

**A Personal History of  
Goodeid Captive Maintenance  
in the Midwestern United States**

**by**  
**Pat Hartman**  
(Fellow of the ALA)

# **Credits**

## **Information:**

**James K Langhammer**

**Dr John Lyons**

**William D Gilles**

## **Slides & Photos:**

**Pat Hartman**

**Goodeid Working Group**

**Internet**

# About Me - Pat Hartman

Age 70

Live in SW Michigan

Education:

BS 1971 & MS 1973 Chemistry  
Michigan Technological University

Career:

31 Years as an Analytical Research Chemist  
In the Pharmaceutical Industry. Retired March 2004

Started Keeping Fish in 1973

Set up Fishroom Spring of 1979

# Getting Started Keeping Goodeids

**Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society  
(SWMAS) formed in 1978**

**Pat & then wife Susie joined in early 1979**

**SWMAS Meeting November 7, 1980**

**Jim & Nancy White (Tallmadge, OH)**

**“Breeding Fish”**

Jim White brought some **Goodeids**

Pat's first Goodeid – **Ilyodon furcoides**

Fascinated by Goodeid Reproduction Biology

Joined The American Livebearer Society

Met James K Langhammer 1981

(and the rest is History)

# My Mentors: Jim Langhammer & Vern Parish circa 1980



# How & When did Hobbyists Start Keeping Goodeids in the Midwest USA?

Goodeids Collected in Mexico and Studied by

**Dr Robert Rush Miller**

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI

(about 100 miles from Pat's House)

# Goodeids into the Aquarium Hobby

**Dr. Miller to Jim Langhammer**

**Langhammer to Hobbyists**

**Xenotoca eiseni - circa. 1966**

**Large deep bodied**

**Not Readily Established at that Time Due to  
Rough Social Behavior**



**James K (Jim) Langhammer**

**Curator of Belle Isle Aquarium**

**Oldest Public Aquarium in the USA**  
**Opened August 18, 1904**

***Ameca splendens* on Display**

**Almost Instant Popularity**

**Relatively High Demand**

# Proximity to Goodeid Sources



**Schoolcraft - Pat's Residence**  
**University of Michigan - Dr Robert Rush Miller**  
**Belle Isle - Aquarium**

# Belle Isle Aquarium – Detroit Michigan





# Inside Belle Isle Aquarium



# **SWMAS Trip to Belle Isle Aquarium**

**September 12, 1981**

**Behind the Scenes Tour**

**Pat Obtained *Ameca splendens***

**Kept Continually & Still Going Today**

# Ameca splendens – Butterfly Goodeid



© A.L.A.



**Original Robert Rush Miller Collection  
Transferred to James K Langhammer  
on or before 9/24/1979  
when Dr Miller shut down his Lab**

