# The Greater A

### The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

# **Tank Topics**

March/April 2018



A view of the Sub-Tropical tank that Steve Brunn set up in a school classroom.

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November 4 Fall auction

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### THE GREATER AKRON AQUARIUM SOCIETY

**WHO ARE WE?** We are a local group of aquatic enthusiasts. Formed in 1952, the Greater Akron Aquarium Society is a non-profit, non-commercial organization. Our membership ranges from the beginning hobbyist to the advanced aquarist with many years of experience. The goals of our club are to promote the care, study, breeding and exhibition of aquarium related aquatic life and to promote interest in the aquarium hobby.

**MEETINGS:** Our meetings are held on the 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**

Well hello folks.

We have really had great weather as well as some not so great. But, it could be worse: tornado, hurricanes, mudslides, you name it. I will just stay with what we have had, things are looking good.

Went to Youngstown Aquarium Society meeting, gave a small program, shared my vast knowledge with them (that took all of 30 seconds to do) and saw lots of good friends that I have not seen in a while. Really enjoyed the visit always a pleasure to see and talk with friends, even if they don't like me (GRIN).

We have been having some great speakers at the meeting, big thanks to Steve Brunn. Last month was Brian Shrimpton nice and informative and he donated several items to the club to raffle off. Thanks Brian.

Just a reminder, the GAAS Spring Auction is coming up March 4th. We will be setting the auction Saturday March 3 at 7 pm. Come out and help with the setup, it goes a lot faster with more people. Also volunteer to help at the auction, if you need help with that see me.

Also Wayne Toven has been selling class sponsorships for the Ultra Aqua Show and last I heard he only had 14 classes left, so if you want to sponsor a class see him soon.

One more thing, just a reminder that if we have a cancellation of any kind it will be posted on the website and our Facebook page as soon as we make any decision like that due to extremely bad weather or what ever might happen.

See you 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** 

For starters, weather. Warm one day, cold and snowy the next, it's a wonder we're not all sick. Oh, that's right, as I write this I have the first cold I've had in more than two years. And no, I'm not happy about it. Oh well, as they say "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger" so maybe by next week I'll feel like doing something other than laying on the couch!

For our first order of real business, let's talk about the upcoming Spring Auction on March 4th. You'll notice that this issue is out a little earlier than usual to remind everyone about the auction. We need you there in any capacity: helpers, set-up, buyers, sellers, you name it. These events are where almost all of our operating money comes from so look at it this way: What we put into it is what we'll get out of it! In addition to the club making out, who knows what you'll find that you "just can't live without"...

Next up we had talked about doing another "themed" issue based on membership submitting a paragraph or two on a specific subject. We've done a couple in the past with decent participation so figured it was time to try again. Here's what we

came up with at the last board meeting: Memories of Long Lost Aquarium Shops. This is in no way meant to slight the existing stores (some of which help sponsor us) but it is meant to share interesting thoughts and stories about places that were here in the "hey day" of the hobby that some of our newer members may never have heard about. So start thinking about all those places you used to frequent and let the rest of us know how much fun it was! We'd like to have your submissions in by the end of end of August (for the Sept.\Oct. issue)

As for things in this issue, you'll find the second installment of Steve Brunn's article about setting up a tank in a school and it really hit a personal note with me. Talking with Steve before he had even finished the article I realized that this building, although no longer known by the same name or owned by the city of Aurora, was my elementary school. It's where I first fell in love looking at tanks (Mrs. Flood's 2nd grade classroom) and later tried my hand at it for myself as a science project (Mr. Byrnes 4th grade.) Talk about things coming full circle!

