

SWAM

2015 Sept/October

A publication of the
Southwestern Michigan
Aquarium Society
(S.W.M.A.S.)

SWMAS.ORG

*Club meets each month
in Kalamazoo*

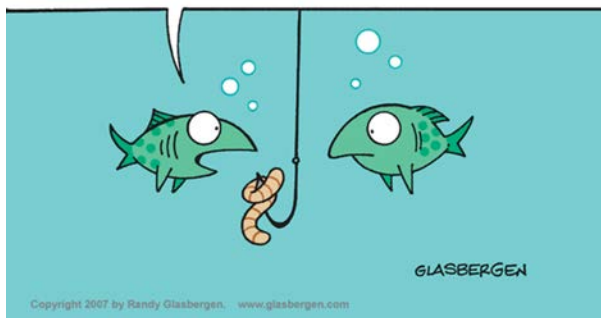
In this issue:

President's Message	Page 1
Articles	Pages 2-5
Auction Info	Pages 6-7
Reports	Page 8
Sponsors	Page 9
Calendar of Events	Page 10



Want to sell fish related items? Send your information to cathyaemcneil@gmail.com and your information will be included in the next SWAM.

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



President's Message

Greetings to all members and friends of SWMAS!

After taking the month of July off, the Society is back in full swing. The August meeting was a great kick off for the remainder of the year- Heather Burke gave a very nice presentation/workshop, we raffled off a very nice aquarium donated by Pet Supplies Plus, Battle Creek, and we finalized the Fry (Black Neon Tetra) competition. Dave Hemmerlein brought in bags (I literally mean bags!) of pond plants and gave them away - first come first serve. Thanks Dave.

Our fall auction is drawing near in Schoolcraft and I am sure details about it will be in this newsletter issue. All members should schedule to attend - a very educational speakers list for Saturday and of course the auction on Sunday.

A few members asked if we were going to schedule a fall native fish collecting expedition. I have posted a feeler on our Facebook page to see how much interest there would be in scheduling the event. We'll see.

Best Wishes,
Bob Dempsey

SWMAS Fry Raising Project – Black Neon Tetra, May through August 2015

Submitted by Bob Dempsey



Background: In the month of May, Chase brought numerous bags of black neon tetra fry (5 fry per bag) to the membership meeting. All those that wanted to participate in the fry raising project purchased a bag. I purchased my bag as did numerous others. All those that purchased a bag were to bring them back to the August meeting in order to view the results of their fry raising efforts.

Discussion: That evening I arrived home about 10:30 P.M. I floated the bag in a 3 ½ gallon planted tank. This tank was well established and had been up and running for about 2 years. Other than the plants there were only a couple of very small shrimp occupying the tank. This would be their home for the next couple of months.

After approximately a half hour of floating the bag I released them into the tank. Time for bed.

First thing in the morning I went to the tank to do my daily plant fertilization regiment and looked for the fry. Oh no! I only counted 2 fry. After periodic checking for the next couple of days I haven't a clue as to what became of the other three fry. The magical fish fairy must have come during the night and took them to fish heaven. Never the less- it appeared that I was now (at least at the present time) attempting to raise 2 of the original 5 fry.

Continued on page 3

Fry Raising – Black Neon Tetra *continued*:

Feeding: I generally feed all my fish a mixture of various flake foods. I'll take a little of each type of food and mix them together, such as, brine shrimp, earthworm, etc. To feed baby fry, I'll take a heaping teaspoon of finely crushed flakes and mix it with a little bit of tank water. Mixing continues until it looks like a weak paste. I fed these 2 fry this kind of baby food (in very small amounts) three times a day. I did this for approximately 2 weeks- whereas the fry tripled their size. Once they reached this size I began to feed them the finely crushed dry flakes twice a day- which continued for another 2 weeks. The fish are being fed morning and evening. At this point I began to introduce frozen bloodworms for their evening meal- 2-3 times per week.

Water: This tank receives approximately a 40% water change once a week. Water temperature is 78-80 degrees.

Conclusion: The end result produced 2 very healthy fish. Good color, bright eyes and good finage.

