



## The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

# Tank Topics

May/June 2015

### Inside this issue:

President's Message Bud White	3
Editor's Message Dave Williamson	3
BAP/HAP Wayne Toven	4
Bowl Show Don Youngkin	5
Exchange Review Wayne Toven	6
<i>Cryptocoryne moehlmanni</i> Wayne Toven	7
<i>Nanostomus beckfordi</i> Wayne Toven	8
Meeting Notice	10
Coming Events	10



A spawning pair of *Neetroplus nematopus*. Learn more about this "neet" Central American cichlid in Wayne Toven's article starting on page 8 of this issue.

### 2015 GAAS Board of Directors

President.....	Bud White .....	(330) 571-0394/bud@gaas-fish.net
Vice President.....	Jeff Plazak .....	(330) 854-5257/jeff@gaas-fish.net
Treasurer .....	Rich Serva .....	(330) 650-4613/rich@gaas-fish.net
Secretary.....	Dave Girard .....	girarddavid@live.com
Editor.....	Dave Williamson.....	davew@gaas-fish.net
Special Activities .....	Don Youngkin .....	dyoungkin@neo.rr.com
BAP/HAP .....	Wayne Toven.....	(330) 256-7836/wayne@gaas-fish.net
Membership .....	Bill Schake .....	majorbill@att.net
Raffle.....	Phil & Tiffany Hypes .....	(330) 327-6316/phil@gaas-fish.net
Historian.....	Steve Brunn .....	stevebrunn@hotmail.com
FAAS Rep .....	Ken McGill .....	(419) 677-3405/ken@gaas-fish.net
Refreshments .....	Bill & Linda Koleszar.....	(330) 626-5660
Publicity.....	Bob Miller.....	(330) 928-6028/bob@gaas-fish.net
Program .....	Dan McMonigle.....	(440) 476-4663/danm@gaas-fish.net

### Important Dates for 2015

March 1  
Spring auction

June 13 & 14  
Ultra Aqua 2015

November 1  
Fall auction

Check out our website: [www.gaas-fish.net](http://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 \$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](mailto:dwilliamson223@hotmail.com)

### The Greater Akron Aquarium Society Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about GAAS? \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships are due one year from the date of joining. Completed membership forms can be turned in at a meeting or mailed to the membership chairman at this address:

GAAS Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 494, Akron, OH 44309-0494

Dues are for 1 year or 2 years if  
email publications are chosen

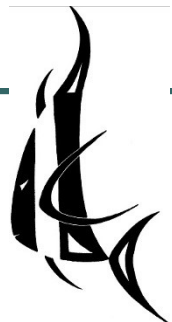
☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ Electronic ☐ Mail

Adult (18 years and older) & Family  
(includes children under 10) \$10.00

Junior (10-17 years) \$5.00

Dues Collected \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_



# President's Message

Hello folks

Wow, do you believe this weather change, 70 degrees last week and now 30 degrees this morning, where is that global warming when we need it?

A couple of things I want to remind everyone about, when you come to the meeting make sure you sign in with Rich Serva at the front table. That is the only way we can get tickets for the Christmas party raffle drawing this year, you will receive tickets for each meeting you attend.

We don't have a lot of classes left to sponsor for the Ultra Aqua show, so if you want to sponsor one or more see Wayne Toven at the meeting. While on

the subject of the show, don't forget that we will be doing the Swap Meet Saturday afternoon again. I you're interested in renting a table contact me and I'll set you up.

Want to thank Ken McGill for the creepy crawly fish food talk, Ken covered several live food options for your fishroom. He also donated a few starter kits to help get us started on raising some.

Also we are getting materials ready for the small plexiglass tank building program coming up soon, everyone at the meeting should get to build one.

See ya at the meeting, Bud.