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

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### BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

Here we are in the middle of winter, at least according to both of the underground rodents we are going to have 6 more weeks of winter, well it's less than 5 now, come on spring. The first of the 2018 auctions started, OCA was Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>, picked up a couple of new things, but didn't stay long so I wouldn't buy a bunch of things I don't need or have room for just because they were in my price range. Our GAAS spring auction (notice it is a SPRING auction) will be here before you know it, Sunday March 4th starting at 11 am, which is command day, as in "march forth to the spring auction!" No worries about the time change this year as that happens the next week. So start cleaning up your fish rooms, you know all that stuff you don't use any more that is just sitting around cluttering up the house. If you are selling equipment, make sure it works, clean it up and make it look nice, people will pay more for clean nice looking items than they will for some crusty old aquarium or equipment. If you have a lot of small items bundle them up into fewer larger worthwhile items, you will get more money that way. It makes the auction run smoother and faster. I did exactly that a couple of years ago, I took a full styro bag (big bag) put in a whole bunch of items that were not junk, but simply stuff I didn't need or use anymore, it sold for \$21, much more than if I had made several smaller items.

Due to inclement weather the January meeting was cancelled so there was nothing submitted for either award programs, because no one was there. Well in February we had

an excellent speaker, Brian Shrimpton gave a talk that informed us how to save, feed, and raise the fry of fish that had spawned for us. He also had a couple of demonstrations during his talk, one on setting up a spawning and fry rearing tank, and one about building a brine shrimp hatching setup, both of which he generously donated to the club along with several other items. A big thank you goes out to Brian. Now we need to put that knowledge and all of the goodies to use for the **Breeder Award Program**, and with all of the fish club auctions coming up there will lots of new species of fish available, and all of the equipment and supplies you will need to get the fish in your fish room spawning.

### February 2018

#### **BAP**

Species	Common name	Class	<b>Points</b>
Bud White			
Poecilia obscura		Livebearer	5
Haplochromis obliquidens		Cichlid m.b.	10
Hypancistrus sp. Lower Rio Xingu		Catfish	20
Dave Williamson  Chapallichthys peraticus	S	Livebearer	10

Dawkinsia filamentosa Filamentosa barb Barb, Minnow, + 10

2018 Totals	BAP	<b>Points</b>	HAP	<b>Points</b>
Mike & Elsie Swanson	4	25	-	-
Bud White	4	45	-	-
Dave Williamson	2	20	-	-



### **ALL ODDBALL AQUATICS**

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### **Bowl Show & Special Activities**

**David Girard** 



2018 **Bowl Show** Schedule

We are off to a good start in the bowl show. Due to the January meeting being canceled we had two months of bowl shows at the February meeting. Seven members entered a total of forty-three fish. Dave Williamson is off to an early lead. Be on the lookout at the auction for some nice show fish to buy and bring in to see how they do in the bowl show.

### January

### Male guppies

- 1- Jeff Plazak- Black Moscow
- 2- Mike & Elsie Swanson- Red Moscow
- 3- Mike & Elsie Swanson- Blue Moscow Goldfish
- 1- Dave Williamson- Telescope
- 2- Dave Williamson- Comet
- 3- Dave Williamson- Ranchu

### Minnows, Danios, Rasboras

- 1- Wayne Toven- Devario aurpurpureus
- 2- Rick Borger- Leopard danio
- 3- Mike & Elsie Swanson- Giant danio

### **February**

### Domestic swordtails

- 1-Ken McGill- Pineapple female
- 2-Dave Williamson- Green painted

### Betta splendens males

- 1-Wayne Toven- Black orchid
- 2-Jeff Plazak- Red crown tail
- 3-Wayne Toven- Orange crown tail

#### Characins

- 1-Dave Williamson- Trifasciata pencilfish
- 2-Rick Borger- Emperor tetra
- 3-Jeff Plazak- Black neon tetra

### 2018 Standings

- 1- Dave Williamson-24
- 2- Wayne Toven -17
- 3- Jeff Plazak-12
- 4- Ken McGill-10
- 5- Mike & Elsie Swanson-9
- 6- Rick Borger-8
- 7- Misty White-4

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

Rift Lake Cichlids Sharks & Loaches Aquatic Invertebrates

June: no bowl show

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



This service is to read articles from other fish club's publications, and mention original articles by those clubs members that are informative and worth taking your time to read. If you would like a copy of an article mentioned below let me know and I will either email you a copy or get a hard copy to you at a monthly meeting.

### Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Dec. 2017 Corydoras Black Venezuela, by Catherine Salmon

Puntius titteya – Cherry Barbs, by Catherine Salmon

Kitchener – Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales: Jan. 2018 Road Trip – National Aquarium of Baltimore, by Zenin Skomorowski Corydoras paleatus, by Stuart Morley

### Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Jan. 2018 Spawning Corydoras knaacki, by **Charles Drew**

Adinoacara pulcher (Electric Blue Acara), by Catherine Salmon

### Eastern Iowa Aquarium Association, Fin Flap: Jan. 2018 Celebrating the First Guppy Genetics Centennial, by Mark Schmidt

### Missouri Aquarium Society Inc.

the Darter: Jan. / Feb. 2018 Central Air Supply – Not Just for the Big Guys, by Rick Renfro Converting Fluorescent Fixtures to LED, by Ed Millinger In It for the Long Haul - Keeping Long Lived Fish, by Kathy Duetsch An unexpected Romance, by Ed Millinger

The Secret is Out!! It's Live Foods, by Mike Hellwea

PVC Breeding Trap for Synodontis petricola, by Chris Smohrle

### Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc. Finformation: Jan. 2018 Building a New Stand (and Lessons Learned), by Steve Okabayashi

Ohio Cichlid Association, Buckeye Bulletin: Feb. 2018 Soliloquy on Cichlid Variation, by **Greg Steeves** 

Victorians in My Cichlid Hobby, by Lew Carbone

Today in the Fish Room – the Blackout Look (photography), by Mo Devlin

Dissecting the Hobby – Maximize Your Results at a Fish Auction, by Dan Woodland

How to Properly Bag Fish, by Kyle May

Kitchener - Waterloo Aquarium Society, Fins & Tales: Feb. 2018 Discover the Dragon Goby - Gobioides broussonnetii, by Karen Mur-

It's a Hillstream Life... Sewellia lineolata, by Karen Murray

### **Hamilton & District Aquarium So**ciety: Feb. 2018

Choosing Your Show Fish, by Peter DeSouza

Megalechis thoracata (Hoplo Catfish), by Catherine Salmon

### Aquarium Club of Lancaster

County, Tank Tales: Jan. 2018 Breeding Xenotoca doadrioi, by Joel Antkowiak

Tales from the Kribs, by Joel Antkowiak

### Aquarium Club of Lancaster

County, Tank Tales: Feb. 2018 Classic Cichlids – the Oscar, by Joel Antkowiak

A Snowball's Chance in Hell, by Joel Ankowiak

Breeding the Silver Tip Tetra, by Rich Bressler

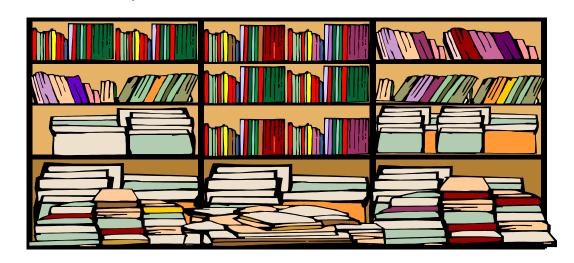
Nannostomus mortenthaleri, by Don Kinyon

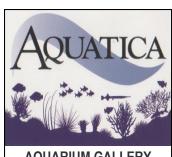
Breeding Aphyosemion celiae celiae, by Rich Bressler

### Eastern Iowa Aquarium Associa-

tion, Fin Flap: Feb. 2018 Spawning Elassoma gilberti, the Gulf Coast Pygmy Sunfish, by Dick VanHvfte

Breeding and Maintaining Nannostomus rubrocaudatus – "Purple Pencilfish", by Sal Silvestri





### AQUARIUM GALLERY

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### **Membership Report**

Mike Swanson

Hi Everyone,

I would like to thank everyone who came out for our February meeting, we had a great turn out with 33 in attendance. The double bowl show did not disappoint, it overflowed onto my whole table! I was happy to see some old friends and new faces, hope to see you all again in March at our auction!

