing to take away at this point is that we don't have any more in reserve to use, so if we want to keep it all current and locally produced **WE** have to write it! So, if your fish have done anything interesting lately please feel free to tell the rest of us about it, honestly we'd love to hear about it!

Although it's still a little ways off, feel free to start talking up our Spring Auction coming up on March 2nd to all your fishy friends. Yeah, I know it feels like we've just done one, but that's how we "pay the bills". None of our other things we do actually pay for themselves (membership, BAP, etc.) You'll find an ad for it later in this issue and we'll get flyers printed and out by the February meeting. So start planning now what you'll be un-



loading and what space you have available to fill!

Hopefully you'll be able to make the majority of the meetings this year since we have already gotten a few new and interesting programs lined up. I for one, am really looking forward to January's program about LED lighting. When you run as many tanks as I do, saving some money on the day to day operation of the fish room really helps. It help free up some extra money to buy the things you want, not just pay for the things you need!

In the past couple of years our mailing list has gotten a little messed up so we figured we'd try to fix things after the new year. So don't be surprised to get a reminder that your dues are due. With postage constantly going up we're going to have to watch our mailings more closely. This is probably also a good time to mention the option of receiving your publications via email, not only as a way of saving postage costs but you get color pictures and don't have to wait for the post office to deliver it (hopefully intact!) There will be more on this topic in the next few months, we'll keep you posted before any changes are made.

I'll see you at the meeting!



BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

Where did the year go? It's almost Christmas, there is snow on the ground, it's cold, time to stay indoors look out the window and say I'm glad I don't have to go to work. That is because I am already at work, my fish room is my job, and its more work than I usually did when I actually went to work. We just had our annual Christmas party/ December meeting, it went well, there was plenty of good food, the present exchange, the member's fish giveaway (included food, plants, driftwood, sponge filters, and fish), and the raffle. Hopefully you got some early Christmas presents from all of that. The weather wasn't too bad. Three of us had a road trip the day before to Fantastic Fins in Livonia, Mi., to pick up most of the fish for the giveaway, a big thank you goes out to Chris and Dale (the owners) for helping out the club. It's too bad we have to go out of state to get some different fish, but what can you do?

We presented our awards for **Breeder of the Year** to Joe Reich, and **Horticulturist of the Year** to Phil & Tiffany Hypes, congratulations to all. What this means is that the new year has started for BAP and HAP programs, and with all the giveaway fish, it was no surprise nothing was turned in at the meeting. Let's see if we can get a little more participation in 2014, this year had the second lowest totals (last year had the lowest totals) since I have been the BAP/HAP chairman, which I will be for another year thanks to the elections in Nov. The grand total for the year was 37 spawns, and 14 Hap submissions. This year 10 members participated in the programs, but all current members are eligible to participate in the programs, so let's get those fish

spawning and the plants propagating and flowering, there is lots of room for improvement. If anyone needs rules and or forms for either of the programs they can be downloaded from the clubs web site or obtained from me at a meeting.

November 2013

BAP

Species	Common name	Class	Points
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Joe Reich

<i>Gambusia punctata</i>	Cuban Gambusia	Livebearer	5
<i>Melanotaenia trifasciata</i>	Runnig creek	Rainbowfish	10

Dave Williamson

<i>Procambarus alleni</i>	Snow white crayfish	Aquatic animal	10
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Don Youngkin

<i>Iodotropheus sprengerae</i>	Rusty cichlid	Cichlid mouth brooder	15
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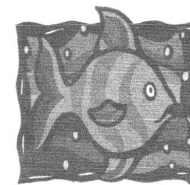
2013 Standing totals	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
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Joe Reich	10	80	-	-
Wayne Toven	7	50	2	10
David Girard	5	50	-	-
Rich Serva	5	30	-	-
Dave Williamson	3	25	4	40
Phil Hypes	2	15	6	80
Dan McMonigle	2	25	2	25
Don Youngkin	2	30	-	-
Steve Brunn	1	10	-	-
Jeff Plazak	1	5	-	-



