

# COLLECTED NEWS

## 2010-2025

### 2025

#### Relaunch of the GWG Webpage

You might realize that things on the GWG Webpage change. This is due to the preparation of the GWG Webpage for its Relaunch, so don't worry, everything is under control 😊

### 2024

#### Meetings in October 2024

On October 11.-13th, the 11th Convention of the European chapter of the Goedeid Working Group takes place in Mosonmagyaróvár, Hungary. Here the link to the program: [11th Convention of the EGWG](#) and here the Link to register for the meeting: [Registration GWG Meeting](#).

On October 23.-26., the 2nd International Conference on Conservation of Freshwater Species of Mexico takes in place in Guadalajara. Here is the link to the program: [2nd International Conference on Conservation of Freshwater Species of Mexico](#) and here the link to register for the meeting: [Registration Conservation Meeting](#).

# 2023

## **Anatomy and Members**

Admittedly a strange title for a News chapter, but it should just encompass the work on the Webpage that has been finished over the last two weeks. In the chapter Anatomy, the subchapters Skeleton and Musculature have been finished, including drawings to support the information found in the text. New subchapters about the digestive and urogenital systems have been started to get filled with information, but won't probably be finished before January.

Additionally, the maps with the Members have been completed. When it was done the last time in 2021, the GWG encompassed around 450 members. Now, with key date 20.11.2023, the number of GWG members has grown to 647, a plus of almost 200! The maps show (not precisely) the location of the members, and they don't show who is living where. They just should give a rough idea where the members are distributed, and it is really impressive to see: Our members come from 37 countries, with the majority living in the United States of America, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, but we also have people supporting our work from countries like South Africa, Thailand, Israel and Malta.

## **Canada and Belgium**

Sometimes I'm surprised myself at how things work. Just a few days ago I had the idea to find regional coordinators for Canada and Belgium, and today we have them. The six-member group in Canada is being taken over by a very new member of the GWG, Marcus Nicholls, who has already shown a strong interest and passion for developing a viable group in a country that has its own difficulties with fish distribution, simply because of the long distances of the breeders and temperatures that make shipping impossible half of the year. Problems that do not occur in Belgium. Here, the French-speaking members used to be looked after by the French group and the Dutch-speaking members by the Dutch group, but with eleven members now, the community has grown large enough to merit its own regional group. This is led by someone who has been involved with Goodeids and the aquarium hobby for decades, someone who has always been a strong supporter of Goodeid matters: Ronny Vannerom. On behalf of the Goodeid Working Group, I would like to thank both of them for taking on this task and wish them every success in their new role! Michael "Miguelito" Köck

## **GWG 2.0**

You might have realized that the menu of the GWG webpage has altered. This is due to some adaptations that needed to be made. Partly it was already in the line for a longer time, but due to work, I was not able to focus on updating the page. You might have also realized that meetings and conventions were not announced on time and you might have got the impression, the GWG is inactive. It is the contrary; we are more active than ever. The work before in the zoo occupied a lot of my time for things that were not Goodeid related - logically. And I got the impression that the time I was able to dedicate to Goodeid related work became less and less. I wanted and needed to change this, and I did. Things have changed, I am living and working in Morelia, the center of Goodeid distribution, and my work is 100% dedicated to Goodeids. This helps to have more time to finish some pages waiting for years for this step and bring some interesting things up that I already had in mind for a longer time. First signal for a change was already the Newsletter that was sent to all members starting with August. About half of the recipients have never opened it, so please have a look in your spam folder if you haven't received one. From about 30 members the Email accounts are not working any longer. I will try to find the time to reach out to each of them throughout time. Anyway, if you have not received one, open the „About us” - link and you will find a link to the Newsletters. The „Objectives and Organisation” - link has been worked over and adaptations have been made, more zoos have been included, and you might have realized that I already prepared links for the Profundulids and Profundulid species. I know they are not Goodeids, but they are closely related and there are several reasons to include them besides the relationship. One is the distribution that is almost entirely in Mexico, so we have a respective network to work with and help this family. Another one the threat scenario that impacts many species and finally, Profundulids are an overlooked family without any lobby. This is according to its main distribution in rivers with few freshwater species and therefore less interest of aquarists. A lot of reasons to expand the GWG to Profundulids, and with having the Cyprinodontids and Cubanichthyids being included in the upcoming Cyprinodontid Working Group (CWG), this makes sense. Yes, you read correctly, there will be another sister group of the GWG! We are additionally planning to pay tribute to the fish distribution problems in Canada and a growing Belgian community to prepare two new regional groups. One last point I want to direct your focus to is the link "Plan G" in the main menu. The Plan G is a conservation Plan including all extant Goodeid species and it will be led by a team of dedicated experts over the next ten years. It has been launched On October 31st, 2023, and the GWG is one of the founding groups. We are deeply linked with this Plan – I will be the chair of it - and not only this: The GWG became a strategic partner of Shoal. So, in short words, the GWG is growing into different directions and we ask you to go these steps with us to a new and better future for our beloved group of fishes.

# 2022

## **1st International conference about efforts to conserve endemic Freshwater Fishes of Mexico and its rivers**

This will not be a "typical" GWG meeting, the purpose of this event is different: We want to show the Mexican people how much we care about their fish and habitats, not restricting our efforts to Goodeids, but extending them to other groups of Mexican fish, river restoration and workshops to help local communities to deal with problems related to rivers.

1st International conference about efforts to conserve endemic Freshwater Fishes of Mexico and its rivers, November 25.-27., Oaxaca de Juárez, organized by the Goodeid and Xiphophorus Working Groups, the municipality of Oaxaca de Juárez, the Comisión de Cuenca de los ríos Atoyac y Salado and the Iniciativa Rescatando a *Profundulus oaxacae*.

Preliminary programme:

Friday, 25.11. (Presentations):

09:00 – 09:30: Opening speeches at the Esplanada de Candiani

09:30 – 10:00: Tour through the exhibition of municipal projects

10:00 – 10:15: Visit of biotope aquariums of *Profundulus oaxacae* and *Notropis imeldae*

10:15: Entering the venue, the Casa de la Tierra

10:30 – 11:00: Mag. Michael Köck, GWG: Uniting aquarists and zoos – examples of international ex situ conservation breeding projects for threatened Mexican Freshwater Fishes

11:05 – 11:35: Dr. Omar Domínguez Domínguez, UMSNH: Returning lost treasures - The successful reintroduction of gone Mexican Freshwater Fishes

11:40 – 12:10: Dr. Emilio Martínez Ramírez, CIIDIR OAXACA: Gems of our neighborhood – The fish species of the Atoyac river

12:10 – 12:25: Break

12:30 – 13:00: Dr. Ernesto Velázquez Velázquez, UNICACH: Unknown Escamudos – the fish family Profundulidae

13:05 – 13:35: Biólogo Víctor Manuel Ortíz Cruz and Reymundo Morales Reyes, presidente del Comisariado Ejidal de Jalapa del Valle: An in situ conservation project for *Profundulus oaxacae*

13:40 – 14:10: Biólogo Omar Eduardo Rocha Gutiérrez, SEMARNAT: Efforts of SEMARNAT in the conservation of habitats of fish in danger of extinction

14:10 – 14:55: Lunch break

15:00 – 15:30: Visiting the exhibition of student posters outside of the Casa de la Tierra

15:35 – 16:05: Acuaristas Nigel Hunter and Erwin Radax, XWG: The *Xiphophorus* species of Oaxaca and their habitats.

16:10 – 16:40: Dra. Gloria Molina Gaytán, UABJO: Preliminary results of the analysis of aquatic macroinvertebrates in the determination of the water quality of the Atoyac river

16:40 – 16:55: Break

17:00 – 17:30: Ing. Eloy Leyva, UMEYP: Small underground and surface dams for the rehabilitation of rivers and streams

17:35 – 18:05: Biólogo Ignacio Daniel González Mora, WWF-Mexico: Life in the rivers, what teaching does it provide for us

18:10 – 18:40: M. C. Emmanuel Ramírez, CCRAYS: Actions for the Atoyac river: Problems and Solutions

18:45 – 19:00: Notes for the next day and Goodnight words

19:00: End of day 1

Saturday, 26.11. (Presentations):

09:25 – 09:55: Dr. Wilfredo Antonio Matamoros Ortega, UNICACH: Biogeographic patterns and evolution of North American Killifishes of the super family Funduloidea

10:00 – 10:30: M. C. Paola Montserrat Mendez Arzate: Temperature and habitat effects on *Girardinichthys multiradiatus* metabolism and tolerance at high altitude

10:35 – 11:05: Dr. David Tafolla Venegas, UMSNH: The role of parasites in fish conservation

11:05 – 11:20: Break

11:25 – 12:55: Dr. Rubén Alonso Contreras Tapia, UAM: Cichlid conservation through understanding larval feeding biology and development

12:00 – 12:30: Acuarista Claudia Martínez: How aquarism helps to mold new generations of conservationists

12:35 – 13:05: Dra. María del Carmen Uribe Aranzábal, UNAM: Characteristics of the reproductive systems of teleosts

13:05 – 13:20: Break

13:25 – 13:55: Dr. Isaí Betancourt Resendes, CONACYT-UAQ: Silversides in peril - threatened *Chirostoma* species of Mexico

14:40 – 14:30: Dr. Adán Fernando Mar Silva, UNAM: Could mitogenomic data improve the conservation strategies in cave fishes? Two Mexican species cases, *Ophisternon infernale* and *Typhliasina persei*.

14:30 – 15:00: Lunch Break

15:00 – 15:30: Dr. Federico Hernández Valencia, UMSNH: Participation of communities in programmes to conserve aquatic biodiversity.

15:35 – 16:05: Dr. Omar Domínguez Domínguez, UMSNH: Proyecto Achoque – conservation efforts for *Ambystoma dumerilii*, an endemic neotenic newt species from the Pátzcuaro lake

16:10 – 16:40: Dr. Jairo Arroyave, UNAM: Microendemism and the need for conservation: the case of Mexican troglobitic *Rhamdia*.

16:40 – 16:55: Break

17:00 – 17:30: Curador David Suryanto Kasih, Berliner Gesellschaft für Großaquarien: 1.000 species, a generational bridge

17:35 – 17:55: M. C. Ivette Marai Villa Villaseñor, UMSNH: Toxic effect of nitrate on fish species endemic to central Mexico

18:00 – 18:30: M. C. Luis Martin Mar Silva, UMSNH: Evaluation of the establishment capacity of *Zoogoneticus tequila* (Webb & Miller, 1998) born ex situ to closed populations in situ

18:30 – 18:45: Break

18:45 – 19:00: Notes for the next day and Goodnight words

19:00: End of day 2

Saturday, 26.11. (Workshops):

09:00 – 09:15: Presentation of the Workshops at the Esplanada de Candiani

09:15 - 10:00: Workshop 1: Separation of domestic waste at home – COAO

10:10 - 11:50: Workshop 2: Generation of domestic compost – Municipio de Oaxaca de Juárez

12:00 – 12:45: Workshop 3: Techniques for correct reforestation – Certified Arborists

12:45 – 13:00: Break

13:00 – 14:30: Workshop 4: Macroinvertebrates as bioindicators - Gloria Molina Gaytán

14:30 – 15:00: Lunch break

15:00 – 16:15: Workshop 5: Domestic wastewater treatment - José Rodríguez Saenz

16:15 – 17:15: Workshop 6: The dry toilet, an ecologic alternative – t.b.a.

17:15 – 18:30: Workshop 7: Rainwater harvesting – INSO

18:30 – 18:45: Break

18:45 – 19:00: notes for the next day and Goodnight words in the Casa de la Tierra

19:00: End of day 2

Sunday, 27.11. (Visiting habitats):

07:00: Departure to Jalapa del Valle.

08:00: Arrival at Jalapa del Valle and Welcome words

09:00 – 10:00: Common breakfast

10:00 – 10:20: transfer to the site of the in-situ project for *Profundulus oaxacae*

10:20 – 12:00: Project site tour

12:00 – 12:20: Return to Jalapa del Valle

12:30 – 13:30: transfer to Oaxaca de Juárez

14:00 –15:00: Lunch at San Felipe del Agua (everyone pays according to consumption).

