

Finformation

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August 2007



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Steve Pro on Marine Tanks!**

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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

IMAGES

Cover image by Timothy Gross.

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
Aug. 31, Sept. 28
Oct. 26, Nov. 16

Board of Directors Meetings
7 p.m. at Elmer's Aquarium in
Monroeville:
Sep. 10,
Oct. 8, Nov. 5, Dec. 10

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

This Month's Meeting

August 31 Meeting

Our August 31 meeting will be at the Phipps Garden Center. The doors open at 7 p.m., and the meeting starts at 7:30. **Steve Pro on** MACNA 2007 and the minimum to start a saltwater tank. Steve has been keeping freshwater aquariums for as long as he can remember, but did not start with saltwater fish until 1993 during his junior year of college. Upon returning from school, he was fortunate enough to reside only a short five-minute drive from Poseidon's Living Treasures, Anthony Calfo's greenhouse propagation facility. It was here that he gained a tremendous resource of information and inspiration.

Steve is currently the proprietor of Pro Aquatic Services Company, an aquarium sales and maintenance business in Pennsylvania. He has long been active in the retail and hobby sides of the ornamental aquatics industry. He has taken an active and impassioned role in the industry as a member of the Pittsburgh Marine Aquarium Society, Inc. for the past seven years, having also been elected to the Board of Directors for the last five years. He has also been a GPASI member and served a one-year stint on the Board of Directors of the American Marinelife Dealers Association.

You may know Steve if you have visited <http://www.WetWebMedia.com>, since he previously answered some of the emailed daily questions along with friends Anthony Calfo and site host Robert Fenner. Eventually, the demands of family and business became too great, and Steve had to "retire" from the WetWebMedia crew, but he is still active on its message board as well as many other message boards including moderating his own forum at www.marinedepot.com/forums

Steve currently maintains a 120-gallon reef display, a 1500-gallon freshwater pond, a 75-gallon winter home for turtles (when they aren't out in the pond), as well as numerous smaller tanks scattered throughout his house (much to the chagrin of his wife) which are used for quarantining livestock for customers. His previous 55-gallon reef tank (which was taken down around the first of 2003 to make room for the 120) is profiled on the Pittsburgh Marine Aquarium Society, Inc.'s site <http://www.pmas.org/pro/>. There is a good deal of husbandry information located there that should provide insight into his aquarium keeping philosophy.

From the Editor

By Jean Grace

This is my last issue of *Finformation*. When I started doing this work for the club five years ago, the program I direct at Pitt was small and new. It has now grown leaps and bounds, leaving me without spare time. I'll miss working on the GPASI newsletter and website.

Before I turn over the website to new hands, I am posting archives of the *GPASI Journal* from the 70s and 80s. Please visit gpasi.org/newsletter.html to browse these interesting artifacts of the club's history. Most of the articles are still relevant for today's aquarists. Thanks to Jane Swanson and Dave Webeck for sharing hard copies.

Thanks also to Bob Timmins who is taking over the editorship of *Finformation* with the September issue. If you have material to include in that issue, please send it to Bob at <vze29rfn@verizon.net>. Bill Shenefelt and Bill Sensor, Jr. will be taking over the website in September.

President's Message

By Steve Okabayashi

Steve Pro will speak at our August meeting on MACNA and what it means to GPASI and will present an intro to starting a marine tank. A couple of big events coming up in September: MACNA Sept 14, 15 and 16 and the GPASI Fall Auction on Sept 23 followed by Ian Fuller at our monthly meeting.

Welcome two new members recruited by Thomas Drake: James Hardwick and Melvin Roberts. Everyone is welcome to bring a friend to the next meeting.

Upcoming Events

September 28 Meeting: Ian Fuller on Corydorass. Ian was born in Birmingham, England in 1946. Ian is a toolmaker by trade and a self-confessed Corydorass nut by admission.

He started keeping tropical fish in 1970 in a small 18-inch aquarium. It was not very long before he had two four-foot tanks and two three-foot tanks set up in the spare room. Over the first two or three years he kept and bred many of the popular fish groups, starting with South American cichlids, graduating through barbs, anabantids and characins. Although he had kept several species of catfish during this period it wasn't until early in 1973 that he took an active interest in them. From when he bred his first species of Corydorass in 1974, he has been well and truly hooked.

His first fish house took shape in 1977 and was a sectioned off part of the garage, which housed 36 tanks that were 18 x 18 x 12 inches. It was then that he started seriously breeding corydorass, a project which still continues to this day in what is now his third fish house.

