

Bluegrass Fishkeepers Association



THE SPLASH

Fall 2021

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The Splash is a quarterly publication of the Bluegrass Fish Keepers Association. The views and opinions contained within are not necessarily those of the editors and/or the officers and members of the Bluegrass Fish Keepers Association.

BFKA The Splash Interim Editor:

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The Splash submission guidelines for articles and art:

Please submit all articles, photos and art in electronic form. We can accept most popular software formats and fonts. Email to bluegrassfishkeepers@gmail.com. Photos and graphics are encouraged with your articles! Please remember to include the photo/graphic credits. Graphics and photo files may be submitted in any format, however uncompressed TIFF, JPEG or vector format is preferred, at the highest resolution/file size possible. If you need help with graphics files or your file is too large to email, please contact me for alternative submission info.

Next deadline..... February 01, 2022

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Upcoming Important Dates

All Dates are subject to change or be cancelled due to local regulations and conditions of the pandemic please watch the Facebook group for up to date information on changes.

If you know of an event you would like added or want more information contact the editor

January 15	2pm	BFKA General Meeting - Mike Lykins
Feb 19	2pm	BFKA General Meeting
Feb 26-27		Aquashella Orlando
March 19	2pm	BFKA General Meeting
April 16	5pm	BFKA General Meeting
April 30		Aquaticon Knoxville.
May 21		BFKA Spring Swap
June 4		BFKA Club Picnic & Native Collecting
July 27-31		Aquatic Triple Crown Louisville
Aug 6-7		Aquashella Dallas
Aug 20	5pm	BFKA General Meeting
Sept 23-25		Keystone Clash Morgantown PA
Oct 8-9		Aquashella Chicago
Oct 15	5pm	BFKA General Meeting
Nov 19		BFKA Awards Banquet

President's Message

Here we are, 2021 drawing to a close. We have had an unusual couple years as a hobby but I am proud that the BFKA has held strong and prospered throughout. 2022 looks like it will be an amazing year for the fish hobby. The calendar for the club is beginning to take shape and other larger fish events are starting to announce dates. I look forward to being busy next year and growing this club and maybe even working with some other nearby clubs on some activities.

2021, despite everything else going on, seemed to be a success for the club. I know I for one enjoyed the meetings and activities we held. And with the announcement of the addition of a bowl show and grow out competition in 2022 we are sure to have an even better year next year. If anyone has ideas of what they would like to see from the club please let me or one of the officers know.

John Tyler
2021 President

Bluegrass. Fishkeepers Association meets each 3rd Saturday at Lafayette Church of the Nazarene in Lexington, KY.

264 Lafayette Pkwy, Lexington, KY 40503

At the November meeting it was voted to change the meeting times during the months of November through March to 2pm. Meeting time will resume 5pm in April.

Keep an eye of the Facebook group for changes or special events.

A Special Thanks to Our Speakers This Quarter

Swap - September

Andrew Lohman- October

Awards Meeting - November

Breeders Award Program Standings

2021 End of Year total

Michael Gray 135 Intermediate Breeder

Donna Feters 60 General Breeder

Brandon May 50 General Breeder

John Tyler 40

Stephen Kalbli 40

Scott Breidert 35

James Phillips 25

Andrew Callahan 20

Want to share your experience? Submit an article by contacting the editor. We want to hear your stories.

Meet The Board

	President John Tyler alex_tyler@ymail.com		Vice President Mason Fish
	Treasurer Hudson Enszt HUDSONENSZ@gmail.com		Secretary Donna Dray-Fetters
	Director at Large Will Branham		Director at Large Laurin Howard

Announcements

Elections

At our November Meeting we held elections for officers. The new officers will take office January 1, 2022. Below are the list of elected officials. If anyone would like the vote count or any other information please let us know, the Secretary maintains those records.

President	John Tyler
Vice President	Stacey Smallwood
Secretary	Donna Dray-Fetters
Treasurer	Hudson Ensz
Director at Large	Laurin Howard
Director at Large	Will Branham

Awards

Besides BAP certificates at the Awards Meeting we also awarded Michael Gray with Breeder of the Year to recognize his achievement earning the most BAP points in 2021. Hudson Ensz was awarded the Presenter of the Year award for his great presentation on collecting in the Amazon. Mike Epperson was awarded the Aquarist of the Year award to recognize his contributions to the club and the hobby in 2021.

Membership

Paid membership takes effect January 01, 2022. You may pay your dues at any meeting. Our general meetings will continue to be open to the public but special events like the Holiday Party, Club Picnic, Native Collecting etc. will be members only events. Auction splits for non members will go to 60/40 with the club getting 40%. Members will continue to receive a 75/25 split at auctions. The newsletter after this issue will become a members only benefit. Breeders Award Program, Grow Out Competition, Bowl Shows and other contests are members only benefits also. Other member benefits are being developed and rolled out as we line out their details.