15:00 – 16:30 Río San Felipe Tour, to the only known habitats of *Notropis imeldae*.

16:30: Farewell words

17:00: End of event

## Allotoca-Mesa Central Project

We want to bring the annual report of the Allotoca-Mesa Central project of the Austrian Association for Vivaristics and Ecology (ÖVVÖ) and the whole conservation project to your awareness: Allotoca-Mesa Central Project, Annual Report 2021 respectively Allotoca-Mesa Central Project

# 2021

## Finally - 9th European Convention of the Goodeid Working Group in Ostrava

Times are still difficult this year, but despite of maybe upcoming Covid restrictions in Europe, we decided finally to conduct the 9th European Convention of the Goodeid Working Group, but differently and on a much smaller scale. However, it is limited to a maximum of 40 participants and we will inform those who declared their wish to participate until the 13th of September (that's the deadline for your participation declaration!) with actual Covid measures in the Czech Republic and on the venue, and about the meeting schedule in detail.

Dates: 01.-03.10.2021

Venue: Ostrava Zoo, Czech Republic

Additionally: this convention will be the official birthday of the Xiphophorus Working Group, run by Markéta Rejlková. Looking forward to this event!

Schedule:

Friday, October 1st

19:00 Common dinner – locality depending on number of participants

Saturday, October 2nd

10:00 Opening talk: "Experiences with ex situ breeding of *Zoogoneticus tequila* from 2010 to 2020 with focus on observed diseases" by Alessio Arbuatti, veterinarian and adjunct professor of zoology and ecology at the university of Teramo, Italy.

11:00 break with birthday cake for the XWG

11:30 Founder talk of the Xiphophorus Working Group: "The genus *Xiphophorus* and the path to the Xiphophorus Working Group" by Markéta Rejlková, curator of lower vertebrates and invertebrates at Ostrava Zoo, Czech Republic.



12:30 lunch at Ostrava Zoo

14:00 start in the afternoon session with discussions about the XWG and GWG: Strategies and ideas for the coming years, afterwards fish exchange at the venue,

19:00 dinner at town

Sunday, October 3rd

Zoo tour (Time needs to be fixed), afterwards lunch and end of the convention

Dinners on Friday and Saturday on everyone's costs, lunch and refreshments on Saturday and Sunday in the zoo and zoo tour on Sunday for free

Your declaration to participate, please send to me as a personal message. Those who have sent me the declaration will get a list of hotels.

## **The Global GooDAY 21**

May 22nd – mind the date!

This particular Saturday is the International Day of Biological Diversity

To celebrate this special day, the Goodeid Working Group will organize an international Zoom meeting (in English) for up to 300 participants: The Global GooDAY 21

REGISTERED PEOPLE ONLY! Please send a message to register to [gooday21\(at\)gmx.at](mailto:gooday21(at)gmx.at)

Start of this Zoom Event is 5pm MEST, so check with your time zone:

6pm EEST - 5pm MEST - 4pm WEST - 11am EST - 10am CST - 9am MST - 8am PST

6 hours    6 speakers    6 virtual rooms    30mins talks    up to 300 participants

Speakers and titles:

1. Michael Köck - Stabilization through fluctuation: a conservation breeding model
2. Fabien Liberge - *Allotoca goslinei*, the lost jewel of the Ameca river
3. Andrew Piorkowski - On the Lookout for Goodeids
4. David Syzdek - Treasures of the Muddy River: Moapa dace and springfish
5. Víctor Manuel Ortiz Cruz – Let's rescue *Profundulus oaxacae*!
6. Arely Ramírez García - Native endemic species of a small lake in Central Mexico

This event will cover a broad range of topics related to Goodeids and present internationally well-known speakers from Europe, Mexico and the USA.

After each talk will be the possibility of asking questions to the speakers in a separate virtual room without disturbing the running event (depending on speaker: 15 to 45mins)

Additionally, participants can choose between another four virtual rooms to meet friends, take a break or have a chat besides the main event.

Register NOW via Email (gooday21(at) gmx.at) and feel free to distribute this invitation!

Keep in mind: REGISTERED PEOPLE ONLY will get schedule, ID and Password for the event, and a quick Zoom instruction for Newcomers a week before the conference.

## 2020

### **Cancellation of the 9th European Convention in Ostrava**

Dear friends of Goodeids! Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 pandemic situation, the GWG finally decided to cancel this year's convention in Ostrava. Though the number of infections is partly decreasing in Europe, the situation is all but stable, so it seemed better to create certainty by postponing the meeting to fall 2021 than to wait for a maybe-change to better this year.

### **Cancellations and information about the 9th European Convention in Ostrava, Czech Republic**

Due to the Corona Virus Pandemic Crisis, the meeting of the NAGWG during the ALA spring Convention in Coral Springs, Florida (June 11.-14.), and the Workshop May in Vienna - European Goodeid Weekend 19 of the EGWG (no date fixed) in Vienna, Austria, had to be cancelled.

The 9th European Convention from 16.-18.10. 2020: Ostrava, Czech Republic, is still on schedule. Speakers so far confirmed are Isai Betancourt (Mexico), Erwin Radax (Austria), Markéta Rejlková (Czech Republic) and Alessio Arbuatti (Italy). This Convention will be held together with the Xiphophorus Working Group, that will officially be founded at this weekend.

# 2019

## Announcement of the VIII. European Convention of the GWG in Chester, UK

Here are schedule and programme for the convention, which will be held in Chester Zoo, Chester, United Kingdom from 15th to the 17th of November

Friday, 15.11.

19:00-22:00: Icebreaker (venue needs to be confirmed, on everyone's budget)

Saturday, 16.11.

10:00-10:15 Welcome by Andrea Swatman (Organizer), Michael Köck & John Lyons (EGWG, NAGWG)

10.15-11:00 Andrea Swatman and Team: VIE (Visible Implant Elastomer) - Tagging

11:00-11:15 Short break

11:15-12:00 Shaun Stevens: Goodeids and me

12:00-12:15 Short break

12:15-13:00 David MacAllister: Collecting fish in Mexico and Central America

13:00-14:00 Lunch at Chester Zoo (invitation by Chester Zoo)

14:15-15:00 Michael Köck: Darter Goodeids of the genus *Allodontichthys*

15:00-15:15 Short break

15:15-16:00 John Lyons: The first five years of the North American Branch of the GWG: the challenges of building a hobbyist-based Goodeid conservation network

16:00-19:00 Conversation - socializing - fish exchange

19:00-22:00 Evening meal (venue needs to be confirmed, on everyone's budget)

Sunday, 17.11.

10:00-13:00 Zoo tour (attendance free)

13:00-14:00 Lunch at Chester Zoo (on everyone's budget)

14:00-16:00 „Exploring the walls” - Tour of historic Chester (attendance free)

Attention: Please include in your confirmation of participation:

Arrival Time

Departure Time

Attendance of Icebreaker yes/no

Attendance of Evening Meal on Saturday yes/no

Attendance on Sundays After-Convention programme (Zoo and/or City Tour yes/no,  
Sunday lunch yes/no)

Suggestions for accommodation: As not many hotels are close to the venue or are too expensive, we give you a suggestion of four middle priced hotels being quite close and have a decent number of different rooms and different room categories

Double Tree Hilton: <https://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-and-spa-chester-MANDTDI/index.html>

Hallmark Inn Chester: <https://www.hallmarkhotels.co.uk/hotels/hallmark-inn-chester>

Mill Hotel and Spa: <https://www.millhotel.com/>

The Limes Chester: <https://the-limes.hotels-chester.co.uk/en>

All these Hotels are also represented on Booking.com

Chester Zoo and the Goodeid Working Group are looking forward to seeing you at the convention!

## **About the Database**

As some of you might already have noticed: our Database is out of order. This happened as the new Website version was no more compatible with the Database. Therefore, we started to incorporate the Database in our Website to prevent things like that for the future. The new Database is now restricted to "About literature" and "About our stocks", the second one designed, but not filled yet.

The whole Database can be seen and used exclusively by logged-in members of the GWG. By now (end of January 2019), the literature Database is in the process of being filled with papers. It already gives users the possibility to search after authors, documents or sources, later on it should be possible searching after species as well. This Database was created by the late Dietmar Kunath and ended so far with the 2017, but new documents will be ongoing added as soon as the existing documents are completely available on the Website. This takes some time you can imagine, especially

as we are talking about several hundred papers and publications in several different languages.

As mentioned before, the stocklist is only designed so far. The reason is on the one hand, that we had to assign each User a specific identifier (Member-ID), consisting of the country code and an ongoing number. This was in need to keep each one's privacy on the one hand, but also to assign each one of you an own GWG Email account in the future. This identifier is displayed on our member map instead of the Username and this Email can be used in the future for contact between members, but staying anonymous when wished. However, each stock passed on to the GWG will be connected exclusively with this identifier and not with your name or Username. To get the stocklist filled with fish, it will require a broad cooperation of you all and some efforts done by the coordinators. However, it is on schedule for 2019 and you all will get an Email concerning this topic and you will get another one with your Username and your identifier to check all your data. When you have lost your Password, you can anytime require a new one.

## 2018

### **Latest Update on the GWG Convention in Guadalajara!**

Preliminary AGENDA – as of 14 August 2018

Workshop: Conservation of Goodeids and Co-Occurring Fishes in Central Mexico

7-11 November 2018, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

Sponsors: American Livebearer Association; Goodeid Working Group; Museo de Ciencias Ambientales, Universidad de Guadalajara; Universidad de San Nicolás de Hidalgo, Morelia

Wednesday, 7 Nov.: Participants arrive in Guadalajara and check-in to Country Plaza Hotel, located in the Zapopan area of the city (<https://www.countryplaza.com.mx/english>). Taxis from the airport to the hotel are on your own, but guidance will be provided. All hotel reservations must be made through the Workshop via John Lyons ([jdlyons@wisc.edu](mailto:jdlyons@wisc.edu)) to receive the special reduced room rate.

Thursday, 8 Nov.: Conservation presentations at the Biblioteca Pública (Public Library) Juan José Arreola, Universidad de Guadalajara, Zapopan (<http://www.bpej.udg.mx/>).

0745-0845: Participants travel by carpool or cab from hotel to the biblioteca, as arranged by the Workshop.

0845-0900: Welcome – Michael Köck, Haus de Meeres Aqua Terra Zoo, Vienna, Austria, and John Lyons, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, Goodeid Working Group Co-Chairs

0900-0945: KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Diversification of the Goodeids – Kyle Piller, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, USA

0945-1025: The Museo de Ciencias Ambientales (MCA: Environmental Science Museum): Developing a new type of natural history museum for the conservation of the freshwater fishes of western Mexico – Eduardo Santana Castellon, Universidad de Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico (The MCA site is under construction and visible from the biblioteca; scale models of the finished structure can also be seen in the biblioteca.)

1025-1055: Thermal tolerances of the Goodeids – Arcadio Valdés Gonzales, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, Mexico

1055-1135: Conservation of *Xenoporus captivus* (Goodeidae) – Juan Miguel Artigas Azas, San Luis Potosí, Mexico

1135-1205: BREAK

1205-1245: A personal history of Goodeid captive maintenance in the United States – Pat Hartman, Vicksburg, Michigan, USA

1245-1315: Trophic ecology of native Goodeids and introduced livebearers at the Teuchitlán Springs – Arely Ramírez García, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás Hidalgo, Morelia, Mexico

1315-1345: Citizen participation in the conservation of the fishes of Zacapu Lake, Michoacán – Martina Medina Nava, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás Hidalgo, Morelia, Mexico

1345-1600: LUNCH

1600-1630: Development of a “red list” of rare Goodeids for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the relation with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) – Michael Köck, Haus de Meeres Aqua Terra Zoo, Vienna, Austria

1630-1700: The 2016 GWG Goodeid survey of the state of Jalisco – Günther Schleussner, Germany

1700-1730: The 2016-2017 survey of the livebearers of the state of Morelos – Norman Mercado Silva, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos, Cuernavaca, Mexico

1730-180: Conservation status of the native fishes that co-occur with Goodeids in central Mexico – John Lyons, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

1800-1900: ADJOURN. Return to the hotel by carpool or cabs, as arranged by the Workshop.

