The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Tank Topics

November/December 2014

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March 2
Spring auction

June 21 & 22 Ultra Aqua 2014

November 2 Fall auction



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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 \$10 for adults, 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 others that share your interests, a subscription to our bi-monthly magazine 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 Me	mbership Form
Name Age	Dues are for 1 year or 2 years if
Address	email publications are chosen
City State Zip	□ New □ Renewal
Phoneemail	□ Electronic □ Mail
How did you find out about GAAS?	Adult (18 years and older) & Family
Memberships are due one year from the date of joining. Completed mem-	(includes children under 10) \$10.00
bership forms can be turned in at a meeting or mailed to the membership chairman at this address:	Junior (10-17 years) \$5.00
GAAS Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 494, Akron, OH 44309-0494	Dues Collected Date Received

President's Message

Well hello folks, Hope you are enjoying all of this nice weather we have had, along with the rain (still better than snow!)

Just need to cover a couple of things here:

First is our auction, November 2, we will be setting up Saturday Nov. 1st at 7 PM, come and help, we get done much faster with more hands to help. With enough people we can get done in an hour easy, then come back for the auction Sunday. We always need runners and other types of help during the auction, so support the clubs efforts. This is what pays the bills and lets us have things like the fish give away at the Christmas Party, see you there.

Second, the vice president has said that he has not received any requests from any members to run for a board position. If you do want to, see Jeff at the November meeting, if not then we will have a very short re-swearing in for the current officers.

See you at the auction and meeting!

Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

you're available, stop by around 7pm and we'll put you to work for a little while!

Since we're on the whole end of the year theme, might as well bring up our elections (or lack of them, as the case may be!) It seems there has been little interest in new members wanting to take on any of the positions that operate our club. The good news is, the current officers are willing to go around again, but this will have to be addressed in the future at some point. Some day some of us might want to retire!

Ok, we've covered November 1 & 2 and the meeting on the 6th. What else happens that month? Thanksgiving! Make sure you take the time to think about the things and people in your life that you are thankful for and let them know it!

I guess now is the time to talk about December, since it does come in logical order! But anyway, don't forget that our December 4th meeting is our annual Christmas Party. In case you've never been to one, or just need a refresher course, there will be a lot going on: For starters there is the food. Like usual, the club picks up the main course but feel free to bring along side dishes and deserts to share pot-luck style. Then there is the Loser's Raffle. Bring in all your raffle tickets from this year and trade them in 10 for 1. Remember that no





new tickets are sold this month. Somewhere along the line we'll award the BAP, HAP and Bowl Show Champions for the year. Then there is the gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift you think some fish-head would like (approximately \$15 value) and take home a different one. And last but not least the fish give-away. We pick up some fish and or plants and you get a ticket that when your number is called you can pick what you'd like to work with from the selection. We keep going until they're all gone. Be there, don't miss out on a good time!

You'd all think I was sick if I didn't mention writing articles. . . Just do it!

I'll see <u>you</u> at the meeting, the auction and the Christmas Party!

Here we are again, the end of another year (well, almost. . . I have to write this stuff with enough lead time to get the publication out, but I'm sure you all understand where I'm coming from with this!) It amazes me how fast time seems to be moving, it feels like I just did one of these end of the year wrap up columns. I had always heard that time seems to move faster as you get older. I guess I'll have to concede that one is true! All in all we as a club have a pretty good year. A successful Spring auction, a well attended show and soon we'll be having our Fall auction. As long as the weather holds out, we shouldn't have a problem having yet another successful function. There is, of course, one ingredient we need to have this happen. . . That ingredient is you! I'm not just talking about workers, they do come in handy, but I'm also talking about the attendees. You know all those people who bring in the items to sell, and more importantly, those fine folks who buy all the stuff others are trying to get rid of! I realize that not everyone is able to spend the whole day at one of these auctions, but we'd love to see all our members put in an appearance, hang out for a while and maybe even help out a little bit. And just in case you're free for a while on Saturday November first, we could use a few hands to set up everything so we don't have to do it in the morning. It just makes everything so much easier. So if

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BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

