

Finformation

Volume 57, Issue 2

www.gpasi.org

February 2004



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Next Meeting: February 27
Paul Turley
on catfish
(Plus raffle and auction!)

CONTACT THE
NEWSLETTER

Please send articles or comments to
GPASI Newsletter
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FAX (412) 441-4589
Or e-mail JGRACE@PITT.EDU

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All other mail should go to GPASI,
PO Box 22452, Pittsburgh, PA
15222-0452

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

COVER IMAGE

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. 27 • Mar. 26
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:

Mar. 8

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

February Meeting

On February 27, we will have a regular meeting at the Phipps Garden Center. Guest speaker **Paul Turley will present a program on catfish**. Paul is a lifelong aquarist who earned a BS in biology from the University of Minnesota. While he has kept many fish in his life, for the past 12 years or so, he has mostly kept catfish. He finds that catfish keep him interested and inspire him to keep studying. Did you know that catfish have been around since the time of the dinosaurs? Come and learn more this month. The doors open at 7:00 and the meetings starts at 7:30.

GPASI Annual Fish Show

Join us April 30, May 1, and May 2, for our annual Fish Show at the Palace Inn in Monroeville.

You can be a big part of the show if you sponsor a class. Your \$25 will provide the cash prizes for the class you sponsor, and your name will be published in the show program and on-line. It's a great way to support the hobby. Look for the sign-up board at the next meeting, pick one of your favorite types of fish, and give your \$25 to Jim Davidson. You can see the classes that have already been sponsored by visiting our website: www.gpasi.org.

The Show Committee is meeting regularly. If you want to help with the show or if you have questions, please contact Show Chair Bill Sensor at (724) 845-7171.



The fish on the cover and this fish are of the same species. This fish has two color varieties in the same gene pool; both can be thrown by the same parent fish. These fish were raised from eggs gotten from pairs collected by Brian Watters in eastern Africa in 2003. The name is *Nothobranchius kaufensis* Mambova ZAM (Zambia) 03-1
Photo Bill Shenefelt

President's Message

By Jean Grace

As the new president of the club, I'd like to thank Mike Solito for everything he has done for us the past several years. During Mike's presidency—and before—he was an energizing influence who offered us his passion for fishkeeping, his love of the club, his willingness to work, and his skills as a negotiator and planner. He had a vision for the club and he made it happen: he was the catalyst for holding the fish show again, he got new people involved in the club, and he tirelessly did whatever needed doing to make the club a success.

We are all thrilled that Mike has agreed to keep helping and guiding the club from a position on the board and as the chair of the new fundraising committee.

I hope that as the next year unfolds, I will be able to live up to the fine example that Mike has offered. The club is in a good place; it's up to all of us now to keep the momentum going and keep GPASI growing. In the coming months, I hope many of you will consider helping with the show, supporting the committee chairs, and helping us plan for the future.

GPASI Elections

At our January meeting, GPASI held elections for officers and board members. Many of the folks who have been serving the club are remaining in their positions or serving in new positions.

Jean Grace was elected president and will serve while continuing her work as chair of the newsletter/web committee.

Long-time GPASI member Jane Swanson has agreed to serve as vice-president. Jane was the editor of the *GPASI Journal*, the club's quarterly publication before the 90s. At that time, Jane not only edited the *Journal*, but she printed it as well. (You can find archived articles from the *GPASI Journal* in our on-line archive.)

Jim Davidson has been our treasurer for many years and would like to take a break, but we were unable to find anyone who was willing to take over the job right now. Jim has generously agreed to serve as Interim Treasurer until we can find a replacement. (If you would be willing to serve in this important office, let one of the officers know.)

Marlene Scholze and Steve Gibbs agreed to continue their work as the recording and membership secretaries. We all appreciate their hard work keeping tabs on important information for the club. Marlene keeps board minutes and solicits contributions from sponsors. Steve keeps track of members, provides mailing lists, and collects membership dues. Both Marlene and Steve help keep the club going.