See Ian's website for more information. <http://corydorassworld.com/>

GPASI Fall Auction

Join us at the Holiday Park Fire Hall on
Sunday, September 23.

Registration starts at 10:00; auction starts at noon.

Fish, Plants, Supplies, Raffle, Snacks, and Sandwiches

See page 8 for details.

Finformation August 2007

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~ 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. ~

GPASI Marketplace

SELL

Barb Jurich is starting to keep very large tanks and so is phasing out her smaller ones. She has these for sale with or without accessories, prices negotiable: a 50-gallon breeder, a 20-gallon long, a 15-gallon, and various 10-gallon tanks. 412-287-2078

Walter Roth has plastic bags to sell in 100 count packages. Sizes are 6 x 12", 8 x 15", 10 x 20". He also has a large selection of pond plants. Water Hyacinths, Water Lettuce, Lilies, Water Canna, Iris, Tara, and more. Also pond Fish & Supplies available. Call Walt at 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.

To let other members know about aquarium-related items you'd like to buy, sell, or trade, contact Robert Timmins at vze29rfn@verizon.net. **Please let me know when you want to delete your ad.**

Upcoming Events

08/25-26/07 Medina Show + Auction, Wadsworth, Ohio 330-772-1374 – Mary Fox

09/14-16/07 Macna XIX, Pittsburgh, Pa Expo Mart

9/15/07 TFCEC auction, Tonawanda, NY 716-649-9165 – Randy Seufert

09/16/07 Lorain Auction, Elyria, Ohio 419-668-7452 – Ken McGill

09/23 GPASI Fall Auction, noon, Holiday Park Fire Hall
Don Tuttle 724-327-5163 and Bill Sensor 724-845-7171

09/23/07 Erie Auction, Erie, Pa 814-833-0946 – Russ Lasher

09/29/07 Cafe Auction, Ohio 614-846-1038 – Pat Sabourin

09/29/07 OCA Swap Meet, Strongsville, Ohio

10/06/07 Great Lakes Auction, Euclid, Ohio 440-944-3245 – Ron Georgeone

10/20-21/07 Yatfs Show + Auction, Ohio 330-824-2653 – Curt Smith

10/27-28/07 Yatfs Show + Auction, Howland, Ohio 330-716-0889 – Mike Kays

11/04/07 Akron Auction, Tallmadge, Ohio 330-848-3856 – Bud White

11/16-18/07 Ohio Cichlid Assoc Show + Auction Strongsville, Ohio www.ohiocichlid.com

BAP Article

***Hemigrammus erythrozonus* (Glowlight Tetra)**

Story by Stan Chechak

Background

The Glowlight Tetra (*Hemigrammus erythrozonus*) which is a member of the Characidae Family is similar in size and shape to the popular Neon Tetra (*Paracheirodon innesi*). Adult Glowlights are approximately 1-1/2 inches long with bronze colored bodies and a single horizontal orangish/reddish stripe from eye to tail. Glowlight Tetras are a peaceful shoaling fish native to the Essequito River in Guyana (South America).

The adult female Glowlight is slightly longer than the male and has a heavier body shape. During spawning, the female may release up to 200 eggs which are semi-adhesive but usually sink to the bottom. The "egg-scattering" Glowlights prefer to spawn within available vegetation (or a spawning mop, if present).

Tank & Equipment

I researched the Glowlight Tetra and subsequently prepared the spawning tank based on various "on line" articles and the three books identified in the Bibliography below.

- Spawning Tank Size: 10 gallon (20" x 10" x 12")
- Spawning Tank Water:
One gallon of "aged" water (pH = 6.8, Ammonia = 0 ppm, Nitrites = 0 ppm, Nitrates = 5 ppm, General Hardness = 8 dGH, Carbonate Hardness = 2 dKH PLUS Four gallons of Distilled Water (bottled).
- Spawning Tank Accessories:
One Sponge Filter plus Air Pump and Tubing
One 50W Heater (to maintain the water temperature between 78 - 80°F) plus a thermometer
One Air Stone, Tubing, and Control Valves
Gutter Screening (black plastic) placed to cover inside bottom of tank
Plants - Java Ferns (attached to rocks and driftwood) and Java Moss
Glass Cover (on top of tank)
Heavy Brown Paper (e.g., grocery bags) attached around sides and top of covered tank

Tank Setup

The 10 gallon tank was drained and cleaned (of algae and debris) on May 4, 2007, and the new water mixture (as described above) was added. The sponge filter, heater, thermometer, air stone, gutter screening, and plants were placed in the "half-filled" tank, and the pump (filter / air stone) and heater were plugged in. NOTE: The bottom of the tank was bare (i.e., neither gravel nor sand was placed in the tank).