Recommendation: In the future- If we do this again as a society project I would encourage each member to get involved and try their hand at this very rewarding experience. After all- that's what this group is all about- raising and keeping healthy aquatic fish.

Breeding Archocentrus multispinosa

Submitted by Bradley Moore, Circle City Aquarium Club

The very first cichlid I ever was able to spawn was the Archocentrus multispinosa or Rainbow Cichlid. These fish are great! They stay small, have awesome colors, raise their fry, and eat almost anything, and can be kept in 20 gallon a tank which is nice. I picked up a small group from a guy that goes by AlleyCat out of the Cincy club as a preorder auction delivery. When I received them they were maybe an inch and a half and were starting to show color. I added them to a 20 gallon tanks and started feeding flake food and whatever pellets I had in the basement. In about three weeks they had almost double in size and a pair had started to form. A few days later I separated the pair into their own 20 gallon tank and left them to their own devices. A few short weeks later the pair had turned a jet black and deep orange color and laid a few hundred eggs on the outside of a clay flower pot! The eggs are like normal substrate spawning cichlid eggs and hatch and are free swimming in a week or so. The fry are pretty decently sized for what I consider a small cichlid. They easily ate crushed up flake food and ground up NLS pellets. A few weeks later the pair spawned again in the same tank and raised a couple hundred more fry at the same time as their first batch of fry! I have always heard of the Rainbow Cichlid being a beginners cichlid for the simple fact that they are easy to breed. This tends to give this fish a bad rap and most seasoned cichlid keepers tend to shy away from them do to the stigma. Do yourself a favor and give these guys a try.

*Article republished from Fancy Fins, June 2015
A publication of Greater City Aquarium Society, Inc. – New York*

ZIPHOPHORUS CORTEZI

Submitted by Charley Grimes; August 8, 2011



The XIPHOPHORUS CORTEZI is a relatively recent fish, both to science and to our tropical fish hobby. I was unable to locate much information on this when I looked on the Internet. The only common name that I have ever heard for this fish is The CORTEZI Swordtail. My fish are out of wild stock that Rusty Wessel collected recently in east central Mexico. I have the collecting location as the Rio Tabaué and the Rio Coy

The X. cortezi is a robust and stocky swordtail that gets up to four inches, not counting the swordtail extension on the caudal fin. This fish, under favorable conditions, which for this species, means clean, cool water and an aquarium with good water movement. The body color is sort of olive with rows of black spots as well as lots of random spots. The mature male sports a fairly impressive yellow dorsal over a silver body and has a yellow tail with a totally underwhelming sword.

Currently, XIPHOPHORUS CORTEZI, along with two closely related species, X. birchmani and X. malinch, are 'hot tickets' at American Livebearer Conventions and auctions where Livebearer hobbyists are in attendance.

As I do like wild type fishes and often get caught up in the 'if it is new, I gotta have it' fever, I can understand this popularity, but, in all honesty, I have to admit that there are prettier and more impressive fish out there.

For me, the X. Cortezi, X. malinch, and X. birchmani are both handsome and desirable aquarium fish; admittedly, they fall way short when it comes to being colorful.

Swordtails, in general are endemic (a \$1.00 word that means 'native to' or 'comes from'), to Mexico and two or three other Central American countries.

Mexico is a relatively large country and, not surprisingly, most of the wild species of Swordtails come from Mexico.

Swordtails and the closely related Platys are stream fish. Well, guess what, a lot of Mexico, especially the eastern part is hilly with deep valleys. Most of these valleys have streams and most of these streams are pretty much isolated from neighboring streams. This isolation has a lot to do with creating different species.

Specifically, the XIPHOPHORUS CORTEZI are found in the Rio Panuco Basin and around San Luis Potosi which is, roughly, in the northeastern part of Mexico.

Continued on page 5

Breeding Archocentrus multispinosa continued

Ichthyologists, specifically, those who do a lot of field work in Mexico, are of the opinion that there are still lots of undiscovered and undescribed fishes in these valleys. So, with any luck, more new and exciting fish will be in our future.

This is probably a good place for a GIGANTIC word of caution regarding Swordtails and Platys. These two groups of fish are not only closely related, they will readily cross-breed, hybridize, interbreed, or whatever.

