

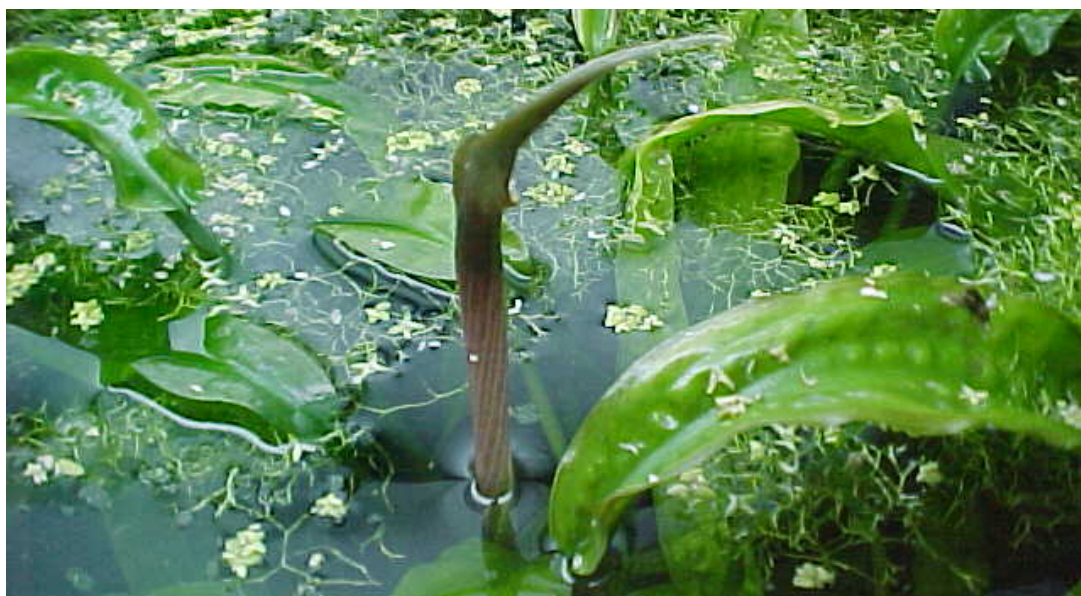


Tank Topics

February/March 2011

Inside this issue:

President's Message Bud White	3
Editor's Message Dave Williamson	3
BAP/HAP Wayne Toven	4
Exchange Wayne Toven	5
Bowl Show Ken McGill	6
Soilless Worm Culture Joe Reich	7
Cryptocoryne usteriana Dave Williamson	8
Coming Events	10
Meeting Notice	10



A *Cryptocoryne* bloom emerging from the water. To find out more about getting your Crypts to bloom check out the article on page 9 by Dave Williamson.

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Important Dates for 2011

March 6
Spring auction

July 9 & 10
Ultra Aqua 2011

November 6
Fall auction

Check out our website: www.gaas-fish.net

THE GREATER AKRON AQUARIUM SOCIETY

WHO ARE WE? We are a local group of aquatic enthusiasts. Formed in 1952, the Greater Akron Aquarium Society is a non-profit, non-commercial organization. Our membership ranges from the beginning hobbyist to the advanced aquarist with many years of experience. The goals of our club are to promote the care, study, breeding and exhibition of aquarium related aquatic life and to promote interest in the aquarium hobby.

MEETINGS: Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m. at the Mogadore Community/Senior Center, 3857 Mogadore Road, Mogadore, Ohio. It is located East of Route 532 across from McDonald's in the former post office building. Visitors are always welcome, it costs absolutely nothing to attend a meeting and look us over.

MEMBERSHIP: The cost is only \$7.50 for adults, \$10 for a couple or a family (includes children under 10 years of age) and \$5.00 for a junior membership (10 to 17 years) Membership provides an opportunity to socialize with other that share your interests, a subscription to our bi-monthly magazine, library usage and more.

