



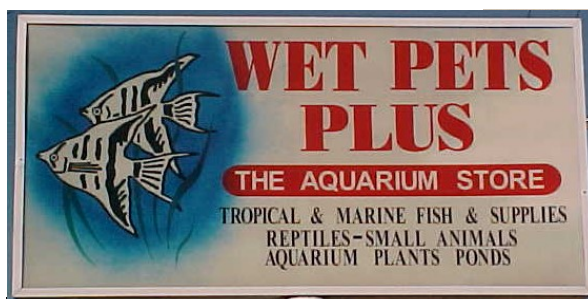
The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Tank Topics

September/October 2016

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In this issue:
"Remembering John Maloney"
long time member and local
aquarium shop owner.



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Important Dates for 2016

March 6
Spring auction

June 11 & 12
Ultra Aqua 2016

November 6
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 \$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 _____

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

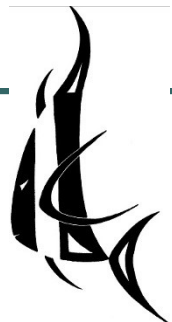
☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ 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

If you missed the August picnic meeting, you missed a great time. Once again our club has shown that coming to a meeting is not boring! We had a great dinner and lots of conversation time, Elsie our speaker did a great job on presenting a photography class and we had a great selection of free fish to draw from. Seems like everyone was happy!

Our next big event will be our auction on November 2nd, make sure to keep the date open and show up to help with things that need done. We will meet at the site on Saturday November 1 at 7PM to setup the chairs and tables, stop by and help, it goes very fast when we have lots of people there to help. Then come on Sunday for the auction, bring things to sell and buy something you like.

See you at the meeting, Bud.



Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

I'm going to start out with the latest about my on going drama of my back issues. It seems that a ruptured disk is to blame for all the fun and games with my sciatic nerve. It only took the better part of three months of x-rays, MRIs, physical therapy and cortisone shots to return me to feeling like I did before the blown out tire incident. That's not to say it's "cured" just manageable. Moral of the story: lose some weight and keep doing the exercises they gave me at therapy so I don't do it again. Well that and when open enrollment comes up, change my insurance so if something does happen again I won't be broke all summer from doctor bills!

A couple of months ago, I had suggested doing a themed issue with members sharing memories of long time member John Maloney. I'll be honest, I was a little concerned about a lack of interest in the idea that is until I reminded everyone about the publication deadline at the last meeting. That's when I finally got some response. Thanks to all of you who submitted something, I really did feel that it was important to do this in memory of someone who had been such an important part of this organization for so many years. I'm not sure when exactly he joined, but I know it was well before I did in 1981. I also don't know how many years he was on the board of directors, but it was a bunch. Even after that time we could count on him every year as a judge at

the show. As a business owner, he was always willing to help us purchase supplies through his wholesale outlets even when most others in the trade considered clubs like this to be competitors and not good for business. A good many of the past and present members of GAAS could probably trace their finding out about the club back to John or at least Wet Pets as it was always the progression from beginner to hobbyist that he was willing to nurture. The "glory days" or the organized tropical fish hobby may have passed us by, but for those of us willing to keep it going, we can only hope that the future will bring a resurgence of interest in the living breathing green and growing world that we can maintain in glass boxes.

At our last meeting, Elsie Swanson gave us a program on aquarium photography. I really appreciated the fact that she shared her experiences and expertise she'd learned along the way and managed to make it fun and informative. Doing a program like this was new territory for her and she did a great job. The next question is who's next? If you've been around the hobby for a while, I'm sure you've picked up plenty of tips, tricks and a few mistakes along the way. So why not tell the rest of us about them? You might be surprised that the person sitting beside or behind you at the meeting might just be having issues with something you've already conquered. Just figured I throw that

one out there. And, by the way, if you have "stage fright" and wouldn't

be comfortable in front of us giving a presentation, you could always write about it. (I'll bet you didn't see that one coming!) But seriously, sharing information is a big part of what this whole organization is about, so think about sharing some of yours one way or the other!