**See ya soon**



**Bud White**

# Editor's Message

**Dave Williamson**

It hardly seems right talking about the upcoming Ultra-Aqua Show when it's still barely spring outside. I haven't even cut the grass for the first time yet! Oh well, I may never get used to having the show in June rather than August! Although it may be a good idea to have moved it old habits die hard, especially in my head! Since I'm on this subject, may as well keep going. . . In the next couple of weeks all members and previous entrants from the last couple of shows will receive a copy of this year's rules sent to them by their usual delivery method. An important part of showing fish effectively is to read over the rules and classes before you decide which individual fish you'd like to enter. Knowing how to present them (one individual per container, no decorations, etc.) helps avoid questions and scrambling for supplies later. The biggest thing to remember if you're new to this is to do a little homework first. Make sure the fish you are entering is mature, properly colored and acts appropriately for its species. Look at it this way, a two inch platy is a lot more mature for its species than an five inch Oscar. A cichlid should show its adult coloration regardless of its size rather than a juvenile pattern or fear pattern. A

catfish should be expected to lie on the bottom of the tank, but a goldfish should not. See what I mean, it's really pretty simple. Then all that's left is to look over your "short list" and check for damage (scars, missing scales, torn fins etc.) and pack them in the proper size container for their size (could be a quart bowl, could be a 10 gallon tank. . . It all depends what you've got). One other very important thing, don't feed them for a few days before the show since you don't want them polluting a small volume of water. You don't want to have to be worried about doing water changes to save your prize whatever, this is supposed to be a fun weekend! Hopefully this helps convince a few new people to come out and give it a try (or even drag out a few who haven't done it in a while). It's really not that difficult, and we'd love to see what you've got in those tanks we keep hearing about!

There are still plenty of auctions being hosted by the various aquarium clubs around the area, they are not all bunched up like they used to be. This may be partly due to the fact that so few of them have shows anymore, so there are a whole lot more weekends available. Think about at-



tending one or more. It's not only a great way to pick up new and different things to work with, it is good public relations between clubs and may help bring some of their members to one of our functions.

And last but not least, you can pretty much bet you know what's coming now. . . that's right, the obligatory article begging session! You would all think I was sick or something if I didn't ask! Thanks to Wayne, Rich and Dan for keeping me going so far, but there's always room for everyone!

I'll see you at the meeting and Ultra-Aqua 2015!





## BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

*Hooray, hooray, spring is finally here*, it's been a long cold winter, so where was that global warming we keep hearing so much about. We had our club spring auction on March 1<sup>st</sup>, the weather did not cooperate too well, we had a smaller amount of items than usual, but we had a pretty good turn out of buyers, considering. If you couldn't make and didn't get to buy any new fish, there are still a few more clubs' spring auctions coming. So there is still time to get some new fish, breeders, and live plants so that you can participate in our **Breeder Award Program** or the **Horticultural Award Program**. With the temperatures finally getting better the outdoor tubs are starting to warm up, but it will be a while before any fish can be moved outside for the summer. The number of spawns turned in March really picked up, between the auction and the monthly meeting there were 12, however April dropped back down to 6 spawns. We are still waiting for that first plant propagation, flowering, or sexual propagation to be turned in. I have my fingers crossed hoping that we will get one soon, you only have till the November auction or monthly meeting to get in on the running for **Horticulturist of the Year**. Also don't forget that for each qualifying spawn submitted, you will receive a coupon good for one dollar worth of raffle tickets, so not only do you get certificate of recognition for your spawn, but you can also win some good stuff in our raffle. Do your water changes and conditioning to get

those fish ready to spawn, and they will take it from there, also it won't hurt to play some music to get them in the mood.

### March 2015

#### BAP

Species	Common name	Class	Points
<i>Dan McMonigle</i>			
Cynotilapia sp.	White top hara	Cichlid m.b.	10
<i>Joe Reich</i>			
Cichlasoma amazonarum		Cichlid s.s.	5
Astatotilapia sp.#35	Tomato	Cichlid m.b.	10
<i>Gary Shingler</i>			
Astronotus ocellatus	Albino oscar	Cichlid s.s.	20
Pterophyllum scalare	Black marble angel	Cichlid s.s.	10
<i>Wayne Toven</i>			
Corydoras aeneus	Albino cory	Catfish	15
Physa fontinalis	pond snail	Aquatic animal	5
<i>Wayne Toven</i>			
Ilyodon cortesae	Freckled splitfin	Livebearer	10
Characodon sp.	Guadalupe Aguilera	Livebearer	10
Nannostomus beckfordi	Gold pencilfish	Tetra & Characin	15
Chilatherina alleni	Rainbowfish		10
<i>Dave Williamson</i>			
Oryzias mekongensis	Mekong ricefish	All other species	5

