

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:
John Tyler
Bluegrassfishkeepers@gmail.com

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..... August 01, 2023

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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.

June 10-11	Aquatic Expo Charlotte NC
July 13-16	ACA Convention & Catfish Cataclysm Madison WI
July 15	General Meeting
Aug 19	General Meeting
Sept 16	BFKA Fall Swap
Sept 22-24	Keystone Clash Morgantown PA
Oct 21	General Meeting
Nov 4-5	Aquashella Daytona
Nov 17-19	OCA Extravaganza Strongsville OH
Nov 18	General Meeting
Dec 16	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

March - Art Parola

April - Swap

May - Chris Stith

President's Message

Summer is almost here. Tubs are out, fish events are happening and the club is in full swing for the year. We have already had a wonderful swap and a great native collecting trip. We have some great speakers and another swap planned. I'm excited for it all..

I'm proud of what our club is becoming as we continue to grow and develop all the

time. Thank you all for all your help and support. This is your club if you would like to help with any of it we would welcome it. Just get with an officer and tell them what you would like to help with.

John Tyler

2023 BFKA President

The Black Tiger Badis Finally Gets a Name

by Art Parola

After over a decade in the trade and hobby, the black tiger badis, commonly sold under the name Dario sp.

"Myanmar," has been formally described by taxonomists. In a paper titled *Dario tigris* and *Dario melanogrammus*, two new species of miniature chameleon fishes from northern Myanmar (Teleostei: Badidae) published in the journal *Zootaxa* on

May 16, 2022, Ralf Britz, Sven Kullander, and Lukas Rüber conferred the name *Dario tigris* on to the species. The males of the species display a brilliant pattern, and the black tiger



badis is popular for nano and planted aquariums. It is one of many unique species hailing from northern Myanmar, and likely

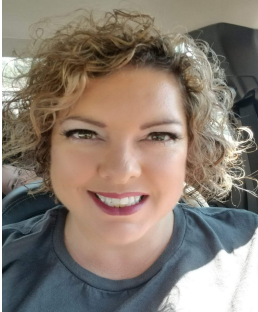
more new species descriptions will come from this region in the future as the area is still relatively poorly explored by scientists.

References

Britz, R., Kullander, S. O. & L. Rüber (2022): *Dario tigris* and *Dario melanogrammus*, two new species of miniature chameleon fishes from northern Myanmar (Teleostei: Badidae). *Zootaxa* 5138 (1): 001–016

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

Species Profile:

Corydoras duplicareus

by: Art Parola

The species is named for its similarity in appearance to *Corydoras adolfoi* for which *C. duplicareus* duplicates quite closely. While the name is in reference to *C. adolfoi*, the color pattern is mimicked by all of the orange spotted species: *C. nijsseni*, *C. imitator*, and *C. serratus* of which all have some overlap in range. The range of *C.*



duplicareus in the wild is debated, and it is reported that there may have been some confusion with the type specimen, resulting in a type locality given which is not actually part of the natural range of the species. Regardless, the species is found in the upper Rio Negro, including two tributaries, the Rio Muiama and the Rio Puranga.

Like other *Corydoras* species, *C. duplicareus* will do well on flakes and pellets, and relishes live foods such as blackworms and white worms. Spawning is reported to occur in the lower portions of the tank and the fry are reported to take *Artmeia* nauplii as a

first food and be relatively fast growers compared to similar *Corydoras* species. Adults reach a maximum size of just over 2 inches with females attaining a slightly larger size than males. The species will form loose shoals, sometimes with other *Corydoras* species. In my opinion, this is one of the most attractive species in the entire genus and looks particularly remarkable when kept on black sand.

REFERENCES:

"Corydoras Duplicareus Summary Page." FishBase
<https://www.fishbase.se/summary/corydoras-duplicareus.html>.

"Corydoras (Lineage 9) Duplicareus Sands, 1995." PlanetCatfish, 25 Oct. 2020,
https://www.planetcatfish.com/common/species.php?species_id=379.

Fuller, Ian A. M., and Hans-Georg Evers. Identifying Corydoradinae Catfish Aspidoras-Brochis-Corydoras-Scleromystax & C-Numbers. Verlag A.C.S. GmbH., 2005.

