

# GPASI

the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc.  
(serving hobbyists in the Pittsburgh area since 1947)



## *Information*

**Next Meeting - July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

**Eric Bodrock "Sneak Preview of**

**All Oddball Aquatics' Breeding Facility"**

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**Membership Info:**

DUES are \$20 a year per family or street address.  
<http://gpasi2002.tripod.com/>

**Want to become a member?**  
**Write to us or see Steve Gibbs at the next meeting.**

**2002 Meeting Dates:**

Jan 25 • Feb 22 • Mar 22 •  
 Apr 26 • May 31 • Jun 28 •  
 Jul 26 • Aug 23 • Sep 27 •  
 Oct 25 • Nov 22

**General Meetings** are held at the **Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center** in Mellon Park at the Corner of **5th and Shady** Avenues.

**DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM**

The Board of Directors meets the at 7pm at Elmer's Aquarium in Monroeville. Dates for 2002 are: Apr 1, May 6, Jun 10, Jul 8, Aug 5, Aug 26, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2  
*All members and suggestions for discussion are welcome.*

Contact a board member for meeting confirmation.

\*\*\* PLEASE READ \*\*\*

The FinFormation newsletter is now available on-line at  
<http://shene.killi.net/gpasi/Finformation.html>

>> Cover Art:  
 yes, I know it's upside-down

## UPCOMING GPASI EVENTS

**NEXT MEETING: July 26, 2002**

***Eric Bodrock "All Oddball Aquatics" and long time member of GPASI gives us a sneak preview of his new breeding facility***

**August Meeting: Oliver Lucanus  
 "Rare Fishes"**

*(See below for more information on Mr Lucanus.)*

**July Speaker: Eric Bodrock.**

Eric has been interested in aquariums since age 10, by 9th grade he landed a job in a local pet shop, by 12th grade he had worked in three different shops, bought out one that had closed and was maintaining 60 aquariums. He ran the fish department of another shop right out of high school and left there to open his own shop, at age 20, with a couple of partners. He sold out to them after three years and opened his own "aquarium specialty" shop. He sold that business after eight years. He worked as a sales rep for Jim and Nancy White, owners of White's Fish Farm, a large pet distributor in Ohio, until they shut down in 1997.



He has been active in the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc. for many, many years and has reached the "Master Breeder" level of the Breeder Award Program, spawning well over 150 species. He has judged many fish shows throughout Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania and has attended hundreds of related events. Eric's specialties are Corydoras catfish, which he has spawned over 30 species. Eric is also a member of PAKA, the local Killifish club. Eric currently owns All Oddball Aquatics.

To see more, go to [www.allodballaquatics.com](http://www.allodballaquatics.com)

**August Speaker: Oliver Lucanus**

Born in Germany, 31-year-old Oliver has resided in Canada for the last twelve years. Two years ago he sold a large tropical fish wholesale business in order to have more time to collect fish and deal only with rarities. In the past ten years he has collected fish in many countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

His personal favorites are cichlids (not from the Rift Lakes) and catfish from around the world. He loves to travel to remote places, and is an avid photographer. You will see some great photography and incredibly exciting new fish in his slide presentation. Oliver is spawning these rarities and is introducing them to the hobby.

Bring a notepad to jot down your favorites. You won't be able to remember them all!

Check him out at [www.belowwater.com](http://www.belowwater.com)

Hi Everyone

I hope that everyone is having a great summer. This summer we will be having our family picnic (Saturday, August 24) at Round Hill Park. The park has a real farm where everyone especially the kids can enjoy themselves. The pigs, cows and horses are a great relief from the everyday humdrum of the city and a place to enjoy a little bit of the country. There is a small pond where you can feed the ducks an assortment of bread for their culinary enjoyment. This will be a regular family picnic in the sense that we will eat, drink, and be merry. This will also be a fish picnic. Besides food we will be raffling off a big filter or something special that we would all want. We will be asking each and every one of you to bring something to the picnic. The club will be providing the chicken, hamburgers, and hot dogs. Please bring a side dish for everyone's enjoyment. Hope to see you all there. I want to thank Ross Cronkhite for organizing the picnic for the club. We all appreciate your hard work. I want to also thank and recognize four of our long time members; Ray Yutzy, Sally Boggs, Eric Bodrock, and Jane Swanson for speaking and bringing their vast knowledge of fish to enrich us all.



