

Fincinnati

Jan-Feb 2017

The
OFFICIAL
Bi-Monthly
Publication
Of the
Greater Cincinnati
Aquarium Society



Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society
Fincinnati

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GCAS Meeting Schedule– 2017

February 26th
April 30th
May 21st
June 25th
July 30th
August 27th
September 24th
November 12th

Calendar of Events 2016

Greater Akron Aquarium Society www.gaas-fish.net

Auction– March 5th, 2017

Show and Auction June 3-4, 2017

Champaign Area Fish Exchange <http://www.champaignfish.com/>

Auction July 22nd, 2017

Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Club www.gcas.org

Auction– Mar25th, 2017

Auction– Oct 28th, 2017

Circle City Aquarium Society www.circlecityaqclub.org/

Auction– March 19th, 2017

Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts <http://columbusfishclub.org/>

Auction– Mar 12th, 2017

Swap Meet– Apr 23rd, 2017

Auction– July 27th, 2017

Auction– Oct. 1st, 2017

Erie Aquarium Society <http://erieaquariumsociety.com/index.html>

Auction– April 2nd, 2017

Auction– Oct 29th, 2017

Greater Chicago Cichlid Association <http://www.gcca.net/>

Swap Meet Mar 5th, 2107

Swap Meet May 14th, 2107

Swap Meet Dec 3rd, 2107

Greater Detroit Aquarium Society <http://greaterdetroitaquariumsociety.org/>

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society <http://www.gpasi.org/>

Auction– Apr 30th, 2017

Auction Sept 10th, 2017

Great Lakes Cichlid Society's <http://www.greatlakescichlidsociety.net/>

Aquarium Club of Lancaster County <http://aclcpa.org/>

Medina County Aquarium Society <http://www.mcas-fish.net/>

Auction– May 13th, 2017

Michiana Aquarium Society <http://www.michianaaquariumsociety.org/>

Convention & Auction Feb. 25-26th, 2017

Michigan Cichlid Association <http://www.michigan.cichlid.freeservers.com/>

Milwaukee Aquarium Society www.milwaukeeaquariumsociety.com

Auction– March 5th, 2017

Swap Meet– Apr 2nd, 2017

Auction– Oct 22nd, 2017

Missouri Aquarium Society <http://www.missouriaquariumsociety.com/>

Show and Auction Apr 28-30th, 2017

Auction– Aug. 6th, 2017

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

Auction– Oct. 28th, 2017

North East Ohio Fish Club (NEO) <http://www.neo-fish.com/>

Ohio Cichlid Association <http://www.ohiocichlid.com>

OCA Extravaganza Nov.17-19, 2017

Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society www.swmas.org

Auction– Mar. 11th, 2017

Stark County Aqua Life Enthusiasts <http://www.scalesclub.com/>

Auction– Feb. 26th, 2017

Auction—June 25th, 2017

Tropical Fish Club of Erie County <http://www.tropical-fish-club-of-erie-county.com/home/>

Auction– Feb 26th, 2017

Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society <http://www.yatfs.com/>

Auction– Mar 12th, 2017

Auction– Oct. 22nd, 2017

National Conventions 2015

Aquatic Gardeners Association Convention

American Cichlid Association <http://www.acaconvention2016.com/>

Convention July 13-17, 2017

American Livebearer Association

Convention May 4th-7th, 2017

North American Native Fish Association—

North American Discus Association Convention

American Killifish Association Convention—

Convention– May 26-28th, 2017

Catfish Convention Sept 22-24, 2017

Club Information

GCAS Officers

President	Jan Benes	
Vice President	Glen Mason	glen.mason@gcas.org
Treasurer	Barbara Garcia	barbara.garcia@gcas.org
Secretary	Cindy Weeden	

GCAS Chairpersons

Auction	Phil Benes	513-894-7289
FAAS Rep	Jerry Riegel	jerry.riegel@gcas.org
Breeders Award Program	Marcus Christy and Mark Murtaugh	bap@gcas.org
Horticulture Award Program	Cindy Weeden	cindy.weeden@gcas.org
Fincinnati Newsletter Editor	Steve Smith	steve.smith@gcas.org
Membership & Donations	Steve Kalbi	

Program & Speakers	Barbara Garcia	
Swap Meet	Lenny Llambi	
Webmaster	Ramon Garcia	webmaster@gcas.org
Swap Meet:	Lenny Llambi	
Manufacturers' Donations:	Jan Benes	
C.A.R.E.S. Program:	Marcus Christy	
Picture Of The Month:	Byran Minor	
Banquet:	Cindy Weeden	
Refreshments:	Erv Gundrum	
Pet Shop Liaison:	Glen Mason	
Social media:	Steve Kalbi, Cindy Weeden, Lenny Llambi	
Members At Large:	Erv Gundrum, Teresa Carlson, Tim Hargis, Bryan Miner., Andrew Baran, Leonard Helton	

The Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to promote the interests of the aquarium hobby.

Meetings are usually held on the last Sunday of each month at Winton Wood's Visitors Center, located at 10245 Winton Road at 7:30pm. The meetings usually include a program or a guest speaker, and a fry auction for the Breeders Award Program. Guests are welcome to attend any two of these meetings before joining GCAS.

