

Finformation

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April 2004



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Next Meeting: April 30

At the Palace Inn

Ray "Kingfish" Lucas

On Collecting in Peru

(No questions save your fish for May 20)

CONTACT THE
NEWSLETTER

Please send articles or comments to
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**Back issues of *Finformation* are
available in full color online at**
gpasi.org/newsletter.html

COVER IMAGE

Whiptail photo by
Bill Shenefelt.

MEMBERSHIP

DUES are \$20 a year per family
or street address.

To become a member, write to us or
see Steve Gibbs at the next meeting.
Visit WWW.GPASI.ORG

General Meetings are held at the
Phipps Garden Center in Mellon
Park at the Corner of
5th and Shady Avenues.
DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM

General Meetings
April 30 at the Palace Inn
May 21 • June 25 • July 30
Aug. 27 • Sep. 24 • Oct. 29
Nov. 19

Board of Directors Meetings
7 p.m. at Elmer's Aquarium
in Monroeville:
May 3 • June 7
July 12 • Aug. 9

All members and suggestions for
discussion are welcome. Contact a board
member for meeting confirmation.

NEWSLETTER/WEB TEAM

Thanks to these members who help with
Finformation and the website:
Nancy Frieze, Mailing
Connie Yarris, Exchange Typist
Terrence Trasatti, Printing Facilitator
***Finformation* April 2004**

Upcoming GPASI Events

April Meeting

On April 30, we will have our regular meeting at the Palace Inn, Monroeville, where we will be launching the Aquarium Fish Show 04. The doors open at 7:00 and the meeting starts at 7:30. Our speaker for the meeting will be Ray "Kingfish" Lucas is a hobbyist of 48 years, a 4-star breeder in the Breeders Award Program and a Grand Master Horticulturist in growing aquatic plants. Ray keeps both aquariums and ponds. At our meeting on Friday night, he will tell us about his experiences collecting fish in Peru. Because we are having our big auction on May 2, we won't have an auction at the Friday meeting.

Ray's past experience includes founding and leading a number of clubs and organizations. He was President of the Western New York Aquarium Society; founder of Southtown's Fish Fanciers of Hamburg, NY; founding member of the Allegheny River Valley Aquarium Society and the Chautauqua County Aquarium Society; president of the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs (CAOAC); member of many societies around the US and Canada; chair of the 1986 CAOAC Convention; chair of the 1988 Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS) Convention. He was elected into the FAAS Hall of Fame in 1992 and worked for the Aquatic Maestro Program with Paul Spiece for several years. In 1990, he started Kingfish Services, an education and promotional company helping aquarium societies and manufacturers. Ray has been a member of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, both in the US & Canada. You can visit Ray's website at www.kingfishservices.net.



***Maratecoara lacortei* by Kathy Bintrim.**
This art inspired by
**Hank Marzina's fish that won Best of Show
at the GPASI Aquarium Fish
Show 03. What fish will win this year?**

President's Message

By Jean Grace

At one of the first GPASI meetings I attended, Eric Bodrock did a presentation on the history of the club. He showed slides from a GPASI show in the 1960s, when the club's big show was a multi-week event at the Buhl Science Center on the Northside. I remember one photo in particular, of several men, wearing white shirts and ties, posing together behind the Science Center as they were setting up the show. A lot of the folks who participated in the GPASI Tank Beautiful shows in the past are still active fishkeepers and members of the club. We're all grateful to them for the work they did on behalf of the club--we have GPASI today because of the time, energy, and talent they were willing to invest in those shows and meetings back then.

In a similar way, the club doesn't have a future unless members today invest their time, energy, and talent in reaching out to the public to educate and to recruit new members, in helping members advance their fishkeeping skills by learning how to show fish, and in engaging the club in the wider world of the aquarium hobby by bringing in speakers, creating a show that is attractive to other aquarists in the region, and having a great auction.

Thanks to the many people who have been involved in planning for several months to make this show possible: show chair Bill Sensor, who has logged many hours on the details of the show; fundraising chair Mike Solito, who got some outstanding sponsorships for us and negotiated with the venue and procured trophies; show committee members Joe Amuso and Marshall Davis who have investigated and set up a new computer system to help facilitate record-keeping at the show; Treasurer Jim Davidson, who has handled the considerable bookkeeping challenges with skill and grace; the raffle committee, Stacy Gatto and John Lewis for planning a wonderful raffle to pay for the space rental; and Marlene Scholze, recording secretary, for sending out numerous letters to sponsors and potential sponsors to request merchandise to be raffled at the show. Many other members are also working at the show or helping to set it up to make it a great experience for all participants. You'll read more about their contributions in our next newsletter.