DINNER: on your own, although we will organize a group outing to a restaurant near the hotel.

Friday, 9 November: Visit to Teuchitlán Springs via chartered bus.

0830-1000: Leave the hotel and journey to the Teuchitlán Springs by bus as arranged by Workshop. Provided as part of registration.

1000-1030: Presentation on the re-introduction of the extinct-in-the-wild Goodeid *Zoogoneticus tequila* into the Teuchitlán Springs by Omar Domínguez Domínguez and other, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás Hidalgo, Morelia, faculty and students. Held at the Guachimontones Auditorium, located just outside of the town of Teuchitlán and about 2 km from the springs.

1030-1230: Tour of the spectacular pre-Columbian (500-1000 AD) ruins of Guachimontones (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guachimontones>; <http://www.guachimontonesoficial.com/blank>).

1230-1530: Travel to the Teuchitlán Springs and outlet river at the Balneario El Rincón (bathing and recreational facility at the springs with drinks and snacks for purchase on your own). Time to explore the springs, relax on the grounds, snorkel among the fish (water clear and warm), or collect fish specimens (by nets [provided by Workshop] or microfishing [bring your own gear]) for closer examination.

Fishes reported from the Teuchitlán Springs and River:

Cyprinidae: Ameca Chub *Algansea amecae* (extirpated; none seen since 1960s)

Cyprinidae: Ameca Shiner *Notropis amecae* (extirpated; re-introduced in 2016)

Cyprinidae: Amatlán Chub *Yuriria amatlana* (extirpated; none seen since 1960s)

Catostomidae: Mascota Jumprock *Moxostoma mascotae* (extirpated; none seen since 1970s)

Goodeidae: Butterfly Goodeid *Ameca splendens*

Goodeidae: Blackfin Goodeid *Goodea atripinnis*

Goodeidae: Golden Skiffia *Skiffia francesae* (extinct in the wild; none seen since 1970s)

Goodeidae: Black Splitfin *Xenotoca melanosoma* (extirpated; none seen since 1970s)

Goodeidae: Tarascan Splitfin *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*

Goodeidae: Tequila Splitfin *Zoogoneticus tequila* (extinct in the wild; re-introduced in 2016)

Poeciliidae: Guppy *Poecilia reticulata* (non-native; rare)

Poeciliidae: Mexican Molly *Poecilia sphenops* (non-native)

Poeciliidae: Lerma Livebearer *Poeciliopsis infans* (rare)

Poeciliidae: Spottail Killifish *Pseudoxiphophorus bimaculatus* (non-native)

Poeciliidae: Green Swordtail *Xiphophorus hellerii* (non-native)

Poeciliidae: Northern Platyfish *Xiphophorus maculatus* (non-native; rare)

Cichlidae: Blue Tilapia *Oreochromis aureus* (non-native)

1530-1830: Dinner at the Montecarlo Restaurant (seafood and beef) along Presa (Reservoir) La Vega in Teuchitlán ([https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant\\_Review-g1602186-d4788774-Reviews-Restaurante\\_Montecarlo-Teuchitlan.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g1602186-d4788774-Reviews-Restaurante_Montecarlo-Teuchitlan.html)). Order and pay on your own. Living trees and a spring full of Blue Tilapia (*Oreochromis aureus*) and Butterfly Goodeids (*Ameca splendens*) are built into this beautiful restaurant. Fishing in the spring is encouraged!

1830-2000: Return by bus to the hotel in Guadalajara.

Saturday, 10 November: Visit to La Luz (aka Presa Verduzco) in Jacona, Michoacán, and then Lake Chapala in the town of Chapala, Jalisco, via chartered bus.

0830-1100: Leave hotel and journey to La Luz by bus as arranged by Workshop. Provided as part of registration.



1100-1115: Brief presentation on the fish fauna of La Luz – John Lyons, University of Wisconsin-Madison USA. Photos:

([https://www.google.com/search?q=jacona+la+luz+mexico&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enUS730US730&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwja9Ij7rfDcAhWq24MKHab9DTEQsAR6BAgFEAE&biw=1271&bih=584](https://www.google.com/search?q=jacona+la+luz+mexico&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS730US730&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwja9Ij7rfDcAhWq24MKHab9DTEQsAR6BAgFEAE&biw=1271&bih=584))

1115-1330: Free time to explore the La Luz area, including relaxing along the water, snorkeling (water clear but a bit cool), netting, and microfishing, and to enjoy a snack or light lunch at the food stalls near the beach area. Order and pay on your own.

Fishes likely to be encountered:

Catostomidae: Mexican Redhorse *Moxostoma austrinum*

Goodeidae: Bulldog Goodeid *Allophorus robustus*

Goodeidae: Barred Splitfin: *Chapalichthys encaustus*

Goodeidae: Blackfin Goodeid *Goodea atripinnis*

Goodeidae: Spotted Skiffia *Skiffia multipunctata*

Goodeidae: Tarascan Splitfin *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*

Poeciliidae: Lerma Livebearer *Poeciliopsis infans*

Poeciliidae: Green Swordtail *Xiphophorus hellerii* (non-native)

Poeciliidae: Spottail Killifish *Pseudoxiphophorus bimaculatus* (non-native)

1330-1530: Journey by bus from La Luz to the town of Chapala on the shores of Lake Chapala.

1530-1545: Brief presentation on the fish fauna of Lake Chapala – John Lyons, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake\\_Chapala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lake_Chapala)).

1545-1730: Netting of fish along the beach at Chapala (too turbid for snorkeling and challenging for microfishing) and exploration of the waterfront and town.

Fishes likely to be encountered in beach area:

Atherinopsidae: Mesa Silverside *Chirostoma jordani*

Goodeidae: Barred Splitfin *Chapalichthys encaustus*

Poeciliidae: Lerma Livebearer *Poeciliopsis infans*

Poeciliidae: Yucatan Gambusia *Gambusia yucatana* (non-native)

Poeciliidae: Mexican Molly *Poecilia sphenops* (non-native)

Cichlidae: Blue Tilapia *Oreochromis aureus* (non-native)

1730-1900: Dinner in Chapala at restaurant to be determined. Order and pay on your own.

1900-2000: Return by bus to the hotel in Guadalajara. Optional group festivities in the Tlaquepaque District, famous for fine quality crafts and souvenirs, food and drink, and entertainment (<https://www.featherandthewind.com/blog/tlaquepaque-jalisco-guide>).

Sunday, 11 November: Workshop completed. Participants depart for home.

**Announcement of the II. International Convention of the Goodeid Working Group under the title: "Conservation of Goodeids and Co-Occurring Fishes in Central Mexico"**

Preliminary AGENDA – as of 26 June 2018

Workshop: Conservation of Goodeids and Co-Occurring Fishes in Central Mexico

7-11 November 2018, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

Sponsors: American Livebearers Association; Goodeid Working Group; Museo de Ciencias Ambientales, Universidad de Guadalajara

Attention! Workshop Registration for Non-Mexican participants: \$75 respectively €65 (due in advance; includes coffee breaks, transportation to the meeting room and field sites, entry fees to field sites)

Wednesday, 7 Nov.: Participants arrive in Guadalajara and check-in to Country Plaza Hotel (? Not yet confirmed).

Thursday, 8 Nov.: Conservation presentations at Biblioteca Pública Juan José Arreola, Zapopan (part of Guadalajara. Venue not yet confirmed)

0745-0845: Participants travel by carpool or cab from hotel to the biblioteca (library)

0845-0900: Welcome – Michael Köck, Haus de Meeres Aqua Terra Zoo, Vienna, Austria, and John Lyons, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, Goodeid Working Group Co-Chairs

0900-0945: KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Diversification of the Goodeids – Kyle Piller, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, USA

0945-1015: The Museo de Ciencias Ambientales: Developing a new type of natural history museum – Eduardo Santana Castellon, Universidad de Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico (The MCA site is under construction and visible from the biblioteca; scale models of the finished structure can also be seen in the biblioteca.)

1015-1045: Goodeid conservation at the Museo de Ciencias Ambientales – Mariana Reyes C., Universidad de Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

1045-1115: Conservation of *Xenophorus captivus* (Goodeidae) – Juan Miguel Artigas Azas, San Luis Potosí, Mexico

1115-1145: BREAK

1145-1215: A personal history of Goodeid captive maintenance in the United States – Pat Hartman, Vicksburg, Michigan, USA

1215-1245: Thermal tolerances of the Goodeids – Arcadio Valdés Gonzales, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, Mexico

1245-1315: Trophic ecology of native Goodeids and introduced livebearers at the Teuchitlán Springs – Arely Ramírez G., Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás Hidalgo, Morelia, Mexico

1315-1345: Citizen participation in the conservation of the fishes of Zacapu Lake, Michoacán – Martina Medina N., Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás Hidalgo, Morelia, Mexico

1345-1600: LUNCH

1600-1630: Development of a “red list” of rare Goodeids for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the relation with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flore (CITES) – Michael Köck, Haus de Meeres Aqua Terra Zoo, Vienna, Austria

1630-1700: The 2016 GWG Goodeid survey of the state of Jalisco – Günther Schleussner, Wilhelma, Stuttgart, Germany

1700-1730: The 2016-2017 survey of the livebearers of the state of Morelos – Norman Mercado S., Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos, Cuernavaca, Mexico

1730-1800: Conservation status of the native fishes that co-occur with Goodeids in central Mexico – John Lyons, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

1800-1930: ADJOURN. Return to the hotel by carpool or cabs.

Friday, 9 November: Visit to Teuchitlán Springs via chartered bus.

0830-1000: Leave hotel and journey to the Teuchitlán Springs by bus. Provided as part of registration.

1000-1100: Tour of springs and outlet and presentation on the re-introduction project for *Zoogoneticus tequila* – Omar Domínguez D., Martina Media N., and Arely Ramírez G., Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás Hidalgo, Mexico

1100-1330: Free time to enjoy a snack at the Balneario El Rincón (bathing and recreational facility at the springs), explore the springs, snorkel among the fish, or collect fish specimens (by net or microfishing) for closer examination.

Species likely to be encountered:

Cyprinidae: Ameca Shiner *Notropis amecae*

Goodeidae: Butterfly Goodeid *Ameca splendens*

Goodeidae: Blackfin Goodeid *Goodea atripinnis*

Goodeidae: Tarascan Splitfin *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*

Goodeidae: Tequila Splitfin *Zoogoneticus tequila*

Poeciliidae: Mexican Molly *Poecilia sphenops* (non-native)

Poeciliidae: Spottail Killifish *Pseudoxiphophorus bimaculatus* (non-native)

Cichlidae: Blue Tilapia *Oreochromis aureus* (non-native)

1330-1530: Tour of the spectacular pre-Columbian (500-1000 AD) ruins of Guachimontones, located about 2 km from the springs. Small entrance fee.

1500-1830: Dinner at a lakeside seafood and beef restaurant along Presa La Vega in Teuchitlán. Order and pay on your own. A spring is built into the restaurant and is full of Blue Tilapia (*Oreochromis aureus*) and Butterfly Goodeids (*Ameba splendens*) for viewing or capturing by fishing.

1830-2000: Return by bus to the hotel in Guadalajara.

Saturday, 10 November: Visit to La Luz Springs and Lake Chapala via chartered bus.

0830-1100: Leave hotel and journey to La Luz Springs by bus. Provided as part of registration.

1100-1115: Brief presentation on the fish fauna of La Luz – John Lyons, University of Wisconsin-Madison USA.

1115-1330: Free time to explore the La Luz area, including snorkeling, netting, and microfishing, and to enjoy a snack or light lunch at the food stalls near the beach area. Order and pay on your own.

Species likely to be encountered:

Catostomidae: Mexican Redhorse *Moxostoma austrinum*

Goodeidae: Bulldog Goodeid *Allophorus robustus*

Goodeidae: Barred Splitfin: *Chapalichthys encaustus*

Goodeidae: Blackfin Goodeid *Goodea atripinnis*

Goodeidae: Splotched Skiffia *Skiffia multipunctata*

Goodeidae: Tarascan Splitfin *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*

Poeciliidae: Lerma Livebearer *Poeciliopsis infans*

Poeciliidae: Green Swordtail *Xiphophorus hellerii* (non-native)

Poeciliidae: Spottail Killifish *Pseudoxiphophorus bimaculatus* (non-native)

1330-1530: Journey by bus from La Luz to the town of Chapala on the shores of Lake Chapala.