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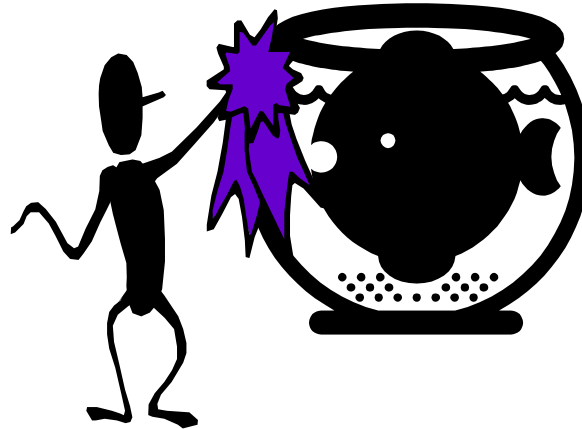
Bowl Show & Special Activities

Don Youngkin



We ended the year with Wayne Toven winning the award for most bowl show points - 115. During the course of the year, seven people participated, with six of them winning at least once. The final standings are:

Wayne Toven	115
Jeff Plazak	81
Dave Williamson	13
Don Youngkin	7
Todd Zettler	5
Nicole Youngkin	5
Dan McMonigle	3



How the Point System works:

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

You will notice that there have been some changes in for the 2014 Bowl Show schedule. Some classes that have had very little to no participation have been combined. Also, there will be no bowl show in June, due to the proximity of our Ultra Aqua Show.

2014 Bowl Show Schedule

January:

Male Guppies
Goldfish
Minnows, Danios & Rasboras

February:

Swordtails,
Male *Betta splendens*,
Characins (Tetras & relatives)

March:

Mollies
Suckermouth Catfish
Barbs

April:

Female Guppies
Corydoras, Aspidoras & Brochis
Photography

May:

Rift Lake Cichlids
Sharks & Loaches
Aquatic Invertebrates

June: no bowl show

July

Native Fish
Angelfish & Discus
Aquatic Plants

August:

Platies
Rainbowfish
Amphibians

September:

Goodeids
AO New World Cichlids
Bog Plants

October:

Gouramis & Anabantoids
AO Old World Cichlids
Arts & Crafts

November:

AO Livebearers
AO Egglayers
AO Catfish

December: no bowl show

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sat. 10-6
sun 12-5 (330) 374-6765

Exchange Report

Wayne Toven



This service is to read articles from other fish club's publications, and mention original articles by those clubs members that are informative and worth taking your time to read. If you would like a copy of an article mentioned below let me know and I will either email you a copy or get a hard copy to you at a monthly meeting.

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: Oct 2013

Spawning report for a *Hemirhamphodon* Halfbeak, by Darlene M. Madarish

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales: Nov 2013

Living With Livebearers – Halfbeaks, by Ed Koerner

Out of Africa – *Lamprologus caudopunctatus*, by Ed Koerner

Circle City Aquarium Club, Fancy Fins: Nov 2013

Plants Versus Filters, by Diana Walstad

Medina County Aquarium Society, All Wet Gazette: Nov 2013

How to Pleco Proof Your Aquarium Decorations, by Stephanie Kelland

Missouri Aquarium Society Inc. The Darter: Dec 2013

Put a Lid on It – Making Glass Tops With Hinges, to Keep Your Fish in and Your Pets Out, by Gary Lange

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Nov 2013

Spawning *Aspidoras eurycephalus* 'Gojas' by Charles Drew

Aulonocara walteri, by Larry Johnson

Sarnia Aquarium Society, Aqua Antics: Nov/Dec 2013

The Panda Cory, by Peter Melady

Brazilian Pennywort, by Peter Melady

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County, Tank Tales: Nov 2013

