



GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB TANK NOTES

OCTOBER 2014 - DECEMBER 2014

ISSUE 66

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GVAC FALL AUCTION OCTOBER 25

Everyone is welcome and you don't have to be a club member to buy or sell!

Location: Home School Bulding Gym
5625 Burlingame Ave SW
Wyoming, MI 49509

Registration: 9:30 AM – 11 AM

Auction: Starts at 11 AM, Ends when all items are sold!

Rules: Go to the website (www.grandvalleyaquariumclub.org) under the "Auction Rules" tab.

Bag Limit: Each seller may sell up to 50 bags total.

Buy It Now: Table open 9 AM – 12:30 PM

Preregister: Contact Roger Miller for seller code: miller.roger@att.net



Photo by Cyndi Westra
Black Zambian Calvus and Blue Neon Frontosa



Photo by Ken Zeedyk
Bichir Fry

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer and Pond season sure ended in a hurry, almost overnight! I hope everyone got their fish in, in time. The end of summer / pond season, brings with it; the busy time in the hobby! It's auction time, many clubs around the area have started their fall auctions and swap meets, and many more are coming up. I went to the Greater Chicago Cichlid Association swap meet, and Michiana's Fall Auction already. Check the upcoming events column in the newsletter for more events, if you've never attended another club's event I encourage you to check one out. It's a great way to meet fellow hobbyists, and get some new / different fish than what's available in our local club, and to meet people with similar interests.

So as we enter the final quarter of 2014, a few notes. First GVAC's Christmas Party will be held at the Grand Rapids Firefighters Hall, (1930 Fuller Ave NE), this will be on our regular meeting night, Dec. 13th. Second, in January GVAC Meetings will move to the Home School Building, (5625 Burlingame SW), this is the same location we currently use for our auctions. I should also mention November's meeting will be the final turn in for BAP & HAP for 2014, it will also be elections for your 2015 GVAC Board.

This year has turned out to be another banner year for GVAC, and 2015 looks just as good if not better. Your board has authorized some great speaker's, (Gary Lange, Mo Devlin, Dale Ernst, Steve Edie, Elizabeth Marcio), just to name drop a little. Next year also brings us a larger meeting space; which will allow us to do bowl shows at the meetings, and have a little more elbow room during the meetings.

Please remember GVAC is your club, if there's an event or speaker you'd like to see, please bring it up

to board member. Donating your time and energy to the club helps to make us what we are, a fantastic club! Participation in HAP, BAP, C.A.R.E.S., writing articles, turning in photo's, and participation in the many club events and programs we sponsor, helps both the hobbyist and the club.

Best Fishes,
Mike Monje

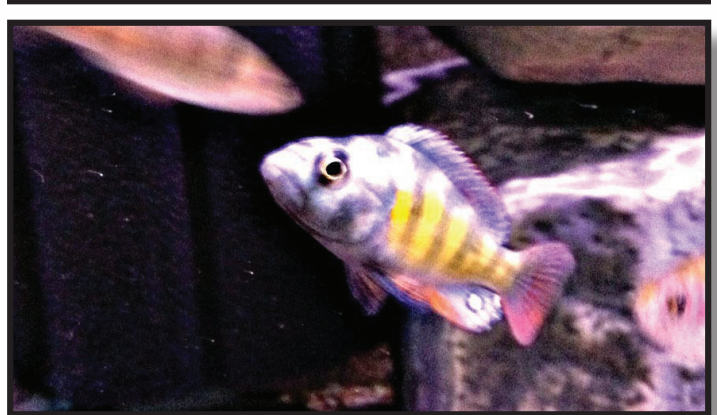


Photo by Mike Monje
Haplichromis sp. 44 "Thickskin"



Photo by John Schafer
Cyrtocara moorii

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT GVAC:

Blue Fish Aquarium
Preuss Pets
Aquarium Services
ADG/Aqua Design Amano USA
Amazonas Magazine
Aquatic Gardeners Association -
Karen Randall
Aquamaid Supplies
Boyd Enterprises
Cichlid Press
CichlidBreeding.com

Doctors Foster & Smith
Florida Aquatic Nurseries
Hagen
HBH Pet Products
Hikari USA
Kordon - Novalek
Marineland
OddballFish.com
Ocean Star International
Penn Plax
Pet Supplies Plus

Pet Connection
Python Products
Repashy Superfoods
San Francisco Bay Brand
Seachem Laboratories, Inc.
SpectraPure
Ted's Fishroom
Tetra
TFH - Tropical Fish Hobbyist
Wardley - A Hartz Company
Zoo Med Laboratories, Inc.

FISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- October 4 - 5:** SWMAS Fall Workshop & Auction
Ken Krum Center
E Clay St, Schoolcraft, MI 49087
Registration 9:30am—Auction 11am
www.swmas.org
- October 5:** Greenwater Aquarist Society
Fall Auction
Apollo Recreation Center
12521 S. Kostner, Alsip, IL 60803
Registration 9:30am—Auction 11am
www.gwasoc.org
- October 11:** GVAC Meeting
Speaker: Mike Hellweg
Meet the Wild Betta Species
- GDAS Fall auction
Good Sheppard Lutheran Church
814 North Campbell Road,
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Registration 9:30am—Auction 11am
www.greaterdetroitaquariumsociety.org
- October 18:** MCA Fall Auction
Madison Place
876 Horace Brown Dr, Madison Heights, MI
Registration 9am—Auction 11am
www.michigancichlid.com
- October 25:** GVAC Fall Auction
Home School Building
5625 Burlingame SW Wyoming, MI 49509
Registration 9:30am—Auction 11am
- November 8:** GVAC Meeting
Topic: Iron Aquascaper
- November 8 MCAS Fall Auction
Madison Place
876 Horace Brown Dr, Madison Heights, MI
Registration 9am—Auction 10:30am
www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com
- November 20-23:** OCA Extravaganza
Holiday Inn Strongsville
www.ohiocichlid.com
- December 7:** GCCA Swap Meet
4400 Frontage Rd Hillside, IL 60162
10am—2pm
www.gcca.net
- December 13:** Awards Party
Location: Grand Rapids Firefighter's Hall

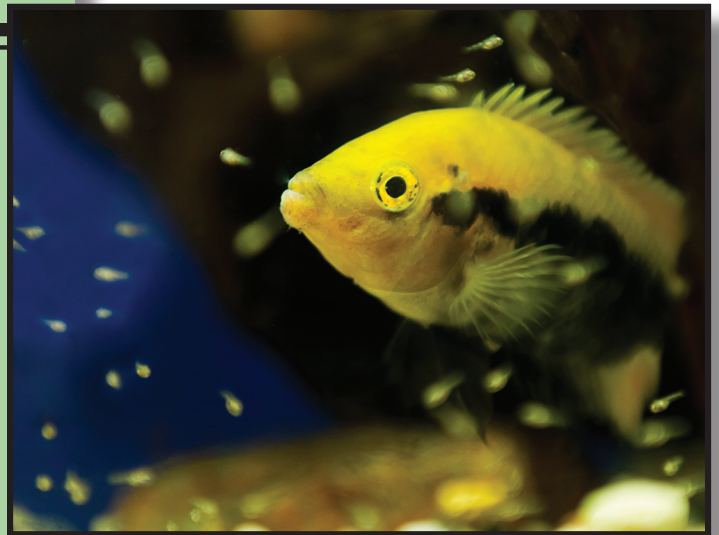


Photo by Shealyn Sarns

Herotilapia multispinosa (Rainbow Cichlid) with her fry.

FROM THE EDITOR:

As you all know from the last issue of the GVAC Tank Notes, I am your new editor! Just thought that I would give a bit of my background and the future outlook for this newsletter.

My name is Shealyn (“Shea”) Sarns, otherwise known as the wife of the club’s vice president, Justin Sarns. Outside of the fish hobby, I graduated in 2013 from GVSU double majoring in graphic design and photography and now work as a graphic designer at SpartanNash (formerly Spartan Stores).

I’m looking forward to using my skills within the newsletter and have plenty of ideas that you will hopefully be seeing soon (hope you all like the new look)! One that you will see is the addition of a “C.A.R.E.S. Corner.” With the club’s increasing participation in this program, I’m hoping to be able to highlight member involvement with this new section. Overall, I’m aiming to add features that show not only some of the things that our club is doing as a whole (i.e. C.A.R.E.S., auctions, etc.) but to also showcase a wide variety of our members and everyone’s unique involvement in the hobby, whether you have one tank or one hundred tanks!