Looks like fallout, feels like fallout, not the nuclear kind, but the end of summer kind. Technically summer is over, as I have finished bringing all of my outdoor for the summer fish back indoors for the winter, several species spawned for me over the past few months. I have three species that will be turned in for the Breeder Award Program at the annual fall auction on Sunday November 2nd, which will be here before you know it the way time is flying by. In case you forgot, spawns and plant propagations can also be turned in at the auction which occurs before the November monthly meeting. The very last chance will be the November meeting which will close out the current BAP/HAP year, then the results will be tallied up and the 2014 **Breeder of the** Year and Horticulturist of the Year awards will be presented at the December meeting/ Christmas party. The November meeting is election time, think about helping out, we could use some new people to keep things running for the club in the next vear.

Things have been slow all year in both of the programs, but the month of September came to a screeching halt when nothing was turned in, must be because school started back up. Then came October with a flicker of life, when one spawn and three plant propagations were submitted. Hopefully everyone is saving their spawns to turn in at the auction, **November 2**nd.

September 2014

Species	Common name	Class	Points
BAP - None			
HAP - None			
October 2014			
ВАР			
Don Youngkin			
Poecilia sphenops	Gold dust molly	Livebearer	5
HAP			
Dan McMonigle			
Floscopa scandens	climbing flower cu	p G – vegetative	10
Ruella brittonia	Mexican petunia	F – sexual	10
Wayne Toven			
Proserpinaca palustris	Mermaid weed	G – vegetative	10

2014 Totals	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
Wayne Toven	7	45	5	45
Joe Reich	4	50	-	-
Dave Williamson	3	35	-	-
Don Youngkin	3	15	-	-
Ken McGill	2	15	-	-
David Girard	1	5	-	-
Phil Hypes	1	15	1	10
Dan McMongile	1	5	5	60









6653 GRAFTON ROAD,

VALLEY CITY, OHIO 44280

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Bowl Show & Special Activities

Don Youngkin

We had very good turnouts for the September and October shows, with a total of 30 entries for the two months. As the year nears its end,

the Bowl Show point race is very close, with Jeff Plazak holding on to a slim lead over Dave Williamson, and Wayne Toven making a late surge. It is not too late for others to bring in their entries, and all are invited to participate. The schedule is listed on this page.

September

Goodeids:

1stWayne TovenXenotaenia resolanae male2ndWayne TovenXenotaenia resolanae female3rdDave WilliamsonAllotoca zacapuensis

AO New World Cichlids:

1st Dave Williamson Apistogramma cacataides
 2nd Wayne Toven Heirichthys bocourti
 3rd Wayne Toven

Bog Plants:

1st Wayne Toven Colocasia sp. mojito
 2nd Dave Williamson Spike rush

3rd Wayne Toven Acorus calamus varigatus

October

Gouramis & Anabantoids:

1st Jeff Plazak Gold gourami
 2nd Wayne Toven Combtail gourami
 3rd Dave Williamson Betta ocellata

Arts & Crafts:

1st Wayne Toven Peacock fish knife
 2nd Wayne Toven Fish knife

AO Old World Cichlids:

1st Wayne Toven Steatocranus tinanti
 2nd Dave Williamson Jewel cichlid female
 3rd Wayne Toven Steatocranus cassarius



How the Point System works:

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

Annual Point Totals

Jeff Plazak	102
Dave Williamson	92
Wayne Toven	72
Ken McGill	8
Don Youngkin	4
Todd Zettler	2

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two turtles pet center highland square 760 w.market akron. ohio 44303

mon-fri 10-7 sat. 10-6 sun 12-5 (330) 374-6765

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 Page 6 Tank Topics

Exchange Report

Wayne Toven



First off there was a reprint of Dave Williamson's article Fish Can't Read, or Spawning Melon Barbs Without Really Trying in the September 2014 issue of Eastern Iowa Aquarium Society's Fin Flap.

