

Finformation

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October 2004



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Next Meeting: October 29
Rick Lorson on PA Fish
(Plus raffle and auction!)

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

Leaf fish 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
Oct. 29
Nov. 19

Board of Directors Meetings
7 p.m. at Elmer's Aquarium in
Monroeville:
TBA

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

Upcoming GPASI Events

October Meeting

At our October 29 meeting, Rick Lorson will be talking about "Fish, Fishing, and Fish Management in the Three Rivers." Rick is the Area Fisheries Manager with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for Southwest Pennsylvania. His area of responsibility includes all or part of ten counties in the Southwest with the Three Rivers in and around Pittsburgh included. Rick has been with the Commission for 22 years, with 16 of those years spent in the Southwest. Academic background involves a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Lock Haven State College and a Master's degree in Fish Management and Fish Culture from Southern Illinois University. Rick is happily married, has four sons, and enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with family.

President's Message

By Jean Grace

I'd like to thank everyone who helped make our Oct. 24 auction a success.

Joe Krajcovic, our auction chair, organized auctioneers and did paperwork for the entire auction. Chuck Bialon, Ted Neill, and Susan Everett were auctioneers, along with Joe, who got through those last tables at lightening speed.

Jim Davidson, our treasurer, managed the complicated paperwork and computer system for the auction, answered questions, and solved problems. Sue Solito worked the registration table the entire day, as did Mike Solito, who did other things also, including, with Bill Sensor, a supply run. Steve Okabayashi and Nancy Frieze staffed the paperwork table.

Our refreshment committee chair, Armand Sichi, supplied and ran the kitchen very smoothly with help from Linda Neill, Marlene Scholze, Gail Hoover, and Stacy Gatto. Stacy surprised us with homemade-from-scratch cookie dough that the kitchen staff baked into fabulous fresh cookies of many different kinds.

John Lewis ran the very successful raffle table.

Walter Roth, Bill Sensor, and Ted Neill helped us set up and break down the auction, spending their entire Sunday to help the club. They also kept an eye out for other things that needed doing and stepped in whenever they could.

The runners make the auction possible. I'd especially like to thank our younger members who stepped forward to help out. Runners included Joshua Barszczewski, Cory Neill, Amy Hoover, Max Okabayashi, Steve Okabayshi, Mike Ott, Nancy Frieze, Sue Everett, Wayne Tarasi, and others. Please forgive me if I have left anyone out.



Adult female on the left, male on the right

The club can't run without
the labor, good will, and
effort of members. Thanks
to these members who
allowed us to have a great
event.

***Rineloricaria* sp. L10a**

Photo by Eric Bodrock

See story on page 3.

BAP Article

The Red Lizard Cat: *Rineloricaria* sp. L10a Story and Photos by Eric Bodrock

These attractive, smaller sized, “whiptail” sucker-mouth catfish are relatively new in the hobby, first seen here in the United States maybe four years ago. At that time, they demanded a good price and availability was limited. The first time that a good friend of mine, Leo “Skip” Waskowiak, saw them, he splurged and purchased a handful of younger fish with hopes of someday spawning them. If I recall, it took him about a year to raise them to their adult size. Once they reached adulthood, Skip seemed to have no problem in spawning them at will. Anytime you would walk into his fishroom, you could take a flashlight and look into some of the spawning pipes and find eggs, often finding more than one spawn at a time.



Adult female on the left, male on the right

Skip kept them spawning for a couple of years and placed hundreds into the hands (or should I say tanks) of hobbyist throughout the states. About a year and a half ago, Skip began downsizing his fishroom due to some health problems, in the process he ended up losing most of his adult Red Lizards. At that point, I decided to hang on to the handful of young I had received from him, with hopes of raising them up as future breeders for myself. Skip did manage to save a couple of his adults, which he gave to me to add to my group.

As the months passed, mine continued to grow well and put on some nice size. They will eat just about anything. My group’s diet consisted of frozen bloodworms, frozen chopped krill, frozen or canned green beans, a little bit of live baby brine shrimp every now and then and live blackworms, which they seemed to favor!

After six months, with them now at a sexable adult size, I began my attempts to spawn them. The males have a brown body with dark markings; also, the shape of the head is different with them, showing a slightly more pointed “nose”. In addition, when in spawning condition the males will show a lot of “hair” on the sides and tops of their heads. The females have a more impressive body color of a dusty rusty-red. Both sexes reach the same adult size of four inches (10cm), with the females showing a bit of a thicker body, especially when filled with eggs.

