

The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Tank Topics

March/April 2017

Inside this issue:

President's Message Bud White	3
Editor's Message Dave Williamson	3
BAP/HAP Wayne Toven	4
Bowl Show David Girard	5
Exchange Review Wayne Toven	6
Membership Report Don Youngkin	7
Labidochromis hongi Jeffrey Swanson	8
Jack Dempsey Wayne Toven	9
Coming Events	10

Important Dates for 2017

Meeting Notice

10

March 5
Spring auction

June 10 & 11 Ultra Aqua 2017

November 5 Fall auction



2017 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	.Will White(33	0) 706-9258/willandmistywhite@gmail.com
Editor	.Dave Williamson	davew@gaas-fish.net
Special Activities	.Dave Girard	girarddavid@live.com
BAP/HAP	.Wayne Toven	(330) 256-7836/wayne@gaas-fish.net
Membership	.Don Youngkin	dyoungkin@neo.rr.com
Raffle	.Phil & Tiffany Hypes	(330) 327-6316/phil@gaas-fish.net
Historian	.Steve Brunn	@hotmail.com
FAAS Rep	.Ken McGill	(419) 677-3405/ken@gaas-fish.net
Refreshments	.Elsie Swanson (440	0) 466-1799/meswanson@roadrunner.com
Publicity	.Nicole Youngkin	nyoungkin@neo.rr.com
Program	.Dan McMonigle	(440) 476-4663/danm@gaas-fish.net

Check out our website: www.gaas-fish.net

Page 2 Tank Topics

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 second Friday of each month at 8:00 p.m. at the Ritchie Memorial Shelter House, 109 West Avenue, Tallmadge, OH 44278. It is located West of Tallmadge Circle with access from Sperry Ave., behind Vet Clinic and across from the Chevrolet dealer. 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. 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			
Phone email	□ Electronic □ Mail			
How did you find out about GAAS?	Adult (18 years and older) & Family			
Memberships are due one year from the date of joining. Completed mem-	(includes children under 10) \$10.00			
bership forms can be turned in at a meeting or mailed to the membership chairman at this address:	Junior (10-17 years) \$5.00			
GAAS Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 494, Akron, OH 44309-0494	Dues Collected Date Received			

President's Message

Helloooooooo folks

As I write this message it is 60 degrees at 9 pm in February. This is crazy weather, but I like it.

Need to remind everyone that the spring auction is almost here (March 5) and we need help making everything work right. We are setting up Saturday March 4 at 7 pm and we can use help with that, the more help the faster we get done. Then Sunday bring items in for the auction, be a runner or ask me what needs done, I usually can find something someone can help

with!

I would like to thank Steve Brunn for getting our speaker for the meeting. He kept talking to about this guy named Ray and I kept thinking I should know this guy. Guess what? I did. I just did not know this was the same Ray from TFH magazine. He gave a great presentation on may subjects and filled us in on some unknown TFH facts, it was a good talk.

THANKS RAY!

See all at the auction, Bud





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





Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

Wow, here we are again, Spring Auction season already. It seems not too terribly long ago it was time for the Fall Auction! Although it's not "officially" Spring yet (that happens on March 20), I've usually started to get that "Spring" feeling with the beginning of March. Weather wise you'll never know what you'll get this time of year. . . in the past week we've had 60 plus degrees, rain, snow and a tornado warning. Can't get too much more of an assortment than that! In the 35 years I've been doing this on our auction day we've had beautiful days (hardly anyone showed up) and blizzards (hardly anyone showed up) and an ice storm or two (hardly anyone showed up). The best we can hope for is a boring, chilly, gray day. We get lots of those here in Northeast Ohio, so the odds are with us. Bet you thought you'd never hear anyone wish for that

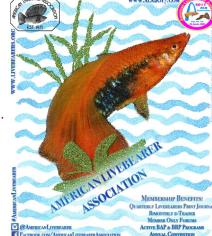
kind of weather! A good turn-out means two things to us: happy attendees (sellers do best when there are plenty of buyers and buyers have the best selection when there are plenty of sellers), and lots of sales. Not that I'm all about the money or anything, but auctions are the way clubs like this one make their living. Most of our other functions are lucky if they break even (most

lose a little bit), so if we want to be able to do things such as bringing in speakers, even renting the hall for our meetings, we need these auctions to make money. They're not cheap to do (hall rentals) or easy to accomplish. That's where you, our members come into the equation. Bring stuff in to sell you don't need anymore, buy stuff you didn't know you needed and help out where needed. It's that simple. See you there.