AGENDA: Our meeting agenda is simple and informal. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. with a short business meeting. Immediately following is the program for the evening which usually lasts about 45 minutes. Our programs consist of a speaker, slide program, movie or perhaps a panel discussion always on a particular subject related to the hobby or various species of fish. Following the program is a short refreshment break. After which the winners of the Bowl Show are announced, the Breeder's Award Program fish are auctioned and tickets are drawn for the equipment and book raffles.

THE BOWL SHOW: Each month members can bring in fish for specific classes to compete for first, second and third place awards. The charge for each entry is only \$.25. Members also compete for annual awards by accumulating wins throughout the year.

BREEDER'S AWARD and HORTICULTURE AWARD PROGRAMS: members can receive recognition for spawning species of fish or propagating aquatic plants. All that is required is to turn in a minimum of six fry from the spawn that are between 30 and 90 days old. Members earn certificates for each species and can work towards plaques in different categories.

LIBRARY: At the library table are a number of books and other publications covering all areas of the aquarium hobby. Members may borrow the books for a month at a time. Also each month several books are raffled off.

EQUIPMENT RAFFLE: The raffle table has such items as tanks, fish food and aquarium accessories that are donated by national manufacturers, area dealers or purchased by the Society. Tickets may be purchased by anyone attending the meeting. Save your losing tickets for the Christmas Party raffle.

ANNUAL SHOW: The Ultra-Aqua show is held during the summer at the Tallmadge community Center. This has become one of the largest all-species tropical fish shows in North America. It is an international gathering of hobbyists to display their fish in class competition, talk fish and to learn about the hobby from each other.

TANK TOPICS: is published on a bi-monthly basis for the members of the Greater Akron Aquarium Society. Articles and comments for this publication are welcome and encouraged. Such articles are to be submitted no later than the board meeting prior to publication. All articles may be reprinted as long as the author(s) and GAAS are given proper credit and two copies of the publication containing the reprint are sent to GAAS. Please send any correspondence regarding this publication to:

Editor/Tank Topics, P.O. Box 494, Akron, OH 44309-0494 or email to G_A_A_S@hotmail.com

The Greater Akron Aquarium Society Membership Form

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

How did you find out about GAAS? _____

Memberships are due one year from the date of joining. Completed membership forms can be turned in at a meeting or mailed to the membership chairman at this address:

GAAS Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 494, Akron, OH 44309-0494



New Renewal
 Electronic Mail

Adult (18 years and older)	1 year	\$7.50
	2 years	\$12.00
Family (includes children under 10)	1 year	\$10.00
	2 years	\$15.00
Junior (10-17 years)	1 year	\$5.00
	2 years	\$7.00

Dues Collected _____ Date Received _____

President's Message

Well folks, it looks like winter is trying to get here, but we here in Akron have been lucky with very little snow, compared to places around us. I will take a little snow instead of a lot any day.

We actually had a good turn out at the meeting. We had a great speaker, (ME!) we covered some basic tips on taking fish pictures and I hope we will see more of them at the show. Also Ron Drungil would lie to see you post some of them on the GAAS Facebook account. Any questions on that email Ron or talk to him at the meeting.

We are set for our Spring auction coming up March 6. Plan on being there, bring stuff to sell and look for something to buy and take home. We usually have a very good turnout for this and have a great se-

lection, also plan to help in some way. If you need direction, see me, I just love to delegate!

We are working on the show rules and are going to add the option to bring in digital photos in place of slides. We will need them on a flash drive or a disk we can load them from. Please label with your first name and either a number or short description, such as Bud_1.jpg, Bud_2.jpg or Bud_Angel.jpg, Bud_Loach.jpg, we need this done so we know who give credit to. The Judges will not be able to see these names, so do not worry about that. We will limit the amount of pictures you can bring in, (we are working on a decision on how many), simply because we do not need several people bringing in 100 pictures each. They will still have to be judged

and that would take a long time with an overload like that. We are doing this with the intention of dropping slides from the classes, as we have not had any really new slides in several years, we hope this will encourage more participation in this class, by going with the more modern system.

We also are going to lower the limit for the break in entry fees to 20, down from 25, this will make the maximum entry fee \$30.00, anything over 20 entries will be free.