In the meantime, enjoy the show: come compete, see the fish, hear the speakers, meet aquarists from our area and from the region, learn something new, help grow the hobby in the Pittsburgh area. I'll see you there.

GPASI Annual Fish Show

Join us April 30, May 1, and May 2, for our annual Fish Show at the Palace Inn in Monroeville. At the end of this newsletter, you'll more information about the show, including a schedule of events.

We will be able to enjoy talks on collecting fish in Peru (Ray "Kingfish" Lucas at our member meeting **at the Palace Inn** on Friday night), livebearers (Mike Schadle on Saturday morning) and soft water dwarf cichlids (Dave Soares on Saturday afternoon).

Next Meeting

Friday, May 21, at the Phipps Garden Center, **but earlier in the month than usual**, Sue Silverman will do a presentation on ponds.

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(412) 682-2711

~ There can be no club
without its members. If
there is anything that you
would like to do for GPASI,
just let one of us know.
We'd be happy to have you
as part of the team. ~

Newsletter Exchange

Gene-Altering Revolution Nears the Pet-Store: Glow-in-the-Dark Fish Story by Andrew Pollack Aquatica Jan/Feb 2004

The genetically engineered pet appears to have arrived.

In a development that is likely to inspire both fascination and alarm, a Texas company said yesterday that it would soon start selling a genetically engineered aquarium fish that glows in the dark.

The GloFish, as it is called, is a zebra fish containing a gene from a sea coral that makes the fish bright red under normal light and fluorescent under ultraviolet light. Zebra fish, about an inch and a half long, are normally silver and black.

The company selling the fish, Yorktown Technologies, of Austin, calls the fish "a miracle of science: and said sales would begin Jan. 5 through pet stores.

Genetic engineering of animals has until now been performed mainly for scientific research or medical purposes, for instance to make mice that get a certain disease. Making glow-in-the-dark fish extends the technology into the realm of human amusement, which might raise some eyebrows. Indeed, an artist who made a glow-in-the-dark rabbit a few years ago as an artwork attracted criticism for undermining the dignity of life for trivial purposes.

Some environmental groups, led by the Center for Food and Safety in Washington, are trying to delay the sale of the fish for another reason, saying it should first be reviewed by federal regulators. The groups say the fish might enter natural waterways if people dump out their aquariums and upset the natural balance in ecosystems.

"It's biological pollution," said Andrew Kimbrell, executive director of the Center for Food Safety. He said that even if the GloFish was not dangerous, failure to regulate it would set a precedent allowing many other ornamental fish to enter the market unimpeded.

"We could see hundreds or thousands of new varieties with a variety of novel genes released into the environment with no regulation at all," he said.

But Alan Blake, chief executive of Yorktown, said that the company had checked with the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture and the Fish and Wildlife Service and determined that the fish did not need regulatory clearance.

California does have restrictions on the sale of genetically engineered fish and that the company was now trying to get an exemption from those rules, he said.

The F.D.A. regulates genetically engineered animals meant for the food supply. Indeed, it is considering whether to approve a salmon genetically altered to grow faster. But whether it regulates ornamental fish is unclear.

"F.D.A. is considering the matter, but right now we don't think we have legal jurisdiction here," a senior agency official said yesterday.

Wildlife experts have expressed concern that genetically modified animals might alter ecosystems, particularly if, say, they out compete other fish for food or mates. But Mr. Blake of Yorktown dismissed any such concerns for the GloFish.

“This fish is the same as any other zebra fish aside from the brilliant color,” he said. And zebra fish, a tropical fresh-water species, cannot survive in the colder waterways of the United States, he said. The company’s Web site, glofish.com, contains letters to the company from some prominent scientists stating that the fish is not likely to pose an environmental risk,

As for concerns about altering animals for human amusement, Mr. Blake said that the fish were developed at the National University of Singapore for use in environmental monitoring. The idea is to make fish that glow when they encounter certain pollutants, the marine equivalent of a canary in a coal mine. But on the way to creating such bio-sentinels, the Singapore scientists first created fish that glowed all the time, which Yorktown licensed.

