

# TANK TALES

OCTOBER 2010

VOLUME 39, No. 9

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AQUARIUM CLUB OF LANCASTER COUNTY

**NEXT MEETING**  
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 16TH**  
**PROGRAM: ERIC BODROCK**  
**"SPAWNING ODDBALL FISH"**



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE: BEHIND THE LEGEND OF THE WOOLEY SWAMP**

Tank Tales is the official publication of the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County (ACLC). Ten issues of Tank Tales are published annually. Anyone using original material from any issue of Tank Tales must return two (2) copies of the publication in which the article is published to our exchange editor listed below. The views expressed in any material appearing in Tank Tales are those of the authors, and do not necessarily express those of the ACLC.

The ACLC meets on the third Saturday of each month (except July and August) at That Fish Place, 237 Centerville Road, Lancaster, PA 17603. Meetings begin at 1:00 PM unless otherwise noted. Meetings usually are comprised of a program featuring a guest speaker, door prizes, a mini fish auction, with a period allowed for mingling and refreshments. The philosophy of the club is such that our activities are interesting to both the novice and advanced hobbyist alike. An effort is made to keep business to a minimum at the general meetings, with the executive board meeting being held monthly as needed on a pre-established date and time.

## 2010 ACLC OFFICERS & OFFICIALS

Office	Name	Phone	E-mail
<b>President</b>	Kurt Johnston	717-965-7763	kaj41354@comcast.net
<b>Vice-President</b>	Lonny Langione	717-292-6824	lonlangione@comcast.net
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<b>WAAP Chair</b>	Joel Antkowiak	717-354-2274	mrkillie@comcast.net

### Lifetime Members of the ACLC

Paul Bricknell	F. Wayne Calender
Pedro Sanchez	David Stephon

*Cover:* Red-humped demon fish, aka red-humped eartheater, *Geophagus steindachneri*.  
Photo by Joel Antkowiak.



# President's Message

*"Bittersweet October. The mellow, messy, leaf-kicking, perfect pause between the opposing miseries of summer and winter." - Carol Bishop Hipps*

Fellow Members,

I have always loved this time of year. In addition to the beautiful scenery created by the leaves changing, you don't have to break out the winter coats or the boots and you can walk briskly without breaking a sweat. It is also the time that I am getting ready to attend some great events.

This year we have the North Jersey Aquarium Society's Aquatic Weekend in Lyndhurst, NJ and the All American Catfish Convention in Fairfax VA happening on back to back weekends in October. Then in November we have the East Coast Cichlids great Fall Auction in Lyndhurst NJ and the OCA Extravaganza in Cleveland! For those of you looking to stock up on fish and supplies, these are some of the best events around. The Catfish Convention and the OCA also have great speaker programs scheduled.

I want to encourage all of you to attend as many of these events as possible and show everyone what great people we have in the ACLC. You will definitely not regret attending any of these events. Not only will you get some great deals at the auctions but you will get a chance to learn from some of the best and most experienced aquarium hobbyists. I will be attending most, if not all of these, and I usually have an open seat - **so join me!**

We also have our elections coming up at the November meeting. You will be electing the group that will lead the ACLC in 2011. In addition to the elected officers, we could use a few people to volunteer to assist the board in some very important activities. Remember the more people we have to help, the more things we can do for the benefit of our club members. Please let us know what you might like to do so that we can continue to grow in 2011!

See you on the 16th!

*Kurt*



## FROM THE EDITOR'S TANK

We need some different people writing some articles and contributing to this publication. I see the same names on all the articles and photos that are published. This is your club's publication, it is only as good and diversified as you make it.

Maybe some of you want to write something, but don't know how to go about it. I have written a short article on getting started with an article-you can find it elsewhere in this issue. I mainly wrote it because the twisted one, Michael Steffen, with two more articles this month, is catching up to me ☺ And I have two by him in the bank too. Good thing I have two this month as well.

Speaking of the twisted one, congratulations to Mr. Steffen and also to Jay Stephan for having articles reprinted recently. And yours truly has had two articles reviewed recently. The good work of our members is getting recognized by other clubs. Let's give them some more great stuff to read. You *know* they want it.

'Til next month.

*Joel*

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## Lancaster Pet Expo - Help!

The ACLC has been invited to display at the [Lancaster Pet Expo](#) on December 4th & 5th at the Lancaster County Convention Center. This will be a great opportunity for our club to increase membership. Our display will consist of a professional booth display, as well as an aquarium set-up. The plan is for a 75 or 90 gallon set up. We have a stand and a light, and Jay Stephan has agreed to supply some of his African cichlids for the display. We could use a tank and background, full hood or glass canopy, some gravel, and maybe some driftwood or other decorations. See Joel Antkowiak if you can help. You can pick up your items at the end of the show or arrange with Joel to pick up at another time.

We also need some people to work at the booth, both setting up and breaking down the display, and greeting potential new members throughout the weekend. I would like to have at least 10 people available at various times during the weekend to help with this so we can have at least 2 people at all times and no one has to be there too long. It does get tiring. Please contact Joel or Suze Glesky if you can spare a few hours to help your club to grow!

## WRITER'S AND ARTIST'S AWARD PROGRAM

### OVERALL STANDINGS\*

#### Author's Award

Joel Antkowiak .....270 points

#### Writer's Award

Michael Steffen .....200 points

Jay Stephan .....80 points

Bob Kulesa.....80 points

Debbie Rubin .....70 points

Kurt Johnston .....55 points

#### Other Participants

Suze Glesky .....40 points

Lonny Langione .....35 points

Wayne Calender.....35 points

Stephanie Cornell.....30 points

Matt Shaffer .....20 points

Geoff Graff.....20 points

### MIGHTY FIN STANDINGS 2010-2011\*

Michael Steffen .....180 points

Joel Antkowiak .....125 points

Jay Stephan .....20 points

Bob Kulesa.....30 points

Suze Glesky .....30 points

Debbie Rubin .....20 points

*Standings as of October 6, 2010*

*\*-Standings may include points for items that have not yet been published*

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## ACLC BOD ELECTIONS

At our meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Aquarium Club of Lancaster County will elect officers for 2011! The club annually elects a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Paul Bricknell has stepped forward to be the Election Chairperson. Please consider running for one of these positions as too much of the work of this club is being done by too few people. With the growth that we have had in the club this year, we really need help on the board. We currently have Kurt Johnston running for president, Danny Corman for vice-president, Suze Glesky for secretary and Tim Brady for Treasurer. Please let Paul know of your interest so he can put you on the ballot! Let's have us a real election for a change!

# Culturing Live Food: Green Water, Microfex and Daphnia

by Michael Steffen AKA Twisted Fisher

In this installment we will explore the live foods *Daphnia sp.*, *Moina sp.*, greenwater, and microfex worms. The reason that these 3 are lumped together is because you can set up a symbiotic relationship between them in the same vessel, but more on that later in the article.

