

Fincinnati

May/June 2010

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



Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society

Fincinnati

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GCAS Meeting Schedule– 2010

May 23rd Sunday Meeting
June 27th Sunday Meeting
July 18th Sunday Meeting
August 29th Sunday Meeting
September 26th Sunday Meeting
October - Auction 10/30/10
November 14th Sunday Meeting

Calendar of Events– 2010

Columbus Area Fish Enthusiasts <http://columbusfishclub.org/>
Fall Auction October 2nd, 2010

Eastern Iowa Aquarium Association www.finflap.com
EIAA Tropical Fish Auction: Saturday May 15, 2010

Greater Akron Aquarium Society <http://www.gaas-fish.net/>
GAAS Show and Auction July 10 & 11
GAAS Fall Auction November 7, 2010

Greater Chicago Cichlid Association <http://www.gcca.net/>
GCCA Auction September 12, 2010

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society <http://www.gpasi.org/>
Fall Auction: Sunday September 26th 2010

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

Summer Auction Saturday, June 19th 2010
Fall Auction Saturday, September 18th

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

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

Motor City Aquarium Society <http://www.motorcityaquariumsociety.com/>
Auction November 13, 2010

Ohio Cichlid Association <http://www.ohiocichlid.com/home>
November 19th-21st 2010 Extravaganza

Youngstown Aquarium Tropical Fish Society <http://www.yatfs.com/>
Fall Auction October 10th 2010

National Conventions 2010

American Killifish Association Convention, Cleveland <http://www.aka.org/convention/2010/>
May 28-30

North American Discus Association Convention in Dallas, Tx <http://www.discusnada.org/>
June 10 - 13

IBC Internation Betta Convention, Indianapolis, IN <http://www.ibcbettas.org/pages/shows/details/40-2010-convention.html>
June 24-27

American Cichlid Association Convention, Milwaukee, WI http://www.cichlid.org/index.php?pageid=aca_convention
July 22-25

Midwest Cichlid Association Expo 2010 in Des Moines, IA <http://www.midwestcichlid.com/>
Sept 17-19, 2010

The All-Aquarium Catfish Convention 2010 2010 Fairfax Virginia <http://catfish2010.com/>

Club Information

GCAS Officers

President	Eric Jacobsen	859-653-5347
Vice President	Phil Benes	513-894-7289
Treasurer	Brantley Berry	765-914-9712
Secretary	Barbara Garcia	catriona@amergim.com

GCAS Chairpersons

Auction	Phil Benes	513-894-7289
FAAS Rep	Jerry Riegel	jriegel@cinci.rr.com
Breeders Award Program	Lenny Llambi	laboratory_lenny@msn.com
Horticulture Award Program	Josh Brock	Brock.Joshua@gmail.com
Fincinnati Newsletter Editor	Steve Smith	fishfarmer@cinci-fishfarmer.com
Membership & Donations	Jim Foreman	jim@woh.rr.com
Program & Speakers	Ken Saxon	
Webmaster	Ramon Garcia	gcas@amergim.com

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 Meetings, the spring and fall Auctions (you can register early for the auctions too) and the Christmas Banquet, and you will receive our bimonthly newsletter, Fincinnati.

The Rhizome by Joshua Brock

For those of you who unaware I have taken over the HAP (Horticultural Awards Program) program from John Sipes. Be on the lookout for some upcoming changes being made to the HAP program. First of all the rules will be rewritten to make them a bit more legible and understand. The rules themselves will for the most part remain the same only the wording will change. Secondly, a series of specialty programs will be launched this summer (Most likely June). These specialty programs will most likely include propagation of the following:

Cryptycorne specialist series:

- 5 species- Cryptycorne specialist
- 20 species- Advanced Cryptycorne specialist
- 50 species-Master Cryptycorne Specialist

Emersed Growth Specialist Series

- 10 plants- Emersed Growth Specialist
- 30 plants- Advanced Emersed Growth Specialist
- 90 plants- Master Emersed Growth Specialist

Foreground Specialist Series

- 5 foreground plants- Foreground Specialist
- 15 foreground plants- Advanced Foreground Specialist
- 30 foreground plants- Master Foreground Specialist

*If you have any suggestions please feel free to share them.

The final change that will be made to the HAP program this year will be the addition of an incentive program. This years' prize will be awarded to the person who manages to grow the largest single mat of foreground plant. It can be any type of low growing foreground plant that is in one continuous area or "carpet." The prize to be awarded will be announced at the June meeting.

January and February Participants:

Dawn and Brantley Berry- Total 10 points see HAP sheet for details

The Kelnhofer's- Total 40 points see HAP sheet for details



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

Spawning Report: *Neolamprologus helianthus* by Todd Leising.

