

SWAM

September/October 2012

A publication of the Southwestern
Michigan Aquarium Society
(S.W.M.A.S.) WWW.SWMAS.ORG
Club meets each month in Kalamazoo

Workshops: Oct. 13, 2012

Mark Your Calendars NOW! You do not want to miss a **FREE** day of knowledgeable and well known Speakers talking about different topics involved in our Aquatic Hobby—see inside for more information.

Fall Auction: Oct. 14

Cool water—Kool fish:

Girardinichthys multiradiatus

Don Brandt, MAS, ALA

michianaaquariumsociety.org

I had this species once before and to be honest I screwed up and lost them within six months. I needed to get more information before I tried again. I asked a few



questions at an ALA (American Livebearers Association) convention. They need clean cool water. What is cool? Under 70 degrees, which to me would be great. My fish room rarely gets warmer than 72 degrees. Now, let me tell you how I lost my original pair. I had

them in a ten gallon tank and they looked great. I was feeding them quality flake food with live and frozen foods as treats. What I did not know, was that females, for lack of a better term, shimmy and shake when they want to be left alone. I did not know this and thought there was something wrong with them so I put a heater in the tank thinking I should raise the water temperature. Remember, I did not know they needed cool water. Well, they went down hill fast and by the time I figured it out it was too late.

Now on to the present. I had been on the lookout for this beautiful Golden Sailfin Goodeid since I now knew cool water was needed and not to worry about the shimmy shaking. I went to a fish swap meet and there was a well known livebearer breeder selling some. Well I bought two young pairs and got them home and into a ten gallon tank heavily planted with some cheap decorations. The males only get

Continued on page 2

Friends, neighbors, and fine fishin' folk

Greetings from our President: John Oxner

It's time for yet another edition of our SWAM, so you're stuck getting a few of my thoughts. I know. It's sucks. But, bear with me.

We're now in the final stretch of this club year. We've nine months and nine gatherings behind us with three months, and five gatherings ahead. For most of us this is the exciting time of the year to be in this hobby. Nationally known speakers are booked to come teach us a few new tricks. The auction hall is rented and ready for a huge turn out. And all our wonderful breeders, who worked so hard last winter and spring to get successful spawns now have plenty of juveniles to offer up at auction. Those two events alone get my fishin' blood moving again. Add to that four more chances to gather together as friends, share our knowledge with each other, and have good presentations given.

In September, we were blessed to have Pat Hartman coming to talk to us about live bearers. But not just any old run of the mill Pet Shop varieties. Pat is a Fellow in the American Live Bearers Association, a national club of individuals who are dedicated to keeping and spawning any and all live bearing fish found around the world. Many are so rare that the vast majority of us probably haven't even heard their name before. The ALA, and Pat, are also dedicated to the protection and preservation of all water ways in America, whether or not they hold live bearer fish.

At October's meeting Dave Hemmerlein will share some tricks as to how to get ready for the auction quickly, yet still bagging your fish correctly. He's been doing it for so many years now that he's developed almost a science as to how to go about getting his fish ready for auction in the shortest amount of time used. Nominations for a new board will be accepted during this meeting as well, with Vince controlling that portion. I highly encourage many of you to consider offering your time and talent to one or more of the positions. The club can not function without a board overseeing the day to day. And there's really very little personal time involved as most meetings are before the monthly meeting. What's really needed is people who are willing to give thoughts and ideas to the rest of the board as to how to make the club better. It's really pretty easy.

The following Saturday will be the club sponsored Speaker Day event. I know Ted Judy is coming for two different presentations and usually brings along some rare, as well as beautiful, fish to auction off and some of his Rapashy foods products. Mark Denaro is also lined up for a couple of presentations, and our own Chase Kleinsteker and Pat Hartman will give presentations on their specialties. It's going to be a long, but great day. At the end we'll pass the hat and buy a boat load of pizzas for all to eat while sitting around picking the brains of the speakers for more information. Not a day to miss—October 13th. Then it's home for a night of sleep, and back the next morning for the club's annual Fall Auction on the 14th. This auction has always been a huge success. We are expect that trend is not going to change.