For those of you who not been paying attention, we will be hosting the American Livebearers Convention April 8-10. This doesn't come to our area very often, it is the one place you will find rare and hard to get livebearers, as well as get to hear great speakers. Plan to attend, it will be held at the Sheraton inn at the airport in Cleveland, more info will be com-

ing.

The BAP and HAP have both gotten off to a great start, here is hoping we keep it going that way, we had a record year last year, lets beat it again.

See you at the meeting



Bud White

Editor's Message



Here we are again at the beginning of yet another year. That means Spring Aquarium Club Auctions are just around the corner. Of course first and foremost is our club's coming up on March 6th at the Tallmadge Community Center. OK, technically ours isn't the

first in this area if you look at the Coming Events list in this issue, but you get the point! Anyway, although it might seem a ways off, I figured I'd push it a little in this issue since we won't have another Tank Topics before then. This is usually our biggest of the year so please, if you can, try to be there to help out or at least buy some stuff!

I guess my ever present droning on about needing articles may have paid off a little. I got three turned in this month and I even wrote one! (I kinda had to - it's part of getting my HAP flowering turned in!) But see how easy it is? All you gotta do is tell the rest of us what happened. You can

throw in some general information and even research if you've done it to fill it out but that's really all there is to it. Pictures to illustrate what you're talking about are always welcome too. If I can do it, so can you!

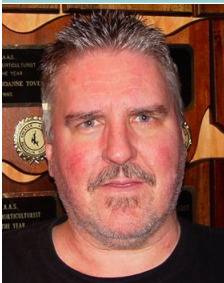
One last bit of info I need to bring up (although you're probably tired of hearing about it!) is the upcoming American Livebearer Association Convention that we're (GAAS) hosting up in Cleveland at the Sheraton Airport Hotel. Yeah, I know, it's another weekend to work at an auction and such, but there is no better place to see and possibly acquire fish you've only ever seen pictures of before.

If you're at all interested in livebearers, you have to plan spending some time up there between April 8, 9 & 10. You'll kick yourself later for missing it!



And yes, that is a guppy on a surfboard. I guess you had to be there for the planning meetings!

I'll see you at the meeting!



BAP/HAP Report

Wayne Toven

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!! Here we are stuck in the middle of winter, and it really does look and feel like winter, trust me I looked out the window. In case any of you don't know I am retired, so I don't have to go to work every day, instead I wake up and I am already at work. Anyway back to business, we started off a little slow for the new BAP/HAP year with a single spawn turned in at the December meeting / Christmas party. Which by the way went very well, lots of good food, a gift exchange, the end of the year raffle, and of course the huge fish, plants, and fish food give-away. Things picked up in January though, we had 5 spawns and five HAP submissions; 4 vegetative propagations and 1 flowering. That's more like it, but we now need to keep working and see if we can beat last years totals. All active members can participate in either or both award programs, just get your fish spawning and get those live plants growing and flowering, it's not that difficult. The fish club auctions will be starting up before you know it, many opportunities to obtain breeding stock or new species for your tanks. Oh and in case you don't have enough tanks, equipment, food, and plants there will probably be lots of that stuff for sale also.



December 2010

Species	Common name	Class	Points
BAP			
Phil & Tiffany Hypes			
<i>Julidochromis dickfeldi</i>		Cichlid s.s.	15

January 2011

BAP			
David Girard			
<i>Cyphotilapia frontosa</i>		Cichlid m.b.	15
Dan McMonigle			
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Amer. white guppy	Livebearer	5
Wayne Toven			
<i>Allotoca goslinei</i>	Banded goodeid	Livebearer	10
<i>Skiffia lermæ</i>	Olive Skiffia	Livebearer	10
<i>Xenophallus umbratilis</i>	Golden teddy	Livebearer	5