**Xenotoca eiseni (1955)  
is the oldest colony of goodeids in captivity,  
Manantial el Sacrista, Nayarit, MX**

**Ameca splendens (1966)  
Rio Teuchitlan, Jalisco, MX**

**Xenophorus captivus (1966)**  
**Rio Santa Maria, San Luis Potosi, MX**

**Characodon lateralis “Los Berros” (1968)**  
**Los Berros, Durango, MX**

**Ataeniobius toweri (1968)**  
**Media Luna, San Luis Potosi, MX**

**Allotoca maculata (1970) (Died Off)**  
**Lago de Magdalena Basin, Jalisco, MX**



**Chapalichthys encaustus (1970)**

**Rio Tanhuato, Michoacan ,MX**

**Chapalichthys pardalis (1971) (Died Off)**

**el Agua de Zapote, Tocumbo, Michoacan, MX**

**1976 collections (alphabetical order)**

**Alloophorus robustus**

**Allodontichthys tamazulae**

**Allotoca dugesi**

**Ilyodon furcicens**

**Rio de San Antonio, Colima, MX**

**Ilyodon whitei**

**Rio Nexapa at Puente Tepexcala, Puebla, MX**

**Neotoca (Skiffia) bilineata**

**Skiffia francesae**

**Rio Teuchitlan, Jalisco, MX**

**Xenotaenia resolanae**

**tributary Rio Purificacion, Jalisco, MX**

**Others came later such as:**

**Characodon audax (1983)  
El Tobaso, Durango, MX**

**Zoogoneticus quitzeoensis**

**Skiffia multipunctata (Lambert 1990)  
Lago de Camecuaro, Michoacan, MX**

# How to Obtain Goodeids in the Early Years

**Visit Jim Langhammer**

**ALA Trading Post / Shipping**

**International Shipping (Ivan Dibble)**

**Attend ALA Conventions**

**Hobbyists are Pioneers in Keeping Goodies**

# **Learning How to Keep Goodies**

**Not Fussy Eaters**

**Staple Flake / Frozen & FD / Baby Brine Shrimp**

**Frequent Water Changes**

**Characodon Extremely Intolerant of Nitrogenous Waste**

**One Species per Tank**

**Some Hybridization was Observed**

**No Corydoras**

# **Ultimate Goal: Establish a “Stock Tank”**

## **“Flock Breeding”**

**Ideal Setup for Species Maintenance  
Mom, Pop, and the Kids all  
Coexisting in Same Tank**

**when necessary:**

**Isolate Females**

**Raise Fry Separately**

# Popularity for Goodeids Increases 1981

**Dr. Joanne Norton**

**“Goodeids Mexican Livebearers”**

**Freshwater & Marine Aquarium”  
(FAMA) Magazine,**

**Part 1, October 1981**

**Part 2, November 1981**

**Part 3, July 1983**

**Additional Goodeid Species  
Discussed by Dr Norton  
and Available to Hobbyists Mid 1980's**

**Girardinus viviparous**

**Xenotoca melanosoma**

**Photos in these Articles are the  
Original ALA Slides  
Photographed by Joanne Norton**



AMERICAN LIVEBEARER ASSOCIATION



EST 1971

# **American Livebearer Association**

**Formed in 1971 by Dr Joanne Norton (Ames, IA)**

**Original Focus was Development of New Strains  
Of Fancy & Domestic Livebearers**

**Interest in the Wild Poeciliids & Goodeids  
Spread Like Wild Fire in the 1980's**

**Breeding (BAP) was the Top Focus  
Among most Hobbyists  
(Species Kept "61 Days")**

# ALA Species Maintenance Program

Created by **Vern Parish**

- Published in LIVEBEARERS #54 (1980)
- Propagation of Wild Species (No Hybrids)
  - Register Species that You are Keeping
- Paper Files for Hobbyist & Fish Species
  - Inquiries will go to the SMP Chairman who in turn will contact the Breeder

# **Pat's Observations & Discussions with Vern**

**Hobbyists were Slow to Register**

**Some Devoted Hobbyists did Register**

**Fear of Being Pestered for Fish (Clearing House)**

**Fish Shows & BAP were still Main Focus**

**Status in the Wild was not Well Known**

**(Skiffia francesae & Xiphophorus couchianus Extinct)**

# Observations & Discussions (p 2)

**Keep Populations Separate**

**Importance of Collection Information not Known**

**Breeder's Response:**

**“Inform Us of the Most Critical Species  
and we will start keeping them”**

**Unanswerable Question at that Time**

**Dedicated Hobbyists Continue to  
Encourage Others to Participate**

# **Jim Langhammer Article (1986)**

## **“Species Maintenance - A Practical Approach”**

**LIVEBEARERS #87 (1986)**

**Reprinted LIVEBEARERS #160 (2000)**

- 1. Define Your Goals**
- 2. Species Selection**
- 3. Maximize Your Effort**
- 4. Cull & Select**
- 5. Grow in Stature**
- 6. Share**

