

Bluegrass Fishkeepers Association

The Splash

Fall 2020

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
Articles and Art Submissions:
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..... Jan 31st 2021

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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.

Events are all up in the air due to Covid-19 stay tuned to Facebook for the most up to date information



The New Location

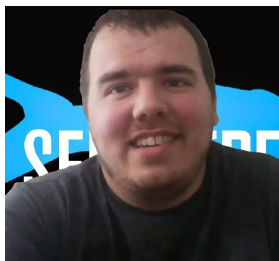
For the past two years as we have been trying to have meetings we struggled with one large thing (besides the pandemic). It was something that most aquarium clubs struggle with when they get started. We needed a meeting location that would meet our needs.

We have now found that location. Lafayette Church of the Nazarene at 264 Lafayette Parkway Lexington Ky 40503. Our meetings will take place the 3rd Saturday of each month at 5pm unless otherwise mentioned.

Meet the Board



Mason Fish.



John Tyler



Cheyenne Barnett.



Donna Dray-Fetters



Matthew Davidson.



Hudson Ens





Club Merchandise Now Available

It's finally available, a club tee shirt. We have talked about getting club apparel for over a year now and we have finally done it. We decided that instead of limiting the option to one color and one type of shirt we would give members more options and variety. The store has shirts of various makes and colors as well as stickers and mugs. Now you can feel even more like part of the group and show off your support for the club and the hobby. The merchandise will work to help the club with getting word out about the club and sparking conversations amongst fish keepers. Also the club receives a small portion of every purchase to assist with its costs and to help improve the club. The link below will take you to our merchandise store. If anyone has ideas or suggestions of other merchandising options please let a board member know.

[BFKA Merchandise](#)

A Couple New Programs

2020 looked promising in the beginning of the year: a rebirth of the club, new members and a new vigor for the hobby. Then we all got sidelined with this pandemic that has shut nearly everything down and brought the aquarium club scene to a screeching halt across the globe. Many clubs have tried to continue with some sort of activity through online meetings, field meetings, virtual fish room tours, parking lot swaps and the such. As a new club it is challenging for us to stay connected and promote activities, but we are trying to do something to keep everyone involved and looking forward to the day we can have in person meetings again and grow our activities even more.

Two such activities or programs we have developed during this pandemic shutdown period are the Breeders Award Program and the C.A.R.E.S. preservation program. Both of these programs are designed to recognize the accomplishments and activities of their participants. You do great things in this hobby and it's time you are rewarded for it.

Breeders Award Program (BAP)

The breeders award program of the BFKA has really 5 underlying purposes:

1. To encourage members of Bluegrass Fish Keepers Association to breed aquatic life.
2. To share information concerning their spawning and rearing.
3. To make available to the hobby a wider variety of fishes
4. To recognize achievements by members concerning the breeding of aquatic life
5. To promote greater participation by members of BFKA.

Within our BAP program we really have 2 independent awards programs.

1. The main BAP program awards the participant points for each unique species bred based on difficulty, rarity, and other factors.
2. The specialized program allows the participants to focus their activities on a single species and earn points for achievements in breeding that species.

C.A.R.E.S. Program

The CARES program focuses on fish species that are at risk of extinction in their natural habitats. The purpose of the CARES program is:

1. to bring awareness to the critical situation of fish in nature, while educating the public and stressing the importance of our roles as responsible aquarists
2. to recognize, encourage, and offer support to hobbyists who maintain species at risk
3. to share fish as well as data and experiences through notes and manuscripts so that others may learn to maintain those identical and similar species
4. to preserve species at risk for future generations.

Our CARES program works similarly to the BAP program in that certain activities by the participants reward them points for the species which the participant is working.

Awards for both of these programs will be distributed at another activity we have planned- an annual Christmas Awards Banquet. The Awards Banquet will be an annual event for us to come together and reflect on the year and recognize everyone for their achievements throughout the year.



TBAS 05/2020 Reprint:

I have been handling and feeding black worms to tropical fish since about 1968. I was a young kid working at a fish store while going to Purdue University and we had been selling the red tubifex worm to the hobbyist for 2-3 years... and then all of a sudden there were these “monsters”. The black worm is not a black “red tubifex worm”. It is simply another type of worm that someone thought would be of some use in the hobby. Boy, talk about an understatement.

The red tubifex worm tended to spoil easily and really make a mess in the tank and the container in which they were kept. The black worms seemed not to be this tremendous mess so they were an instant success. Black worms are about twice as big as the tubifex worm but after a while you don't seem to notice the difference and most people became less squeemish very quickly.

The discussion of the possibility of disease will be saved for a later article. Let it suffice for the moment that I have used them for some 50 years and can count on 1-2 fingers the number of fish I think I lost to these worms. So let's find out how I treat them before I feed them to the fish.