HAP

Brad Johnson			
<i>Microsorium pteropus</i>	Narrow leaf Java fern	D – veg.	20
<i>Anubias bateri var. nana</i>	Anubias nana	D – veg.	20
<i>Cryptocoryne undulata</i>		C – veg.	15
<i>Taxiphyllum alternans</i>	Tiawan moss	B – veg.	10
Dave Williamson			
<i>Cryptocoryne usteriana</i>		E – flower	15

2011 Spawn & Point Totals	BAP	Points	HAP	Points
Wayne Toven	3	25	-	-
David Girard	1	15	-	-
Phil & Tiffany Hypes	1	15	-	-
Dan McMonigle	1	5	-	-
Brad Johnson	-	-	4	65
Dave Williamson	-	-	1	15

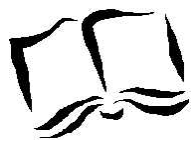
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Exchange Report



Wayne Toven

Since this is the first publication of the year I will remind you what to do if you would like to read one of the articles listed below. Tell me what article and I will email you a copy or get a hard copy to you at a monthly meeting. I only review original articles not reprints, because I likely reviewed them when they were original.

**Aquarium Club of Lancaster County,
Tank Tales: Nov. 2010**

Platy Variatus, by Michael Steffen

Dispelling Myths About African Cichlids, by Jay Stephan

A Look at Power Consumption in the Fishroom, by Shawn Kopinski

Culturing Live Food Part 3: Scuds and Hatching Brine Shrimp, by Michael Steffen

**Aquarium Club of Lancaster County,
Tank Tales: Dec 2010**

Culturing Live Food Part 4: Worms, by Michael Steffen

Breeding Melanotaenia trifasciata Goyder River, by Joel Antkowiak

**Aquarium Club of Lancaster County,
Tank Tales: Jan 2011**

Harve (?) My Axolotl, by Robin Antkowiak

Creating a Living Background, by Michael Steffen

Haplochromis sp. Ruby Green, by Jay Stephan

Breeding the Peppered Cory – Corydoras paleatus, by Michael Steffen

Confused Flour Beetles – Culturing Live Food Part 5, by Michael Steffen

**Circle City Aquarium Club, Fancy
Fins: Dec 2010**

Archocentrus nigrofasciatus – the Convict Cichlid, by Mike Dunagan

Aphyosemion ocellatum Sika Sika, by Jim Sizelove

Breeding Apistogramma agassizi, a Black Water Dwarf, by Bradley E. Moore

Spawning Rosey Red Minnows, by Mike Matthews

**Durham Region Aquarium Society,
Tank Talk: Dec 2010**

Bitten By the Water Bug (Shrimp), by Joanne Harder

**Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society,
Fincinnati: Nov/Dec 2010**

Ancistrus “Snowflake”, by Jerry Riegel

**Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society
Inc. Finformation: Dec 2010**

Breeding Synodontis lucipinnis, by Regina Spotti

**Hamilton & District Aquarium
Society: Dec 2010**

How to Become a Fish Breeder, by Charles Drew

**Hamilton & District Aquarium
Society: Jan 2011**

Sturisomatichthys sp. Columbia 1, by Charles Drew

**Michiana Aquarium Society,
Michiana Tropical Times: Nov 2010**

Not Only Fish, by Bud Rambow

**Michiana Aquarium Society,
Michiana Tropical Times: Dec 2010**

Breeding Bettas is Easy, by Bud Rambow

Spawning Aphyosemion lamberti

About Koo, by Bud Rambow

**Missouri Aquarium Society Inc. The
Darter: Nov/Dec 2010**