“These fish were created to help fight environmental pollution,” Mr. Blake said. “We are simply breeding existing fish.” Mr. Blake, 26, started Yorktown with a partner about two and a half years ago. Before that he had started an Internet business that failed.

Similar glow-in-the-dark fish, though using a different gene that makes them green instead of red, were developed in Taiwan and have been sold for several months there and in some other Asian countries. Criticism has arisen there as well, with Singapore, for example, confiscating the fish. ■

Exchange Article

Weighing the Impact of Genetically Manipulated Fish GCKA February 2004

In the late months of 2003, news spread about the pending introduction to the fish trade of the first truly genetically engineered fish, a “glowing” version of the old aquarium standby, *Brachydanio rerio*, the Zebra Danio or Zebrafish.

We’re all familiar with many of the specialty varieties of fish that have been developed from the basic wild forms by selective breeding – fancy angelfish, guppies, swordtails, platies, goldfish, etc., even some of the cichlids. With the exception of the fancy platies and swordtails, many of which were developed by crossing and re-crossing the two related species, the fancy varieties were developed from naturally occurring mutations.

In contrast, the newly released GloFish™ were developed by gene splicing in the lab. The Zebrafish, along with the Ricefish (Medaka sp.), have long been popular as scientific research subjects, with millions bred for experimentation and study.

Some years back, scientists found that by splicing a gene from certain other species, usually jellyfish or corals, they could create Zebrafish that fluoresced in the presence of specific water-borne toxins, a useful tool for pollution studies. The original result, using the gene for Green fluorescent protein (GFP), produced a green fluorescing fish. Later work with modifications of the protein yielded red, blue, yellow, and orange variants.

Green GloFish™ first appeared in Asian aquarium markets in July 2003, and reportedly showed only limited color, which fluoresced more strongly under ultraviolet color, which fluoresced more strongly under ultraviolet (black) light. Advertised for the first American release in January 2004 but actually appearing in some stores in fall of 2003 was a red form of the GloFish™. In photos, these fish appeared to have quite brilliant color.

These patented GloFish™ are not the only genetically engineered forms that have been developed for the scientific community. Other Zebrafish strains have blood that glows, or certain organs that fluoresce, allowing them to be used on the very cutting edge of scientific and medical research.

GFP has been used even more extensively in Medaka, strains of which have been developed using the luciferase gene from fireflies.

What effect does the introduction of such “Frankenfish” portend for the aquarium hobby? Obviously, retailers hope that they will spark public interest in fish as pets, promoting more people to take up the hobby of fishkeeping and increasing sales. Certainly the fish are unique, and likely to draw the attention of consumers, but they also carry hefty price tags.

But what about the long-term effects on the species? As fishbreeders and keepers, we know that many aquarists enjoy breeding and trading their fish. Supposedly, GloFish™ are sterile, with the eggs being pressure treated during development to change the chromosome counts. However, reports are that a number of eggs were shipped by the Asian developers to domestic U.S. fish farms for mass reproduction to supply the domestic market. This suggests that the fish are in fact fertile.

Will these fish easily interbreed with the “normal” colored Zebrafish, and when they do, how will the implanted gene behave? One can assume, since Zebrafish are fairly easy species to breed, that at least a few aquarists will take up the challenge to find out. If they succeed in breeding the genetically engineered strain to the normal strains, will the resulting “crossbreds” revert to a common type in a number of generations, as do dogs? Or is fluorescing gene dominant, and here to stay?

Also, since GloFish™ are patented, what kinds of legal problems are commercial fish breeders (and possibly hobbyists) going to face when some of those “crossbred” fish reach the markets? As concerned hobbyists, we may wonder. But the FDA seems to have no problem with GloFish™. “They pose no threat to the food supply,” a December 9, 2003 statement announced. “There is no evidence that these genetically engineered zebra danio fish pose any more threat to the environment than their unmodified counterparts...[so] the FDA finds no reason to regulate these particular fish.” ■

Aquatic Horticulture Award Program

The Aquatic Horticultural Award Program (AHAP) is designed to promote the propagation and enjoyment of aquarium and pond plants by recognizing achievement in aquatic horticulture. It also aims to encourage a beneficial exchange of information and plant material among aquatic gardeners. Please contact AHAP Chair Cavan Allen with any questions regarding AHAP: Millsman7@yahoo.com.