Species:

Neolamprologus helianthus is a substrate spawning cichlid found in Lake Tanganyika. In my opinion the helianthus looks similar to the *Neolamprologus pulchers*. The markings on their gill plates are in the shape of a "V" instead of chevrons like the pulchers have. My male helianthus also seemed to have a slightly taller body mass than the similar pulchers as well. It prefers to live in shallow rocky habitats. In general, I found this fish to be similar in aggression to other fish in the brichardi complex. Conspecific aggression is very high within this species as you would expect. I was lucky enough to obtain this breeding pair of fish at an auction in Chicago.

Set-up:

After acclimating the pair, I placed them into a 29 gallon tank by themselves. I went in thinking this would be an easy fish to spawn. After all, they were supposedly a proven breeding pair. The tank was aquascaped with a pile of rocks in the middle and a flower

pot on each side. Several months later, I had no spawn and very little spawning activity for that matter. I felt it was time for a change in scenery. I had just sold a few fish and for the most part freed up a 75 gallon tank that was home to a pair of masked brichardi. I rearranged the tank and left the entire center of the tank as open sand and had a breeding cave from Brantley and a flower pot on each side. The masked brichardi quickly took over the right side of the tank, but did not want to allow the helianthus to occupy the left side either. The masked brichardi quickly won over the tank dominance. They never chased the helianthus, but did not ever let them feel comfortable in the new tank. I lost a few more months to this cohabitation until I finally sold off the masked brichardi pair. Approximately 2 months later I finally saw eggs attached to the flower pot opening. It must have been my excitement, because 3 days later the eggs had been ate. Finally, another 6 weeks later, it seemed as though they had spawn again. This time the eggs were not visible and I dared not interfere so I anxiously waited. I was about to give up on them, as it was close to 3 weeks before I finally saw the first fry emerge from the inverted flower pot. In my experience, these fish have smaller brood sizes than you would think. I never got a good count, but I guesstimated around 15-20.

Water Conditions:

I keep my cichlids in tap water without any buffering or chemicals. The tap water comes out of the faucet at a PH of 8.4 and a total hardness of 300. I bring straight tap water into several plastic 55 gallon barrels that do a couple things for me. First, I age the water for 2 days to allow the chlorine to dissapate out of the water. Second, I bring it in from the main water line to bypass my water softener. Unfortunately that also means it comes in around 45 degrees. I keep heaters in the barrels to bring the water temperature up to 80 degrees which usually takes one day. For water changes I pump water from the barrels straight to the tanks. I remove approximately 40% of the tank water weekly.

Feeding:

As with most of my fish, I fed the *Neolamprologus helianthus* NLS 1mm cichlid formula as the main staple food. I also supplement with freeze dried cyclopeeze, flake, and black worms a couple times a week. They were fed one time per day. I also added some NLS growth for the fry.

Spawning Rituals:

As mentioned earlier, I purchased these as a breeding pair. I was not able to witness a lot of spawning activity, but from what little I did see it seemed as if the female would try enticing the male to their designated territory. The female remained in the territory most of the time, while the male would be more likely to wander off exploring. These fish are definitely secretive spawners.

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When it comes to projects in my fish room, I find that it's easy to underestimate the essentials needed to complete tasks like time, space, equipment, etc. This is especially true when it comes to choosing the best air system design and more importantly, choosing an air pump that is capable of supplying your system. Before you can choose which air pump is best for your application, there are many factors that should be considered first, and in this article I will address each of these factors.

These factors include how many feet of PVC pipe you will install, the diameter of the PVC pipe you should use, the amount of aquariums you will plan run, the amount of air valves that you will need for each aquarium, the depth of the water in those aquariums, and finally, the type of filters and equipment you plan to run with the air.

Main Air Supply Lines (PVC PIPE)

Before you purchase or install any PVC pipe, it is important to create a diagram or a sketch of your fish room. Using a piece of graph paper you can easily draw your fish room to scale. This will help you to know exactly how many feet of PVC pipe you will need to install, and also how many couplers and connectors (T's, 90's, etc.) you will need. It is also important to consider how many tiers of tanks

you will have. In my experience it is best to have the PVC pipe installed on each individual tier of tanks rather than only having the PVC pipe installed near the ceiling and having long pieces of air line run down to the tanks on the lower tiers. Installing PVC mains for each tier will reduce the amount strain put on the air pump, and in the end will help the air pump to have a longer life. You will also want to be sure there are no 'dead ends' in the PVC pipe. This simply means that you should create a loop so that any excess air can continue to move through the system with a continuous flow, rather than just dissipate at a 'dead end'. This will result in a more efficient and reliable air system. The diameter of the PVC pipe also needs to be considered carefully. The smaller the diameter of the PVC pipe, the more pressure the air system will carry and the larger the diameter, the more volume of air the system will carry. There is a fine line of pressure and volume that you will want to achieve.