Fish (and Frogs) Do the Strangest Things, by Mike Hellweg

**Ohio Cichlid Association, Buckeye
Bulletin: Jan 2011**

My Experience Breeding Albino Bushy Nose Plecos, by James Shakour

**Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society, The
Underwater News: Dec 2010**

Microworms My Way, by Rit Forcier

The Lemon Killie, by Tom Ganley

Heterandria Formosa, by Tom Ganley

**Sarnia Aquarium Society, Aqua
Antics: Jan 2011**

Puntius arulius, by Bruce Hart

**St. Catharines & Area Aquarium
Society, The Scat: Dec 2010**

Breeding Cyphotilapia frontosa (Sort of), by Tom & Pat Bridges

Girardinus microdactylus, by Dave Furness

Pseudotropheus acei (Msuli), by Dave Furness

Spawning Corydoras napoensis, by Dave Unruh

**Youngstown Area Tropical Fish
Society, The Youngstown Aquarist:
Nov/Dec 2010**

Oh, is for Oscar the Trials and Tribulations of an Oscar Breeder, by Dave Ayres

Spawning Aspidoras eurycephalus, by Rick Tinklenberg

Spawning the Royal Farlowella Sturisoma panamense, by Joe & Maureen Kirksey

**Youngstown Area Tropical Fish
Society, The Youngstown Aquarist:
Jan/Feb 2011**

Nannostomus marginatus the Dwarf Pencilfish, by Brian LaNeve



Mon-Sat 11-8
 Sunday 11-6

6629 Engle Rd.
 Unit 108
 Middleburg Hts., OH
 (216) 433-1340

Bowl Show & Special Activities

Ken McGill



Three participants are off to a fast start by filling the classes!

Dave swept a class! Jeff swept a class! And Dave, Jeff & Wayne shared the wins in the third class! Cool.

Goldfish

1st Place	Dave Williamson	Shubunkin
2nd Place	Dave Williamson	Oranda
3rd Place	Dave Williamson	Telescope

Male Guppies

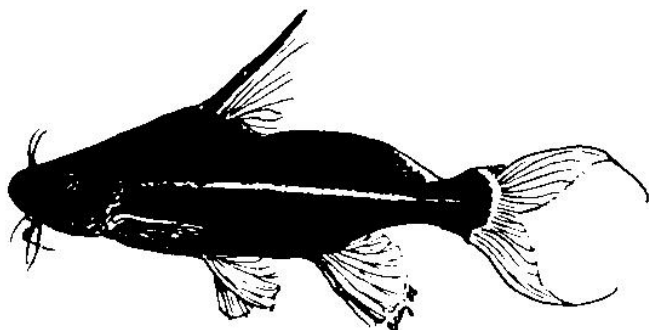
1st Place	Jeff Plazak	Guppy
2nd Place	Jeff Plazak	Guppy
3rd Place	Jeff Plazak	Guppy

Minnows, Danios, & Rasboras

1st Place	Wayne Toven	<i>Danio kyathit</i>
2nd Place	Dave Williamson	<i>Danio choprae</i>
3rd Place	Jeff Plazak	Longfin Danio

Points:

Dave's got the most,
 Jeff's got one point less,
 Wayne's only got a few less than that!
 (I don't have my tally sheet ready for 2011!)



How the Point System works:

- 1st - 4 points
- 2nd - 2 points
- 3rd - 1 point
- 1 point per entry,
- maximum 12 points per class

2011 Bowl Show Schedule

January:
 Goldfish, Male Guppies,
 Minnows Danios & Rasboras

February:
 Suckermouth Catfish,
 Swordtails, Characins

March:
 Barbs, Mollies,
 Corydoras Aspidoras &
 Brochis

April:
 Female Guppies, Platies,
 Aquatic Invertebrates

May:
 Goodeids, Rift Lake
 Cichlids, Aquatic Plants

June:
 Native Fish, Rainbowfish,
 Male Betta splendens

July:
 Synodontis Catfish, Killifish,
 Angelfish & Discus

August:
 AO New World Cichlids,
 Amphibians,
 Bog Plants

September:
 Gouramis & Anabantoids,
 Sharks & Loaches,
 Photography

October:
 Arts & Crafts, Marine Fish,
 All Other Old World Cichlids

November:
 All Other Livebearers,
 All Other Egglayers,
 All Other Catfish

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The Dirt On Soil-less Worm Culture