The ability to crossbreed and selectively breed the Platys and the Swordtails is a very sharp two edged sword!

The fabulous colors and forms of Swordtails and Platys is a direct benefit for the aquarists and has contributed to the popularity of our hobby.

On the other hand, the mixing species (or varieties of Swordtails and/or Platys can result in offspring that are less than the parents, and, just like cooking, YOU CANNOT UNSCRAMBLE AN EGG!

Another word of caution, Swordtails are great jumpers---be warned.

Enough with the cautions and warnings, let's get to the good stuff about Swordtails in general and XIPHOPHORUS cortezi in particular:

- 1) Swordtails will prosper in just about any tap water but will absolutely love Indianapolis water---moderately hard and alkaline
- 2) Swordtails like it at room temperature --- if the temperature feels good to you, it will be good for them too.
- 3) Swordtails will do great on just flake food or other readily available fish foods.
- 4) Swordtails are active in the aquarium so will constantly entertain you.
- 5) Swordtails, generally speaking, are excellent community tank fish.
- 6) Swordtails will readily reproduce themselves, which is very nifty.
- 6.1) As with lots of livebearers, it seemed like the X. cortezi were not going to cooperate and give me any fry. Then, after three months, I got a couple of fry and then the following month, about 30 more fry appeared. Once they got settled in and were comfortable in their surroundings, the X. cortezi became 'baby factories'

In summary, Swordtails are popular because they are such great aquarium fish.

And, since there are so many varieties & species, there is always some new or different Swordtail to enjoy.



**The Southwestern Michigan
Aquarium Society**
Invites you to their



**Fall Workshops
and
Tropical Fish Auction**

Workshops: Saturday, October 3
Auction: Sunday, October 4

Ken Krum Center
East Clay Street
Schoolcraft, MI 49087

For further information contact:
Dave Hemmerlein
Phone: 269-317-6555
E-mail: pupfishmich@aol.com

Schedule

9:00 to 10:30	Charley Grimes	Native Fish
10:40 to 12:10	Eric Brodrock Cory	Breeding made easy
12:40 to 1:40	Bob Dempsey	Aquascaping with Driftwood
1:50 to 3:10	Regina Spotti	Rasboras and Tetras My Way
3:20 to 4:50	Ron McNeil and Dave Hemmerlein	Midwest Pond and Koi Tour
5:00 to 6:00	Pizza Party free to attendees	
6:00 to 7:30	Eric Brodrock	Spawning Oddball Scavengers

Note: Bob's program will be DIY with attaching plants to rocks, driftwood, and other items so bring in your java moss, ferns, and plants and Bob will show you how to do it.

Sunday's Auction Registration: 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Auction Starts: 11:00 a.m.-????

Fish, plants, and supplies will be auctioned until all items have been sold!
All buyers and sellers are invited to participate.

**Location: Ken Krum Center,
Schoolcraft, Michigan**



AUCTION REGISTRATION

Buyer and Seller Information

(Please Print)

Complete this form and present it with your driver's license to the registration table

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Driver's License Number _____

Signature _____

Required if you wish to register as a buyer

Number of Items to Sell _____ The number of items to be sold is required for an accurate payout

How did you hear of the SWMAS Auction?

- SWMAS Member
- Newspaper
- Radio
- Postcard
- Email
- Craig's List
- Flyer
- Friend
- Website
- Other _____

Please add me to your mailing list for future events.

SWMAS Staff Use Only

Seller ID and Buyer Number assigned by Registration

Seller ID

Gross Sold

Buyer Number

Seller Split

REPORTS

Fry Raising

Submitted by Chase Klinesteker

Robert Dempsey won the Fry-Raising contest of the Black Neon Tetras. He will need to write an article describing what he did to win before he can collect the \$30.00 prize.

Horticulture Awards Program (HAP)

Submitted by Bob Dempsey

No HAP to report.

Breeders Award Program Report

Darrell Ullisch, Chairman

No spawns reported for BAP in July or August.

Bowl Show

Submitted by Ron McNeil

Ranking:

1st Dave Hemmerlein
2nd Ron McNeil
3rd Carey Giffen

September:

Goodies and Bettas

October:

No meeting

November:

Bowl beautiful; must contain at least one fish in the display.

facebook

Want to know more?