Too much pressure can be a bad thing and likewise not enough can be detrimental to the success of the system. The proper diameter of PVC pipe is to be determined based on the type of air pump that you use. For example, if you chose to run a blower you will want to use a larger diameter of PVC pipe (1" plus, depending on the size of the blower), this will allow air flow without creating too much resistance on the blower. Likewise, if you are using a linear, piston or diaphragm style pump you would want to use a smaller diameter pipe (3/4" to 1") to assure that the system will still carry enough pressure to be able to run the aquariums properly.

I recommend at least two valves
for each aquarium,-even small aquariums....

LAYOUT AND PLACEMENT OF THE AIR PUMP

Now that you have evaluated the amount and diameter of PVC pipe that is required for your application, you will want to consider the amount of aquariums that you plan to run and also the size of those aquariums, more specifically the depth of the water in those tanks. A good rule of thumb is that when designing the layout of your fish room, you should try to position the deepest tanks closest to the air pump. This is simply because the amount pressure and volume in the system is greatest at the closest point to the air pump. This can be achieved by merely taking into account where you place the tanks and where you place the air pump itself.



This is a Won Brothers AV or AP100 High Volume Diaphragm pump and it is capable of running a medium sized fish room of about 50 tanks. It uses 100 watts of power and costs about \$140. The AP100 pumps 9150 cubic inches of air per minute. This unit is shown in Kyle May's fish room and is hooked into a 1" pvc continuous loop system to prevent dead spots. This pump has run continuously for over 2 yrs with out need of rebuild because of proper planning as described in this article.

Photo by Kyle May

Pictured at right is the Won Brothers AV-50 High Volume Diaphragm Air Pump. This unit is capable of running 20-30 tanks and is perfect for the small to medium fish room. It is available at Kens Fish, www.kensfish.com and retails for \$85.95. This unit uses only 40 watts of power and pumps 2900 cubic inches of air per minute.

The AV-50 can be installed in using 1" PVC pipe in a continuous loop system. This is a cost effective way to power multiple tanks. Even a modest air pump meant to pump only two outlets on a single tank can cost upwards of \$30, so for just over the cost of a couple of smaller air pumps, you can own a pump that will power an entire fish room.

Photo by Kyle May



One crucial mistake that is made by many hobbyists is not taking into account how many air valves will be installed in the air system. Keep in mind that with each air valve that is installed the system will lose available air and if too many valves are installed there will be a noticeable reduction in the air supply. A good plan is to overestimate how many air valves you will need. I recommend at least two valves for each aquarium, even the small aquariums, just in case you would ever need extra air for any reason, and for larger aquariums (over 40 gallons) you should plan on three or more valves for each aquarium.



Filter options are numerous, but the most popular filters today among aquarists with multiple tanks are sponge filters. Pictured here from left to right are a Lee Box Filter, Tetra Brilliant Sponge Filter, an ATI Hydro sponge filter, and an ATI Hydro sponge filter with reticulated foam. Each of these filters has a distinct use for the aquarist.

Old style box filters are still used by aquarists to gently remove particulates from fry tanks while the Tetra Brilliant filter is perfect for small fry tanks and uses two smaller upright sponges. The Hy-

dro sponges from ATI are the workhorses of the larger fish room and are widely used for their cost effectiveness plus efficient design.

Photo By Kyle May

DETERMINING THE BEST TYPE OF FILTER

The last thing to consider is what type of equipment you will be running with your available air. The most popular option today is a sponge filter; this type of filter will require less air than some other popular options, such as air stones and bubble wands that will require more pressure to run due to the fact of there is more resistance with the small pores or holes that there air escapes from. Many hobbyists will use an air stone inside of their sponge filter, creating a greater need for air pressure, so keep that in mind while planning for the amount of air you will need.

The simplest way to avoid problems with your air system is pre-planning.

Putting some thought into tank placement along with what size and type of filters the air system will run can help you decide which air pump is right for you. Making sure that you size your pump correctly for your system configuration will allow you to run your filters efficiently and maximize the life of the pump. Under-sizing the pump, air lines, as well as tank misplacement can overwork the air pump and will result in problems. Before you know it you'll be repairing or replacing that one expensive piece of equipment that you have come to rely on so much. Considering these few simple steps when choosing an air pump to run your system will save you time, and more importantly money. Take the time to plan ahead, weigh the options, and make an educated decision based on upon your particular needs.



