



Tank Topics

January/February 2019

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A male tiger endler's livebearer. Learn all about the namesake of this interesting but often maligned little fish in Steve Brunn's article in this issue.

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Important Dates for 2018

March 3
Spring auction

June 8 & 9
Ultra Aqua 2019

November 3
Fall auction

Check out our website: www.akronfishclub.com

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

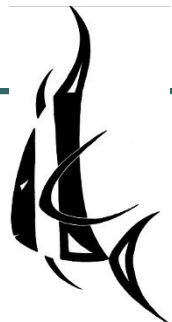
New Renewal

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

Bud White

Happy New year folks

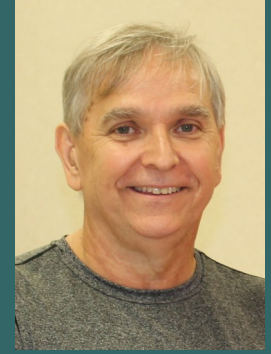
The Christmas party was a success and everyone had a great time, we all got to take home some fish, had a great raffle and a lot of great food, if you missed it then you lost out, better luck next time.

Steve has some great speakers lined up for the new year and is still talking to

others, I think he did a great job last year and hope he plans to stay with us, we need people like him.

Our next big item will be the auction in march, that is March 3rd, so get things ready to bring and come and enjoy another club activity.

See you at the meeting,



Editor's Message

Dave Williamson

For starters this time around, here's hoping that everyone had a good holiday season, no matter which holidays you choose to celebrate! On a personal note mine were a little lacking in the "festivity" department due to the fact of losing my dad on December first. It just put a damper on everything mainly because since it happened I've pretty much been spending every available minute cleaning up the giant mess he left behind. Here's a PSA for all my fish head friends out there. . . If you have a hoarder in your life do whatever it takes to try to get them some help so you can avoid what I've been going through. My garage is full, my basement looks like a bomb went off in it and we're only about halfway through. Oh well, it is what it is and we'll make the best of it.

Due to what I've just related, it should come as no surprise that I used our old format for Tank Topics rather than me having the time to put together a new version like I had planned. Sorry about that, but at least this way it's done and out on time for our next meeting. I'll be honest, it doesn't look real good for the next issue either. Eventually things will get back to "normal" whatever that is, but I'm sure it doesn't include multiple boxes of stuff from the 80's and 90's to go through. And that's a good thing as

Martha would say!

OK, on to happier subjects: you'll notice that on our front cover there are the dates for our events this year, put them on your calendars and let all your fish-geek friends know. Seriously, spread the word anyplace you see fit in print or online. Clubs like ours have been having a little issue with their communication skills lately. When I was looking for dates to put into our coming events calendar you'd be surprised on how many clubs haven't updated anything since last Fall. It's all about staying current if you want support for events.

Well although we're in the dead of Winter right now, even though it hasn't really felt like it (which is quite alright with me!) try to not let the Winter blues get you down. You can always go hang out in the fish room, it's warm in there!

I'll see you at the meeting!



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BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

We're starting fresh for the year 2019, because that's when the BAP & HAP year begins in December 2018 and it runs through November 2019. We had a slightly down year in 2018, we fell short of 2017's totals by 5 spawns, but the 2018 Horticultural program had 2 more submissions than 2017 did. Let's see if we can't improve on that, we had two spawns turned in at the December meeting/Christmas party and one plant propagation turned in, it's a start, now we need to keep it going.

For the year 2018 our **Breeders of the Year** were Mike & Elsie Swanson, **Horticulturist of the Year** was Wayne Toven, and the **Bowl Show Champion** was Jeff Plazak. We already have a start towards 2019's awards, let's beat last year's totals, and get those fish spawning!!