For my first attempt to spawn them, I separated out two pair and placed them each in their own bare tank. I used a fifteen-gallon aquarium, filtered with a single smaller sized Hydro-sponge filter. Temperatures maintained in the upper seventy degree Fahrenheit range. The pH ranged 6.8 – 7.2 between the weekly water changes. Several six inch long pieces of one inch and one and a half inch diameter black PVC type pipe, which were glued to small plates of glass, were added for them to use as spawning caves. The pipes are glued to glass so they have a sort of a base, not allowing them to roll, keeping them in the position you

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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. ~

place them in, preventing foods from getting trapped under them and making them easy to remove if need be. Well, after several months, even with both females heavy with eggs, nothing happened. I tried water changes, more airflow and varied pH. My best guess as to why they would not spawn was that they were simply too young and not sexually mature.

Thinking that it was going to be easy to spawn them and then being totally stumped, I decided to call Skip and discuss what he did to spawn his group. There were a few things we talked about that I think I needed to do to get them to spawn. First and probably the most important need is for very heavy circulation with saturated aeration. Second is a higher temperature. Third was cleaner water.

After formulating a game plan, I was ready to try again. This time I used a thirty-gallon aquarium that was on a higher shelf so I could keep a better eye open for what was happening in the tank. The reason for this, another local friend (and top aquarist/breeder herself I may add), Sallie Boggs, once told me that observation is an important part of spawning fish. I never sat and gave it much thought before but she is right; and ever since, I have been trying to pay more attention to fish that I have set up for spawning.

In the tank, I added a large Hydro-sponge "V" filter along with a large airstone. Both devices were driven by a strong and vigorous airflow, resulting in a strong current and saturation of the water with air. Along with the PVC pipes mentioned above, I added a couple of pieces of cured bamboo for additional spawning sites. I positioned them on the tank bottom so that the current would run thru them. The bottom of the tank was bare with the underside (outside) of the tank painted black to prevent light from entering from below, for their comfort and security. Also for their security and comfort, I placed solid "privacy flaps" on the outside of the tank to prevent light from reaching the spawning pipes. These "privacy flaps" are made of a solid colored, rigid paper stock and hinged to the glass with tape across the top so they can be lifted to view inside the pipes to check for eggs. Diet remained the same as mentioned earlier. Water changes continued weekly but with larger amounts changed each time and their temperature increased to eighty-two degrees Fahrenheit.

I figure I had eight males and four females at this point in the group and they seemed to be happy in this set up. I was anticipating a spawn within a short time, especially since the females were filled with eggs. They were active and eating well. Everything looked like it should have to recreate Skip's spawning set up. However, the days turned to weeks and the weeks turned to months with no results. I was beginning to give up hope on them. Then one morning, while doing my routine check for spawns, I spotted a male in one of the pipes sitting on a cluster of about sixty blue-green eggs! You cannot miss the eggs when you see them; they are about 2.5mm in diameter and brightly colored.



These are fry at 8 days after "free-swimming"

I immediately set up a two-gallon tank with water from the spawning tank to use as a hatching tank. I removed the pipe, without the male, and placed it on an angle against the side. I placed an airstone just under the pipe so that a gentle stream of tiny bubbles passed thru the pipe. I intended for this to replace the male's job of cleaning them, plus I removed any chance of them being eaten. The hatch tank was placed in a dark area of my fishroom where no bright lights could reach it. I also placed a dark cover over the top to block out light, just for insurance.

As the days passed, more and more eggs appeared to go bad. On the morning of the eleventh day, the eggs began to hatch. The fry have a large egg sac and scatter about the tank, clinging to anything. They are light in color with faint bands and approximately 8-9 mm in total length. It takes a good two full days for them to absorb their egg sac and become "free-swimming". I started them immediately on microworms and live baby brine shrimp. They eagerly accept both of the foods and eat so much that it appears they have an egg sac again.

Within a few days of feeding, I moved the fry into a bare ten-gallon tank, filtered with a smaller sized sponge filter. Almost all the fry take to the sides of the filter to feed off the material that the filter traps. After several more days, green beans and assorted pellet foods were added to their diet and accepted by them. Rate of growth is rapid, reaching up to one and a half inch (TL) in just seven weeks.

I have had four spawns up to this time with mixed results. Twelve survived from the first spawn, about forty from the second, only two from the third and none from the fourth. I am sure that the low hatch rate is due to contamination of the spawn by a few bad eggs. I am now starting to think that it might be better to leave the male with the eggs, hoping that he will do the job of cleaning the eggs and prevent the decaying eggs from destroying the good eggs. Next time they spawn, I will try to move him, along with the eggs in the pipe, into the hatching tank.