You'll notice that there are a fair number of auctions listed in the coming events column in this issue. (Thanks Wayne for combing the exchanges and compiling that for me!) Auctions are how clubs like this "make their living," most of our other functions lose money or at best break even. For us to continue the things we do, we have to have auctions. It's a lot of work, but think of the alternative. . . Definitely consider helping out at our upcoming auction in November and maybe even attend another club's auction as it promotes good will between clubs to see out of towners show up. Plus you just might find something you've never seen locally that you'll just have to have!

I'll see you at the meeting!





BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

Summer is half over already, Mother Nature is just baking the days away one after another, the water just keeps evaporating from my 110 gallon outdoor tubs, I have topped them off twice so far this summer. The water lilies are blooming like crazy, and I have fish in all 15 of the tubs, there have been spawns in seven of them so far, five with fry and two with rainbowfish eggs, but should be fry soon. The one real surprise was the green terror juveniles I picked up at our show auction; they were just 11/2" then, now around 3", and the large group of fry they produced. Other fish I have outside are three species of danios, livebearers almost all goodeids, five species of rainbows, three species of tetras, two species of cichlids and two species of loaches, I figured I would try them outside as I have both sexes of each species and they weren't spawning indoors. With putting all those fish outside I actually had a couple of empty tanks in the fish room, but have started moving things around and filled them rather quickly.

We just had our club's membership appreciation / summer picnic / monthly meeting on August 4th, lots of good food, a fish and live plant giveaway, an interesting talk on photography, and the dry goods raffle. So there were some good fish given away for members to take home to work with, so hopefully there will be some spawns taking place in the near future. The summer is a slow time for fish club auctions, but they will be starting back up in September and running through November with our fall auction on Sunday November 6th, and finishing with the Ohio Cichlid Association Extravaganza happening November 18th – 20th.

A couple of months ago I had a short rant about our Horticultural Award Program, as of then there was only one submission, and since it was from me I said we might not have a Horticulturalist of the Year because I didn't think I deserved an award for one item. I guess I got my point across; things picked up for the last two months, now there are five members in the running with 14 propagations and flowerings, lets keep it going though. We only had 4 spawns turned in at the July meeting but we had 9 spawns turned in at the August meeting, that's a step in the right direction. We are only 10 spawns away from eclipsing last years total and it's only August there are still 3 more months for the BAP / HAP year to determine the Breeder of the Year and Horticulturist of the Year, and it's not a runaway by any member so keep spawning and propagating.

July 2016

BAP

Species	Common name	Class	Points
Jeffrey Swanson			
<i>Neolamprologus leluepi</i>	Lemon cichlid	Cichlid - substrate spawner	15
Ray Weaver			
<i>Cyrtocara moorii</i>	Blue dolphin	Cichlid – mouth brooder	15
Bud White			
<i>Xiphophorus nezahuacoyotl</i>	Nezzies	Livebearer	5
<i>Devario aequipinnatus</i>	Giant danio	Barb, Minnow, & Rasbora	5
HAP			
Mike & Elsie Swanson			
<i>Lemna minor</i>	Duckweed	A – vegetative	5
<i>Microsorium pteropus</i>	Java fern	B – vegetative	10
<i>Najas guadalupensis</i>	Najas grass	B – vegetative	10