On the Board of Directors, we added Steve Okabayashi, Joe Krajcovic, and Mike Ott. Look for more information about these members and the committees they are chairing in next month's *Finformation*. The club can't exist without members who are willing to come forward to take part in some of the organizational and planning work, so we are always grateful when members are willing to serve on the Board of Directors.

We are also grateful when board members agree to continue their hard work serving the club: Cavan Allen, Bill Sensor, Bill Shenfelt, Stacy Gatto, Hank Marzina, and Armand Sichi are all continuing on the Board of Directors.

Finformation February 2004

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Zoo

MARLENE SCHOLZE
(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. ~

AHAP Report***Pistia stratiotes*****Story by Marlene Scholze**

Pistia stratiotes, also known as water lettuce or shell flower, is a fast-growing, fast-multiplying floating plant. Its spongy, velvety, blue-green to lime-green leaves can grow up to 10 inches in length and 4 inches wide. This plant has beautiful long hairy roots that are a great place for fry to hide in and feed off of.

The plant can be propagated by pinching off adventitious shoots that grow off the main plant. It grows best outdoors, in at least 60 degrees and in full sun to part shade. I have kept mine in both, but full sun seems to work best. This plant does not like a lot of water movement. It is a great plant for container gardening and under the right conditions will flower. These tiny flowers are produced at various times during the season in leaflike spathes in the leaf axils.

I have 3 container water gardens in my yard. Two are 30 gallons and one is 60 gallons. Last year, I started with two water lettuce plants in June. By July, all 3 ponds were full of this plant and I was giving them away. At the end of September, I did bring a few indoors to try to winter over. I think they were too close to the light, so they started to die off within about a month. After removing the main plants from the fish tank, I found some tiny little floating plants, smaller than a dime, so I left them in that tank and hope that in the spring when weather permits I'll be able to put them back outside and see what happens.

I do like this plant: for no more than a couple of dollars, you have a pond full in no time. Here's a little FYI: some states have banned the sale of this plant, saying its too invasive and when it finds its way into the main waterways, it clogs them up. I have not found anything that says that Pennsylvania is one of those states. ■

Update Your E-mail Address

If you didn't get an e-mail notice when *Finformation* was available on-line last month, it's because we don't have an e-mail address for you. Maybe you're new or maybe you changed e-mail providers recently (all you former Stargate customers: I'm talking to you!). If you aren't on our e-mail list, for whatever reasons, and you would like to be, send a quick e-mail to jgrace@pitt.edu. We'll add you right away.

New Look for *Finformation*

This issue launches our new look for *Finformation*, with a beautiful color photo by Bill Shenefelt on the cover. Those of us in the club know that Shene takes some remarkable photos of fish, not an easy undertaking when you factor in the complications of shooting through glass and trying to photograph a creature whose instinct is to move along when it sees a big eye looking at it. To see more of Shene's killie photography, visit his site: shene.killi.net. Next month, look for another of Shene's photos (of a discus in March) on the cover.

Do You Know ANGFA?

by Derek Girkin, Honorable President, ANGFA.

Editor's Note: GPASI's own Kevin Hosmer is the new North American Coordinator for ANGFA.

When you think of Australian freshwater fish, do rainbowfish come to mind? The Australian New Guinea Fishes Association (ANGFA) was formed in 1982 as a group of hobbyists, scientists, adventurers and conservationists from around the world dedicated to freshwater fishes, plants and other aquatic life native to Australia and New Guinea.

Yes, we love rainbowfish, but there's much more to ANGFA. Whether blind cave gudgeons, nurseryfish, sawfish or even lungfish, we have members with first-hand experience. Our interests extend to other forms of aquatic life such as amphibians, insects, crustaceans and plants. Like other areas of the world, our aquatic life is threatened by pollution, deforestation, development and introduction of exotic species. Surveying and documentation of diverse native habitats is a primary objective. Many species are yet undiscovered. ANGFA publishes *Fishes of Sahul*,* a high-quality journal, produced and published by native fishkeepers for native fishkeepers – four issues per year.