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales: Sept. 2014

Living with Livebearers (Micropoecilia picta), by Ed Koerner

Michiana Aquarium Society, Michiana Tropical Times: Sept. 2014

Phallichthys tico, by Ben Slocum

Pacific Coast Cichlid Association, Cichlid Blues: May 2014

Reflection: Temperature – How Low Can You Go, by Ron Coleman

Pacific Coast Cichlid Association, Cichlid Blues: Sept. 2014

Reflections: Biogeography of Cichlids, by Ron Coleman

Regina Aquarium Society, Fins & Friends: Sept. 2014

Not Quite the Poor Relations (Part 7 – shell dwellers), by Paul Mansfield

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County, Tank Tales: Sept. 2014

Surprise Fry! Now What? My Experience with Apistogramma panduro, by Lindsey Moyer

Breeding the Blue Tail Goodeid, by Joel Antkowiak

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: Sept. 2014

Hatching Rainbow Fish Eggs, by Gary Lange

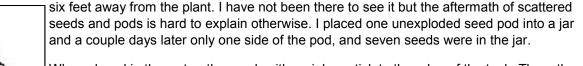
Ruellia brittoniana

Dan McMonigle

I bought this plant four years ago at Petitti's in Strongsville. It was near the end of the pond season and their pond and bog plants were 50% off. although I bought several plants, this is the only one I still have. Most of the plants were hardy and so stayed with the pond when I sold the old house. This plant was semi-tropical and so I kept part of it indoors in my 100 gallon indoor pond and used divisions of it to put in the pond in the spring. For about the last year before we moved, I placed it indoors in a ten gallon tank with a dirt substrate and one or two small dojo loaches to keep the dirt aerated. When we moved here, I placed the Ruellia, also called Mexican petunia, into a 5 gallon tank because it would fit on a shelf in the fish workroom. I used plant substrate and fertilizers periodically with no fish.

In the summer the plant began blooming and continued until recently, near the end of September. There are still some immature seed pods left on the plant.

In a way this plant is reminiscent of a small mangrove tree. It has lots of roots starting above the water line and building a kind of superstructure underwater. The emerged (aerial) leaves are willow-like. The seed pods that form look at first like a tiny cucumber or zucchini, but as they dry, they must suddenly split into two curved pieces that throw the seeds five or





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When placed in the water, the seeds either sink or stick to the edge of the tank. There they germinate and begin producing small oval leaves very different from the emergent vegetation. The plantlets grow horizontally across the substrate and produce a short lawn that looks pretty nice without the fuss of forcing Riccia or other plants to grow flat on the tank bottom.

Eventually I expect they will begin turning toward the surface and begin looking like the adult plant. But for the oldest seedlings it has been several months with no sign of this happening yet. Since this plant typically blooms in summer my best guess is the plant is in no hurry until spring to start reaching for the surface.

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The Economical Aquarist: An easy to build LED light for your fish rack.

By Rich Serva

This will not be an article on building lighting to grow lush green plants or coral. My discussion will not cover lumens or wavelengths (maybe a little). Nor will I be talking about building lights at an absurdly low cost but using a lot of know how. If you follow my outline you can get reasonable results without burning a hole through your wallet.

I am not offering you a step by step but I am letting you know what has worked for me along with some of the things I tried that did not work out so good.

The fact is all I wanted was to light some shelves on my 10-foot double racks. I wanted adequate light for me to see into the tanks and maintain my standard plant collection of Java moss, Java fern and occasional pot of crypts. So all I needed was something to replace two double tube shop lights at a reasonable price.

Cost-wise a double tube hanging shop light was hard to beat at \$9.99 (on sale) each plus bulbs so I could easily light up a rack section for \$30 - \$40. Mind you this was with low cost fluorescent tubes that met minimum lighting requirements. I did find some low cost LED lights on sale for \$28.99 each but I would need to put an individual light on each of the 8 tanks per shelf (\$231.92) so there was no way that I was taking that route.

Luckily, I had gotten a chance to attend a few "How to build LED lighting seminars". Granted the seminars

were set up to make individual lights in 24-inch, 30-inch or 36-inch light shells but they showed me how easy it was to work with LED flexible ribbon strip lights. Between the seminars and a few Youtube lighting videos and I was ready to try my hand.

All you really need to do is assemble the needed parts by finding a web site devoted to LED lights or take an afternoon to shop on Amazon.com and E-bay. It is really not that hard and I will walk you through the components that you need for the project.