1530-1545: Brief presentation on the fish fauna of Lake Chapala – John Lyons, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

1545-1700: Netting of the fish along the beach at Chapala and exploration of the waterfront.

Species likely to be encountered:

Atherinopsidae: Mesa Silverside *Chirostoma jordani*

Goodeidae: Barred Splitfin *Chapalichthys encaustus*

Poeciliidae: Lerma Livebearer *Poeciliopsis infans*

Poeciliidae: Yucatan Gambusia *Gambusia yucatanana* (non-native)

Poeciliidae: Mexican Molly *Poecilia sphenops* (non-native)

Cichlidae: Blue Tilapia *Oreochromis aureus* (non-native)

1700-1900: Dinner in Chapala. Order and pay on your own.

1900-2000: Return by bus to the hotel in Guadalajara. Optional group festivities in the Tlaquepaque District.

Sunday, 11 November: Workshop completed. Participants depart for home.

### **Announcement: June in Oslo - Goodeid Weekend 18**

June in Oslo - Goodeid Weekend 18 in Oklungen, Norway (15.-17.06.), together with the VIII Scandinavian Livebearer Weekend of Poecilia Scandinavia

This event will be a presentation with workshop similar to the one we had last year in Vienna, and the second one out of this new series of events. It will happen in Morten Ask's home in Porsgrunn together with the International Livebearer Weekend of Poecilia Scandinavia, so there will be additional Livebearer talks.

Address: ASK, Morten; Farrisvegen 250; 3948 Porsgrunn (GPS: 59.167358, 9.850071)

Friday 15th:

20:00 to open end: Icebreaker and socializing in the evening

Saturday, 16th:

08:00 - 09:00: Swimming in the Farrisvannet lake

09:15 - 10:00: GJERDE, L.: "Sustainable and responsible conservation-breeding of wild populations of aquarium fish. Examples from the Compoma-guppy and *Poecilia obscura*"

10:15 - 12:00: KÖCK, M.: Presentation and Workshop: "Doing a survey trip" from the idea of a trip (area, maps, route fixing, selecting locations with GPS, choosing people) to the documentation (Optical: pictures of location, detail pictures, underwater films, fish in tank, other animals; chemical: water parameters, data sheets; informative: species list, description of habitat, current aso). 15 mins break included.

12:00 - 14:00: lunch

14:15 - 16:00: KÖCK, M.: Presentation and Workshop: "Collecting fish" different methods, selecting the chosen ones, first packing, treating fish in the hotel and finally preparing them for the shipment. 15 mins break included.

16:00 - 21:00: Dinner and socializing

21:15 - 22:00: KÖCK, M.: "Durango 2015 - Searching for Characodon"

22:15 - 23:00: HUNTER, N.: "Keeping and breeding of more special and demanding livebearers - and a little on the conservation of these species"

23:15 - 24:00: KÖCK, M.: "With and without sword: the genus *Xiphophorus*"

Sunday, 17th:

11:00 - .... Mutual auction for everyone! (remember to bring your own fish, if you have any to spare)

## 2017

### **Program for the VII. European Convention of the Goodeid Working Group in Płock, Poland**

Program:

Friday, 6th of October:

19:30 - open end: Icebreaker in the Zoo of Płock

Saturday, 7th of October:

9:30 - 10:00: Registration for the convention

10:00 - 10:15: Welcoming words by Krzysztof Kelman and Michael Köck

10:15 - 11:00: Poeser, Fred and students: AICS2Rescue, a project to maintain  
three species of goodeid fishes for educational purposes

11:00 - 11:15: short coffee break

11:15 - 12:00: Scheiwiller, André: Focus on Goodeids

12:00 - 13:15: Lunch in the Zoo

13:15 - 14:00: Stevens, Shaun: Goodeid Conservation at Tropiquaria Zoo

14:00 - 14:15: short coffee break

14:15 - 15:00: Köck, Michael: Durango 2015 - Searching for Characodon

15:00 - 17:00: Guided tour through the Zoo of Płock

17:00 - 19:00: auction

19:00 - open end: dinner in the Zoo

Sunday, 8th of October

9:30 - 10:00: Meeting for guided city tour

10:00 - 11:30: City tour

12:00 - 13:15: Lunch in the city

13:15 - 13:30: Farewell words

13:30: official end of the convention

Płock can easily be reached by train from Warsaw (closest airport)

Accommodation during the convention: <http://hotel-otolinski.pl/en/>



## **1st European GWG Workshop in Vienna, 27th of May, 2017**

As our European Goodeid Working Group conventions usually leave not enough time and space to discuss topics intensively, we will give the possibility of a spring Workshop a first try. The topic of this test - Workshop will be: "Collecting and shipping Goodeids and other fish from Mexico to Europe. Procedures - Permits - Problems."

The Workshop will start unofficially with a common dinner on Friday evening, the 26th, then there will be the Workshop on Saturday the 27th from 10 - 16h (Attention: The number of participants is limited to 15 including Erwin Radax and me, so registration is strongly required!) and a little frame program for Sunday the 28th and additionally possible for Monday 29th for those who stay.

Registrations, please send to: [m.koeck\(at\)goodeidworkinggroup.com](mailto:m.koeck(at)goodeidworkinggroup.com)

## **Go Fund Me page for Kyle Piller**

Dear friends,

I am not sure how many people do know about the health problems of our member and friend Kyle Piller. Meanwhile, he got his liver transplant and everything went well. We all hope he will recover soon. However, even when the worst phasis is over, financially, the troubles start now. His wife Tonya will have to spend a lot of time at home, means there will occur massive financial problems and the family asked for help. We assume that Kyle has medical insurance from the university, as indicated above, there are personal family expenses that are probably not covered by insurance.

It is a personal choice to contribute or not.

Here the letter of Debbie, the lady that started this effort.

"Dear Friends, my name is Debbie and I have started this Go Fund Me page to help support the Piller family through a difficult time. Kyle Piller, an associate professor at Southeastern Louisiana University is in a New Orleans hospital waiting for a liver transplant. Kyle is now at the top of the transplant list. When Kyle has surgery his wife Tonya will have to be at his bedside for several months, including a period of time in an apartment next to the transplant hospital. So many people have asked how they can help this precious family and a social worker at the hospital suggested Go Fund Me because Kyle and Tonya have friends and family across the country. The funds raised will be used for medical bills and any needs the family may have. Tonya is continuing to work until they get the call, but she is trying to bring the girls to spend time with Kyle as

often as possible. Kyle, Tonya, Kaylie and Mia are like family to us. Please show the Pillers they are not alone by sending lots of prayers and any financial support you can provide. All funds will be sent to an account accessed only by the Pillers."

As stated above, the transplanted passed by successfully and the GoFundMe effort to support Kyle Piller's Family is legitimate. The URL is <https://www.gofundme.com/q3adeng4>

Thank you all in the name of the Piller's family

### **"*Xenotoca*" *eiseni* and *melanosoma* complexes updated!**

We have updated the "*Xenotoca*" *eiseni* and *melanosoma* complexes, including the recently described species "*Xenotoca*" *doadrioi* (the former "*Xenotoca*" *eiseni* from the endorheic basins of Magdalena and Etzatlán) and "*Xenotoca*" *lyonsi* (the former "*Xenotoca*" *eiseni* from the Tamazula river) and preparing a page for the in need to be described "*Xenotoca*" cf. *melanosoma*. An update on the *Xenotoca variata* complex with an undescribed species included and the incorporation of the two new species of the *eiseni* - complex into the Artificial key to adult Goodeids are in preparation.

## **2016**

### **VI. European Convention of the Goodeid Working Group**

Please pay attention! You will have to fill in a Registration Form for this meeting, so if you want to participate, send an Email to [m.koeck\(at\)goodeidworkinggroup.com](mailto:m.koeck@goodeidworkinggroup.com) and I will send you the corresponding word document (the pdf is in the attachments) to fill in and you will have to send it via Email to [paulamrgomes\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:paulamrgomes@gmail.com) before the 5th of September!

### **VII International Convention of the Goodeid Working Group**

Encontro Nacional 2016 do Grupo ViP

Lisboa 30/09/2016 – 02/10/2016

<http://www.goodeidworkinggroup.com/>

<http://www.keepbase.org/fish/vip/sp.php>

Friday, 30th September

Welcome session

18:00 - 18:15 Meeting point

18:15 - 20:00 Promenade at Baixa District, including a visit of Lisbon Castle

20:30 - 22:30 Dinner

Saturday, 1st October

The works

09:30 - 10:00 Check-in and registration

10:00 - 10:15 Welcoming session, acknowledgments and opening remarks

10:15 - 11:00 Advances in the *Zoogoneticus tequila* Reintroduction project - Omar Dominguez

Short Coffee-Break

11:15 - 12:00 Cool Fish - Miguel Andrade.

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch

13:00 - 13:45 Feeding our fishes: When and how? - Gonçalo Costa

13:45 - 14:00 Short Coffee-Break

14:00 - 14:45 The Quest - Nigel Hunter

14:45 - 15:00 Short Coffee-Break

15:00 - 17:00 Fish and aquatic plants auction

17:00 - 18:00 Round table

Regional Coordinators of the GWG and Board members meeting

18:00 - 18:15 Closing remarks

20:00 - 22:30 Dinner

Sunday, 2nd October

Farewell program

09:30 – 09:45 Meeting point

10:30 – 12:30 Vasco da Gama Aquarium visit

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch

15:30 – 17:00 Oceanário de Lisboa visit

### **Relaunch of the "About the Species" – Pages**

Due to the results and findings of several survey trips of the GWG since 2014, a meanwhile much better knowledge of the species' distribution and intraspecific relationship, new species' descriptions over the last years and an increasing number of pictures of fish and habitats gave point to start a relaunch of the pages about the single species, incorporating recent updates.

The "new" pages will include bigger pictures of habitats and finally finished Husbandry Guidelines for all species. The pages will account for new phylogenetic results as far as published and include a new chapter: Sexual Dimorphism, as some breeders of Goodeids seem to have troubles in sexing their fish. On the other hand, the chapter about Karyology is already deleted as knowing the number and shapes of chromosomes has neither relevance in taxonomy nor has it any meaning in breeding the fish. The chapter about Distribution and ESU's will be more detailed encompassing all federal states, distinct drainages and basins where the species occur or occurred, pointing also on the different subpopulations of them according to populated drainages. These subpopulations are seen as supplement to John Lyons' ESU's as in most of the cases, several subpopulations build up on ESU.

Observations of habitats done by the GWG in the last years will be incorporated in Habitats or Remarks, and a new map supplements the Distribution and ESU chapter. This map shows the Maximum Extent of Occurrence (or EOO), a term used by the IUCN to describe the maximum area that is populated by the species in recent days to give you an overview of the species' distribution.

Starting with the species from genera with letter "A", one by one all the species will pass through the relaunch. By the end of January 2019 - except for the Sexual Dimorphism chapter and a few pictures of fish - the genera *Allodontichthys* and *Allophorus* are finished, the genus *Allotoca* is in process.

## **GWG survey trip to Jalisco, March 2016**

From 29th of February to the 10th of March happened the first survey trip of the European chapter of the GWG. Here in short words our schedule and results.

29th of February: Last participants arrived in Tlaquepaque south of Guadalajara. There we had dinner with the former Mexican ambassador in Austria, Alejandro Díaz y Perez Duarte and his wife Lydia Nonna. The complete team finally to survey waterbodies in Jalisco was: Nigel Hunter, Patrick Davies and Gregory Roebuck (United Kingdom), Fabien Liberge (France), Günther Schleussner, Michael Kempkes (Germany), Erwin Radax, Michael Köck (Austria), Adan Fernando Mar Silva and Isaí Betancourt (Mexico).

