

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.

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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..... November 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.

Oct 21	General Meeting
Oct 28	ETAA Fall Swap Knoxville TN
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

June - Cookout
July - Tim Krammer
August - Nate Adam

President's Message

Kids are back in school the national conventions are over and the summer tubs are soon to be broken down. We just have a few months left of this year but we still have some good things coming. Our grow out competition wraps up in October with the judging of the fish we selected at the beginning of the year. Our Aquarist of the Year and Bring A Friend competitions are still running strong along with the Bowl Show and Breeders Award Program. As usual awards for these things will be handed out at our banquet. This year we will be holding the banquet in December to wrap up the year. Also in December we will hold

the annual elections of the club officers including president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and director at large. Anyone that has been a member in good standing over 6 months and is over 18 can run for office. Nominations for the election will be taken at the October meeting. This is your club if you would like to help with any of it (even if not an elected position) we would welcome it. Just get with an officer and tell them what you would like to help with.

John Tyler

2023 BFKA President

Breeder's Award Program

Name	YTD Points
Mike Gray	25
John Tyler	95
Laurin Howard	25
Jake Allen	40
Stevie Moore	5

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:

Spixi Snails

(*Pomacea bridgesii*)

Spixi snails (*Pomacea bridgesii*) are native to South America and are commonly found in freshwater ecosystems, including rivers, streams, and ponds. Their distinctive appearance, characterized by a spiked apex on their shells, makes them an attractive addition to aquatic environments. This article aims to provide insights into the proper care and management of Spixi snails in captive settings, contributing to their conservation and enjoyment by hobbyists.

In captivity, Spixi snails thrive in aquariums with a capacity of at least 10 gallons. They prefer clean, well-maintained water with a neutral to slightly alkaline pH (6.5-8.5) and a water temperature ranging from 72°F to 80°F (22°C to 27°C). Adequate filtration and regular water changes are essential to maintain water quality and prevent the accumulation of waste products.



Spixi snails are primarily herbivorous, feeding on a variety of algae, aquatic plants, and detritus. A balanced diet can be provided through offering commercial algae-based pellets, blanched vegetables such as spinach and zucchini, and occasionally high-quality fish flakes. Proper feeding frequency is crucial, and excess food should be removed promptly to prevent water quality deterioration.

Captive breeding of Spixi snails is feasible under appropriate conditions. To encourage breeding, maintain a stable environment with suitable water parameters and ample food sources. Females lay eggs in gelatinous clutches on submerged surfaces, and these eggs hatch into juvenile snails after a few weeks. Separating the eggs from adult snails may enhance survival rates, as adults might consume the eggs.



While Spixi snails are relatively hardy, certain challenges may arise in captivity. Overfeeding can lead to water pollution, while inadequate nutrition can impact their health and growth. Additionally, Spixi snails are known to occasionally lay their eggs

above the waterline, leading to desiccation. Careful monitoring and adjustment of habitat conditions can help mitigate these issues. 5pm



STANDINGS

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

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

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
May Killifish 1st Mike Epperson Nothobranchius rachovii 2nd Jake Allen Nothobranchius guentheri 3rd Laurin Howard Fundulopanchax kribianus Natives 1st Laurin Howard Gambusia affinis 2nd Laurin Howard Gambusia affinis 3rd People's Choice
July Old World Cichlids 1st Mike Busch 2nd John Tyler Lelupi 3rd John Tyler Kribensis Barbs, Rasboras, Danios 1st Mike Busch Odessa Barb 2nd John Tyler Harlequin Rasbora 3rd John Tyler Harlequin Rasbora People's Choice Mike Busch
August Corydoras 1st Stacey Smallwood - Sterbai 2nd Mike Busch - Red Laser 3rd John Tyler - Paleatus Loaches No entries People's Choice Stacey Smallwood- sterbai



CONSERVATION CORNER

A Look at a Fish Threatened with Extinction

The Palms and the Precious:

Palm Oil Industry's Impact on Licorice Gouramis

Licorice Gourami refers to fish in the genus *Parosphromenus*. This genus includes approximately 20 different species. While these fish are not extinct, many of these fish are endangered due to habitat destruction. Licorice gouramis are a family of small, vibrantly colored fish known for their captivating appearance and unique courtship rituals. Native to the peat swamp forests of Southeast Asia, these delicate fish face a significant threat from the palm oil industry, which has far-reaching implications for both their survival and the delicate ecosystems they inhabit.



The palm oil industry, driven by the global demand for this versatile vegetable oil, has led to extensive deforestation and habitat destruction in Southeast Asia. The oil palm tree while native to central Africa has been brought to Southeast Asia to escape the natural pests of the crop that occur in Africa. The lush peat swamp forests that serve as the natural habitat of licorice

gouramis have been relentlessly cleared to make way for palm oil plantations. This disruption has dire consequences for the licorice gouramis, as their survival depends on the unique conditions provided by these habitats.