Daphnia (or Daphniids) are members of a collection of animals that are broadly termed as "water fleas". These are mainly small crustaceans, and daphnia belong to a group known as the Daphniidae (which in turn is part of the Cladocera, relatives of the freshwater shrimp, gammarus et al, and the brine shrimp, *Artemia sp.*). They get their common name from their jerky movement through the water. Apart from the jerky movements, the resemblance to real fleas (*Pulex irritans*, etc), ends. All species of daphnia occur in different strains - sometimes the same species can look completely different, both in terms of size and shape, depending on its origin, and environmental factors at that location. Mainly we see *D. pulex*, and *D. magna* in the hobby and sometimes see the "Russian Red" variety. *Moina* are a smaller version of the same crustation that only reach half the length of daphnia.

Microfex worms are also called deroworms or Dero Worms. Microfex worms are closely related to tubifex worms and blackworms. These "colony" breeding worms are pink to orange in color and ball up on the food source which makes them easy to culture.

Green water is the common name for an accumulation of free-floating single celled algae in an aquatic environment. When conditions are right, green water will multiply - this is called an algae bloom. The small particles of algae can reach large numbers. A thick green water algae bloom will make water appear a dark, deep green color. Although the algae is commonly referred to as green water, the actual water is not green. The small algae particles that are suspended in the water column appear to make the water a greenish color. If the

algae were to die off for any reason, the algae would sink to the bottom and the water column would be clear again

Now that we know what each one is, let's discuss how we as hobbyist can use these foods to our benefit. The end result for a hobbyist keeping fish is enjoyment. If you are enjoying your fish great; if you would like to witness them in their natural hunting actions - even better. Daphnia and *Moina* move in the tank in rapid jerky motions and can cause the hunting instincts of our domestic little guppy to kick in and stalk its lunch instead of catching a flake or pellet. For the folks interested in breeding, these live foods can entice a lot of fish to spawn or get their fry to survive after such has occurred. A lot of fry have mouths too small to eat any commercially prepared foods when first hatched. Green water is the solution for this problem and will greatly increase the survival rate of any fry that are born. Another point is the health factor of live vs. prepared but we discussed that in the first article already and will not go back into it.

On to the culturing! To set up a green water culture all you need is a glass canning jar and a nice sunny window sill. You can place a lettuce leaf or a few grass clippings in the jar of old tank water and cover with a cheese cloth to keep the skeeters out. Time will seed the algae and get your culture going.



Micro algae spores are carried on the wind. Some will find their way into your jar if you let the window open for a few hours each day. If you don't want to let your green water future fly in the wind you could always get a starter culture from another hobbyist or order them from some online retailers of starter cultures. Either way you get one going the benefits are far greater than not having one.

Harvesting is easily done by dumping part of the culture into the desired tank of fish or Daphnia. Then simply refill with old tank water and watch it all happen again.

Daphnia and Moina are one in the same except Moina are the dwarf form. For this reason I shall refer to them both as daphnia for the purposes of this article. Daphnia can be cultured in a container as small as a 1 gallon jar or in a swimming pool of 10,000 gallons. The principals are all the same when culturing and as long as you follow the principals you should not have any problems. Daphnia are filter feeders and filter primarily algae from the water along with bacteria and protozoa. Daphnia even filter other things from the water that are not algae and eat them just the same. The only recommended starting culture I will advise is to get one from another hobbyist or from a online seller. Wild caught daphnia are potentially harmful to your fish by bringing in possible disease or parasites in the process of catching them in local ponds or streams.

Now that you have you daphnia culture and your container to grow them in there are just a few things we will need to set it up. Old tank water, rigid air tubing, an air pump, an air control valve, and a stable place to put the container. I am currently using a 10 gallon tank for daphnia culturing as I have found it is easier to maintain the water quality in larger containers. Take your container and fill it with your old tank water. Then place the rigid air line into the tank and adjust the air flow until you have about 1 bubble per second coming out of the end of the open air tube. Do not use an air stone because the small air bubbles can get between the carapace of the daphnia and causing it to break, killing the daphnia. After you add the daphnia you have the set up to grow them. No light is needed nor is a current through the container.

Feeding can become some what of a challenge and hence the green water section first. Add enough green water to make the container turn a slight green tint. Then add green water daily or every other day as needed or when you can see through it. Green water is only one of the possible foods for daphnia. Another is to put half a bag of frozen peas in the blender with 2 cups of water and a few pinches of flake food and let it run on high speed for about 15 minutes until everything is a thick pea soup. Then strain this through a tee shirt and what goes through is a highly concentrated Daphnia food that can be kept in the refrigerator for a week. Yet another option is to feed them activated dry yeast

but this has a faster rate of fouling the water and has to be done with great care as to not cause a culture crash. The yeast should be mixed with old tank water and only a tiny pinch of yeast should be added to make the tank slightly cloudy. You should be able to see through the tank with moderate difficulty when there is enough yeast mix in the tank with them. And the final method that I am going to cover in this article is to put them in with microfex worms. The daphnia will filter out the microfex worm waste making the water quality better for the worms and in turn feed the daphnia.

Harvesting can be easily done with a brine shrimp net - just swipe it backwards in the desired feeding tank to release them to your waiting little fish.

Microfex worms are the easiest of all live foods to culture. Set up a container as with the Daphnia and add the starter culture. Then all you have to do is add half an algae wafer every few days/weeks. The amount you feed depends on the amount of worms you have in the tank. I currently have about 20 different "colonies" or balls of them in a 10 gallon tank and feed a few broken up wafers once per week. When you see the orange streak on the bottom of the container it's time to feed them. The orange streaks are the scouts going out to look for more food.

Harvesting can be done a few ways but the easiest I have found is to take a turkey baster and simply suck them up and shoot them into your waiting fish. Another method that is used by a club mate is to grab them with tweezers and pull a piece from the colony ball and drop it in to the waiting fish. Microfex are smaller than black worms and are a great second food for a lot of small fry.

It is a lot to digest and may seem over whelming but if your uneasy about going full out with daphnia at least give the microfex a try because they are super easy and your fish will thank you for it.

As always till you peek behind the shell and catch me again I bid you happy fish keeping.





[EastCoastCichlids.org](http://EastCoastCichlids.org) is proud to  
announce

Fall Auction '10!