I would like to welcome our newest member: Brandon Snopek, and our newest junior member: Violet Borger.

Her is our list of expiring memberships for March & April:

Ron & Amy Mullens Dee Bacisin Frank Myerski Todd Zettler David Harley Brian Strickland George Anagnostopoulos

Scott Mans Cathy Keiper

You can renew at the auction, meetings, or online

Thanks, Mike

# **GAAS Spring Auction 2018**

March 4, 2018

Tallmadge Community Center 80 Community Rd. Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

Registration opens 10 am Auction begins at 11 am

### For more information:

Bud White (330) 848-3856 (president@akronfishclub.com)

Wayne Toven (330) 256-7836 (baphap@akronfishclub.com)

Rich Serva (330) 650-4613 (treasurer@akronfishclub.com)



Be here or you'll never know what you missed!

Full rules available at: www.akronfishclub.com

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### A Classroom Tank Made Easy as 1, 2, 3! (part two)

by Steve Brunn

(Continued from January/February editon. . .)

To provide a quick identification guide of the livestock and plants, I made zoo-style information sheets (composed in PowerPoint) and when printed out showed a picture, the scientific name, and geographic location of each fish, snail, and plant species in the tank. It was my hope that these information sheets might prompt a few students to be curious about the organisms and to do research on their natural history. Ms. M did place these information sheets next to the tank, and I think those sheets added to the experience of the tank.

three pinches of a veggie flake, five shrimp pellets, and two pinches of dried blood worms. I had done my part to get the tank started, and now Ms. M had to do her part to keep the fish fed.

Ms. M did follow the recipe for feeding, and after 6 weeks the fish were still healthy and disease free. The 75-gallon aquarium in the science classroom
6 weeks after the subtropical makeover.

Zebra danio
Danio rerio
India

White Cloud Mountain Minnow
Tanichthys albonubes
Note: This fish is nearly extinct in the wild (China)

Blood Fin Tetra
Aphyocharax anisitsi
Paraná River drainage in Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina

A Pe

Peppered Corydoras Catfish Corydoras paleatus Paraná River drainage in Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina

Zoo-style information sheets were hung by the tank to encourage student research.

I provided minimalistic feeding instructions to Ms. M, telling her to feed the tank sparingly in the first week or two to not overload the tanks' biological filter with excessive nitrogen. I prescribed feeding once per day and only three times a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday). I also asked her to feed only a teaspoon of food at each feeding. I further prescribed that the teaspoon would contain the following mixture: three pinches of a basic flake food,

I came back to the school in early October to do the first (>25%) water change, and the water quality was by all appearances very clear and in good condition. The Najas grass had grown into a dense floating grove with roots hanging down nearly to the tank bottom. The other plants (Anubias and Java fern) had not grown noticeably taller in the past month, but

they were stable, healthy, and showing signs of lateral growth. There were a few fish losses. In particular the bloodfin tetras were down in number; however, I was pleased that most of the fish were doing well. At this point I asked Ms. M to begin feeding the same amount but to now feed once daily. The fish were looking fine, but after speaking with Ms. M, I learned that she was, on some days, too busy to remember to feed the fish. With the revised instruction

to feed every day, she thought that she or a few responsible students could get the daily feedings accomplished.