Kinyon, Don. "Breeding Corydoras Duplicareus." PlanetCatfish Shane's World, 1 Jan. 2002,
https://www.planetcatfish.com/shanesworld/shanesworld.php?article_id=233.

Payne, Adrian. "Spawning of the 'Broad Banded' Corydoras Adolfoi (Catfish

Breeders Award Program Standings

	2021-2022 total	Species	2023 points(YTD only)
Donna Dray-Fetters	65	L144 pleco	
		Neocaridina davidi	
		Anentome helena	
		Poecilia reticulata	
James Phillips	25	Apistogramma caetei	
John Tyler	65	Poecilia reticulata	45
		Xenotoca lyonsi	
		Ameca splendens	
		Limia melanogaster	
		Phallichthys quadripunctatus	
		Poecilia sphenops	
		Xiphophorus maculatus	
		Common bristlenose	
Laurin Howard	10	Poecilia wingei	25
		Pelvicachromis pulcher	
		Common bristle nose	
Will Branham	25	Neocaridina davidi	
		Neolamprologus multifasciatus	
Jake Allen		Labidochromis caeruleus	40
		Pseudotropheus demasoni	



January New World Cichlids 1st Will Branham Gold Angelfish 2nd John Tyler Tiger Oscar 3rd John Tyler Marble Angel People's Choice Amy Tindell Angelfish	Fish Entries 4 Angelfish 1 Oscar 1 Smiling Cichlid 1 Golden Convict	Points Earned John- 7 Will - 5 Laurin- 1 Amy- 2	YTD points John - 18 Amy - 12 Laurin - 6 Will - 5 Alice - 1
February Characins 1st John Tyler Black Skirt Tetra 2nd Laurin Howard Cardinal Tetra 3rd John Tyler Red Eye Tetra Anabantoids 1st Amy Tindell Betta 2nd Amy Tindell Betta 3rd John Tyler Betta People's Choice Amy Tindell Betta	1 Black skirt Tetra 1 Red eye tetra 1 Cardinal Tetra 4 Bettas 1 blue gourami 1 pearl gourami	John- 11 Amy - 10 Laurin- 5 Alice- 1	
March Guppies and Endlers 1st Amy Tindell guppy 2nd John Tyler guppy 3rd Laurin Howard guppy Other Livebearers 1st John Tyler kohaku swordtail 2nd Laurin Howard Tangerine Molly 3rd Mike Busch Alforo huberi People's Choice Greg Cobham guppy	1 Ameca splendendls 1 Alforo huberi		

May			
Killifish			
1st			
2nd			
3rd			
Natives			
1st			
2nd			
3rd			
People's Choice			



CONSERVATION CORNER

A Look at a Fish Threatened with Extinction

The Mangarahara Cichlid – Public and Private Aquaria Preventing Extinction

By Art Parola

The year 1900 marked the death of the last wild passenger pigeon. In recognition of the plight of the species in the wild, the Cincinnati Zoo acquired a small flock of the once-common species in an attempt to breed and sustain a captive population and prevent the extinction of the species. By 1910, the flock was down to just three birds: two males and a female. By the end of the year, the two males had perished, and the entire species was comprised of a single female, named Martha by her keepers. For three years, Martha was visited by hordes of visitors, anxious to see a live passenger pigeon before it was no longer possible. On September 1, 1914, Martha perished: ending the existence of not only an individual bird but her entire species.

Ninety-nine years later, in 2013, a similar fate seemed to be looming for the Mangarahara cichlid. Two males lived in an aquarium at ZSL London Zoo, and a single male resided at the

Berlin Zoo. The only known female had died at the Berlin Zoo earlier that year when an attempt to pair her with the male failed and she was killed by her anticipated mate.

The Mangarahara cichlid, *Ptychochromis insolitus*, lived in a restricted range in one of the most environmentally threatened regions on the planet. Native only to the Mangarahara River, Amboaboa River, and a few other tributaries of the Sofia River in Madagascar, the species' endemic habitat had mostly dried up due to the construction of dams and the diversion of water for agricultural irrigation. The entirety of the species, which was only scientifically described in 2006, was feared to now consist of three males, who were already well past their prime. It seemed like it might be a case of ecological déjà vu.