Please come join us on  
Sunday, November 7th

**Lyndhurst Elks Club**  
**251 Park Avenue**  
**Lyndhurst, NJ 07071**

Registration: 9 am – 11 am

Auction: 12pm

There will be vendors, food provided by The Lyndhurst Elks  
Club, great hobbyists from the East Coast and plenty of quality  
fish, plants and dry goods

For more information please visit our website:

<http://www.EastCoastCichlids.org>



## Petrotilapia sp. Nkhata Orange

BAP Report by Jay Stephan

This fish comes from Lake Malawi. Juveniles and females are bright orange. Males get egg spots on their anal fin and turn purple/blue. Most of my males have developed a purple face, with purple stripes on their body. The remainder of their body and fins are yellow. One male turned dark purple/blue all over with yellow stripes and yellow accents on the edges of all his fins. I am having trouble finding much information about this species. I saw one article that shows males becoming a light blue color and females remaining yellow. None of my males have turned light blue, however. My best guess is that these fish are a lesser known more purple variety of *Petrotilapia* sp. Nkhata. *Petrotilapia* can grow up to seven inches and are aggressive. However, this variety seems to top out around 5 to 6 inches, and may not be as aggressive as other varieties of this fish. They tend to be a grazer and will pick algae off the glass of the tank and ornaments. Despite their aggressive nature, I have been able to mix them with other aggressive and mildly aggressive African cichlids. I would not try to mix them with more peaceful cichlids.

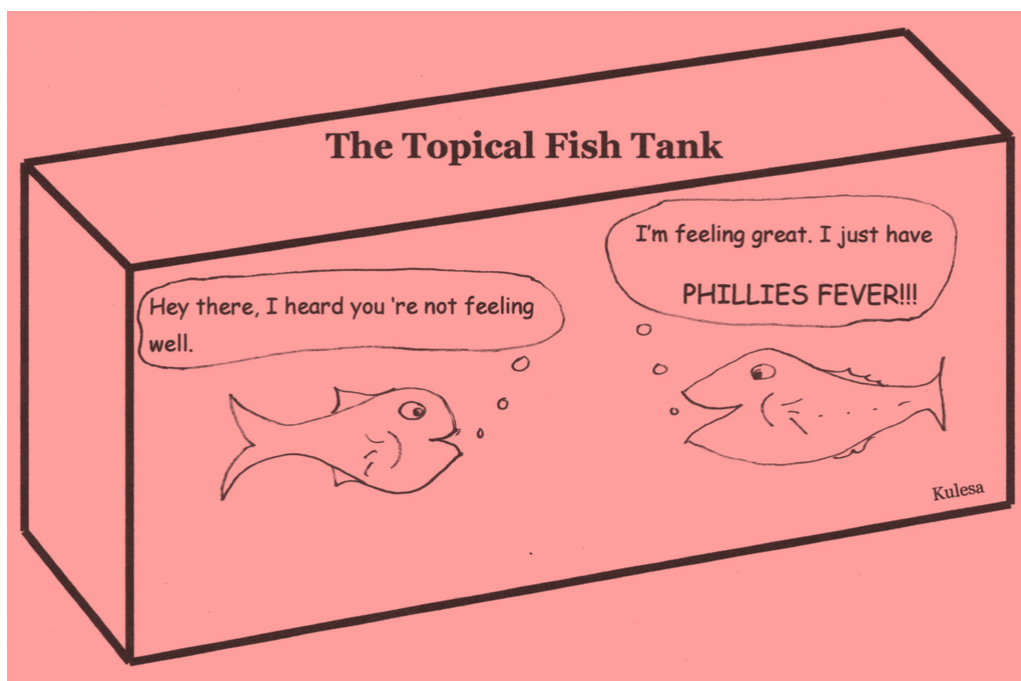
These fish spawned when they were in one of my 20 gallon high tanks. I have since moved them to a 90 gallon tank so they have more room. The male that spawned began to fight with another male in the 90 and I had to move him back to a 20 Gallon Tank. The mother is in the 90 gallon tank with others of her kind.

My tanks have stones on the bottom, and I recently replaced my under gravel filter system with sponge filters. I depend on a drip system to change 10 to 15% of their water twice each week.

Once a month, I clean their stones and do a large 40 to 50% water change. This is when spawning tends to occur. I have placed four inch long, PVC pipe of various diameters ranging from one inch to two inches, on top of the stones, in these tanks. These fish use them both as a hiding place and a place to spawn.

When I discovered the mother was holding, I moved her to a smaller empty tank to have her babies. After the fry were born, the mother was moved to another empty tank, for three days, before being returned to her original tank.

Fry remain in the 15 gallon tank and are fed a powder type food until they become large enough to eat regular food. When they have grown to one inch size, I consider them to be juveniles and they are moved to my 20 gallon tanks. When possible, they are mixed with up to two other types of compatible African cichlid juveniles, so they learn to adapt to life with other fish in a community tank. As they continue to grow, they are moved to larger tanks and mixed with more compatible fish until they sell. Juveniles are only sold locally until they reach two inch or larger size, when I consider them to be sub-adults. Sub-adults and adults are sold locally or are shipped to hobbyists overnight via Fed Ex.







# AQUATIC WEEKEND 2010

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

October 15-17, 2010

Lyndhurst Elks Club, 251 Park Avenue, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

Come spend the weekend with New Jersey's largest Tropical Fish Club. The event includes a fish show on Saturday only, and a huge tropical fish, plant & dry goods auction on Sunday. Vendors, Silent Auction, Food & Drinks available both days.

Show Setup Friday 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Show Judging & Viewing Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Auction Registration Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Auction Viewing Starts @ 11:00 a.m.

Auction Starts @ noon until all items auctioned

For more information on NJAS event and directions, visit us on the web at [www.njas.net](http://www.njas.net) or call our hotline 732-541-1392, or Kevin Carr (201-724-9460).

This year NJAS is hosting The Philadelphia Area Betta Society's (PABS) 12<sup>TH</sup> IBC INTERNATIONAL SHOW

October 15 & 16

Show Setup Friday @ 9:00 a.m.

Show Judging & Viewing on Saturday

Auction on Saturday @ 6:00 p.m.

For additional information on Betta show, contact Clayton Crawford (908-674-0557), or at [ClayCrawford56@aol.com](mailto:ClayCrawford56@aol.com)

"It's Betta With Us"



# REGIONAL AND SPECIALTY CLUBS

## Delaware County Aquarium Society

Meets the 1st Friday of each month from Sept. through June at the Springfield Township Building, Springfield, PA.

[www.dcas.us](http://www.dcas.us)

## Diamond State Aquarium Society

Meets the 2nd Monday of each month from Sept. through June at William Penn High School in New Castle, DE.

<http://dsas.topcities.com/>

## Bucks County Aquarium Society

Meets the 1st Thursday of each month from Sept. through July at the Churchville Nature Center, Churchville, PA.

<http://www.bcasonline.com/>

## Potomac Valley Aquarium Society

Meets the 1st Saturday of each month from Sept. through June at the Green Acres School in Fairfax, VA

<http://www.pvas.com/>

## NJ Tri-State Tropical Fish Association

Meets the 1st Thursday of every month except July and August at the Barrington Municipal Building in Barrington, NJ.