This subtropical setup worked because of the hardiness of the fish and the ease of purchasing them over 1 day of shopping. The plants and LED lighting also proved to be a contributing factor to the health of the fish and the appearance of the tank. The subtropical fish also benefited from the high oxygen content provided by air-driven box filter and air stone. Ms. M mentioned that she and the students liked the white noise produced by the filters, which was a benefit that I had not thought would be noticed or appreciated by the students. I attribute the ultimate success of this subtropical setup to the welcoming attitude of Ms. M and to her attention to detail in feeding the fish sparing amounts. At my urging, she also stood firm and rejected offers from students who wished to add more fish to the tank. By keeping the numbers of fish rather low, the water quality could remain high.

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If I had to do it again, I would have purchased the fish about 2 weeks prior to transferring them to the classroom tank. This would have reduced the stress on the fish and would have provided a period of quarantine for the overall fish community. I was taking a gamble by transferring the fish so quickly over 3 days, and I was lucky that none of the fish carried a contagious disease into the tank, which would have been a regrettable setback.

Because of my established volunteer relationship with this particular school, I was fortunate to play a part in making this subtropical aquarium a success for the students' enjoyment and inquiry in the 2017-2018 academic year. The school's principal also knew and trusted me because of my daughter's passage through the school 7 years earlier. However, I believe that any experienced tropical fish hobbyist, without a prior relationship to a local school, could also approach their local school's principal (or science teacher) with a similar proposal—to let them know that you are experienced and interested in assisting with the setup and monthly maintenance of a fish tank—and it is likely that such an inquiry would produce a similar relationship that would pay off for both the hobbyist and the students alike.



**Reference:** Monks N. August 2007. The Subtropical Aquarium: A Cooler Kind of Fishkeeping. *Tropical Fish Hobbyist*. LV(12)#617. pp110-117.

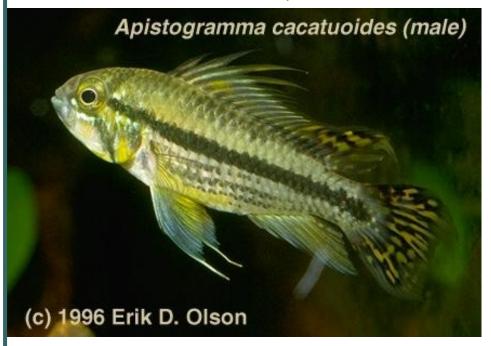
### **Breeding Apistogrammas**

by Todd Zettler

I bid on a bag of *Apistogramma cacatoides* and there were a trio of fish in the bag. I won the bid. These South American Dwarf Cichlids were no longer than 1-1/2 inches.

I bought these cichlids at Greater Pittsburg's auction last fall in Monroeville, Pennsylvania. I placed them in a ten gallon tank and the following morning there were a total of eight fry in the aquarium.

These fish bred extremely well for me, however they were not a pretty fish at all. The *Apistogrammas* were sort of a drabby color. The water was extremely hard and I was surprised the dwarf cichlids bred so easily.



### New design club shirts are now available!



### The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

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### Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

## **Meeting Notice**

### Friday, March 9

**Program:** Ohio Fish Rescue is a sanctuary for large and humongous fish that have outgrown their original owner's tanks. Ohio Fish Rescue is the big idea of Big Rich Price of Strongsville, Ohio. His presentation will be a recounting of a cross-country trip to Washington State, and from there he rescued 19 whopper fishes and safely brought them to Ohio.

### **Bowl Show:**

Mollies, Barbs, Suckermouth Catfish

### Friday, April 13

**Program:** In his talk "Getting Ahead in BAP," Mr. Joe Doyle will review how to spawn several species of difficult fish, discuss challenges faced, and present his bucket list of fish to successfully spawn and raise. The discussion will include breeding *Betta macrostoma*, Whiptails, Bumblebee Goby, and others, including saltwater fish species.

#### **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. 11 – 2018** 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. 11 – 2018** 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. 18, 2018 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. 8 - 2018** Sunday – registration 10:00am auction 11:00am

### **Erie Aquarium Society Auction**

Perry Highway Social Hall, 8281 Oliver Rd., Erie, PA 16565 http:// erieaquariumsociety.com/ auctionclassifieds.html