

# GPASI

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



# *Information*

**Next Meeting - March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2002**

**Speaker: Cavan Allen  
"The Planted Aquarium"**

**In this issue:**

**Ancistrus cf. dolichopterus:** by Jason Clester .....3

**AHAP and BAP Submissions:**..... 5-6

**GPASI Marketplace:** .....5

**Using Houseplants to Reduce Nitrogen in Your Tanks:** from the newsletter exchange .....7

**Contact the newsletter.**

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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 by:  
**Kathy Bintrim**

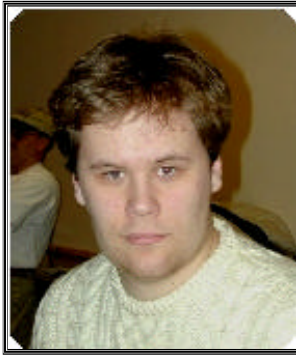
## UPCOMING GPASI EVENTS

**NEXT MEETING: March 22, 2002**

**GPASI's own, Cavan Allen, will be speaking on planted aquariums and reminding us that there is more to our hobby than just fish. Included in his talk will be photos that will surely make us "green" with envy. See you there; we'll leave the gro-light on for ya'.**

**April Meeting: William Shreves III  
"Hard to Breed Cichlids"**

### March Speaker: Cavan Allen



Cavan Allen has been involved in the aquarium hobby for the past 20 years, with the last few especially focused on aquatic gardening. He has propagated over 30 plants and flowered 5 in accordance with GPASI's Aquatic Horticultural Award Program, of which he is the Chair.

The March presentation will be aimed at promoting the aquatic plant side of the hobby and assisting others who may need help.

### April Speaker: William Shreves III

At only 16 years of age, William Shreves III has accomplished more than most of us will do in our lifetimes. He is a member of: YATFS, ASHCO, OCA, NOKA, and GLCS Awards: Master Breeder from the Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society, Numerous F.A.A.S. awards for Fish Spawning Articles, F.A.A.S. Junior Show Person of The Year, a F.A.A.S. award for spawning the most Brackish/Marine fish in 1999, and many others.

William will be talking about breeding and raising fry of easy and hard to raise fish. The species featured will include *Brachyogobius doriae*, *Nannostomus beckfordi*, *Ancistrus dolichopterus*, and others. There will also be brief discussion on raising and transporting show fish and ending with an explanation of how he sets up his fish and showing the unique layout of his fish room.

**Ancistrus cf. dolichopterus**

by Jason Clester

I acquired a trio of bristlenose plecos from Don Tuttle (thanks Don!) and placed them in a 20-gallon high tank containing no other fish. The tank was filtrated by an Aquaclear power filter and a sponge filter. No heater was used in the tank, and the temperature stayed around 74 degrees. The male immediately took up residence in an eight-inch piece of black PVC. I fed them French green beans, sinking shrimp pellets, and protein crumbles. The bristlenose ate well, and within a week the fish had spawned. I realized they had spawned when I had not seen the male for about two days, when I started looking for him I found him in the piece of black PVC guarding about 25 large yellowish eggs. The male is an excellent father and protects the eggs and fry with great diligence, although the female shows no parental care. The fry ate the same foods as their parents and grew relatively rapid. One of the best things about bristlenose is that multiple generations of young can live in the same tank as their parents without any problems. Identification of bristlenose can be hard especially since many species look so similar. Overall, bristlenose are easy to keep, easy to spawn, and very interesting.



Photo taken from <http://www.ancistrus.ch/ancistrus.htm>

**Calendar of Other Club's Upcoming Events & Contact Information****Want to carpool?**

Chances are good that someone in GPASI will be going. Ask around.

- |             |                                                                 |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/10/02    | Ashco Auction, Perry, Ohio (440-466-2464, Swansons)             |
| 03/17/02    | Yatfs Auction (330-824-2653, Curt Smith)                        |
| 03/23/02    | Erie Auction, Erie, Pa                                          |
| 03/24/01    | AKA Convention, St Louis, Missouri (740-392-5364, Cathy Carney) |
| 03/30/02    | Great Lakes Auction, Perry, Ohio (440-944-3245, Ron Georgeone)  |
| 04/06/02    | Cincinnati Auction (513-894-7289, Phil Benes)                   |
| 04/07/02    | Lorain County Auction                                           |
| 04/12-14/02 | Nec Convention                                                  |
| 04/26-28/02 | ALA Convention – Canton, Ohio (330-650-4613, Rich Serva)        |
| 04/27/02    | Central N.Y. Auction, Minoa, NY (315-454-4792)                  |

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**March Meeting Date Change Reminder**

Just another reminder that this month's meeting has been moved to the 22<sup>nd</sup> in order to avoid the holidays.

**May Show Update**

We are one month closer to the big show!!! The May Show has been *FAAS and ACA sanctioned* and we are ready to roll. May is not far off and to get you a bit more excited than you already are, the following is a sampling of what you will see during the three day event.