Contact Bill Farrell at 856-428-1431.

## Keystone Killy Group

Meets the second Saturday of each month from Sept. through June (except Dec.) at members' homes.

<http://www.keystonekilly.org/>

## Capital Cichlid Association

Meets the second Saturday of each month from Sept. through June in Silver Spring, MD.

<http://www.capitalcichlids.org/>

## ACLC Contact Info

The Aquarium Club of Lancaster County has new contact information. First, our official mailing address is now:

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County  
590 Centerville Road #318  
Lancaster, PA 17601

We also have the following e-mail addresses for our officers and committee heads:

Office	Email
President	President@aclcpa.org
Vice President	VicePresident@aclcpa.org
Secretary	Secretary@aclcpa.org
Treasurer	Treasurer@aclcpa.org
Membership Chair	Membership@aclcpa.org
Public Relations	PublicRelations@aclcpa.org
Editor	Editor@aclcpa.org
Exchange Editor	Exchange@aclcpa.org
Webmaster	Webmaster@aclcpa.org
Social Chair	Social@aclcpa.org
Horticultural Chair	HAP@aclcpa.org
BAP Chair	BAP@aclcpa.org
Auction chair	Auction@aclcpa.org
Corporate Sponsor	
Liaison	Sponsor@aclcpa.org
Audit Chair	Audit@aclcpa.org

# Celestial Pearl Danio (CPD) or Galaxy Rashora

BAP Report by Twisted Fisher AKA Michael Steffen

I acquired these fish in July on our NJ shop hop and they are nothing short of amazing to watch. Everything that you have read about them is a short story in regards to these little gems. Pages have been filled on other subjects that could be burned in comparison of their character and attitude but first let's cover the basics.

These fish are endemic to a very small area in China where it inhabits small rivers, stream, and spring fed pools. The sexes are almost dimorphic with the males having the same colors as the females only brighter in the appearance. And the males tend to have bright red fins when they are in breeding form. Overall size is between  $\frac{3}{4}$ -1" at adult size and fry are between  $\frac{1}{16}$ - $\frac{1}{8}$ " at hatch and are about as thick as a human hair with eyes! Their back is bronze/green with their bellies being more of a green/blue coloration. Small pearly dots cover the entire body and give this fish one of its names. The female's belly is slightly yellowish white with a bulge when there are a lot of eggs on board. The gill plates are transparent and the red gills can be seen through them.

These fish hit the hobby in 2006 and within a few short months they were becoming endangered in their native habitat due to the demand that hobbyists placed on them. They were small, colorful, new, and not being bred in captivity and this was a huge danger for them.

The first recorded captive breeding of CPD's was in 2007 by a man in England and ever since people have been perfecting the way to get these little gems to reproduce. Before this time the livestock available was solely wild. Up until 2007 and the first recorded captive breeding program the British magazine "Practical Fishkeeping" was requesting that only fish keepers that were concentrating on the breeding of these fish should buy them. Thank everyone that spent many hours back then getting us a supply of these fish and due to the ban on the export of them we can now see them in the hobby stores. As with a lot of things, the beauty and size of these fish was almost their downfall.

Fast forward to 2010 and our trip to NJ to visit the loud folks that inhabit that state. I found them at

"The Pet Shanty" and picked up 2 males and 2 females for my initial stock of this species in my tanks. I spoke in depth with "The Prez" regarding breeding them and had read a lot of articles on the breeding and conservation of these fish prior to our trip and had been looking to get some for a long time. I decided to set up the lowest tech set up to start my breeding project. I took a standard 10 gallon tank and stuffed about a half pound of java moss into it creating a layer of java moss about 5-6" deep covering the entire length of the tank from end to end. I then proceeded to lose my fish in the green jungle! I was paranoid a bit and even a bit apprehensive about putting my fish into a tank where I couldn't find them if I had to at first. Well, needless to say after just a few weeks I started seeing what I thought was my imagination swimming across the top levels of the tank. By this time the moss had taken over the top water of my tank and I had to sit really still to see the eyelash size fry swimming among the moss hanging from the top of the water. Since I have the "deep plant" set up I do not get a lot of fry at a time but I do have 2-4 fry weekly and the first few that I had are now large enough to have been allowed to join the parents in the lower levels of the tank. The tank is not heated and maintains a 60-70 F temperature that varies with the room temperature as it rises in the day and falls at night.

The specifics of keeping them are as follows: all chemicals are at 0, the plants keep it that way, I have only done a water fill up weekly and have not attempted to do a water change as of yet on the tank for fear of sucking the fry out. I am planning to do an "air stone siphon" water change sometime in the next few weeks but I am still waiting and being patient. I feed betta first bites to the fry and feed the juveniles/adults live microfex worms and micro worms. Their tank is in an out of the way spot with little to no traffic by it to allow them to feel safe and secure. Is it the perfect set up? I am sure it is not but it is controllable and it is working for me. In the near future I am moving them to my new rack and going to shake out the males and females for conditioning and hopefully larger broods of fry.

In follow up its my personal opinion that these fish should be spawned and passed on to other fish keepers to keep this fish in the hobby and to take the strain off the wild supply. These little gems are a fish I will be keeping for a long time to come and can only wait till I can pass on the joy of the CPD's.

As always till you see me peek out from behind my shell I bid you happy fish keeping.

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## ***THE SWAP SHOP***

Have something to sell or trade? Looking for something? Get the word out! Send your ads to [mrkillie@comcast.net](mailto:mrkillie@comcast.net) by the first Saturday of the month. All ads will run 3 issues unless I am informed otherwise. Please let me know if items you are selling have been sold.

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There are still some 5.5 gallon tanks available from Jeff Miller's family's donation to the club:

5.5 gallon - Qty of 38, 28 have glass lids - \$5.00 with glass lid / \$4.00 w/o lid

Contact Kurt Johnston 717-965-7763 or by e-mail at [president@aclcpa.org](mailto:president@aclcpa.org) if you are interested. This is another great way to support your club.

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The following are available from Joel Antkowiak:

*Fundulopanchax marmoratus* Mundemba \$3/pr

*Cryptoheros nanoluteus* mated pair \$15. This is an ACA CARES conservation project species.

(3) 15 gallon tanks with glass lids. \$20 each.

Strip lights, all with new starters:

36" for 30, 30 or 40 breeder, 50, or 65 gal \$15

48" for 55, 70/90/110 \$20

Contact Joel at (717) 354-2274 or by e-mail at [mrkillie@comcast.net](mailto:mrkillie@comcast.net).