### April 2015

#### BAP

<i>Dan McMonigle</i>			
Pethia conchonius	Ruby barbs	Barb, Minnow, & Rasbora	10
<i>Rich Serva</i>			
Brachyrhaphis sp.	San Juan brachy	Livebearer	5
Limia zonata	Barred Limia	Livebearer	5
Macrobrachium dayanuro	Red claw shrimp	Aquatic animal	10
<i>Wayne Toven</i>			
Pyxichromis orthostoma		Cichlid m.b.	10
Neotroplus nematopus	Neet	Cichlid s.s.	5

2015 Totals	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
Gary Shingler	11	100	-	-
Wayne Toven	6	60	-	-
Rich Serva	3	20	-	-
Dan McMonigle	2	20	-	-
Joe Reich	2	15	-	-
Dave Williamson	1	5	-	-
Don Youngkin	1	20	-	-



**PNT**  
*Aquatics*

Caves, Driftwood, Supplies  
Recesshy Superfood

[www.pntaquatics.com](http://www.pntaquatics.com)  
[info@pntaquatics.com](mailto:info@pntaquatics.com)

Hours by appointment only

**KEN'S FISH**  
HOME OF QUALITY TROPICAL  
FISH FOOD AND SUPPLIES

KEN MENARD (508) 823-4043  
32 4TH Ave. Taunton, MA 02780  
**[www.kensfish.com](http://www.kensfish.com)**  
**[KENM333@COMCAST.NET](mailto:KENM333@COMCAST.NET)**

**AQUATICA**

**AQUARIUM GALLERY**  
[aquaticsuperstore.com](http://aquaticsuperstore.com)  
330.866.0559  
6653 GRAFTON ROAD,  
VALLEY CITY, OHIO 44280

# Bowl Show & Special Activities

Don Youngkin



The Bowl Show is going strong in 2015, averaging over 20 entries each month. Let's see if we can continue this trend. All are invited to participate, and join in the fun. In the first four months of 2015, 10 different people have submitted entries, with 5 of them winning at least one class.

Please note that the Bowl Show schedule is listed on this page. Also, please note that there will be no Bowl Show in June, due to our Ultra-Aqua Show.

## March

### Barbs:

1st Don Youngkin Clown Barb  
2nd Wayne Toven Male Cherry Barb  
3rd Jeff Plazak Rhombo Barb

### Mollies:

1st Don Youngkin Male Sailfin Gold Dust Molly  
2nd Jeff Plazak Gold Sailfin Molly  
3rd Nicole Youngkin Male Sailfin Gold Dust Molly

### Suckermouth Catfish:

1st Wayne Toven Red Lizard L-10A  
2nd Dave Williamson Clown Pleco  
3rd Jeff Plazak Bristlenose Pleco

## April

### Female Guppies:

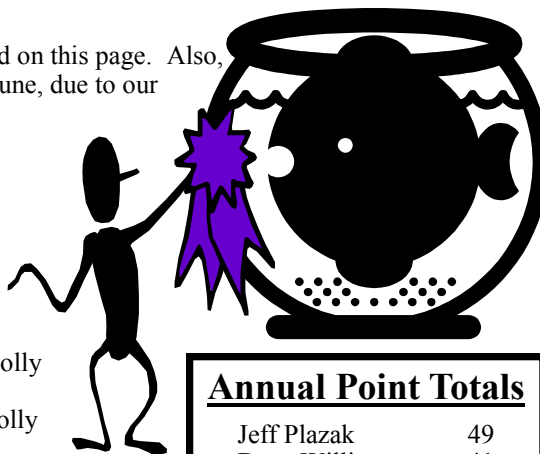
1st Jeff Plazak Blue Guppy  
2nd Jeff Plazak Green Guppy  
3rd Dave Williamson ½ Black AOC Guppy

### Corydoras, Aspidoras, and Brochis:

1st Jeff Plazak *Corydoras agassizii*  
2nd Jeff Plazak Hi-fin Cory  
3rd Wayne Toven *Corydoras pygmaeus*

### Photography:

1st Dave Williamson 4-stripe Damsel  
2nd Wayne Toven Peacock  
3rd Wayne Toven *Ctenopoma ansorgii*



## Annual Point Totals

Jeff Plazak	49
Dave Williamson	41
Wayne Toven	27
Ken McGill	17
Don Youngkin	15
Bill Koleszar	8
Charlie Suk	5
Nicole Youngkin	5
Alissa Harvey	3
Lisa Koleszar	1