**Speakers:**

Mike Schadle- Collecting in Brazil  
 Randy Cary- The art of Characins  
 Jim Robinson- Killifish  
 Wayne Liebel- Aquarium Hobby History

There will also be vendors, raffles, door prizes, and potentially the largest auction this club has ever seen!!! Don't forget your styros!!!

Volunteers will be needed during all times of the event but especially during setup on Friday. Please contact Mike Solito or Ross Cronkhite about the details of volunteering. (see sidebar for contact information)

**What Do You Use to Seal Your Tanks?**

I bought a calking tube of silicone at the store only to find "not for aquariums" in the small print on the back. Everyone I asked had a different answer so I thought I'd ask GE (a silicon sealant manufacturer) to see what they'd have to say

**The email response I got was:**

"We always tell customers the same thing in regards to aquariums. What we tell them is that we don't recommend any of our products for underwater submersion, but some aquarium manufacturers choose to use our products anyway. The products they use most often are RTV108 or IS808. These are industrial grade products. Our consumer grade (this means they would be found at Home Depot or a local hardware store) offset to these industrial grade products is GE012A (Window and Door Silicone I).

"Not for aquarium use" is on our cartridges for legal purposes. Silicone bonds can fail underwater, especially on porous substrates (aquarium manufacturers use our products on glass aquariums, glass is not porous)."

**Another GE representative added:**

"If you do use a silicone, make sure that you let the silicone cure for a full 7 days before you introduce fish into your tank. I would not use the Silicone II in your aquarium."

I know this may not "seal the deal" for you but with so many choices of products out there, I hope this morsel "cures" a bit of your confusion.

**If you want it, here is the contact info for GE.**

Customer Technical Solutions Center  
 Phone: 800-255-8886  
[www.gesilicones.com](http://www.gesilicones.com)

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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. ~

## GPASI Marketplace (the place for members to buy, sell, or trade our goods)

	Who	What	Where/How
Sell	Steve Gibbs	5-Gal Buckets w/ lids	<a href="mailto:pghmarine@AOL.COM">pghmarine@AOL.COM</a>
Sell	Walter Roth	African Cichlids	724-449-9651
Sell	Ted and Linda Neill	Angelfish (many varieties)	(724) 368-3050 or <a href="mailto:tneill@zbzoom.net">tneill@zbzoom.net</a>
Sell	Jim Herman	Aquariums: 10, 29, and 55-gal (many)	<a href="mailto:mr_bigfish2000@yahoo.com">mr_bigfish2000@yahoo.com</a>
Sell	Michael McHugh	Blackworms ("live" food)	<a href="mailto:hobbyistx7@aol.com">hobbyistx7@aol.com</a> or 412-381-7037
Sell	Jason Clester	Cichlids (various)	(412) 856-7265 <a href="mailto:jacitaly@aol.com">jacitaly@aol.com</a>
Sell	Walter Roth	Fancy Goldfish	724-449-9651
Sell	Walter Roth	Flake Foods	724-449-9651
<b>Buy</b>	Jim Herman	Halfbeak (1 male)	<a href="mailto:mr_bigfish2000@yahoo.com">mr_bigfish2000@yahoo.com</a>
Sell	Chuck Bialon	IFGA snakeskin guppies	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	Chuck Bialon	<u>Poeciliopsis turneri</u>	412-487-2378 - evenings and weekends
Sell	Walter Roth	Plastic Bags (6"x12" and 10"x20")	724-449-9651
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. \*\***

### Aquatic Horticulture Award Program

### Recent AHAP Submissions (Congratulations to all the propagators)

Member Name	Species	Class	Points	Comments
Cavan Allen	Echinodorus tenellus "micro"	E	15	
	Eichhornia diversifolia	G	20	
	Ludwigia glandulosa	G	15	
	Rotala macrandra	G	40	
	Shinnersia rivularis	G	10	
Tom Connors	Crinum calimistratum	E	15	
Wallace Cox	Ceratophyllum demersum	B	5	
	Lemna minor	A	5	
	Microsorium pteropus	K	10	
	Najas guadalupensis	G	10	
	Riccia fluitans	A	10	
	Vesicularia dubyana	K	5	
Mark Seidel	Lemna minor	A	5	
	Salvinia rotundifolia	A	5	

