## The Greater Akron Aquarium Society



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# Important Dates for 2015

March 1
Spring auction

June 13 & 14 Ultra Aqua 2015

November 1 Fall auction

# **Tank Topics**

**November/December 2014** 

A Crinum
calamistratum
bloom
photgraphed by
Dave Williamson. Find out
everything you
ever wanted to
know about this
interesting species of plant in
Wayne Toven's
article on page
8 of this issue.



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Editor	. Dave Williamson	davew@gaas-fish.net
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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 Membership Form					
Name Age	Dues are for 1 year or 2 years if				
Address	email publications are chosen				
City State Zip	□ New □ Renewal				
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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				

# **GAAS 2015**Spring Auction

March 1, 2015

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)

website: www.gaas-fish.net



Don't FORGET!

## **Editor's Message**

**Dave Williamson** 

First up, don't forget that since the first Thursday of January falls on New Year's Day, we had to move the January meeting to the second Thursday. Everything else is the same and it's also the beginning of a new season for the bowl show and BAP/HAP championships. It would be great if there were a few more participants in these programs. A little good-natured competition is a good thing! Think about giving it a try. What the heck, you have fish anyway, you might as well show them off! We'd love to see them!

Last month's meeting was our annual Christmas party, which was well attended and everyone seemed to have a good time. Hopefully if you were there you were able to pick up some neat stuff to play with in your hobby. In my case, I was able to get exactly the fish food I was planning to mail-order, so thanks Santa!

It seems like it was just a short time

ago but here we are again, talking about Christmas & New Year's and all that the beginning of a new year has in store. I'm not going to go into a lot about the nostalgia this time of year always brings, just think a little about those "fish-heads" who aren't around anymore.

OK, on to less heavy themes! It seems as though I'm always talking about an auction coming and this issue is no exception! March 1st is not that far away so start planning now what you'll be moving out, and how much space you'll have for new stuff. Traditionally the Spring auction is our largest of the year, so come on out and hang around for a while, you'll never know what might show up that you'll decide that you just can't live without!

You may have noticed a preponderance (now there's a fancy word!) of plant articles in this issue. No, I wasn't trying to do that on purpose, it's all 2015

Since the first Thursday of January falls on New Year's Day, the January meeting will be the 8th (second Thursday)



I had to choose from! I bet you can see where this is leading. . . That's right it's time for me to beg for articles AGAIN! Being this is the start of a new year, what better time to ask? It's winter, we're hanging around the house so why don't you go down into the fish room and see what they're doing. Then let the rest of us know! It's that simple, give it a try!

This time of year is when we are getting together our programs for the coming months, so if there is anything that would interest you involving our hobby, let one of the board members know and we'll look into trying to find something on that topic. We don't know what will interest people if no one tells us!

I'll see you at the meeting!

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## BAP/HAP Report

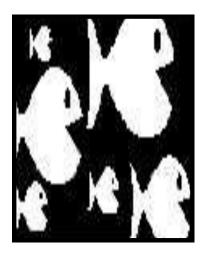
**Wayne Toven** 

Winter is here or is it? After all it is December and we just had our club monthly meeting/Christmas party. There was lots of good food, a fish and stuff giveaway, gift exchange, and a larger than normal raffle. So that's it for 2014, at least monthly meeting wise, needless to say there were no spawns or plant propagations turned in. Last month (Nov.) ended the 2014 year for the BAP/ HAP. It was kind of a disappointing year, with only 8 members participating in the Breeder Award Program; the grand total was only 29 spawns. The Breeder of the Year with a mere 9 spawns, I am almost ashamed to admit to it, is me Wayne Toven, I promise to try and do better in 2015, I want to at least get into double digits. The Horticultural Award Program was even more disappointing, only 3 members participated; this includes vegetative propagations, flowerings, and sexual propagations, the grand total was a pitiful 15 submissions. The winner of the Horticulturist of the Year with a total of 8 submissions, again I hate to admit to it is,

me Wayne Toven. In my defense though, it is getting harder and harder for me to find plants at local fish club auctions that will thrive and multiply in my fish room. Most of my tanks are unheated and only have room light, so conditions are not at the optimum for plants, and the outdoor tubs are only working in early summer to early fall, and there again I do not have a great selection locally.