August 2016

BAP

Dan McMonigle			
<i>Ancistrus sp.</i>	Pucallpa gold	Catfish	20
<i>Placidochromis electra</i>	Yellow prince	Cichlid – mouth brooder	10
<i>Limia sp. tiger</i>	Tiger Limia	Livebearer	5
<i>Puntius titteya</i>	Cherry barb	Barb, Minnow, & Rasbora	10
Joe Reich			
<i>Heterandria formosa</i>	Least killifish	Livebearer	5
Jeffrey Swanson			
<i>Haplochromis obliquidens</i>		Cichlid – mouth brooder	10
<i>Melanoides tuberculata</i>	Malaysian trumpet snail	Aquatic animal	5
Bud White			
<i>Danio pulcher</i>	Blue red striped danio	Barb, Minnow, & Rasbora	5
<i>Coptodon bythobates</i>		Cichlid – substrate spawner	10
Dave Williamson			
<i>Allodontichthys polyplepis</i>	Orange darter goodeid	Livebearer	10
<i>Aulonocara stuartgranti</i>	Maleri sunshine peacock	Cichlid – mouth brooder	15
HAP			
Phil Hypes			
<i>Anubias frazeri</i>		E – flowering	15
<i>Nelumbo nucifer</i>	Tao Hung Su Yu Lotus	E – flowering	10
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	Horsetail rush	E – flowering	10
<i>Iris louisianae</i>	Black gamecock	E – flowering	10
Dan McMonigle			
<i>Hygrophila sp.</i>	Bold hygro.	A – vegetative	5
<i>Echinodorus augustifolius</i>	Tall chain sword	C – vegetative	15
<i>Eleocharis parvula</i>	Dwarf hair grass	B – vegetative	10
Wayne Toven			
<i>Echinodorus Paul Kloecker</i>	Amazon sword	C – vegetative	15
<i>Taxiphyllum montagnei</i>	Christmas moss	B – vegetative	10
Dave Williamson			
<i>Cryptocoryne hudsoni</i>		C – vegetative	15

2016 Totals	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
Jeffrey Swanson	10	115	-	-
Bud White	8	65	-	-
Dan McMonigle	6	70	3	30
Bill Bilski	3	20	-	-
Mike & Elsie Swanson	3	35	3	25
Wayne Toven	3	30	3	40
Dave Williamson	3	45	2	20
Joe Reich	1	5	-	-
Ray Weaver	1	20	-	-
Phil Hypes	-	-	4	45

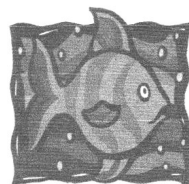


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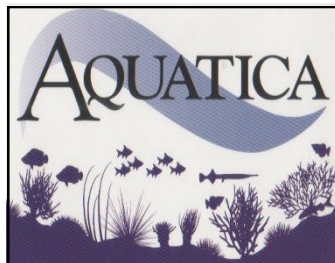
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Bowl Show & Special Activities

David Girard



Participation has been light the last two months with 9 entries in July and 10 in August. We do have a change in the top three with Jeff Swanson moving into third place in the standings behind Jeff Plazak and Dave Williamson. Please note that September's bowl show has a different class than years past. We have replaced bog plants with a pairs class. If you are bringing in a BAP this month why not bring in the parents and put them in the bowl show so we can see what the fry will look like as adults.

July results

Native fish

1-Dave Williamson	pigmy sunfish
2-David Girard	flag fish
3-Dave Williamson	fat head minnow

Angel fish and discus

1-Jeff Plazak	koi angel
2-Jeff Plazak	koi angel
3-Jeff Plazak	koi angel

Aquatic plants

1-Dave Williamson	<i>Crypt. parva</i>
2-Dave Williamson	<i>Crypt. sp.</i>

August results

Platies

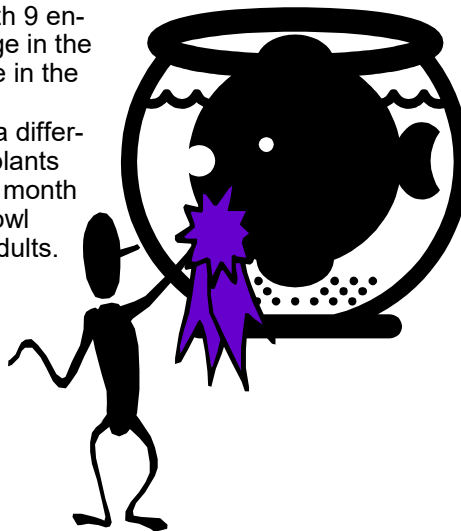
1-Jeff Plazak	platy
2-Dave Williamson	peppered platy
3-Jeff Plazak	platy

Rainbowfish

1-Jeff Swanson	yellow splitfin rainbow
2-Jeff Swanson	red rainbow
3-Jeff Swanson	blue rainbow

Amphibians

1-Dave Williamson	axolotl
2-Dave Williamson	dwarf frog



Annual Point Totals

Jeff Plazak	91
Dave Williamson	56
Jeff Swanson	27
Wayne Toven	25
Don Youngkin	18
Mike & Elsie Swanson	11
Nicole Youngkin	8
David Girard	8
Bill Bilski	4