On to the subject of content for Tank Topics, thanks again to those who have given us articles that have allowed us to continue to produce an all membership written publication. A special thanks to Jeffrey Swanson for his first time BAP report in this issue, complete with photos! Although it was not intended, we ended up with an all cichlid is-

sue this time. I kind of like having themed issues occasionally. We've had a couple over the past year and let's start planning the next one. I've come up with the others, now it's your turn. . . any suggestions? Let me know and we'll put out the call in the next issue and see what happens.

I'll see you at the meeting and the Spring Auction!



Page 4 Tank Topics



BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

Well Phil said we are going to have six more weeks of winter, but so far we haven't had a lot of winter, so big deal, I can live with it. However I went to the first auction of the year OCA on February 11th, in shorts and a t-shirt it got up to 50°, didn't buy anything though, the few things I was interested in went for a lot more than I was willing to pay. There will be a lot more fish club auctions coming in the next few months, but the most important will be ours on Sunday March 5th at the Tallmadge Community Center, starting at 11 am until we are done. There will be lots of opportunities to obtain new species, breeder stock to work with, equipment, foods, supplies, plants, and also tanks in case you have some space in your house that doesn't have a fish tank in it.

As usual we are off to a slow start in the beginning of the year for the Breeder Award Program; we have a grand total of 9 spawns so far. The Horticultural Award Program hasn't started yet, hopefully things will pick up after the auction, and there are usually lots of live plants available. Don't forget that spawns and plant propagations can be turned in at the auction also; you do not have to wait until the monthly meetings. A quick reminder, spawns need to be verified by an active club member other than the breeder, that the breeder kept at least 6 or more fry alive 30 -90 days. Then they can either turn in a bag of at least 6 fry, write an article about the fish and how they were kept and spawned, or do a presentation at a meeting about the fish and how they were kept and spawned. When that has been done there is one more thing,

paperwork must be filled out and turned in to me to receive credit for the spawn. The spawns are added up for the year through November to determine the Breeder of the Year. All active members are eligible to participate in both Breeder Award Program and Horticultural Award Program. In case you don't know all of the rules you can download them from the club's web site or get a copy of them from me at a meeting.

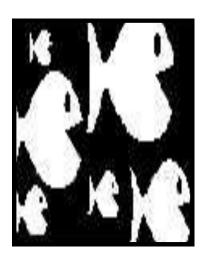
I am already working on my list of fish that are going to outdoors in my tubs this summer, some things that have not spawned in my fish room, and some that have. I am going to apply some of the knowledge that I got from our speaker Steve Brunn at our January meeting about making fry refuges to save them from being eaten by the adults. That should help in keeping more fry from my spawns so they can be spread around to even more people.

So people do those water changes, get the proper housing setups for your fish, get them in breeding condition with proper foods, and get them spawning, like they would have something better to do like kill each other off, which does happen.

One last note I have started selling class sponsorships for our annual all species show Ultra – Aqua 2017, if you are interested in sponsoring or know someone who is, please let me know. Through your support we will keep having future fish shows. In case you don't know we have the largest all species show in North American, and this is the club's 65th anniversary.