November 2018

BAP

Species	Common name	Class	Points
Wayne Toven			
<i>Herichthys carpintis</i>	Texas Cichlid	Cichlid substrate	5
<i>Tahuantinsuyoa macanzatza</i>	Inca stonefish	Cichlid substrate	10
<i>Cichlasoma dimerus</i>		Cichlid substrate	10

Dave Williamson

<i>Adinoacara rivulatus</i>	Green terror	Cichlid substrate	5
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HAP

Rob Williams

<i>Lemna minor</i>	Duckweed	A – vegetative	5
<i>Microsorium pteropus</i>	Java fern	B – vegetative	10

2018 Totals

	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
Mike & Elsie Swanson	14	130	4	45
Dave Williamson	9	85	4	60
Wayne Toven	7	65	9	85
Will & Misty White	4	40	3	30
Bud White	3	35	0	0
Rich Serva	2	10	0	0
Bill Bilski	1	5	0	0
Steve Brunn	1	5	0	0
Jeremy Harsh	1	20	0	0
Dan McMonigle	0	0	1	10
Rob Williams	0	0	2	15

December 2018

Species	Common name	Class	Points
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BAP

Rich Serva

<i>Skiffia francesae</i>	Golden splitfin	Livebearer	10
<i>Chapalichthys peraticus</i>	Spotted goodeid	Livebearer	10

HAP

Rich Serva

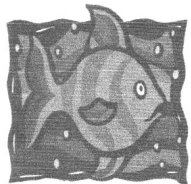
<i>Bolbitis heudelotii</i>	African water fern	B – vegetative	10
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2019 Totals

	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
Rich Serva	2	20	1	10

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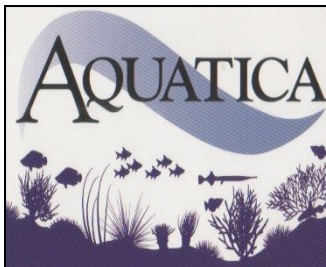


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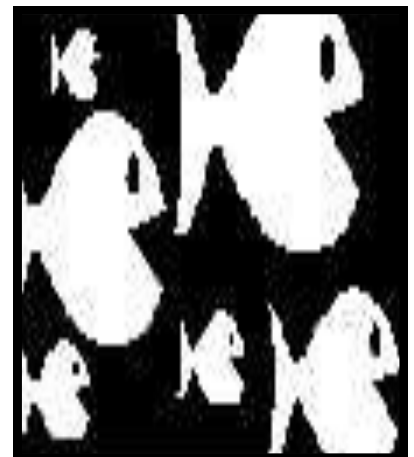
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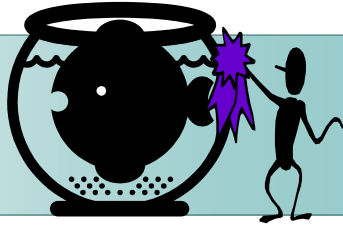
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Bowl Show Report

Bowl Show Bob Williams



Hey guys! Happy New Year to everyone. I hope everyone had a great holiday season. With the new year comes a new bowl show, and I'm excited to have the opportunity to be the new Bowl Show Chairman. I hope everyone likes the new bowl show for 2019. Mr. Girard has done a wonderful job with the bowl show, so I know I've got some large shoes to fill!

January's bowl show will feature Goldfish. These coldwater, 7.0 to 7.8 pH loving fish have been in the hobby since the hobby was a hobby pretty much. I'm pretty sure everyone has had a goldfish or 2 at some point in their hobby, and many of you probably have an awesome looking Fantail, or comet in your pond or fish room now. Goldfish have awesome personalities, and can even recognize their human parents. It's not uncommon for a goldfish to live between 15, and 20 yrs. They truly become a family pet. I can't wait to see the gorgeous Goldfish that make it to the bowl show.

Our category 2 fish for the month are Guppies, and Endlers. Endlers, often seen in pet shops sold as feeders are unfortunately facing extinction in the wild due to habitat loss as more and more land is being set aside, and used for cattle farming, as well as urban and industrial development. I have a few tanks I keep set aside just for Endlers. They come in lots of different varieties, from the traditional Tiger Enderl, to the Blue Star Enderl, they are very striking when kept in a planted tank. Be careful what you keep them with, as they can become a quick meal for larger fish, and if kept with guppies, they will breed together.

Guppies are sharing this category with the Endlers, as they are from the same family, and are very closely related. If you have 2 guppies, you have 2,000 Guppies. A pair of guppies were the 2nd kind of fish I tried keeping when I was 9 yrs old. They're so fun. Especially if you're into breeding fish, it's always fun to get some pretty guppies, and try breeding them, and pulling for different colors and strains of guppy. They're like a canvas just waiting for you to have fun with. They also make great accent fish for show tanks with their awesome tails. They're definitely a great beginner fish if you want to get your children into the hobby.

