

# ALL WET GAZETTE

THE MEETING WILL BE Friday

February 12, 2010 AT 8:00 PM

*The speaker this month will be  
Ken Walker talking about catfish*

February Bowl Show

Barbs & Tetras



## *Medina County Aquarium Society 2009 Officers*

President: Joe Ring (330) 483-0419 jring1@gmail.com  
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<b>Library -</b>	John Kaminski	<b>Publicity -</b>	John Kaminski/Nate Larson
<b>Auctions -</b>	Teresa Biggs/John Kaminski	<b>Show -</b>	Joe Ring//TBD/TBD
<b>Bowl Show</b>	Joe Ring	<b>Sunshine -</b>	Eileen Evanoff/Nick Evanoff
<b>A.C.A.</b>	Ron Georgeone	<b>H.A.P. -</b>	Nick Evanoff/John Kaminski
<b>B.A.P. -</b>	Nick Evanoff/John Kaminski	<b>Membership</b>	John Kaminski /Bob Blazek
<b>Refreshments</b>	Joe Ring/Gayle Ring		

The All Wet Gazette is published by the Medina County Aquarium Society. The objectives of this society are to bring together a congenial group of people mutually interested in tropical fishes and to promote the keeping, study, breeding, and exhibition of aquarium fishes and related aquatic life.

Send to:

*Medina County Aquarium Society* Website: <http://mcas-fish.net/>  
*P.O. Box 1485*  
*Medina, Ohio 44256*

### **BOWL SHOW CLASSES 2009**

**JAN**———**ANY Catfish**—  
**FEB**———**BARBS & TETRAS**  
**MARCH**——**ANGLES & DISCUS**  
**APRIL**———**RAINBOWS & KILLIFISH**  
**MAY**———**GOLD FISH**  
**JUNE**———**OLD WORLD CICHLIDS**

JULY...PICNIC

**AUGUST**———**NEW WORLD CICHLIDS**  
**SEPTEMBER**——**ALL LIVE BEARERS**  
**OCTOBER**———**BETTAS & GOURAMIS**  
**NOVEMBER**——**ANY FISH NOT IN A CLASS**  
**DECEMBER**———**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**January bowl show winners were.....#1 John Kaminski**  
**#2 Charlie Suk**

## Prospecting the Golden Dwarf

by Chase Klinesteker, SWMAS; from SWAM, March / April 1993 Issue

Since I began keeping and breeding tropical fish in the early '50's, the Golden Dwarf Barb (*Barbus gelius*) had caught my interest. I "grew up" on W.T. Innes' book, *Exotic Aquarium Fishes*, where it was pictured, and vowed that one of the fishes I would keep one day would be the Golden Dwarf Barb. Little did I realize that it would be over thirty-five years before I first saw and obtained this delightful little fish! I finally obtained five of them in 1991.

The Golden Dwarf or Pigmy Barb is seldom seen in the hobby. It comes from an out-of-the-way place in central India that makes importation impractical. Besides that, it is not very prolific and an avid egg eater, so it is not often propagated by commercial fish farms. Yet it's quite attractive, easily kept, and very peaceful. The pattern and color are very striking. Several large dark areas are interspersed over a golden translucent body and the belly is bright silver. The fins are clear and the barbels are not visible. In breeding color, the male turns a golden brown or copper color on top of this. They are extremely peaceful for barbs and even can be a bit shy. I would even trust them with Bettas. Plant cover helps them feel at home and to stay in their best color.

Although the Golden Dwarf Barb will eat dry food, live and frozen foods will keep them in the best health. Just remember that they have a small mouth and need small sized foods. They rarely get more than 1 ½ inches long. Mine were breeding at less than 1 inch. They are not delicate, but will not tolerate heavier nitrate levels, as some of the larger barbs will. They do tolerate cool temperatures well and can be kept at 61 to 65 degrees F for long periods of time. They are a schooling fish and a group of six to twelve of them in a well planted, lighted, and unheated 10-gallon tank would make a very nice display.