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		

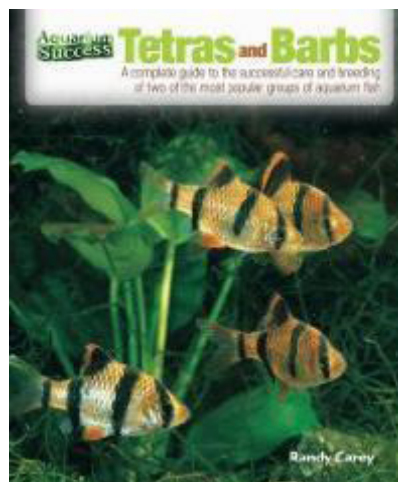
Future GCAS Speakers-2010

May 23rd Dianne De Leo: Freshwater Shrimp



Dianne De Leo has been in the Aquatic hobby for 30 years, give or take a few, lol. She has been actively involved with inverts for 7 years now. She is a member of The Bucks County Aquarium Society (www.BCASONline.com), serving as Secretary, Membership Chair Person and the Hospitality Committee. She is also the head Moderator and Administrator on Arizona Inverts Forum (www.arizonainverts.com). Images from www.arizonainverts.com

July 18th Randy Carey: Making Sense of the Barbs, Danionins, and Rasboras



Randy Carey remembers his first aquarium as well as he remembers his first girlfriend. Twenty years later he now keeps a room of over 70 aquaria ...but the girlfriend is long gone. As a master freshwater aquarist he has breed about 200 species of fishes and was the first to earn the Lifetime Award from his local community, the Minnesota Aquarium Society.

He established an early online presence (mid '90s) and maintained the first aquarium-based blog (1997-2004). Since writing his first column in 1999 for TFH Magazine, America's oldest and most prominent aquarium magazine, Randy has contributed numerous feature and multi-part articles, two-page photo spreads, and a cover shot. Aquarium societies have flown him throughout the US and Canada to deliver in-depth presentations: breeding, taxonomy, fish collecting in Brazil, aquarium design, and the art of aquarium photography. He also provides presentations for general audiences.

In 2006 Randy participated in a 2-week expedition in the Amazon Rainforest to study the correlation between exporting aquarium fish and rainforest conservation. After his multi-part series from this expedition was published, he was offered a contract to write a book on tetras and barbs, the two most popular groups of freshwater aquarium fishes. This book is scheduled for a January 2010 release through major pet stores and online with global distribution. Carey also serves on the Petco Editorial Review Board, providing reviews of freshwater titles being considered for the retail shelves.

Making Sense of the Barbs, Danionins, and Rasboras

These commonly kept fish groups have received only shallow attention in aquarium literature. Randy's new book and this comprehensive overview sorts out what we know of these common aquarium fish groups. The talk touches on zoo-geography, the latest on taxonomy and subgroups, and little-known insights about the observable markings on each of these fish groups. Attendees will leave with an understanding that goes deeper than the simple labels "barbs," "danios," and "rasboras."

How I line 10 Flat rate boxes for 10 bucks. By John Pasnau

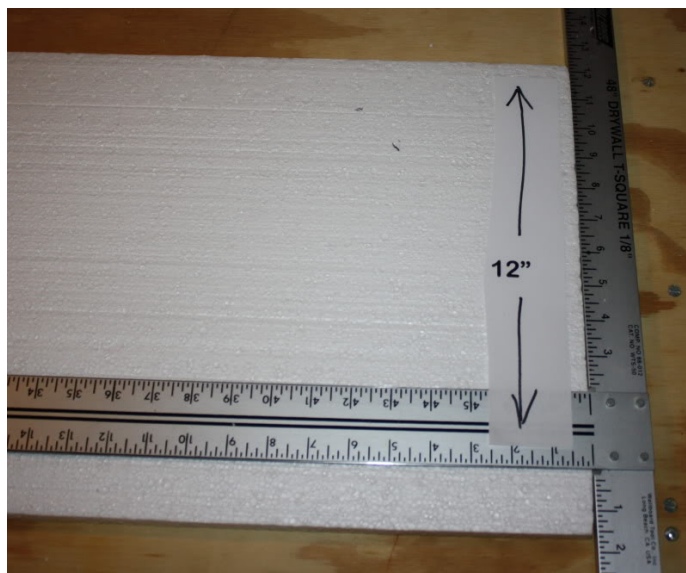
I buy my foam at Lowes for \$9.59 including tax.
It has 6 sheets in a pack, each sheet is 3/4" thick X 48" long X 13 5/8" wide.
These instructions will make 2 large (12 X 12 X 5.5") and 8 Medium (8.5 X 11 X 5.5") flat rate boxes.
I buy this foam at Lowes:



