

Finformation

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Baby black angels

INSIDE

Show Update

Meet *Eisenia fetida* by Louis Bott

New BAP Award by Chuck Bialon

BAP Standings for 2006

3
4
6
7

Next Meeting: February 24

Dan Woodland
South American Cichlids

**CONTACT THE
NEWSLETTER**

Please send articles or comments to
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All other mail should go to GPASI,
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15222-0452

Back issues of *Finformation* are available in full color online at
gpasi.org/newsletter.html

IMAGES

Cover image 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

Feb. 24, Mar. 24, Apr. 28, May 26,
June 30, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 29,
Oct 27, Nov. 17

Board of Directors Meetings

7 p.m. at Elmer's Aquarium in Monroeville:
Mar 6, Apr 3,
May 8, June 5, July 10,
Aug 7, Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 6, Dec 4

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:
Connie Yarris, Exchange Typist
Terrence Trasatti, Printing Facilitator

Upcoming GPASI Events

February Meeting

Our next regular meeting is Friday, February 24. Dan Woodland will speak on South American Cichlids.

Dan has been involved in the aquarium hobby since the age of ten when his parents purchased a ten-gallon tank where he spawned black mollies for the first time. At that point he was completely and hopelessly infected with the tropical fish hobby. Dan has kept many different types of aquatic life including salt-water fish, turtles, indigenous Ohio species, and amphibians but has turned most of his attention to Cichlids. Active in his local fish club, the Ohio Cichlid Association, for the past 21 years Dan has held the positions of President, Editor, Program Chair, Librarian, and is currently Vice-president. Maintaining over 1500 gallons of water in his self-built fish room, he has raised and bred a wide variety of animals including some of the largest Cichlids. In 1998, Dan began traveling to Central and South America annually to collect wild fishes in an effort to inject new specimens into the hobby as well as taking a small part in the preservation of troubled Cichlids through captive breeding. His 2002 trip was truly an "Adventure in Panama" where his collecting party became stranded on a remote beach overnight with no food, water, or dry clothes. In 2003, Dan traveled to South America where they found a wealth of new fishes including some new species of pleckos. Dan has written a number of articles and given speeches on his adventures, breeding cichlids, and other aquatic interests. His articles have appeared in Aquarium Fish Magazine, Cichlid News, Tropical Fish Hobbyist and the American Cichlid Association's Buntbarsche Bulletin as well as several aquarium clubs around the country. Please join us.

GPASI Junior Program

February 24. Mike Solito and Joe Amuso will talk to junior participants about showing fish. Plan to get ready for the show in March. Please wear old clothes or bring a shirt or apron to wear so that you can paint a show bowl.



A Sallie Boggs koi angel by Nevada Scholze, member of the GPASI Junior Program.

2006 Fish Spectacular

The 2006 GPASI Fish Spectacular Show & Auction will take place March 24-26, 2006 at the Comfort Inn East.

Speakers will include Discus Hans on Keeping Discus from Start to Finish, Jim Robinson on Killies, and Charley Grimes will be speaking at the Banquet. This is a great opportunity to hear from some important figures in the hobby and learn from the experts.

How can you help with this important part of the club's life? We will need members to **sponsor classes**. There will be a sign-up poster at the February meeting, so please plan to support your club by sponsoring a class. Your sponsorship will provide the cash prizes for the winners in your class. This is a fun and easy way to help. Your name will be on the class sign at the show and in the show booklet.

We will also need help in setting up, running, and tearing down the show. Please contact Mike Solito if you would like to help.

Visit the show site <show.gpasi.org> for more information or contact Show Chair Mike Solito via email <wheels115@comcast.net> or at (412) 571-2418.

President's Message

By Steve Okabayashi

I want to thank the members of the club for electing me President for 2006. I look forward to working with the board and welcome all members to provide feedback to me on how we can make the club even better. New changes to the officers include Bill Sensor as Vice President and Sue Solito as Treasurer. Sue Everett, Don Tuttle, and Amy Good join the board of directors.

Our annual Fish Show--March 24-26--is fast approaching and we will look to complete class sponsorships at the next meeting on Feb. 24. We need volunteers for the show, so please lend a hand.