Find us on Facebook

Southwestern Michigan
Aquarium Society

Or go to our website:

www.swmas.org

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 cathyaemcneil@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 SWMAS, P.O. Box 3095, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-3095.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Robert Dempsey
RobertDempsey79@yahoo.com

Vice President: Ron McNeil
reptilianron@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Bob Wesolowski
Treasurer.SWMAS@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Gemma Ybarra
ybarra.gm@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary: Carey Giffen

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

Members-at-Large
Dave Hemmerlein
pupfishmich@aol.com

Tim Ramsbottom
timberrwolf2000@gmail.com

Scott Davis
olds4552@att.net

Chase Klinesteker
ckspoonpl1@aol.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

2015 Spring Auction: David Hemmerlein
pupfishmich@aol.com

2015 Fall Auction: David Hemmerlein
pupfishmich@aol.com

Monthly Auction: Matt Bielski
ski82566@aol.com

Bowl Show: Ron McNeil
reptilianron@yahoo.com

Breeder's Award Program (BAP):
Darrell Ullisch
Chromedome52@comcast.net

Fry Raising Program
Chase Klinesteker
ckspoonpl1@aol.com

Horticulture Award Program and Plant Raising (HAP):

Bob Dempsey
RobertDempsey79@yahoo.com

Membership: Bob Wesolowski
Treasurer.SWMAS@gmail.com

Programs: Chase Klinesteker
ckspoonpl1@aol.com

Raffle: Shawna Ransbottom
Shawnam.ransbottom@gmail.com

Webmaster: Phil Kukulski
kp wattson@gmail.com

SPONSORS

SWMAS is very fortunate to have the following sponsors.
Please support them as they have supported us!



The Pet Connection
Ronl Baker
Owner
1170 S. Centreville Rd. Suit. H
Sturgis, MI 49091
269-659-FISH
(3474)
captain_ronl@yahoo.com



**BLUE FISH
AQUARIUM**
By Aquarium
Services
RETAIL
616-667-BLUE

<http://www.bluefishaquarium.com>

939 Wilson Ave. sw#1
Grandville, MI. 49421
(616) 667-2583

Mon.-Sat. 10-8,
Sunday 12-5



PET SUPPLIES PLUS
CHRIS BRENNAN
Store Team Leader
petsuppliesplus212@yahoo.com
1791 W. Columbia Ave., Battle Creek, MI 49015
Telephone: 269.964.9252 • Fax: 269.964.9282



**PET SUPPLIES "PLUS"
DISCOUNT PET SUPPLIES**
5320 S. WESTNEDGE
PORTAGE, MI 49008
PHONE: (269) 341-9252
FAX: (269) 341-9796
5% DISCOUNT TO SWMAS MEMBERS

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.

October 5, 2015

NO MEETING

Sept. 4, 2015

Livebearers
by Ben Slocum

Nov. 6, 2015

Getting Fishy in Florida
by Ron McNeil



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

Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2015

4 **SWMAS Meeting**
www.swmas.org

13 Michiana general meeting
<http://www.michianaaquariumsociety.org/>

19-20 Michiana Aquarium Society Tropical Magic
<http://www.michianaaquariumsociety.org/>

OCTOBER 2015

2 **NO SWMAS meeting**
<http://www.swmas.org/>

3-4 **SWMAS Workshop and Auction in Schoolcraft**
<http://www.swmas.org/>

10 Michigan Cichlid Association Auction
<http://michigancichlid.com/>

10 Grand Valley Aquarium Club meeting
www.gvaquariumclub.org

16-18 Madison Area Aquatic Hobbyists Catfish Convention
<http://catfish-cataclysm.com/>

17 Grand Valley (GVAC) Annual Fall Auction
www.gvaquariumclub.org

18 Michiana general meeting
<http://www.michianaaquariumsociety.org/>

24 Motor City Aquarium Society Auction
<http://www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com/>

NOVEMBER 2015

6 **SWMAS Meeting**
www.swmas.org

20-22 Ohio Cichlid Association – Show & Auction
www.ohiocichlid.com