

Livebearer News

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BRITISH LIVEBEARER ASSOCIATION



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Data Protection Act

In order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act, we need to inform members that their name, address, email address and telephone number are being maintained on a database, the purpose of which is for the distribution of the Association’s magazine and to inform members of forthcoming events. This information will not be provided to any other organisation for any purpose whatsoever without prior consultation. The association agrees to remove any details at a member’s request.

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Editorial

The Leicester meeting and auction was great. It went really well and now I am looking forward to the "Fishkeeping Extravaganza". I personally am hoping to meet a number of people who I have communicated with by email but never met. If you are one of those then please come and say hello. I am also looking forward to seeing lots of fish species that I have never seen before. I know little about killies and there will be plenty to see at the September do. I do keep cichlids and the British Cichlid Association are also taking part so I should be able to see some cichlids that I have never seen before. I hope that you have booked your tickets and that we will see you there.

I have lots of thank-yous to say this time. Thank you to Marketa and Peter for their feedback to previous newsletters. Thank you to Dr John Lyons for giving his permission to use the article describing the effects of invasive fish species on the natural fish in the Rivers of Mexico. This once again highlights the value of the work done by BLA members in keeping the goodeids of Mexico going. Also a personal thank you to Dr David Pool of "FishScience" and to Pete Liptrot of Bolton Museum Aquarium for their help and advice in treating an outbreak of disease in one of my tanks.

Feedback from a new BLA member

New BLA member Peter Lile was kind enough to send me the following email after he had received the March newsletter :-

I found the attached magazine very interesting. In response to your article on preservation; namely is the hobby causing an effect on wild stocks. I personally found it increasingly hard to get hold of any wild type livebearers. I know hybridisation occurs naturally in some cases in the wild, but I hate the lengths that many strains trade bred livebearers there are, with the exception of guppies and endlers. I'm glad that the hobby with some wild specimens has gone on to help promote conservation projects of rare fish lines especially Goodeids as mentioned in Mexico..

It saddens me greatly that so many habitats have been lost to various methods including pollution, dams, over-collecting and even inevitable global warming to name but a few problems. It is great that some of BLA money does go towards funding conservation projects, but sadly this is just touching the tip of an iceberg.

An example on one site advertising sales of various groups of tropical fish. They had thousands listed, but under live bearers they listed 458 types. NOTE only had 11 listed as wild livebearers..I ordered 6 *Skiffia multipunctatus*; 10 *X. milleri* and 10 *X. maculatus*, 10 being shown as minimum order. The latter two there were no stock and only could supply 5 of the *Skiffia multis*. when I had ordered 6.

Via ebay I managed to acquire a single pair of Xenocota variata "Jesus Maria" and ordered 4 Limia tridens. Again very costly compared to shop hybrids..... Plus postage....I only have sellers word that the Xenocota name and lineage is correct. Additionally the 4 Tridens turned out to be only 3 and were so small it is very difficult to tell whether I have managed to acquire a trio that I can breed from... Time will tell.

It was pleasing to see the wanted and surplus stocks listed.... I hope to make use of this in time....

I used to have large colonies of both (40 plus) humpback limia and 100s of Limia perugia, but sadly both bombed on me. Luckily I had small groups elsewhere so now I'm trying to recover.

Bizarrely I had given some perugia to a shop for free and ended up buying back a trio. A friend had some humpbacks off me so I will get a few back off him to restart, when I see him next

I have limited tanks, about 20 in all, none very large owing to disability...

I also have some X helleri green swords slowly breeding from 3 females and 1 male got my third lot of babies.... just born,

My small fish house is limited. with only 2 growing out tanks. Cases of isolating males and females is very hard to do. I have three tanks ,dedicated to South American fish with 3 types of Cory and a few types of tetra and pencil fish and 2 Asian type tank set ups and a further fish-tank with multiple generations of Ancistrus Bristlenose catfish. I also want to try a few killi projects, but I lack space. It is hard as I'm retired and disabled with severe arthritis.

I already know Alan Dunne and Clive Walker from various FBAS shows and A of A auctions. I was a member of HDAS and now with Eastleigh and Southampton DAS even though I live out in Portland Dorset. There is a distinct lack of local fish clubs. The internet is a great way forward to get in touch with like minded fish keepers, but has lost the human hobbyist contact and a way of knowing people near to where you live.... Clubs are just as much going out of fashion, which is a major shame.

I hope you may be able to fashion something out of this as you were asking for comments as it would be great to get to know other fish-keepers nearer to where I live, the shops are not interested in getting local groups formed all they want is your cash.

It is pleasing that BLA has its own site, but again hard to tell who if any members live near to myself..... hope this is of some use.

Kind Regards

Peter LILE .

Feedback from the Czech Republic

I met Marketa at the GWG Convention at Chester Zoo in November 2019. She was kind enough to send her thoughts on the June newsletter, and the response to my original question "Are we green" from the March newsletter.