Recent AHAP Submissions—Congratulations to all the propagators.

| Member Name | Species | Class | Points |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| Ted Neill | <i>Spirodela polyrhiza</i> | A | 10 |
| Cavan Allen | <i>Ludwigia arcuata</i> | G | 15 |

GPASI Marketplace

BUY

Mike Parahus wants to buy up to 6 long-finned white cloud mountain minnows. He'd like a mix of males and females and is not interested in the "golden" variety. He would also like to buy up to 6 *Rasbora brigittae*. (724) 843-0584.

SELL

Walter Roth has plastic bags to sell in 100 count packages. Sizes are 6 x 12", 8 x 15", 10 x 20". Call (724) 449-9651.

Sharon Serbin designs and creates fish-related art: stained glass mosaic tables and wall hangings; tile mosaic floors; and hand-painted T-shirts and other clothes items. E-mail sjserbin@pgh.net or page her at (412) 949-3106.

Ross and Laura Cronkhite have assorted tanks (from 15 gallon up) for sale at 65 cents on the gallon, plus airline and fittings, a few nets, a supply of 5 gallon buckets and 4 and 5 quart ice cream buckets, and assorted stands. Contact (412) 233-0996 or lauross@libcom.com

Merle Kucan wants to sell a lean-to greenhouse: approx 8 by 18 feet, fiberglass with door and heater and air circulation, in very good shape. Use it to raise aquatic plants and fish...Asking 400.00 dollars but open for bids (original cost 2,400.00) (724) 266-2877

To let other members know about aquarium-related items you'd like to buy, sell, or trade, contact Jean Grace at (412) 441-1106 or jgrace@pitt.edu

GPASI SPONSORS

The following national businesses and our local sponsors (listed on the back cover) have given GPASI the fuel it needs to have a great year. Please support all our sponsors and thank them for helping to make our show and our club a success.

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Diskus Brief Magazine
www.diskusdesign.net

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Newark, CA 94560

Tetra-Second Nature
3001 Commerce Street
Blacksburg, VA 24060

**That Fish Place and
That Pet Place**
www.thatpetplace.com

Upcoming Events of Interest

- 4/25 Loraine Ohio Auction
4/30-5/2 GPASI Fish Show and Auction at the Palace Inn, Monroeville
- 5/28-31 AKA Convention, Breckinridge, CO. Visit www.aka.org for more information or contact convention chair Edd Kray at (303) 420-8108 or edd@catfishthecrawlers.com.
- 6/19 Great Lakes Auction, Euclid, Ohio (440) 944-3245 – Ron Georgeone
6/26-27 SCALES Show and Auction, Perry Grange, Massillon, Ohio--contact Don McGuire (330) 833-7194; Mike Taylor (330) 834-9337; or John Baad (330) 452-9027
- 7/10-11 Medina Show + Auction, Wadsworth, Ohio 330-723-4748 - John
7/22-25 ACA Convention, Denver, Colorado
- 8/7-8 Akron Show, Tallmadge, Ohio (330) 848-3856 – Bud White
8/21-22 YATFS Show + Auction 330-824-2653 – Curt Smith
- 9/11-12 Loraine Show + Auction
9/18 Great Lakes Auction, Euclid, Ohio (440) 944-3245 – Ron Georgeone
9/25 Erie, PA Auction, 814-838-6380 – Bob Cashin
- 10/3 Medina Ohio Auction
10/14-16 All-Aquarium Catfish Convention, Laurel, MD. For more info, visit <http://www.pvas.com/catfish/welcome.htm>
10/17 YATFS Auction 330-824-2653 – Curt Smith
10/24 GPASI Auction
- 11/7 Akron Auction, Tallmadge, Ohio (330) 848-3856 – Bud White
11/19-21 Ohio Cichlid Assoc Show + Auction

Ongoing Reptile Swaps at Palace Inn in Monroeville, PA Herb Ellerbach (412) 361-0835

Will This Be Your LAST *Finformation*?

Is it time to renew your GPASI membership? Keep *Finformation* coming to your mailbox by giving Steve Gibbs, membership secretary, your dues for 2004 at the next meeting. If you can't come to the meeting, you can mail your dues (\$25) to GPASI, PO Box 22452, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-0452.

GPASI Aquarium Fish Show 04

Sponsorship for Competition Classes

Below is a list of the competition classes at the Aquarium Fish Show '04 in April. Sponsors are listed to the right of each class. To all the sponsors listed below: thank you for supporting the club and the hobby! Your sponsorship of \$25 provides cash prizes for the classes you are supporting.

