

End of the year calls for celebration

Greetings from our President: John Oxner

Can you believe we're headed to our last meeting of this year? Seems like a few days ago we were trying to get things off the ground, find a place to meet, and find interesting topics for our main presentations. And here we are. Our last presentation of the year will be given by Charlie Grimes of Indianapolis, Indiana on December 7, 2012. Our last meeting of our 34th year as an organized club.

It's also the last time I'll be writing this opening for our newsletter as I'm stepping down, as most already know, to let new faces and minds find ways to keep the club growing strong. It's been an interesting year to say the very least. We started with a declining membership, but have turned that around once again and are closing in on the same numbers in our club as GVAC has in their club. We've had some ups and down over the course of the year. But the trend has mostly been upwards, which is a credit to each and every one of you. Clubs go in cycles. Losing membership is something clubs go through from time to time through no fault of anyone. It's simply the cycle. Turning that around takes far more effort from people willing to participate, talk to friends and neighbors about the club, come to meetings, welcome guest speakers, and do all the things each of you has done this past year. You care about your club. And it showed. You added somewhere close to 20 new members to it, by being you. For that, I thank each of you. You made this past year, in my mind at least, a very successful year in deed. And I'd be remiss if I didn't say thank you to the folks who worked so diligently behind the scenes as well—your Board. As Vice President Ron stood ready to fill in for me if the need arose, gave me good council as needed, and helped find good speakers for our programs. Cathy took very good notes of all events, meetings, auctions, Board meetings, whatever. If the incoming board

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Silver Angelfish – *Pterophylum Scalare*

by Ben Slocum

Most hobbyists at one time or another have kept Angelfish of one variety or another. Black, Gold, Koi, Lace, Zebra and Pearl scale are just a few of the many variations available. Some consider them “bread and butter” fish, listed among fancy guppies, barbs, tetras, swordtails, Oscars (yes, Oscars) and others readily available at the local chain pet stores. They always command a decent price and perhaps are the best value for the return of personality and beauty they provide.

Originally found in the Amazon river basin, they are mostly bred in farms now, produced for the masses. Wild fish are occasionally available and are in high demand by breeders to be used to strengthen fancy varieties lines whose gene pools gets shallow after time.

Not long ago I received a phone call from a fellow fish club member. He works in a local “mom and pop” pet store (really, they still do exist... BUY FROM THEM!) and called to tell me that he had a breeding size trio of Pearl gouramis, *Trichogaster leeri* available. I agreed to buy them (duh) and asked him to hold them for me.

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Dad and fry

When I showed up to get them, he said that I might also be interested in a pair of silver angels he had as well. I looked at the angels, and after wiping the drool from my chin, I asked him if he could hold them for me until I made room in a tank for them. I could “sex” them using the angle of their anal fins (not always a true indica-



Mom

tor) and believed they were mature enough to breed. He agreed to hold them for me. I shared with him that I thought they would spawn given the opportunity.

Two weeks later, I returned to get my fish and Adam told me that he had placed a piece of slate in the tank with the fish. They spawned, but, being in a community tank, they lost the battle to protect the caviar dinner from the other inhabitants. I bought the fish AND the piece of slate, knowing that good things were to come.

I placed the pair in a 38 gallon tank with 2 small albino bristlenose ancistrus and a sole remnant of a brood of Topaz cichlids, *Archocentrus myrnae*, that were already living there.

Literally two days later the pair began to clean spots on the glass and the slate. I fed them live blackworms one evening and they spawned the next morning on the slate. I couldn't believe my luck!

Past experience and information from other hobbyists led me to believe that the parents would most likely eat the eggs or the hatched fry. Oh well, what did I have to lose? I left the eggs with the pair and was rewarded with the sight of two very dedicated parents, who constantly fanned the eggs and picked off invisible pieces of debris.

Several days later the slate had several hundred “wrigglers” the parents became even more attentive. Anytime my wife or I would look into the tank, we would be met by aggressive “stabs” at the glass. Before I knew it, the fry disappeared. I was mildly disappointed, because of the reputation of egg eating parents of this species. I stepped back from the tank and soon observed the parents move into the plants where they had moved the fry!