Light housing

I choose aluminum rain gutters as my light shell. It makes sense since the gutter acts as a heat sink for the LED lights and aluminum has to hold up better than the metal used in shop lights.

Since the gutter comes in 10-foot lengths (same length as my rack) I did not even need to cut to length. Just put on the end caps and use screws to hold them in place.

To add strength to the shell, I added a 1-inch X 4-inch X 8-foot board to the outside of the gutter using sheet metal screws. This made the shell less prone to twisting.

Final touches for light shell

Then I took the shell down to the fish rack and set it on the shelf where it would hang. I could then line up the holes (the ones I would make in the shell for the O-bolts) with the hanger attachments above the fish shelf. I

drilled the holes then added the O-bolts. Then I added holes for the power cords. Finally, I wiped down the light attachment surface with rubbing alcohol to ensure a clean attachment area for the light tape.

Choosing the light type

If you go to an internet site devoted to selling LED ribbon lights, you can find light ribbons in single rows, double rows or even triple rows which are all variable in price as well as in intensity. There are RGB lights (4 pin) that can change color and the single color lights (2 pin).

Personally, I am in favor of following the KISS principle so "keep it simple" and find the single row lights. Same goes for color types so I say pick a single color light. After that it becomes somewhat of a personal preference of whether you want Warm light or Pure light (sometimes also called daylight). The Warm light is more of a yellow type which seems to be a little more intense than the Pure light which seems to have a little more bluish color. Now you might think that is all of the choosing but it is not. The Pure light/Daylight/ Cool light type lights seem to best fall in the 5000 - 7500 wavelengths which would provide adequate light for my low light plantings. If you want lush growth you might need to add reds and blues besides bumping up the intensity.

You also need to choose between 300 lights per roll or 600 lights. Obviously that affects light intensity and power consumption. I went with the standard 300 LED which was less expensive and more prevalent in the advertisements which means a better chance at getting a deal.

The next question is whether to use 5050 lights or 3528 lights. The numbers themselves are descriptors of the dimension of the lights so the 5050 LED is a larger and slightly

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more intense Light Emitting Diode than the 3528; however, the 5050 was described to me as twice the amount of light at three times the power consumption. So your choice is more light or a bigger savings in energy costs.

Buying the light

You are now armed with the knowledge to pick a light but you still need to decide between package deals and individual components. With the kit you usually get a 5-meter roll of lights, on/off switch (or dimmer switch) and a power supply with power cord. If you buy a kit the manufacturer matches the power supply with the reel of lights. If you buy the components then you need to make sure that your power supply is right for your lights. That being said if you go to www.724light.com and purchase a kit for single color, 300 LED/ 5-meter roll, single row 5050 or 3528 LED then they will include a 12V 5A 60W power supply.



Light roll – 5 meter roll. Usually the roll comes wired at the beginning and end of the roll

Additional lighting components

If you are good with a soldering iron, have some heat shrink tubing and some extra thin 18 gauge or 20 gauge wire then the kit will end up covering your needs. If you prefer to not trust your soldering technique for connections and tend to be extra cautious then there are a few other items to buy.

Easy Connector

A way to connect Female Power Adapter to bare wires. This is a

screw and clamp assembly. You need this because 5 meter strip light comes with 1 or 2 pairs of wires to connect to your power source.

2 Pin Easy Connector to Female Power Adapter

This is a non soldering way to connect power to a cut end of a light strip. You use these to connect power to the cut sections of strip light. Before connecting you will need to trim away some of the silicone on the light strip. With a little care you can easily peel back the silicon and expose the strip for connecting.



2 Pin Easy Connector to Female Power Adapter & Easy Connector (to connect wired strips)

End Cap

Using a dab of silicon, a cut end of a ribbon strip can be neatly sealed from water



End Cap – A dab of silicone then sliding on an end cap neatly covers a cut end of the light strip or just smear a good coating of silicon on the end.

Mounts

Silicone mounts are a way to secure ribbon strips to the heat sink material whether you are talking about the flexible LED strips or LED rigid strips (1 or 2 meter light strips that are mounted in aluminum channels that may have a plastic lens/cover). I

have found that the double stick adhesive does not bear the weight of long lengths of strips and the mounts do not hold the flexible strip tight enough to keep the lights from drooping. In fact I found that using a few zip ties help tremendously in securing the strips but here again the lights eventually began to droop. As I was discussing the "trials & tribulations of LED lights" lan McGill suggested that a thin bead of silicone caulk may be even more effective. I have used the silicone sealer on the last lights that I have set up - so far so good.



