

Bluegrass Fishkeepers Association



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, 2024

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Upcoming Important Dates

All Dates are subject to change or be canceled 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.

Jan 20 BFKA General Meeting
Feb 03 CCAC Swap Indianapolis
Feb 10 GCAS Swap Cincinnati
Feb 17 BFKA General Meeting
Mar 16 BFKA General Meeting
April 14 LTFF Swap Louisville
April 20 BFKA Spring Swap
May 18 BFKA General Meeting
June 01 Native Collecting & cookout
July 20 BFKA General Meeting
July 25-28 ACA convention Cincinnati
Aug 17 BFKA General Meeting
Sept 21 BFKA Fall Swap
Oct 19 BFKA General Meeting
Nov 16 BFKA General Meeting
Nov 22-24 OCA Extravaganza Strongsville, OH
Dec 14 BFKA Awards Banquet

Bluegrass Fish Keepers Association meets each 3rd Saturday of the month at 5pm. Special events may be held at other dates or times

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

	Special Thanks to our speakers September – Swap October – Sarah Walker November – Art Parola
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President's Message

Here we are at the end of the year. Wrapping up and looking back on our activities of 2023 and looking forward to next year. We have had another great year this year accomplishing so much. We landed at our current meeting place thanks not only to the American Legion post 8 but also the help of our members pulling together in the eleventh hour when needed. We also finalized our nonprofit status and received confirmation from the government of our status being recognized. And let's not forget the wonderful presentations we have had this year. All of our achievements this year leaves us looking toward next year and excited for what's to come. Next year I am personally excited that the American Cichlid Association convention will be held less than 2 hours from us, in Cincinnati. I'm hoping we can have a good turnout representing BFKA at the convention. If you like the swaps, auctions, bowl shows, presentations you haven't seen anything until you attend a convention. I'm also looking forward to 2024's native collecting and swap and so many more things we plan to have going on.

John Tyler

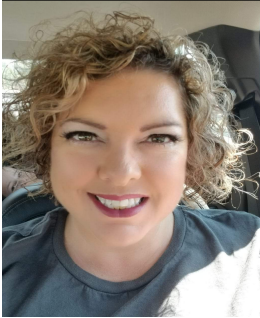
2023 BFKA President

Breeder's Award Program

Name	YTD Points
Mike Gray	25
John Tyler	120
Laurin Howard	25
Jake Allen	40
Stevie Moore	20
Mike Busch	35

Meet The Board

2023

	President John Tyler		Vice President Stacey Smallwood
	Treasurer Mike Busch		Secretary Donna Feters
	Director at Large Art Parola		Director at Large Laurin Howard

Quarantine: A Healthy Start

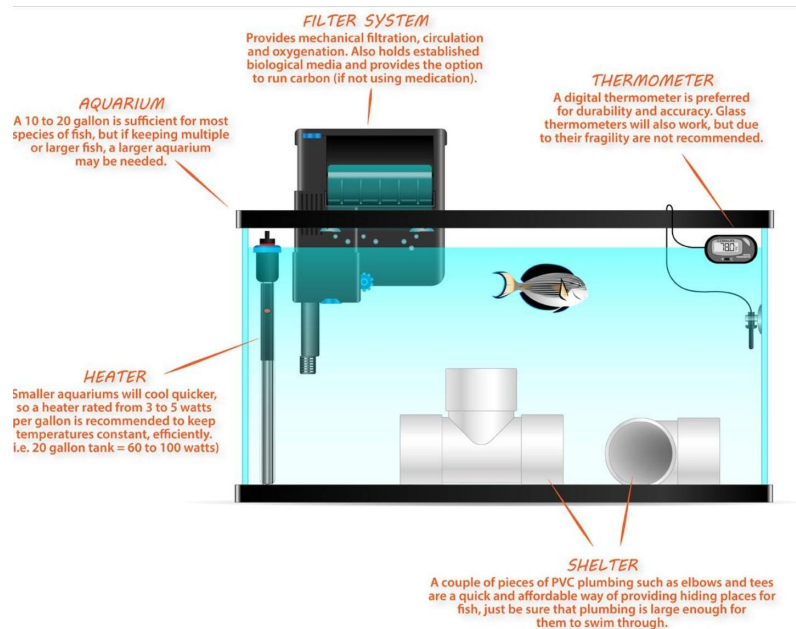
Bringing new fish into your aquarium is an exciting moment for any aquarist, but it's crucial to prioritize the health and well-being of your existing aquatic community. Quarantining new aquarium fish is a practice that can safeguard your tank against potential diseases, parasites and stress, ensuring a smooth transition for your new aquatic friends.