My thoughts on what took me so long to spawn them is one of two things; either they simply were too young or they are a seasonal spawner. Whatever the reason, I am glad they are finally producing young for me. To see a group of the fry together in a tank puts a smile on my face every time! ■



Fry at 7 weeks and growing quickly!

Club News

GPASI's Visit to the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium

Our September meeting was held at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium. We had a very large group show up, including some new folks and some old friends. The PPG Aquarium staff treated us to news about an initiative to reduce the number of "lunker" fish in the hobby. These are fish commonly sold in the hobby that grow to sizes that make them impossible for people with normal-sized aquariums (and normal-sized budgets!) to keep. These fish include red-tail catfish and pacus, for example. Public aquariums are overwhelmed by requests to take such fish when they start to get too big for home aquariums. But they rarely have room for more. Hobbyists, stores, and the pet industry should stick to fish that stay a reasonable size for the size tanks we all have.

We then got to visit to PPG Aquarium--both the public side of the tanks and behind the scenes! The tanks and animals were beautiful. If you haven't seen the spellbinding sea dragons yet, go now. Members gave the PPG Aquarium rave reviews and got the inside scoop on equipment and life support for delicate organisms.

We'd like to thank Allan Marshall and his staff of aquarists for hosting us and giving us a great evening.

Member News

Call for Leadership and Help

It's the time of the year when we start to work on identifying members who can help next year in the leadership of the club. If you are interested in helping advance the club by serving in some capacity, please talk to Jean Grace, Marlene Scholze, Cavan Allen, or Joe Krajcovic. We'll be happy to find ways to use your enthusiasm, skills, and talent. We have a better club with better events and opportunities when more people participate in doing the work. If only a few people do all the work, we lose valuable members to burn out and hobble our efforts to keep GPASI a vital force in the region's aquarium hobby.

For example, we could use a reliable, organized person to manage publicity efforts around our big events—managing the mailings, contacting clubs, and getting press, if possible. These events occur 2 to 3 times a year (the next one will be our show in the spring). If you have the skills and dedication to undertake this job, please e-mail or call Jean or talk to her at the next meeting.

Other jobs are open, too. Please don't hesitate to ask for more information.

Archive Article

Spawning *Rineloricaria lanceolata* Text and Photos by Sallie S. Boggs *Finformation*, September 2001



These are very attractive rust brown fish with prominent fins and a long whiptail. I bought the parents at the ACA convention in 2000. They were said to be red farowellas from Germany and judging by their price I think they flew over first class. Nevertheless, they were worth every penny. They are active fish and are frequently seen hanging from the sides of their tank by their sucker mouth. I made the mistake of thinking that they were algae eaters because of this mouth. In fact, even though I have often offered them beans, I have

never seen them eat a bean. They do, however, pounce on black worms and will eat flake food. Likewise the babies will eat newly hatched brine shrimp, sinking pellets and, and micro-worms, but not beans.

I bought the fish when they were about one inch and guess they were about 2-3 months old. They grew fast in their 10-gallon tank in soft, acidic (6 pH) warm 72-76°F water and began showing sexual dimorphism after another 6 months. When I moved a pair to a 2.5-gal tank with a variety of PVC segments of different diameters they were about 3.5 inches long. Soon the male chose a tube of about 3/4-inch diameter and the female finally approved. They had to squeeze in, but soon there were about ten large amber eggs in the tube with the male. After about ten days the eggs hatched and the fry hung from every surface. They were about 1/4 inch long and looked like the parents. Neither parent bothered the fry or some albino bushy nose fry that were in the same tank.

They ate baby brine shrimp, and the bushy nose fry and snails ate beans. The temperature was about 76°F and 6 pH. I kept the water churning with an open airline anchored to the bottom of the tank. They grew rapidly and are about 1 inch at 2.5 months. I called them *Rineloricaria lanceolata* because that is what the seller and a couple of other “experts” at the convention said they were. They do look like the picture of this fish in Dr. Axelrod's *Atlas of Freshwater fish* on page 263.