## How the Point System works:

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

## 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

### 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

Since 1981



745-3059

Large Selection of:  
TROPICAL FISH BIRDS  
SMALL ANIMALS  
REPTILES AMPHIBIANS  
DOG & PET SUPPLIES  
Tues-Fri 12-7 Sat: 10-6  
196 2nd St., NW  
(Downtown Barberton)



Mon-Sat 11-8  
Sunday 11-6

6629 Engle Rd.  
Unit 108  
Middleburg Hts., OH  
(216) 433-1340



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

# Exchange Report

Wayne Toven



There was a reprint of Rich Serva's *Economical Aquarist, an Easy to Build LED Light for Your Fish Rack* in the **Greater Detroit Aquarium Society's** March 2015 issue of Tropic Tank Talk. See when you write an article other people do read them. If you would like to read one of the articles mentioned below let me know and I will either email it to you or get you a hard copy at a meeting.

**Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc.** Finformation: Feb. 2015  
Aphyosemion australe Orange, by Roberto Prati

**Pacific Coast Cichlid Association,** Cichlidae Communique: Sept/Oct 2014  
Poecilocharax weitzmani – Case of a Dwarf Cichlid Complex, by Albert So

**Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society,** Fins & Tales: Mar. 2015  
Thar's Gold in Dem Thar Hills... Errr, Aquarium!!! Puntius semifasciolatus Var. Schuberti, by Al Ridley

**Hamilton & District Aquarium Society,** Mar. 2015  
The New Long Fin Albino Cherry Barb, by Charles Drew

**Brooklyn Aquarium Society,** Aquatica: Mar/Apr 2015  
Breeding Checkerboard Barbs – Living Jewels, by Anthony P. Kroeger  
Propagating Didiplis diandra, by Izzy Zwerin  
Distochodus sexfasciatus – Long Name Awesome Fish, by Anthony P. Kroeger  
California Nano Nano, by Anthony P. Kroeger

**Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc.** Finformation: Mar. 2015  
Otothyropsis piribebuy, by Regina Spotti  
Panaqoluschangae Success, by Eric Bodrock

**Danbury Area Aquarium Society,** Gills 'N Gossip: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2015  
Spawning the Dwarf Cooper Mouth Brooder "Pseudocrenalabrus philander disperses" by Fred Allen

**Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society,** Fins & Tales: Apr. 2015  
Anubias frazeri, by Al Ridley

**Eastern Iowa Aquarium Society,** Fin Flap: Apr. 2015  
Spawning Peacock Gudgeons (Tateurndina ocelluadua) by Dick Van Hyfte



## GAAS Ultra-Aqua 2015 All Species Fish Show and Auction

**June 13 & 14, 2015  
Tallmadge  
Community Center  
80 Community Rd.  
Tallmadge, Ohio**

### Schedule

Show Registration	10 -5 Sat
Swap Meet	12-5 Sat
Show Party	7 Sat
Auction Registration	10 Sun
Auction Begins	11 Sun
Awards	5 Sun

### For more information:

**Bud White**

(330) 571-0394

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**



# Propagating *Cryptocoryne moehlmanni*

Wayne Toven

This is one of the more recently imported cryptocorynes, it comes to us from the area around Sasak 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 aquarium just 4 inches off of the basement floor, in a 30 gallon long unheated aquarium 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. moehlmanni* is a very popular crypt for aquariums due to its availability, ease of cultivation, and propagation.

## References:

Aquarium Plants by Christel Kasselmann

# A Rather Neet Cichlid – Keeping & Spawning *Neetroplus nematopus*

By Wayne Toven

I've kept lots of cichlids over my many years of fish keeping, but over the past several years I've been working with and spawning mostly livebearers. Many years ago Joanne kept and spawned almost all of the livebearers that entered the fish room. Now that I'm single of my last 100 spawns 61% have been livebearers, 4% aquatic animals, 3% natives, 3% rainbow fish, 3% barbs, minnows, & rasboras, 2% catfish, 1% tetras & characins, 1% all other species that leaves 22% for cichlids. I don't know about you but now my brain hurts!! Anyway, this is about a small Central American cichlid at least by Central American standards, because a lot of them grow to be pretty good sized fish, they are commonly called neets, or the poor man's Tropheus due to their body shape and breeding coloration, the *Neetroplus nematopus*. They were first described by Albert Gunther in 1867, and again in 1868 in more detail. In their native habitat they can be found in rivers and lakes throughout Nicaragua and into Costa Rica.