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or would like to submit anything for the next issue, please feel free to email me at 4tendesign@gmail.com.

AN EASY RED PLANT?

By Mike Monje

As long as I've been involved in the aquarium hobby Ludwigia repens, (Red Ludwigia), has been a popular plant. There's quite a few good reasons that this plant has remained very popular. Ludwigia repens is probably the easiest red plant to grow, in fact it's probably the easiest stem plant to grow.

Temperature: Ludwigia will survive from 60F to 80F, it does best in mid 70's F.

pH: Ludwigia will survive from 5 thru 8, thrives between 6.8 and 7.4.

Lighting: Again Ludwigia is very forgiving anything from 1.5 watts per gallon thru 3.5 watts per gallon.

Growth: given good conditions very fast, slower growth at the extremes, but doesn't decline.

Ludwigia is also very versatile when it comes to placement in the aquarium. Planted along the sides or

the back, one can just let it grow. Ludwigia will grow up to the surface, then start across the surface of the water. When Ludwigia grows along the surface of the water, (emersed growth), it will develop many side shoots, creating a fry sanctuary. If trimmed, the tops can be replanted, removing the original stem, keeping a neat appearance as a single stem plant. Otherwise if the hobbyist's chooses to, they can leave the original stem and many side shoots will appear giving the plant a shrub-like appearance.

Pruning, and planting schemes aren't the only ways to alter the look of this plant. By adding Iron heavy micronutrients, (Seachem's Flourish), one can greatly increase the red coloration throughout the plant. I've also heard reports that by altering the lighting, changing to 9325K plant bulbs, increases the red coloration, though I've never personally tried this.

If you're looking to add some color to your planted tank, I cannot recommend or find an easier plant to accomplish it than Ludwigia repens. If you've never really tried live plants in your tanks I highly recommend Ludwigia repens as a place to start. Because this is a fairly easy plant, that has been in the hobby for a long time, it is easy to find and very affordable.

WHY KEEP FISH?

By Justin Sarns

All of us in the hobby have faced this question at one point or another. For me it seems to occur when I have a friend or co-worker over for the first time. Each of us has different reasons for why we came into the hobby. For me it arose out of stress. I was in a very unhealthy relationship and I was trying to find something that would help relax me and give me something to call my own. I had always loved fish and a trip to Blue Fish made me realize how many types of fish are out there. I soon had a tank and then a few, and then MTS kicked in (if you don't know what that is you will soon enough). Before I knew it I was running 40 tanks and always had my hands in the water. I found it to be relaxing. It was a way for me to let go of everything after a crazy day of classes, and more recently of teaching. I found nothing more peaceful than lying in my fish room and watching newly hatched fry. It became an outlet for the stress of every day life. In fish keeping I found close friends, good times, and something to keep me out of trouble. So whenever some asks me "why do I keep fish?" I simply tell them because I like fish and fish people!



*Photo by Ken Zeedyk
Collecting native fish with Scott Bultman.*



*Photo by Kory Voodre
One of Chris Carpenter's entries for the Michiana Bowl Show.*

Chris Carpenter – 13

Neolamprologus leleupi
Girardinus falcatus
Melanotania Boesmani
Xystichromis phytophagus
Aulonocara stuartgranti maleri
Steatocranus irvinei
Brachyrhaphis doriae
Zoogoneticus Tequila
 “Lake Chapalo”
Sciaenochromis fryeri
Pseudotropheus elongatus
 “chewere”
Paracyprichromis nigripinnis
Callichromis stappersi
Limia sp. tiger

Mike Monje – 13

Clea helena
Cichlasoma amazonarum
Astotilapia nubilia
Astotilapia callipitera
Xiphophorus alvarezii
Aspidoras spilotos
Archocentrus multispinosus
Xiphophorus helleri
Xiphophorus continens
Otopharynx lithobates ‘
 Yello Blaze’
Zoogoneticus purhepechus
Phallichthys tico
Melanotaenia Inornata

Justin Sarns – 10

Labidochromis caeruleus
 “zebra lundo”
Xystichromis phytophagus
Sciaenochromis fryeri
Astotilapia callipitera
Archocentrus multispinosus
Poecilia reticulata
Pundamillia sp. Blue Bar
 “Hippo Point”
Pseudotropheus daktari
Devario aequipinnatus