I get the worms from the fish store in a bag... generally about a fist full but get whatever amount you wish. Put them in a long, low, flat container (see the picture)... and rinse the be-goobers out of them. The first day I'll rinse them 5-6-7 times until the water coming off them is perfectly

clear. I then put the container in the refrigerator and clean them the next day. I rinse them 4-5 times each time I get them out to clean them. I run the sprayer over them so that they “boil” in the stream of water. When the container is full of water I set it down until the worms all go to the bottom and then I pour the water out of the container. I do this every day for at least 4-5-6 days until the water at the first of the cleaning is as clear. as the last water I rinse them in... it will happen. I usually have one container I am feeding from and one container I am cleaning. I have had good clean black worms last up to a month without feeding them... until I fed them all to the fish... they seemed perfectly clean and healthy the whole time.



Breeding: The following is a reprinted article from the South Carolina Biological Supply House

California black worms can be cultured and easily maintained in a small aquarium or deep pan filled with 23 inches of spring water (or aged tap water). At room temperature in the laboratory, populations double in about 34 weeks or less. Using a disposable plastic pipette, transfer a few dozen, undamaged, healthy worms into the aquarium. Never attempt to handle or transfer worms with forceps or hooks. They are easily injured by these instruments. Next, add enough strips of brown paper towel to just cover the bottom of the container. The towel serves as a fibrous substrate of decomposing material, both for the worms and for numerous microscopic organisms that may cohabit the culture, such as bacteria, protozoans, rotifers, and ostracods.

Add sinking fish-food pellets as the primary food source for this simple aquatic ecosystem. Start by adding one or two pellets. After a few days, add one or two more, but only if the others have been consumed. Do not overfeed, since decomposition of uneaten food may contaminate the aquarium and cause a mass die-off of worms. Worms are not harmed, however, by irregular feeding or long periods of starvation.

Replace water lost to evaporation by adding spring water (or distilled water). I recommend continuous, gentle aeration, and this becomes increasingly important as biological decomposition of the paper occurs and as the worm population increases.

As the paper towel disintegrates and waste residues accumulate, replace the culture water regularly (about every two weeks) by slowly decanting it down a drain. Be careful not to lose remaining paper and worms at the bottom. After rinsing the paper and worms again with spring water, and decanting, refill the aquarium to the original level and add new pieces of towel. I suggest the occasional “harvesting” of surplus worms; these can be used for classroom experiments, as live food for fish, or for starting duplicate cultures. I strongly advise the maintenance of at least one duplicate culture. If you follow these procedures, the worms reproduce continuously by asexual reproduction (fragmentation), and cultures may be sustained for years.

1st Ever BFKA Swap Meet



Our first ever swap meet which in reality was our first event did not go as planned but was an over all success. With the pandemic going on we haven't been able to have meetings and events we had discussed for throughout the year have all been cancelled. However, when we were allowed to we decided to throw together a small swap meet in the parking lot to get folks together again and deal in fish talk and trading.

With all the virus concerns and the regulations imposed by the government to protect public health we planned the swap meet to be in the parking lot with face coverings and social distancing. However, with a forecast of upwards of 70% chance of rain and it already pouring in all the surrounding counties the decision was made to divide the swap between inside and outside only an hour before the event start. Everyone did very well wearing their face masks and social distancing. We even cycled buyers and sellers into the building so that there were fewer people inside at one time. We had tents outside to shelter vendors and patrons from the rain outdoors.

For those of you that couldn't make it you missed a great time. There was about any type of fish you could think of there from shell dwelling cichlids to killifish, angelfish to endlers, critically endangered barbs to extinct in the wild goodeids. There were even African rift lake cichlids, catfish, more plecocs than you could shake a piece of driftwood at and rainbows. Besides fish vendors had driftwood, rockwork, live and fake plants, live foods and dry goods, not to mention the shrimp and snails.

This event attracted people from all over a 5 state area. I personally talked to people from not only all over Kentucky, but also as far East as Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and as far south as Chattanooga, Tennessee. From the north I met someone from Cincinnati, Ohio and Indianapolis, Indiana. The farthest west that I spoke to someone from was Missouri. It also seemed every corner of Kentucky was represented including Lexington, Nicholasville, Louisville, Owingsville, Paducah, Somerset, Cave City; Madison, Rockcastle and Boone counties and everywhere in between. We even attracted at least 5 fish themed youtubers to the swap that I noticed as they videoed and interviewed participants.

We offered this event as a free event for vendors and participants alike and our board members volunteered to incur the cost of the event. To help with this in the future numerous attendees and vendors donated items to a silent auction to benefit the club. The auction had everything in it from a pair of angelfish, nice looking swordtails, beautifully colored Malawi cichlids, artwork, a full 20 gallon setup, and various equipment and foods to name a few. At the end of the auction people had walked away with deals such as an axolotl valued at \$50 for only \$22. There were bags of fish selling for one and two dollars. When it was all said and done bidders went home with some great deals and the club made almost \$200 to help pay for future events, equipment, and other expenses.

It might not have been perfect or what we had in mind or definitely not what we had planned when we showed up, but I consider it a successful event many of you have said you enjoyed as much as I did. With this event being so well received it wouldn't surprise me if it became an annual event in addition to other events.