Breeding *Barbus gelius* is not difficult, but it takes some care in collecting and hatching the eggs, and rearing the fry. Adult males have more slender and more intense darker coloration. It is best to separate the sexes and condition the breeders well for about a week. Some references state that if this fish is bred at temperatures higher than 72 degrees F, many of the eggs will not hatch. This I found to be true, since my fish room water temperature does not go below 75 degrees F, and I experienced a low hatch rate on the eggs of about twenty percent. I did not get spawns using an egg trap screen probably due to their shyness, although one probably could be made with plants and dark substrate to make them feel at home.

I bred a pair of them in a newly planted 10-gallon tank with small flint gravel substrate. By observing the fish I could tell when they were spawning. I took two to three days for the female to lay all of her eggs. Although the male was very aggressive during spawning, a higher fertility rate might be obtained by using two males to one female. As far as I could see, only one egg was laid at a time this gives them plenty of time to find and eat as many as they can. They were spawned in Lake Michigan water that is 7.6 pH and medium hard. I usually collect the eggs from soil water species and hatch them in rainwater and methylene blue (pH 6.8).

This presented a problem in a tank covered with fine gravel. It was solved by taking a small siphon hose tied to a stick, and siphoning just above the gravel surface. This removed a few surface grains and the eggs. This was done several times in the three-day period. The eggs and gravel were swirled in a light opaque sherbet pan with the gravel

pushed to the outside. The eggs would collect in the center and could be seen and picked up with an eyedropper if a light was below the pan, as in panning for “gold.” The eggs are very tiny and hatch in about twenty-four hours. When the fry become free-swimming, a couple of days on infusoria or liquifry is recommended first. Then they will eat newly hatched brine shrimp. The fry grow fairly slowly, partly due to their small adult size. A varied diet and plenty of room are recommended to raise them to adult size.

I highly recommend this barb for any hobbyist interested in an unusual, peaceful, and attractive fish for their collection. The Golden Dwarf Barb is truly a “discovery” that merits a “claim.”



# Extended Breeder Award Program Article

## TETRAS—MANY FACETED GEMS

by Chase Klinesteker, *SWMAS*; from *SWAM*, May / June 2002 Issue

Many of the most common aquarium fishes are tetras. "Characiformes" is the correct term to be used for this group of fishes, but I will use the more common "tetras" here. Although I have bred 41 species of tetras for the SWAM Breeders' Award Program so far, there are more than 1300 species in this group of fishes! They come from South America, Central America, and Africa. Most come from the South American Amazon River basin. Tetras belong to a larger grouping of fishes which includes the catfishes and carps. Many are colorful, small, peaceful, and hardy, making them ideal community tank fishes. They also are active, open water swimmers that like to school, remaining visible in an aquarium. They have well-developed senses and are among the first to be at a feeding site. Most have good sized eyes in proportion to their body, an adipose fin, and teeth which will vary in shape and use according to the species.

**COLOR**.....Some tetras are among the most colorful of all fishes kept in the aquarium. Cardinals, neons, serpae and rummynose tetras are extremely popular because of their brilliant colors. Subtle but also very attractive colors are found in others such as the congo, glowlight, lemon, diamond, and bloodfin tetras. Many have attractive markings with color such as emperor, pencilfish, penguin, and black neon tetras. Color is often intensified during breeding behavior, especially in the males. A varied diet and appropriate water quality will show off your tetras in their best color.

**VARIETY**.....Tetras come in all shapes, sizes, and dispositions, although most are small and peaceful. The pike and tiger characins are 2 of the nastiest predators around and can reach over 2 feet long. Pacu can get even larger than that but feed mostly on plants. One of the smallest tetras is the golden phantom tetra (*Hyphessobrycon roseus*) with maximum adult size just over an inch. Other predators include species of *Roeboides* which are scale eaters and the bucktooth tetra (*Exodon paradoxus*). Pacu are the most commonly cultivated tetra for food because they are easy to feed, grow quickly, and have tasty flesh. Most tetras are egg scatterers but a few species will guard their eggs, the splash tetra even going to the extreme of laying its eggs out of the water and keeping them wet until they hatch!