Darrell Ullisch – 9

Fundulopanchax scheeli
Girardinus m. rivasi
Pethia nigrofasciatus
Oryzias woworae
Nannochromis transvestitus
Limia nigrofasciata
Inpaichthys kerri
Hypheosobrycon rosaceus

Amatitlania siquia

Scott Tetzlaff – 8

Tilapia tholoni
Protomelas spilotos
 “Mara Rocks”
Rasbora volcanus
Poecilia obsura
Rasbora volcanus
Limia dominicensis
Danio nigrofasciatus
Aspidoras spilotos

Heather Burke – 8

Danio margaritatus
Danio choprae
Pseudosphromenus dayi
Limia perugiae
Alfaro cultratus
Neocaridina heteropoda
 var. yellow
Moenkhausia pittieri
Tylomelania sp. yellow

Patrick Miller – 7

Metraclimia estherae
Phallochthys tico
Nomorhamphus sp. erbardtii
Thorachromis brauschi
Poecilia sp. Coatzacoalcos
Phallichthys fairweatheri
Phallochthys januaris

Roger Miller – 6

Fundulopanchax gardneri
Xiphophorus mayae
 “Parzos Guatemala”
Haludaria fasciatus
Limia nigrofasciata
Pelvicachromis taeniatus
 “Moliwe”
Danio erthromicron

Ken Zeedyk – 6

Cryptoheros chetumalensis
Oreochromis crenuroides
Phynynos Eos
Notropis chrosomus
Elassoma gilberti
Cyprinella spiloptera

Kory Voodre – 5

Lamprologus ocellatus
Sciaenochromis fryeri
Placidochromis phenochilus

‘Tanzania’

Aulonocara stuartgranti
 Chipoka
Amphilophus citrinellus

Eric Maxson – 5

Anscistrus sp.
Symphysodon aequifasciatus
Pterophyllum scalare
Poecilia reticulata
Apistogramma macmasteri

Tom Sigfried – 5

Geophagus steindachneri
Cynotilapia sp. White top hara
Julidochromis regani, Kipili
Chromidotilapia kingsleyae
Neoheterandria elegans

Allan Workman – 5

Tropheus sp. Red Kachese
Pundamilia nyererei
 “Python Island”
Labidochromis sp. Mbamba
Iodotropheus sprengerae
Aulonocara baenschi

Melissa DeHaan – 4

Glossolepis multisquamata
 Pagai
Neolamprologus multifasciatus
Glossolepis dorityi
Chilatherina fasciata,
 Faowi Village

David Gruszecki – 4

Aulonocara baenschi
Metraclimia greshakei
Melanochromis auratus
Aulonocara stuartgranti

Dan Kraker – 4

Labeotropheus trawavassae
 ‘Indu’
Characodon lateralis
 “Los Berros”
Viiparus malleatus
Pimphales promelas

Adam Persenaire – 4

Tramitichromis intermedius
Placidochromis phenochilus
 ‘Tanzania’
Copadichromis sp.
 ‘fluorescent’

Anscistrus sp.

Randy Morris – 3

Otopharynx lithobates
Zoogoneticus tequila
 ‘Teuchitlan, Mexico’
Poecilia reticulata

Ben Bouwkamp – 3

Pseudotropheus sp. “acei”
Lepidiodamprologus hecqui
Limia vittata

Kevin Hightower – 3

Anscistrus sp.
Xiphophorus helleri
Poecilia reticulata

Steve Hosteter – 1

Rocio octofasciata

Andrew Kalafut – 1

Melontaenia lacustris

Steve McDonald – 1

Girardinus metallicus

Michael J. Miles – 1

Poecilia reticulata

Nicole Westra – 1

Poecilia reticulata

Phil Wurm – 1

Limia sp. tiger

BAP BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Participants: 26

Number of fish turned in: 131

Deadline for hatching/ birth was September 8 for 2014

OUTDOOR PONDS AND TUBS OFFER EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES AT MINIMAL COST.

By Dan Kraker

I maintain a small number of tanks compared with many in the club and the hobby in general, and I gravitate toward the African cichlids. I've kept mostly mbunas with a few Haps and Vics occasionally as well. This kind of focus does not allow for growing many plants as my lighting and the cichlids' appetite for greenery have proven to only support a few anubias plants over the years.