In a last-ditch effort, the ZSL London Zoo put out a media campaign to try to find more individuals of the species that may have been at other zoos, in private hands, or maybe even seen in what little was left of the natural habitat. A local businessman, Guy Tam Hyok, who is also an aquaculturist that heads the Association of Private Producers in Madagascar, which cultures native fish species, thought he knew of a place where the fish might still be found.

Together with scientists and museum curators from several countries in Europe and North America, an expedition was launched to try to find any remaining Mangarahara cichlids. After some searching, the team managed to secure about 20 individuals, found in a drying pond with several cattle and deteriorating water quality. These fish were brought back to Guy Tam Hyok's facility where they were reproduced. The offspring were then shipped to the Toronto Zoo where they were bred, with more offspring distributed to the Cologne Zoo in Germany. The Mangarahara cichlid had avoided the plight of the passenger pigeon.

In 2018, a survey team returned to attempt to ascertain the state of the species in the wild. Their search produced fruitless and the Mangarahara cichlid may no longer exist in what's left of its natural habitat. However, the species is alive and well with a captive population spanning several countries, ensuring the species will exist to be reintroduced once social, environmental, and economic conditions allow for the restoration of its native habitats. In addition to the populations held in zoos and public aquariums, surplus offspring have been transferred to private aquarium hobbyists, to create an even larger insurance population. Private aquarium hobbyists not only keep and breed insurance populations of the Mangarahara cichlid, but the American Cichlid Association, for which the majority of the constituency consists of private aquarium hobbyists in the United States, has provided significant funding to Guy Tam Hyok to support his Malagasy cichlid conservation work.

The 2021 paper, Review of threatened Malagasy freshwater fishes in zoos and aquaria: The necessity of an ex situ conservation network—A call for action, published in the scientific journal Zoo Biology recognized private breeders as key to successful conservation breeding programs. Private breeders can overcome limitations faced by zoos and are able to increase exchange of genetically diverse specimens and contribute invaluable information to breeding programs. The paper stated that for some threatened species, private breeders maintain the entirety of captive stocks. For many species of which the natural habitats are severely threatened in the wild, zoos and aquariums have few or no captive breeding programs and management of captive populations is entirely achieved by private aquarists. In some cases, where zoo and public

aquariums have implemented captive breeding programs, all or much of the stock originated from private breeders.

Thanks to people and organizations from all over the world, the story of the Mangarahara cichlid will not end the way of the passenger pigeon. But there of many species of fishes that have endemic ranges that are threatened. It is important that environmental organizations, scientists, zoos and public aquariums, and private aquarium hobbyists work to identify species in danger of extinction and secure captive insurance populations before the risk of the last individual of another species living its final days without a mate, again comes to fruition.

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Leiss, L., Rauhaus, A., Rakotoarison, A., Fusari, C., Vences, M., & Ziegler, T. (2022). Review of threatened Malagasy freshwater fishes in zoos and aquaria: The necessity of an ex situ conservation network—A call for action. *Zoo Biology*, 41, 244–262. <https://doi.org/10.1002/zoo.21661>

“Mangarahara Cichlid.” Citizen Conservation, 13 Jan. 2023, <https://citizen-conservation.org/arten/mangarahara-buntbarsch/?lang=en>.

Helping the Amatitlania

by John Tyler

As long as I can remember I have had a fascination with endangered animals and the idea of trying to save what species we could. Many of my ideas of how to do this while growing up were pure fantasy and unrealistic. However, when I found out there are fish that are threatened with extinction that can be acquired and kept in the home aquariums, the idea of helping species in need went to another more achievable level in my mind. I could potentially keep species that needed my help. Keep them safe and breed them. I could share the offspring with others around my region and the county and share knowledge of them across the world with the hopes that one day the population in captivity in conjunction with the spread of knowledge can help the populations in the wild recover. In addition to the desire to help fish in need when I noticed a genus of fish with species in need was not getting the equal attention I thought they should because many people turn their nose up at them I took that genus to be my challenge. I felt drawn to the *Amatitlania* genus. It

seemed as though as soon as someone would hear the name and associate the genus with the convict cichlid the ignore button was pushed.