Mike Solito  
GPASI President

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Aquatic Horticulture Award Program

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**Recent AHAP Submissions** (Congratulations propagators!)

Member Name	Species	Class	Points	Comments
Walter Roth	Nymphoides beltala	F	10	
Jason Clester	Cryptocoryne wendtii	D	10	
	Echinodorus parviflorus	E	15	
	Najas guadalupensis	G	10	
	Sagittaria subulata	C	1	
	Salvinia rotundifolia	A	5	
Cavan Allen	Hygrophilia corymbrosa	G	10	var "angustifolia"
Terrence Trasatti	Azolla caroliniana	A	10	
	Lemna minor	A	5	
Ted Neill	Lemna minor	A	5	
	Limnobium laevigatum	A	10	
	Myriophyllum brasiliensis	G	15	
	Riccia fluitans	A	10	
Tom Connors	Rotala wallichii	G	20	

Please contact Cavan Allen with any questions regarding AHAP submissions. [Millsman7@yahoo.com](mailto:Millsman7@yahoo.com)

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**Raffle Report:** (John Lewis and Stacy Gatto – Raffle Chair)

As a new idea we thought it would be good to let people know what goes on with the raffles. To start off, the club would like to thank All Oddball Aquatics and Walt's Water World for the food that was donated at the June meeting. Also, a Tidepool II was donated by John Shaw. So a special thanks goes out to Eric, Walt and John for their donations.

At the July raffle we hope to see large crowds at our table. We have a lot of sponge filters, so expect to see at least one per meeting, but you can never have to many. Food is another thing we have a lot of and we try to have some in each bag. No matter the size or brand. Please come to our table to support the club. I understand that we can all be strapped at times, but even if you only spend a dollar and take a chance, you have a good chance of winning. The club will thank you for your support. We hope to see some more members take a chance, spend the one, two or five dollars you saved by taking a lunch to work instead of eating out. So, before I bore all of you and go on sounding more like a PBS station, thanks to all new, old, and future members. Thank you.

PS: Bring in your copy of the July newsletter and get 20 tickets for \$5. MUST have newsletter, or no deal!

**Contest: Test Your Wit**

Following with the theme of a famous comedian, we want to have a contest. Many of you know Foxworthy's "You Know You're a Redneck If...". We want you to think up your best "You Know You're a GPASI Member If..."

This being said, here is an idea or two to get you started.

You know you're a GPASI Member if...

- 1) You have more water in your tanks than you do in your swimming pool.
- 2) You have to move your fish out of the way to cook.
- 3) You drink from the tap, but your tanks get bottled water.

Let's hope you get the idea. Now it's your turn. Give us your phrases and we'll publish them in an upcoming issue. You can email the newsletter, write it down and turn it in at the next meeting, or call Kathy at: 412-369-0499.

**Fish Keeping Blunders: let's all learn from your mistakes**

We applaud fish keeping expertise in GPASI, but let's face it, we've ALL made mistakes. Help others learn from yours, by participating in a new monthly column called "FISH KEEPING BLUNDERS".

Send us a small paragraph or statement describing your biggest blunder ever. Don't forget to add the result of your mistake. Call or email Kathy at: 412-369-0499, or [kbintrim@post-gazette.com](mailto:kbintrim@post-gazette.com) (we'll even let you be anonymous!)

Come on guys. Dig way back there in your distant memory to when you were a beginner!

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## **Zebra fish as a Scientific Tool for Study of Genetics and Developmental Biology in Vertebrates**

By Sallie Boggs PhD

This article is the first in a new series. In some ways it is a continuation of my previous series entitled "Aquarium Critters in Science". I have used, and will continue to use, Science Magazine as my primary source of material and zebra fish are frequent subjects of articles in that magazine. That was not always the case. I remember the beginning of the so-called "zebrafish era". The late George Streisinger is called the "founding father" of what is now called "zebrafish research". In 1981 he published a method to use zebra fish (then called *Brachydanio rerio*) to screen for mutants among parthenogenic (I will explain this later) offspring of mutigenized females (1).