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

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

Member Name	Species	Class	Points	Comments
Gary Balbo	Ancistrus temmincki	11	40	
Charles Bialon	Allotoca maculatta	1	10	*
	Aphyosemion mirabilis	9	10	moensis - hah 98/bekka
	Haplochromis sp(#44)	7	10	* bright tail reds
Kathy Bintrim	Steatocranus tinanti	7	15	*
Eric Bodrock	Aspidoras sp(C35)	11	20	* black phantom
	Haplochromis obliquidens	7	5	
	Neolamprologus gracilus	7	15	*
Wallace Cox	Apistogramma panduro	8	10	
	Cichlasoma severum	8	15	
	Poecilia reticulata	1	5	guppys
	Poecilia velifera	1	5	sailfin mollies
Robert Fullmer	Haplochromis sp(#44)	7	10	*
	Nannostomus beckfordi	6	15	
Scott Graner	Brachyrhaphis holdridgei	1	5	
Hank Marzina	Aphyolebias peruensis	10	20	*
	Brachyrhaphis holdridgei	1	5	
	Gambusia rhizophorae	1	5	(Fla Bay, Fla - Card Sound)
Mike McHugh	Cichlasoma portalegrensis	8	10	
	Corydoras paleatus	11	15	
	Pelvicachromis pulcher	7	10	kribensis
William Montgomery	Gambusia affinis	1	5	holbrooki
	Haplochromis bloyeti	7	10	
	Haplochromis sp(#44)	7	10	*
	Poecilia reticulata	1	5	guppys
	Xiphophorus variatus	1	5	marigolds
Donald Plazek	Fundulopanchax gardneri	9	5	Misaje
Walter Roth	Labidochromis lividus	7	10	
	Pseudotropheus sp	7	10	(ndumbi dwarf)
Pete Scaletto	Haplochromis bloyeti	7	10	
	Hemigrammus ocellifer	6	15	head+tail light tetra
Mike Solito	Cyphotilapia frontosa	7	20	
	Neolamprologus leleupi	7	15	
Robert T. Timmins	Corydoras aeneus	11	15	
	Poecilia melanogaster	1	5	
	Simpsonichthys bokermanni	10	15	
	Xiphophorus malinche	1	5	
Richard Wiley	Haplochromis sp(#44)	7	10	*

\* denotes first time spawn by any current BAP participant

Please contact Chuck Bialon with any questions regarding BAP submissions.

Hm: 412-487-2378

[cbialon@telerama.com](mailto:cbialon@telerama.com)

Wk: 412-434-2073

[bialon@ppg.com](mailto:bialon@ppg.com)

**Special Notice** - members that have not turned in any spawns this year or last year will be dropped from the monthly totals listing - next month. (Totals are listed daily on the GPASI web site at <http://gpasi2002.tripod.com/> and are published in the newsletter annually.)

Pulled from the "In Seine M.E.N.U." January 2002  
Champaign Area Fish Exchange

Reprinted from the December 2001 issue of "Fins & Tales" Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society

### **Using Houseplants to Reduce Nitrogen in Your Tanks**

by Heather Kidd (KWAS)

Many terrestrial plants metabolize at a faster rate than common aquarium plants. It is also easier for us to create a suitable environment within our homes for the terrestrial plants than for aquatics.

Several houseplants are capable of forming aquatic roots that can be submerged in water and can grow this way continually, so long as the leaves are emerged (in air). This is because they originate from many of the same places that our fish do! Plants from the rainforest and other places that have a distinct flooded, rainy season must be able to adapt to these conditions. So how can this apply to our aquariums?

When several cuttings are inserted just a few inches below the water and the leaves allowed to face bright light (such as from a window) the plants will suck up vast quantities of ammonia, nitrite and nitrate. You could employ this permanently as a natural part of your filtration, or just use it during the cycling period of unplanted aquaria. I have used houseplants this way in tanks containing fish that would otherwise destroy plants. I simply place the ends of the cuttings inside the filter that hung off the back of the tank and allowed the branches to trail across the canopy of the tank. I did however have to be very careful not to damage the roots when cleaning the filter out. You could adapt this to include a small area of the tank that the fish cannot access and slip the cuttings in there. One word of caution, when the temperature of the water is too high, the end of the cuttings will rot. I wouldn't recommend going above 75degrees F.

Houseplants that can grow aquatic roots:

- Pothos (Epipremnum)*
- Philodendron spp.*
- Spider plant (*Chlorophytum*)
- Arrowhead vine / Goosefoot (*Syngonium*)
- Coleus spp.*
- Bacopa spp.*
- Creeping Charlie
- Swedish Ivies
- Alternanthera spp.*

Make sure that you take the cuttings from a non-woody part of the plant and that they are at least 6-inches long. You could try any trailing type of tropical. I have never tried and would not recommend trying any plant that you know to be poisonous (i.e. Poinsettia). Plants that grow from canes such as dumb cane (*Dieffenbachia*) and *Drecaenas* will not grow this way nor will a tree-form plant. When using Spider plants (*Chlorophytum*) place a lamp beside the plant at night to encourage it to produce plantlets. Once plantlets are produced, only the tips where the rosettes begin must be suspended in the water. Spider plants grow very well this way but will not tolerate the extra hard water of an African cichlid tank.

Unfortunately, this is not a quick fix. The cuttings won't take out too much nitrogen until the roots have initiated (1-2 weeks). Also, remember to consider the light requirements of the plants in question. Good luck and happy gardening.

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

(listed alphabetically)

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