# Define Your Goals

**Make a Commitment:**

**I am going to keeping & maintain this species  
for this period of time.**

**Do Not be Overzealous / Burn Out**

**Communicate Status Periodically**



# Species Selection

**Pick a Fish that you Like**

**“Nobody wants to Keep an Ugly Fish” (Vern Parish)**

**Pick a Species that you can Keep Alive**

**Avoid Similar Species / Locations**

**Keep One Species per Tank**



# **Maximize Your Effort**

**Know your Capabilities**

**Don't Try to Keep Too Much**

**Focus on what you can keep**

**Move Populations to Another SMP Hobbyist  
rather than sell off in separate Lots**

# **Cull & Select**

**Maintain Quality Stock**

**Distribute Quality Fish**

**Cull Deformed / Diseased Specimens**

**Do Not Selectively Breed**

**Skiffia multipunctata**  
**“Bred for Color” / Culled for Color**

**Grow in Stature**

**Learn about your Fish**

**Read**

**Communicate**

**Participate**

**Interaction**

**Share**

**Share Your Fish**

**Share Your Knowledge**

**Hoarding Fish & Knowledge  
Defeats the Entire Purpose**

# **Moving into the 90's**

**More Species Available**

**Collection Locations Become Important**

**Characodon Locations Prime Example**

**Tracking the Species “Pedigree” Lineage**

**Keep Populations Separate**

**Status of Goodeids in the Wild still not well Known**

# **Increased ALA Interaction with**

**Academic Researchers (USA)**

**International Groups (Newsletter Exchanges)**

**British Hobbyists**

**Ivan Dibble (1987)  
Derek Lambert (1995)**

**European Hobbyists**

**Mexican Researchers**

# Interaction with Academic Researchers

**Dr. Shane Webb** 1998 ALA Convention

**Shane Described Zoogoneticus tequila 1998**

**First Vern Parish Award Recipient in 1997**

**Graduate Level Students are Encouraged  
to Apply for the VPF Award & Grant**

# **Vern Parish Fund (VPF)**

## **Award and Grant for Academic Research at the Graduate Level**

- 1) Seek voluntary tax deductible donations and  
invest the donations**
- 2) Academic Researchers Apply with a Prospectus  
once a year in February / March**

**Dr Earl Blewett Chairman**

**[www.livebearers.org](http://www.livebearers.org)**



# **James K Langhammer Conservation Fund**

**Restoration and preservation of habitats, and recovery of populations, of livebearing fish at risk.**

**Research and education related to the preservation of livebearing fishes**

**Encourage captive breeding and maintenance of threatened, endangered, or extinct-in-nature livebearing fishes**

**Dr. John Lyons Chairman**

**[www.livebearers.org](http://www.livebearers.org)**

# Interaction with Mexican Researchers

(Note: each Name referenced is a First = Milestone)

(Several Other Speakers followed)

**1993 ALA Convention Invited Speaker**

**Dr. Arcadio Valdez Gonzalez**

**“Endangered Species in Mexico –  
Livebearers & Killifish”**

**Second Presentation at 1995 Convention**

**Increased Interest in Maintaining Goodeids**

# **“Fish Ark” / “Aqua Lab”**

**the concept of the Fish Ark  
began at the 1995 ALA Convention  
with a late night conversation between  
Ivan Dibble and Dr. Arcadio Valdez Gonzalez  
over a bottle of Scotch**

***Goodeid Collection at the  
Biology Laboratory of the Universidad  
Michoacana de San Nicolas Hidalgo***

**Opened in 1998**

# Ivan Dibble

## the Father of the Fish Ark





# A Crowd of Goodeid Enthusiasts (2014)



# **Growth of the ALA Species Maintenance Program**

**Electronic Records**

**More Fish Available**

**SMP Species Offerings at the ALA Convention**

**SMP Rare Fish Raffles & Auctions**

**[www.livebearers.org](http://www.livebearers.org) - Species Maintenance**

# Moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

2003 ALA Convention Invited Speaker

**Dr. John Lyons**

**“Natural Habitat & Conservation  
Status of Goodeids”**

**(Status in the Wild Now Known)**

**2009 - “Will Goodeids Survive the Century?”**

**Increased Interest in Maintaining Goodeids**

# Goodeid Working Group (GWG)

formed in Europe May 2009

2013 ALA Convention Invited Speaker

**Michael Koeck**

“Goodeid Working Group”

“Goodeids”



# **North American Goodeid Working Group (NAGWG)**

**Formed 2013**

**Dr. John Lyons** Chairman

**NAGWG Becomes a Sub Group of the ALA**

**Non-Profit 501(c) Status**

# Where are we Today?

**Current NAGWG Captive Maintenance Guidelines  
for Long Term Breeding Populations are Available**

**Learn - Read - Communicate - Participate**

**Recent Article by Mike Hellweg**

**in Sept-Oct 2018 Issue of  
Tropical Fish Hobbyist Magazine**

**[www.tfhdigital.com](http://www.tfhdigital.com)**

**C.A.R.E.S.**

**Conservation,  
Awareness,  
Recognition and Responsibility,  
Encouragement and Education, and  
Support and Sharing**

**All Species Preservation Program**

**Founded in 2004**

**[www.caresforfish.org](http://www.caresforfish.org)**

# **You Can Make a Difference...**

- Goodeids are in serious trouble
- Captive maintenance is essential
- Formal conservation is insufficient
- Awareness & Participation is Increasing
- Hobbyists are the last line of defense

**...Accept the challenge to maintain  
Goodeid ESU's Today**

**SO THEN SHE SAID**

**"DON'T YOU THINK YOU  
HAVE ENOUGH LIVEBEARERS?"**

# Sunset over Lago de Patzcuaro



**el final (the end)**