A few years ago I found a 220 gallon plastic pond on Craigslist for a great deal and used it to grow out my African cichlids outside in the summer. While this seemed to intensify their colors very nicely I found that even with our hot days the water temps just would not allow me to keep them out there very long before losing a few to the cold.

After being frustrated with limited success with the cichlids outdoors I took the opportunity to branch out in other directions. I had not previously participated in the HAP program because of my limitations with my indoor set up. However, last summer I raised several different plants in the pond and decided to turn them in for HAP. I was pleasantly surprised and encouraged to find that I took the HAP Rookie of the Year Award for 2013. I have added a few more new species this 2014 season and look forward to getting my Plaque and 1st level tag.

As well as now participating in the HAP program, I planted several new species of fish in the pond this summer and will gain a few new BAP numbers that I would not have had opportunity for in my indoor tanks such as Swordtails, Fathead Minnows, and Trapdoor Snails. When I drain the pond this fall I'm also hoping to find Zebra Danio and Golden White Cloud fry as a bonus; only time will tell on those. At a recent meeting I also landed three nice pairs of Killifish and though it is now already mid-August I will see if they have reproduced when I drain the pond this fall.

It takes very little to maintain an outdoor pond... natural lighting, no heater and only a small pump or fountain. You can use plants such as water hyacinth which grow large root "mops" for filtration, spawning, and fry cover. Water changes, if desired, are as easy as trickling a hose in there and letting some water leak out through a strategically placed hole a few inches below the rim.

If you have room on your deck for a tub or a spot in your yard to sink a plastic pond you can expand your hobby options outdoors in the summer with minimal expense and maximum benefit and enjoyment.

SAGITTARIA PLATYPHYLLA – GIANT SAG

By Roger Miller

Sagittaria platyphylla is a marsh plant in its natural environment, which is Central America and the Southern United States. This particular *Sagittaria* species is known as Giant Sag, not because of its height/size, but because of the width of its leaves.

Leaves in a rosette are medium green in color, grow to a length of 8-10 inches and have a width of approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, when grown submersed (emersed growth is substantially larger). A nutrient rich substrate, temperature between 68-75 F, and intense lighting are the recommended conditions for successful cultivation of the species. Grown under submersed conditions the plant is undemanding and slow growing.

According to Kasslemann (*Aquarium Plants*) "Propagation through runners is rare". It does occur, however, as this was the method through which the plants I have under cultivation reproduced in the tank. My small group of plants are in a 29 gal. tank, water temp of about 76 F, with a twin tube T5HO fluorescent light fixture (48 watts total & 6500K rating), which are basically the recommended growing conditions for the species. Plant supplements Flourish & Flourish iron were added weekly (usually).

It makes a very nice mid-ground species which can be planted individually or in a small group. Care should be taken that it is planted in a free-standing location, as it does take up a lot of "acreage" in relation to its height, and should not be shaded by taller species.

It makes a wonderful aquarium plant, in my opinion, as it is a nice shade of green, won't get to tall, and doesn't need constant trimming/thinning to keep it looking good.



*Photo by Steve Hosteter
Female Betta.*

Mike Monje – 27**Vegetative:**

Vallisneria spiralis
Microsorium pteropus var.
 "Trident"
 (trident java fern)
Echinodorus var. "Visuvius"
Echinodorus var.
 "Pinwheel Melon"
Microsorium Pteropus var.
 "Needle Leaf"
Cryptocoryne lutea
Ludwigia var. "Narrow Leaf"
Anubias nana var.
 "Narrow Leaf"
Nesaea var. 'Golden'
Bolbits heudelotii
Ludwigia var. 'Atlantis'
Cryptocoryne parva
Ceratopteris thalictroides
Pogostemon helferi (Downoi)
Salvinia natans
Eichhornia crassipes
 (water hyacinth)
Cryptocoryne wendtii var.
 "Mi Oya"
Cryptocoryne moehlmannii
Echinodorus martii
 (Ruffled Sword)
Anubias hastifolia
Cryptocoryne blassii "red"
Anubias congensis

Flowering:

Anubias nana var. '
 "Narrow leaf"
Physostegia virginiana
 (Obedient Plant)
Eichhornia crassipes
 (water hyacinth)
Anubias barteri
Lobelia cardinalis