1st of March: Transfer to Teuchitlán. Visit of El Rincón, the main spring of the Río Teuchitlán, which represents the headwater of the Río Ameca. We found besides exotics good stocks of *Goodea atripinnis*, *Ameca splendens* and *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*. This area will be the main spot for the reintroduction of *Zoogoneticus tequila*. This project has already started, results will be presented at the coming GWG convention in Lisbon, Portugal, 30th of September to the 2nd of October. After visiting the spring, we looked at fish in several affluents of the Presa de la Vega, which were all heavily polluted. Except for one *Goodea* we were able to find only few exotics like Tilapia and *Pseudoxiphophorus bimaculatus*.

2nd of March: From Teuchitlán to the Magdalena basin and back again. We first surveyed a spring on a private property in La Estancia de Ayones, which probably revealed a new and colorful population of "*Xenotoca*" *melanosoma* or a related species. We found besides Tilapia also *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*, *Goodea atripinnis* and *Poeciliopsis infans* respectively *Poeciliopsis* sp. All fish in the spring may be isolated for a long time and need assessment. Thereafter we visited Almoloya spring with good stocks of *Ameca splendens* and *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*, but few "*Xenotoca*" *melanosoma* and sp. San Marcos (we found only one specimen each). Tilapia and *Pseudoxiphophorus* were present. We surveyed southwestern outflow of the Magdalena Lake, were few years ago *Allotoca maculata* and other Goodeids were present, but we found only few exotics in this heavily polluted channel. Last collection point was Presa La Quemada with a small bodied and silvery colored population of "*Xenotoca*" *melanosoma* and *Goodea atripinnis*, *Poeciliopsis infans* and exotics.

3rd of March: We went westwards from Teuchitlán to the former habitats of *Allodontichthys polylepis*, starting with the Río or Arroyo Dávalos near Guachinango. We were able to find this species again after at least 14 years absence together with *Ilyodon furcidens*. Thereafter we surveyed the Río de las Bolas, which is very close and connected with the Dávalos creek, and we found *Allodontichthys polylepis* there, too,

also *Ilyodon furcidens* and Tilapia. However, in the Río Potrero Grande, the type location of this species, we found only one pregnant *Ilyodon furcidens* female and Cyprinids.

4th of March: Etzatlán - basin. We had only half a day to do this trip, so we focused on only two habitats: First we went to the Palo Verde lagoon to look for *Allotoca maculata*. Unfortunately, this lagoon was nearly completely covered with *Eichhornia* and we couldn't get access to free water. Opposite the lagoon and street, we found an artificial pond in rainy season connected with the lagoon by a channel. There we found good stocks of this species, *Goodea atripinnis*, "*Xenotoca*" *melanosoma*, *Poeciliopsis infans* and exotics (Tilapia, *Pseudoxiphophorus bimaculatus*). The next stop was the Hacienda San Sebastian, where we got permission to visit the El Tanque spring pool with good stocks of "*Xenotoca*" *melanosoma* and "*Xenotoca*" sp. San Marcos.

5th of March: We left Teuchitlán for a two-days trip, going to the Sayula valley first. We checked a spring fed creek and a Presa in Amacueca, where we found just Guppies. We then crossed the former Sayula lagoon and went to the Cuyacapán spring area with the main pool full with Tilapia, black bass and Lepomis, but no Goodeids. A 100 m apart, we found an artificial pond with Tilapia, but also *Poeciliopsis infans* and *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*. Then we headed down to Ciudad Guzmán to stay there overnight.

6th of March: From Ciudad Guzmán to the Puente Contla to look for *Allodontichthys* cf. *hubbsi*. We had been successful in finding this species as well as *Allodontichthys tamazulae* and *Ilyodon whitei*. From the Arroyo Contla, we went to the city of Tamazula where we checked east of the city the Río Tamazula. We found the same three Goodeid species but additionally "*Xenotoca*" cf. *eiseni* and *Poeciliopsis infans*. Thinking to be able to find the Río Pihuamo we went southwards to look for the "true" *Allodontichthys hubbsi*, but missed the river, so we surveyed later the Rio Narranja. The only Goodeid species was *Ilyodon whitei*, we were able to find. Then we went back to Teuchitlán.

7th of March: We went from Teuchitlán back to Tlaquepaque, but before, we again went back to the Magdalena channel to look again for *Allotoca maculata*, but more southern. We found one specimen of *Zoogoneticus purhepechus* and *Pseudoxiphophorus bimaculatus*, but no *Allotoca*. Thereafter we looked for fish in El Zarco (only exotics) and again in the Presa Quemada (the same fish like the days before). Finally, we spent our evening on the beach of the Chapala Lake.

8th of March: Without Michael Kempkes and Günther Schleussner, who stayed in Tlaquepaque, we went eastwards to Michoacán. Our first stop was a channel, an effluent of the Presa de la Colonia north of Poncitlán, from where is reported the westernmost habitat of *Allotoca dugesii*. Unfortunately, this channel was now full with green algae and polluted. The only fish we found was the introduced *Gambusia senilis*. Next, we went to the Los Negritos Pond at La Alberca with a distinct population of

*Xenotoca variata*. We found this species, *Chapalichthys encaustus*, *Goodea atripinnis*, *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*, *Poeciliopsis infans* and *Gambusia senilis* (and *Tilapia* of course). We slept in Zamora de Hidalgo.

9th of March: We shot some pictures of the Presa de Orandino and went then to La Luz Spring. While cold raining, we found *Chapalichthys encaustus*, *Skiffia multipunctata*, *Goodea atripinnis*, *Zoogoneticus purhepechus*, *Poeciliopsis infans* and *Alloophorus robustus*. We then went to the Laguna Zacapu, where we found *Goodea atripinnis*, *Xenotoca variata*, *Zoogoneticus quitzeoensis*, *Hubbsina turneri*, *Skiffia lermae* and *Poeciliopsis infans*. We ended our tour in Morelia.

10th to 13th of March: The remaining participants travelled home one by one, some of us spending a few days in Morelia and later Mexico City.

## 2015

### V. European Convention of the Goodeid Working Group

Date: Saturday, 31st of October 2015

Venue: „Lübecker Rudergesellschaft“, Huextertorallee 4, 23564 Lübeck, Germany

Planned course of the Convention:

Friday, 30st of October

Arrival and Check-in:

1. Hotel „B&B Hotel“, Konrad-Adenauer-Str.7, 23558 Lübeck,

<https://www.hotelbb.de/de/luebeck>, Single room 52, -/ double room 62, - EUR/night without breakfast!

2. Hotel „Zur alten Stadtmauer“, An der Mauer 57, 23552 Lübeck, rezeption(at)hotelstadtmauer.de, Single Room from 61, - EUR/night

In both hotels are contingents reserved. You can book using the keyword „Aquarianertreffen“.

B&B Hotel has got a contingent of 30 single rooms and 20 double rooms until the 05th of September 2015, and the Hotel „Zur alten Stadtmauer“ 4 Single rooms and 9 Double rooms until the 1st of August 2015. Later bookings are possible, but have no access to the contingents.

From 6pm: Cozy get-together at the venue, „Lübecker Ruder-Gesellschaft” (address see above).

When there is enough interest (registration essential), there will be organized a guided tour to the vaults of the „Marienkirche”. (<http://www.st-marien-luebeck.com/turm-und-gewoelbefuehrungen.html>)

Saturday, 31st of Oktober

- 10:00: Welcoming
- 10:15: Talk by Michael Köck (AUT), Topic: The genus „*Xenoophorus*”
- 11:00: short break
- 11:15: Talk by Dietmar Kunath (GER), Topic: Introduction to the CABGDF Goodeid-Database
- 12:00: Lunch (at the venue)
- 12:30: Talk by Chris Neal (USA), Topic: A different way of looking at Goodeid preservation and future plans
- 14:15: short break
- 14:30: Talk by Gabriela Rosa Beltrán Lopez (MEX), Topic: Phylogeny of the genus *Ilyodon*
- 15:15: short break
- 15:30: Auction
- 17:00: short break
- 17:30: Roundtable (in English)
- 19:00: dinner

The talks will be given in English. As we have two beamers, we will show the slides in English and German parallel and the talks will be translated in paragraphs into German.



Sunday, 1st of November

09:30: Common breakfast and „Talk-shop” at the venue. It is necessary to register for the breakfast until the 20th of October to adapt the buffet to the number of participants. Costs for the breakfast: 12.50 EUR per person. Thereafter there is a planned to make a guided tour for interested parties through the aquarium-exhibition: “Frische Fische” of the local Aquarium Club „ Lübecker Aquarien- und Terrarienfreunde von 1920 e. V.” in the Museum of Nature and Environment, Musterbahn 8 in 23552 Luebeck. As this will be the last day of the exhibition, it will be possible to buy exhibited animals.

### **ATTENTION: Changed date of the GWG convention!!!**

Please pay attention to the changed date of the next GWG- convention in Luebeck. It will take place from the 30th of October to the 1st of November. The 4 Speakers will be: Michael Köck, AUT about the genus *Xenophorus*, Gabriela Rosa Beltran, MEX about the genus *Ilyodon*, Dietmar Kunath, GER, about the CABDGF - Literature data base about Goodeids and Chris Neal, USA about new ways in the Fish Ark system

## **2014**

### **Simply news...**

2014 is coming to an end, and it is time to resume a bit and take some glances into the future. This year brought the first GWG meeting in the center of Goodeid distribution, in Morelia in Michoacán. Not only the meeting was outstanding with again an enhancement of the quality of talks, but also the country itself with a beautiful landscape, amazing habitats and the overwhelming hospitality of a cheerful and ingenuous people. Thank you, Mexico! The gone time in Mexico brought also some new perceptions of the life of Goodeids. It was amazing seeing *Allotoca* species living mainly in habitats with sometimes strong current, sheltering under river bank vegetation. *Zoogoneticus* species were obvious between stems of reed or *Taxodium* roots, and we found *Neotoca* living in big numbers between stems of reed in very shallow water. *Hubbsina turneri* respectively *Girardinichthys ireneae* really came out of shelter in twilight and *Goodea* can look extremely different even in not so far distant habitats, sometimes reaching astonishing

sizes of more than 20cm in total. We collected *Xenoporphus captivus* in Venado and Moctezuma Spring, being surprised that the introduced *Xiphophorus hellerii* disappeared from Moctezuma Spring by unknown circumstances. We found *Allotoca meeki* that was supposed to be extinct already and sampled *Zoogoneticus purhepechus* in the Lago de Camécuaro despite it was said that there is no more Goodeid. These insights brought up in us the will to offer to GWG members annually survey trips to Goodeid habitats, organized by the two chapters in change, starting in 2016 with the European chapter. In 2017 the American chapter will follow. In 2018, it is very likely that the GWG meeting will be again in Mexico, probably in Guadalajara. These trips will be offered on the GWG site and limited to 15 people to join.

Following the wish of some members, we started to make pdfs out of the given talks of the GWG meetings, here are the first ones to see. What also can be seen on this page are the venues and dates of the next meetings for planning your year in advance.

Some more things changed for the Species profile pages. There is a new point called Husbandry. When it was thought originally to sum up pdfs of the breeding conditions of members, we now changed into offering proofed breeding conditions to give newcomers a tool to be successful in keeping and breeding these fish. We started to add documented Localities to the species profiles and the point Distribution has changed into Distribution and ESU's. All of these changes have been done for the beginning only in the genus *Zoogoneticus*, but they will be enlarged to all species by time. According to the abbreviation ESU: ESU is short for Evolutionarily Significant Unit. Each unit expresses an isolated population with different genetic characteristics within one species. ESU's can be defined by Molecular genetics, Morphology and/or Zoogeography and help in indicating different phylogenetic lineages within a species. This system, developed by John Lyons, will flow in the taxonomy of Goodeids to distinguish these different genetic units and simply give them a term. These terms will help in the near future to support the IUCN with data about the threats of Goodeids down to ESU or population level and give at least the ESU's an officially accepted status by this organization. Also, the European Aquarium and Zoo Association, the EAZA is interested in using this information to establish Regional Collection Plans (RCP's), a tool for Zoos and Aquariums to select fish for their exhibitions and backstage breeding and conservation facilities by focusing on endangered species, but including also private people and therefore following the established GWG objectives. Michael Köck is coordinator for the Goodeids within the EAZA. Both statuses given by the IUCN and the EAZA may help in installing conservation projects easier or prevent projects threatening Goodeids and mean a big step in Goodeid conservation!