Last but not least, we have a bowl show staple. the ever famous Arts and Crafts category. Show us your creativity with your favorite homemade aquarium, or fish related arts and craft. Anything goes, from a blanket, pillow, sculpture, or craft. This is a fun category that lets everyone show off their creativity. I've added a few variations of this category coming up in future bowl shows, so make sure your entrant does not fit one of those upcoming categories listed above.

It's going to be an exciting year for the bowl show, and I can't wait to see what everyone's got!!! Remember, the bowl show is great practice for you, as well as the fish in preparation for our awesome Ultra Aqua Show and Auction. I'll see everyone Friday. Remember, front sided bowls or tanks, check in with me to get registered for the fun! Bring your best, and be your best!

2019 Bowl Show Schedule

January:

Guppies/Endler's
Goldfish
Arts & Crafts

February:

Amphibians
Invertebrates
Favorite Breeding Pair (sexable)

March:

Fish Family Mollies
Homemade Aquarium Decoration
Fish Photography (individual fish)

April:

Bettas
Gouramis
Non-Suckermouth Catfish

May:

Suckermouth Catfish
African Cichlids
Platies/Variatus

June:

Native Fish
Homemade Aquarium Equipment
South American Cichlids

July

Loaches
Sharks
Mollies

August:

Rainbowfish
Tetras/Characins
Killifish

September:

Danios/Minnnows
Rasboras
Swordtails

October:

Aquascape Challenge
All Other Livebearers
All Other Egglayers

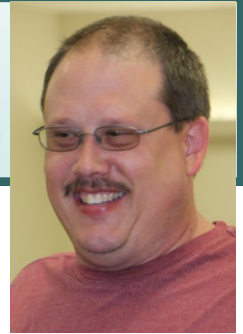
November:

Any Live Plant
Aquarium Photography
(show us your whole tank)
Schooling fish group of 6

December: no bowl show

Membership Report

Mike Swanson



Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a great holiday season, I enjoyed our December meeting with lots of food and good friends. I had a lot of fun. I really liked Joe Doyle's Hill Stream Loach cake! I hope you all enjoyed yourselves as well. We all got a few things to take home too.

I would like to welcome our new members:

Joshua Swanson

Ty Hunsicker

Daniel Jebaraj

Becky Ballard

And a "Thank you" to our renewals:

John Tesar

Ron & Amy Mullins

Ralph Grammer

We have a few memberships expiring in January and February:

Neil Tennant

Mike Thorn

Ray Weaver

You can renew at any club event or on-line.

Thanks,
Mike Swanson

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Exchange Report



Wayne Toven

First of all there was a reprint of Joe Doyle's article *Pterapogon kauderni* (*Bangai cardinalfish*) in the Circle City Aquarium Club's Oct.2018 issue of Fancy Fins.

Circle City Aquarium Club, Fancy Fins: Oct 2018

Breeding Microgeophagus ramirezi, by John Stoller

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society, SWAM: Nov/Dec 2018

Black Prince Goodeid, Characodon audax, by Chase Klinestecker

Macropodus opercularis – the Paradisefish, by Mike Hellweg

Tropical Fish Club of Erie County, Some Things Fishy:

Sewellia lineolata – Tiger Hillstream Loach, by Joe Doyle

Missouri Aquarium Society Inc. The Darter: Dec 2018

Preparing & Bagging Fish for an Auction – a Checklist, by Holly Paoni

Fish of Interest From Our St. Francis River Collecting Expedition, by Robert A. Hrabik

Corydoras pygmaeus – the Pygmy Cory, by Mike Hellweg

Quarantine and Fish First – Aid Kits, by Holly Paoni

Propagating Bucephalandra, by Holly Paoni

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society: Dec 2018

African Cichlids – Stripping Females, Fry, & Tumblers, by Larry Johnson



Christmas Party 2018

Photos by Steve Brunn

The GAAS Christmas Party 2018, with over 40 attendees, was a great success.



