



The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

Tank Topics

November/December 2017

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A *Neolamprologus leleupi* 'Firecracker' photo taken at a past Ultra-Aqua show by Dave Williamson. Find out all about the trials and tribulations of trying to spawn this species in Wayne Toven's article in this issue.

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Important Dates for 2017

March 5
Spring auction

June 10 & 11
Ultra Aqua 2017

November 5
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 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 _____

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

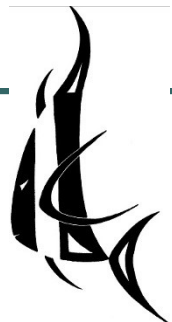
☐ New ☐ Renewal

☐ 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,

Well we had another good auction, lots of good items and people to buy them. Everything went smooth, we made money and got to see lots of friends. If you were there you know this, if not shame on you, you missed out.

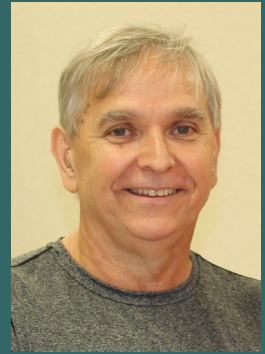
I do want to thank all of the folks from other clubs that come and support us, without them we would be

hard pressed to have the auction, THANK YOU ALL!

Don't forget, elections are at the November meeting and if you want to run for a office, you need to let Jeff Plazak or me know at the meeting.

In case you have not seen the website lately, you should look at it, it has been updated and looks good.

See ya at the meeting, Bud



Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

Well here we are again at the end of another year. This is the last issue of Tank Topics for 2017 so mostly we'll be talking about the typical end of the year stuff like the Fall Auction, annual club elections and the Christmas party. I'd always heard from the adults when I was younger that time seemed to pick up speed as you got older and I never believed it. Well now I do. It seems like it was not that long ago I did this subject the last time, but it was obviously a year ago. So without further ado, here we go in no particular order. . .

I guess I'll start with the Fall Auction since as I write this it was just yesterday! Of course we won't know the whole financial break down until the board meeting, I can honestly say we had a good auction. Maybe not quite as large as some of the other recent ones, but the good news is that we were done and back home by 8pm. I wish I could remember all the names of those who helped out. But since I can't, and in a few cases I don't even know the names, I won't list them here to avoid leaving someone out or having to use some sort of generic description to describe the person (you know, that guy with the black t-shirt who did such-and-such. . .) Just know that if you were there and helped out in some way, you were appreciated. Be it on the registration desk, the kitchen, running fish, auctioneering or even just sticking around to the bitter end for those "buzzard zone" deals it all matters and we couldn't do it without you! If by chance you missed out and

couldn't be there, never fear, you'll have another chance next March. I know I'll be there and I hope to see you as well!

Since we're on the subject of club business (the auctions pay for everything else we do), we may as well talk about the upcoming "elections". The reason that word is in quotations is that for the last few years they're not truly elections. We've had trouble finding enough members willing to take on a positions much less having more than one to choose from. The standard PSA comes into play now: This is a volunteer organization. It is only as strong as those who are willing to put forward the time and effort to make it strong. Just some food for thought, if you'd be interested in helping the organization grow and move forward, now is your chance.

On to a lighter subject, the December 8th meeting is our annual Christmas party. No formal program, just a whole bunch of food, fish talk, annual club awards, an extra-big raffle and free fish! I did mention the food, right? The club supplies the main dish and we all bring sides and/or deserts pot-luck style. Bring an appetite, if you go home from this one hungry, it was your own fault!

One last thought, it's now been a year since we've changed meeting locations and dates. I guess change is good. . .

I'll see you at the meeting!



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BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

Well officially fall is here, but with temperatures in the 70° range is it in reality really here? I guess that will be answered next week when the temperatures are in the 50s in the day and 30s – 40s at night. Anyway it will soon be time for our fall auction, Sunday November 5th; registration starts at 10 am and the auction starts at 11 am at the usual place the Tallmadge Community Center. Keep in mind the time change that Sunday morning at 2 am; you don't want to get to the auction at the wrong time. I know I will be moving on some of my breeder stock and fry to make room for some new species, or at least to make more room for species I already have.

This years Breeder of the Year and Horticulturist of the Year looks like it is going right down to the wire; there are ties for the lead in both programs, spawns and plant propagations can be turned in at the fall auction or at the monthly meeting in November. The winners will be announced and awarded plaques at the December meeting / Christmas party on Friday December 8th. Then we start fresh for 2018. For this year we are up to a grand total of 45 spawns so far, and 20 plant propagations / flowerings.