Previously Dr. Streisinger had made major contributions to deciphering the genetic code of T4-phage (a virus that infects bacteria). Dr. Streisinger dreamed of using the power of the molecular techniques and principles used with T4-phage to study the genetics and development of a vertebrate. As a fish hobbyist who knew how easy it was to raise and maintain zebra fish, he began studying them as a potential model system. As it turned out, Their special characteristics make zebra fish an ideal model system. Zebra fish are small enough to keep in the large numbers required for genetic studies, but large enough to do classical embryological manipulations such as transplantations. They have a short generation time of about 3 months, fertilization is external and therefore controllable, embryonic development is rapid and the embryos are clear.

In spite of the obvious qualities, there were many details to work out. It took almost ten years before Dr. Streisinger's group was ready to publish their first paper using zebra fish. This paper (1) proved to be a landmark. During this period he described the normal morphological and functional development of the zebra fish egg and embryo and developed genetic and husbandry techniques.

A friend of his, Roger Hawthorne of the Albany Aquarium said, "George Streisinger was adamant about obtaining pure strains of zebra fish. The first ones that he purchased for his research, his "A" strain, ---- were collected from the wild in India--- were a very large, well-colored fish that were nearly 50% larger than the standard zebra fish in the trade. They had better color, larger finnage and were marked with more yellow, even in the females. Their fins were less pointed and more rounded. The body had an overall blue cast. These fish pleased George immensely." He also obtained a so-called 'Albino' strain that turned out to be only a 'golden' variety of small, anemic fishes.

Dr Hawthorn said, "I feel that the possibility of obtaining the Albinos was the deciding factor in choosing the zebra fish as his research model. I had recommended the Tans Mountain Fish (Whitecloud), as it was so similar to the zebrafish but could hatch well and grow at 60 - 85° F. Heated rooms were not necessary. But, the 'Meteoer' (longfin) Whitecloud was behind the Iron Curtain and was, at that time, impossible to obtain."

When I read Streisinger's classical paper in Nature, reporting the first successful cloning of a vertebrate in the laboratory (1), I was so excited that I called George and asked if I could come to his lab for two weeks to learn his techniques. He was very gracious, even though I explained that I probably could not use fish for my research. Possibly he was just being kind to a fellow fish lover. We chose a time for me to go to his lab in Eugene Oregon and when he found out that I was paying my own way, he arranged housing for me at his expense. Everyone in his lab was extremely open and helpful. I saw their fish hatchery and nursery. They made their own food and distilled water and reconstituted it to their own specifications. They really did have huge very healthy looking fish. They even arranged their experiments so that I was able to witness each maneuver in the complex process that would normally require over 4 months. It would have taken at least a one year sabbatical to really learn the system, but it is an experience I will never forget.

Soon the model caught the interest of geneticists and developmental biologist, and now rivals the popular *Drosophila* (fruit fly) and worm models, I have secretly felt pride to have been one of the first to realize that this was a great breakthrough destined to change research.

In future months I will give more specifics about the methods and discoveries, but here I will give some examples of why scientists are so happy with this model. In spite of the distance between man and fish, a remarkable number of zebrafish

(the scientists merge the two words) genes are homologous (almost identical) to human genes. This means the genes are very basic “old” genes. For example, Nancy Hopkins, a biologist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has found that a gene required for the zebrafish to grow a liver and gut is 80% identical to a human gene. Before the zebrafish experiment, scientists did not know what the human version of the gene did, but there is a mutation in the zebrafish that explains it.

In future articles I will go into more details about the genetic studies, physiology and discoveries made through zebrafish. I will also tell you how to clone zebrafish. Meanwhile, if you can't wait see the seminal paper and look at the technical book listed below.

1. Streisinger, G., Walker, C., Dower, N., Knauber, D. and Singer, F. 1981. Production of clones of homozygous diploid fish (*Brachydanio rerio*). *Nature* 291: 293-296.
2. [http://www.zfish.uoregon.edu/zf\\_info/zfbook/zfbk.html](http://www.zfish.uoregon.edu/zf_info/zfbook/zfbk.html) The Zebrafish Book: A guide for the laboratory use of zebrafish *Danio rerio*.