Each issue contains 24 pages of diverse, informative and interesting original articles backed up by spectacular, full colour, glossy plates. Once a new member receives their first couple journals, they often want a complete set of back issues! A small sample of recent articles:

UNEXPLORED ISLANDS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Gerald R. Allen
CHEEKY LITTLE BUGGERS, A LOOK AT AUSTRALIAN BLUE-EYES	Gunther Schmida
THE SOUTHERN VICTORIAN SPINY CRAYFISH	Philip Littlejohn
NATIVES VS. GAMBUSIA	Greg Howe
AUSTRALIAN LUNGFISH	Jean Joss
THE MARSHWORTS	Nick Romanowski
FRESHWATER CRAB	Neville Coleman
DARWIN RAINBOWS	Peter Unmack
VISIT TO ARNHEM LAND	Dave Wilson

Original articles in our newsletter, *ANGFA News*, provide assistance to hobbyists rearing and maintaining fish in captivity. Legislative and conservation updates are presented. Regional group summaries, book reviews and the ANGFA shop are regular departments. *Rainbowfishes – Their Care and Keeping in Captivity* CD, ANGFA posters, and *Fishes of Sahul* back issues are currently available for member purchase at attractive prices. We stock books that cannot be found in the usual bookshops including *The Waterbug Book* by J. Gooderham & E. Tsyrlin, *Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia* by G.R. Allen, S.H. Midgley & M. Allen and *Freshwater Fishes of the Timika Region New Guinea* by G.R. Allen, K.G. Hortle & S.J. Renyaan.

We invite you to join our membership and enjoy the excellent resources and excellent contacts that become available to you. Membership is \$40 (Australian currency) which includes all postage and handling costs from Australia. Currency conversion is handled automatically with our secure online credit card payment option - available on our extensive website: www.angfa.org.au.

Alternative payment options are available. Contact our ANGFA-North America coordinator, for further information:

Kevin Hosmer, ANGFA-NA coordinator ph 724-459-4920 until 10 pm, EST
626 Phillips Road email: alfie@helicon.net
Blairsville, PA 15717

* Sahul refers to the single landmass that encompassed present day Australia, New Guinea and Tasmania.

Centromuchlus (Tatia) perugiae Story and Photos by Eric Bodrock



C. perugiae at 44 days

These are a South American catfish, commonly referred to as the Dwarf Honeycomb Driftwood catfish. Maximum total body length of the fish, for both sexes, is two and a quarter inches. Sexing the fish is easy, the anal fin in the males is narrow and pointed and the females are full and round, similar to livebearing fish. One might think that the body shape can be used to determine the sexes, but both sexes will gorge themselves at feeding time and appear to be egg-filled females and they stay fat!

For the most part they stay hidden and non-active in the aquarium until feeding time, at which point they go into a total feeding frenzy until every bit of food is consumed. They aren't picky about diet, I feed mine live black worms, frozen bloodworms, frozen brine shrimp, live daphnia and assorted flake foods.

My group of eight, in the spawning group, are F1 fish that I received about a year ago as youngsters from Jeff Natterer from Ohio. I have two females and six males and maintain them in a fifteen-gallon aquarium. The bottom is covered with a layer of play sand and a large clump of Java Moss fills most of the aquarium. About twelve, two inch long pieces of half inch gray plastic pipe are scattered along the bottom. An ATI brand Hydro-Sponge I is used to filter the water. Water changes of fifty percent are done every ten to fourteen days. The water chemistry stays pretty constant at a pH of 7.6, a TDS reading of 223 and a temperature of seventy-eight degrees Fahrenheit.

One day as I was just finishing a water change I noticed a small, almost quarter inch long youngster swimming up and down the side of the aquarium. I grabbed a net to catch him and in the chase I disturbed the clump of Java Moss and Hydro-Sponge filter, which resulted in a small frenzy of fry taking off through out the aquarium. I was able to remove fourteen fry and get them into their own ten-gallon aquarium that was set up as the adults were with the exception of the sand on the bottom. At that size they are gray in color with a tadpole shaped body. They quickly accepted live baby brine shrimp and microworms, feeding in the same manner as the adults! They grow rather quickly and show adult colors by day forty-four at a size of three eighths of an inch.