## **UPCOMING**

### **\*\*\*EVENTS\*\*\***

*Visit the websites for these clubs for more information on their event if you are interested in attending. Support other clubs and they will support ours!*

#### **North Jersey Aquarium Society**

##### ***Aquatic Weekend 2010***

**October 15 - 17, 2010**

**251 Park Avenue  
Lyndhurst Elks Club  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071**

#### **Potomac Valley Aquarium**

##### ***All Aquarium Catfish Show***

**October 21 - 24, 2010**

**Fairfax, VA**

**[www.catfish2010.com](http://www.catfish2010.com)**

#### **East Coast Cichlids**

##### ***Fall Auction '10***

**November 7, 2010**

**251 Park Avenue  
Lyndhurst Elks Club  
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071**





# NEC Seeks 36th Convention Logo

## Rules for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Logo Contest

The Deadline for submission is 11:59pm November 25, 2010!!

The Logo you design should incorporate this year's theme, **"100 Years of Advances in the Hobby"** into a fishy design, representative of a Tropical Fish Convention. It does not have to include the dates of the convention (March 25-27, 2011) nor the fact that this will be the 36th convention, but you may include this information in the design if you wish.

1. Artist must be a member of an NEC club.
2. Entry must be original artwork. (Never used before)
3. Entry must be submitted by the artist. Please send a non-signed copy. Your signature can be added after the voting, or you may send a signed copy in addition if you prefer.
4. The design should follow the theme of this year's banquet, **"100 Years of Advances in the Hobby."**
5. Please submit a color version. Four color maximum please. Black outlining, if used, also counts as one color. Please avoid shading as it will not reproduce as you intend it to on the T-shirts.

The winning logo will be decided by popular vote through the NEC Convention Website December 1-15, 2010. It will appear on the website, the cover of the annual convention program, the registration flier, on the convention T-shirts, and may be used in any or all NEC convention publicity. Part or all of the logo may be used on the registration button and it may be modified to fit the button.

Note that the artist may recommend a color for the t-shirt, but the final color may be decided by the NEC Convention Committee.

The winner will receive a free registration for the 36th Annual Convention, a free convention T-shirt and a free banquet ticket (all non-transferable).

**The deadline is 11:59 p.m. November 25, 2010. All entries must be received via email by Doug Patac, [dpatac@gmail.com](mailto:dpatac@gmail.com), by this date/time and the subject of the email must be "NEC Logo Entry." You will receive a reply stating that your entry was received – if you do not receive a reply, it is your responsibility to send the email again and call 802 753-7269 within the next 24 hours to ensure it was received. Late entries can NOT be accepted.**

Please email [dbanks@together.net](mailto:dbanks@together.net) or call with questions (802) 372-8716. Good Luck to All!!

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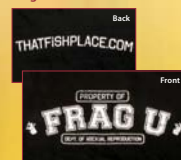
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# THE WOOLEY SWAMP - BEHIND THE LEGEND

A Fishy Tale by Joel Antkowiak

*If you ever go back to the Wooley Swamp well you'd better not go at night. There's things out there in the middle of them woods that'll make a strong man die from fright. Things that crawl, and things that fly, and things that creep around on the ground. And they say the ghost of Lucius Clay, it gets up and it walks around.*

*- Charlie Daniels - from "The Legend of the Wooley Swamp"*

So begins the story told by the great hit rock song by the Charlie Daniels Band. But the song doesn't tell the whole story. There are untold tales about the Wooley Swamp. I will share one with you now. You may want to seek out your mommy and get comforting hugs. This isn't for the weak of heart.

The Wooley Swamp is situated in Booger Woods, so the tale goes. It also goes on to warn of things that would make a grown man die from fright. Warnings of things that crawl, and things that fly, and things that creep around on the ground. But there are no warnings of the things that swim in that water. And it is in the water where this tale begins. You thought the Swamp Thing was bad, well, that ain't nuttin' compared to what swims in the Wooley Swamp.

The tale says that the Cagle boys would take old Lucius Clay's money and feed him to the alligators. But there were never any alligators found in the Wooley Swamp. Never even a hint of an alligator. No evidence whatsoever to suggest the presence of these beasts. Old Lucius was fed to something else. Something that made a ghost of old Lucius, the ghost that is said to haunt that swamp to this very day.

The true secret of the swamp was found by a group of researchers who decided to investigate what really happened to Lucius Clay on that fateful night. It took more than 20 years for anyone to get up the nerve to go back to that swamp. And after the researchers told the tale of what they had found, no one has been back since.

The research team found out that the Cagle boys, well, they weren't very nice. The boys had discovered that Lucius would hoard his money, stuff it into mason jars and bury it all around the swamp. Lucius would dig up his money on nights when the moon was just right. The Cagles had discovered that the 'right moon' was a full moon on a clear, quiet night. So the next full moon, the Cagles went to "acquire" Lucius' holdings. When

they had finally subdued the old man and thrown him into the swamp, they thought they were done with him. But there was a reason that Lucius lived in the Wooley Swamp. He had friends there.

No, not human friends. Lucius had none of those. But Lucius was able to connect with the creatures swimming in the swamp water. Lucius fed the fishes his leftovers, which consisted of beef heart, romaine lettuce, and various sea foods like shrimp and tuna and salmon. And when Lucius was digging holes for his money jars, he would throw copious amounts of worms into the water. Soon he learned the language of the swamp, and he was able to communicate with the fishes. Soon, the fishes would do almost anything for old Lucius, especially when he was digging, for they knew that was when he had worms. Mmmmm. Being fed all this good food made the fishes multiply. The more that Lucius played with his money, the more worms the fishes would get, and the more fishes there would be. You might say that old Lucius was somewhat of an aquarist, and the swamp was his tank.

Of course, the Cagles had no clue where the money was buried, so they had to wait for old Lucius to dig it up himself. And that meant the fish were getting worms. And that meant they would do anything for old Lucius. The Cagles had no clue what they were in for. The wrath of the swamp is like none other.

The research team found evidence of large, well, very large, fishes in the swamp. Huge teeth were found. The teeth were over 1 inch long. And sharp. Very sharp. Razor sharp. The teeth had a certain quality to them that the researchers could not explain. An eerie quality. Almost ghostly. Like they came from a creature that did not exist. But the teeth were real. Very real. And that aquatic creature did exist, at least at some point in time it did.

Skeletal remains were also found. Some of the bones were not unlike those of a wolf fish, but much larger. Others resembled species of the piranha from South America. But this was Northern



North America. Surely there were no piranha this far north. Further investigation revealed the remains of at least 4 distinct fish species, all of which resembled common aquarium fishes, only larger. Much larger. Piranha, wolf fish, demon fish, and the ghost knife. Come to think of it, none of these species is endemic to North America, at least not in there smaller, more recognizable forms. But all were present, and the evidence showed that all had their purpose in the Wooley Swamp mystery.

The researchers also found a trail of old human remains. They thought that if they could follow this trail, the story could be revealed. So they set out to recover and study the remains.