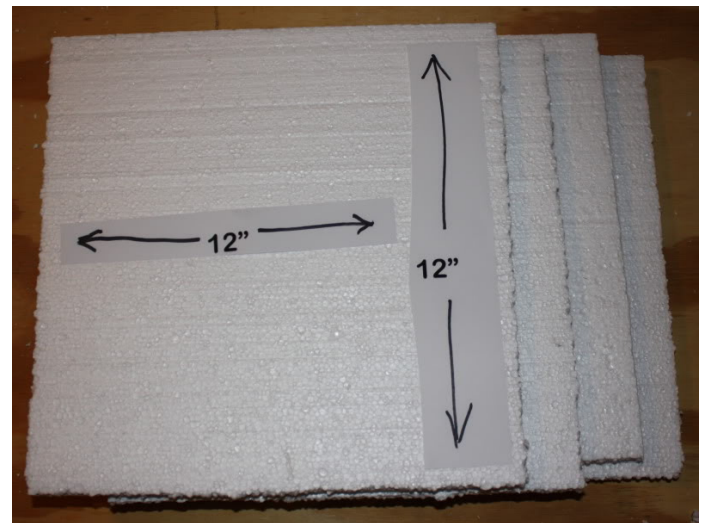
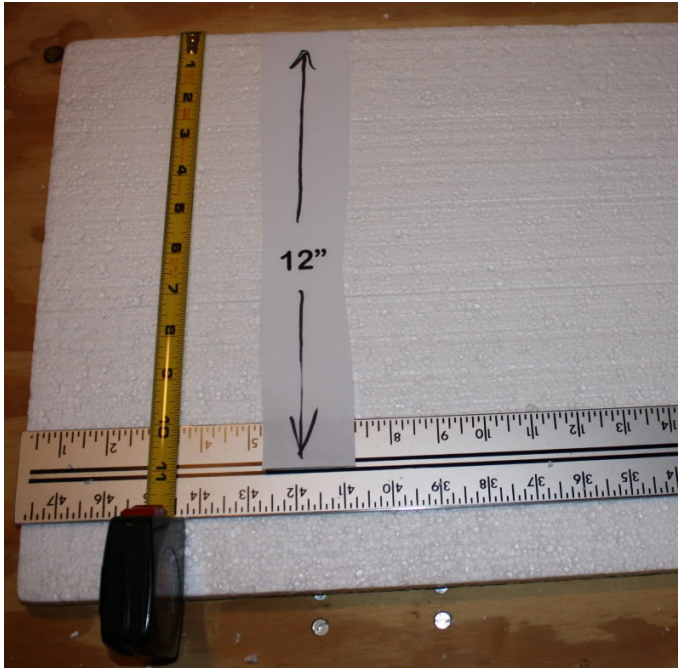
Other things you need are:
A retractable utility knife
A tape measure
A roll of shipping tape in a dispenser
A dry wall T square



Sheet one. Using your T square measure 12" from the top edge.



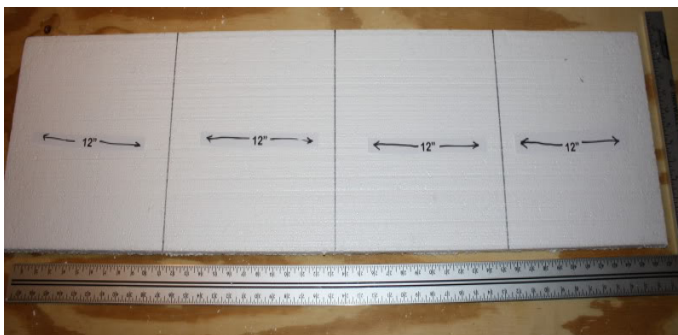
Verify that you are still at 12" with the tape measure at the other end because the foam is not perfect and you can't trust its edges to be straight.



Make the cut. Snap off the bottom piece and save it.



Measure and cut 12", move cut 12", move and cut 12" - You don't have to mark it, just cut - I marked it so you could see what I do.



This will give you 4 - 12 X 12 X 3/4 pieces which become the tops and bottoms of the two LARGE flat rate boxes.
(Plus the strip which you set aside for later use)

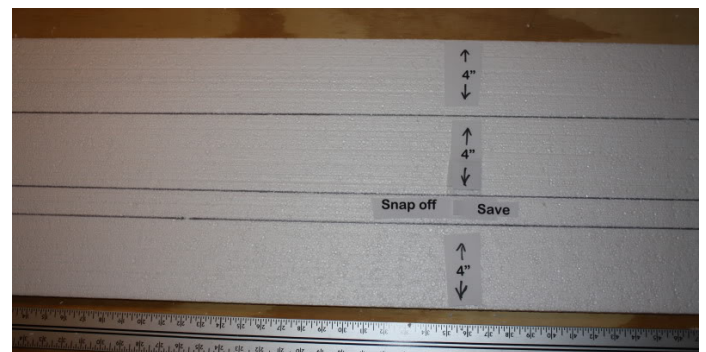
Sheet Two.

Using your T Square Measure 4" from the top edge, verify that the other end is at 4"

with your tape measure, make the cut.

Measure down another 4", verify the other end with your tape measure, make the cut.

Measure up from the bottom 4", verify the other end and make that cut.



Snap them apart, save the skinny strip, set it aside with the saved strip from sheet one.