Continued on page 3

FREE EVENT: Highly regarded speakers on Oct. 13, 2012

John Oxner

We begin the day with **Chase Kleinsteker**. Chase is not only a member of our club, but also a member of at least one other. Over the years Chase has served in various capacities in both clubs, helping them to grow and move forward. Being a member of our club we all already know how much time and energy he has donated to making SWMAS a great club. But do you also know that Chase is a prolific writer? Clubs from around the United States have sought his permission to reprint articles he has written for SWAM or for GVAC news letters. His knowledge of the Tetra family is unsurpassed. He's been involved in the hobby for more years than he'll share with me, but I know it's well over 40. And over those years Chase has successfully bred and submitted for BAP almost 600 varieties of tropical fish. In fact, Chase recently shared with me that he's having a very difficult time finding freshwater tropical fish that he hasn't already bred and submitted to our BAP Program.

Those who were at our Spring Auction or listened to **Ted Judy** speak at GVAC know he is a great speaker who is addicted to the raising and breeding of any and all types of tropical fish. But, no matter how over filled his fish room is with different strains and genus of tropical fish, Ted always, ALWAYS, has tanks of his favorite West African Cichlids. Ted has had the opportunity to make several collection trips to Africa as he shared with some, during his last visit to our area. Ted lives in Madison, Wisconsin, and is the owner of Dry Heat Enterprises. He is a nationally known gifted and prolific speaker. Ted regularly contributes articles to *The Aquarium International Magazine* and can also be read in *Tropical Fish Hobbyist* from time to time. Ted has also been working hand and glove with the owners of Rapashy Fish Foods to create an all day gelatin that won't dissolve or go to waste before your fish devour it. Rapashy sponsors some of Ted's speaking engagements, and most usually sends various sizes of their mixtures that they've jointly developed for the club to sell at auction. Ted is also sponsored by Oddball Fish, and they usually send along a box of more rare as well as very beautiful fish for the club to sell at auction to help the club pay for having a speaker of Ted's caliber come to their club. In fact, as the chart shows, Ted will give us two different discussions during the day.

Mark Denaro has been in our Aquatic Hobby for over 40 years now. He's bred more than 150 species of Ornamental Tropical Fish during that time and has also propagated hundreds of aquatic plants as well. Mark is a highly sought after speaker and has already given over 40 discussion around the country. With his full-time employment as owner and operator of Anubias Design, a wholesale company selling fresh and saltwater fish, aquatic plants of all manner, and specialty fish foods, it's hard for Mark to make the time to accept these engagements. We're very fortunate he's been able to squeeze us in his very busy schedule. Mark is coming from Pennsylvania and will also give us two discussions on different topics during the course of the day. I, for one, am looking forward to hearing what Mark has to say.

Pat Hartman is member of SWMAS, but his heart is with the ALA (American Livebearers Association). Pat has been in the hobby keeping and breeding livebearers mostly for well over 45 years now. He's a well-known speaker who has given presentations in many states. Because of his time with the ALA and his donated time, Pat was made a Fellow in that group, which means he's been one of the backbones of the ALA over the years. One thing many don't know is that the ALA not only keeps and breeds fish, holds shows, and conducts



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auctions, they also get out in the field working to improve the habitat of the native fish of the state they choose as their project for the year. Pat's knowledge of the livebearer community of tropical fish is as amazing as Chase's on Tetras. I am certain that you will gain some piece of information from Pat's talk that you'll use for as long as you stay in the hobby.