January 2017 BAP

Species	Commo	n name		Class	Points
Mike & Elsie Swanson					
Grardinus metallicus	Black ch	nin livebear	er	Livebea	rer 5
Ancistrus sp.	Super re	ed bushync	se	Catfish	20
Neolamprologus cylindricu	s			Cichlid s	s.s. 15
Rich Serva					
Caridina cantonensis	Bee shri	imp		Aq. anin	nal 10
Bud White					
Julidochromis transcriptus	Gombi			Cichlid s	s.s. 15
February					
Phil Hypes					
Carassius auratus	Shubunkin goldfish		AO spec	cies 10	
Carassius auratus	Red Sarassa comet		AO spec	cies 10	
2017 Totals	ВАР	Points	HAP	Points	
Mike & Elsie Swanson	3	40	-	-	
Phil Hypes	2	20	_	_	
Bud White	2	20	_	_	
Rich Serva	1	10	_	_	
Wayne Toven	1	5	_	_	
vvayno roven	ı	0		_	





ALL ODDBALL AQUATICS

SALES@ALLODDBALL AQUATICS.COM www.alloddballaquatics.com

KEN'S FISH

FISH FOOD AND SUPPLIES



KEN MENARD (508) 823-4043 32 4TH Ave. Taunton, MA 02780

www.kensfish.com KENM333@COMCAST.NET



<u>AQUARIUM GALLERY</u>

aquaticsuperstore.com 330.866.0559 6653 GRAFTON ROAD, VALLEY CITY, OHIO 44280

Bowl Show & Special Activities

David Girard



2017 Bowl Show Schedule

2017 is off to a good start with 8 different people participating so far. We had 21 fish entered in January and 24 in February. Last year's winner Jeff Plazak has a narrow 2 point lead after the first two months. Make sure to be on the look out at our auction on March 5th for some show quality fish you can enter into the bowl show.

January Results

Male guppies

- 1- Mike Swanson- red Moscow
- 2- Dave Williamson- double sword
- 3- Todd Zettler- red Moscow

Goldfish

- 1- Misty White- calico fantail
- 2- Dave Williamson- bubble eye
- 3- Dave Williamson- ranchu

Minnows, Danios, and Rasboras

- 1-Wayne Toven- Danio kyathit
- 2- Bill Bilski- giant Danio
- 3- Dave Williamson- Danio kerrii

February Results

Male Betta splendens

- 1- Dave Williamson- red half moon
- 2- Wayne Toven- yellow with blue
- 3- Jeff Plazak- pale crown tail

Swordtails

- 1-Jeff Plazak- red silver male
- 2- Jeff Plazak- orange lyre tail
- 3- Jeff Plazak- pale lyre tail

Characins

- 1- Don Youngkin- blue-red Columbian tetra
- 2- Jeff Plazak- candy cane tetra
- 3- Dave Williamson- blind cave tetra

re to be on time show

Annual Point Totals

Jeff Plazak	25
Dave Williamson	23
Wayne Toven	13
Don Youngkin	8
Mike Swanson	5
Misty White	5
Bill Bilski	4
Todd Zettler	4

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

RIFT LAKE AQUATICS

TROPICAL FISH, FRESHWATER & MARINE SUPPLIES and PREMIUM FISH FOODS

Jim Laco



6777 Engle Rd. Suite J Cleveland OH 44130 (216) 215-1639

email: jim@riftlakeaquatics.net www.shop.riftlakeaquatics.net

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 Page 6 Tank Topics

Exchange Report

Wayne Toven



First there have been a few reprints of club member's articles in other club publications:

In the **Eastern Iowa Aquarium Association's** January 2017 issue of Fin Flap were two articles: *Ancistrus temminckii*, by Joe Reich and Basic Tales of the Crypts, by Wayne Toven

In the **Missouri Aquarium Society's** January/ February 2017 issue of the Darter: Accidental Spawning – *Ancistrus temminckii*, by Joe Reich

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: Dec. 2016

Trip to WAKO (Wisconsin Area Killifish Organization), by Joe Doyle

This is not an Article About Breeding Mosquito Fish, by Johnathan Raviotta

Brooklyn Aquarium Society, Aquatica: Jan/Feb 2017

The Responsible Aguarist – the Ple-

The Responsible Aquarist – the Plecostomus in Florida: Part 2, by Anthony P. Kroeger