Quarantine is a process that involves isolating new fish in a separate tank for a period of time before introducing them to your main aquarium. This practice serves several essential purposes:

Disease Prevention: New fish can carry diseases or parasites that are not immediately visible. Quarantine allows you to observe and treat any health issues before they spread to your established tank.

Reducing Stress: The transition to a new environment can be stressful for fish. Quarantine provides a less crowded and more controlled space, reducing stress and improving the chances of acclimation.

Creating a quarantine tank is relatively straightforward. You want the tank to be large enough for the minimum space requirements of your fish. Anything too small can add stress to your fish and anything too large can make observing and any potential medicating more difficult. The tank should be cycled, filtered, and heated, just like your main aquarium. There are 2 main schools of thought on how a quarantine tank should be kept. Type 1 is to keep the quarantine tank simple with a substrate-free bottom, minimal decorations, and no live plants. This makes it easier to monitor and clean. Type 2 is to make the tank as much like the main display tank as possible. The 1st type works on the idea that the point of quarantine is to observe and there should be minimal obstructions to this. The idea behind type 2 is putting a fish in a bare tank is alien to it and will stress the fish more. It would be better to allow the fish to get use to substrate. Plants etc that will allow them to feel more calm and behave normally.



Upkeep on a quarantine tank is similar to display tanks in that it will need regular water changes and water parameter testing. Remember to match the temperature and water chemistry of the main tank.

The recommended quarantine period is typically four weeks. Four weeks is suggested because the majority of diseases and parasites will have shown themselves within the 4 week period. Some illnesses have an incubation period of 3 weeks and won't show symptoms until the fish has been infected for this long. During this time keep a close eye on the new fish for any signs of illness, such as lethargy, loss of appetite, abnormal swimming patterns, or visible physical symptoms such as spots, lesions or discoloration.

This is where many aquarists go wrong. There is some advice being spread around the hobby that I would say is bad advice. An online personality with a large following is telling new hobbyists to quarantine their fish and dose with multiple medications. Quarantining is for observing and only if there is an issue treat the issue. Medicating the fish for things they don't need treatment for can stress the fish more, make them more susceptible to other diseases and make increase the immunity of the pathogens to the medication. And this is not even mentioning it wastes the hobbyists' money. If in the case while observing your fish during quarantine you notice symptoms of a disease or parasite, at that point medicate and treat appropriately. Your quarantine time should then restart following the fish getting a clean bill of health following the treatment.

During quarantine, isolation is key. Do not use equipment or tools that have been in contact with the quarantine tank in your main aquarium. This prevents cross-contamination.

Quarantine is not just for fish. Anything being introduced to your display tank should really be quarantined. Ever hear the story of someone adding plants to an aquarium and all of a sudden they are infested with snails? If the plants had been quarantined this would not be an issue. If the plants are quarantined and snails start to appear you can treat the tank to get rid of the snails. It's the same thing with drift wood, rocks, shrimp etc. Anything unwanted that appears in the quarantine tank should be treated as a disease or parasite. You won't ever have to worry about surprise snail infestations or hitchhiker species showing up.

Once the quarantine period is over and the new fish appear healthy and disease-free, you can slowly introduce them to your main aquarium.

Quarantining new aquarium fish is a responsible and effective practice to ensure the health of your aquatic community. By creating a separate space to observe and treat new arrivals, you can mitigate the risks of disease and stress, providing a safer and more harmonious environment for all your underwater companions.



