

GPASI

Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc. Serving hobbyists in the Pittsburgh

area since 1947

Finformation

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January 2007



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**Next meeting:
January 26
Elections, raffle, and
big auction!**

**CONTACT THE
NEWSLETTER**

Please send articles or comments to
GPASI Newsletter
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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. See
related story on page 3.

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
Feb. 23, Mar. 23
Apr. 27, May 11, June 29
July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28
Oct. 26, Nov. 16

Board of Directors Meetings
7 p.m. at Elmer's Aquarium in
Monroeville:
Feb. 5, Mar. 5,
Apr. 2, Apr. 30, June 4,
July 9, Aug. 6, Sep. 10,
Oct. 8, Nov. 5, Dec. 10

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

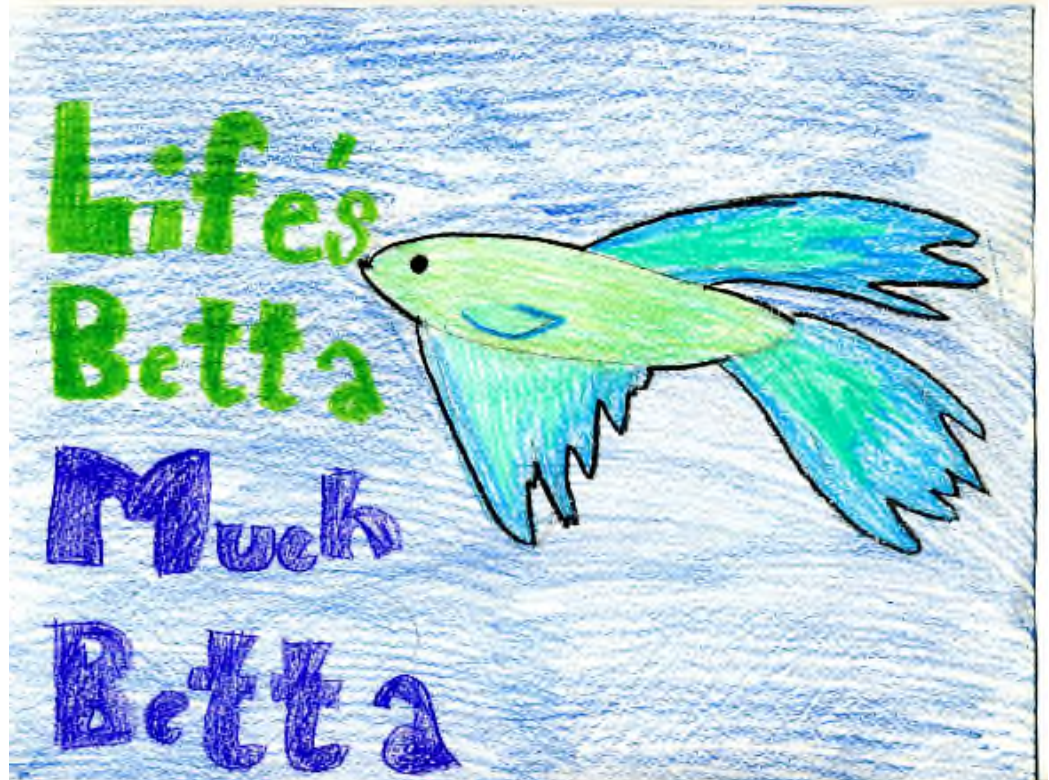
Upcoming Events

January 26 Meeting

This month's meeting is devoted to elections for the club, a raffle, and a big auction. Please attend, renew your membership, and see your friends from the club.

Survey

The Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society officers and board of directors want to hear from you, the members. Please take the time to respond to the survey on page 7. You will be helping the club, and it will only take you a few moments.



Art by Junior Program member Melissa Karl

President's Message

By Steve Okabayashi

Welcome to 2007! A couple of important items to kickoff the year: annual membership renewal and the Board of Directors election will be held at the January meeting. Please renew your membership prior to the election. Our meeting will consist of raffle, election, and auction.

Planning for the 2007 Show is in progress; we need volunteers for a variety of jobs. Please contact Bill Sensor: 724-845-7171.