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This pair continued to amaze me as the fry grew. I would put my hand in the tank to do water changes and was rewarded with stout hits on it. I'm glad they weren't Peacock bass! I fed the fry a diet heavy

with Hikari First Bites, Golden pearls and frozen baby brine shrimp. They constantly grazed, moved frequently by the parents, perhaps to greener pastures.

I have sold or given away all the fry and as I write this, the parents are in a 55 gallon with their favorite piece of slate. These fish have given me hours of enjoyment and further education into fish behavior. Perhaps one day you'll have the same experience, one that will encourage you breed fish and see the Creator given instincts they possess.

The Pet Connection

**Roni Baker
Owner**

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

269-650-FISH
(3474)
captain_roni@yahoo.com



Don't miss it!

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

Continued: President's greetings

wishes, Cathy began what was sorely needed to have been going on since day one. She kept accurate records of all discussion, presentations, and information about anything SWMAS talked about or did this past year. Dave has kept the treasury up to date and accurate to the penny. That's a lap-full all by itself. But, he and his lovely wife Kristie are the reason we have had to two successful big auctions. The two of them, more Kristie than Dave will admit, did all the behind the scenes preparations in getting the halls rented, finding the auctioneers, getting the runner cards ready, keeping track of each sale, and writing the checks to the sellers. Cathy and Ron also worked on this with them, but it fell on Dave and Kristie to make it happen. And Kristie doesn't like fish very much. She could care less about being in a fish club. She simply loves and supports her husband and each of us. Kim did a great job of putting SWAM together, getting it printed for those who wanted to get hard copy, and making sure it went out to all who took it electronically. She saved the club close to \$700 this year in printing costs by using resources from her office, for the few who continued to want written SWAM to put into their home libraries. Her savings will allow Dave and Ron to go to Chicago to visit a few wholesalers just before our last meeting and buy some really unusual fish for our silent auction. We're still being promised the fish from Oddball Fish that we were to get when Ted Judy came to speak on our Symposium Day. Ted did leave 8 bags of the various Rapashy foods to put into our silent auction as well. So bring your check book, folks. This Christmas Party Silent Auction is guaranteed to have at least one item you can not live without.

If I don't get the chance to shake your hand and say thank you to each of you, please know how much I appreciate the support you've given me and our board this year. May your Thanksgiving be filled with more reasons to be thankful than it ever has before. And may your Christmas be blessed in every way possible by our loving Lord and His dear Son.

P.S. The club will provide the pizza, salad, and pop for our MEMBER'S ONLY Christmas supper together. Please remember to bring your favorite dessert to share with others as your donation to the festivities. Looking forward to a great party and meeting. I expect to see you there as I love DESSERTS! Can you tell?

Limia Tridens—great for a small tank

Ben Slocum MAS ALA

The small but colorful Limia Tridens is a native of Haiti and Dominican Republic. Many people like small tank setups and this species makes that very easy. As with most Limia, they're rather undemanding, very active, and colorful. I kept a breeding group in a 5.5 gallon tank which received 8 hrs. of direct sunlight. The blue, silver and gold colorings showed real well in the sunlight and the fish seemed to enjoy swimming back and forth on the end which received the most light. Perhaps the light reflecting off their bodies helped the males display their breeding readiness to the females; the brighter the light the more active the males were and the more receptive the females were to mate.

I was careful to do frequent water changes as the water chemistry in small tanks can go south real fast. I use sponge filters in all my tanks, sometimes multiples in each tank. This serves several purposes: a bio-ready filter is always available for new tank setups, the bio load of the tank is much more stable, and aeration/filtration can be increased without creating too much current. I also included several java fern clumps for hiding places and natural bio control. It may seem like I'm anal about filtration, but with wild-type livebearers you need clean water and lots of it. Those who have kept Goodied species fully understand what I mean. I have well water that usually has a ph of 7.5-8.0 with a hardness of 120-150 ppm. Because of the low hardness number, I add crushed shells or coral to a bare glass bottom, but not enough to completely cover it. Some folks have suggested keeping Limia species in brackish water, but I don't think it's necessary. I kept mine at room temperature (72°F or so) and they did real well. I'm confident they could be kept at a little higher temperature, but increase the aeration if you do.