One project to reintroduce an extinct species will start in about 2 weeks: The reintroduction of *Zoogoneticus tequila*. Though the money to start the project has been

collected for the first year, the project is still in need of money for the following three years. Information can be obtained from Omar Domínguez, the project coordinator. Since December, there is also a breeding book for *Allodontichthys polylepis* installed, giving the population from the Río Potrero Grande highest priority status (about 120 specimens in total) and the population from the Río de las Bolas monitoring status as there are more than 500 specimens now from this population.

Within the first three months of 2015, we finally will be able to emit our first newsletter, we will link to the Goodeidae page on Facebook from Michael Winther to substitute more or less the not-frequented Forum, the pathology center from Alessio Arbuatti in Teramo can accept the first fish for examination via the detour Haus des Meeres (guidelines for the preparation of the fish will be presented on the GWG website) and we (GWG and the Aqualab in Morelia) are going to visit *Characodon* habitats in January to proof the distribution range of the genus, look for maybe unknown habitats and take estimations about the threat of the whole genus. John Lyons, Kyle Piller and others do a sample trip a little bit earlier the coming year to Jalisco, visiting mainly Etzatlán and the Magdalena Lake area.

Slowly coming to an end, we want to wish you dear friend a successful 2015, health, prosperity and of course Good(eid) -luck!

### **GWG meeting in Morelia in 2 weeks!!!!!!**

The "Only - two - weeks - left - reminder":  
<http://www.ictiologiamorelia2014.org/indexe.html>

A plenty of good talks, surrounded by nothing than hospitality, the Fiesta de Día de Muertos, beautiful fish habitats and field trips in the heart of Mexico. It's all your own fault when you are going to miss it...

### **Final details to the GWG meeting in Morelia!**

In about 10 days, the first Goodeid Working Group Meeting in Morelia will start. For those who attend and those who need a help to decide whether they would like to participate or not, here the final schedule for the Meeting. Please keep in mind, that before the GWG - Meeting, there is the viviparous meeting with a lot of livebearer interested people, starting on Monday the 03.11., that will be also very interesting for our group.

2014 Goodeid Working Group Agenda, Morelia, Mexico, 5-7 Nov 2014

Wednesday, 5 Nov

Presentations and Group Discussions

9:00-9:40 a.m. Carmen del Rocio Pedraza Marrón “Loss of populations of Goodeids and other fishes”

9:40-10:20 a.m. John Lyons “The role of the GWG in the captive maintenance of the Goodeids”

10:20-11:00 a.m. Group Discussion

11:00-11:30 a.m. Break

11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m. Kees de Jong “Breeding Goodeids in captivity”

12:20-12:40 p.m. Omar Domínguez Domínguez “Program to re-introduce Goodeids”

12:40-1:20 p.m. Group Discussion

1:20-3:00 p.m. Group Meal (“Comida”)

3:00-4:30 p.m. Juan Miguel Artigas Azas “*Characodon*: the ancient Goodeids”

4:30-5:10 p.m. Arcadio Valdés González “*Characodon* in captivity, its maintenance and effects of feeding on reproduction”

5:10-5:50 p.m. Group Discussion

5:50-8:00 p.m. Visit to the captive Goodeid collection at the Biology Laboratory of the University of Michoacán of San Nicolas Hidalgo (“Aqualab”)

8:00-???? p.m. Group Meal (“Cena”)

Thursday, 6 Nov

Field trip to collect wild Goodeids

9:00 a.m. Leave Morelia in chartered bus to visit field sites. Cost approximately \$25 USD/person

9:30-11:30 a.m. Collect fish at Manantial (spring system) La Mintzita in the Morelia/Cuitzeo basin. Likely Goodeids – *Allophorus robustus*, *Goodea atripinnis*, *Skiffia lermæ*, *Xenotoca* cf. *variata* (new species under description by Omar), *Zoogoneticus quitzeoensis*. Other possible species – Poeciliidae: *Poecilia reticulata* (guppy; introduced), *Poeciliopsis infans*, *Xiphophorus hellerii* (green swordtail,

introduced); Catostomidae: *Scartomyzon austrinus*; Cyprinidae: *Notropis calientis*, *Yuriria alta*.

11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Travel to and collect at Manantial (spring system) Rancho el Molino Viejo in the Pátzcuaro basin. Likely Goodeids – *Allophorus robustus*, *Allotoca diazi*, *Allotoca dugesii*, *Goodea atripinnis*, *Skiffia lermæ*. Other possible species – Cyprinidae: *Algansea lacustris*.

1:30-4:00 p.m. Travel to and eat a meal (“comida”) at Lake Zirahuén, a very beautiful mountain lake. Historically this lake had a variety of Goodeids including *Allotoca meeki*, but they were all eliminated after the introduction of *Micropterus salmoides* (largemouth bass), a top predator, about 25 years ago. The lake still has two native silversides (Atherinopsidae), the charal *Chirostoma attenuatum* and the pescado blanco (whitefish) *Chirostoma estor* which are served in the local restaurants.

4:00-7:00 p.m. Travel to and visit the town of Pátzcuaro, a very scenic and historic town with a large indigenous community. We will explore the downtown and view Lake Pátzcuaro.

7:00-8:00 p.m. Return to Morelia and drop off live fish we have captured at the Aqualab.

8:00-???? p.m. Group meal (“cena”)

Friday, 7 Nov

Optional return visit to Aqualab

### **Attention - NEWS concerning the GWG-conventions 2014!!**

NEWS concerning the GWG meeting 2014!!!

Announcements for next-years conventions: (details will follow in the Events):

The 2nd Meeting of the NA-GWG will take part within the 2014 Convention of the ALA from May 15th to 18th at the Crowne Plaza St. Louis Airport - Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. The host will be the Missouri Aquarium Society. Details will follow.

The 5th International Meeting, now the 2nd Meeting of the European chapter, will take place within the first 2 weeks of November in Morelia, Mexico, and it will happen together with the NA-GWG. It will be part of a week including the 14th Congreso Nacional de la Sociedad Ictiológica Mexicana and also the 7th International Symposium

on Viviparous Fishes, so 3 conventions will take place in Morelia in this week! A great opportunity for people interested in Mexican fish.

The dates for the conventions are fixed now. It will start on November 3th and finish November 8th, the first two or three days, 3th to 5th (depending on the numbers of participants) will be the viviparous symposium, the 6th the Goodeid Working Group-meeting and between 5th to 8th the latinamerican and mexican congresses of ichthyology.

The 3rd E-GWG meeting will probably be hosted by the Portuguese Regional group in fall 2015.

### **50 tons of dead Goodeids...**

The beginning of September shocked the world with an ecological disaster in the Lago Cajitlán between Guadalajara and the Lago de Chapala. By non - certain circumstances, but probably by not legal disposed sewage sludge of a nearby purification plant, about 50 tons of endemic fish died, the biggest part of it had been *Goodea atripinnis*. Details can be read and shocking photos be seen here:

<http://derstandard.at/2000005013165/Raetselhaftes-Fischsterben-in-mexikanischem-See>

It's almost high noon in central Mexico, fish are disappearing rapidly, not only Goodeids. In a few years it may be that we have lost about 50% of species there. One of the world's biggest hotspots of evolution may be gone within the next decade....unnoticed, because no pandas are living there, no Orangs and no tigers... in a time, when big NGO's are being flooded with millions of Euros and Dollars to save their key-species, many other species, some of time even more threatened are allowed to die out because nobody knows them, and because they bring no money, simply said. Organisations like the ZGAP or the GWG are fighting for those "grey" species, and being in the front row, I know how difficult it is for us to get a 15.000 Euros per year over 5 years for the repatriation and salvation of a single fish, even when it is beautiful like *Zoogoneticus tequila*... may it be that everything is too late already? That we are hunting after dreams and ghosts, without having real hope to change our minds, and our future? I still can't believe it and I won't give in. The GWG won't give in, and hopefully, when we have many travelling knights like the GWG-members on this planet, we may change the course of this sinking ship!

# 2013

## **Member-locations**

With the beginning of November, precisely 185 persons have registered on the GWG site as members, comprising 26 countries all over the world. To have an overview, locations of all members can be seen on several maps here. To keep privacy of the members, only Usernames are shown, we hope you bear with us...

## **Attention: Donation button**

Pay attention to our newly installed donation page!

Now it is easy to fund the GWG or Fish Ark simply by transferring an amount via PayPal! Please specify, if you would like to fund the Goodeid Working Group (see below) or Fish Ark by specifying the lab in Morelia (text: Morelia) or Monterrey (text: Monterrey). Projects of these two Aqualabs will be presented on the Donation-page. As soon as we have an amount of an equal of at least 1.000 Euros, the money will be transferred. At the moment, we have collected 365.- Euros for each of these labs. Please, help us speeding up our support by funding Fish Ark!

For funding the speakers in Asperen (or the following conventions in Europe) or the European chapter of the GWG, specify your donation with the text: EGWG, and if you would like to fund the North American chapter, or speakers at the NAGWG meeting in spring being part of the ALA spring convention, specify with the text: NAGWG. However, both meetings are in need of financial help.

## **New Coordinators and more**

Coordinators in some regions have changed recently. We now have Nigel Hunter representing the United Kingdom and Ireland and Thue Grum-Schwensen representing Scandinavia. Concerning the United States, John Lyons has taken over the task of being the head of a North American chapter of the GWG (NA-GWG), all other regions including even Uruguay will be part of an European chapter, E-GWG. The inauguration of the NA-GWG happened already, and after the consolidation of this chapter, the impact of this new structure will be able to be recognized in the organization of our board. Until that, the board will remain like it is at the moment.

We all hope, that the upgrade of the North American group will help to incorporate the American breeders stronger in the activities of our group. So, from now on, we will have

2 conventions per year: A European one in fall in Europe and a North American one in spring, being part of the spring convention of the ALA. Further news will follow...

Furthermore: except myself, we now have 4 more editors of the site: Alain Grioche, Kees de Jong, Nigel Hunter and John Lyons.

Michael Koeck

#### **4th International Meeting - 1st European Meeting**

6. September 2013 - 16:00 - 8. September 2013 - 16:00

Hello goodeid lovers, here are more details on the GWG meeting in the Netherlands. The meeting is combined with the yearly meeting of the Dutch killifish society (KFN) and Poecilia Nederland.

It will be held on 6 to 8 September in hotel De Schildkamp in Asperen (<http://www.schildkamp.nl/>). The prices of the rooms are € 60 per night for a single room, double rooms cost € 95 per night (excl. some euros for tourist tax). There will be a buffet on Saturday 7 September the price of this buffet is € 37,50. If you want to book a room or want to join the buffet, please make your reservations through Wim Suijker (mahdiaensis(at)hotmail.com).

Transportation from Amsterdam Airport (Schiphol) can be arranged. If you want to get picked up at the airport, please give the flight details to Fokko Padmos (f.i.padmos(at)zonnet.nl) or Kees de Jong (skiffia(at)xs4all.nl).

During the weekend there will be a show of killis and livebearers. We hope to be able to put a lot of rare and interesting species on display.

Friday 6 September

On Friday there will a social meeting for the people who are visiting the GWG-meeting. It will start around 4 p.m. The prices for the meal will be announced later. If you want to join us on this evening, please contact Fokko Padmos and Kees de Jong.

Saturday 7 September

09.00 – 17.30 Show open

09.30 – 10.20 lecture by Rit Forcier (USA): "Goodeid biotopes."



10.30 – 11.15 lecture by Ruud Wildekamp (NL): "*Empetrichthys* and *Crenichthys*."

11.30 – 12.30 lecture by Adan Fernando Mar Silva (MX): "Molecular systematic of *Xenotoca melanosoma*, an endemic species of central Mexico."

12.30 – 14.00 lunchbreak

14.00 – 15.00 lecture by Rit Forcier (USA): "A complete review of the Goodeid family from a hobbyist's view."

15.00 – 16.00 lecture by Winfried Grell (NL): "Breeding of the species that have been collected on the last 2 Congo-trips: COFE2010 (Congo Fellmann & Eberl) and FCO2011 (Fellmann Congo)."

16.00 – 18.00 Auction of rare killis and livebearers

19.30 – ... Diner & prize award ceremony for the best fish in the show.