**CONDITIONS**.....Most tetras keep well at 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, although many prefer 80 degrees for breeding. Keeping most tetras at 80 degrees or above for long periods of time can weaken them. Most but not all come from areas with soft, acid water, but can be kept healthy in tap water of good quality. They are quite tolerant of higher nitrates dissolved in the water, as long as filtration is good. However, I have found them to be quite sensitive to bacterial pollution or cloudy water. For some of the more sensitive species, the use of Canadian peat moss filtration can be helpful, as it reduces bacteria in the water.

**FEEDING**.....Most tetras are classified as omnivores, eating a variety of animal and vegetable foods. A good number of them are carnivores, requiring lots of animal protein in their diet. The shape of their teeth can be an indication of their diet. There is no doubt that piranhas and tiger characins are carnivores! Even many species with small mouths have teeth and are highly carnivorous such as pencilfishes. A few species require a lot of vegetable matter in their diet, such as silver dollars and pacu. Don't put them in planted

tanks if you want to keep the plants! I believe that most tetras do best with a varied but mostly meaty and live food diet. Black, grindal, and white worms, daphnia, frozen brine shrimp, beef heart, and good quality dry food can be fed. To condition fish for breeding, increase the percentage of meaty foods. Adding frozen beef liver has been effective for me to condition tetras to breed, as it is very rich, but filtration and water changes must be increased because higher protein foods pollute the water more(especially beef liver!). Conditioning tetras to breed should not take longer than a week or so under good conditions and females will fill with eggs quickly. It is best not to wait till the females appear bursting with eggs as they may become eggbound(can't release the eggs). I will keep the sexes together most of the time to reduce the chances of this happening. I have often observed tetras spawning in the community tank after a water change. A number of these have been species I have not yet spawned and raised for BAP, then when I net the pair out and put them in a "breeding tank", they usually stop!

**SEXING**.....Male tetras are usually smaller, slimmer, and more colorful, although there are exceptions. Some males have longer fins or extensions of certain fins (eg Congo tetra). Males also may have a "characin hook" on the anal fin that sticks in the net when moving them. On species where there is little difference I often can tell by feeding the fish heavily. Females will generally hold more food and look fuller then.