Ticto Barb, *Pethia ticto*, by Anthony P. Kroeger

Orange Eyed Blue Tiger Shrimp, by Ryan Curtis

Slow and Easy – Snails in the Aquarium, by Anthony P. Kroeger

The Practical Plant – Propagating Lobelia cardinalis, by Izzy Zwerin

Aquarium Plants for Black Thumb Aquarists, by Anthony P. Kroeger

Breeding the Butterfly Goodeid – Ameca splendens, by Joel Antkowiak

The African Shovelnose Catfish – *Parachonoglanis macrostoma*, by Sy Angelicus

King of the Corys, by Anthony P. Kroeger

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales: Jan 2017

The Bristlenose Plecostomus, by Karen Murray

The Leopard Danio – *Brachydanio frankei*, by Al Ridley

Eastern Iowa Aquarium Association, Fin Flap: Jan 2017

Spawning *Elassoma evergladei* – Everglades Pygmy Sunfish, by Dick VanHyfte

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County, Tank Tales: Jan 2017

True Rotala indica, by Michael Buchma

Geophagus Sp. "Tapajos Red Head", by Klaus Steinhaus

Missouri Aquarium Society Inc. The Darter: Jan/Feb 2017

How Safe are You? – Common Fish Room Safety Issues, by Klaus Bertich

One Cool Cat – *Scleromystax barbatus*, by Ed Millinger

Pseudosphromenus dayi & P, cupanus – the Spike Tail Paradise Fishes. Mike Hellweg

A Simple System to Spawn Chal-

lenging Fish – the Benefit of Small Tanks, by Jack Heller

Lessons From My Fish House – Balloon Guppies, by Kathy Deutsch

When is a Red Tail Goodeid Not a Red Tail Goodeid? – *Xenotoce eiseni*, no author listed

Ohio Cichlid Association, Buckeye Bulletin: Feb 2017

My Experience With *Oreochromis* esculentus, by Jonathan "Jombie" Dietrich

Albinos, Browns, & Calicos: the ABC's of Bushynose Plecos, by Dave Ayres

Eastern Iowa Aquarium Association, Fin Flap: Feb 2017

Fish Keeping Basics, by Carol Sindelar

Tropical Fish Club of Erie County, Some Things Fishy: Feb 2017

Building a Fish room – "Are You Nuts?!" by Chris Hardy

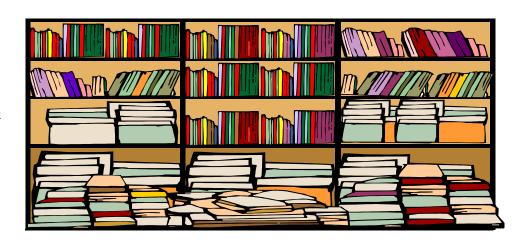
Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Feb 2017

Making Your Aquarium Water Acidic, by Charles Drew

Archocentrus spilurum (blue – eyed cichlids), by Catherine Salmon

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County, Tank Tales: Feb 2017

Corydoras sp. CW 016 – Corydoras teniente, by Don Kinyon



Page 7 Tank Topics

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 raffle drawing at the annual Christmas Party. But, you must sign in for your attendance to be recorded. We had 16 members sign-in at the January meeting, and 21 members at the February meeting, with Dave Williamson winning the door prize in February.

For those keeping track, with our meeting night moved to the second Friday of the month, we have seen a 12% increase in the number of members in attendance for the first two meetings.

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Sebastion (Butch) Smith

Mike Thorn

We would like to thank the following for renewing their memberships:

Neil Tennant

The memberships for the following people expire in March:

Pam Briggs Matt & Jessica Oravetz Lissa Harvey Lee Virden

Robert Lupton John Waczyk

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 newsletter and on our website. Forms are also available at our club functions, including our Auction.

GAAS 2017 Spring Auction

Don't

Sunday, March 5, 2017

Tallmadge Community Center

80 Community Rd. Tallmadge, Ohio

Registration Opens **Auction Begins**

Full Auction rules and flyer at: www.gaas-fish.net 10 a.m. 11 a.m.