2016 Bowl Show Schedule

January:

Male Guppies
Goldfish
Minnows, Danios & Rasboras

February:

Domestic Swordtails,
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
Pairs (male/female)

October:

Gouramis & Anabantoids
AO Old World Cichlids
Arts & Crafts

November:

AO Livebearers
AO Egglayers
AO Catfish

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Exchange Report

Wayne Toven



Northeast Council of Aquarium Society Inc.: June 2016

The Fish of Many Morphs – *Trichogaster trichopterus*, by Alexander Priest

Michiana Aquarium Society, Michiana Tropical Times: June 2016

Guppies, by Ashley Yuan

The Siamese Fighting Fish (*Betta splendens*), by Shelby Goldman

Aphyosemion striatum (red striped killifish), by Liz Ramsey

Serpae tetra, by Masun McGreeham
Zebra Fish, by Destiny Mitchell

Circle City Aquarium Club, Fancy Fins: June / July 2016

Lepidolamprologus hecqui, by Chris Eichrodt

Breeding *Pseudocrenilabrus multicolor*, by Bobby Sutton

Missouri Aquarium Society Inc. The Darter: July / August 2016

Raising Tropical Fish in a Pond Environment in the Midwest, by Gary Lange

Madagascar Lace Plant – Growth, Varieties, & Reproduction, by Holly Paoni

A West African Challenge – *Neolebias ansorgii*, by Mike Hellweg

Quarantine is Not an Insult – and Other Lessons from My Fish Room, by Kathy Deutsch

Welcome to a New Missouri Resident – Good News for a Change, by Mike Hellweg

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: July 2016

Labidochromis sp. Perlmutter, by Jonathan Raviotta

Skiffia francesae, by Joe Doyle

Greater City Aquarium Society – New York, Modern Aquarium: July 2016

WTFish: L – Numbers and LDA – Numbers Explained, by Derek P. Tustin



Membership Report

Don Youngkin



As you would guess from the title of this column, it is about matters related to membership. In it, you can find information about the attendance of the meetings. New members will also be welcomed here, as well as giving members advance warning of expiring memberships.

When you attend a meeting, please be sure to sign in. This will make you eligible to the door prize drawing. Additionally, attendance at GAAS events, including our Auctions, will also earn you tickets for the prize drawings at the annual Christmas Party. But, you must sign in for your attendance to be recorded. We had 19 members sign-in at the July meeting, with Jeffrey Swanson winning the door prize. For the August meeting, 25 members registered.

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Jeff Hitchcock

Max Hypes

Thank you to the following for renewing their memberships:

Joe Reich

The memberships for the following people expire in September:

Lauren Frank

Ralph Grammer

Bernd Zimmerman

The memberships for the following people expire in October:

Gordon Beals

Ken Walker

If you have any question about the status of your membership, you can either see me at our meeting, or email me at the address listed on the front page of this newsletter. Membership forms can be found in this letter and on our website. Forms are also available at our club functions.

Remembering John Maloney

Ken McGill

I first met John Maloney while getting my first 'store bought' tank for my 16th birthday. At that time they had the old store at 6-corners in Tallmadge and the new place in Mogadore open on different days. John, Jerry, Pat and a bunch of fish nuts ran the stores. I got a 20 high and went out later for a bunch of fish. I still have the receipt (& the tank). I used to visit the shop too much and when I was attending U of Akron, I started working at the store one day a week after classes. This was when I really got to know John and the rest of the Wet Pets crew. I don't think I hardly ever took money home from the 'job'. I always bought a bunch of stuff on store credit. John would cut employees a good deal if he didn't have to fork out cold cash. I don't want to indicate that John was cheap, but he really liked to stretch a buck. I told him one time that a fluorescent light over a tank wouldn't start. So he shows me how you reach into the tank and rub a handful of water on the bulb and sometimes they fire right up. I was scared speechless by that one.

Once, I was fortunate enough to be there to experience closing time on the last open day before New years. The celebration consisted of all present getting a generous shot of some hard liquor and drinking a toast. I was never much of a drinker and being a teenager at the time this was pretty exciting.