It was as though the victims had been sifted through something as they were being moved. No doubt the work of the huge demon fish, which are of course also known as earth eaters. Mixed in with the remains was a pendant on a gold chain that had inscribed on it "CB". One of the researchers recalled seeing a story where one of the Cagle boys wore such a pendant. This must have been his, and therefore the remains were his, or maybe his and his brother's. But earth eaters were not known to be predatory, but rather more of a scavenger. Therefore, something must have happened to the Cagles prior to the earth eater's finding them.

The researchers were able to follow the trail back to where they thought it began; where the initial attack on the Cagles took place, or should I say, where the Cagles instigated the whole thing. At this point, they found some more scattered remains. These were found within a radius of 30 feet. Perhaps torn apart by the giant piranha like fish and the huge wolf fish. The center point appeared to be where Lucius had buried his money. One of the researchers dug up an old mason jar filled with gold coins at the site. He began thinking about the tales he had heard of the Wooley Swamp, and he soon decided that it would

be better to return the jar, and of course the money, to its resting site.

Several pieces of the remains were charred, almost as though they had an electric charge running through them. This had to be the work of the ghost knife. Today's specimens are much smaller and the electric charge they put out are very small and used for communication, but the large knife fish that was a pet of old Lucius likely used it as a defense mechanism. Or maybe a tool for hunting.

It has been claimed that ghosts can produce static electric field changes. This is similar to the idea that ghosts produce magnetic field changes. Indeed, electric and magnetic fields are not mutually exclusive of each other. In both of these cases there seems little, if any, scientific evidence to support the claims. Even the anecdotal evidence is difficult to track down.

This does not, of course, mean that there could not be a connection between static electric fields and the paranormal. Why would I bring this up? Well, if there *is* a connection between static electricity and ghosts, then surely there must be some connection between the electrical charge generated by the ghost knife fish and the ghost of old Lucius Clay. In fact, the research team measured a residual electrical field in the swamp for which they had no explanation. They theorized that when the Cagles threw Lucius into the swamp, the giant pet ghost knife saved Lucius, generating a huge electrical charge at the same time which sent Lucius into ghostdom.



It's been another fifty years since the researchers visited the site. And you can go by there yet. To the spot in the swamp where the research team camped, a spot that is now again always wet. And on certain nights, when the moon is right, down by that dark footpath, you can here four creatures feeding, and you can *still* hear one old man laugh.



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# Breeder's Award Program Monthly Report – October 2010

## Lifetime Achievement Award Report

### Active Members Point Totals

#### **F. Wayne Calender Breeder**

Wayne Calender..... 1533 pts

#### **Grand Master Breeder**

Paul Bricknell ..... 1291 pts

David Stephon..... 1119 pts

Pedro Sanchez..... 1050 pts

#### **Master Breeder (None)**

#### **Expert Breeder**

Bob Kulesa\*..... 786 pts

#### **Advanced Breeder(None)**

#### **3 Star Breeder**

Bev Newcomer ..... 330 pts

#### **2 Star Breeder**

Michael Schrom\* ..... 245 pts

Mike Steffen..... 178 pts

#### **1 Star Breeder**

Tom Cavallaro\* ..... 200 pts

Pat Kelly\*..... 165 pts

Jay Stephan ..... 144 pts

Glenn Davies\*..... 120 pts

Daniel Sanchez..... 90 pts

Dave Frehafer..... 90 pts

Joel Antkowiak..... 78 pts

Scott Shenk..... 70 pts

Kurt Johnston..... 55 pts

#### **Other Participants**

Lonny Langione ..... 35 pts

Danny Corman..... 20 pts

Matt Shaffer ..... 16 pts

Ashley Antkowiak..... 7 pts

Chris Kendig ..... 5 pts

Tara Miller..... 5 pts

**\*Breeder has enough points for next higher class award but needs to complete more classes for award.**

## BAP NEWS

What a great year so far for the Breeder's Award Program! We still have until November 20<sup>th</sup> to turn in spawns and it has already been a record year. Ten members are currently participating and have turned in 44 different species in 10 different classes. Of the 10 members participating, 6 have never participated in the BAP before and 5 of those are new members of the ACLC for 2010! Let's keep up the great work folks and stay tuned for more great things for the BAP in 2011!

## Specialist Breeder Awards Report

Being a new award program, no member has qualified for any of the specialist awards. Several members have completed the number of species required for awards but need to complete one or more of the other requirements for an award. The complete list will be published from time to time, but only new additions will be published on a monthly basis:

### **Class 11 – Other Aquatic Animals**

Mike Steffen

## 2010 Breeder of the Year Points

Mike Steffen .....	178 points
Jay Stephan.....	144 points
Bev Newcomer.....	90 points
Paul Bricknell.....	80 points
Joel Antkowiak.....	78 points
Bob Kulesa.....	25 points
Danny Corman.....	20 points
Matt Shaffer .....	16 points
Wayne Calender .....	13 points
Ashley Antkowiak .....	7 points

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## SUPPORT YOUR CLUB!

Products donated by the above listed manufacturers as well as the local sponsors are used to raise funds for our club. These items are auctioned or raffled off to raise money so that we can have an interesting program every month. Our monthly raffle is now expanded. First, we have a door prize for members who attend the meeting - you get one entry for attending.

Next, we still have our regular raffle, but the prizes are bigger and better. Tickets are now \$1 each, 7 for \$5, and 15 for \$10. And remember, you get a free ticket for wearing ACLC clothing to the meeting, and if you bring a new member to the meeting. The new member also gets a free ticket. Prizes are goodie bags filled with fish food, water conditioners, reptile packages, and decorations. Well worth it if you win, and everyone is a winner because it supports the club!

# SHOW SEASON IS HERE!

**Get out and support our sister clubs at their events! If we support them, they will support us! Some clubs have already shown support for our club, let's return the favor. There are at least 2 shows (NJAS and PVAS) and 4 auctions (NJAS, PVAS, GPASI, ECC) within a 4 hour drive of us.**



# Some Thoughts on Writing an Article

by Joel Antkowiak

If you are like me, you can just sit down at the computer and start typing out an article much like I am doing now. The thought of this article just jumped into my head when I was preparing the editorial (thinking about Twisted catching up to me!) If I am typing along and I think of something that I feel may go better in another part of the article, I just cut and paste that portion of the article into its new position. This method works well when writing an article using a word processor or computer. I will write a few paragraphs, then go back and read it to see if I touched on all the pertinent information that I wanted to share on that particular topic. I will usually write the bulk of the article and then set it aside for a day or two before finishing it. That allows more thoughts to go through my head so that I can process whether or not to incorporate them into the article, and if so, how.