For more information: **Bud White** (330) 571-0394 bwhite@neo.rr.com wtoven@hotmail.com riserva@gmail.com





Page 8

Labidochromis sp. "Hongi"- Super Red Top Breeding in the Aquarium

Jeffrey Swanson

The Red Top Hongi (Labidochromis), is an African cichlid from Lake Malawi. the adult males will generally reach 6 inches in length with females being around an inch smaller in size. The Male in my aguarium is around 4.5 inches with the females being around 3.5 to 4 inches. The male's phenotypic traits show anywhere from an orange to yellow forehead into the dorsal sometimes all the way down the dorsal fin. This color is also seen in some

parts of the face and caudal fin. The dominant male will be a dark blue color with very established black baring running vertically across the body. Subordinate (non-dominant) males appear a brownish purple color with no barring and very little to no color. The males will also develop false egg spots on the anal fin and back of the dorsal. Females will also appear a drabber color similar to the subordinate males. This article will contain information about how I spawned them in my aquarium.

My aquarium is a 75-gallon cichlid tank that was recently set up, the tank consists of 5 types of cichlids of pretty equal aggression creating a peaceful environment where aggression is only seen when spawning is occurring. The tank contains; *Metriaclima estherae* (Red Zebra), *Neolamprologus brichardi*, *Neolamprologus buescheri*, *Julidochromis dickfeldi*, and the *Labidochromis Hon-*



gi. The tank conditions are a temperature of 78 degrees with a slightly basic pH of around 7.4, and a hardness of around 160 ppm. The fish are fed a variety of foods consisting of spirillum, tropical flake, and baby brine shrimp, feeding takes place three times a day with smaller amounts of food. The tank consists of gravel substrate, lots of rocks, driftwood, and lots of java fern plants all over the aquarium. A picture of the aquarium is attached. The cichlids, more specifically the brichardi and the Hongi dig out the substrate underneath the rocks and will

underneath the rocks and will defend their territory. Once I have observed the **Hongi** defending a territory I generally see mating behavior shortly after.

The mating behavior consists of a dominant male and any of the apparent "females" par-

taking in a mating ritual. The males will entice the females into a spawning crevice or cave by flaring up "dancing". Once in the established cave or crevice (this case a cave) the male and female repeatedly circled each other until all the eggs are fertilized. The female holds the eggs as a maternal mouth brooder until the fry are developed and released. The approximate time for the brood to develop is 18 to 28 days. I am writing this article due to 2 failed attempts to collect 6 fry. The first time the mother released the fry into the tank and I

only had one survive. The second time, I eventually decided to strip the female after a period of 25 days for fear she would not release the fry on her own or if she did they would be eaten by other cichlids. After stripping the female I had a total of 5 fry still short of the 6 required. The picture of the fry after a period of two and a half months are also included. The fry were given a variety of food just like the adults and placed into a 10 gallon aquarium to be grown out.

Thanks for Reading!



Tank Topics Page 9

Getting Along With Jack Dempsey, Not the boxing Champ

Wayne Toven

Most of my articles lately have been on a variety of subjects, this will be the second one on cichlids in a little over a year. This was the second time I have kept Jack Dempseys, the first time I had a group of 5 young adult fish, the largest was a 6 inch male, they lived in a 75 gallon aquarium, never showed any signs of spawning or much aggression to each other, finally I sold them to a friend. The second time was this last June, when I bought a bag of 6 juveniles about 1 1/2 inches in body length at the auction on Sunday of our annual Ultra - Agua all species show. They never even made it into the fish room; they went straight to one of my 110 gallon tubs outside behind the garage. Never saw them much after that, they are kind of shy, had lots of hornwort and water lilies for cover.

The species was first described by C. Tate Regan in 1903; originally it was given the name Cichlasoma biocellatum due to the two round black spots, one in the center of the body and one at the base of the tail. They have gone through a series of name changes since then, Cichlasoma hedricki. Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum. Heros octofasciatum, and then Dr. Warren E. Burgess decided they would be named Herichthys octofasciatum, but that has since been changed to the current name being used Rocio octofasciatum. Their common name is the Jack Dempsey fish, referring to the heavyweight boxing champion of 1919, due to their perceived aggressive nature when it was first introduced to the hobby. In the wild they inhabit slow moving waters with little to no current in rivers, canals, pools, and swampy bogs on the Atlantic slope of Central America; their range goes from the Rio Coatzacoalcos in southern Mexico, south through Guatemala, the Yucatan, Honduras, to the Rio Sarstoon in Belize. In the tropical climate the waters are warm often murky and weedy, over a sandy to muddy substrate, temperatures vary

from 72° - 86° F, Ph is in the range of 6-7, and the hardness varies from 5° - 20° dH.