Ben VanDithers is co-owner of Blue Fish, an Aquarium only Pet Shop. It may be the only Aquarium Pet Shop left in our area at this time. Others in Kalamazoo have long ago folded their tents and gone home. Ben, and his partner Jeff also operate a Tank Maintenance company with contracts all over Kent County. Ben's main love, when he has the time, is Aquascaping aquariums—making them look as natural as possible. Ben uses various techniques to accomplish life-like aquariums. Ben is also Vice President of our sister club in Grand Rapids. He and Jeff often host the out of state speakers that GVAC brings in. You don't want to miss Ben's presentation—it is packed full of useful, neat little hints.

Around 6:00 p.m. a hat will be passed around to those who'd like to stay and chat with all of our day's speakers. The money will be used to buy soft drinks and pizza for all who stay. Speakers will be available for questions for two hours. During this time, if not sooner, the Rapashy Foods and Oddball Fish will be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

The workshops are FREE to all comers. Even if you can't attend the whole day, you are welcome to come for as much or as little as you like. I really hope you can attend. This day is "THE DAY" for our club. The meetings, the auctions, the monthly speakers are wonderful, educational, and enjoyable, but a gathering like this is very unusual for any club to support. Mark it on your calendar. SWMAS needs to be front and center for the day. See the flyer included in this newsletter for schedule and location.



The Pet Connection

Roni Baker
Owner

1170 S. Centreville Rd. Suit H
Sturgis, MI 49091

269-659-FISH
(3474)
captain_roni@yahoo.com

Continued: Girardinichthys multiradiatus

about 1.5 inches and females get about 2 inches. My water temperatures never went higher than 70 degrees. When I did my water changes once a week I changed 75% to 85% of the water in that 10 gallon tank; refilling the tank with water straight from my well which was 58 to 62 degrees. I was feeding them flake food and the females kept getting bigger. Six weeks later they looked like they were going to burst. A couple days later one of the females had given birth and I counted 13 fry, each about 1/4 inch long. I never saw any predation. The other female had fry a few days later. Since then, both females have given me another batch of fry. The fry were about a quarter inch long and grow quickly. The males left each other alone and I never saw any fighting.

All said this fish needs cool water. Beyond that, feed them and give the females a place to hide from the males and you will be rewarded with fry from a cool looking little livebearer that is rare in the hobby.

Reference: *Livebearing Fishes* by John Dawes

Michiana Aquarium Society's Tropical Magic 2012 44th Annual All Species Show & Auction

Concord Mall – Elkhart, IN

Sept. 22 - 23, 2012

Show Registration: 9 a.m. - Noon, Saturday, Sept. 22

Auction Registration: 9 - 11 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 23

Ten-Table/Buck-A-Bag Auction

Starts at 11 a.m.

Continued: President's greetings

Then it's on to November with Dale of Fantastic Fins coming back to talk about his Pleco addiction. His program is filled with great pictures of his fish and a vast amount of information about how we can keep them, and spawn them. The final vote for board membership will also take place during this meeting. Good luck to all who run.

And we finish the year with our normal Club Member Only Christmas Party. Charlie Grimes is going to spend the evening with us presenting a brand new program he's put together. He's told me the topic, but I'm not going to share. It's my Christmas present to some in the club who are heavy into his topic as their hobby. The club will provide the main meal of some sort. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass or a dessert to pass to augment the entree, and Dave will once again buy some unique fish we seldom see offered any where to put into a silent auction that will go from the beginning of the meeting until Dave says it's time to determine the winner of each offering. That's always been a fun part of the night, and a great close to the end of the club year.

So now it's time to kick these last three months and five gatherings off. We've had a wonderful nine months. I'd love to see the next three be even better. Attendance, even in June and August, has been fantastic. Let's keep that going for the rest of this year. We continue to allow the breeder to set the minimum price he'll accept for his more rare fish, so bag up a few of yours, put a reasonable price on them, and bring them in to the mini auctions so club members can all share your delight with those fish.