メダカ *Medaka Rice Fish*

I first was introduced to rice fish in a very late night youtube livestream about fish. I had never heard of these little fish but they caught my attention and interest with their neat breeding methods and ease of care. I did more research on these hardy fish and became more and more impressed with them. Last year at a Circle City Aquarium Club swap I noticed a couple guys having a strong negotiation over who was going to be able to be the person to buy the medaka rice fish that were available for sale. Then this year when a group of medaka rice fish came up in an auction again at Circle City Aquarium Club I had to throw my hat in the ring and bid on them. I find these little fish very interesting and thought it appropriate to share what I have found out about them being that we don't see them a lot in our local area.



Originally from Japan and nearby areas, the medaka rice fish (*Oryzias latipes*) is one of the most common species in its natural range. Found in habitats as diverse as the marshes, rice fields (from which they get their name) and brackish tidewaters of Japan, this fish is adaptable and thrives in a variety of water parameters. This adaptability makes it perfectly suited for just about any aquarist, regardless of the water that comes out of your tap.

Native to temperate zones, this fish can survive temperatures from down to just above freezing up to the low 80s Fahrenheit. The literature often states their



ideal temperature is in the upper



60's to low 70s Fahrenheit, but there are reports of them breeding regularly in the upper 70s to low 80s. In fact, many Medaka ricefish are being farmed in Malaysia,

Indonesia, and other warm tropical areas. This wide temperature tolerance makes them ideal for outdoor ponds and tubs.

Medaka rice fish grow to about 1.5 inch, and in nature are almost translucent in coloration.

However, a number of stunning domesticated strains have been developed. From pure white to



bright orange, and light blue to almost black, it is sometimes hard to believe that all the color forms available these days descended from their bland counterparts in the wild. The Japanese breeders who have developed these specialized strains keep them in pots, tubs, and ponds, so the focus is on developing a fish that looks good when viewed from above. To this end, Miyuki and Lame' varieties have been produced. The Miyuki have a broad iridescent stripe running down the dorsal surface from head to tail. This stripe constantly flashes as it catches the light. The Lame' variety contains glitter spots which sparkle in the light. Other fish lack the Miyuki stripe and

the Lame' glitter, but are boldly colored ... some look like koi with a high contrast between their orange/red and white coloration. There are others that are solid gold or white. In addition, several body and fin types have been developed. What is common among them is that they look great in a top-down pond view. With so much variety, there seems to be something for everyone.

The Japanese rice fish has long been one of the most common lab animals in the scientific community. It's ability to be kept without the need for aquarium heaters makes it quite economical to keep. When compared to other egg-laying species, its young hatch large and are easy to feed. They also grow to maturity fairly quickly. In addition, it's nearly translucent flesh gives observers a nearly clear window into the inside of the fish, optimal for observations about

organs and other internal traits. Perhaps its most unique accomplishment in the scientific community is its claim as the only vertebrate ever to have bred and raised in outer space, having done so under Japanese observation aboard the International Space Station during a study on the effects of low gravity on bone density.

This fish is so readily adaptable and prolific, it has quickly taken over swaths of waterways in which it has been introduced in recent years, even including portions of the black sea thought to be inhospitable to freshwater fish. Because of this, the medaka have been banned by every member of the European Union, a ban taken so seriously that it is even forbidden among the scientific research communities in those nations.

In aquariums, this fish is quite easy to maintain. In Japan, they have been kept for decades in earthenware pots of only a few gallons, often without aeration or filtration. However, in these cases, frequent water changes are probably needed. They eat anything and everything they can fit into their mouths, so they are quite easy to feed. They are also great tank mates and will get along with almost any other peaceful fish species of an appropriate size.



Ricefish have a unique mode of reproduction. Males develop extensions on the anal and dorsal fin and also have a distinctive notch in the dorsal fin. During spawning, the male clasps the female with his anal fin and dorsal fins. This is done mid-water with no need for a spawning substrate. The female carries the eggs around on her vent like a cluster of grapes until they come in contact with a spawning mop, a plant, or the like. The sticky eggs then adhere to the mop or plant and stay there until they hatch. The eggs are like killifish eggs in that they are tough and quite large for the size of the fish. Incubation time varies with temperature, but at higher temperatures, it usually occurs about a week after the spawning event. Fry are free swimming immediately upon hatching and will be actively hunting for food within a few hours. The fry are resilient and easy to raise. Just feed them often and change the water often, and most of them will reach adulthood.

Be on the LookOut

Upcoming Items

Be thinking about the upcoming Spring Swap coming in May. We are working out the details right now.