by Joe Reich

I guess it could be said that maybe I have a wet thumb. I've been able to breed many different species of fish and raise the fry successfully. However, in all my years of fish keeping never once did I feed them any White worms or Grindal worms. But after reading about and hearing of other hobbyist's feeding worms to their fish, and the success that they were having, I thought I'd buy a culture and join the "live food" club. The problem was, I just couldn't keep the culture going. This scenario played out on several occasions, but I just couldn't put my finger on what I was doing wrong. Too high a temperature? Too dry? Not enough food? Wrong culture medium? Who knows! So I gave up even trying to buy anymore cultures as I thought it a waste of money. But a couple of years ago, one of my favorite magazines had an article from a book excerpt that mentioned soil-less worm cultures. mmmm, this had my curiosity. I decided that once again I would try my hand at worm ranching.

The Materials



Obviously I had to come up with some type of culturing container. My container of choice ended up being the plastic food dish that Chinese food comes in. The price was right up my alley! Having several of those around, they were soon put to use. With my past history on worm culture I wasn't going to put a lot of money in this project. I melted little holes into the lids of the food dishes so the culture can breath using a sewing needle heated over a flame. The article stated that scouring pads were used as the "culture medium". I just happened to have some Scotch Bright pads around, and they didn't have any soap impregnated into them. I used scissors to cut the scouring pads to fit inside the container so they lay nice and flat. You'll need 3 layers. The third part of the set up was needle point canvas. I found some at the local Ace Hardware for 17 cents a sheet. One sheet will cut into 3 pieces needed for the culture. I tied a small length of fishing line to the bottom layer of canvas for ease of removal. At the next fish auction I managed to buy a Grindal worm culture for a dollar. What a bargain! It

turned out not to be such a bargain at all. First of all, in going through the entire culture all I found was 11 worms! To top it off they weren't even Grindal worms! So it was, I had 11 white worms to populate my culture with. I consoled myself with the thought that it was only a buck. I was in this experiment on the cheap!

Setting It Up

First, rinse off the scouring pads and needle point canvas in hot water to get rid of any manufacturing byproducts. I can't speak about the scouring pad, but at the plastic factory where I work we sometimes use mold release on our plastic parts. Next, place the bottom layer of the scouring pad into the container. Fill the container with enough cold water to cover over the first layer entirely. Then add the next two layers of scouring pad. Place the three pieces of needle point canvas on top of the scouring pad. I moistened a single pellet of dry cat food and placed it on top of the needle point canvas. To all these fine furnishings I added all 11 worms. I considered giving them names at this point, but heck, I'm bad at remembering names to begin with.

The Point Where Failure Is Imminent

So now that the culture is started the fun begins. White worms like to be kept on the cool side, say around 60 degrees Fahrenheit or so. I've been keeping mine at 63°F. Grindals, from what I under-



stand, can go to higher temperatures. Every third day I fed the worms a pellet of cat food and at one point I almost gave up. It just didn't seem like I was feeding anything. I was removing almost as much of that pellet on the second or third day as I was putting in. But after a couple of months I noticed that the popu-

lation was actually growing. It got to the point where I wasn't removing anything, just adding. That single pellet of cat food turned into two, after another month three. Periodically I would add more water to keep the bottom layer of scouring pad under water. After I had the culture going for about six months I decided to start making another culture as a back up. If I could do one culture, surely I could do two! It was at that point that the first culture was going through six pellets every other day. Things kind of snowballed from there. It didn't take long for it to go through eight pellets of cat food EVERY day. Tons and tons of worms! At one point I wondered how all that biomass survived in such conditions. I thought that it was time to start harvesting. But I had a rude, and I mean very rude, awakening before I could harvest any worms! I opened it up one day and it smelled very foul, and not a worm found alive! I rinsed everything off as best as I could and set the culture aside. Every few days I would look in to check for survivors, but nothing lived. I had just learned another lesson, don't feed them to death.