Too Many B G's, by Gary Haas

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: Nov 2013

Scleromastix barbatus Spawning, by Leslie Ernst

Corydoras adolfi, by Charlie Mueller

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society, Tropic Tank Talk: Nov 2013

The Nigerian Red Taeniatus, by Charlie Grimes

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales: Dec 2013

Out of Africa – *Julidochromis ornatus*, by Ed Koerner

Living With Livebearers – *Xenotoca variata*, & *Xenotaenia resoloneae*, by Ed Koerner

Apple Snail Care, by Pam Danyluck

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Dec 2013

Developing Super Red Long-fin Plecos, by Charles Drew

Ophthalmotilapia nasuta 'Magara', by Jessica Bullock

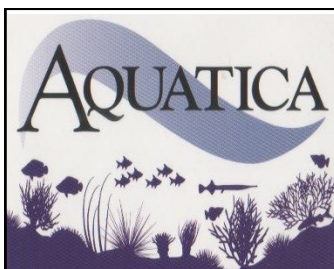


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Fish Can't Read, or Spawning Melon Barbs without really trying

Dave Williamson



This story starts way before the actual spawning took place, in fact we're talking a number of years and three groups of fish in between the first time I had this fish and when I was finally successful. Way back when, when Wet Pets was still in Mogadore, a new fish came in under the name of "Melon Barb". They were really nice, males were pinkish with black markings and the females had the same markings on a peach colored background. After I got the pair I bought home things began to change. The male's color intensified to a deep red and then he promptly bumped off the female. I kept him in a community tank of barbs, danios and loaches. He lived and thrived and I showed him numerous times until he lived out his time, and so ends round one. A couple of other club members picked them up from the batch I did and had similar results, no spawns.

A few years down the road, I find them again labeled "Red Clown Barbs", but the markings were the same and the color similar, just a little "muddier." Remembering the mess from the last time with attitude of the male, I didn't just get a pair this time, I got four of them. Well after some time passed, I realized that I had four males, and on top of that they never really colored up that well like the first one, so off to an auction they went. Here again I knew someone who had gotten some of them at the same time and they weren't able to spawn them either. OK, so now we're done with

round two.

Enter round three. In one of my trips to Cleveland for the reptile show when I still worked at the pet store, I had a couple of shops I would stop by while I was up there. That's when I saw them in their "clearance" tank of leftovers. They were a little larger than the last time and it appeared that there were three males and two females so I went ahead and got all five of them since they were a good price and I'm a sucker for trying fish again that I didn't have luck with previously. After a few weeks of them being settled into a twenty gallon long tank with some *Danio choprae*, "Pork Chop" *Rasboras* and Dwarf *Botias*, I found one of the males floating and chewed to shreds. I didn't know if he was bumped off then chewed on or what since no other mystery deaths occurred. I actually kind of forgot about them since they were kind of high-strung and darted off into the Java ferns any time I came close. Like the second group, the males never got the brilliant red that the first male got. I really began to wonder if they were really the same species or possibly a population variety collected from some other location that has a slightly different coloration. You never know when it something imported through the wholesale pet trade, since things never come with collecting site information like we get with hobbyist collected stock. One thing they did have in common with the first batch was that the males were still quite aggressive to each other. All four fish constantly had tattered fins. I can't prove it since I never actually saw them doing anything to the other fish in the tank, but at least on a couple of occasions a *Danio* or *Rasbora* would turn up dead with it's tail chewed off. I'm willing to bet they had something to do with it!