AHAP Article

Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides

Pronunciation: hi-droh-KOT-ih-lee sib-thorp-ee-OH-deez

Story and Photo by Timothy S. Gross



I have always been a fan of small and delicate looking plants, especially when used as an accent in an aquascape. I have always enjoyed the type of plants that seem to be scattered throughout a beautiful aquascape almost as if they came about through the randomness of nature.

Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides is on the top of my list of aquatic

plants that give such an effect. This beautiful creeping foreground plant will always find its way into my planted aquariums.

Hydrocotyle is a large genus with roughly 75 species world-wide. This particular one is native to Southeastern Asia, but has been introduced into the United States. Here you can find it growing in most of the Eastern states of the U.S. as well as in California. It is a creeping, low growing plant that prefers to grow out of water in damp areas. When grown emerged the plant spreads quickly. However, when *Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides* is grown submerged, the plant's growth slows significantly. The leaves, which can grow as large as a nickel, remain considerably smaller in submerged cultivation. Other than that, both submerged and emerged leaves are reniform in shape with lobed margins. The color is a wonderful gray-green and is a real eye-catcher in an aquascape. It is a typical *Hydrocotyle*, spreading by way of runners with usually one leaf and a root system per node.

(continued next page)

Finformation January 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. ~

Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides should only be grown in tanks containing a great deal of light, complemented with plenty of CO₂ and nutrients (especially phosphate). It is not an easy plant, and can quickly succumb to algae, especially green spot (*Choleochaete* spp.). If you have the right conditions for it, then be patient. At first it may want to stall a bit, however with time it will rapidly spread into the foreground.

When the plant is doing well and spreads wildly into the rest of the aquascape, it then becomes fully appreciated. I personally feel when it intermingles with other foreground plants it is in its glory. Growing it this way helps to break up the redundant, somewhat mundane look of a foreground planted with only one species. It also looks very nice as a filler between two stones or at the edge of a piece of driftwood.

This charming little species is a must try for any serious aquascaper. Its leaf shape is refreshing and its color is outstanding. It also never seems to look obtrusive or artificial in an aquascape. If you get the opportunity to grow this plant, then give it a shot. Chances are it will fit well into your planted aquarium. ♦

From the Archives

A Short History of the GPASI George F. Kovacs GPASI Journal, Spring 1976

"On Thursday evening, February 13, 1947, a group met at the home of Mr. M. J. Rectanus at Eastwood Road, Pittsburgh for the purpose of organizing an aquarium society in the Pittsburgh area....Considerable discussion developed as to choice of a name for the organization and a regular meeting place, age limit of members and other matters."

The preceding was taken from the minutes of the first organization meeting of the G.P.A.S.I. Some of the original members and founders were Mr. Rectanus, Jack Pericht, and E.J. Halter, Lawrence Hogden, Mary Hewitt, John Werntz, Richard Hazley, Father Innocent, Father Ernest, Jack and Texas Rosenson, H.P. Speer and Carl Kellerman. (I apologize to anyone that I may have excluded; but there is no recorded list of founders in our files.)

The meetings were held twice monthly at Stanwix Hall in downtown Pittsburgh until September 30, 1949 when the general meetings were held at the Buhl Planetarium. The board meetings continued to be held at Stanwix Hall until 1956 at which time the group moved their headquarters to the King Cultural Center at N. Negley Avenue, Pittsburgh. The board now meets monthly at the planetarium.

At the August 8, 1947 meeting it was reported that Buhl Planetarium had made an offer to allow the society to use one of its rooms for a tropical fish show.

The membership accepted the offer and our first show was held at the planetarium from October 18 to the 30, 1947. About twenty-five members entered and from all reports the show was considered a success.

In January 1948 a questionnaire was mailed to the membership and as a result of the members comments it was decided that the regular meetings would be held only once a month instead of the usual two.

As time went by, the society continued to grow and in 1956 it was officially chartered and incorporated.

The society is still growing and our 1975 membership roster listed over one hundred members including most of the pet shops in the Greater Pittsburgh area. The 1975 show was a success, although a surprisingly few number of members entered.

This year will mark our 30th annual show. If you are planning to enter a tank or two, great. If not, then maybe the officers and board of directors should reassess its position on the show. Or maybe you should give some thought as to what you want from YOUR society.