The second culture I had started was doing okay at this point, but still too low in population to harvest anything. With only one culture left going it was time to start a third culture as a back up. Here we go again! I reflected on my mistakes, too much food, too many worms, the odor that started to catch my nose a week earlier that I didn't address. Yep, it all added up! I had to find out if I was doing anything else wrong, so I dug up that issue from the previous year and started to reread. One of the things that caught my eye was that the culture water needed changing about every month! Oops! I guess I kinda missed that. It wasn't a week later that culture number two started to give a bit of an odor. It's population was nearing the harvest size and worms were starting to crawl up and onto the lid. I would rinse the lid in one of my aquariums to get rid of the worms and put the lid back on. But I noticed something funny about doing that. Seems the worms liked the water that was coating the inside of the lid. They were actually migrating or at least trying to. The inside of the lid was about 50%

covered in worms! I had to investigate. I pulled the culture medium out and gave it look over. Seems the bottom layer was pretty foul, and the top and mid layer weren't much better, only less wet. I decided to rinse the scouring pads, but how? I got a big enough container to fit the culture medium in and filled it with aquarium water. I swished each piece of culture layer back and forth and lifted it out to dip dry, more or less. I put the culture medium back in place, and I covered the bottom layer with aquarium water. I added food as normal and everything turned out fine and dandy! No more odors, I was very happy, the worms were very happy (at least I suspect) and it looked like they were thriving once again. This got me to thinking about culture number three, maybe I should change the water in it too? I did so and was surprised to find how polluted it was. Clearly I had to put culture water changes on my maintenance list.

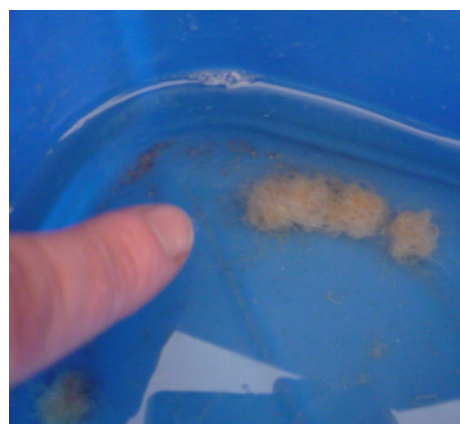
Harvesting!

The top three layers of needle point cloth were meant to be used as a way for harvesting the worms. Just rinse them into a container with aquarium water. And don't forget to collect the worms when rinsing the scouring pads! It seems that they sink to the bottom and ball up just the way black worms do. While you might be tempted to just fish them out with a brine shrimp net, I implore you not too! The water is filthy! You'll see what I mean! Just pour out the bad water, keeping the worms at the bottom and refill with more aquarium water. Pour out the water again and repeat the process until it looks reasonably clean. Then just pour them into a brine shrimp net.

Pests

It seems that somehow a couple of my cultures had become infested with some kind of mite. I don't

know where they came from or how they got in there, but they are there. I don't know if they are actually feeding on the worms but they do seem to collect around the pellets of cat food. And I notice that the worms seem to avoid those pellets. The article in the magazine made no mention of mites, so I was kind of up in the air about what to do about them. Also last summer, somehow one of the cultures I tried to start had some small type of fly get trapped in with the worms. Obviously it was a female laying eggs because when I opened it up, there were maggots eating the cat food pellets.



All the worms in that culture died when the maggots showed up. The best way I've found for controlling both these pests is the water rinse. In fact, since I started to rinse the cultures periodically, I haven't found a single mite!

Subculturing

Subculturing is super, super easy! Just take any one of the top two layers of



scouring pad, give it the old rinse treatment and put it in a new culture container! There's still plenty of worms left in the scouring pad for a starter.

Grindals

This last fall I finally managed to get a Grindal worm culture. I must say, for a smaller worm they sure have huge appetites! They also seem to reproduce quicker. I'm still experimenting with them, but they seem well on their way to success too.

Conclusion

I've found raising worms soil-less to be an easy way for harvesting them. I've also learned that you might have to let your nose tell you when to change the water and not just rely on a monthly changing regime. It's also a good way of keeping mites in check since every time you harvest or change the water, the mites get washed away too! Ironically, the Grindal starter culture that I purchased is even showing signs of population growth! But in comparing the soil culture with the soil-less, the soil-less culture is outgrowing the original. So it may actually be a better way to raise worms. Learn from my experiences and give this a try! It seems too easy to mess up!