2018 Bowl Show champ, Jeff Palzak.

2018 Bowl Show Standings

- Jeff Plazak-113
- Dave Williamson-99
- Mike & Elsie Swanson-31
- Will & Misty White-29
- Wayne Toven-25
- Ken McGill-13
- Madison Shaw-10
- Rik & Dana Borger-10
- Emilie Myatt-5
- Jeremy Harsh-5
- Brandon Snopek-2
- Rob Williams-2



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Elsie and Mike Swanson won top BAP honors.



Everyone got a ticket and a chance to win.



Wayne Toven won 2018 the HAP award.



Emilie and Travis show off their Christmas Party raffle winnings.



Joe Doyle's cake made a big splash!

A good time was had by all!

Five Fun Facts About Dr. John Endler

by Steve Brunn

Photos courtesy of Elsie Swanson

We hear "Endler's livebearer" (*Poecilia wingei*) multiple times during our spring and fall tropical fish auctions—and you have probably made a bid on a bag full of them—but did you know that the trade namesake of those brightly colored fish, Dr. John Endler, is still actively publishing his research on the reproductive behavior the guppy (*Poecilia reticulata*)? Did you know that he also conducts research on the breeding behavior of birds in Australia? Dr. Endler's professional life has many facets, and five fun facts rise to the top, but to fully appreciate the fun facts, we first need a thumbnail sketch from his academic and research history.

Dr. Endler was born in 1947, in Canada, and studied biology as an undergraduate student at the University of California, Berkeley [1]. He went on to earn his Doctor of Philosophy in zoology at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland (1972) [2], and later did postdoctoral research at Princeton University [1]. He held a series of professorships, including appointments at University of California, Santa Barbara; University of Exeter, United Kingdom [3]; and James Cook University of North Queensland, Australia [4]. Since 2010, Dr. Endler has been Professor of Sensory Ecology and Evolution at the Centre for Integrative Ecology, School of Life and Environmental Sciences at Deakin University in Geelong, Victoria, Australia. At Deakin University, he is Alfred Deakin Professor, which is Deakin University's highest academic honor [2]. He is regarded as a pioneering evolutionary ecologist with world-wide recognition for his research.

Regarding his relationship with Endler's livebearer, *P. wingei* (not

formally described until 2005 [5]) was not initially discovered by Dr. Endler. *P. wingei* was discovered first by Franklyn F. Bond in 1937 in the Cumaná region of northeastern Venezuela [6]. In 1975, while studying guppy (*P. reticulata*) behavior in Venezuela, Dr. Endler rediscovered *P. wingei*, which was known simply as the "Cumaná guppy" at that time [6]. "Endler's attempts at crossing this form with guppies from nearby populations resulted in few hybrid offspring, and he suspected them to be a species distinct from the guppy" [6]. As the story goes, Dr. Endler passed live specimens of the Cuma-



ná guppy to a friend and eventually these specimens went to hobbyists in Europe and the United States, where the trade name "Endler's livebearer" was promoted and has become recognized globally [7,8].

Now to the five fun facts about Dr. Endler:

Fact 1: Dr. Endler was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of

Science in 2012. The primary selection criterion to be a fellow of this prestigious group of scientists is scientific excellence based on a single ground-breaking contribution to science. From

his citation at the year of his election, Dr. Endler had multiple contributions to evolutionary biology and he was a pioneer in a new field of sensory ecology: "His experimental evolution studies of sexual seduction and natural selection on colour patterns of guppies were groundbreaking, and his demonstration of the modes and strength of selection in the wild has spawned a generation of research into selection in natural populations" [9]. You can also see a picture of Dr. Endler on the website of the Australian Academy of Science [9].

Fact 2: A big influence in his life was Perry Mason. Yes, that is right, the fictional California lawyer, Perry Ma-

son (Perry Mason the television series from 1957 to 1966), who questioned everything and thought outside the box. In a 2012 interview, Dr. Endler revealed that a strong influence on his intellectual development was Erle Stanley Gardner, the creator of the fictional character Perry Mason. In the interview, Dr. Endler noted that the influence came from "Perry Mason's insistence upon considering alternative hypotheses and

getting at the truth regardless of what was commonly assumed" [1]. He further revealed in the interview that his students call him a "why monster" because of his persistence in asking "why?" to his students' answers.