The name comes from the Greek, genus name – neo = new, etro = belly, pelos = stiff, which together means new world Etroplus, which is a species of old world fish that has a similar fin structure. The specie name – nemato = thread, + pus = foot, which refers to the long pelvic fins. With all that said, I guess the most logical thing to do now is to describe the fish. The body shape as I have said is similar to tropheus, the mouth is low on the head, the upper jaw is slightly curved inward, a high forehead, with a somewhat laterally compressed body. The males can grow to a maximum of 5 inches, while the females only grow to almost 3 inches, basic body color for both sexes is a medium gray with one prominent mid body dark gray to black vertical band. The fins are pale opaque gray, and as is with most cichlids the males have pointed extensions on the dorsal, pelvic, and anal fins, which the females do not, the pelvic fins of both sexes have a thin white margin, while the dorsal and anal fins also of both sexes have a thin black margin.



My Neets seem fairly peaceful, they are not shy and usually out swimming around especially at feeding time, which means any time I get near their tank. They are omnivorous so I feed them flake food, small pellets, and occasionally frozen blood worms. Most of the information I found on the internet and in my books said their water should be at a Ph of 7 – 7.5, hardness of 10 – 20 dGH, and at temperatures from 75° - 79° F. My Ph is 7.2, I don't have a hardness test kit so I don't know what it is, but it is probably pretty low as all my



water goes through a Kinetico water softener, and the temperature is usually around 74° F.

I got my bag of six juveniles at an auction in the spring of 2014, and then when summer rolled around I moved them to one of my outdoor 110 gallon tubs to grow them up to adult size. Then summer ended but before the temperatures dropped too low, the tubs were emptied of fish, and the adult Neets were moved to a 29 gallon tank set up in my fish room. The tank set up had rocks, small flower pots cut in half on their sides for spawning caves, a small pleco cave, sand substrate, floating plastic plants, and a sponge filter. Almost all of my tanks are unheated, due to the whole fish room being kept at around 74° F in the winter and only slightly warmer in the summer. This is due to the fact that the majority of my fish tanks are in the basement, completely below ground. There has been spillover however into the family room, which houses the majority of my largest tanks, a 265 gallon, three 150 gallon, a 120 gallon, and my 80 gallon bow front which I won at an OCA auction for twenty dollars worth of raffle tickets. Then there is the spillover into my laundry room which has a 180 gallon, two 55 gallon, three 75 gallon, one 90 gallon, and four 40 breeders.

The really neat feature of these fish is that when they are ready to spawn the female will pick a spawning site, then she goes through a color change the body a little darker gray but the prominent dark vertical band turns white. The male stays the normal color until the fry hatch, and then he goes through the color



change, slightly darker gray body and the dark band changes to a white band. The spawning site is usually among rocks, and then 50 – 100 tan eggs will be laid on the side of a rock or on the underside of an overhang, the female stays very close, guarding the eggs while the male patrols the territory nearby. The eggs will hatch in 4 – 5 days, at which time the female will move the wrigglers to a more protected site, over the next 6 – 7 days the egg sac will be absorbed, and then the fry will become free swimming. In my 29 gallon tank which housed my group of six young adults there appeared to be a 4 inch dominant male, a 3 inch subdominant male, and four 2 – 2 ½ inch females. I had an overhanging rock set up near the front of the tank in one corner and lucky me that is what the female chose as a spawning site, good placement to get some pictures. When the pair laid approximately 80 eggs the male herded the remaining fish into about one third of the tank, he didn't harass them mercilessly so I left them in the tank. After the eggs hatched the female moved the wrigglers to the small pleco cave in the very back corner of the tank nearest to the spawning site, good thinking on my part for the placement of the possible spawning site and the pleco cave (this happens occasionally). On the first spawn not being sure how well the fry would be taken care of, I siphoned them out just before they were free swimming and moved them to a small nursery tank with the same water as the spawning tank, at first it seemed to be working, they start-