Cryptocoryne usteriana

by Dave Williamson

Of the many species of *Cryptocorynes* that I've had over the years, this one has become one of my favorites. Not just because of the success that I've had with it, I just like the look of its large wavy medium green



leaves with reddish undersides. At least that's what color it is under my conditions! If you know anything at all about crypts you'll find that the overall appearance can change drastically under different growing conditions. That is one of the reasons it can be difficult to positively identify different species on looks alone. One dead give-away is the bloom. Each species' blooms are the same regardless of growing conditions or cultivar of that species. Another peculiarity of this group of plants is the fact that they usually bloom in the dry season in their natural habitat so that the bloom opens above the water. In fact most species are only submerged for part of their growth cycle. Enough of all that, you probably want to know how did I get it to grow and bloom like that! Well for starters I pot all my crypts in clay flower pots in a mixture of fine aquarium gravel with a layer of laterite for the roots to feed on. This has worked very well over the years with a number of species. As for getting it to bloom, I didn't do anything! This is where things get interesting; I guess I'll have to thank my new kitten, Mia! She insists on sleeping on my aquarium lids no matter how many different ways I try to break that habit, and as she has grown, she's gotten heavy enough to crack one of the plexi-glass lids. I spread it out about a half inch so both sides were still supported by frames and as if by magic, up comes a bloom stalk right through the gap! Now what I wonder is how did the plant "know" that? I didn't lower the

water level or anything that would have approximated a dry season. Would it have sent up that bloom anyway and just mashed it into the lid if there hadn't been a gap there? It's even done it again about a month after the first bloom. Of course the blooms wilt after a few days because there is no pollinator for them. Heck, I don't even know what would normally pollinate these blooms in their natural habitat. Some members of this family of plants use flies as a pollinator rather than the usual butterflies or bees. They are attracted to the bloom by a scent that approximates rotting meat. I tried to sniff the Crypt bloom but couldn't detect and noticeable odor good or bad. Maybe it's the bright yellow color of the throat of the bloom that attracts something. Whatever the case, the odds of one of these blooms getting pollinated in my basement are pretty slim. I don't even know if this type of plant is self-fertile, you may need more than one bloom at a time to have any hope of either of them setting seeds. I guess it all boils down to having to do a little more research if I want to go the next step with these beautiful and interesting plants.



The Greater Akron Aquarium Society

P.O. Box 494
Akron, OH 44309-0494

Meeting Notice - Do Not Delay

Meeting Notice

Thursday, February 3

Program: "Behind the scenes at the Monterrey Bay Aquarium"
DVD presentation.

Bowl Show: Suckermouth Catfish,
Swordtails, Characins

Thursday, March 3

Program: TBA

Bowl Show: Barbs, Mollies,
Corydoras Catfish

All general meetings begin at 8:00 p.m. at the Mogadore Community/Senior Center

Coming Events

Feb 12, 2011 – Ohio Cichlid Association - Winter Auction

Holiday Inn Select Strongsville, 15471 Royalton Road.

Cichlids, scavengers, plants and dry goods only.

Visit www.ohiocichlid.com for more info

February 19, 2011 - Motor City Aquarium Society - Auction

Madison Place 876 Horace Brown Dr Madison Heights MI (13 Mile Rd @ I-75, 1 block east of I-75, south on Montpelier to end)

if you wish to pre-register: GaryD.MI@netzero.com

February 27, 2011 – SCALES - Spring Auction

Perry Grange, Richville Dr. SW, Massillon, Ohio

Registration 11 am to 1 pm, Auction begins 12 noon

For more information: Cal (330) 448-0084, John (330) 452-9027

March 20, 2011 – Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society - Spring Auction

J.V. Johnson Community Center, 800 Gillmer Rd - Leavittsburg, OH 44430

Registration 11 am to 1 pm - Auction begins at Noon

For more information: Tom mruaru2@aol.com 330-758-3043