In the aquarium R. octofasciatum are not suitable for a community aquarium, so they should be in a species only aquarium; they can become quite aggressive if not given adequate space, if a group is to be housed to spread out the aggression a large aquarium of 75 - 100 gallon or larger should be provided. When a pair forms be ready to move them to their own aquarium or move the others out or there will be carnage. If a pair is set up for breeding they should have at least a 55 - 75 gallon aquarium with large rocks and caves with a sand substrate.

R. octofasciatum has a stocky oval shaped body; the base color for fry and young fish is light gray with a black spot in the center of the body and at the base of the tail with faint turquoise flecks. As they mature the body changes to a dark purple gray, the males body and fins will be covered with rows of small bright iridescent light to turquoise blue to greenish spots with gold flecks, females are less colorful and will have less spotting. The male's dorsal fin will have a red margin; also the dorsal and anal fins will be more pointed than the females. Males of this species can grow to around 10 inches, females will be smaller, they also have a rather long life span of 10 -15 years, so be prepared.

When spawning a hard flat surface like a rock or a log will be chosen, if there are none present the glass bottom of the aquarium is where the female will lay possibly hundreds of eggs, both parents very aggressively watch over the eggs. After the eggs hatch the parents will dig a pit in the sand into which they will move the fry, if there is something wrong in their environment or if they are disturbed there is a good possibility they will eat their fry.

Speaking of eating, R. octofasciatum are omnivorous, so a good variety of foods should be offered, live or frozen bloodworms and brine shrimp, flake, and sinking pellets. The group of 6 I put outside were fed flake food once a day by me and whatever Mother Nature added to their diet. By mid August I saw some fry swimming around so I caught a dozen of them and brought them into the fish room, they were placed into a 10 gallon aquarium with a few rocks, sand substrate, and a sponge filter. I did 25% water changes every week and a half, at just over two months of age they are closing in on an inch in size and are cute little guys. The breeders have also been brought inside at the beginning of October before the temperatures got too low for them, they are only $2\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 inches in size, but hey they spawned, must have been mature enough. Needless to say they will be moving on to someone else at out fall auction in November, or will have gone by the time you read this.

Sources:

Animal-world.com/encyclo/fresh/cichlid/Dempsey.php

Fishlore.com/profilejackdempsey.htm

Willegal.net/tropical_fish/jack-dempsey.htm

Baensch Aquarium Atlas #1 – Dr. Rudiger Riehl & Hans A. Baensch



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

Friday, March 10

Program: Chris Brachna Natives
Bowl Show:
Mollies

Suckermouth Catfish Barbs

Friday, April 14

by Wayne Toven

Bowl Show:
Female Guppies,
Photography, Corydoras,
Aspidoras & Brochis Catfish

General meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. at the Ritchie Memorial Shelter House

Coming Events

Mar. 12 – 2017 Sunday – starts at 11 am

Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society – YATFS spring auction

J.V. Johnson Community Center – 800 Gillmer Rd. Leavittsburg, Oh 44430 www.yatfs.com Mar. 12 – 2017 Sunday - starts at 11 am

Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts – CAFE spring auction

Courtyard Columbus West – 2350 Westbelt Dr. Columbus, Oh 43228 www.columbusfishclub .org Mar. 19th Sunday – starts at 11 am

Northeast Ohio Fish Club – NEOfish spring auction

Pipefitters Union Hall Local 120 – 6305 Halle Dr. Valley View, Oh 44125 www.neofish.org **Apr. 30th** – 2017 Sunday – starts at 11 am

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. – GPASI spring auction

Garden City Hall – 600 Garden City Dr. Monroeville, Pa. 15146 www.gpasi.org