

# WHY TROPICAL FISH?

By Chase Klinesteker GVAC Tank Notes, Oct-Dec 2010



Keeping fish is a quiet, relaxing hobby

## MY STORY

Many have asked me over the years why I chose to keep and breed tropical fish. Early on, I had always enjoyed keeping all kinds of animals. Turtles, frogs, tadpoles, ducklings, chicks, rabbits, and many other animals I had kept for short periods of time, but never for longer periods. My father had been raised on a farm and felt that animals, including dogs, should be kept on a farm, not in the city. However, he did allow me to keep fish, and in 1952 I bought my first aquarium, a 3 gallon stainless steel frame with green cement that I am still using today. My first fish were guppies bought from Ed, who ran the Wealthy Pet Shop, about 5 blocks away. I would spend hours there watching the fish and asking Ed questions. By the time I got to high school, I had 10 or 12 tanks in my bedroom and was breeding and trading fish. Because of a fish show I attended, I discovered there was an active Grand Rapids Aquarium Society that had a junior club, which I joined and ended up as president. Later I joined and became involved with the adult club. These were my formative years where my “addiction” to keeping and breeding fish likely solidified, and I haven’t been able to find a cure since!

## BENEFITS OF KEEPING TROPICAL FISH AS PETS

- 1) Watching fish is the most relaxing thing a person can do.
- 2) They are quiet and odor-free!
- 3) They can go a week or more without needing food or care

- 4) You can observe and learn about unusual animal behaviors firsthand
- 5) Aquariums humidify the house in winter
- 6) Keeping fish teaches children about the facts of life and ecological balance
- 7) Fish help one to understand and appreciate the wonders of science and Creation
- 8) You can participate in preserving and reproducing animal species that are rare, endangered, or extinct in the wild
- 9) Tropical fish are interesting, colorful, and decorative!