The five gallons of spawning tank water mixture had the following initial parameters:

pH = 7.0 Ammonia = 0 ppm Nitrites = 0 ppm
Nitrates = 5 ppm General Hardness (dGH) = 3 Carbonate Hardness (dKH) = 1

The pH of the spawning tank water was lowered to 6.0 by adding measured amounts of **Top Fin® pH Decrease** over a 6 hour time period.

Spawning the Glowlight Tetras

The following steps were performed:

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Hikari

May 8, 2007

- 6:00 PM - Placed one male and one female Glowlight Tetra in a clear plastic container with approximately 10 ounces of water from their "home" tank (pH = 6.6, dGH = 8, and dKH = 2). The container was floated in the spawning tank.
- 6:15 PM to 9:30 PM – Added approximately 5-10 ml of spawning tank water to the clear plastic container water every 15 minutes using an eyedropper. This was done to slowly acclimate the pair to the spawning tank water parameters (pH = 6.0, dGH = 3 and dKH = 1).
- 9:40 PM – Released the Glowlight Tetras into the spawning tank and placed the glass cover on the tank. The heavy brown paper was taped in place to cover the top and sides of the spawning tank. NOTE: Glowlight Tetras spawn in the dark (i.e., usually between sunset and sunrise). The light was turned off in the spawning tank room and the window shades were closed.

May 9, 2007

- 5:00 PM – I peeled back a section of the brown paper to check on the Glowlights. There were approximately 150 tiny white eggs on the plants, the sides of the tank, the heater, the sponge filter and tubing, and the bottom of the tank (on and beneath the gutter screening). The parents were swimming about and the female was noticeably thinner. Some tan colored (unfertilized) eggs were present in various locations throughout the tank.
- 5:15 PM to 9:00 PM – The male and female were captured and placed in the clear plastic container with approximately 10 ounces of water from the spawning tank (pH = 6.0, dGH = 3 and dKH = 1). The container was floated in their "home" tank, with approximately 5-10 ml of "home" tank water added to the clear plastic container water every 15 minutes using an eyedropper. This was done to slowly re-acclimate the pair to their "home" tank water parameters (pH = 6.6, dGH = 8, and dKH = 2). NOTE: After removing the parents from the spawning tank the glass cover was again placed on the tank and the brown paper was taped back in place to cover the top and sides of the spawning tank. The tank should be kept as dark as possible to prevent (or at least minimize) the growth of fungus on the eggs.
- 9:20 PM – I released the male and female back into their "home" tank.

NOTE: The normal incubation period for Glowlight Tetra eggs (at 78 - 80°F) is 24 hours.

May 10, 2007

- 4:50 PM – I peeled back the brown paper to check on the eggs (and hopefully fry). Almost all of the eggs were "missing" and tiny clear-colored fry could be seen (with a 10x magnifying glass) on the bottom of the tank. The fry were slightly larger than newly hatched brine shrimp. I completely removed the brown paper from the top and sides of the tank. The few patches of fungus were removed from the sides and bottom of the tank using a meat baster.
- 5:30 PM – I reinstalled the reflector on the tank glass covering and turned on the fluorescent light. The goal was to start "growing" microscopic organisms (e.g., algae) for the fry even though they would not begin to feed for a few days. The light was left on for approximately 16 hrs per day.

Raising the Fry

NOTE: Operation of the sponge filter, air stone, and heater has remained the same since the initial setup of the spawning (now nursery) tank.

The following major milestones occurred:

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www.tfhmagazine.com

Wardley's
hartz.com/Our%20Products/Bro
wse.asp

- ✓ **May 11 – May 14, 2007:** The fry are not yet free-swimming and usually remain motionless on the bottom of the tank. When they occasionally move, the clear-colored fry scoot along the bottom surface of the tank or swim upward an inch or two before sinking back to the bottom.
- ✓ **May 15 – May 16, 2007:** Almost all of the fry are now free-swimming. They spend most of the time “hovering” in the bottom three inches of the water column. Initial food sources - I squeezed the sponge filter to release microorganisms into the water and added two drops of liquid fry food twice a day to provide infusoria.
- ✓ **May 17, 2007:** Food source - I began providing microworms and newly hatched brine shrimp since the fry were swimming within all levels of the still half-filled 10 gallon tank (i.e., three feedings per day being careful not to overfeed at any one time). Waste was suctioned from the bottom of the tank using a section of air tubing. Approximately 1 gallon (20%) of tap water was slow-dripped into the tank to replace the removed water. Five hours later, the water in the nursery tank had the following parameters:

pH = 6.4	Ammonia = 0 ppm	Nitrites = 0 ppm
Nitrates = 5 ppm	General Hardness = 5 dGH	Carbonate Hardness = 1 dKH
- ✓ **May 18 – June 27, 2007:** I continued to feed microworms and newly hatched brine shrimp, plus First Bites (powdered fry food) to the Glowlight fry. I maintained three feedings per day. NOTE: The water level in the tank was raised to approximately 9 gallons on June 1 by slowly adding tap water. Water changes of 20% were continued once per week. The body coloring of the fry became darker and the average size was approximately 1/4 inch at about 3 weeks. By 6 weeks the approximately 60 - 75 fry were between 3/4 and 1 inch long and had the same coloring as the parents. However, most of the fry still did not have the single horizontal orangish/reddish stripe from eye to tail.
- ✓ **June 28 – July 7, 2007:** In addition to microworms and powdered fry food, I fed the Glowlights assorted finely ground flakes and **Hikari ® Multi-Vitamin Enriched Daphnia** (a type of freeze-dried powdered food). I continued three feedings per day with the above assortment. Approximately 25% are showing the single horizontal orangish/reddish stripe. Almost all of the fry are at least 1 inch long.
- ✓ **July 8 – July 27, 2007:** I continued to alternate between microworms, assorted flake foods, and the **Hikari ® Daphnia** for the three daily feeding. Some of the fry were transferred to the tank with the parents. All except a few of the fry are 1 inch to 1-1/4 inches long and have the same coloring plus horizontal orangish/reddish stripe and white-tipped fins as the parents. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the adult males and the fry that are in the parents' tank. The adult female is still easily identified due to her heavier body since the fry are still slender like the adult males.

Conclusion

Setting up the spawning tank to provide the water parameters and other environmental conditions per the available Glowlight Tetra literature was interesting and a little challenging. Since this was the first time I had attempted to spawn fish with “particular requirements”, I was surprised (and probably lucky) the pair spawned the first night.

The most enjoyable part of this spawning experience was seeing the tiny (barely visible) newly hatched fry. It is amazing that from the time of fertilization (i.e., when the two cells join to become one) until a viable fry emerged from its egg was only about 24 hours. Even though they were not much larger than brine shrimp nauplii, you could easily see the body, eyes and “tail” of the fry using a magnifying glass. To think, these tiny newly hatched creatures were only a twinkle in their parent’s eyes about 24 hours earlier.

Bibliography

Alderton, David. Encyclopedia of Aquarium & Pond Fish. New York: DK Publishing, 2005.

Bailey, Mary, and Gina Sandford. The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Aquarium Fish & Fish Care. New York: Hermes House, 1998.

Sandford, Gina. An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Aquarium Fish. New York: Quintet, 1995.

GPASI Fall Auction

Join us at the Holiday Park Fire Hall on Sunday, September 23 at noon for the GPASI Fall Auction. Registration starts at 10:00; auction starts at noon.

Fish, Plants, Supplies, Raffle, Snacks, and Sandwiches

The auction is an opportunity to catch up with friends and get some great deals on fish, plants, and supplies. We always need volunteers to help with running bags at the auction, cooking, and taking care of paperwork. Please consider helping out for a few hours.

On our auction page, you can find a map and download a PDF version of our seller's form for any of our auctions. You can type your information directly into this form or print it out and complete it by hand.
<http://www.gpasi.org/auctionpage.html>