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August 2017 BAP

Species Common name Class Points

Wayne Toven

<i>Moekhausia pittieri</i>	Diamond tetra	Characins	10
<i>Barbus conchoni</i>	Glass barbs	B, M, & R	10
<i>Tanichthys micagemmae</i>	Vietnamese white cloud	B, M, & R	5
<i>Melanotaenia mccullochi</i>	Ubanangee swamp rbow	Rainbows	10
<i>Astatoreochromis alluaudi</i>		Cichlid mb	10
<i>Otopharynx ovatus</i>		Cichlid mb	10

Dave Williamson

<i>Herichthys carpintis</i>	Escondido	Cichlid ss	5
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September 2017

Mike & Elsie Swanson

<i>Corydoras aeneus</i>	Bronze Cory	Catfish	15
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Dave Williamson

<i>Xenotoca doadrioi</i>	San Marcos Goodeid	Livebearer	10
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<u>2017 Totals</u>	<u>BAP</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>HAP</u>	<u>Points</u>
Mike & Elsie Swanson	11	105	-	-
Wayne Toven	11	100	10	110
Dave Williamson	7	60	-	-
Jeffrey Swanson	6	55	10	100
Bud White	3	35	-	-
Phil Hypes	2	20	-	-
Dan McMonigle	2	20	-	-
Rich Serva	2	15	-	-
Joe Reich	1	5	-	-



Bowl Show & Special Activities

David Girard



With only one month to go in the Bowl show Dave Williamson has a big lead. It is time to start looking for fish to show in next year's bowl show so try to make to our auction November 5th and pick some nice fish raise up into next year's winners. Hope to see you all at the auction.

September Results

Goodeids

- 1-Dave Williamson-*Allotoca caterinae*
- 2-Jeff Plazak-Blue tail goodeid
- 3-Dave Williamson-*Xenotoca doadrioi*

AO New World Cichlids

- 1-Dave Williamson-*Herichthys carpintis*

Pairs

- 1-Mike & Elsie Swanson-*Pelvichromis taeniatus*
- 2-Jeff Plazak-Pepper cories
- 3-Jeff Plazak-Blue guppies

October Results

Gouramis & Anabantoids

- 1-Wayne Toven-*Betta patoti*
- 2-Dave Williamson-Female *Betta splendens*
- 3-Wayne Toven-Red shoulder paradise

AO Old World Cichlids

- 1-Dave Williamson-*Coptodon bythobates*
- 2-Wayne Toven-*Steatocranus tinanti*
- 3-Wayne Toven-*Paralabidochromis melanogenys*

Arts & Crafts

- 1-Mike & Elsie Swanson-Paper fish
- 2-Wayne Toven-Rainbow fish knife
- 3-Mike & Elsie Swanson-Paper fish



Annual Point Totals

- 1-Dave Williamson-104
- 2-Wayne Toven-81
- 3-Jeff Plazak-59
- 4-Mike & Elsie Swanson-31
- 5-Don Youngkin-22
- 6-Misty White-21
- 7-Bill Bilski-10
- 8-Jeff Swanson-6
- 9-Todd Zettler-4
- 10-Violet Borger-2
- 11-Emilie Myatt-1

2017 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



Aquarium Club of Lancaster County, Tank Tales: Sep. 2017

Nannacara taenia – Two Inch Terror, by Don Kinyon

Breaking Brachy, by Karen Haas

Ohio Cichlid Association, Buckeye Bulletin: Sep. 2017

Pelvicachromis silviae – a Colorful Dwarf Cichlid, by Anton Laboj

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Sep. 2017

Spawning the Dwarf Hoplo Again, by Charles Drew

Poecilia salvatoris, by Catherine Salmon

Missouri Aquarium Society Inc. The Darter: Sep/Oct 2017

One Man's Trash... Another Man's Treasure, an Aquarium How to, by Rick Renfro

Some Fish Tank Basics for People Who Have Never Had One, by Kathy Deutsch

Danio erythromicron – the Emerald Dwarf Danio, by Mike Hellweg

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: Aug. 2017

What I Feed My Plecostomus, by Eric Bodrock

Circle City Aquarium Club, Fancy Fins: Oct. 2017

How to Help Your Betta Feel "Betta", *Betta Splendens* 911, by Lillia Miller

How I Got into Breeding Fish, by Chris Eichrodt

Ohio Cichlid Association, Buckeye Bulletin: Oct. 2017

New *Apistogramma* Species of the Orinoco Basin, by Wolfgang Staeck

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Oct. 2017

Tanichthys albonubes (White Cloud Mountain Minnow), by Catherine Salmon

Limia nigrofasciata (Humpback Limia), by Catherine Salmon

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins and Tales: Oct. 2017

Spawning Cardinal Tetras – *Paracheirodon axelrodi*, by Robert Channen

Herichthys carpintis Escondido, by Zenin Skomorowski

Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society, Fincinnati: Sep/Oct 2017