Fry in net with finger for scale.

I wish I could have seen the actual spawn or at least the eggs in the aquarium. I understand that the males fertilize the eggs inside the female. The female then deposits the eggs inside the plastic pipes (or caves) and guards them until they hatch! Knowing how the adults aggressively go after food, I wonder if they ate a bunch of the young before I noticed them OR even worse, have they spawned before and I missed it! Hopefully someday I'll catch them while they are spawning and learn more about how they do it. ■

All-Aquarium Catfish Convention 2004

An All-Aquarium Catfish Convention 2004 hosted by the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society will take place on October 14, 15 & 16, 2004 at the Best Western Maryland Inn located in Laurel Maryland. The best panel of speakers on Catfish in the Aquarium from around the world is coming to the convention and they are eager to share their knowledge and experience with you.

Featured speakers at the event will include Lee Finley, Ian Fuller, Shane Linder, Ng Heok Hee, Ron Neilson, J.R. Shute, Stan Weitzman, Ingo Seidel, Don Kinyon, Mark Soberman and Eric Bodrock. You'll learn all about catfish in the aquarium, see the finest catfish specimens in a fish show dedicated to them, meet people who share your infatuation with whiskered fishes, and have a chance to take home new and rare species. It's the first time in North America that an aquarium society has hosted an event dedicated entirely to catfish in the aquarium and we welcome all who have been waiting for it to happen! For more information, visit <http://www.pvas.com/catfish/welcome.htm>.

GPASI Marketplace

BUY

Armand Sichi wants to buy 4 tank dividers for a 20L gal. You can reach him at 724-872-6760 or asichi@verizon.net.

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.

FREE

Jay Angros has a 135 gal tank w/ a pressure crack on the long side in one corner. It is fixable. If you want it, you can have it. Call (412) 828-2636.

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 still have assorted tanks (from 15 gallon up) for sale at 65 cents on the gallon, 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

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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(continued next page)

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(CONT'D)**

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Blacksburg, VA 24060

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

Upcoming Events of Interest

- 2/29 SCALES Spring Auction, Perry Grange, Massillon, Ohio--contact Don McGuire (330) 833-7194; Mike Taylor (330) 834-9337; or John Baad (330) 452-9027
- 3/7 Akron Auction, Tallmadge, Ohio (330) 848-3856 – Bud White
- 3/21 YATFS Auction 330-824-2653 – Curt Smith
- 3/21 Erie, PA Auction 814-838-6380 – Bob Cashin
- 4/3 Great Lakes Auction, Euclid, Ohio (440) 944-3245 – Ron Georgeone
- 4/4 Medina Auction, Wadsworth, Ohio 330-723-4748 - John
- 4/16–18 ALA Convention, Kalamazoo, Mich 330-650-4613 - Rich Serva
- 4/25 Loraine Ohio Auction
- 4/30–5/2 GPASI Fish Show and Auction at the Palace Inn, Monroeville**
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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

Remember to Renew Your Membership

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. Your dues help fund our newsletter.

AQUARIUM FISH SHOW 04



1ST, 2ND, 3RD PLACE CASH PRIZES, SPEAKERS, RAFFLES,
BANQUET, VENDORS, AUCTION

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 1 & 2
AT THE PALACE INN, MONROEVILLE, PA
JUST OFF PA TURNPIKE EXIT 6

Friday, April 30
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pre-show Set Up
GPASI Monthly Meeting
at Palace Inn, 7 p.m.
Public Welcome!

PRESENTED BY

 **GPASI**
Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc.

HUGE AUCTION—SUNDAY, MAY 2 AT 11 A.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT BILL SENSOR, SHOW CMTE. CHAIR, (412) 845-7171

WWW.GPASI.ORG

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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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February 2004