Justin Sarns – 25**Vegetative:**

Lilaeopsis novae - zelandiae

Cabomba furcata
Nesaea crassicaulis
Cyperus helferi
Ceratophyllum submersum
Nymphaea stellata
Heteranthera zosterifolia
Echinodorus parviflorus
Sußwassertang (Pellia sp)
Cryptocoryne parva
Cryptocoryne spiralis
Nymphaea zenkeri
 (Tiger Lotus)
Ludwigia sp. Atlantis
Eichhornia crassipes
 (water hyacinth)
Cryptocoryne sp
 Florida Sunset
Echinodorus kleiner bar
Echinodorus sp. Atlansberg
Pistia stratiotes
 (Water Lettuce)
Hydrocotyle tripartita
Cryptocoryne blassii
Rotala magenta

Flowering:

Iris Pseudacorus
Mimulus ringens
 (Monkey Flower)
Echinodorus altlandsberg
Nymphaea alba

Kevin Hightower – 17**Vegetative:**

Anubias congensis
Anubias barteri var. nana
Vallisneria americana
Crinum thaianum
 (Onion Plant)
Echinodorus angustifolia
 "Vesuvius"
Cryptocoryne undulata
Hydrocotyle leucocephala
Microsorium pteropus
 "Windelov"
Lace Leaf Java Fern

Najas guadalupensis
 (Guppy Grass)
Cryptocoryne usteriana
Anubias coffeefolia
Nymphaea Lotus
 (Red Tiger Lotus)

Flowering:

Anubias congensis
Anubias barteri var. nana
Vallisneria americana
Nymphaea Lotus
 (Red Tiger Lotus)

Steve Hosteter – 13**Vegetative:**

Cryptocoryne usteriana
Hydrocotyle leucocephala
Nymphaea zenkeri
 (Red Tiger Lotus)
Bacopa monnieri
Salvinia natans
Staurogyne repens
Rotala nanjenshan
Echinodorus tenellus
Ceratophyllum demersum
Aponogeton crispus

Flowering:

Cabomba furcata
Nymphaea zenkeri
 (Red Tiger Lotus)
Aponogeton crispus

Andrew Kalafut – 10**Vegetative:**

Heteranthera zosterifolia
Echinodorus xingu
Blyxa japonica
Najas guadalupensis
Rotala sp "Vietnam"
Persicaria sp
 'Kawagoeanum'
Cryptocoryne albida
Lomariopsis cf. *lineata*
 (Sußwassertang)
Nymphoides indica
 (White Snowflake)

Flowering:

Persicaria sp
 'Kawagoeanum'

Roger Miller – 9**Vegetative:**

Micranthemum umbrosum
Ludwigia sp "Atlantis"
Marsilea sp
 (Four Leaf Clover)
Cryptocoryne beckettii
Pogostemon helferi

(Downi, Little Star)

Rotala magenta

Flowering:

Spathiphyllum wallisii
 (Peace Lily)
Anubias Coffeefolia
Aponogeton longiplumulosus

Melissa DeHaan – 5**Vegetative:**

Microsorium pteropus
Ludwigia palustris
Echinodorus angustifolia
Ceratophyllum demersum
Sagittaria subulata

H. Scott Bultman – 4**Vegetative:**

Heteranthera zosterifolia
Hygrophila angustifolia
Limnobium laevigatum
Rotala indica

Dan Kraker – 4**Vegetative:**

Eichhornia crassipes
 (water hyacinth)
Ceratophyllum demersum
 (hornwort)

Flowering:

Eichhornia crassipes
 (water hyacinth)
Ruellia brittoniana (blue bells
 bog plant)

Bob Wesolowski – 3**Vegetative:**

Echinodorus bleheri
Flowering:
Anubias nana
Cryptocoryne usteriana

Ken Zeedyk – 2**Vegetative:**

Sagittaria subulata
Ceratopteris thalictroides

Ben LaClear – 1**Vegetative:**

Echinodorus amazonicus

Dennis Langland – 1**Vegetative:**

Heteranthera zosterifolia

Patrick Miller – 1**Vegetative:**

Aponogeton undulatus

FISH ROOM SALE

10, 15 and 20 gallon Tanks, also 1 1/2 gallon and selection of flake, pellet and frozen foods. Call or SASE, for your choice about 30 or 35 books (Subject, Author, Age and Condition with Price). Prices reasonable or less with some stuff FREE!