Ophthalmotilapia ventralis – Mvuna Island, by Brandon Miner

Spawning *Lamprologus leleupi*, by Jerry Riegel

Brooklyn Aquarium Society, Aquatica: Nov/Dec 2017

A Pocketful of Pencils, an Overview of Some Popular Pencilfish – *Nannostomus* and *Nannobrycon*, by Tony Kroeger

Just "Buy" a Nose – Peter's Elephantnose *Gnathonemus petersii*, by Tony Kroeger

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society, Tropic Tank Talk: Oct. 2017

Apistogramma cacatuoides, by Bob Muller



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Membership Report

Mike Swanson



Hi Everyone,

Our fall auction is here and gone, I would like to thank everyone who attended and especially the people who stepped in to help. We had a membership drive at the auction with a special prize given out to one winner, Joe Doyle!

Since our last magazine we have had 7 memberships renewed.

John Walczyk
Joe Doyle

Douglas Singer
Will & Misty White

Dan McMonigle
William & Linda Koleszar

Gene Justice

NEW MEMBERSHIPS (WELCOME)

John Fleming

Dave Stevenson

George Hollister

Here is a list of memberships that are expiring soon. You can renew at *any* meeting, or online.

T Darrel Brown

12/01/17

Jeffrey Swanson

12/01/17

Mike & Elsie Swanson

12/01/17

Don Youngkin

01/01/18

Sebastian (Butch) Smith 01/13/18

Membership are: \$10 for 2 years (electronic subscription) (BEST VALUE) or \$10 a year for paper subscription.

Here is a list of memberships that have expired recently. If you want to check on your membership status email me, or ask me at any meeting or auction.

Matt Pidgeon

07/01/17

Nicole Youngkin

07/05/17

If you want to check on you membership status please feel free to email me, or ask me.

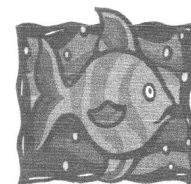
Thank You, Mike Swanson bigkid341@yahoo.com



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Those Leupy Leleupi

Wayne Toven

Over my years of fish keeping I have kept *Neolamprologus leleupi* several times, usually in a community tank. Their numbers would gradually dwindle down to a single fish, where it would live for a while, but with no others of its kind. One time several years ago a pair did spawn for me in a community tank, one measly little fry survived

the parents and the other fish. I think the main problem was the *Synodontis decorus* that was also living in the 50 gallon tank. All right enough of this, the next time I got a bag of six juveniles at an auction they were kept in a species tank. Well almost, there were 3 banjo cats that lived in the 1 inch of sand that was used for a substrate, they bury themselves with just their eyes or their mouth exposed, waiting for something to swim close enough to be inhaled. The *N. leleupi* were too big for the banjo cats to eat, so I left them in the 15 gallon tank with lots of rock caves for the *N. leleupi* to hide and hopefully spawn in. A Tetra brilliant sponge filter was used for filtration, that's the kind that suction cups to the side of the tank, doesn't take up prime bottom space in the tank. They can be



cracker *N. leleupi*, color variation is probably somewhat dependant on the foods they are eating. The darker colored variety was given a subspecies name of *Neolamprologus leleupi longior* by Staeck in 1980. If you want you can probably go to the rocky shores of Lake Tanganyika in

a single or a double sponge setup; I always use doubles to provide plenty of filtration.

They were first introduced to the hobby in 1958, but were very expensive, in the 1970s they were being commercially breed so the prices came down significantly, and they became much more common in the hobby. *N. leleupi* like hard alkaline water with a Ph around 8, at temperatures ranging from 74 -79 degrees F. Adults can reach 4 inches in length, and are relatively peaceful. Body shape is cylindrical, males tend to be slightly larger than the females, and when mature, males often develop a slight cranial hump. Coloration varies from a dull looking dark brown almost black to yellow to a beautiful orange, which is commonly known as the fire-

Africa to get some, but I opted for the easy way to get the fish, at a fish club auction, much cheaper and no shots. The six juveniles I got were between 1 1/4 - 1 3/8 inches body length, they were a bright yellow in color. Hoping to keep that bright color I fed them Brine shrimp flake and color flake, brine shrimp pellets, and frozen brine shrimp and blood worms. Over the months they grew to between 2 1/2 - 2 3/4 inches, no aggression was ever noticed, but no pairing off either. One morning when I was feeding there was a floater in the tank, the fins and tail were totally shredded, then a few days later there was another one, then another one, and yet another one. Hmmm, I thought, this could be a good thing, the two remaining ones must have

paired off, and are getting ready to spawn, sure enough after all the intruders were gone, the two were noticed hanging out in the same cave. I never witnessed nay spawning activity, but one morning during feeding I tawt I taw a puddy tat, no, it was some little clear slivers with black spots at one end, those look like eyes, alright! I got fry. Wooo Hooo!!! Suddenly I remembered the three mouths peeking out of the sand, waiting for some fry to dart by, so they can be consumed, this is not going to turn out well. The cats have to go! At least the banjo cats are easy to catch, you just look for where they are peeking out of the sand and about 2 inches behind that reach into the sand with your fingers and grab them by the body between the belly and the tail. This doesn't always work; if you get too far from the tail they can and will bend their bodies into a "U" shape and them clamp down with their pectoral fins which I learned (the hard way) do have spines and will draw blood. They were then moved too the neighboring tank, before they could eat any or at least any more fry.