Fact 3: There's a website that demonstrates Dr. Endler's major evolutionary discovery [10, 11]. In the 1970s, Dr. Endler was studying wild guppies in Trinidad and he noticed that there was a wide variation among guppies from different streams as well as in different parts of the same stream. Based on his observations of the guppies, their predators, and the color of the substrate, Dr. Endler formed a hypothesis that would account for the variation in color of the male guppies. The PBS website models and demonstrates his hypotheses, with the conclusion being that "the opposing forces of predation and sexual selection are forever pushing the guppy coloration in opposite directions" [10].

Fact 4: Dr. Endler's most recent biologic discovery is that Australia's male Great Bowerbirds create a "false visual perspective" when they build their bowers to attract females [4, 12]. When Dr. Endler went to Australia, one of the attractions for him was to study the courtship behavior of bowerbirds. He wanted to learn "how the visual design of bowerbird bowers work, how it is made by the birds, and what is its function" [4]. Dr. Endler concluded that male birds that built bowers with more effective false visual perspective were more successful at mating [4]. Reflecting on this in his 2012 interview, he said, "the common theme in my research has always been: why do animals look the way they do; what causes biodiversity?" [1].

Fact 5: Dr. Endler is still going strong with his research with guppies. In the summer of 2018, at the age of 71, he authored a research article about the effects of male guppy past mating experiences [13]. In this recent experiment, he used male *P. reticulata* to investigate how they changed their sexual behavior after experiencing high or low mating success. He found that when guppy males experi-

enced high mating success

with receptive females, then they decreased their courtship displays but increased the frequency of their sneaky mating behavior. On the other hand, guppy males that were rejected by nonreceptive females then showed an increase in courtship and a decrease in sneaky behavior. His research also found that mating history also influenced male choosiness; that is, successful males showed a stronger preference for larger females than did unsuccessful males [13].

Armed with these fun facts about Dr. Ender, the next time you are at a tropical fish auction and you hear "Endler's livebearer," you will not only bid on the fish but also admire the scientist.

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Selected websites:

Guppy Evolution. <http://www.guppyevolution.org>

The Guppy Project. <https://theguppyproject.weebly.com>

The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

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Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

Meeting Notice

Friday, January 11

Program: Brian Zimmerman, originally from Northeast Ohio, is an expert on Ohio's native fishes. In 2003 he started his business, Zimmerman's Fish (www.zimmermansfish.com), and he spends the summer months working on projects for The Ohio State University and Ohio Division of Wildlife that deal with the distribution and conservation of Ohio's rare and endangered fish species. Brian will be sharing his knowledge of Ohio's native fishes.

Bowl Show: Guppies/Endler's, Goldfish, Arts & Crafts

Friday, February 8

Program: Brian Shrimpton is an active member of the Northeast Ohio Fish Club (NEOfish), and he will once again present his experiences in the hobby to GAAS. For our February program, Brian will be speaking about the use and care of aquatic plants.

Bowl Show: Amphibians, Invertebrates,
Favorite Breeding Pair (sexable)

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

Coming Events

Jan. 20 – 2019 Sunday
– Noon to 3:00 pm

Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts – CAFE Swap Meet

Sawmill Lanes – 4825
Sawmill Rd. Columbus,
Oh 43235
www.columbusfishclub.org

Feb. 2 – 2019 Saturday -
starts at 11:00 am

Michigan Cichlid Asso- ciation Auction

UFCW Local 876 – Mad-
ison Place 876 Horace
Brown Drive Madison
Height, MI 48071 [http://
michigancichlid.com/
auction-information/](http://michigancichlid.com/auction-information/)

Feb. 9 - 2019 Saturday -
starts at 11 am

Ohio Cichlid Associa- tion - OCA winter auc- tion

Holiday Inn – 15471
Royalton Rd. Strongsville,
Oh 44136
www.ohiocichlid.com

Feb. 16 – 2019 Saturday
– starts at 10:30 am

Motor City Aquarium Society – MCAS spring auction

876 Horace Brown Dr.
Madison Heights, Mi.
48071
[www.motorcityaquarium
society.com](http://www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com)