**Look for updates for the 2024 Bowl Show to be
announced soon.**

2023 Awards Banquet



Some of the award recipients: Mike Busch with 3 BAP Species; Nathan Johanson and his daughter Grow Out Competition Champion; Jake Allen 2 BAP Species and Rookie Breeder of the Year; Art Parola Aquarists of the Year and Bring A Friend Competition Champion; John Tyler 11 BAP species, Breeder of the Year, Bowl Show Champion, and Founders Award



2024 Officers were voted on. Elections winners were: Mike Busch- Treasurer, Nathan Johanson- Director at Large, John Tyler- President, Art Parola- Secretary, Stacey Smallwood- Vice President, Melissa Whitton- Director at Large.

Bluegrass Fish Keepers Association

SWAP MEET

Saturday April 20, 2024

11am-2pm

1080 Cardinal Dr, Georgetown, KY

\$2 Admission

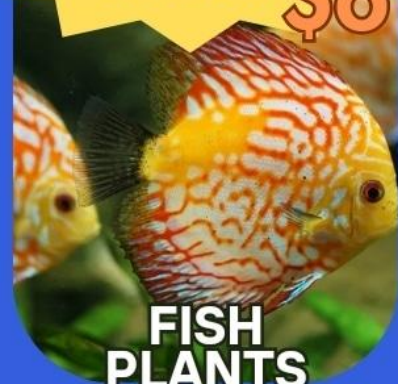
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www.Bluegrassfishkeepers.com

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start shopping
at 10AM

\$6



**FISH
PLANTS
SHRIMP
ACCESSORIES**

**KIDS
ACTIVITIES**

We are offering some special deals for retail stores at our upcoming Swap meet. At this time we must limit these offers to businesses that have brick and mortar storefronts. If you know a petstore you like or frequent feel free to take them the flier on the next page and offer them these offers. They can contact us through email listed on the flier. We are grateful to the local pet stores for the role they play in our hobby and want to work together with them to help support one another and build the hobby together.

BLUEGRASS FISH KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

AQUARIUM SWAP MEET

APRIL 20, 2024
GEORGETOWN, KY



RETAIL STORE

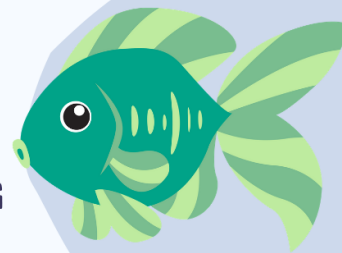
SPECIAL OFFERS

TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT & APPRECIATION FOR OUR RETAIL STORES

- **FREE TABLE AT THE SWAP TO SELL MERCHANDISE/LIVESTOCK OR PROMOTE PRODUCTS & BUSINESS**
- **ADDITIONAL TABLES \$25 EACH**

FOR MERCHANDISE OR LIVESTOCK DONATIONS

- **IDENTIFIED AS DONATING ITEM AT THE SWAP**
- **IDENTIFIED AS SPONSOR ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS**
- **IDENTIFIED AS SPONSOR ON WEBSITE**
- **IDENTIFIED AS SPONSOR IN NEWSLETTERS LEADING UP TO EVENT AND 1 NEWSLETTER AFTERWARDS**



ABOUT US

BLUEGRASS FISH KEEPERS ASSOCIATION is an aquarium club based out of Lexington, Kentucky.

We have monthly meetings attracting fishkeepers from all over Kentucky and some from neighboring states. We are a 501c3 non-profit focused on Education of proper care of aquarium fish and the conservation of aquatic species in the wild. The club hosts a number of special events each year including swap meets that attract a number of vendors and over 100 potential customers.

FOR MONETARY DONATION OF AT LEAST \$75

- **BANNER WITH STORE ADVERTISEMENT INFO DISPLAYED AT EVENT**
- **IDENTIFIED AS SPONSOR ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS**
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