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#### Breeders Award Program

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### Recent BAP Submissions (Congratulations to all the breeders)

Member Name	Species	Class	Points	Comments
Gary Balbo	<i>Pelvicachromis Pulcher</i>	7	10	kribs
	<i>Corydoras Adolfoi</i>	11	20	
	<i>Corydoras Barbatus</i>	11	20	
Eric Bodrock	<i>Melanotaenia Eachamansis</i>	4	10	*
Wallace Cox	<i>Xiphophorus Helleri</i>	1	5	swordtail
	<i>Archocentrus Spilurus</i>	8	5	
Robert Fullmer	<i>Julidochromis Ornatus</i>	7	15	
Mike McHugh	<i>Tilapia Mariae</i>	7	10	
Don Mikulan	<i>Brachydanio Rerio</i>	4	5	zebra danios
Linda+Ted Neill	<i>Xiphophorus Maculatus</i>	1	5	platys
	<i>Pterophyllum Scalare</i>	8	10	angelfish
Pete Scaletto	<i>Capoeta Oligolepis</i>	3	10	
	<i>Brachydanio Rerio</i>	4	5	Zebra Danio
Marlene Scholze	<i>Fundulopanchax Gardneri</i>	9	5	misaje
	Snail sp	14	5	malyasian livebearing snail?
Richard Wiley	<i>Puntius Titteya</i>	3	10	cherry barbs
	<i>Julidochromis Ornatus</i>	7	15	

\* denotes first time spawn by any current BAP participant

Please contact Chuck Bailon with any questions regarding BAP submissions.

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**Spawning *Fundulopanchax gardneri misaje*, The Easy Way** by Marlene Scholze

The tank is a ½ divided, 10-gallon, set up and running a couple of days before our March meeting. It contained ½ distilled water, ½ tap water and about 2 cups of aged and soaked organic peat moss. Also added were salt pellets and Amquel and filtered by a brilliant sponge. Java moss completely covered the bottom and at least 5 inches up the tank. The back corner had a yarn spawning mop, hornwort and duckweed floating.



The tank is ready for Killie Fish so off I go to our monthly meeting. There I saw one of the most beautiful pair of Killie Fish, the Fp. Gardneri Misaje. After a little tug of war game during the auction, they were mine. These fish were raised and bred by club member, Bob Timmins. The males' vibrant blue body with red type spots splashed around and orange-tipped fins and tail seemed to intensify when I brought him to his New home. This is a good-looking fish and he knows it. Always the first to greet me when I go down the stairs. The way his mouth is rounded it looks like he's smiling. As for the female, well she is kind of a dirty brown color and very shy. Her lips seem to be not round but pointed, very weird. Feeding these two is easy for they eat everything from fresh to frozen flakes to even a few ants that I got from the back yard.

After about one week, I did a water change. This time the water added was rainwater. I checked the spawning mop for eggs. Nothing was checked around the Java moss and on the bottom there was nothing. Bob had told me that he raised fry in the same tank as the parents. I guess mine weren't ready yet. I just kept feeding them doing small water changes and on the day of our May meeting, I lost my electricity due to what they called a microburst.

The electricity was off for 2 ½ days so when the power returned the next couple of days were major water changes in all tanks. The small tanks were completely drained and restarted. While working on the Gardneri tank, I moved the parents first. Please note that I said parents. Yes, there was fry in there, about 18 total and all different sizes. I put these little fry into their own 10-gallon tank so I could watch them more closely and feed them better. Putting them into their tank has made them bolder. Now they are out swimming all of the time and eating well. Soon I'll be bringing some in for BAP. Using this method is not recommended if your intention is to have a lot of fry. Most likely 2/3 of the eggs and or fry were lost due to either the parents or older fry eating them.

P.S. I would like to thank Bob Timmins for bringing in these top quality fish.