A little over 4 years ago I learned of the *Amatitlania nanolutea* (Gold Convict) and set out to find some myself. It took me 4



years to acquire some *nanolutea*, but I finally did. Such a neat little fish and the fact it was on the CARES priority list made it even more appealing to me. I started to seek out more *Amatitlania* species. Of the 9 species I have so far been able to collect 6. When I started collecting them there were only 4 *Amatitlania* species listed on the

CARES list but I knew there were at least 2 more that were in need of help, so I made sure to add these 2 to my collection when I could. After almost a year of keeping these fish and talking to people about the conservation needs of Amatitlania, in February 2023, I received an email that the 2 species I had focused on were going to be added to the CARES priority list. So I now own 6 of the 9 Amatitlania species, 4 of which are among the 6 on the CARES list.

The two recent editions to the CARES list are *Amatitlania sajica* (T-bar Cichlid) and *Amatitlania kanna* (no established common name separate from convict). While they share a genus with the common black convict (*A. nigrofasciata*) that we are all familiar with and they all originate in Central America, there are many differences between these two and the common convict.

A. kanna comes from Costa Rica and Panama. It gets up to 5 inches and has the stripes we are used to on the common convict, but the *kanna* is the deepest bodied member of the genus with its height being about 50% of its length. If you don't look closely one could easily confuse it for the common convict except the *kanna* does have some different coloring. Males will get



a purple hue in the body and blue on the fins. Females display orange on their bellies and on their pectoral fins and light blue in pelvic fins.

Kanna are cave spawners that are fairly hardy but not as easy to spawn as their more common cousins. They have been recorded to have been kept in aquariums ranging in temperatures from 60F to 82F. I personally keep mine around the 75F mark. They are opportunistic omnivores that will eat almost anything. They are semi aggressive with aggression increasing during breeding. Similar sized cichlids have been good tank mates as well as some goodeids as long as you allow for enough tank space for each of the fish. Ideally a 4 ft tank is preferred but 20 gallons and up can be used with caution. *Kanna* can be timid also if not provided with enough hiding spaces so plenty of rock work and caves is recommended.

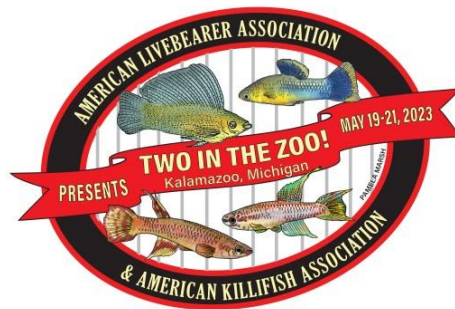
A. sajica, known by the common name T-bar Cichlid, has been identified in the hobby for over 30 years longer than the *A. kanna*. The *sajica* can reach 6 inches making it one of



the largest of its genus. It comes from the Pacific side of Costa Rica and like its cousins can become territorial yet ignoring migratory species. The *sajica* are fairly calmer than the common convicts but they enjoy excavating the substrate and rearranging the rocks in their aquarium. From my experience the *sajica* aren't as timid as the *kanna* and will show more

interaction with the fishkeeper. Sajica will eat nearly anything offered to them from flakes to frozen to live foods. 72F-82F is the recommended temperature and I keep mine about 75F. A pair can be kept successfully in a 2-3ft aquarium with a 4ft preferred and a 6 ft if keeping more than a pair in the same tank. When choosing tank mates go for similarly tempered cichlids or larger robust non cichlids. I have kept them with angels, goodeids, and other larger livebearers. I wouldn't attempt to keep them with small tetras or rasboras.

I am happy we could get these two species added to the CARES list and get some more focus on giving them the conservation help they need. Now on the CARES list there are 6 of the 9 Amatitlania species and 2 other species have too little data acquired on them for the IUCN to make a determination on their status so we may see them added in the future.