Annual memberships are \$10.00 for an individual or family. As a member of GCAS you may attend the monthly Meet-

"Ancistrus sp. "Blue Eye" by Jerry Riegel

I first obtained these fish from Jeff E., The Loach Guy, several years ago at one of our Swap Meets. I like Ancistrus and I had never kept these guys before. I was excited to get them. They spawned for me when they turned into adults and everything was good.

These are very nice looking fish. At first glance they look very similar to the Albino but closer scrutiny reveals blue eyes and more of a lemon yellow body.

Planet Catfish calls them Ancistrus sp. (4) or the False L144. They do not describe them as L144. That is a different fish.

They eat as a normal Ancistrus, which means "everything". They are omnivores with a heavy trend to veggies and greens. Mine simply love French style green beans right out of the can. Hold the cream of mushroom soup and the fried onions on top. When I feed the green beans its like Halloween candy. They stop what they are doing and find that green bean.

But that is not their total diet. I will feed a can until it is gone. It takes several days. I only have 10 tanks of Ancistrus. After that, they will get live baby brine (mostly for the fry), frozen brine, frozen worms, live black worms, and store bought pellets. I have also had good luck with Repashy.



Aquatics and Exotics is located on Hamilton Avenue (US-127) about 1/2 mile North of the Reagan Highway (SR-126), just before Compton Road. If you're coming from the Northern suburbs, you can get off I-275 at exit 36 (Hamilton Ave) and go South for about 6 miles. After you cross Compton Road, we are on the right.

Store Hours			
Mon	12-8	Sat	11-6
Tue	Closed	Sun	12-5
Wed	12-8		
Thu	Closed		
Fri	12-8		



We are located in the Mt. Airy/ Grosbeck area of Colerain Ave across the street from the Mt. Airy Kroger store. This is 1 mile South of Ronald Regan Highway on the Left.

6520 Colerain Ave Cincinnati, Ohio 45239-5538

The Store is 4 miles South of I-275. You will pass NorthGate Shopping Center, Ronald Regan Highway, Galbraith Rd (1 mile) and we are on the Left.

EAST Use I-275 to I-71 South to Ronald Regan and Off (Left) at Colerain. 1 Mile South on the Left

Phone: 1-513-923-3369

Our Store Hours are:

Monday - Friday 10 AM until 8:00 PM

Saturday 10 AM until 5:30 PM

Sunday Noon until 4:30 PM

I also fed them a can of Zoo Med “Can O Worms” and that went over very well. I got it at the ACA Convention this past summer. I plan to try more of the Zoo Med product line.

Spawning was done in caves, as expected. I estimate that the male will stay in the cave with the eggs/fry for about a week and a half. He is an excellent parent. After that the fish go all over the tank. I use 55 gallon tanks to spawn the fish. This allows for a lot of room for the parents, a lot of room for the fry, and a lot of caves. I try to put 5-8 different type caves in the aquarium and then let the father pick his favorite.

I also try to have wood in the tank and live plants. For me that is basically Anubias. I do not have a green thumb but I can grow Anubias.

There are times when a four foot tank can hold more than one male but, in general, I try to move the young males out once I see them develop. Several two inch males seem to get along much better than a large one with a smaller one.

These are very nice fish. They eat algae and keep the glass clean (one chore that I hate to do myself). They are not shy if the lights are on. They can be kept at regular temperatures. And finally, they are not shy at the dinner table. They eat everything.

"Ancistrus sp. “Honeycomb” by Jerry Riegel

I first obtained these fish from Eric Bodrock. He gave a presentation at a travel event (Columbus? OCA?) about breeding catfish. In his presentation he talked about spawning the sp. Honeycomb and he also had a picture of the fish. I was mighty impressed. They were gorgeous fish. The body was brownish orange. You might say auburn. The skin pattern was orange circles on a black body. Very nice.

Of course, I had to have them. He said he had spawned 18 fry and that he had promised the first six to Stephan Tanner. I asked him who the rest were going to and he said he would be glad to share. If I remember right, 6-9 months later he sent me an email and a price. I didn't even hesitate a minute. I said yes.

I obtained a group of six. Two females and four males. About two inches. I put them in a 65 gallon and tried to keep an eye on them but they were a little shy in their new digs. Every couple of months I would do a serious look see and check them out. Finally, I separated the biggest male and the two females to a breeding tank.

I introduced them to live black worms and voila, they spawned. The setup had several caves, wood, and live plants. Guppies and Cherry Shrimp were their dither fish. I fed the fry live baby brine along with the adult's food.

The fry have grown since that first spawn into beautiful fish. I have an assortment of various sized fry in a 55 gallon tank which I use as the breeding tank. I also have a young pair of fish that I am hoping will soon spawn.

who lived in Columbus at the time. We traded “fish for fish” and both of us felt like we got a good deal. The first thing I noticed is that these are not the standard Ancistrus that are floating around in the aquarium trade. First, the color was different. These were a charcoal gray fish with tiny white spots. I found out later that softer water would darken the fish and make the

contrast between the dark background and the white spots that much more spectacular. Still, an adult Snowflake in Cincinnati tap water that is four inches long is a very good looking fish.