Write or call:
 Bernie Halverson
 607 West Sunset Drive
 North Muskegon, MI 49445
 231-744-4493

C.A.R.E.S. CORNER

Introducing the C.A.R.E.S. Preservation Program

by Cyndi Westra, GVAC C.A.R.E.S. Coordinator

The C.A.R.E.S. Program was started over 10 years ago as a way for aquarium hobbyists to help preserve fish that are disappearing in the wild. Aquarists can register the fish they are keeping that appear on the Priority List (see website below) and earn Certificate Awards from the C.A.R.E.S. Program.

The goal is to keep these endangered fish in the hobby and to distribute fry to responsible fishkeepers whenever possible. It's great to have a species only breeding tank for these fish, but you can still participate if you do not plan to breed them. You can do the minimum which is registering your fish – and that's it; or you can complete quarterly 4-pg journals. It's all up to you.

The C.A.R.E.S. website lists the scientific name and level of endangerment of all species involved. There you can see the big names in aquarium fishkeeping that are part of the C.A.R.E.S. team. To register a species, you can contact me at the email address below and I will send the form to you to complete and return to me. Registrations are turned into C.A.R.E.S. on a quarterly basis and you will be presented with your Certificate at a GVAC meeting. Next newsletter, I will go over the additional award opportunities to earn stickers for your registered species Certificates. Take a look at the website and see if you'd like to become a C.A.R.E.S. Program participant!



To view the species list, go to www.carespreservation.com and select tab "Priority List". To register a species and receive a blank form or ask questions, email Cyndi, GVAC C.A.R.E.S. Coordinator at ccyndiw@yahoo.com

BIG UGLY

By Kevin Hightower (photo by the author)

My favorite fish is a Giant Albino Gourami named Big Ugly (*Osphronemus goramy*). I have had him for about 13 years and he has grown to around 22" and weighs somewhere around 6 lbs. I'm guessing. Giant Gourami's are native to Thailand and the surrounding areas and are said to live between 25-40 years, will grow over 30" and have been bred by someone in the UK, they build bubble nests.

I will never forget the day I bought him. It was



a Saturday afternoon in the fall and I was at a LFS and they just got a shipment of fish in. The store employee had just written on the tank "I will grow to be a foot long" and that drew me to him. I remember looking at him because he was only about 2" long but had huge red eyes already. I watched him swim around for a while and I knew I wanted to purchase him.

Big Ugly as he was eventually named has survived in 3 different houses and multiple tanks as he has grown up through the years. He has even survived an incident where he jumped out of the tank while my brother and I were cleaning it and landed on the wood floor with a loud smack after about a 6 foot fall. I quickly scooped him up and he was ok after a few minutes.

Whenever someone visits they all want to look at and feed Big Ugly. Kids and adults are always amazed by his size and personality. I mainly feed him floating pellets and when he eats he will stick part of his head out of the water to get the food and you can see his small teeth and start to get an understanding of his size. He also likes to chase your finger on the glass for anyone willing to play the game with him. Also, on more than one occasion I have walked by his tank and not either said hi to him or fed him and he will splash water on me and the floor, usually at the worst possible time. Recently, I put all my tank lights on timers including Big Ugly's. He did not like it when the lights were off and the living room lights were on and he could see I was up yet. He was splashing water and swimming all around, clearly worked up. I took the timer off after a couple days. Those who say fish don't have personality have not met Big Ugly!



GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB
P.O. Box 325
Grandville, MI 49418
Address correction required

GRAND VALLEY AQUARIUM CLUB

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of every month at 7 PM (See inside for detailed schedule).

Holiday Inn Express
Great Room (turn right at the big fish tank)
6569 Clay Ave. SW
Grand Rapids, MI

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

GVAC Apparel

Store Discounts at Blue Fish Aquarium*

- 10% off livestock
- 20% off bulk food (does not include 5 lb boxes)
- Club Nights - Tuesday & Wednesday
- 20% off livestock

****Must show GVAC membership card to receive discounts.***

NEW MEETING LOCATION FOR 2015

We have outgrown the Great Room at the Holiday Inn Express (a good problem)! Starting with the January 2015 meeting, we will be meeting at a new location:

Home School Building Gym
5625 Burlingame Ave SW
Wyoming, MI 49509

NEW GVAC APPAREL!

New Design along with **New Items** available!

- T-shirts
- Jackets
- Hats
- Coolers
- ...and more!



Order forms available at club meetings.