Licorice gourami habitat is flowing, black water rivers in the peat swamps, where fresh spring and rain water run over laterite sandy ground, which is completely free of lime. Rainy seasons can lead to the fish being found in flooded forests and dry season can put them in stagnant pools. Peat swamp forests are characterized by acidic, nutrient-poor waters, and the gouramis have evolved to thrive in these specific conditions. The conversion of these forests to palm oil plantations often leads to changes in water quality due to increased sedimentation, nutrient runoff, and pollution. These alterations have a detrimental impact on the delicate balance of the aquatic ecosystem and disrupt the licorice gouramis' ability to reproduce and find suitable food sources.

The destruction of peat swamp forests not only affects the licorice gouramis but also endangers countless other species that rely on these habitats for survival. The loss of biodiversity has a cascading effect on the entire ecosystem, disrupting the intricate interactions that have evolved over millennia.



Efforts to mitigate the impact of the palm oil industry on licorice gouramis and their habitats include:

1. Protected Areas: Establishing and maintaining protected areas can help preserve remaining pockets of peat swamp forests, allowing licorice gouramis to thrive in their natural environment.
2. Sustainable Palm Oil Practices: Encouraging the adoption of sustainable palm oil production methods can help reduce the industry's negative impact on ecosystems and biodiversity.
3. Habitat Restoration: Restoration initiatives can focus on reclaiming deforested areas and rehabilitating peat swamp forests, creating suitable habitats for licorice gouramis and other native species.
4. Public Awareness: Educating consumers about the environmental impact of palm oil and its connection to species like licorice gouramis can drive demand for sustainable practices.

The palm oil industry's relentless expansion poses a grave threat to the delicate and unique licorice gouramis and the fragile ecosystems they inhabit. Urgent and concerted

efforts are needed to promote sustainable practices, protect remaining habitats, and raise awareness about the consequences of palm oil production. Only through collaborative action can we hope to ensure the survival of these enchanting fish and preserve the rich biodiversity of Southeast Asia's peat swamp forests.

Symbiosis in the Marine Aquarium

Art Parola

One of the many reasons aquarists keep marine aquariums is the opportunity to observe symbiosis. This concept, in which different species evolve to exhibit behaviors that are mutually beneficial to individuals of both species are not common in freshwater aquaria. But in a marine aquarium, a single tank may display three or four examples of symbiotic relationships. Clownfish in anemones are likely the primary example of symbiosis that come to mind for aquarists and non-aquarists alike. In nature, most species of clownfish are obligate anemone dwellers, with *Amphiprion clarkii* sometimes being an exception. Clownfish provide protection from anemone predators, particularly butterflyfish, as well as nutrients from their waste and uneaten food. Host anemones provide protection to the clownfish from piscivorous fish which generally are not immune to the stinging nematocysts of the anemone's tentacles and therefore avoid venturing too close.

Two species of clownfish share an anemone on a reef off Lubang Island in the Philippines.



Watchmen gobies, also known as prawn gobies, and pistol shrimp are another fascinating example of symbiosis to observe in the aquarium. In the relationship, the almost completely blind shrimp uses shovel-shaped claws to dig and maintain a tunnel in the substrate for the fish and crustacean pair to occupy. As the shrimp diligently works, the appropriately named goby keeps watch for any predators that may threaten either animal. The shrimp always keeps one of its antennae on the goby. If the goby senses danger, it will flick its tail to signal the shrimp which will retreat deep into the borough. If the goby judges the danger to be great enough, it will quickly follow the shrimp into the safety of the tunnel.

Protection from predators isn't the only benefit of symbiotic relationships. Many species have evolved to clean parasites from other fish, with one animal getting a free meal and the other getting relief from the parasites. Often, protection is involved as well. Moray eels, groupers, and other large predatory fish often avoid eating cleaner species due to the benefit they offer. Cleaner species will even venture into the mouth and gills of these large predators to pick out parasites and food debris from between the teeth and gill rakers. Cleaner shrimps (Genus *Lysmata*), coral banded shrimps (genus *Stenopus*), cleaner wrasses (genus *Labroides*), and cleaner gobies (genus *Elacatinus*) all exhibit this behavior, setting up stations where other fish will frequent to rid themselves of parasites. Juveniles of some other species such as porkfish, hogfish, and angelfish exhibit this behavior as well but usually grow out of it as they mature. Cleaning behavior often occurs in aquariums, although most species will accept other food sources since hopefully the parasite load of an aquarium isn't high enough to support their dietary needs alone. Most species take frozen and prepared aquarium foods readily with the exception of cleaner wrasses, which can be more difficult to transition onto aquarium diets. One should be cautious of trusting species that may not eat a cleaner species in the wild with one in an aquarium however. The protection granted to cleaner species on the reef does not allow to translate to the aquarium environment.



The sharknose goby, *Elacatinus evelynae*, is an attractive species of cleaner goby and will often display symbiotic cleaning behavior in the aquarium environment, even going as far as picking dead skin particles off an aquarist's hand when working in the tank.

Aquariums are not only containers to look at pretty fish. They also serve as windows to marine ecosystems, allowing aquarists to observe natural behaviors and interactions. While freshwater aquariums only rarely offer the opportunity to observe symbiotic relationships, even relatively small marine aquariums can provide an opportunity to anyone wishing to witness these fascinating relationships.