This may not work well for those who are using a typewriter (savages ☺) or for those that like to be well organized prior to starting, or those who have trouble organizing their thoughts in their head. For those people, and even those like me that just start writing, the following steps may be able to help you develop an interesting and well written article.

The first step of course is to determine what topic you would like to write about. Choose a topic that you find interesting and are experienced with; a topic that you know something about. Then determine what aspect of that topic you would like to write about. For example, if you keep and breed Betta splendens, maybe you are intrigued by the genetic processes that go into developing a new color pattern or finnage. Or maybe you like to show your bettas on the IBC (International Betta Congress) show circuit. You could then write about what makes a high quality show betta. Choose something that you enjoy and share your experiences with us.

So how do you “share the experience?” Well, the next step would be to develop an outline related to the topic that you chose. Break the topic into subtopics that make up the whole. If we go with our betta example, and ultimately choose the show

circuit article, then we can have an outline something like this:

- I. History of Showing Bettas
- II. Judging
- III. Choosing Quality Stock
- IV. Care Necessary to Maintain Quality Fish

This can act as a general guide to help you through your thought processes. But some people may like to take it a step further. Let's break out the “Judging” subtopic a little bit:

- I. History of Showing Bettas
- II. Judging
  - A. Size
  - B. Body Shape
  - C. Finnacle
  - D. Color
  - E. Overall Health and Conditioning
- III. Acquiring Quality Stock
- IV. Care Necessary to Maintain Quality Fish

You can break down each subtopic into areas that you would like to cover in your article. This will help you to cover everything that you would like to discuss in your article.

In addition to your own experiences, you may want to include some information from other sources to make yours a well rounded article. One thing you do not want to skip on is doing your own research. The internet is full of information on many species of fish and aquatic plants and animals. There are many books, magazines and club publications that are full of information as well. These relate the experiences of others that you can draw on while writing your own article. If you reference someone else's work, be sure to credit them in your article. Give credit where credit is due.

Then you just start writing! Your first paragraph should introduce the main topic and why you are writing about it. Then follow your outline and try to segue gently from one subtopic into the next. Your outline will guide you through the process. Continuing on our “Judging” topic, you can start by stating the average adult size for the betta. You can then discuss how size and age may affect the body

shape of individual fish, followed by what constitutes a good body shape and how shape may affect how the fish carries its fins. The different types of finnage could be discussed – comb tail, half moon, etc. From there, go into how color patterns in the fins may differ, i.e., solid colored fins as opposed to bicolor or “Cambodian” type coloration. Follow that with a line or two about body coloration. Then discuss how subpar coloration and finnage may be a sign of failing health, and discuss other aspects that define a healthy betta. Your writing process will likely guide you right from topic to topic as your thoughts spill out onto paper or computer screen.

The next thing you want to consider is adding some photographs to your story. If you are a decent photographer, a good picture or two in the right place can add a great deal to an article. For instance, adding a picture of a champion betta alongside a picture of an ordinary pet shop fish can show first hand the remarkable difference between the two. (Now there's a pet peeve of mine - "show betta". What is that supposed to mean? Any fish can be a show fish, just pay the entry fee! Uggh!) A picture of a healthy specimen next to a picture of a less than healthy fish can be worth 1000 words! Well placed photos will greatly enhance an article and can take it from fair to good or from good to excellent.

Some people also have artistic abilities. A drawing or painting depicting the author's rendition of a fish or breeding sequence can also be entertaining and add value to an article.

Just a few final do's and don'ts that can help you and your editor through the process:

DO read what you have written and make sure it makes sense as you have written it. You may come up with a better way of wording or phrasing something that just doesn't sound quite right.

DO save your work as you go. There isn't anything that is much more frustrating than losing an hour's worth of work when the battery in your laptop dies.

DO use references.

And here are some DON'Ts that people do that drive an editor NUTS!!!

DON'T overcapitalize! Capitalize proper names (people, countries, states, cities, days of the week,

months, etc.) and the beginning of each sentence. The following are not proper names: cichlid, daphnia (unless you are referring to the genus name), guppy, fruit fly, killifish, etc. You get the picture.

DON'T press “enter” at the end of each *line*, only at the end of each *paragraph*!

DON'T use the space bar to line up items such as tables or indentations. DO use the tab key.

And the one that drives me the nuttiest: DON'T use more than one space - *ANYWHERE*! Every single article that I have received has done this. It is no longer necessary because word processing software automatically spaces words. The use of more than one space is a cry for a tab.

And one more major DON'T. DON'T use a picture that is not yours, unless you have permission from the photographer. For the purposes of Tank Tales, I will need written permission from the photographer. Most people will allow it if you ask and explain that it will be published in a club journal. I recently used a picture of *Heterandria formosa* that I found on a web site. I just sent an e-mail to the site owner and they gave me permission, as was stated in that issue.

Writing an article and sharing your experiences with your fellow club members can be a rewarding experience in itself. It is really very easy to do, and will take only a short time because you already know what is going to be written, in fact, you are the only one that knows – it's your experiences! If you have developed a good outline and follow it, your article will be worth reading to everyone!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Local Clubs Hosting Conventions!**

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***Details to follow! Start planning your trips now!***

# PISCATORIAL PEARLS

A Review by Debbie Rubin

This is dedicated to the two I love...I found a short, but very good article by Tom Heisler on "Talking Catfish", *Platydoras armatulus*, of the family [Doradidae](#), that was written in [Some Things Fishy](#), the newsletter of the Tropical Fish Club of Erie County, Inc., March 2010. At one of their club auctions, Tom purchased a striped Raphael catfish. When he netted the fish to put in his tank, it got stuck and started "croaking" like a frog! This peaceful, [nocturnal](#) species is a popular aquarium fish due to its pleasant temperament and curious nature. The striped Raphael catfish are commonly found around Brazil, particularly in the Amazon Basin, Peru, Bolivia, and Paraguay.

They grow to between 5" – 6" long and do well in a community tank. These gentle giants appreciate all aquarium foods. Care should be taken not to over feed; they don't know when they are full! Care must also be given when handling this fish as it has sharp pectoral fins which can cause serious damage to nets and hands. It's easier to catch them in a large plastic cup. They need to have hiding places as they tend to get stressed out easily.

I would like to say a hearty "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to my two striped Raphael catfish beauties! I acquired these fish on October 1, 1993 – they are 17 years old. They have been through a lot over their 17 years: three tank changes (and they did "talk" when being moved from one house to the other); bad water conditions, disease outbreaks in the tank, and other stressful situations. Both are about 8" long. They hide in medium clay pots placed on their sides. I enlarged the opening in the bottom of the pot so they can look out and see what's going on, but feel safe in their little house. They have never swallowed / eaten any other small fish.