1. Registration for both buyers and sellers will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. The auction will begin promptly at noon.
2. All GPASI member BAP and AHAP items will be auctioned at the beginning of the auction. Donations will be sold during the auction at the auction chair's discretion.
3. Following the sale of the last AHAP item, the auctioneer will move on to items offered for sale by registered sellers. The proceeds from the sale will be split between the seller and GPASI at a ratio of 70% to 30% in favor of the seller.
4. The auction will be conducted using a ten-table system. All items ending in #1 go on Table #1, all ending in #2 go on Table #2, etc. All items ending in #0 go on Table #10. All items with #1, #11, #21, etc. will be auctioned first. Following tables to be sold will be picked at random.
5. There is no maximum or minimum number of bags that can be placed in the auction. However, a maximum of 5 bags of one species or color variety for one seller will be in effect. The auction chair can modify this rule at his discretion if a request is made prior to the day of the auction. Each item will be assigned a seller's code (usually the seller's initials) and a number by the seller, such as PDB - 1. Letter identifications can be pre-registered by phoning Jim Davidson at (412) 781-3938 between 5-9 p.m., ONLY. Only 1 letter identification will be assigned to a household.
6. Anyone in attendance may purchase or sell items in the auction, but must first register with GPASI as a buyer and/or seller.
7. ALL BIDDERS must have a bidding card whether paying cash or running a tab. Buyers may pay cash at the time of purchase. All registered buyers will be given an account number and be designated as a cash or account buyer. This account number will be used to designate their purchases. The account buyer must sign a bidder's slip that shows the price, item number, and your buyer number agreeing to pay the listed price. Buyers setting up a buyer account will be required to leave identification with the registration table. This is usually a valid driver's license. All other forms of identification must be approved by the auction chair. Upon paying your tab you will be returned your identification. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE! A Buyer Account must be established before making your bid. Auctioneers will only recognize those bidders with the appropriate bidder's cards.
8. Bidding will be made in increments of one dollar. While the auctioneer may suggest a price to start the bidding, a lower opening bid may be offered by anyone. The minimum bid on any item is one dollar.
9. Acceptable means of payment: GPASI will accept cash in the form of US currency, a US money order, a cashier's check in US funds, or a traveler's check in US funds with proper identification. Personal checks in US funds may be

accepted with proper identification. Verification must be recognized in advance. GPASI reserves the right to refuse to accept any personal check.

10. There will be **NO EARLY CHECK-OUTS PERMITTED DURING THE AUCTIONING OF THE LAST TWO TABLES**. Check-outs (paying for your auction purchases) will resume at the closing of the auction.

11. To place a bid, merely raise your bidding card to gain the recognition of the auctioneer. The auctioneer can accept only one bid at each price and the decision of the auctioneer as to who made that bid is final. It is the bidder's responsibility to communicate the bid to the auctioneer. The auctioneer will not be held responsible for lost bids or inaccurate bids due to lack of communication or the inability of the buyer to get the auctioneer's attention.

12. Double bag your fish in proper fish bags (not Ziplock bags or Baggies): You can buy bags from your local fish store or from GPASI members. Air should fill and inflate about 2/3 of the bag. The first bag should be inverted and then placed in the outer bag. This will prevent fish from getting trapped in a corner since the second bag will bend over the corners of the inner bag. Secure each of the bags with a rubber band or knot. Any item needing to be rebagged by the auction committee will be charged a \$1 rebagging fee that will be deducted from the seller's proceeds. Large or spiked fish must be double-bagged.

13. The seller must have certain required information on the bag in order to properly sell the item. The minimum requirements are the Seller Code and bag number, Species scientific/common name, quantity in the bag, seller's name and phone number. The information provided must be legible, large enough to read, and unaffected by water. Items to be auctioned will be checked by a member of the auction committee prior to being placed on the auction tables. Any problems with items to be auctioned will be corrected by the seller at this time.

14. The auction chair reserves the right to refuse any fish for sale due to deformity, illness, etc.

15. If a buyer experiences problems with a seller's fish, please take up the problem with the seller. It is advisable to let GPASI know of the problem; in that way we can better control next year's auction.

16. Proceeds from the auction will be paid by check to the seller within two weeks of the show. Proceeds will not be deducted from your purchases at the show. You will be expected to pay for your purchases at the time of sale. All sellers' splits will be paid by the stated check.

17. For those who wish to auction valuable items and who do not want to face the possibility of having to buy them back, we are offering a **minimum bid option**. To establish a minimum bid on one of your items, buy a sticker for \$1 for each item on which you want to impose a minimum selling price. Simply place the sticker on the bag and print the minimum price on the sticker. To prevent tampering, you may also write MB next to the item description on the bag and on your seller sheet. When the item comes up for auction, the auctioneer will announce the item to be a minimum bid item starting at your sticker price. There is no limit on the number of items for which you may do this. It is prudent to establish realistic prices for these items, since any not obtaining the minimum bid will be returned to a rear table for you to retrieve at the end of the auction and will not be offered for bid again. In effect, they will have cost you a dollar to not sell them.

18. By paying the auction chair \$2, a buyer can have an item moved to the front of the queue. This is called an express bid.

Contacts: Don Tuttle 724-327-5163 and Bill Sensor 724-845-7171



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