Sunday 8 September

09.00 – 10.30 Show open

11.00 – 14.00 Auction of the showfish

End of the show. If there are people interested, we can visit a small Aqua Zoo nearby.

As soon as we know who will attend the meeting, we will pass the email-addresses, to all the visiting people so arrangements about swapping fish can be made.

We are looking forward to see you there. As soon as we have more details on the speakers, we will let you know. You can also contact us for further questions.

Any questions? Don't hesitate to send an email to Fokko or Kees.

Location

Hotel de Schildkamp Leerdamseweg 44

Asperen, GE 4147 Netherlands

51° 53' 1.1292" N, 5° 6' 8.8668" E

See map: [Google Maps](#)

# 2012

## A short summary of the meeting in Vienna

Just a few words about the gone meeting in Vienna. Well not telling, how great it had been or that the ambassador of Mexico in Austria had been attending the meeting, but just what have been results of the meeting. One point, the Fish Ark situation, I have presented in the news before. Another point, also very interesting and more or less fixed: GWG will be separated into 2 chapters...Don't be afraid, no splitting, but simplifying. As many Americans would like to attend an international meeting, but can't due to high costs, and the other way round, it won't be easy for Europeans to attend an international meeting in the states, John Lyons brought into discussion, why not creating 2 chapters: A North-American chapter (NA-GWG) and a European chapter (E-GWG). The chances: One meeting in spring in the states (together with the ALA-meeting), and another one in autumn in Europe, probably by inviting speakers from the other chapter. This system would increase number of Goodeid interested people in the states (to be honest, on this site it is already the biggest party). However, we are thinking of exchanging fishes officially from chapter to chapter, and we are talking about a changed structure of the GWG (apart from a working group). In April, I will be part of the ALA-meeting as a speaker and would like to invite everyone to come there and be part of the inauguration of the NA-GWG.

Discussions are not over, not at all, but the way is good, and we will proceed going it. We are really on a good way saving rare species, and we won't stop doing it. Meanwhile, we have 4 breeders maintaining the *Allodontichthys polylepis* from Río Potrero Grande and many more maintaining *Allotoca meeki*. We won't give up, never!

Meanwhile, the 4. International meeting is fixed and it will be on the first weekend in September in the Netherlands, details will follow as soon as possible.

## Accommodations

This is a proposal-list of accommodations near the venue "Haus des Meeres". I tried to mix a bit the categories, but looked in the first row for good quality in each category. Very expensive hotels, I didn't consider. However, there are a lot more of hotels in Vienna, so feel free to search another one that pleases. The sequence is accidentally and not alphabetic.

Leonardo Hotel Vienna

Hotel Kummer

Hotel Haydn

Bella Vienna

Wombats City Hostel at "The Naschmarkt"

Hotel Terminus

Time Out City Hotel Vienna

Strawberry Hostel Vienna

Austrotel Fürst Metternich

K+T Boardinghouse

Continental Hotel-Pension

Hotel am Brillantengrund

Hotel Savoy Garni

Hotel Pension Kaffeemühle

Austria Trend Hotel Ananas

### **Back again...**

Hello friends, I am back from a long absence due to private problems and pressure from finishing a book about Goodeids.

Here we are with some news:

1. We have a 16th RG: Switzerland - thanks to André Scheiwiller to take over the task to do it
2. Database: nearly finished, I have seen the 1. version, and it is looking absolutely fine. Some little changes will have to be done, then everyone has access to his/her own area to add stocklists.
3. Literature-database: I am asking in advance: We will need someone adding literature to the database, someone who is used to work precisely. Volunteers welcome!
4. Newsletter: No idea why it doesn't work. If we have someone among us used to work with CMS system DRUPAL: Need your help!
5. Emails: I will install an Email-account for every member, this by simply taking the Username and adding: @goodeidworkinggroup.com. This will be necessary for keeping

privacy but nevertheless allowing direct contact from member to member. This for building up personal network and friendships. The list of members (only Usernames) will be seen only in the member area and by clicking on the Username, you will be in the mail program for direct contact.

6. Authors and Webmaster: I would like have more people integrated in the site, and above all to have the things going when I have not enough time to do so, so I would like to have a webmaster (as everybody knows - not much to do, unfortunately, but will change hopefully) and authors to add news, to write chapters and so on. Maybe 2 or 3 people with editor rights:-)

So, this for the start...

## 2011

### **School-project and scientific project**

Mark Liziczai from the High School in Mosonmagyaróvár started a conservation project in this school. About 20 tanks will give a home to about 15 more or less endangered species of Goodeids. This is the first project in a public school, showing the growing interest of eastern European breeders in Goodeid conservation ideas on the one hand, and how the vision even of a 17 years old guy can change a lot for fish. More details can be seen [here](#).

The Goodeid Working Group has been asked by Kyle Piller to cooperate in a scientific study about the phylogeny of Goodeids. As soon as the study has officially started, we will ask members of the group to sacrifice some fresh born fry from each known species and differing phylogenetic strain to study the trophotaenia. We will start a list of people willing to cooperate in this study as soon as we know how to fix the fry for the studies.

### **The rarest fish in the world**

Well, this is the one title, you absolutely don't want to get in case of being a fish. Being on a Goodeid Website, you can imagine, that this doubtful prize belongs this year to a Goodeid species. It is one species, having been overlooked by breeding programs in order of being not very popular and by thinking of being in not so dramatic danger at all. Sometimes, it looks like this species of fish is not very much liked from above or has simply bad luck. Its name is *Allodontichthys polylepis*.

Me personally, I came into contact with this species in 2000, getting surplus from Herbert Stefan (Austria), who got this species from Alfred Radda in 1987, who collected this fish in the Río Potrero Grande. I bred this fish for several years and spread it throughout Europe, but unfortunately, most of the people hadn't been lucky enough to breed them for a long time. In 2007, Herbert Stefan lost his fish and mine went to Hungary in 2008, where they disappeared soon thereafter. About the same time, I heard, that this species has not been found in the type habitat for several years, together with the second species distributed there, *Allotoca goslinei*. In the same year, I have been told of a second locality, and of fish being bred in the Aqualab and being introduced in a seminatural habitat (an artificial pond) in the botanical garden of Morelia. But now, 3 years later, it looks like they have not been able to survive there.

Last year, Kees de Jong offered me to give me his last fish, being the last ones from the old strain from the type location. We fixed the 2nd Meeting of the GWG for exchanging the fish. Now this October, during this meeting, I have been lucky to see this species again after three years, all in all 2 males and 6 females.

Talking to Omar Domínguez, he told me, that "his" population (being the last living specimens in México!), are the sons and daughters of only one female, being few in number. All in all, he estimated, we have together "not very much more than 20 specimens", coming from 2 locations. Well, nothing that makes me sleep well...It isn't easy to have the responsibility to save a species, but in the end, that's why we have started the GWG, that's our basic purpose!

I took the 8 fish from Pont L' Eveque to Vienna by train, withstanding an emergency break, when I thought in one second to be in place when a species is nearly dying out, but finally, they all reached Vienna in healthy condition. Our next steps will be to save this population for the future, breed them and distribute the surplus among our best breeders. Hopefully we will be able to reintroduce this species in a couple of years, when we have increased number. Therefore, I estimate, we will need about at least 400 or 500 specimens to do so; knowing about numbers of fry in Goodeids, I presume, it will take us 5 to 7 years. Nevertheless, it is the existence of the GWG, that made it possible to detect the fish and find out about its rareness. It is us, our will to talk to each other and to cooperate in one purpose, that gives us now the chance to save this one tiny fish for the next generation.

### **Bad year for Goodeids**

The year 2011 turned into a rather bad year for Goodeids in México: The members of the Goodeid Working Group had been looking worldwide for breeders of the ancient strain of *Skiffia francesae* from the Río Teuchitlán to detect them before they came into

danger to be crossbred with fish from the quite recently collected strain from the Sayula valley (2007), which is called *Skiffia* sp. "Sayula". This species (?) resembles very close the species *francesae*, and is sometimes thought to belong to this species out of several reasons. One is, that all Goodeid species from the Sayula valley are related to species from the Teuchitlán area, or even belong to the same species, like *Ameca splendens*. However, while looking for the old strain, we were informed, that the habitat of the Sayula-Skiffia, the spring Cuyacapán, has dried out and no fish could be found there anymore. Photos sent me by Omar Domínguez proofed that.

But not bad enough, in April an Email from Juan Miguel Artigas Azas shocked us: He wrote, that he had been in El Toboso, where nearby the Black Prince, *Characodon audax* used to live, and he has found, that the pool as well as the small creek to the pool were dry, whereas in the spring pool of El Ojo de agua de las mujeres, the origin of the creek and type location of *Characodon audax*, he could only collect masses of *Gambusia senilis*. He tried it for at least four hours, but had been unsuccessful in catching any *Characodon*. He didn't want to say so, but it looked like the Black Prince vanished. Nearly the same time, we heard about a similar situation for *Characodon lateralis*, or maybe *Characodon* sp., from Amado Nervo. The last collection there revealed only one single juvenile male beneath masses of terrestrial vegetation. The habitat seemed to be disappearing. For us Goodeid breeders, it looked like we were - despite all our efforts - always one step behind.

Meanwhile, after our 2nd International Meeting in Pont L' Eveque and the speech from Michael Tobler, we know now, that the situation of the genus *Characodon* has become absolutely dramatic! Except the habitats of *Characodon lateralis* in the vicinity of Los Berros (Ojo de agua de San Juan, Ojo de agua Los Berros and the tiny spring La Constancia), we can find *Characodon* in bigger numbers only near Abraham Gonzales and Guadalupe Aguilera, both *Characodon audax*. The species vanished from the habitat of the Río Canatlán (Los Pinos) as well as from El Toboso. About the recently detected habitat called Puente Pino Suarez (2006), we do not have information already, but will inform you later.

The GWG reacted immediately: The French regional group around Alain Grioché started a breeding program for *Skiffia francesae*, spreading surplus from Joel Healy and Günther Schleussner among 4 breeders. The French even originated a breeding center for *Characodon* in the Normandy, starting with *Characodon lateralis*/sp. from Amado Nervo, but willing to extend it on other forms as soon as it works well. Surplus from Joel Healy and Gunter Teichmann have been used to initialize this center. We keep you informed about development and success. At this topic, please also read the news about reintroduction projects for Goodeids!

Meanwhile, the French group of GWG went onwards and is cooperating with other groups, above all the Dutch one, in conserving all populations of *Characodon*, encompassing revitalizing of biotopes and building facilities to breed them. The French group elected the genus *Characodon* as one of their main genera for their efforts. Together with Mexican and US American scientists, a list of threats and possibilities to save the members of this genus as well as a concept for further steps shall be made. Kees de Jong has been suggested by Alain Grioche to lead the project.

### **Reintroduction projects for Goodeids**

Talking about coming projects in México in the purpose of conserving Goodeids, Omar Domínguez revealed besides the building of more semi-natural ponds on the area of the University of Morelia, that he is thinking of 2 projects ending up with the reintroduction of vanished species or populations of Goodeids in their original habitats. The first one is concerning *Zoogoneticus tequila*, a very colorful and famous species, that has been extirpated a short time after its discovery in 1992, and before it had been described in 1998. Till today, it isn't completely clear why this species had disappeared, but besides pollution, there is the possibility evident, that the introduced *Poecilia mexicana*, that prefers a nearly similar nourishment as *Zoogoneticus tequila*, has been part of the extirpation. Now the University of Morelia is thinking of releasing a stock of seminatural kept specimens into the original habitat of *Zoogoneticus tequila*.

The second project has been born this summer and is concerning *Characodon audax* of El Toboso, that vanished quite recently. The reasons therefore might be a very dry season and an "exploding" population of *Gambusia senilis*. However, this spring the locality has been filled with only this species as it looked like. Due to the small habitat, Omar Domínguez is seeing chances of electrofishing in the habitat to eliminate or reduce the introduced *Gambusia senilis*. Thereafter, semicaptive bred stocks from the Black Prince might be released again in the spring pool near El Toboso in case the species has really completely disappeared there.