Another fish that does well in the community tank is the black phantom tetra, *Megalomphodus megalopterus* (formerly *Hyphessobrycon megalopterus*). The March 2010 newsletter of the North Jersey Aquarium Society [Reporter](#) paid tribute to this hardy [characin](#). The article is a reprint from the Ellis Island A. S. publication, [The Liberty](#), by Boris Boriski. One of the Phantom's greatest attributes is the magnificent black fins which are larger in the males of the species. They are stunning

in contrast to the lighter colorings of the body. The black phantom tetra grows to about 2" and tolerates most conditions. Boris talks about food and also how to breed this fish in short detail.

Lastly, in the same newsletter as the black phantom tetra article, I read about the *Danio roseus* in a short article by Joe Graffagnino. Danios are members of the Cyprinid family. It's well known as the purple passion danio. It is often mistaken for a pearl danio. Look for the bright rosy stomach. These fish do well in schools of six or more. They are sensitive to water conditions – it's good to maintain a regular water change schedule. They are easy to please and eat just about anything. Joe discusses briefly about their spawning habits and how to set up the tank for fry.

As always, if you find anything in this column that you would like to read for yourself, please notify our Tank Tales editor and he will happily supply you with a copy. Specify the title and date of the newsletter with each request. If you find something that stirs your interest that you've read in any other publication, I invite you to "talk fish" and be included as a guest writer for this column. I will gladly share this space with you.

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*From the Editor:* From time to time, space permitting in this column, I will list a few articles that I found interesting in the exchanges.

For the aquatic plant enthusiasts, I recommend the following ongoing columns:

*The Lettuce Box* by Ken Seiders, which appears in **Fish Talk**, the official publication of the Atlanta Area Aquarium Association

*The PlantED Tank* by Ed Koerner, which appears in **Fins and Tales**, the official publication of the Kitchener - Waterloo Aquarium Society.

And if you would like to see what this month's speaker has been up to you can read:

*Spawning Peckoltia sp. L134 : The Leopard Frog Plecostomus or Gold Banded Peckoltia* by Eric Bodrock, which appears in the July 2010 issue of **Finformation**, the official publication of the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society.

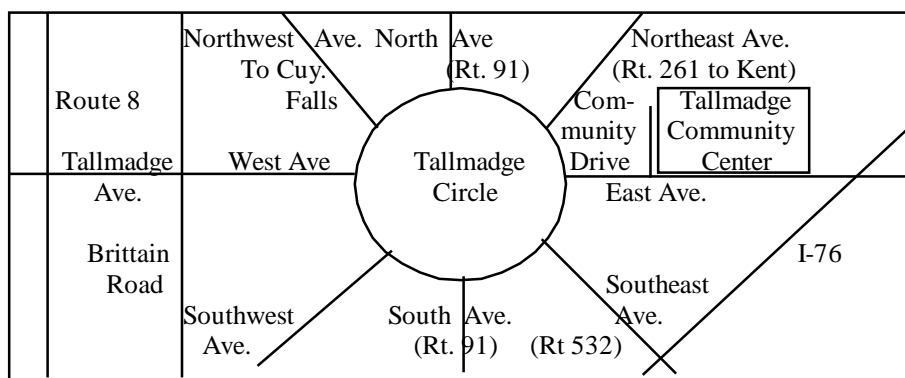


# The Greater Akron Aquarium Society 2010 Fall Auction

**When:** Sunday, November 7th 2010  
Registration begins 11:00 a.m.  
Auction begins at 12:00 noon.

**Where:** Tallmadge Community Center  
80 Community Drive,  
Tallmadge, Ohio

*Tropical Fish, Aquariums,  
Equipment, Aquatic Plants,  
and much, much more!*



## How to Find the Tallmadge Community Center

Take Route 8 to the Tallmadge Ave. Exit. Go East on Tallmadge (turns into West Ave. at Brittian Road) Go halfway around Tallmadge Circle to East Ave. Take East Ave. to Community Drive, turn left. Community Center is on the right, next to the library.

## For More Information:

Wayne Toven (330) 256-7836/email [wtoven@hotmail.com](mailto:wtoven@hotmail.com)

Bud and Cathy White (330) 848-3856/email [bwhite@neo.rr.com](mailto:bwhite@neo.rr.com)

e-mail GAAS directly at [G\\_A\\_A\\_S@hotmail.com](mailto:G_A_A_S@hotmail.com)

## How does it all work?

Once an item is registered, it may not be withdrawn and no minimum bid items will be accepted  
70/30 Split (70% proceeds to seller)

Please inspect all items as all sales are final, buyer beware. GAAS does not guarantee any item and is not responsible for any loss.

## All items will be labeled with:

1. Seller's code (three letters such as initials, followed by a number; example ABC-1, ABC-2 and so on) Check with the registration desk to see if the letter code you want to use has not already been used by someone else. Note that although we will try to track down sellers, illegible or non-labeled items will be sold and considered a donation to the club.
2. The seller's name and phone number
3. Livestock should also be labeled as to Species (common and scientific names if possible), Quantity and Sex (if known).
4. Equipment should be labeled as to its condition (examples: works, noisy, leaks, new, etc.)

A color dot system will be used to assure a fair mix of different seller's items.

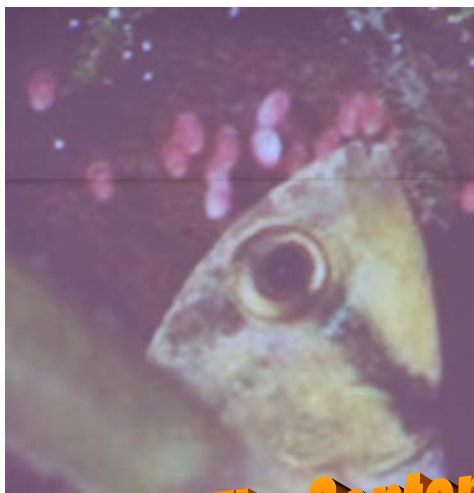
GAAS reserves the right to sell multiple items from the same seller as lots or to group items and any items that do not sell for at least \$1 will be considered donations to GAAS

GAAS may refuse to sell animals that are diseased, deformed, too young to survive, regulated in the State of Ohio or equipment that is hopelessly damaged.

Buyers may pay by cash or choose to run a tab and pay by cash or check. There will be, however, a charge for any check returned for NSF.



*Sal Silvestri gave us some great tips on dwarf cichlids*



## **The September 2010 Meeting of the ACLC**



*We had an ACLC wannabe,*



*The Prez as auctioneer....lots of good stuff in the auction!,*



*And some invaders from the west!*



***Join us next time:***

***October 16, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at That Fish Place!***

# Tank Tales Over the Years....

Wayne Calender has supplied me with scanned copies of many different Tank Tales covers from his collection over the years. As we approach our 40th anniversary, I will occasionally place one at the end of Tank Tales so you can see how we have progressed over the years. This one is from January 1986.