So now that I'd had them for more than a year and was sure of the sex-

es, I thought about trying to set them up to spawn in typical egg-scatterer fashion. I put a false bottom in the tank of plastic canvas with a big ball of Java moss and put a pair in. Took them out a couple of days later and left the tank alone for two weeks. Nothing. Tried that on two separate occasions with the same results. By this point I was pretty much over them since I couldn't get them to spawn and I couldn't show them (damaged fins), they were just kind of hanging around. That's when things changed. I had noticed a lot of activity in their tank with fish darting in and out of the Java ferns and all the mulm in the tank being stirred up. I figured that they were spawning at this point but there was no way I could separate eggs from all the stuff in the tank, and figured the loaches were eating them as fast as the barbs could lay them anyway. This kept up for quite a while (more than a month) and then one day I was shocked to see three tiny little vertically striped fish darting around amongst the mulm. Of course I grabbed a net and got them out as quickly as I could and searched around the tank for more with no luck. Then every couple of weeks I'd find one or two more. They were obviously growing up right there in the community tank with the adults just like every fish book I've ever read said wouldn't happen!

After a few weeks I had amassed a group large enough I could turn them in for BAP and they grew well in their own 2-1/2 gallon on microworms and crushed flake food. Once they got about 3/8" long they would even attack frozen adult brine shrimp and tear it up. Since I was going to turn them in, I needed to find out their scientific name so I did some searching on the internet and came up with a reference that referred to them as *Puntius fasciatus* and a synonym of *Puntius melanopyx*. On Wikipedia they had pictures of both the brilliant and muddy versions, but no description as to why they looked different.

At this point I decided that since I had finally succeeded with them it was time to move them out so I could have their tank for something else, you know the BAP slut that I am!

A Jewel in the Barb Family

Wayne Toven

I forget where I first acquired my black ruby barbs, (referred to as brbs from now on) *Puntius nigrofasciatus*, or at least that is what they were called when I bought them probably at a fish club auction in 2009. As is the norm now, the names they be a changin', they used to be *Barbus*, then *Puntius*, which is currently the genus for all Asian barbs according to Wikipedia, but they have now been changed to the genus *Pethia*, so a revision is very possible in the near future. After all of that, they are a tropical fish that belongs in the minnow family *Cyprinidae*.

The natural habitat of brb's is slow moving waters of streams in the hilly forests of southern Sri Lanka, at elevations of about 1000 feet. These streams are in the Kelani and Niwala basins, which are tropical but in the shaded streams the water is cooler, temperatures range from 68 – 79 degrees F. The water is slightly acidic at a PH of 6 – 6.5 and has a hardness of 5 – 12 dGH. Substrates vary from sand to fine gravel, with dense vegetation. Brbs are benthic or bottom feeders, so in the wild their main menu consists of organic material found in the detritus and filamentaceous algae.

Wild populations have diminished greatly due to habitat deforestation and collecting for the aquarium trade. The brb was placed on the IUCN red list of threatened species as vulnerable in 1986, but was downgraded to conservation dependent in 1996. What that means is that the export of wild caught specimens from Sri Lanka is prohibited, so all brbs sold in the aquarium trade are being commercially bred. This commercial breeding has resulted in a variety of new color and fin varieties, and they are also being used to create hybrid forms of tiger barbs, just what we don't need, more hybrid designer fish in the hobby, we

need to keep the species true to its nature.

Their shape is similar to other banded barbs, a pointed head and a high back with a deep body. Brbs grow to a maximum size of almost 3 inches; males can get a little larger than the females but slimmer. Young brbs have a yellowish gray coloration with three wide black vertical stripes; the adult male's body color varies from a silvery to bluish black with a reddish head, females display a duller coloration, both have the three wide black vertical stripes. The whole dorsal fin of the male will be a dark black, the anal fin is a reddish-black to black, and the ventral or pelvic fins are a dark reddish color, while on the female's fins only the base is black. The color of the fish can vary due to mood, or stress caused by poor water quality. When a sexually mature male is in breeding color the head can be an intense crimson, and the body an iridescent reddish-black, definitely a very striking fish no need to change it through hybridization.

Brbs although they are omnivorous, when kept in the aquarium it is important that a good quantity of vegetable matter be included in their diet, I feed mine a variety of small floating

and sinking pellet, a flake mix with extra veggies, and occasionally frozen bloodworms.