\*\*\* Photo credit: William "Shene" Shenefelt <http://shene.killi.net/>

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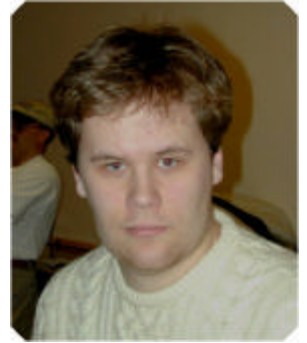
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~ THERE CAN BE NO CLUB WITHOUT ITS MEMBERS. IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO FOR GPASI, JUST LET ONE OF US KNOW, WE'D BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU AS PART OF THE TEAM. ~

**AHAP NEWS:** (Cavan Allen – Chairman)

While looking back through past newsletter issues, I came across an article Chuck Bailon wrote concerning what is and isn't acceptable for BAP submissions. I thought it might be a good idea for me to write one for AHAP, which would also give me an opportunity to outline some changes I've made to the program as your AHAP chair.



First, I'll get to AHAP submissions.

- ? All plants turned in for AHAP must, above all else, be healthy. Stunted, sickly, and heavily damaged plants are not suitable for submission.
- ? Plants with more than a small amount of green spot algae will likewise not be accepted. This especially pertains to plants with beard and brush algae.
- ? Pest plants should not be present in AHAP submissions. Lemna minor (duckweed) is what I am most concerned with. I know it can be difficult to remove, so please try to get rid of as much of it as possible. Another pest worthy of note is Utricularia gibba. This plant is an almost hair thin light green stem with small round capture bladders and tiny spiked leaves. It invades other plants and can take over a tank if left unchecked. These plants may, of course, be turned in as submissions of their own (just not as hitchhikers with other plants).
- ? Please also try to avoid submitting hydra along with AHAP submissions.
- ? In cases where the identification of the plant to be submitted is in question, the submitter is responsible for coming up with a preliminary identification. I will then confirm it afterwards.
- ? There are some cases where a particular plant could be turned in to more than one class. An example is Myriophyllum aquaticum, or Parrot's Feather. It could be turned in for class G if submersed grown (stem or bunch plants) or class H if emersed grown (pond and marginal plants). In such cases, the submitter may choose which class the submission will go into. However, the plant may only be turned in once. It may not also be resubmitted for the other class into which it could have been placed.
- ? Established crosses and cultivars of aquatic plants are acceptable. Examples are Echinodorus "Ozelot" and various lilies.

I have to say that I'm encouraged by the number of new submissions to our AHAP program. Keep them coming!

If a plant you have flowers, submit that too (take a picture of the flower or bring it in). For those of you who have not yet experienced a planted aquarium, I urge you to try it out. That is, after all, the point of the AHAP program. I, Tom Connors, and Ted Neill will be glad to help you. I can't speak for Tom or Ted, but for me, the appearance of a tank is just as pleasing and important as the fish it contains. A planted tank is a rewarding experience and a worthy challenge for any aquarist, new or experienced.

About changes to the AHAP rules; I haven't made any radical changes to the program. What I have done is updated some outdated Latin names, reassigned some plants to other classes, and created two new classes.

- ? Class J is composed of creeping shoot plants such as Glossostigma and Hydrocotyle. These plants have a runner with a single leaf at each interval (but not a whole new plant such as in chain swords). They did not really fit into any established classes so I created a class just for them.
- ? Class K is composed of ferns and mosses not present in other classes. Like with the previous class, the plants contained in K didn't really fit anywhere else. There are aquatic ferns in other classes, but this this is more of a catch-all for those not fitting in elsewhere. There were quite a few ways to do this, but I wanted to avoid making and radical changes to the program. Requirements for attaining the different levels of horticulturalist remain the same as before (with the exception of the two new classes to complete).

As always, recent AHAP submissions will be listed in the club newsletter monthly with the point totals for active AHAP submitters listed in January.