Killies

1. New World—**PAKA**
2. Old World—**PAKA**

Cichlids

3. Discus—**Gil & Gail Hoover**
4. Angelfish—**Linda's Lovely Angels**
5. New World dwarfs—**Jeremy Basch, OCA**
6. New World 6" and under—**Bill Sensor**
7. New World over 6"—**Ohio Cichlid Association (OCA)**
8. *Aulonocara*—**Joe Craig**
9. Mbunas—**AquaWorld**
10. Haplochromines, Lake Malawi—**Don Grey**
11. Victorians—**John Lanzer**
12. *Julidochromis*, *Chalinochromis*, and *Telmatochromis*—**Paulette's Perennials**
13. *Lamprolongus* and *Neolamprolongus*—**Don Tuttle**
14. Old World under 4"—**John Baad**
15. Old World cichlids AOV—**Ray Lucas**

Livebearers

16. Guppies, Males, Solid color tails—**Lou & Joan Bott**
17. Guppies, Males, All others—**Mike Ott**
18. Guppies, Females, Half Black—**General Store for Pets**
19. Guppies, Females, All others—**Stacey Gatto & John Lewis**
20. Swordtails, Platies, Mollies, Plain finage—**Bill Montgomery**
21. Swordtails, Platies, Mollies, Fancy finage—**Bob Fulmer**
22. Livebeares AOV—**Mary Pratley**

Catfish

23. *Corydoras*, *Aspidoros*, and *Brochis*—**Don Plazek**
24. Suckermouth catfish, 6" and under—**John Shaw**
25. Suckermouth catfish, over 6"—**Gary Balbo**
26. *Synodontis*—**Wayne Toven**
27. Catfish AOV—**Eric Bodrock, All Oddball Aquatics**

1. Best Of Show—**Python**
2. Reserve Best Of Show—**Elmer's Aquarium**
3. President Award (Most Points In Show)—**Pet Supplies Plus**
4. Jack Wilson Memorial Award (Most Points For GPASI Member)—**Petland, Monroeville**
5. Challenge Trophy (Most Points Visiting Society)—**All Aquarium Catfish Convention (www.catfish2004.com)**

AOV = All Other Varieties

Egglayers

28. Sharks and Loaches—**Mr. & Mrs. Pizza**
29. Rainbowfish—**Kathy Bintrim, In Leafy Shadows**
30. Rasboras, Danios, and Minnows—**Nancy Frieze**
31. Barbs—**Steve Okabayashi**
32. Characins 2" and under—**Jean Grace**
33. Characins over 2"—**Three Guys Aquatics**
34. Natives—**Amazon Aquarium Maintenance**
35. Egglayers AOV—**Don & Karen Guman**
36. Betta, Male, Double tail—**Jim Davidson**
37. Betta, Male, single tail—**Precision Reproductions**
38. Betta, Female—**John Studeny**
39. Anabantids under 4"—**Mike Parahus**
40. Anabantids, 4" and over—**The Cox Family**

Goldfish

41. Goldfish w/head growth: Orandas, Lionhead, and Pompoms—**Bill & Cheryl Sanders**
42. Goldfish w/ eye types: Moors, Bubble eyes, Celestials—**Ray Lucas**
43. Fantails, Ryukins, and Pearlscales—**Mike & Sue Solito**
44. Goldfish AOV—**Marlene Scholze**

Junior Division

45. Junior Egglayer—**Ray Lucas**
46. Junior Livebearer—**Ray Lucas**

Specialty Classes

47. Sexable Pairs (1 male and 1 female)—**Marshall Davis**
48. Family (parents and six fry at least 3 months old)—**Joe Amuso**
49. Aquatic Plants—**Cavan Allen**
50. Saltwater fish All Varieties (will compete for Best Egglayer in Show)—**Steve Gibbs**
51. Tank Beautiful (Fresh or Salt up to 10 gal.)—**Bob Timmins**
52. Arts and crafts—**Curt Smith**
53. Slides and photos—**Sallie Boggs**

GREATER PITTSBURGH AQUARIUM SOCIETY, INC.