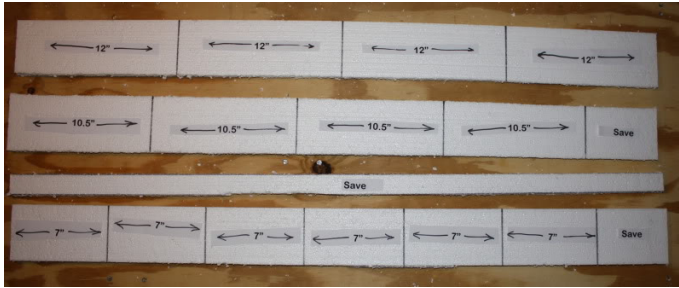
You now have 3 - 4" X 48" strips which will become sides of boxes.

Strip 1 - measure 12" and cut, Measure 12" and cut, measure 12" and cut, set aside.

Strip 2 - Measure 10.5" and cut, Measure 10.5" and cut, Measure 10.5" and cut, Measure 10.5" and cut, save the 6" scrap end piece.

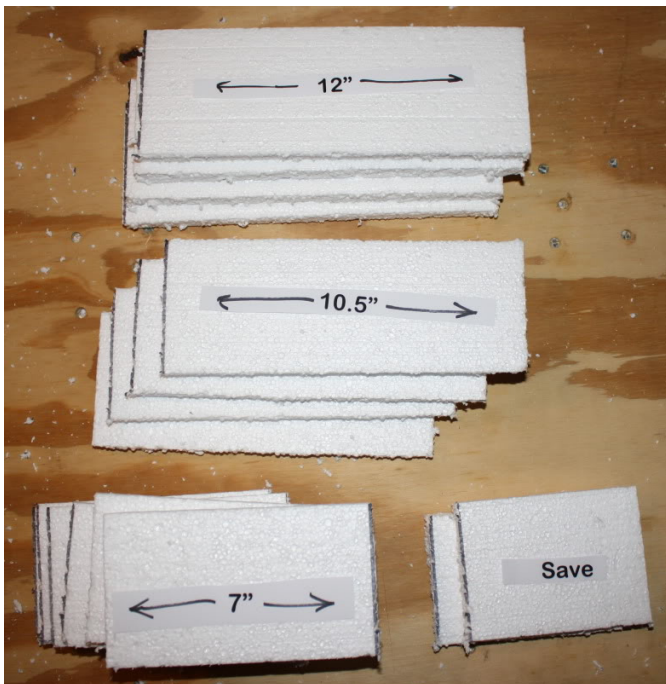
Strip 3 - Measure 7" and cut, Measure 7" and cut, Measure 7" and cut,

Measure 7" and cut, Measure 7" and cut, Measure 7" and cut, save the 6" scrap end piece.



This will give you:

- 4 - Large box sides (Left and Right) 4" X 12"
- 4 - Large box ends (top and bottom) 4" X 10.5"
- 6 - Medium box ends (top and bottom) 4" X 7"
- and a couple 6" scraps.

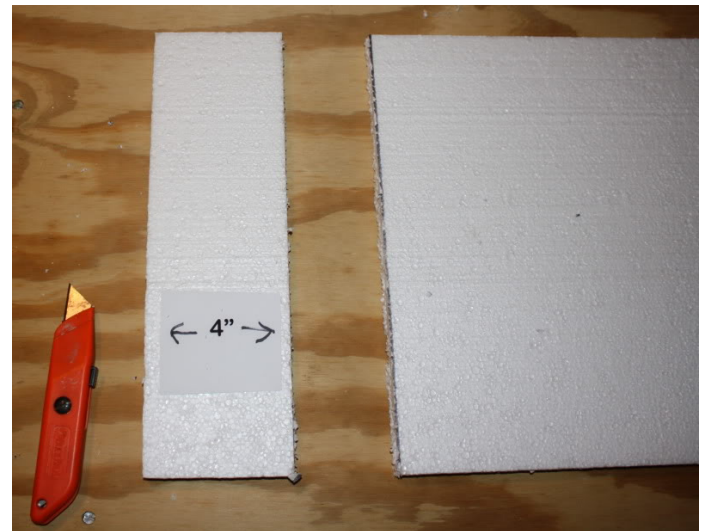


OK - Now you do the following exact same thing to sheets 3, 4, 5, and 6.

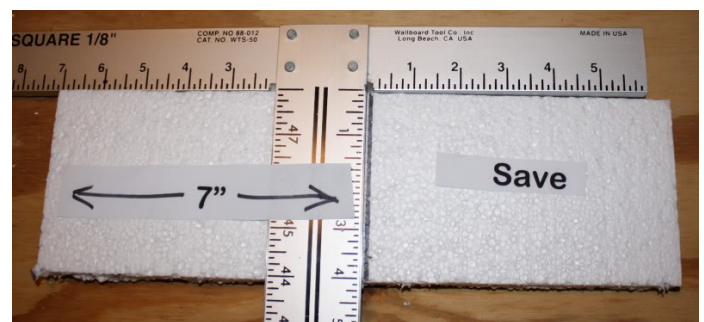
Measure 4" from the end, verify with your tape measure and make the cut.