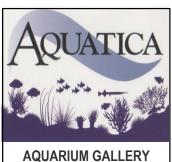
In the coming 2015 all active members are eligible to participate in the BAP/HAP, rules for both programs can be downloaded from the club web site www.gaas-fish.net or be obtained from me at a monthly meeting. There are lots of fish club auctions coming up next year starting in February continuing on through the spring, lots of opportunities to obtain new fish species and new plants for your fish rooms. I realize there are a lot of more important things to do in life, and that fish keeping is just a hobby, but hopefully we can get some more new members in the coming year, and the current members can get a little more active in the Breeder Award Program and Horticultural Award Program. We can only hope.

2014 Totals	BAP	Points	HAP	<b>Points</b>
Wayne Toven	9	70	8	90
Dave Williamson	7	60	-	-
Joe Reich	4	50	-	-
Don Youngkin	3	15	-	-
David Girard	2	25	-	-
Ken McGill	2	15	-	-
Phil Hypes	1	15	1	10
Dan McMonigle	-	-	6	70









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# **Bowl Show & Special Activities**

**Don Youngkin** 

To begin with, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jeff Plazak won the 2014 Points total, in the closest competition that we have had in several years. Six members participated in the Bowl Show this year, with four of them winning in at least one category. Thank you for all who have participated.

The re-alignment of categories that we implemented last year worked well, I propose keeping the schedule of categories that we used for 2015, which is listed on this page. All are invited to participate.

#### November

#### All Other Livebearers:

1st Jeff Plazak Endler's Livebearer 2nd Dave Williamson Priapella chamulae 3rd Jeff Plazak Limia vitatta All Other Egglayers:

1st Dave Williamson 2nd Dave Williamson 3rd Jeff Plazak All Other Catfish:

1st Jeff Plazak

Bumblebee Goby Oryzias sp. "Da Nang'

Glass Catfish

Barilius shacra

#### **Annual Point Totals**

Jeff Plazak	117
Dave Williamson	106
Wayne Toven	72
Ken McGill	8
Don Youngkin	4
Todd Zettler	2

#### **How the Point System** works:

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

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### 2015 **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** 

#### Mav:

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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# Exchange Report

Wayne Toven



First of all there were two articles reprinted in other fish club publications. The first was Wayne Toven's Keeping and Spawning Staetocranus tinanti in the Sept/Oct issue of the Darter from the Missouri Aquarium Society Inc. The second was Rich Serva's Breeding the not - so – Common Guppy in the Nov/Dec issue of Aquatica from the Brooklyn Aquarium Society.

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Oct. 2014

Return of the Meteor Minnow, by Charles Drew

Regina Aquarium Society, Fins & Friends: Oct. 2014

Saving Livebearer Fry, by Paul Mansfield

Algea Control, by Shawn Pollock

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: Oct. 2014

Pygmy Rainbowfish – *Melanotaenia pygmaea*, by Eric Bodrock

Betta channoides "Snakehead Betta", by Roberto Prati

Pests, by Stan Chechak

Michiana Aquarium Society, Michiana Tropical Times: Oct. 2014

Nomorhamphus ebrardti – the Red Finned Halfbeak, by Ben Slocum

Missouri Aquarium Society Inc. the Darter: Sep/Oct. 2014

Outdoor Tub Diaries 2013, by Tony McMillan

Breeding the Flag Cichlid *Mesonauta festivus*, by Debbie Sultan

**Tropical Fish Club of Erie County, Somethings Fishy:** Nov. 2014

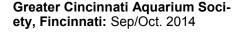
Emersed Plant Growing, by Chris Hardy

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

Keep Your Friends Close and Your Anemones Closer (a reef tank primer), by Brent Lemanski

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Nov. 2014

Barbs in the Aquarium, by Charles Drew



Food and Feeding, by Tony Anderson

Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society, Fincinnati: Nov/Dec. 2014