John taught me about ordering double cheeseburgers from McD's because at the time it wasn't actually on the menu, but they'd make you one if you asked and it was always

hot! He also got me addicted to hot fudge malts at DQ. Something I still get when I go there.

I'll always remember John as a kind man. As I got older, I was always amazed that he managed to treat people as nicely as he did and still make a buck running a fish store.

Nicole Smyers

Well, I'm not really sure where to start... I never really thought I'd be writing a memoriam story for John. And even though months have past, I am still in shock by his passing. John meant a lot to me, and he was definitely a key member in shaping my future. So when I heard about the opportunity to share a story for the newsletter; I was all over that. Except that there were so many! It was difficult to pick the best one. So I'll stop rambling and get to my most memorable moment with John.

Of course, it was at Wet Pets Plus! I had been working there for quite some time. It was closing time and myself, Chris, and Christine were finishing up cleaning tanks and feeding critters. John was doing his closing duties and I believe Stan and Dave were there too; but I could be wrong. I was topping off the back African Cichlid row; and after I finished that I had went onto a different task. Moments later! Chris ran up front to grab the fire extinguisher and rushed back to the Cichlid row I had just topped off. Of course I followed! And came to find out that one of my tanks were bubbling over the edge and right on top of an electrical outlet. Yes, the fire extinguisher was needed; and yes, my heart had just dropped into my stomach. I just about set the store on fire. I mean, there was a fire... that electrical outlet was completely touched. Definitely the biggest 'oops' of my life!

Now John was always a quiet man.

I've never seen him angry or anything! He was always so low key. But not that night; that night I heard every curse word in the dictionary and for the first time saw John so SO angry! I was beyond upset with myself. I hate making mistakes, let alone setting the store on fire level of mistake. So I was a nervous wreck. I stayed very late cleaning up my natural disaster. I also didn't want to leave that night knowing John was upset with me. So after some time for cool down, I approached John. I apologized over and over again, and I explained how I knew where I went wrong. After nervously blabbering on and on for about one minute, John stopped me. He assured me that while he is upset, he did not hate me and still thought I was a good employee. We all make mistakes... just not setting the store on fire type of mistakes! But I'll tell you what, I learned really quick from that mistake and it never happened again. That was also when I earned the nickname "Sparky". The nickname was also fitting as I always seemed to find the tanks with shorted out heaters.

Like I stated earlier, there are a lot of memorable moments I could share. Wet Pets Plus was an amazing place to work with an amazing group of people. Don't get me wrong, I love being a veterinary technician. And I love continuing my education and working on a specialization; even though its incredibly exhausting. But I miss my Wet Pets crew! We could all sit down and swap stories all night if given the opportunity. And while some of us have gone separate ways; thankfully Mark Zuckenburg's social media creation helped keep us connected in some way. But Wet Pets crew or not, none of use will ever forget John and how he has impacted our lives. He was absolutely the best boss anyone could ask for, as well as a mentor and a friend. I couldn't thank him enough for all he has done.

Bud White

I knew John for about 25 or more years, I met him at the GAAS fish meeting, worked with him on the GAAS board, bought fish from him at his store and competed against him at fish shows. In fact he and his wife Pat stayed in our hotel room, along with 15 other people at a Pittsburgh show. It was a crazy night, people slept in the floor, in sleeping bags and also in bath tub! But that's another story, the one I want to tell is the time he asked me to design and build a complete fish tank rack addition to his newly expanded store on route 532. After talking to him about what he needed and was looking for, I measured off the area and came with and presented the floor plan. After looking at it, he says this is just what he was looking for, so we ordered the materials and I started building the rack, then the fun began. John made 6 changes to the design. This made it take 3 times as long to get done, each time I had to disassemble and reassemble what I had just put together the day before. And to make things even better was that another member at the time, Ken Galaska, who was an electrician, was installing the wiring and lights for the racks, had to do the same thing, disassemble and reassemble the lights and wiring to fit the changes in the rack design. Good thing we both liked John, when we finally got the racks and lights done, it looked nothing like the design I presented at first. I did tell John that he was a nice guy and all, but if I was to do anything for him like that again, he was going to ok the plans, then go away on vacation till I got it done!!