Thank you, Cavan Allen

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Sell	Chuck Bialon	Allotoca maculata	(412) 487-2378 - evenings and weekends
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Sell	Chuck Bialon	Guppies - H/B Leopard	(412) 487-2378 - evenings and weekends
Sell	Chuck Bialon	Guppies - IFGA Snakeskin	(412) 487-2378 - evenings and weekends
<b>Buy</b>	Jim Herman	Halfbeak (1 male)	<a href="mailto:mr_bigfish2000@yahoo.com">mr_bigfish2000@yahoo.com</a>
Sell	Chuck Bialon	Haplochromis sp(#44) bright tail reds	(412) 487-2378 - evenings and weekends
Sell	Ross Cronkhite	Killifish (various)	(412) 233-0996 <a href="mailto:lauross@libcom.com">lauross@libcom.com</a>
Sell	Bill Shenefelt	Killifish (various)	(724) 864-0582 <a href="mailto:wshenefelt@att.net">wshenefelt@att.net</a>
Sell	Mike Chappell	live/dry foods, livestock, digital equip	<a href="http://www.threeguysaquatics.com">www.threeguysaquatics.com</a> and <a href="mailto:chippell@sgi.net">chippell@sgi.net</a>
<b>Buy</b>	Jim Herman	Long-fin Rosy Barb (1 male)	<a href="mailto:mr_bigfish2000@yahoo.com">mr_bigfish2000@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Buy</b>	Marlene Sholze	Montezuma Swordtails	(412) 682-2711
Sell	Walter Roth	Plastic Bags (6"x12" and 10"x20")	(724) 449-9651
Sell	Chuck Bialon	Poecilia sulpherophilia	(412) 487-2378 - evenings and weekends
Sell	Chuck Bialon	<u>Poeciliopsis turneri</u>	(412) 487-2378 - evenings and weekends
Sell	Kathy Bintrim	Protomelas spilonatus Liluli (adult pair)	<a href="mailto:ilshadows@excite.com">ilshadows@excite.com</a>
<b>Buy</b>	Marlene Sholze	Sailfin Mollies	(412) 682-2711
<b>Buy</b>	Marlene Sholze	<u>Salvinia auriculata</u> and <u>S. cucullata</u>	(412) 682-2711
<b>Buy</b>	Marlene Sholze	<u>Utricularia vulgaris</u> and <u>U. exoleta</u>	(412) 682-2711
		<b>Call / email to put your items here !!!</b>	

\*\* Do you have something that you want to buy or sell? Contact Terrence ([tstrasatti@aol.com](mailto:tstrasatti@aol.com) or 724-239-5042) with the info to have your name listed above. \*\*

**Upcoming 2002 Events:** (What everyone who is anybody is doing)

6/20-23	IBC Convention, Orlando, Fla
6/29-30	Scales Show, Stark County, Ohio 330-452-9027 - John Baad
07/25-28/02	ACA Convention, Atlanta, Ga Hilton Airport + Towers
08/03-04	Akron Show + Auction, Tallmadge, Ohio 330-848-3856 – Bud White
08/17-18	Yatfs Show 330-824-2653 – Curt Smith
08/23-25	MACNA XIV, Dallas, Texas
09/21-22	TFCEC Show, NY ???-649-9165 – Randy Seufert
09/29	Great Lakes Auction, Perry, Ohio 440-944-3245 – Ron Georgeone
<b>10/13</b>	<b>GPASI Fall Auction, North Hampton, PA</b>
10/13	Ashco Auction, Perry, Ohio 440-466-2464 - Swansons
10/20	Yatfs Auction 330-824-2653 – Curt Smith
11/03	Akron Auction, Tallmadge, Ohio 330-848-3856 – Bud White
11/16-17	OCA Show + Auction 440-236-6301 – Marc

# A Special Thank You Goes Out To All The Sponsors For Their Support.

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KingFish Services	<a href="http://www.kingfishservices.net">www.kingfishservices.net</a>	(716) 941-3701
Linda's Lovely Angels	<a href="http://www.lindaslovelyangels.com">www.lindaslovelyangels.com</a>	
Marineland (thanks John)	<a href="http://www.marineland.com">www.marineland.com</a>	
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Pittsburgh Marine Aquarists Society	<a href="http://pmas.org">http://pmas.org</a>	
Shene's Killies	<a href="http://shene.killi.net">http://shene.killi.net</a>	(724) 864-0582
That Fish Place	<a href="http://www.thatpetplace.com">www.thatpetplace.com</a>	(888) THAT PET
Three Guys Aquatics	<a href="http://www.threeguysaquatics.com">www.threeguysaquatics.com</a>	
Walt's Water World	4978 Lakewood Road, Gibsonia	(724) 449-9651
West Hills Pet Center	West Hills Shopping Center, 925 Broadhead Road, Moon Township	(412) 262-2220
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