At this point many of you must be saying, "What's this, he starts to give a history of the society and then gives an editorial?" Well, maybe that's because I would like to see the society celebrate its 60th anniversary thirty years from now. Wishful thinking? Not really. What we do as members of the G.P.A.S.I. today will certainly affect its future.

Please! If you want to see the society grow and remain a success, write an article for the journal, enter the show and most importantly get involved. In this Journal you will find a list of officers and board members. If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to lend a helping hand in some project, call one of the persons listed and they will be glad to assist you. Remember, without you, there is no society. ♦

Upcoming Events

2/18 TFCEC Auction, Boston, NY 716-649-9165 – Randy Seufert

3/4 Akron Auction, Tallmadge, Ohio 330-848-3856 – Bud White

3/18 Yatfs Auction, Lordstown, Ohio 330-758-3043 – Tom

3/23-25 The GPASI 2007 Fish Spectacular will take place at the Comfort Inn East.

4/21 Great Lakes Auction, Euclid, Ohio 440-944-3245 – Ron Georgeone

7/7 Great Lakes Auction, Euclid, Ohio 440-944-3245 – Ron Georgeone

7/18-22 ACA Convention, Sacramento, CA www.sacramentoaquariumsociety.org

8/4-5 Akron Show + Auction, Tallmadge, Ohio 330-848-3856 – Bud White

11/4 Akron Auction, Tallmadge, Ohio 330-848-3856 – Bud White

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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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Hikari

SELL

WTS freshwater puffers: 10" Fahaka/Nile and 4" Arrowhead/Mekong puffer. I purchased the Fahaka a year and a half ago when s/he was just 6" long for \$30. The Mekong was purchased a month ago for \$20 for a friend who can longer take her/him. Looking to break even or better. Unlike schooling fish these guys have a LOT of personality and easily lend themselves to species tanks. Contact Mike at (412) 531-4446 if interested.

Christopher Lindeman wants to sell a 90-gallon glass aquarium, (2) 10,000k lamps, over 90 lbs live sand, nearly 50 lbs live rock (mostly Vanuatu, some Fiji), 1 small sailfin tang, 5 true peppermint shrimp, 5 blue hermit crabs, 1 yellow-tail damsel, 2 four-stripe damsels, 1 true percula clownfish, and 1 royal gramma. He would like \$400 for all of the above. He also has 1 full-grown tiger oscar (13 inches) and 2 channel cats (7-8 inches) for which he would be willing to negotiate a price. Also, he has a 10-gallon tank with metal stand, filter, hood, gravel, decorations, as well as various freshwater tropical fishes including mickey mouse platies and black skirt tetras, etc. He would like \$40 for this setup. He can be contacted anytime, any day at (412) 512-2566.

Kevin Zang is looking to sell his custom-built acrylic 475-gallon aquarium. Manufactured by Tencor, the tank is 4' high, 8' long, 2' deep, and the acrylic is 1" thick. It comes with lighting, a custom-built low stand, a wet-dry system plumbed with pvc and shut-off valves, 2 1800 gph pumps. It is drilled for an overflow. The tanks' occupants are 4 oscars, 4 convicts and their fry, 1 channel cat, 2 plecos, 3 fire mouths. They are a happy community. Kevin would like \$3500 for everything. You can call Kevin up until 10 p.m. at 724-752-0213. He lives in Ellwood City.

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

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. 412-825-0667

140 Gallon custom aquarium with oak stand and canopy. Comes with 60-gallon ecosystem under tank with all plumbing and pumps. Two heaters, 2 UV Sterilizers, 1/3 HP brand new chiller, 6 light kits, 150 pounds of live rock, sand, fish, AquaC EV240 Protein Skimmer and many more items. Paid over \$7000 two years ago for complete setup, will sell entire setup for \$2000 or individual pieces. Currently setup for Salt Water, but can be used for fresh as well. Contact David at 724.449.2689 or david@darkspyre.com.

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 Jean Grace at (412) 441-1106 or jgrace@pitt.edu. **Please let me know when you want to delete your ad.**

Note on Email

When you join GPASI, your email address is not automatically added to our email list. If you would like to receive notices about additions to the GPASI website and other announcements, send your email address to <web@gpasi.org>. Also, we have recently had to delete several people from the list because their email addresses no longer work, so if you are no longer getting email and you would like to, send an email to <web@gpasi.org>.

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