Finformation October 2004

BAP STANDINGS 2004		(as of 08/27/04)																	
MEMBER/STATUS	POINTS	CLASSES COMPLETED															tgt.	20pt	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
GRAND MASTER BREEDERS		(>500 points, all classes completed, 5 targets, 9 twenty point fish)																	
Sallie	Boggs	3095	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	28	53
Ed	Redgate	1175	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	6	14
MASTER BREEDERS		(>500 points, 10 classes completed, 2 targets, 9 twenty point fish)																	
Eric	Bodrock	3425	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	7	57
Hank	Marzina	1140	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	5	14
FOUR STAR BREEDERS		(400 points, 7 classes completed, 1 target)																	
Charles	Bialon	2480	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	3	6
Robert	Fullmer	705	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	2	3
THREE STAR BREEDERS		(300 points, + 3 classes completed)																	
Ray	Yutzy	685	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	1
Scott	Graner	680	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	6	8
Gary	Balbo	650	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	3	10
Richard	Wiley	535	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	3
Pete	Scaletto	520	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	1
Marshall	Davis	390	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	3
Wallace	Cox	350	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	1
TWO STAR BREEDERS		(200 points, + 2 classes completed)																	
William	Montgomery	295	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	1
Susan	Everett	280	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	1
Joe	Amuso	275	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	2
Mike	Solito	255	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	1
Donald T.	Plazek	230	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	1
ONE STAR BREEDERS		(100 points, + 1 class completed)																	
Walter	Roth	260	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	1
Don	Mikulan	180	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	1
Linda+Ted	Neill	180	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	1
Marlene	Scholze	160	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	1
Bob	Perciavalle	150	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	2	2
Jim	Davidson	105	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1	1

MEMBER/STATUS		POINTS
NOVICE BREEDERS		
Michael	Recklitis	95
Richard	Reiter	75
Timothy S.	Gross	70
William	Wells	50
Joe	Hasenkopf	45
Michael J.	Parahus	40
Terrance	Trasatti	40
Kathy	Bintrim	35
Michael E.	Ott	25
Mark	Short	25
David	Webeck	25
Nick T.	Kahraman	20
Steve	Okabayashi	20
Gail	Hoover	10
Samantha	Ott	10
Donna+David	Stitt	5

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
Tim Gross	<i>Monosolenium tenerum</i>	K	15
	<i>Marsilea sp.</i>	J	5
	<i>Bolbitis heudelotii</i>	K	10
	<i>Anubias barteri var. barteri</i>	D	15
	<i>Echinodorus angustifolius</i>	E	15
	<i>Blyxa japonica var. alternifolia</i>	G	40
	<i>Limnophila aromatica</i>	G	20
Chuck Bialon	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	B	10
Barbara Jurich	<i>Lemna minor</i>	A	5
	<i>Acorus gramineus</i>	H	10
	<i>Ceratopteris thalictroides</i>	B	10
William Wells	<i>Bolbitis heudelotii</i>	K	10
Marlene Scholze	<i>Caulerpa prolifera</i>	I	5
	<i>Caulerpa mexicana</i>	I	5
	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	H	10
	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Flower	10

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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

I have a very beautiful 13 inch red devil male for whom I would like to find a new home. He is 12 years old and very personable. Needless to say, he is not a good playmate for most fish that I could place in his tank. If we could find a large female I would keep him but other than that I would like to get him a home with someone who would have an appropriate tank for him with appropriate tank members. I would like him to go to a 75 gal tank minimum. I live in Greensburg and would sell him for \$30 or best offer. My contact information is as follows: Don Young, 724-925-0225. or email me at koiforjoy@aol.com

Epiplatys dageti two pair, one breeding pair and one young pair at \$6.00 a pair. Pete Scaletto at 412 788-4897 or email at Peatspawn@hotmail.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.

Ross and Laura Cronkhite still have assorted tanks, plus airline and fittings, a few nets, and 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

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.

Upcoming Events of Interest

11/7 Akron Auction, Tallmadge, Ohio (330) 848-3856 – Bud White

11/19-21 Ohio Cichlid Assoc Show + Auction, Strongsville, OH
(440) 236-6301 Marc DeWerth

Reptile Swaps by Expo Mart - Monroeville, PA. Call Herb Ellerbach - 412-361-0835

Events in 2005

6/4-5 Cafe Workshop + Auction, Columbus, Ohio 614-836-5640 – Mike Wilson

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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 Boutique	513 Mckean Ave, Charleroi	(724) 483-5700
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Pittsburgh Marine Aquarists Society	http://pmas.org	
Shene's Killies	http://shene.killi.net	(724) 864-0582
Three Guys Aquatics	www.threeguysaquatics.com	
Walt's Water World	4151 Grandview Dr., Gibsonia	(724) 449-9651
West Hills Pet Center	West Hills Shopping Center, 925 Broadhead Road, Moon Township	(412) 262-2220
Wet Pets and Friends	Waterdam Commons, Rt. 19, McMurray	(724) 942-4442

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