Both projects are concerning very popular Goodeids, and species that have been populating quite small biotopes, so the development of the reintroduction can be observed quite easily. Of course, it is easier to "sell" the reintroduction of a colorful fish, that is noticed by a lot of people, than one of greyish ones. Besides that, these projects are the first ones in that way, so troubles may occur, and it may be better to release in the first projects species, kept by a lot of hobbyists and being not in immediate danger. However, it is the right signal at the right time, and the Goodeid Working Group is very glad about these ideas and will keep you informed which efforts are undertaken and about the success.

Here we ask you for help: The Goodeid Working Group is supporting both projects. Estimations concerning the costs for the *Zoogoneticus tequila* - project range from 50.000 up to 60.000 Euros, in case the local government won't fund the project. To start the talks between the government and the university will cost around 1.000 Euro. The costs for the *Characodon audax* - project (means electrofishing) are estimated much lower, about 1.600 Euro.

If you are willing to support the efforts of the Mexican scientists, you are welcome to fund the projects. We have established an account:

Goodeid Working Group

IBAN: AT37 1400 0015 1091 4178

BIC: BAWAATWW

Please specify with "*audax*" or "*tequila*", so we are able to assign the money to the right project.

## **Summary of the 2nd International Meeting**

This year, the GWG has been invited by the French regional group, L' Asociacion France Vivipares and L' Aquaclub Trouville to come to Pont L' Eveque, a small town in the Normandy, famous for its cheese, its cider and of course its Calvados. Together with a green landscape with beautiful creeks and lakes and medieval seeming houses, the place for our 2nd International Meeting seemed to be more than great, and it was indeed!

The participant's arrival has been fixed with Friday, the 7th of October. Unfortunately, the employees of the railway company started a strike spontaneously and it had been a bit difficult to come to Pont L' Eveque for the guests coming by train or plane. But thanks to the efforts of Alain Grioche, who took all the people several times by car from the nearby-town Lisieux, we arrived all well in the province of Calvados.

The first way had been to the Poissonerie, a former fish-market, where the local Aquarium club organized an exhibition, and where the GWG had been invited to be part of and to organize the biggest Goodeid exhibition ever. So, before going to our hotel, or to the Mongolian yurts, where some of the guests had really funny nights, we released our fish into the exhibition tanks. Rather soon, we had filled more than 50 tanks with Goodeids and no end in sight... Meanwhile, while waiting for the last guests to arrive, some of us had been taken to a local producer of Calvados, which had been a very "spiritual" event. By the way, Calvados has been a very, very tasty company for our next days. In the later afternoon, most of us had the honor to visit the Aquaclub in Trouville, a



club, which consigned a very deep impression to us. Not only the high number of very good tanks (many of them showing Goodeids), that showed in an impressive manner the knowledge and ability of the members, but also the unusual tanks made of wood(!) had been absolutely worth to go there.

In the evening, all members of the GWG had been taken to dinner. We were sitting and talking in different languages, and looking around us 40 or 50 people, there could be counted 14 nations, being all part of one family. This feeling of being at home and being part of a family, has been a warm company for these cool days in France.

After a warm night in the hotel room, or a cool one in a Mongolian tent, the exhibition has been opened on Saturday, the 8th. In the end, there had been more than 300 tanks, a lot filled with Guppies and other Poecilids, with Killis, Cichlids, and finally nearly 70 with Goodeids, presenting even so rare species as *Allodontichthys polylepis*, *Allotoca goslinei* and *meeki*, *Allophorus robustus*, *Skiffia lermae* and *francesae*, and nearly all known populations of *Characodon audax* and *lateralis*.

At 9.30, we started our meeting with the welcome speeches of Jacques Sabatier, president of L' Asociacion France Vivipares and head of L' Aquaclub Trouville and Michael Köck from the GWG. The time before lunch has been reserved for the speeches of Kees de Jong, former president of Poecilia Nederland and one of the best breeders of Goodeids in the world with his speech: Goodeids, an overview. He has been followed by the head of the Aqualab in Morelia, Omar Domínguez Domínguez. He talked about the History of the Fish Ark Project and about new results of the scientific work in the university. After lunch, Michael Tobler, born in Switzerland but living in Oklahoma shocked us with his speech about the Vanishing of *Characodon*. Finally, Michael Köck from the Haus des Meeres, Vienna, talked about the possibility of keeping Goodeids outdoors in summer.

After the very expected exchanges of the brought along Goodeids (There had been really a lot!), and a short break, we started the Roundtables for GWG members. After the Roundtables, we had an excellent dinner in the exhibition hall, giving us the whole taste of the Normandy, including mussels, duck, Calvados, apple cake and cheese. The night brought us some very interesting meetings with a white rabbit, and some of us will never forget about a certain "Macho Latino" - please forgive me to keep these things as a secret...

Sunday brought us the auction of the exhibited fish, and gave us the possibility to get some of them. Then there came the saddest time of the Meeting, when we had to say Good bye to each other and finish for leaving, but not without promising to meet each other again next year, either in Diemelsee-Adorf (Germany) or Vienna (Austria). But for

everybody participating, it was clear, that it would be nearly impossible to surpass this gone Meeting.

## 2010

### **We need your help!**

For the Website, we are looking for a lot of things about Goodeids.

We are looking for Participants of the Goodeid Working Group: Hobbyists as well as Public Institutions. Don't be shy and join us!

We are looking for Photos of goodeids and Photos from the habitats of Goodeids: Some of them will be chosen for the species-description area, the others will be saved on our database.

We are looking for Breeding reports: We would like to add as many reports as possible to each species, showing many setups and ways to reach the goal.

We are looking for Data: Who is keeping which species and strain? Who collected which species when, where and how?

We are looking for Information: Who had seen which species where?

Thank you for your support!

### **yahoo.com and so on...**

The GWG site had daily a lot of registrations by fake-persons and Email suffixes like hotmail.com, yahoo.com and some more. To provide myself from doing nothing else than deleting these fake-persons, I have decided to block this Email accounts in general, but allowing people with registered accounts the access. When somebody wishes to become member but is not getting access to the site, the reason may be exactly that. In that case, send an Email to admin(at)goodeidworkinggroup.com to be accepted. Thanks for your understanding...

### ***Xenoophorus* in trouble!**

Bad news - I am forwarding herein a letter from Juan Miguel Artigas Azas, who visited San Luis Potosí recently:

I am a little depressed because there has been 3 weekends in a row that I go to the field to look for *Xenoporphorus captivus* to write an article about them and I haven't yet been able to find a single specimen. Most localities where I used to find them are now dry. I travelled along Rio Santa Maria from the Type locality at Santa Maria del Rio up to Jesus María and there is no water anymore, all the beautiful springs I knew and even the small dams along it are dry.... Just some pools Near Rodrigo (near the place where Andreas and me found them 20 years ago) but I wasn't able to collect any fish there. I also went to Río Tierra Quemada, where last May Rusty and I tried hard to collect any without luck, and I couldn't get anything but *Goodea gracilis* again. Omar told me he had collected many six months ago but as some of those *Goodea* have black markings and blue shines I suspect his students may have confused them. I will keep looking for them. But the situation is dramatic for all this fish.

Regards, Juan Miguel Artigas Azas

## **About Fish Ark**

Those who have been involved throughout the years know, that the last years, it had been very quiet around Fish Ark. However, this project is so exceptional and fantastic, that it simply must go on. The GWG has been asked to take over the tasks of Fish Ark and - to be honest - we are just talking about. I have invited members of the biggest livebearer associations in the world to work out a new concept for the Fish Ark, and some points seem to be fixed until now: We will focus on Mexico, and we accept 2 Aqualabs at the moment. Not planning to build more, but at least give us the possibility to do so if necessary. As Fish Ark is more than Goodeids, both groups will stay separate, but will work together and share persons. Other points we have talked about and fixed are transparency: We need annual reports what happened with the money. Both Aqualabs will be presented as parts of one whole project. Two legs of one body more or less, and we would like to fund special projects, e.g. reintroduction of *Zoogoneticus tequila* or *Xiphoporus couchianus*. We will need good projects and estimations of costs and then we will try to collect money and fund these projects, and I think it will be necessary to find a more professional way: We are mainly breeders, no fundraisers. Probably it will be the best way to find one for our goals. However, first talks, first ideas, discussion will go on, and whoever has got ideas or wishes: On our Forum, there is a special Fish Ark sub-forum for discussing the future of Fish Ark... you're welcome

## **Fish Ark**

A milestone in the conservation of Goodeids has been achieved!

Delegates from the Goodeid Working Group and Fish Ark Mexico projects met recently at the inaugural international meeting of the GWG in Barcelona to discuss the current status of Goodeid conservation. During these talks Fish Ark representative Don Kenwood revealed that in addition to the Aqua Lab installation at the Universidad Michoacana in Morelia a new Aqua Lab site (Aqua Lab II) has been established further north at Monterrey which came as unexpected but very welcome news to the majority of attendees.

Following the unexpected loss of Ivan Dibble in 2009, it has been a challenge for the Fish Ark team to regroup.

Ivan was the principal founder of the project during the late 1990s and left something of a legacy in his wake, but thanks to the efforts of Don, Nigel Hunter, Gary Randall and others the project seems to be in excellent hands with some interesting new plans gathering pace.

During the conference the fact that both, the GWG and Fish Ark, have similar long-term ambitions was discussed along with potential solutions to any complications or effects on the productivity this might cause.

Most of the Fish Ark team members have been involved in the project since its inception and as a result have developed an excellent network of contacts within Mexico. Don therefore offered to assist the GWG in obtaining up-to-date information regarding the threat status of Goodeid species in the wild.

Furthermore, we agreed to divide operations between the two groups. Fish Ark will continue their work preserving Goodeid habitats and developing new breeding centers in Mexico, while the GWG will assist by focusing its efforts on ex situ breeding projects around the world, working hand in hand with Fish Ark towards our common goal.

We are confident this close working relationship will prove mutually beneficial to both groups; both deeply concerned with preventing extinction of these fragile species, where hope and despair are shared and common purposes in life born.

### **1<sup>st</sup> International Meeting in Barcelona, 2010**

Following the foundation of the Goodeid Working Group in 2009 thoughts turned almost immediately to the organization of annual, international meetings. Our Spanish chapter, led by regional coordinator Eduardo Obis, agreed to undertake the considerable task of hosting the first of these in Barcelona, the capital of the Catalonia region in northern Spain, from 07 – 09 November 2010.

The chosen venue was the CosmoCaixa Science Museum on the mountain of Tibidabo which turned out to exceed all expectations. Twenty delegates from eight countries were greeted by glorious sunshine and temperatures around 25°C which helped fuel our high hopes about the meeting. As well as attending an interesting series of lectures, we planned to focus on open discussion in a 'round table' format in order to make some key decisions and plan practical work for the coming year.

The first speaker was Alain Grioché, member of the GWG board, regional coordinator for France and Vice-chairman of the Association France Vivipare who gave an absorbing talk about endangered fish species in Mexico and the United States. Next up was Shane Webb, author of several important papers regarding Goodeid systematics and co-describer of *Zoogoneticus tequila*. Shane discussed Goodeid diversity and the natural mechanisms likely to have driven such a rapid adaptive radiation of species. In the final lecture before lunch, Don Kenwood, chairman of the Fish Ark, delivered an update on the project and talked about future plans including the establishment of an additional center in Cuba.

Following a buffet lunch Philippe Chevoleau, editor-in-chief of French hobbyist publication 'Aquamag' reviewed potential methods of sustainability in the aquatic trade before President of the Sociedad de Estudios Ictiológicos Manuel Zapater closed proceedings with a presentation about their in-situ project to conserve a population of *Aphanius iberus*, one of three killifish species being endemic to Spain.

In the 'round table' discussions we talked over the possibilities of a collaborative effort between the GWG and Fish Ark which was agreed to be an excellent opportunity for both groups. The two will now team up and work in separate, but closely connected, task areas. We also came to some decisions regarding the management of Goodeid species and the best methods by which to distribute and maintain particularly rare populations within the GWG. The other major conclusion was to retain status as a 'working group' for the foreseeable future.

All delegates agreed that the meeting was an outstanding success, praising the quality of presentations and high standard of organization throughout as well as the willingness of participants to reach positive conclusions and collaborate constructively with one another. All in all, a great event and hope to see everyone next year!