Breeding Report – *Tatia perugiae*, by Steve Smith

Breeding Report – *Synodontis petricola*, by Steve Smith

Regina Aquarium Society, Fins & Friends: Nov. 2014

What on Earth is a Cichlid Tank? by Paul Mansfield

Aquarium Plants, by Shawn Pollock

Sarnia Aquarium Society, Aqua Antics: Nov/Dec. 2014

Guianacara "stergiosi" a Breeding Account, by Peter Melady

Betta strohi, by Peter Melady

Did You Know? by Caroline & Paul Spiers

**Brooklyn Aquarium Society, Aquatica:** Nov/Dec. 2014

Photosensitivity in Aquarium Fish or How to Kill 10,000 Rummynose Tetras Without Really Trying, by Anthony P. Kroeger

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

Not – so Technical Adventures in Killifish Keeping – *Nothobranchius guentheri*, by Karen Murray

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Dec. 2014

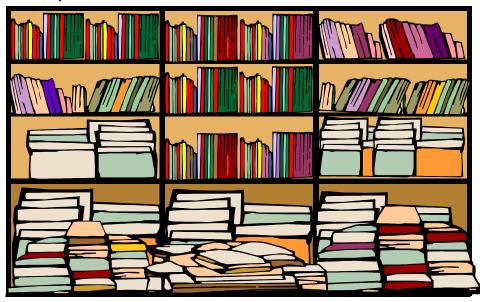
African Cichlids: Stripping Females, Fry, and Tumblers, by Larry Johnson

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: Nov. 2014

Corydoras leopardus, by Stan Chechak

Spawning the "Real" *Ancistrus sp.* "Honeycomb", by Eric Bodrock

Fundulopanchax avichang GEML 00 / 16 Nguba II, by Roberto Prati



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# Propagating Cryptocoryne moehlmanni

By Wayne Toven

This is one of the more recently imported cryptocorynes, it comes to us from the area around Sasok in central western Sumatra in southeast Asia. Cryptocoryne moehlmanni is named for Friedrich Mohlmann who did extensive work on the cultivation of cryptocorynes. The family name comes from the Greek, crypt meaning hidden, and koryne meaning club. They also have a common name of water trumpet, which I assume refers to the shape of the inflorescence, which is typical of plants in the arum family Araceae. At first it was thought that C. moehlmanni was actually the species C. pontiderifolia, due to their similarity in appearance, and that they both come from similar habitats. They grow in marshy lowland forests and also in rivers and streams with slow moving water. However after the plants were cultivated and flowered they were discovered to be two different species, because of the shape of their inflorescences, C. moehlmanni has a shorter, stockier shape, angled limb, and is a different color than the inflorescence of C. pontiderifolia. Cryptocorynes cannot always be positively identified by their appearance, several species look enough alike to cause confusion and misidentification.

C. moehlmanni is a medium sized crypt (short for cryptocoryne) it can grow to a height of 12 - 15 cm, being a low light plant their size is influenced by the intensity of the lighting that they receive; brighter lighting will result in a shorter plant. They should be planted in groups as a mid-ground plant in the aquarium; they have a slow to medium growth rate. The leaves can be broad lanceolate to narrow ovoid in shape and have an entire margin (smooth no notches or serrations). The leaf surface can be smooth or slightly bulbate (bumpy), and their coloration can be a light

green to a medium dark green. The petioles or stems are 6-8 cm long; the leaves vary from 10-15 cm long and 3.5-7 cm wide. Crypts are a rosette plant, the stems and roots grow from a central point at the base of the plant, and propagation is by underground runners from that base. My mother plant had two baby plants of different sizes, so apparently of different ages.

Both species are cultivated similarly,

in soft slightly acid to medium hard water, a Ph around 7. and at a temperature between 68° - 82° F. The book did not specify what type of substrate to use so I

used a combination of fine gravel, sand, and some laterite, in four inch flower pots. I placed a few in different aquariums to see which grew better at different levels in my fish room, as the temperature and the lighting intensity varies a little. The one that did the best for me was the cooler aguarium just 4 inches off of the basement floor, in a 30 gallon long unheated aguarium with a piece of driftwood with an Anubias bateri attached to it, sand substrate, sponge filter, a couple of other potted crypts, some rainbows, and Xenotoca eiseni. C. noehlmanni is a very popular crypt for aquariums due to its availability, ease of cultivation, and propagation.