As our Junior Club ramps up, I ask all parents of the junior members to please remind your kids that they are to be on their best behavior. Please be considerate of the Garden Center; the club is responsible for any damage that may be incurred.

Member News

The club would like to congratulate Gail Hoover on her internship this term. Gail and her family are members of the club. Gail is a junior at Chatham College and was awarded a fabulous 5-month internship in accounting at Disney World. We are proud of you, Gail! Good luck and have a lot of fun!

OFFICERS

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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. ~

Member Article**Meet *Eisenia fetida***

By Louis Bott

I first became aware of *Eisenia fetida* when I was reading the Mount Lebanon Library website in February 2005. The Pennsylvania Resource Council was giving classes on their culture and a friend thought I might be interested. I was, but when I called, the classes were over.

Searching the Internet, I wanted to know if tropical fish would eat them, how large adults are, how small hatchlings are, how quickly they reproduce, how they are maintained, and their cost. Everything sounded good except the price. One thousand to the pound at twenty dollars seemed reasonable, but twenty-five dollars for shipping was more than this frugal guy would pay, so I put the thought of them on hold. Anyway, keeping white worms, grindall worms, microworms, Russian daphnia, fruit flies, and my fish is enough work for this old man.

"Happy Birthday, Dad." It was now October and my daughter, Michelle, came from Cincinnati and brought my 74th year present: a book by Mary Appelhof and *Eisenia fetida* (pronounced I -SEE-NEE-A FET-ID-A). Not a pound from the Internet, but a start from her own culture which was already underway when I mentioned them to her in February. No, Michelle is not a fish person; there are other reasons to keep them that we can talk about another time. The temperature that day was in the 50s and the sun was shining as we gathered leaves outside to use as bedding for their new home.

Today is February 3, 2006. My guppies just finished their first taste of hatchlings, which were one half to an inch long. Mature ones are about three inches and large Cichlids would be glad to get some. If you haven't guessed by now, they're worms. Smaller than earthworms, they are sold at bait stores for fisherman as red wigglers and super worms. The Pennsylvania Resource Council is promoting them for composting in the home, recycling kitchen waste to save on filling landfills, and making vermicompost for house plants and gardens.

For more information on *Eisenia fetida*, visit the web or borrow Mary Appelhof's book *Worms Eat My Garbage* at your local library. If you do not find it on the shelf, the librarian can order it for you through inter-library loan.

Until next time, enjoy your fishes. ■

GPASI Marketplace

BUY

Jeff Lipsitz is looking to buy a 48" single bulb fluorescent strip light for a 55 gal hood. Preferably with wood grain accent. jhlipsitz@verizon.net

Mike Ott would like to buy 3 or 4 used 10-gallon tank stands. MEO001@aol.com

Wanted to buy 75 or 90 gallon aquarium with stand if possible. Looking for cherry but will compromise. Please contact Mike via email, w.michael.obrien@gmail.com or phone, (412) 531-4446.

SELL

Jack Liebau would like to sell about 100 tanks of various sizes from 5 gallons to 55. He also has two closed systems that he would like to sell intact: one system consists of sixteen 20 gallon tanks; the other consists of twelve tanks of different sizes. (724) 348-5593 Finleyville, PA

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.

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.

From Ross and Laura Cronkhite: We have assorted tanks with or without glass lids. We also still have wooden stands (stair stepped), and a 22' stand that has a high middle shelf, and a lower shelf on each side. Reasonable offers accepted. Plus a 1960's vintage school cafeteria ice cream freezer that holds quite a bit of frozen food (fish or other), free (you haul). (412) 233-0996 or lauross@libcom.com

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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Upcoming Events

2/26 SCALES Auction--Massilon, OH Don McGuire 330 833 7194

3/5 Greater Akron Aquarium Society-Spring Auction-Tallmadge, OH Wayne Toven 330 296 6322

3/19 YATFS Spring Auction-Lordstown, OH Tom DiCola 330 758 3043

3/24-26, 2006: The 2006 GPASI Fish Spectacular Show & Auction will take place at the Comfort Inn East.