BFKA at Two in the Zoo

by Art Parola and John Tyler

Each year the American Livebearer Association and the American Killifish Association hold their annual national conventions. This year the two decided to team up and hold a joint convention in Kalamazoo, Michigan. During the weekend of May 18-21, 2023 people came from all over the region and many came from much farther out to meet and mingle with other fish enthusiasts. Several Bluegrass Fish Keepers Association (BFKA) members attended the joint convention.

Activities began Thursday with a native collecting trip. However, with many of the BFKA members still traveling on Thursday we don't have photographs of the collection trip. The majority of us arrived throughout the afternoon and evening of Thursday



giving us time to get settled in and meet up with one another and friends from other clubs and plan for the next morning's shop hop. The caravan for the shop hop left at

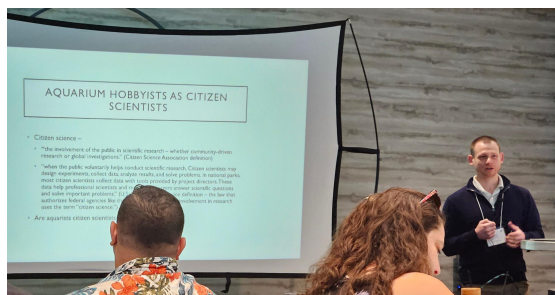


7am Friday morning and visited 3 local fish stores: Blue Fish Aquarium, Watercolor



Aquarium Gallery, and Preuss Pets.

The conference, hosted by the Southwest Michigan Aquarium Society and the Michiana Aquarium Society featured speakers starting at 1:30pm Friday and running throughout Saturday on a variety of topics. The speakers were incredibly



interesting and the topics ranged from Caribbean pupfish evolution to collecting

killifish in Cameroon to an update on the reintroduction of the formerly extinct in the wild species *Skiffia francesae* and *Zoogoneticus tequila* into their natural habitat in Mexico. The presentations on tubbing rice fish and policy and regulation challenges in the hobby seemed to be the talk of the weekend, sparking much conversation in the hallways, lobbies, and other areas.

The fish show was spectacular and showcased over 100 beautiful livebearers and killifish. Many colorful killifish were



represented as well as both rare wild species and beautiful domestic strains of livebearers. BFKA member Art Parola took first and second place in the Livebearer Photography class of the ALA show for his photos of *Poecilia hondurensis* and *Xiphophorus pygmaeus*.



Friday evening the North America Goodeid Working Group held its rare fish auction featuring not only rare goodeids but also various other hard to find livebearers. Some of the species in the auction were new to

the hobby, collection points not seen before and were in high demand by some of the livebearer collectors. Being that this auction is a fundraiser for the Goodeid Working Group and all of the conservation activities they do, some of the items sold for bids in the triple digits. There were also some more affordable lots of rare fish that were to be had, such as the *Xiphophorus milleri*,



another CARES fish BFKA president, John Tyler, added to his collection.

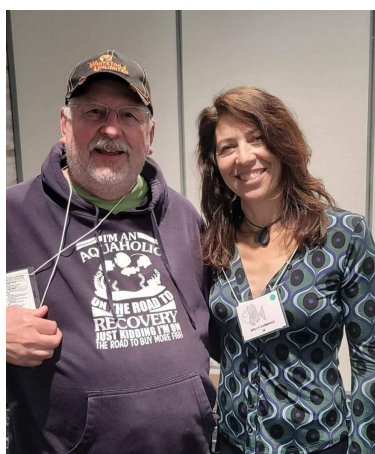
Saturday included more presentations, the show judging, a swap and the awards banquet. Then Sunday wrapped up the activities with board meetings for the ALA and AKA and a large auction. This auction on Sunday included not only livebearers and killifish but also catfish, cichlids, shrimp, snails, and much more. Winning bids from the auction ranged anywhere from \$1 to into the three hundreds.

Overall, the conference was a success and the BFKA members in attendance all appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves and acquired a lot of information, some new fish, and some new friends. It was announced the 2024 AKA convention will be in Tampa, Florida and the ALA is working to join them again next year. Hopefully, BFKA will make another good showing next year. I know a few of us are already beginning to look forward to it.