Wayne Toven

I met John when Joanne started working at Wet Pets Plus in Mogadore, he just seemed like a laid back nice guy, the kind of person I think I would have enjoyed working for, but I had my factory job. Any time I went to the pet shop he was pleasant and we talked about what kind of fish I was keeping, he wasn't always at the shop though then I had to put up with employees like Joanne. After a while the shop moved down to Canton in a plaza off of Whipple Ave., a longer

drive but worth the time. I didn't help with that move, but when the shop moved again to the last location on Whipple Ave., I helped in tearing down the racks at the old location. By the time the shop was up and running again, if I stopped in and John was there he would tell me to go catch my fish and someone would bag them up for me. That is a little easier than trying to point out a certain fish in a tank with other fish to someone else. After many years there was rumors that John was going to close the shop, I waited until Dave informed me that it was official, I was there the next morning and bought three of the display tanks one 100 gallon, two 120 gallon, and two 30 gallon breeders that they used for plants. John gave me a good deal on the lot, so every time I go into my fish room I am reminded of John and Wet Pets Plus.

Rich Serva

The first time I met John was back in the 60s. It had to be since my dad drove me to a "Spartans" store which was on Steels Corner. I had gotten to take over the 20 gallon tank in the dinning room (my brother went off to college) and I was going to choose some fish to put in it. This young guy took his time with me even though I probably did not spend any more than \$10 in total. Quite frankly I would have probably would have not remembered the guy (just the experience) if it was not that I ran into him a few years later when I went into the old Dotties' Wet Pets which was the beginning of his run at owning Wet Pets.

Until I actually gotten involved in the organized hobby in the 1980's, John's store which always seemed to have more than just the 'bread & butter' of the hobby kept me excited about the hobby. John was always good for 'a fish chat' when he was at the store. John was friend with a college professor of mine (Walt) and kept us in contact.

Wet Pets/John was the staple of my pet store experiences for many years. If I would not have had such good experiences, I may have never gotten so involved with the hobby.

Seth Serva

He gave me my first job at Wet Pets. I was far too young but John gave a me a shot. I remember him as a kind, funny man who made me feel happy to work for. That job had a big impact on me and I'll be forever grateful to him for that.

Dave Williamson

When we came up with doing this article, I started thinking back when I actually met John, he was the GAAS club treasurer at the time and it was April of 1981. It was just a simple introduction, "Hi, nice to meet you" but little did I know the impact it would make on my life. Back then I was in college and on Fridays if I didn't have any classes, I would come down to Akron and end up hanging out at Wet Pets. I became a regular and got "dipping and bagging privileges" (could catch my own fish, great for picking out pairs and potential show fish). One day while doing just that I was bemoaning the fact that I was a "broke college student" and there were more things I liked than I could afford. John's answer to that was to put me to work tearing down and moving a 70 gallon tank. I wished right then that I could quit my Kmart nightmare and work there, but the logistics of living in Aurora, going to school in Parma and working in Mogadore just wouldn't work out. Fast forward roughly four years, I had gotten a "real job" and bought a house in Cuyahoga Falls. I was dying to host a GAAS board meeting and did so just weeks after moving in to the new house. That night, Scott Simon, (who at the time was one of the few full time workers at Wet Pets) approached me after the meeting and said that since I was now in the area, John wanted to know if I would like to come out and work part-time. Of course I was out there the next day after work to say yes and started the day after that! So then for the next few years I worked full time at a

print shop and part time at Wet Pets and I kept thinking I would rather be doing the pet trade thing for the full time. John knew better and tried to drill it into my thick head that I would be further ahead with the status quo. Well, I went with what I thought was a better offer and switched to another store for more hours. It didn't work that well and after a few months I followed a co-worker from that place to another that was even worse and only lasted there three months there. All the while when I'd see John at a meeting or the show, we got along fine, like nothing had happened. It was then that I realized what I had done. Fast forward again a few months, and when John had heard I wasn't working at any store, he asked me to come back again! Then about a year into that, I lost my full time job. For the next six weeks I worked there full time (under the table so it wouldn't interfere with my unemployment, thank you!) Then after hating the new full time job I finally got my wish of doing the pet trade thing full time and spent the next nine years at Wet Pets. Yeah, it

