

SWAM

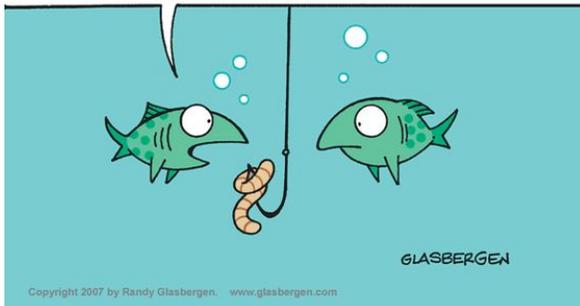
2016 November/December

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

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I'M THINKING ABOUT GOING ONLINE,
BUT I HEARD IT CAN BE DANGEROUS!



President's Message

Hello Fellow Aquarists,

Well the end of the year is upon us however it's been a fine year for the society. We have ventured out and done some new and interesting things this year to enjoy our hobby of aquatics.

This summer we all had a great time at Dave's with our evening at his home. The workshop was great, the food was great and the fellowship was remarkable.

I believe we all had a great time in September with our aquascaping/bowl show at Pet Supplies Plus. We had a lot of beautiful fish and aquascapes at the event and the membership should be very proud of themselves for the marvelous display they presented.

Next month is our annual Christmas party. As always we will have our silent auction of unusual and rare fish. We always have a nice display of aquatic plants. We ask each member to bring a snack. Whether it be a relish dish or sweets. We generally have Jimmy Johns sandwiches and drinks available. I look forward to having another great time this year at the party. Those of you that attended last year won't forget the fire department closing down the hotel at the last minute - as we moved the Christmas Party to Bob Wesolowski's home. We didn't miss a beat as everyone had a great time.

Happy Holidays,

Bob Dempsey

Columbian Striped Ramshorn Snail

By Chase Klinesteker

Marisa cornuarietis

Adult



One must be careful when adding snails to their aquariums. They can be helpful in our fishkeeping, but also, we must be aware of problems they may have. This is true of the Columbian Striped Ramshorn Snail. It is an attractive snail (yellowish shell with brown stripes) of good size (1 ½ inches) that scavenges well, including decaying plant parts, dead fish, and leftover foods, converting them to less toxic substances. It will also eat softer plants, hair algae, and duckweed, which makes them useful in certain instances. However, if they are starved with no softer plants or other foods available, they will eat harder plants, including anubias! They have a voracious appetite and have been introduced in some Florida lakes to control invasive Hydrilla. I have used them to clean hair algae off harder plants like anubias. Just don't leave it too long there and starve the snails, or the anubias will be gone also!

CARE

These snails will survive under a variety of water conditions, but soft, acid water will cause mottled shells to form, and even death. This is because of the lack of water hardness and lime needed to form their shells. Water changes and adding seashells to an aquarium will help condition the water. As mentioned before, they will eat just

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Columbian Striped Ramshorn Snail *continued*

about anything, especially plants, but if one does not have plants to feed them, leaves can be added for them to consume. They are tropical and come from Columbia, Brazil, and Venezuela, needing warmer temperatures to breed (around 80 degrees). I have found them quite helpful in raising shrimp, as you can feed extra food or pellets to the shrimp and be assured it will be quickly cleaned up by the snails. Always be aware of the bioload in any aquarium. Excess numbers of snails produce large amounts of waste also, polluting the tank. The best way to reduce the snail population in a tank is to place a slice of cucumber, potato, etc. on the bottom, wait a few hours, and it will be covered with snails, then remove and discard. If you have puffers, loaches, large cichlids, or other snail eating fish, all the better. The Columbian Ramshorn Snail is a relative of the Apple Snail and has a trap door but does not breathe air. Because it reaches a fairly large size, they need to be monitored closely and removed if dead, as that can quickly pollute an entire aquarium. It has extra-long "horns" that gracefully wave in the water, making it more susceptible to harassing by many species of fish, including guppies.

REPRODUCTION

The Columbian Ramshorn Snail does not seem as prolific as the smaller Red Ramshorn or many other snails. They require both male and female and warmer temperatures to reproduce are susceptible to harassing by fish, and the newly hatched snails seem vulnerable to predation. This can be an advantage over other snails. The eggs are fairly large (2-3 mm.) and may number up to 200 in a mass, but they are translucent and sometimes difficult to see. They are often laid on the glass near the surface or on hard plants. If one wishes to raise more of these snails, it would be best to remove the eggs and hatch them separately. Before acquiring any snails, it is best to check to see if keeping them is restricted in your area, and never release them into local waters.



Bowl Show

Submitted by Ron McNeil

Rankings To-Date:

Dave Hemmerlein	40 points
Ron McNeil	16 points
Bob Dempsey	6 points
Tricha Anderson	1 point

September:	Goodies and Bettas
October:	Catfish and Loaches
November:	Bowl beautiful
December:	Bowl show awards presented

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 cathyraemcneil@gmail.com. Remember that the SWAM is a bi-monthly 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 address listed below or electronically to cathyraemcneil@gmail.com.

Reprints of any article contained herein is granted, provided the usage of same does not result in monetary gain and two (2) copies showing usage are mailed to:

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Or emailed to:
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SPONSORS

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Please support them as they have supported us!



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Meetings are the first Friday of each month!

Every meeting begins at 8 p.m.; is located at **Clarion Inn, 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.

Upcoming Talks:

November 4 - Panel Discussion

December 2 - Member Christmas Party



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

Calendar

NOVEMBER 2016

- 4 SWMAS meeting
www.swmas.org
- 6 Greater Akron Aquarium Society auction
<http://www.gaas-fish.net>
- 6 Greater Akron Aquarium Society auction
<http://www.gaas-fish.net>
- 12 Motor City Aquarium Society Auction
876 Horace Brown Dr., Madison Heights, MI 48071
- 18 Ohio Cichlid Association Extravaganza
www.ohiocichlid.com

DECEMBER 2016

- 2 SWMAS Member Christmas Party
www.swmas.org

JANUARY 2017

- 6 SWMAS Member Christmas Party
www.swmas.org

FEBRUARY 2017

- 3 SWMAS Member Christmas Party
www.swmas.org

MARCH 2017

- 3 SWMAS Member Christmas Party
www.swmas.org
- 12 YATFS Spring Auction
www.yatfs.com