#### References:

Aquarium Plants by Christel Kasselmann





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Wayne Toven (330) 256-7836 or wtoven@hotmail.com Page 8 Tank Topics

### Chronicles of the Crinum calamistratum

Wayne Toven

This is a tale about a branch of the family tree of Amaryllidaceae, it's a rather large tree containing 85 Genera with around 860 known species. A couple of the most well known species in this family are of course the Amaryllis, and the Narcissus commonly known as the daffodil. Pond aficionados may also know a few species, the three I have propagated and flowered are: Crinum americanum (Southern swamp lily), Hymenocallis calathina (Spider lily), and Leucojum aestivum (water snowflake). The first two I have also sexually reproduced; had them flower, pollinated the flowers, produced seeds, sprouted seeds, and grew plants, the third I have seeds from but have not yet had them sprout and grow.

Plants in the Crinum genus grow in rivers, so they are used to some water movement, they grow from an onion like bulb that is usually about half buried, have a short stalk, and a large number of ribbon like leaves that can be flat, channeled, undulate, or have a crispate margin. Now I will get to the aquarium varieties that I know of: Crinum natans, Crinum calamistratum, and Crinum thaianum. Crinum thaianum as the name suggests comes from southern Thailand, it is a medium growth true aquatic plant. The plant's bulb can be up to almost 3 inches in diameter, the leaves vary a little, they can be ribbon like similar to Vallisneria, or be curled, and the plant only requires moderate lighting. Crinum natans comes from another continent completely, growing in the tropics of New Guinea, Cameroon and south to Zaire in western Africa. It is slow growing but is the largest plant of the three species, but the bulb only grows to approximately 5cm (2 inches) in diameter, the leaves are dark green, strap shaped and undulate (wavy), and can grow up to 5 cm wide and 140 cm long, for us Americans that's 2 inches wide 56 inches long. Crinum natans is not a commonly kept plant due to it's often unavailability and to the large size it can attain, if it is kept eventually a large tank would be a necessity.

On to the subject of this article Crinum calamistratum, another true aquatic plant, but it is also slower growing than C. thaianum, it comes from the tropics in rivers near Kumba in Cameroon in western Africa. Being much more readily available, it is more suited to being kept in the aguarium, as its leaves do not get as wide or as long as C. natans. C. calamistratum grows from a bulb that can be from 1 – 3 cm in diameter and up to 10 cm long. What makes this a very desirable plant is the unique leaf structure; they are dark green, strap like, with a distinct mid rib, a very crispate margin, usually less than 2.5 cm (1/2 inch) wide, and I have seen a plant with leaves 4 feet long, in a display tank at Aquarium Adventure down in Columbus, Oh. So with age it can also require a large aquarium, but being slow growing that could take a while. The plants I have must be fairly young as their leaves are only 18 inches long. I have read that water movement helps to enhance or stimulate growth, possibly because water movement brings more nutrients to the plant, or that water movement causes the growing plant to be sturdier, both make sense to me. If planted in a substrate in the aquarium, it should approximately 4 inches deep and be a mix of fine gravel with added loam, and to provide nutrients a liquid plant fertilizer or fertilizer spikes should be used. C. calamis*tratum* is a rather undemanding plant when it comes to maintaining water parameters, soft to medium hard water at a neutral Ph works well, temperatures can range anywhere from 70° - 86° F. However mine were kept in a tank directly on the concrete floor of my laundry room, and during the winter the temperatures must have been in the low to mid 60°s F.

the swordtails did very well in that tank. So the temperature range must be greater than the books said, as this is where the plant propagated or multiplied. Lighting needs to be a little more intense, it was provided by two 3 foot full spectrum fluorescent lights for 12 hours a day. Propagation is by bulbils, the book also said that only a healthy plant will produce bulbils, which are small versions of the adult plant that grow off of the bulb of the mother plant, so both of my plants must be in good condition. One of my plants had two baby plants (twins); these can be separated from the mother plant when they get enough roots to be planted on their own. Transplanting stresses the plants and since I did not want to stress the plants by doing so, I am writing this article to satisfy the HAP rules and keep our club's Tank Topics editor happy. They will live in their 4 inch clay pot for a while until they need to be moved to a larger pot, then I might think about separating them.