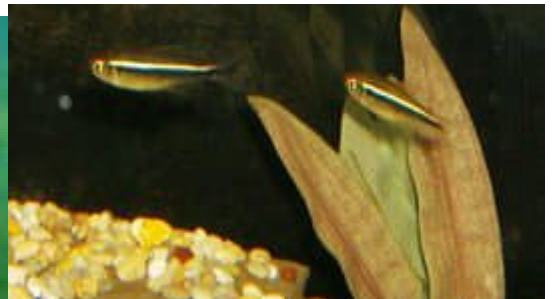
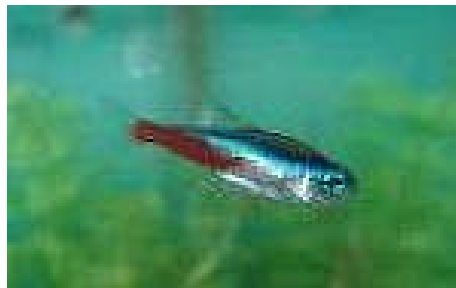
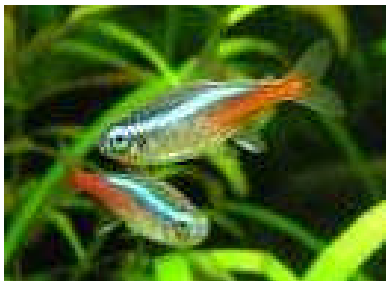
**BREEDING**.....The above leads us to the breeding of tetras. The biggest challenge for me has been the finding, collecting, and hatching of the eggs, since many species will readily breed in a community tank. Most are egg scatterers. I recommend that the easier to breed species be tried first. The easiest to breed tetras include the black tetra, flame tetra, glowlight tetra, Buenos Aires tetra, head and tail light tetra, and pristella tetra. Many can be spawned in small(2-5 gallon) tanks but a larger one is better. A pair or group in a 10 gallon is about right. I use tapwater freshly drawn of the proper temperature and treated for chlorine. You may want to knock the bubbles off the sides an hour or two later, but the freshly drawn water seems to stimulate spawning in tetras. Use a bare bottom tank and plastic plants in a clump for the fish to spawn in. The tank should be in a low light area and water temperature 75 to 80 degrees. A slate bottomed tank would give an even more comfortable environment. Tetras are often "spooky" in a new environment, and bright light or a light colored bottom can make this worse. Many of these fishes come from shaded streams with a dark substrate and dark tannic water where light is very low. Introduce the pair or group of fish to the tank in the evening. Check the bottom of the tank twice per day with a flashlight for any eggs on the bottom. If no eggs are found in 4 or 5 days, reset the tank up and use other breeders. It seems that for some difficult species, the longer they remain in harder tap water the less able they are to lay eggs. Some fish I have tried to breed for years and failed, then bought a freshly imported pair that spawned for me the next day! Tetras will lay from 50 or less eggs to over 1000. Most lay from 150 to 300 at one time.

**HATCHING THE EGGS**.....The eggs appear as tiny glass beads. The sperm and unfertilized eggs will pollute the water quickly. Siphon the eggs from the bottom as soon as possible, as the longer they stay in tap water, the poorer the hatch will be for many species. The eggs are then rinsed off and placed in RO or rain water with methylene blue (1 drop of 5% per quart) to hatch. Very low or no aeration is preferred on the eggs. The methylene blue helps prevent fungus and cuts down on the light. Many tetras' eggs and fry are light sensitive. Most tetra eggs hatch within 24 hours although a few (e.g. congo tetras) can take up to a week. They can be very tiny and completely transparent. After hatching, the water must be changed again and the fry rinsed off as the eggshells pollute the water badly also. How does one "rinse off" the eggs and fry? I use a one quart semi-opaque plastic

(sherbet) pan and swirl the water around. The fertile eggs and newly hatched fry are the heaviest and will gather in the center of the swirl (dizzy fry are not a problem!). A flashlight from under the bottom of the pan will help you see the tiny eggs. A small siphon or eye dropper can pick them up there. Place the fry in a 1-3 gallon tank with RO or rain water and use light aeration on them.

**RAISING THE FRY**.....After hatching, the fry will take 5-7 days to become completely free swimming. Do not feed them at all until they swim freely on their own. Then feed one drop of live baby brine shrimp and watch if the fry eat them. Give them 10 minutes and then look for any orange bellies with a flashlight. Even though very small, most tetra fry will eat baby brine shrimp. I have found a few species (e.g. golden phantom tetra) that do require a few days of infusoria or Liquifry, so the “one drop” test should be done daily. Once you begin feeding them, filtration and water changes need to be done frequently. A sponge filter works best at this time. Do not overfeed. This is probably the most common cause of loss of tetra fry because tetras are more sensitive to bacteria growth than most other fry. Adding snails will also help keep pollution down. Usually within a week or two the fry can be gradually acclimated to tap water. Peat filtration and raising the fry longer in soft water will usually reduce bacteria for more difficult species. In about two weeks the fry can be moved to a larger tank. If fed well, frequently, and given adequate water changes most tetra fry grow quickly. I have been most successful raising tetra fry using undergravel filters run heavily. These seem to rid the tank of suspended bacteria more quickly than a sponge, box, or outside setup, and feedings can be heavier. Because of their need for meaty foods, frequent water changes are essential for maximum growth.