ed swimming around but then started gradually dying off until there were only two fry left. Strike one! Within about a month they spawned again, this time when I siphoned out the fry they were moved to a heated tank, I thought that maybe the tank was too cool for the fry to survive so the heater was added, again they slowly died off and I only had one live. Strike two! Another month passed and they spawned again, on the same strategically placed spawning site near the front of the tank, this time though the fry are going to be left in the care of the parents, to see how they do with them. Again the other adults were herded into about 1/3 of the tank by the spawning male, he didn't attack them just chased them away from his territory which was the other 2/3 of the tank. The information I read said that to spawn Neets the temperature should be raised to around 77° - 82° F, I had not done this because I was not intentionally trying to spawn them, I also read that they can get fairly aggressive with each other, mine didn't seem to. The spawning set up must have been to the liking of the pair as they used the same site all three times, and used the pleco cave all three times to protect the wrigglers until they were free swimming. The parents would move the swarm of fry to different locations around the tank almost daily, if any of the fry wandered too far from the swarm they would be quickly herded back by the male, they seem to be doing an excellent job of parenting! I guess it's time to move



the other adults out to keep them from being too harassed and possibly injured, the subdominant male and three females were moved to another 29 gallon tank. I'm not sure how long I will be leaving the fry with the parents; I have read they can be kept together for 2 – 3 months, as of the writing of this article the fry are 7 weeks old and right at an inch in size, the body that is not counting the tail. The parents show no sign of wanting to spawn yet, the male stays close to the fry, while the female seems to stay in the background, but not too far away. Now I can sell off the other adults at an auction, and I have plenty of fry to spread around. So coming soon to fish auctions near you *Neotroplus nematopus*!!!

#### References:

Baensch Aquarium Atlas #2, Hans A. Baensch & Dr. Rudiger Riehl

Sam Borstein's cichlid site

My observations, Wayne Toven



**ALL ODDBALL AQUATICS**

[SALES@ALLODDBALLAQUATICS.COM](mailto:SALES@ALLODDBALLAQUATICS.COM)

[www.alloddballaquatics.com](http://www.alloddballaquatics.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, May 7

**Program:** Robert Lupton will speak on keeping and raising shrimp.

**Bowl Show:**

Rift Lake Cichlids  
Sharks & Loaches  
Aquatic Invertebrates

## Thursday, June 4

**Program:** In June members will get a hands on chance to make a small acrylic show tank, non members will need to pay for theirs. Bud and Rich will work with members showing them how to build tanks. Plastic for the tanks will be pre-cut.

**Bowl Show:** No Bowl Show this month due to the Ultra-Aqua Show later in the month.

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

## Coming Events

### May 1 – 3, 2015 – American Livebearer Association Convention

Hosted by the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County Lancaster Host Resort & Conference Center 2300 Lincoln Highway East Lancaster PA 17602 For more information: <http://alaconvention2015.com/>

### May 9, 2015 – Medina County Aquarium Society - Spring Auction

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3355 Medina Rd. (Rt. 18), Medina, Ohio 44256

Auction Starts at 11:00 For more information: Wayne, 216-570-7714 [halosfury@yahoo.com](mailto:halosfury@yahoo.com), Ken, 419-677-3405 [kmcgill@neo.rr.com](mailto:kmcgill@neo.rr.com), & <http://MCAS-Fish.NET>

### May 17, 2015 - Lorain County Aquarium Society Spring Auction

Pittsfield Township Hall Corner of Rts 58 & 303 16940 Ohio 58, Pittsfield, OH 44090 Contacts: Ken M: 419-677-3405, [kmcgill@neo.rr.com](mailto:kmcgill@neo.rr.com), Ken W: 440-465-1571 [aquaman121@aol.com](mailto:aquaman121@aol.com), Carolyn: 330-677-2103 [carter7621@yahoo.com](mailto:carter7621@yahoo.com) [www.lcas-fish.net](http://www.lcas-fish.net) email: [LCASfish@gmail.com](mailto:LCASfish@gmail.com)

### June 13 & 14, 2015 – 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](mailto:bwhite@neo.rr.com)), Wayne Toven (330) 256-7836 ([wtoven@hotmail.com](mailto:wtoven@hotmail.com)) or Rich Serva (330) 650-4613 ([rjserva@gmail.com](mailto:rjserva@gmail.com))