C. calamistratum will flower in the aguarium given enough time and with no other special conditions, as Dave Williamson found out when his C. calamistratum flowered in his 125 gallon aquarium. The round flower stalk grows to about 32 inches up out of the water and if necessary through a gap in the glass tops, and can have from 1 – 3 strongly scented flowers. There will be six narrow white recurved petals, 5 -6 stamens, (the pollen producing male part of the flower) and in the center one pistil (the female pollen receiving part) with a small ball like structure on the end, where the pollen needs to be deposited. If the flowers get pollinated and produce seeds, propagation can also be done sexually. I'm guessing they are pollinated the same way as I did my Crinum americanum, when it flowered indoors, I just used my fingers to collect the pollen (there was lots of it) and then

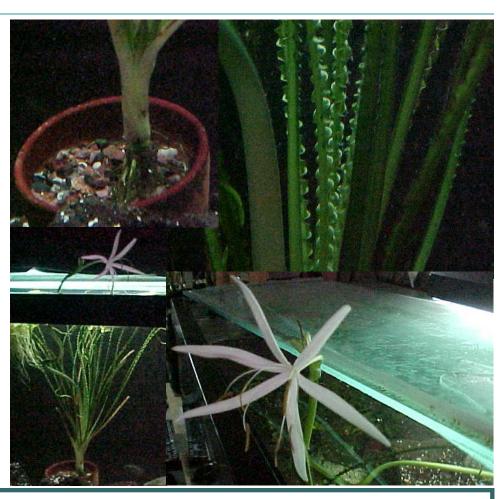
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carefully wiped it onto the pistil making sure it made contact with the very end, C. amricanum does not have the ball like structure on the end like C. calamistratum does, but it worked so I must have done it properly. Dave was not so successful in pollination so he will have to try again next time it flowers. If it forms seeds like the C. americanum, they are not really seed pods; they are more like a fairly large oddly shaped bulb. After they matured and fell off of the flower stalk, they floated around for most of a year, and then one day roots started to grow from where they were attached to the flower stalk, when the roots got to be about 1 1/2 inches long a stalk started growing also, that is when I planted them and got more plants. Hopefully Dave will be successful next time, and then he can write an article about it because that is a requirement to get credit for a sexual propagation for our club's Horticultural Award Program.

References:

Aquarium Plants by Christel Kasselmann

My observations by Wayne Toven



## **Convict Cichlids**

**Todd Zettler** 

Last Summer, I bought a trio of marbled convict cichlids at the Greater Akron Aquarium Society in June of 2014. About three weeks later, I noticed the marbled convicts had spawned and I was so excited, but they had only one fry. About two days later, I had check on the fish, they had eaten the fry. So far, no more spawns.

You know me, I am a "fish crazy" so I met another man at September's GAAS meeting and I bought some pink convicts from him for a buck and brought them home.

Well, the fish are currently living in a 20 gallon tank with a sponge filter and no plants. The fish actually hide

behind the ornaments. Water changes are done approximately every week. I was feeding about two times a day, I feed them earthworms I had bought at an auction a while back. The fish live in extremely hard water.

The crazy thing is whenever I go to feed the fish I feel a slight jolt of electricity. In my opinion, I really liked them.

Above, Marbled Convict below, Pink Convict Female



#### The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

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### Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

# **Meeting Notice**

### **Thursday, January 8**

**Program:** We will be doing a brine shrimp hatchery workshop, so if you have any empty 2 liter bottles around, bring them in to re-purpose them.

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

## Thursday, February 5

Program: TBA

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

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

## **Coming Events**

January 17, 2015 -Champaign Area Fish Exchange Winter Auction Urbana Civic Center 108 E Water Street, Urbana, IL 61801

Doors open at 8am. Auction begins at 10:30am For more information or to advance register as a seller contact Jerry 217-359-6707 or champaignfish-

guy1@yahoo.com, auction
rules and sellers sheet can be
found at http://
www.champaignfish.com

Feb 14, 2015 – 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

February 21 & 22, 2015 – Michiana Aquarium Society – Killifish Karnival

Niles Inn & Conference Center, 930 S. 11<sup>th</sup> St. (M51), Niles, MI

For more information: michianaaquariumsociety.org

Hotel reservations for KK2015 call: **269-684-3000** 

February 22, 2015 – SCALES - Spring Auction

Perry Grange, 6300 Richville Dr. SW, Massillon, Ohio

Registration 10 am to noon, Auction begins 11 am

For more information: John (330) 452-9027 tbaad@neo.rr.com