4/23 Medina County Aquarium Society-Wadsworth Masonic Lodge- Ken W 330 667 2857

4/28-30 ALA Convention, Ramada Hotel & Conference Center in East Hanover, NJ,
www.livebearers.org or Rich Serva (330) 650-4613

5/19-22 2006 CAOAC Convention. Fanshawe College, 1460 Oxford Street East, London, Ontario, Canada. N5Y 5R6 www.londonaquariasociety.com

7/20-23 ACA Convention, Chicago, Illinois www.aca2006.org

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

BAP News

By Chuck Bialon, BAP Chair

We are going to give out a new Novice Breeders Award Program (BAP) award this year.

Who is eligible?

Anyone who was **not** listed as a 1-star (100 points + 1 class completed) or better breeder before our January meeting.

How do you submit spawns for the award?

Just turn in your spawns to the club BAP program and they will count for this award.

What counts?

Any spawns that count toward completing a BAP class. Some invertebrates like snails count for points in our BAP program but do not count toward completing a class. These will not count for this award.

Who wins?

The Novice breeder who turns in the most spawns to the club BAP program starting with our January meeting and ending with our November meeting.

When will the award be given out?

It will be given out at the annual Christmas party with our other BAP awards. It will probably be a wall plaque similar to the awards we give out to the 3 club members who have spawned the most fish during the year.

How will you know how you are doing?

Periodically, I will send the newsletter editor a list of the standings for this award. They will be published in our newsletter and posted on our website.

If you have any questions or suggestions, give me a call or send an email: H - 412-487-2378
Cbialon@telerama.com

Finformation January/February 2006

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Blacksburg, VA 24060

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

2006 Gpasi Breeder Award Standings

Member	Name	Total Spawns	20 Pointers	Targets	1st Time Spawns
Eric	Bodrock	3			
Sallie	Boggs	2			2
Charles	Bialon	1			
Wallace	Cox	1			
Ed	Redgate	1			
Richard	Reiter	1		1	
Walter	Roth	1			
Pete	Scaletto	1			
Everett	Susan	1			
William	Wells	1			
Richard	Wiley	1			
Joe	Amuso				
Marshall	Davis				
Robert	Fullmer				
Timothy S.	Gross				
Joe	Hasenkopf				
Michael	Heasley				
Gail	Hoover				
Nancy+Gilbert	Hoover				
Barb	Jurich				
Hank	Marzina				
William	Montgomery				
Steve	Okabayashi				
Marlene	Scholze				
William	Sensor				
Mike	Solito				
Regina	Spotti				
John	Studenly				
Jeff	Walker				
David	Webeck				
2006	Totals	14	0	1	2

2006 Gpasi Novice Breeder Award Standings

Member	Name	Total Spawns	20 Pointers	Targets	1st Time Spawns
Richard	Reiter	1		1	
William	Wells	1			
Timothy S.	Gross				
Michael	Heasley				
Gail	Hoover				
Nancy+Gilbert	Hoover				
Barb	Jurich				
Steve	Okabayashi				
Regina	Spotti				
John	Studenly				
Jeff	Walker				
David	Webeck				
2006	Totals	2	0	1	0

Special Thanks to Our Local Sponsors for Their Support

All Oddball Aquatics	www.alloddballaquatics.com	(412) 884-2333
	Walk-in hours: Mon. – Sat., Noon to 8 pm; Sun. noon to 4 (cash only)	
Jay's Sharpening Service, J.J. Angros	626 Valley Street, Oakmont	(412) 828-0844
Aqua-World Pet Super Center	8143 Ohio River Blvd. Emsworth	(412) 732-9100
Elmer's Aquarium & Pet Center	4005 William Penn Highway, Monroeville	(412) 372-6535
In Leafy Shadows Jewelry Home Parties	ilshadows@excite.com	(412) 263-1638
Linda's Lovely Angels	www.lindaslovelyangels.com	
Paulette's Perennials	North Apollo, PA	(724) 478-4218
Pet Supplies "Plus"	4714 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh	(412) 369-7350
Pet Supply Warehouse	Roseytown Road, Greensburg	(724) 834-0500
Petland	Miracle Mile Shopping Ctr., Monroeville	(412) 380-2522
Pittsburgh Marine Aquarists Society	pmas.org	
Shene's Killies	sheneskillies.com	(724) 864-0582
Walt's Water World	4151 Grandview Dr., Gibsonia	(724) 449-9651

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