Most barbs are a schooling fish, they should be kept in groups of at least six or more, they spend most of their time in the middle of the water column, so an adequate swimming area should be provided. I currently house my group of 2 males and 4 females in a 100 gallon aquarium



decorated with rocks, driftwood, live plants, and a sand substrate. Filtration is taken care of by a matten sponge filter that covers the whole end of the tank and is 4 inch thick poret foam, with two air driven pvc

lift tubes that provide plenty of water movement. Their tank mates consist of 2 dennisoni barbs, Mesonoe-mechelilus triangularis Batik loaches from Sally Boggs when she was a speaker many years ago at one of our club meetings, a few Australian rainbows, and Staeocranus tinanti. The S. tinanti spawned in the tank which I discovered by accident when I almost killed them, but that is the topic of a future article.

The brbs did not successfully spawn in the aquarium, I would see a male colored up and a female plump and full of eggs from time to time, but never saw any fry, probably due to the open buffet for the tank mates when they laid eggs. Brbs can be spawned in groups or pairs, being notorious egg eaters they need to be set up for spawning so they can not get to the eggs. I decided since they weren't successful indoors they would go outside into one of my 110 gallon tubs for the summer and see how they do there, the tubs have a lot of hornwort, water lilies, and other marginal plants. They are unfiltered, the plants do most of the filtration taking in the fish waste products as fertilizer, and they do a good job. Brbs can lay more than 100 eggs in a spawn in shallow water, the eggs will hatch in 1 – 2 days and the fry will be free swimming in about 24 hours after hatching, I figured wit hall the hornwort some fry should survive the adults. Well a few did, I netted out 14 fry late in the summer, so I could turn in the six for our Breeder Award Program, and the rest went to an auction. The adults came back inside and are still in the 100 gallon tank in the fish room, and still look good.

References:

Baensch Aquarium Atlas #1 Dr. Rudiger Riehl, Hans A. Baensch

Wikipedia

Aquaticcommunity.com

Freshaquarium.about.com

Tfhmagazine.com

Myself



GAAS Spring Auction

March 2, 2014

Tallmadge Community Center
80 Community Rd. Tallmadge, Ohio
 Registration: 10, Auction begins at 11

For more information:

Bud White (330) 848-3856 (bwhite@neo.rr.com)

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The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

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Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

Meeting Notice

Thursday, January 2

Program: Start the New Year with a new low energy fish tank light you learn how to assemble yourself. Experienced members will give you help if you need it.

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

Thursday, February 6

Program: Kenny Walker has imported and bred many plecostomus types and will show us great insights into keeping and breeding them as well as news about very recent imports. You may also find some great and rare wild pleco pairs in this month's mini-auction.

Bowl Show: Swordtails, Male *Betta splendens*, Characins (Tetras & relatives)

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

Coming Events

Feb 15, 2014 – Ohio Cichlid Association - Winter Auction

Holiday Inn Select
Strongsville,
15471 Royalton Road.
Located at I-71 and
Route 82
Cichlids, scavengers, plants
and dry goods only.
Registration: 10am to 12pm
Auction Begins: 11am.
Visit www.ohiocichlid.com
for more info

March 1, 2014 - Motor City Aquarium Society - Spring Auction

Madison Place, 876 Horace Brown Dr., Madison Heights, Michigan.

Registration 9:00 to 10:30,
auction starts at 10:30.

For more information:
www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com

March 2, 2014 – Greater Akron Aquarium Society – Spring 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@gmail.com)

March 15 — NEO-Fish.com Spring Auction

Pipefitters Union hall, near the I-480 and I-77 interchange.

March 28-30, 2014 – Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts – All Tropical Fish Convention

Courtyard Columbus West,
2350 Westbelt Dr., Columbus, Ohio

For more information:
www.columbusfishclub.org