N. leleupi are cave spawners, so several sites should be constructed, I used rocks and pieces of slate, that way the pair can choose one that suits them, not too big, not too small, but just right, or close enough anyway. Once the proper site has been chosen the female can lay up to 150 eggs on the roof of the cave, after fertilization the female guards and fans the eggs, which hatch in about three days, while the male defends the territory around the cave. When I first noticed the

fry they were scattered all over the bottom, the parents seemed to not even notice them; they didn't chase them or try to eat them. Good, then I don't have to siphon out the fry. I made sure the adults were well fed, since I fed the fry 3 - 4 times a day, the adults got to eat too, I crushed a small pinch of flake for the fry and left a little flake in bigger pieces to catch the eye of the adults. The fry flit about the bottom like gobies and darters do, waiting for some food to come their way.

I didn't want to disturb the pair by catching them out or by siphoning out the fry. I've been told that with some *Neolamprologus* species, if most or all of the fry suddenly go missing the adults think each other must have eaten the fry, and then of course one of the pair inevitably winds up dead. I left the fry with the adults, at three month the fry are 1/4 - 3/8 of an inch, everything is still going smoothly. The fry are starting to turn a pale opaque yellow, with three dark spots, the gut and the eyes. I am still thinking about siphoning out some fry to make sure I have enough to turn in for our BAP program, I guess I thought too long, one day I didn't see any fry. The female was in a different cave and the male was swimming around like he usually does. I wondered if they had spawned again, I kept checking and hoping, no new fry but I would occasionally catch sight of one or two fry from the first spawn darting about so a few made it. Then one morning the female was out of the cave, because she was floating dead at the surface totally shredded. I moved the

male to another tank with some Julidochromis and some Australian rainbows; he seems to be getting along just fine. The fry were now seven weeks old and 5/8" - 3/4", they almost seem lost in the 15 gallon tank, because there is a grand total of four, should have siphoned some out, and there will be no next time since the male killed the female. Next time I try *N. leleupi* I will know what to do, oh well, sometimes you gotta learn the hard way. Well I learned from my mistakes, I tried again this year 2017, again a species only tank, not even any catfish this time. I used a 40 gallon breeder; sand substrate, lots of rocks for caves, and a large Hydrosponge filter, I figured maybe more space might work a little better. I got four adults, nice yellow color, 2 - 2 1/2 inches in size they all seemed to be getting along just fine. I never saw any spawning activity or sparring going on, but I noticed that two of them were staying in one area of the tank; one in a cave guarding eggs or fry (the female) and the other (the male) patrolling the territory around the cave. This time I managed to save 8 fry (success), more than enough to turn in for the Breeder Award Program, now I can move on to some other species.

References:

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

Tanganyikan Cichlids in Their
Natural Habitat - Ad Konings

Cichlids of Lake Tanganyika -
Pierre Richard

The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

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Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

Meeting Notice

Friday, November 10

Program: Annual elections and Program: Rob Williams, also known as "Bowl Show Bob," lives in Niles, Ohio, and is a member of both The Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society and The Greater Akron Aquarium Society. Rob keeps a variety of tropical fish, but he particularly enjoys keeping *Betta splendens*, Corydoras species, and various species of gourami. Rob will be presenting his experience with keeping and breeding *B. splendens*, *B. imbellis*, and Plakat bettas. In this new presentation, "What About Bettas?—My Misunderstood Spirit Fish," Rob will cover everything from tank maintenance to genetics. He will discuss how he replicates the native environment of *B. splendens* and how he breeds them. He will show video of their behavior and will bring examples of his bettas to show off their beauty. You will not want to miss Rob's enthusiastic talk about bettas.

Bowl Show: AO Livebears, AO Egglayers, AO Catfish

Friday, December 8

Program: Annual Christmas Party!

This is a party, with award presentations for members who have participated in club activities during the year. No speaker, no bowl show, or other committees except refreshments and awards. No raffle tickets sold. Food (a lot of it, the club supplies the main course, members bring in side dishes and deserts to share), fun, fish talk, and what better time for gifts? And there will likely be a door prize or two for every member. Don't miss it.

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

Coming Events

Check out our new and improved web site at: akronfishclub.com

Nov. 17 – 19 2017
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