wasn't always perfect, no job ever is. But what was different was that we were given the freedom to use our own experiences and expertise and not have to go by a company "script" for everything. Not too many bosses that I've run across would do that. Even when things had changed so drastically in the pet trade that he saw we weren't going to be able to keep going as we were, I was warned in advance that I should think about looking for something more stable. When do you hear of a manager doing something like that these days? We as a group worked through floods, eccentric coworkers (you know who you are!), insane customers (Mouse, Peaches & Herb, Big Stinky, etc., etc.) break-ins (and the grand jury testimony to go with it) and for the most part we all stayed sane and friends. Why? Because we

had a boss who valued each of us for our individual strengths and abilities. He built a team out of a group of fish geek misfits and high-school biology club dropouts. In my book that takes a little bit of skill to make that work. Yeah, so maybe he was a little bit disorganized (ok, I'm being generous here, he was a lot disorganized) and probably not the best businessman out there, but no one could ever say he didn't care about his customers or his employees. I was, and always will be, proud to have been able to call John Maloney my friend above all else.

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GAAS 2016 Fall Auction

November 6, 2016

Tallmadge Community Center

80 Community Rd.

Tallmadge, Ohio

**Registration Opens
Auction Begins**

**10 a.m.
11 a.m.**

For more information:

Bud White (330) 571-0394
bwhite@neo.rr.com

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

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rjserva@gmail.com

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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, September 1

Program: Orin McMonigle,
Crabs in the aquarium.

Bowl Show: Goodeids,
AO New World Cichlids
Pairs (male/female)

Thursday, October 6

Program: Eric Bodrock,
You'll have to come and find out,
but we guarantee it'll be interesting!

Bowl Show: Gouramis & Anabantoids
AO Old World Cichlids,
Arts & Crafts

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

Coming Events

September 11, 2016 - Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Fall Auction

Four-Points Sheraton North, 910
Sheraton Drive Mars, PA, 16046
WWW.GPASI.ORG Wally Cox 412-420-7985 walmich@verizon.net OR
Joe Doyle 724-602-7564 Bro-kenBox@gmail.com

September 18, 2016 — NEO-Fish Fall Auction

Pipefitters Union Hall, Local 120,
6305 Halle Drive (off Rockside
Road) Valley View, Ohio 44125
For more information go to: <http://www.neo-fish.com/events/auctions>

Sunday, October 2, 2016 Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts (CAFE) Fall Auction Courtyard Columbus West
2350 Westbelt Drive Columbus, Ohio 43228 <http://www.columbusfishclub.org/index.php>

October 8, 2016 – Greater Detroit Aquarium Society - Fall Auction Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
814 Campbell Road, Royal Oak, Michigan

October 9, 2016 - Lorain County Aquarium Society Fall Auction Pittsfield Township Hall Corner of
Rts 58 & 303 16940 Ohio 58, Pittsfield, OH 44090 www.lcas-fish.net
email: LCASfish@gmail.com

October 13-16, 2016 – All Aquarium Catfish Convention Hyatt Regency Dulles, 2300 Dulles
Corner Blvd., Herndon, VA
Hosted by the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society
www.catfishcon.com

October 15, 2016 – Medina County Aquarium Society - Fall Auction Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,
3355 Medina Rd. (Rt. 18), Medina, Ohio 44256
Wayne, 216-570-7714 halosfury@yahoo.com, Ken, 419-677-3405
kmcgill@neo.rr.com, & <http://MCAS-Fish.NET>

October 23-Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society Fall Auction J.V. Johnson Community Center 800
Gillmer Road, Leavittsburg, OH
www.YATFS.com For more information: Tom 330.758.3043
mruaru2@aol.com or <http://www.yatfs.com/auction>

October 23, 2016 - Erie Aquarium Society - Fall Auction Perry Highway Social Hall, 8281
Oliver Road, Erie, PA 16565
For more Information: Russ Lasher (814) 833-0946 or Chris Mitchell-(814) 899-8920
camrcm@yahoo.com