Silicone Mounts – I used mounts for the first two lights. Once I decided that a bead of silicon along the edge of the light strip worked best, I stopped bothering with the mounts.

Mounting with zip ties did not work any better than the silicone mounts.

Power splitter & extensions

A nice way to break up strips connected to one power source and spread the lighting throughout a larger area.



Power splitter – an easy way to connect two strips to a power source. You can buy splitters in 1 to 2 up to 1 to 6

On Off Connectors & Dimmer Connectors

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Don't

FORGET!

GAAS 2014 Fall Auction

November 2, 2014

Tallmadge Community Center 80 Community Rd. Tallmadge, Ohio

Schedule

Auction Registration 10 a.m. Auction Begins 11 a.m.

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@gmail.com)



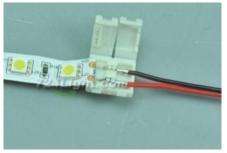
A convenient way to adjust light intensity at a minimal cost.

I have heard some stories about LED flexible lights burning out after days to weeks but I have only had this issue once. I mounted the light without using a silicone bead to help secure it. The LEDs started to darken yellow before I figured out about the silicone bead. It seems that once the LEDs start burning out there is no way to stop that process. I have heard about others burning out their lights and it is possible that people are using too much amps in the power supply for their lights. All I know is that my way has worked so far.

Hopefully, now you know what is available, you can put together a lighting solution for your fish room



Power supply on bottom left.



Pin connector being connected to light strip.

Note: Scrape off silicone covering over contact area.

Note the copper contacts on both strips and the "tiny scissor markings". This where the strip cut. A marking comes every 3 light series.



Note: light strips attached to splitter cord.

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 50
 100

 3 1/2 x 12
 \$4.00
 \$7.00

 6x18
 \$5.00
 \$9.00

 8x20
 \$6.00
 \$11.00

 10x24
 \$7.50
 \$14.00

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

Rubber Bands \$1.00

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

The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

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

«firstname» «lastname»

«address»

«city», «state» «zip»

Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

Meeting Notice

Thursday, November 6

Program: George Caruso: Fifty Years of Fish Keeping George has been a member of the American Killifish Association since near it's beginning, and was active in the Northern Ohio Killifish Association. In recent years he has added breeding dwarf cichlids and Badis badis to his aquarium hobby interests.

Bowl Show: All Other Livebearers, All Other Egglayers, All Other Catfish

Thursday, December 4

Program: This is the month that GAAS (Greater Akron Aquarium Society) has a party for its members, and rewards them for their support and participation with fun and prizes. There will be enough door prizes of fish and aquarium plant to let everyone win. Bring your losing GAAS 2014 raffle tickets to this meeting and exchange them for new ones for a Christmas raffle with bigger prizes. You must bring your old losing tickets. You can't buy raffle tickets this month.

For those who would like to participate, there will be a gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift worth about \$15. If it is a child gift, you can mark it girl or boy but otherwise it should not reveal the contents. Each person who brings a gift get a ticket to chose one of the gifts.

And that is not mentioning the party food, and the fun, and the chance to socialize without the interruptions of a bowl show and a presentation.

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

Coming Events

November 2, 2014 – Greater Akron Aquarium Society – Fall Auction

Tallmadge Community Center, 80 Community Rd., Tallmadge, Ohio

For more information: Bud White (330) 848-3856 (bwhite@neo.rr.com), Wayne Toven (330) 256-7836 (wtoven@hotmail.com) or Rich Serva (330) 650-4613 (rjserva@gmail.com)

November 8, 2014 - Motor City Aquarium Society - Fall 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.motorcityaquariu msociety.com

November 21-23 2014 Ohio Cichlid Association's Extravaganza at the Strongsville Holiday Inn at Rt. 71 & 82 in Strongsville

visit www.ohiocichlid.com./ extravaganza