I feed all my fish flake food, alternating high protein with high vegetable content. Perhaps with the exception of piscivorous livebearers, most livebearers benefit well with the vegetable matter in the flake. It's possible that Halfbeaks and Belonesox get their greens through the veggie grazing fish they eat. My Limia Tridens enjoyed flake food but relished baby brine shrimp as well. I keep a daphnia culture going year round and I treated the Tridens with occasional feedings of them.

My females dropped fry, usually 10 or less at a time, about every 2 months. In a heavily planted tank you could probably leave the females in the same tank with the other breeders, but I removed mine and placed them in a heavily planted 2 gallon tank. I kept both tanks together so the fish could see each other which seemed to calm the females down and reduce their stress. At six weeks I moved the female to the brooding tank and waited for the fry to appear. I don't like to move the females back to the group for at least several days; this gives them time to recover and get strength back. The fry were able to hide, but I never noticed the females chasing them.

This is a pretty cool fish, I recommended them highly. Blessings!



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

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.

2013 board elected

President: Curt Bitterling
Vice President: Chase Kleinsteker
Treasurer: Bob Wesolowski
Recording Secretary: Gemma Wesolowski
Sargent At Arms: Vince Houston
PR/News Editor: Kim Nelson
Member at Large:
Steve McDonald and Anthony Kernell

Contacts

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: John Oxner
joxner@charter.net

Vice President: Ron McNeil
reptilianron@yahoo.com

Treasurer: David Hemmerlein
pupfishmich@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Cathy McNeil
cmcneil@swmich.edu

Corresponding Secretary: Kim Nelson
kim.nelson@wmich.edu

Sergeant-at-Arms: Vince Huston
captvince29@yahoo.com

Members-at-Large
William Shobway
firstprincess2k@hotmail.com

Pat Hartman
phat711@sbcglobal.net

Chase Klinesteker
ckspoonpl1@aol.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

2012 Spring Auction
David Hemmerlein
pupfishmich@aol.com

2012 Fall Auction OPEN

Monthly Auction
Matt Bielski
ski82566@aol.com

Bowl Show, Breeder's Award Program (BAP)
Curt Bitterling • cbitterl@yahoo.com

Fry Raising Program
Chase Klinesteker
ckspoonpl1@aol.com

Horticulture Award Program and Plant Raising (HAP)
DJ Hemmerlein
gamecube1Dj@aol.com

Hostess OPEN

Membership
Kristie Hemmerlein
flwsweetp@aol.com

Raffle
Ron McNeil • reptilianron@yahoo.com

Webmaster
Phil Kukulski • kp wattson@gmail.com

Great Lakes Pondscapes

Featuring

<http://greatlakespondscapes.com>
glpondscapes@yahoo.com

Great Lakes Pondscapes
29891 Red Arrow Highway
Paw Paw MI 49079

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*).

Dec. 7, 2012

8 p.m.

A surprise presentation by Charlie Grimes

*Don't miss this meeting!
Enjoy the members-only Holiday Party.*

SWAM

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society (S.W.M.A.S.)
PO Box 3095
Kalamazoo MI 49003-3095

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.

<http://www.bluefishaquarium.com>

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Sun CLOSED



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Calendar

NOVEMBER 2012

16/18

Ohio Cichlid Association Show
and Auction www.ohiocichlid.com

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

Bowl Show Schedule

December: Your Favorite Fish

Check-out other clubs

- 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

- Michiana Club
- Omega One Fish Foods
- Penn-Plax
- Pet Supply Plus
- Red Sea Fish Pharmaceuticals
- Rolf C. Hagen Corporation
- Seachem
- Tetra
- Zoo Med