SNAP IT OFF,



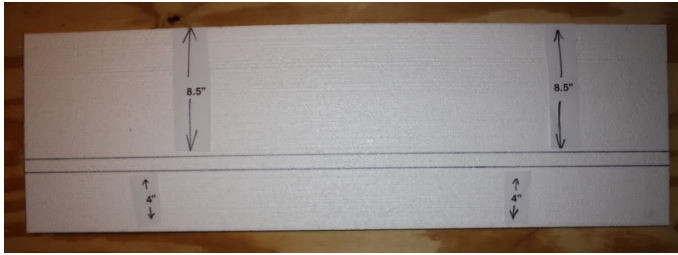
Measure 7" and make the cut, save the 6 and 5/8" piece of scrap.



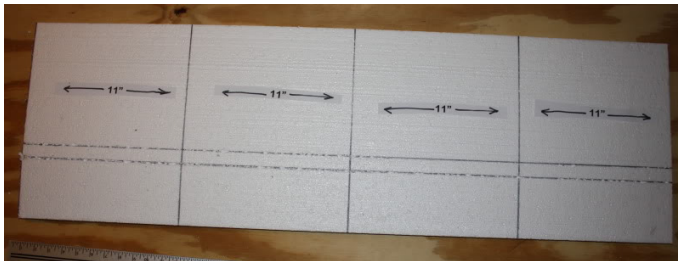
With the big piece which is now 44" X 13 and 5/8" you measure down 8.5" from the top edge, verify the measurement at the other end with your tape measure, make the cut.

Then measure up from the bottom edge 4" - verify the other end with your tape measure and make the cut.

DON'T SNAP IT APART YET!



Measure 11" from the end, make the cut (did you remember to verify?), move 11" cut, Move 11" cut.

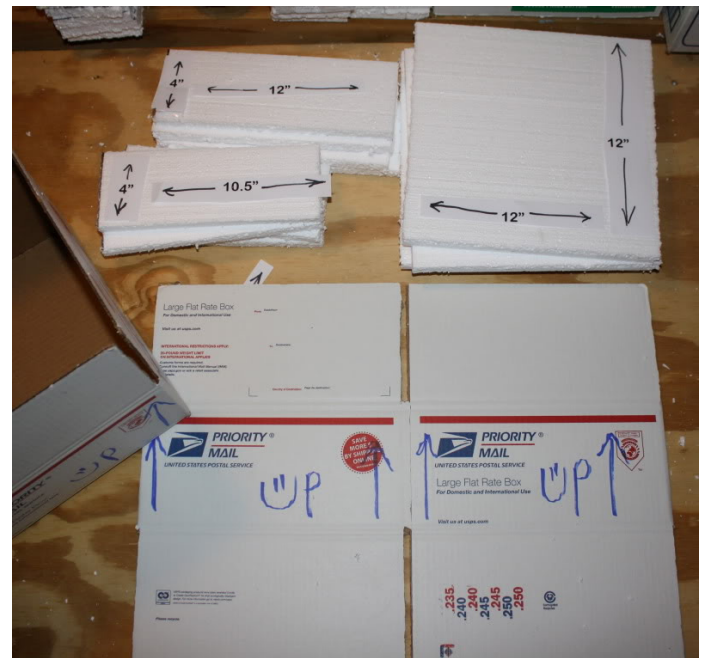
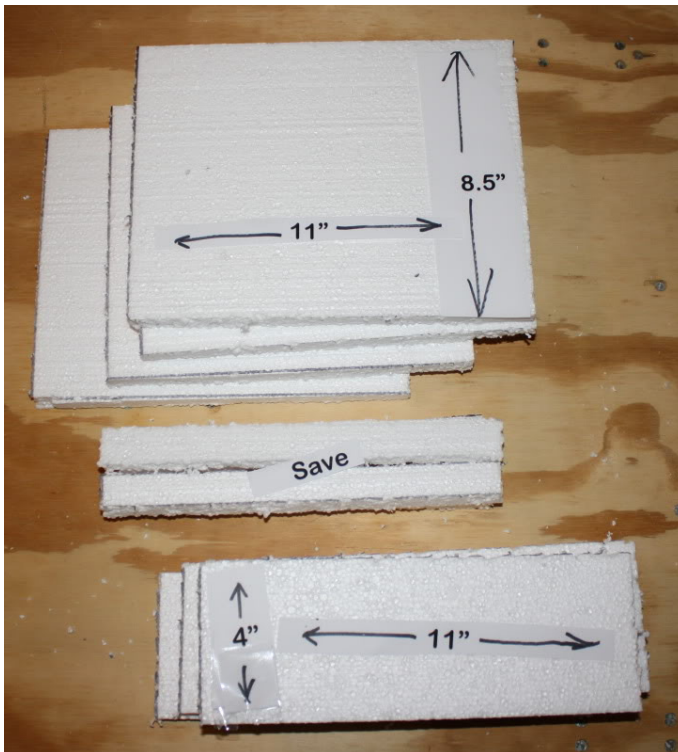


This will give you:

4 - 8.5" X 11" Medium top and bottoms (Times the 4 sheets = 16, enough for 8 boxes)

4 - 4" X 11" Medium Left and right sides (Times the 4 sheets = 16, enough for 8 boxes)

And 4 scraps which you are going to save.