Top Left Picture: Eric Jacobsen catching up with fish friends after arriving at the hotel. Top Right Picture (left to right): Mia Sword, Art Parola, John Tyler

Bottom Left Picture: Erwin Gundrum poses with speaker Molly Cummings Bottom Right Picture: D. Brown approaches as Art and John discuss something fishy





Top Left Picture: BFKA members enjoying the auction activities on Sunday. Top Right Picture: Dr. Francisco Javier Malumbres from Madrid, Spain speaks on his adventures searching for killifish in Africa. Bottom Left Picture: Albino Killifish in AKA show Bottom Right Picture: Blue Gularis from AKA show





Top Left Picture: guppy in ALA show Top Center Picture: Kid's Aquascaping Contest in Action Top Right Picture: BFKA member Art Parola's photograph of *Poecilia hondurensis* that placed first in the Photography Class of the ALA show.

2023 Cookout & Native Collection Event

On June 3, as we do every 1st Saturday in June, BFKA held its annual summer cookout and native collecting event. This year we reached out to the East Tennessee Aquatic Association (ETAA), the Knoxville fish club, and asked them to join us. We met at the Rockcastle River in southern Rockcastle County for both the cookout and collecting. Between the two clubs we had roughly 25 people in attendance.



We started the day off with the cookout. Many wonderful items were brought to be enjoyed by the attendees. These

items included among other things potato salad, Cheetos, macaroni salad, watermelon, and stuffed peppers. BFKA VP Stacey Smallwood took on the title of grill master for the day preparing both



hamburgers and hotdogs, showing her skill using both charcoal and propane grills.

The Rockcastle River is a part of the Mississippi Watershed and a tributary of the Cumberland River. While it holds some of Kentucky's best white water, the area we were at boasts calm shallow areas. The water on this day as with many days of the spring, summer and fall was warm and extremely clear. This river is home to 10 species of crayfish, a few which we were able to spot through the water and collect for closer examination. Sixty-five species of fish also call the Rockcastle River home.

Being a nice warm 90 degree day the



water was welcoming to not only members of our group but there were also locals kayaking, fishing, camping, playing in the water with their children, and even a couple baptisms.

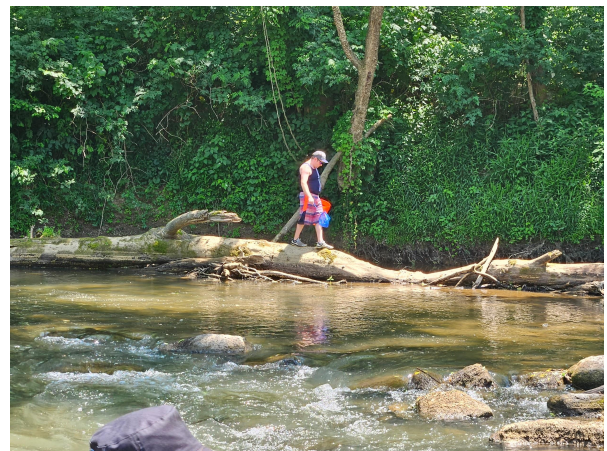
It seems fun was had by all. Multiple techniques were used to collect fish and other aquatic wildlife including seine nets, large dip nets, fish tank nets and even by hand. Art Parola and Derek Wheaton helped identify species collected and photographed a few specimens. I enjoyed seeing the kids that attended taking an interest in the



species found in the river. I think it may have been the first time any of the kids saw a hellgrammite (dobson fly larva). I also enjoyed speaking to some locals that day about what we were doing, what fish clubs are, and the importance of conservation of our local aquatic wildlife.

I always enjoy these events. The ability to hangout with members and their families

and talk about fish and other things is always enjoyable. Getting to see the wildlife both aquatic and non aquatic is always rewarding as well. Although this year's event has ended I am already looking forward to next year's event, excited to see where it will be and what species we will find there.







BLUEGRASS FISH KEEPERS ASSOCIATION

AQUARIUM SWAP

10am-2pm

Saturday September 16, 2023

Madison County Fair Grounds
3237 Old Irvine Rd
Richmond, KY 40475

Seller Tables

\$25 Non-Members
\$20 Members

- Fish
- Plants
- Shrimp
- Equipment



\$2 ADMISSION

www.bluegrassfishkeepers.com