Characiformes include some of the most popular, peaceful, attractive, and easy to keep fish in the aquarium hobby. A number of them are extremely easy to sex, breed, and with a little understanding, hatch and raise. Yet most of them have never been bred in captivity. With over 1300 species, there is almost unlimited potential and variety. I believe that many species have not been bred simply because few people try to breed them, thinking they are too difficult to breed. It is a real thrill to breed a species no one has bred before. Go ahead and try!



**We have 25 members that have renewed there membership for 2010.**  
**If you did not attend the Xmas Party your membership dues are due for 2010.**

**EMAIL**

**Single-\$9.00,Family-\$12.00,Juniors-\$5.00,Seniors-5.00**

**SNAIL MAIL**

**Single-\$15.00,Family-\$20.00,Juniors-\$5.00,Seniors-\$8.00**

**You can mail your dues in or BETTER YET bring it to Januarys meeting!**

**ONLY ABOUT ONE THIRD of members ATTEND MEETINGS.**

**ATTEND A MEETING, GET YOUR MONEYS WORTH.**

**MEET FRIENDLY PEOPLE THAT SHARE THE SAME HOBBY YOU ENJOY.**

**SHARE YOUR HOBBY EXPERIENCES AND MAYBE PICK UP IDEAS FROM OTHERS.**

**Please pass this on :**

**What a Deal**

**WON'T YOU CONSIDER JOINING?**

**MCAS (Medina County Aquarium Society) offers a wide range of programs and events to satisfy the needs of almost every aquatic hobbyist, from the single community tank enthusiasts to the multi-tank breeder, as well as those who desire to show their fish.**

**Regular Monthly Meetings Feature:**

**Bowl Show with Auction Dollar Prizes. Auction dollars are the same as cash at any MCAS auctions.**

**Manufacture's Donated Supplies in Raffles.**

**Programs by Hobby Experts on Some Phase of the Hobby.**

**Refreshments**

**Chat with Fellow Members about Problems and Successes.**

**Monthly Meeting drawings for cash prize if you're present and signed up at the meeting.**

**Annual Spring and Fall Auctions:**

**You can sell your Excess Fish, Plants, Equipment and Food.**

**MCAS offers a 75/25 split to Sellers!!!!**

**You can buy Fish, Plants, Equipment and Food.**

**50/50 Drawings during Auction.**

**Food and Drink for Sale at Auctions.**

**Various Raffles.**

**Nation Recognized Bulletin Every Month.**

**Interesting Reading on Various Facets of the Hobby.**

**Either walk into a meeting or phone, e-mail or contact John Kaminski for more information.**

**Thanks go to Ken McGill for our new web site. [www.mcas-fish.net](http://www.mcas-fish.net)**

**John Kaminski**

**[johnrkam@roadrunner.com](mailto:johnrkam@roadrunner.com)**

**330-225-0709**

**MCAS**

**P.O. Box 1485**

**Medina, OH 44256**

# BAP PROGRAM REPORT

By Nick Evanoff

## ...BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAM

Standings as of  
December 2009

We had 3 entry's for January

Tom & Carolyn Evers...Neolamprologus Brevis

Bob Blazek..Neolamprologus Leleupi

Bob Blazek.. *Pundamilia nyererei*

If I have any of your numbers wrong please let me know  
So I can correct them for you.