Fry raising report

Chase Klinesteker

In September we had seven people pick up bags of five Black Ruby Barb fry that would be due to return for judging in December. The Gymno-geophagus fry purchased in August are due to return in November.



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Type "south" in to search and we should pop up: Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society.

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Sat	9am - 5pm
Sun	CLOSED



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- Penn-Plax
- Pet Supply Plus
- Red Sea Fish Pharmaceuticals
- Rolf C. Hagen Corporation
- Seachem
- Tetra
- Zoo Med

Other Clubs to Check Out

- Grand Valley Aquarium Club
valleyaquariumclub.org
- Michiana Aquarium Society
www.michiana-aquarium-society.org
- Greater Detroit Aquarium Society
www.detoitaquariumsociety.org
- Motor City Aquarium Society
motorcityaquariumsociety.com
- Great Lakes Cichlid Society
www.greatlakescichlidsociety.net
- Youngstown Aquarist
www.yatfs.com
- Long Island Aquarium Society
www.liasonline.org
- Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society
www.gcas.org
- Pacific Coast Cichlid Association
www.cichlidworld.com
- North Jersey Aquarium Society
www.njas.net

Contacts

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Chase Klinesteker
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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

2012 Spring Auction
David Hemmerlein
pupfishmich@aol.com

2012 Fall Auction *OPEN*

Monthly Auction
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Exchange Clubs

If you have a show or auction that you would like to see included here, please send the notice to the P.O. Box on the back cover of this bulletin, or to kim.nelson@wmich.edu. Remember that the SWAM is a bimonthly publication, so send those notices at least 3 months in advance!

We will exchange publications with clubs that want to receive SWAM. Send your publication to SWMAS, P.O. Box 3095, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-3095.

The Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society

Fall Workshops and Tropical Fish Auction

Saturday, October 13

Workshops

Sunday, October 14

Auction

Ken Krum Center • East Clay Street • Schoolcraft, Mi 49087

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

9 - 10

Chase Klinesteker: Tetra's care and breeding

10:15 - 11:15

Ted Judy: Pelvicachromis care and breeding

11:30 - 12:30

Mark Denaro: Collecting in Peru

12:30 - 1:15

BREAK

1:15 - 2:15

Pat Hartman: Livebearers care and breeding

2:30 - 3:30

Mark Denaro: Wild Betta's Care and breeding

3:45 - 4:45

Ben Van Dither: Aquascaping

5 - 6

Ted Judy: Brand new program

6 - 8

PIZZA PARTY AND SOCIAL TIME

FREE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

Please note during the workshops there will be special raffles of aquarium related stuff, silent auctions, and rare fish raffles. Ben's 20 gallon tank that he decorates will be raffled off during the Sunday's auction.

Ted Judy sponsored by Repashy Foods and Oddball Fish. Mark Denaro sponsored Anubias Design

AUCTION

Registration 9 - 11 a.m.

1. You do not have to be a member to sell or buy.
2. All items must be labeled with seller's name, phone number, and ID and item number.
3. Item selling must be accurately described and legible otherwise the item will be considered a donation to SWMAS.
4. Pair means one male and one female, a mated pair means the male and female have **bred** together and have had viable fry. Trio means one male and two females.
5. Proper fish bags must be used; improper bagging will cause a rebagging charge of \$1.00 per item. Double bagging is highly recommended and zip lock bags will not be allowed.
6. Any item that doesn't sell for \$1.00 will be considered as a donation to SWMAS.
7. There is 50 item limit per seller and it is recommended that no more than 5 of any color strain or species be auctioned.
8. To accommodate out of town guests a call-up system is used the cost of the call-up is \$2.00 per item. The call-up fee does not apply to the auction price.
9. The auction committee reserves the right to reject any item not fit for sale, game fish are not allowed. Minimum bids are not allowed.
10. The auction is 70/30 split with 70% going to the seller, checks will be mailed with 14 days.
11. Preregistration can be done by contacting Dave Hemmerlein (269) 350-5674.
12. The auctioneer decision is final.
13. A tab is required to buy and **all tabs must be paid in full before leaving the auction** otherwise you will piss off the treasurer and the assistant treasurer. Cash or check with a driver license is accepted. A \$20.00 service charge is charged for any returned check and check fraud will be prosecuted.
14. SWMAS uses the ten table method with table 1 and 2 sold at the beginning of the auction. After table 1 and 2 are completed the remaining tables numbers will be drawn at random to determine the order they will be sold in.
15. SWMAS, Ken Krum Center, and its representatives will not be held responsible for any items entered into the auction nor for any personal injury incurred during the auction.
16. Ken Krum Center is smoke free and alcohol free facility.