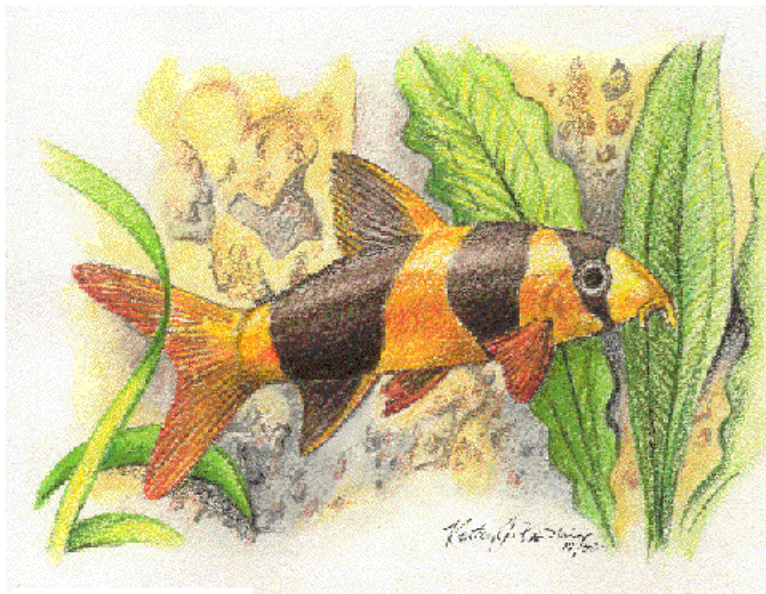
AQUARIUM FISH SHOW 04

APRIL 30, MAY 1 & 2

AT THE PALACE INN, MONROEVILLE

2775 MOSSIDE BLVD, ROUTE 22 & 48, MONROEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 15146

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT SHOW CHAIR BILL SENSOR (724) 845-7171.



Art by Kathy Bintrim

SPEAKERS' BIOS

David P. Soares has been keeping tropical fish for about thirty years. For the last 12 or so he has been keeping the Dwarfs from South America and Africa exclusively. David has managed to spawn about 40 different species of *Apistogramma* during those 12 years. With German biologist Uwe Römer, David founded Soft Water Dwarf Cichlids, an American-German joint venture that consists of a fish hatchery and a bookstore. The bookstore offers Uwe's *Cichlid Atlas 1: Natural History of Neotropical Dwarf Cichlids*, but also all other available Baensch Books in English. David always wanted to build a large hatchery and when he moved into his current residence in Sisters, Oregon, he had the chance to realize his dream. So he converted his garage into a 900 sq. foot hatchery. When he partnered with Uwe, he also acquired a purpose for the hatchery, and at that moment Soft Water Dwarf Cichlids was born. You can visit Dave's website at www.apistogrammaidots.com.

Mike Schadle has been seriously involved in the aquarium hobby since grade school. Although interested in all aspects of aquarium keeping, his chief interests lie in livebearing species and the cichlids of the Americas. A member of most national specialty societies, he has served several in a number of administrative

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

10 am Set up: table layout, main air lines, vendors, etc.
6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Registration of entries
7 p.m. GPASI Monthly Meeting at Palace Inn
Speaker: Ray "Kingfish" Lucas on Collecting in Peru
Everyone welcome!

SATURDAY, MAY 1

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration of Entries
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fish Room Open to Public
11:30 Speaker: Mike Schadle on Livebearers
2:30 Speaker: Dave Soares on Softwater Dwarf Cichlids
4:00 Fish Room Closed for Judging
7:00 Awards Banquet

SUNDAY, MAY 2

9 a.m. Buyer and Seller Auction Registration
9 a.m. Fish Room Open to Public
11 a.m. to finish Huge Auction
4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Show entries may be removed

positions, including the editorship of the American Livebearer Association' journal for eight years and a term on the American Cichlid Association's Board of Trustees. Mike runs the Fish Factory, a business that specializes in aquarium literature. He is frequently called on to judge shows and is one of the region's most sought after auctioneers. In his talk, "An Introduction to Aquarium Livebearers," Mike will offer us a comprehensive introduction to the care and breeding of these hardy and prolific fish. The program's primary focus is the popular livebearers of the Family Poeciliidae, such as mollies, guppies, platys and swordtails, but it also encompasses the husbandry of such unusual species as goodeids and halfbeaks.

**For more show details, please visit our website:
www.gpasi.org**

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| Krispy Kreme Doughnuts | Rt. 19 in Cranberry Twp; Century III; Eastgate Mall in Greensburg | |
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