### SUPREME GRAND MASTER 70 SPAWNS

GRAND MASTER 60 SPAWNS

MASTER..... 50 SPAWNS

Dan McMonigle 57 spawns

EXPERT ..... 40 SPAWNS

SPECIALIST ..... 30 SPAWNS

Bill Bilski 33 spawns

Brian Shrimpton 33 spawns

ACCOMPLISHED ..... 20 SPAWNS

John Clark 24 spawns

Charlie & Cathy Suk 29 spawns

NOVICE ..... 10 SPAWNS

Linda Wallrath 19 spawns

Robert Patrick 14 spawns

Teresa Biggs 14spawns

Bob Blazek 13spawns

BEGINNER ..... 5 SPAWNS

Joe Ring 9 spawns

Nick Evanoff 9 spawns

Gene Gore 8 spawns

John Kaminski 8 spawns

Ken & Karen Grimmatt 2 spawns

Tom &Carolyn Evers 2 spawns

## HORTICULTURE AWARD PROGRAM

STANDING AS OF

November 2009

10 points for each entry

SUPREME GRAND MASTER.....500 POINTS

Dan McMonigle.... 880 points

GRAND MASTER.....400 POINTS

MASTER.....300 POINTS

Linda Wallrath....340 points

EXPERT.....250 POINTS

ACCOMPLISHED.....150 POINTS

Robert Patrick.....170 points

NOVICE.....100 POINTS

John Clark.....100 points

BEGINNER.....50 POINTS

Nick Evanoff .....80 points

John Kaminski....60 points

Bill Bilski.....30 points

Charlie Suk.....10 points

# Coming Events

**Feb 13, 2010**

**Ohio Cichlid Association  
Winter Auction**

Holiday Inn Select Strongsville,  
15471 Royalton Road.

Cichlids, scavengers, plants  
and dry goods only.

Registration 10-12 AM,  
Auction begins at 11.

Visit

com [www.ohiocichlid.com](http://www.ohiocichlid.com) for  
more info

**March 7, 2010 –Greater Akron  
Aquarium Society –Spring  
Auction**

Tallmadge Community Center,  
80 Community Rd., Tallmadge

For more information: Bud White  
(330) 848-3856

([bwhite@neo.rr.com](mailto:bwhite@neo.rr.com)), Wayne

Toven (330) 296-6322

([wtoven@hotmail.com](mailto:wtoven@hotmail.com)) or Rich

Serva (330) 650-4613

([rjserva@juno.com](mailto:rjserva@juno.com))

**February 28, 2010 –**

**SCALES - Spring Auction**

Perry Grange, Richville Dr.  
SW, Massillon, Ohio

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

**Saturday March 13 , 2010**

**M.C.A.S. SPRING AUCTION**

**WHERE: Prince of  
Peace Lutheran Church  
3355 Medina Rd. (Rt. 18)  
Medina, Ohio 44256**

**WHEN: Saturday March 13th.,  
Auction Starts at Noon,  
Registration 10:00-1:00**

**More info: Call/Email:**

**Teresa Biggs 330-334-1447**

**[aunttbiggs@hotmail.com](mailto:aunttbiggs@hotmail.com)**

**John Kaminski (330) 225-0709**

**[johnrkam@roadrunner.com](mailto:johnrkam@roadrunner.com)**





**The Medina County Aquarium Society extends our extreme appreciation supporters appreciation to our supporters**

- Ray "Kingfish" Lucas / King-fish Services .....Margarita Tours
- RMS Aquaculture .....Marc Weiss Companies, Inc.
- Peter Mang / The Fish Place .....Marineland Aquarium Products
- Wet Pets Plus .....Lee's Aquarium & Pet Products
- All-Glass Aquariums..... Kent Marine
- Omega Sea Ltd..

Zoo Med Laboratories inc.

Members, please remember these manufacturers and businesses when you shop for your pet supplies. They all support us and we should in turn support them. For without them, our club raffles, Show, and Annual Auctions would be very bleak indeed... A bigger and better year for them all!

**Medina County Aquarium Society**

**We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Each Month at**

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**

**3355 Medina Rd. (Rt.18) Medina, Ohio**

**8:00pm**

**All are Welcome!!!**



**M.C.A.S.**

**P.O. Box 1485**

**Medina, Ohio 44256**

**Dated Material: Meeting Notice**

**Support our Supporters!!!**