David Hemmerlein

(269) 350-5674 pupfishmich@aol.com

Meetings are the first Friday of each month!

Every meeting begins at 8 p.m.; is located at **Best Western Gateway Hotel, 3640 E. Cork St. Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001.** Raffle and mini-auction are held (*70% of auction sales to seller*); question and answer session follows all programs; and a bowl show takes place (*see listing below*).

Sept. 7, 2012

8 p.m.

Keeping and breeding
live bearers by
Pat Hartman

Oct. 5, 2012

8 p.m.

Preparing for auctions
by Dave Hemmerlein

SWAM

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society (S.W.M.A.S.)

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Wanted to Buy or Sale

The Aquatic Peddler accepts ads from SWMAS members of up to five lines free of charge. Ads can be for items you wish to trade, sell or would like to find, but must be related to the aquatic hobby. Business ads are not permitted.

Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2012

- 7 SWMAS Mtng./Keeping and Breeding Live Bearers by Pat Hartman www.swmas.org
- 22 Great Lakes Cichlid Soc. Fall Auction
Euclid Square Mall
Call 216-692-9296 for information
www.greatlakescichlidsociety.net

- 22/23 Michiana Aquarium Soc. Tropical Magic All Species Show/Auction
Concord Mall, Elkhart, IN
Call 269-350-5674 for information
michiana-aquarium-society.org

OCTOBER 2012

- 5 SWMAS Mtng./Preparing for Auctions by Dave Hemmerlein www.swmas.org
- 13/14 SWMAS Fall Speakers/Auction
Krum Cntr., Schoolcraft, MI
www.swmas.org
- 18 - 21 All Aquarium Catfish Convention
www.catfishcon.com/

- 20 Greater Detroit Aquarium Soc. Fall Auction www.grandvalleyaquariumclub.org
- 20 Tri-County Fish Society Auction
<https://sites.google.com/site/tctfspeoria/>
- 27 Grand Valley Aquarium Club Fall Auction www.grandvalleyaquariumclub.org

NOVEMBER 2012

- 2 SWMAS Mtng./Keeping and breeding Plecos by Dale Ernst www.swmas.org
- 3 MI Chichlid Association Fall Auction www.michigancichlid.com
- 4 Greater Akron Aquarium Soc. Auction www.gaas-fish.net
- 5/6 Wisconsin Area Killifish Org. Show and Auction www.aka.org
- 11/12 Milwaukee Aquarium Association Swap Meet
www.milwaukeeaquariumsociety.com
- 16/18 Ohio Cichlid Association Show and Auction www.ohiocichlid.com

Bowl Show Schedule

September	Goodies, Mollies
October	Malawi and Tanganyika Cichlids
November	Danios, Rasboras
December	Your Favorite Fish

DECEMBER 2012

- 1 Kalamazoo Area Killie Association Killie Day 12/Talks and Auction
Contacts: Jim Graham 269-948-8325, Dave Hemmerlein 269-350-5674 or 269 317-6555
- 7 SWMAS Mtng./a surprise topic by Charlie Grimes www.smas.org
- 8 Motor City Aquarium Soc. Fall Auction motorcityaquariumsociety.com