The second thing that I noticed is that the fish did not breed like the regular *Ancistrus* (I.e. prolifically). I started with eight fish and I was only able to obtain one breeding pair out of the batch. My fish group appeared to be male heavy.

It did not take long for them to spawn once I isolated a pair. The fry grew slowly even though they were all well fed. I did try several different foods and setups but I am still perplexed on their growth pattern. Who knows? Maybe they are just slow growers.

The only reference in the literature that I have found in my searches to this fish is in the *Mergus Catfish Atlas Volume 2*. The copy that I have is in German and the fish is referred to as *Ancistrus* sp. "Schneeflocke". Of course, Stephan has posted information about this fish on the Swiss Tropicals web site. Swiss Tropicals has great pictures of this fish showing both males and females as well as pictures of males guarding eggs. Please be aware that this fish is not the *Ancistrus hoplogenys* which is a much larger and more common fish.

This fish tops out at 3 and a half inches. As mentioned before, it is a dark fish with white spots. I have fed it the usual fare for my *Ancistrus*. That is meaty pellets, algae, frozen brine, live baby brine for the fry, frozen blood worms, live black worms, staple pellets, and just about anything else I could find. Remember that *Ancistrus* are omnivores and they eat everything. Protein helps them grow and it also conditions them for breeding.

I have kept these fish in tanks ranging from a 10 gallon (for pairing or grow out) to a 125 gallon (for the larger males). For temperature, I keep them in a standard tropical range which for me runs from about 76-80 degrees Fahrenheit. They get water changes every week (10-40%) with Cincinnati tap water. No conditioners are added. However, I do add oak leaves and I like to have drift wood in their tanks. They have an affinity for wood. It gives them both shelter and a place to graze. I leave the lights on 12-14 hours per day to grow algae for them. In general, they are not frightened by the light but at the same time they don't come out and seek it. In a group, you can always count on seeing some of these fish "out and about" as opposed to hiding away in a cave.

Breeding is as with the other *Ancistrus*. Give them a cave and watch the male display. When you see him continually fanning, you know he has eggs in there. His caudal goes left and right in a gentle motion. Further discovery will show that he is also fanning with his pectorals. He is the perfect father.

The next step (for me) with these fish is to put them in a large tank as a colony. I think they may do best in a large group setting. I have had great success with other *Ancistrus* using this method. Currently, my breeders are in 10 and 20 gallon tanks.

I now have moved a large group to a 120 (five footer). They have spawned at least once. I thought I had a second spawn when I saw a male guarding a cave and fanning his fins but I did not see any fry. Hopefully, this method will bring more success with the breeding and raising of the fry.

These fish are very nice and quite easy to keep. Breeding and raising the fry is a little harder. I'm still trying combinations in an attempt to solve the problem. As with all *Ancistrus*, they do a good job with the algae on the glass and each day I see that clean tank, I thank them.

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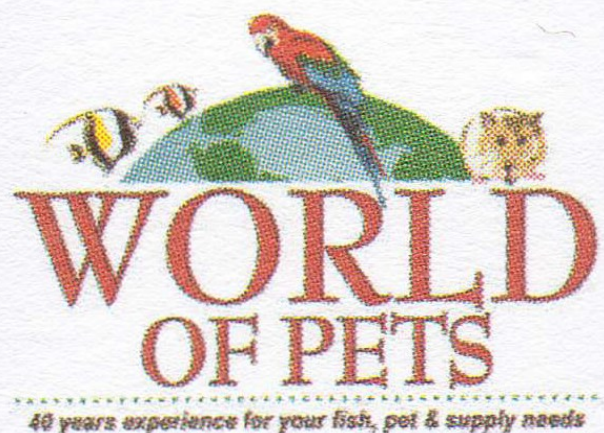
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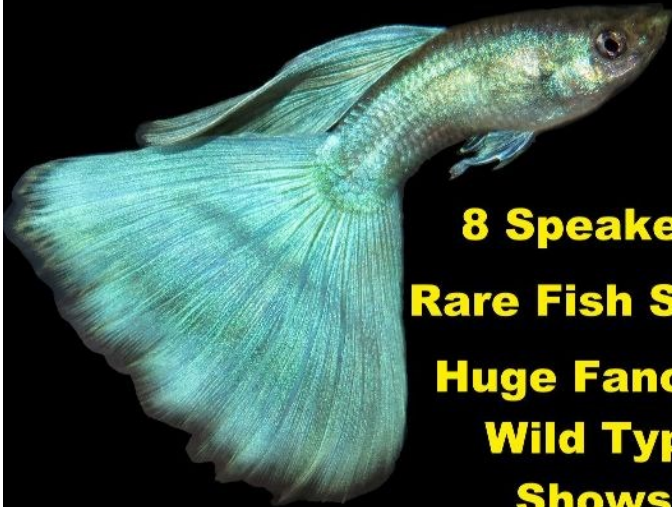


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