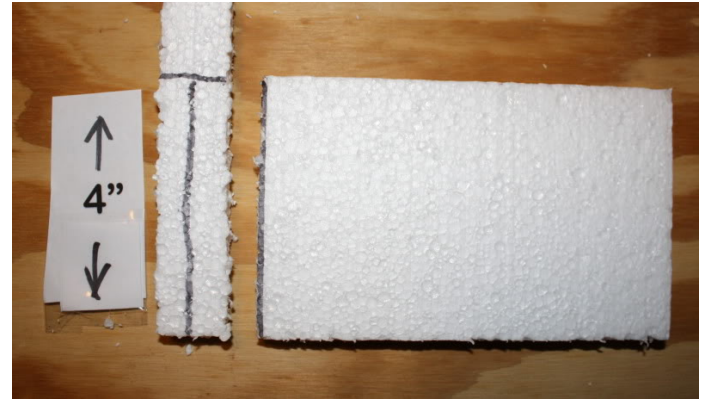


Place one 12 X 12 in the bottom of each box.



Place a 4 X 12 left and right, a 4 X 10.5 top and bottom to make the sides,

Now make your boxes, start with the two large flat rates, I like to put my up arrows on them before I tape them together because its easier and faster to mark a flat box.



And wedge it in. Place the little piece in the corner and swing the big piece in like a door.

Select your "Lucky Penny" and tape in place, do it again, those two large flat rates are done!



You now have just one box to complete and you are short two ends but you have two 4" X 6" scraps left, you know whats coming, right? The scrap, wedge door trick:

Move on to your 8 Medium boxes, mark and tape them, place a 8.5 X 11 piece in the bottom of each box, place a 4 X 11 piece on the long sides left and right, use a 4 X 7 end piece top and bottom. Now you are going to start to run out of those 4 X 7 pieces, if you have been paying attention you know you have only 10 and you need 16. But you have 4 scraps that are 4" X 6 5/8" So you just trim a short scrap (you have 16 of them) down as shown,





And tape the two long strips together with 5 little strips in between, trim it down to 4" and cut it into 7" lengths so you have plenty of 7" ends. That way you can make ALL 6 pieces of foam into 12 flat rate medium boxes next time if you want to.



Combine with the breather bag post in this section, and the heat pack post I will write this fall when I start using them again, and you too should be able to safely ship smaller fish via priority mail in breather bags with confidence any time of year.

use all the scraps as packing when you ship:



Upcoming in the July-August issue are the following articles

Spawning Report: *Neolamprologus pulcher* (Kambwimba)

Todd Leising.

One to scratch from my Bucket list (Trip to the Shedd Aquarium)

Rob Zerkle

We are always looking for articles on aquarium related topics, keeping fish, breeding fish, visits to aquariums, etc. And it doesn't have to be fish— any aquatic species is fair game. Send you articles to fishfarmer@cinci-fishfarmer.com

Thanks

Steve



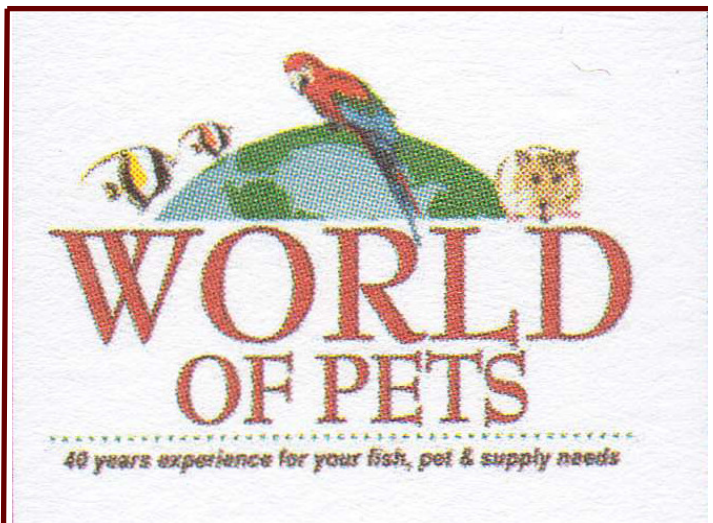
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Saturday	10:00am - 6:30pm
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Wednesday	11:00am - 8:00pm	
Thursday	11:00am - 8:00pm	
Friday	11:00am - 8:00pm	
Saturday	11:00am - 6:00pm	
Sunday	Noon- 4:00pm	



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