Hello Greg,

Thanks for the Newsletter. The notes about being green versus energy consumption of our hobby made me think... I realize that most of my water/energy costs are due to my aquariums. But I still think that the balance is positive: if we stay connected to the nature, we can do a lot for its future. I hope (I believe) that one day, we will find much better way of energy and waste management. But we will not find better management for species which would be extinct by then. So yes, I better use a LOT of water and energy to keep species alive, and keep the hobby alive, too. But I try to give back: by keeping endangered species, promoting responsible fishkeeping and conservationist approach, and looking for ways how we can help in situ, where the fishes live (or should live). Nobody will save the species out there by just living simply and consuming modestly. But it is important to think about it, and I enjoy reading different opinions.

The XWG meeting (together with GWG) will take place on first weekend of October. Hopefully in Ostrava, so that we can really meet, but we are of course open to the possibility to go online. We will not skip this year. And I hope to see many members of the BLA joining us here :-)

Best regards,
Markéta

FGUK – Encouraging showing at the impending Autumn Convention – Extravaganza.

Fancy Guppies UK was spawned from the BLA in 2010, having previously been the Guppy Subgroup of the BLA formed in 2003. We now exist as a sister-group to the BLA and the 2 clubs work in close cooperation. We will be holding a much smaller guppy show than usual at the Autumn Convention this year on 18th September as we cannot get European Championship status for our show. This is because we cannot persuade Judges to come to the UK during the Covid19 pandemic situation.

If anyone keeps fancy guppies and would like to try showing then bring them along to the "Fish Extravaganza" at the Holiday Inn J28 M1 as we will have show tanks spare to accommodate the fish. Anyone wanting to sell guppies at the auction on Sunday can also enter the show and have them displayed on the Saturday – Benching starts at 10:00 and Judging is due to start at 12:00

We are struggling for entries at the moment and will welcome your fish into the show! If anyone has any queries please contact Bill Galbally on Facebook Messenger or email fishybilly@outlook.com

Xiphophorus variatus La Laguna in Poland are looking for a new home.

[Michał Zaborski](#) shared a video in [Wild Xiphophorus group, official page of the Xiphophorus Working Group](#)

Collection Data: La Laguna Mexico – David MacAllister 2000. These are available at £6 each in Poland and Bill Galbally is going to Poland on 9th October and can collect the fish in person. Anyone who wants them please contact Bill Galbally on Facebook Messenger or email fishybilly@outlook.com

Musings from the fish room

Water changes. We all do them, don't we? When I first started keeping fish I joined the now defunct Ellesmere Port Aquarium Keepers Society and one of the long-time fishkeepers told me : "Two rules; Never overfeed and always do lots of part-water changes." And I do. But talking to a number of BLA members, different regimes become evident. Sara told me that she runs four tanks inside her house and does small water changes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. She uses water straight from the tap and adds hot water from the kettle to bring the temperature up to that of the tanks.

The last time that I visited Nigel he had over 100 tanks on the go. He told me that he adds fresh water straight from the tap and the temporary cooling does not seem to cause his fish any problems.

Bill seems to have similar ideas to me. I run 20 tanks. Water from the tap goes into a barrel (outside) where it is left to stand. I have 5 buckets which I fill with water from the barrel and then leave to stand in my fish room for at least twelve hours. The temperature rises to a little below that of the tanks and in my opinion there is time for the chlorine added by the water company to disperse into the air. I do water changes on four or five days a week, adding the fresh water a little at a time so that any temperature changes are gradual.

So is there any "correct" strategy? Maybe it depends on how much chlorine / chloramine your water company adds to your water. The last time I ran a glass of tap water in London it tasted like the swimming baths and I cannot imagine that concentration of chlorine would do fish any good at all. Gases become less soluble as the temperature rises [Oh dear, now I sound like a chemistry teacher!] so allowing tap-water to warm up will drive off some of the chlorine. If your tap-water is heavily chlorinated you could also bubble air through it for an hour or more and the effect is to increase the surface area and speed up the dispersion of the chlorine.

The Insidiousness of Invasive Species

By Dr John Lyons

Ask most people what they feel is the most serious environmental threat to aquatic ecosystems, and they'll probably answer water pollution, or maybe habitat destruction. Water pollution and habitat destruction have serious impacts to be sure, but I would offer that invasive species, that is non-native species that are introduced or invade a new area and reach high abundances and affect the native flora and fauna, may be the biggest problem faced by freshwater lakes and rivers throughout the world. Let me illustrate this with an example from the Ayuquila River in Mexico.

In collaboration with Mexican colleagues from the University of Guadalajara, I've been studying the fishes of the Ayuquila River since 1986. The Ayuquila River is about 90 miles long, rising in the mountains of west-central Mexico and flowing southwest until it joins the Tuxcacuesco River to form the Armería River, which flows another 60 miles or so until it enters the Pacific Ocean near the port and resort city of Manzanillo. We've focused on the lower 50 miles of the Ayuquila, which includes a fertile agricultural valley near the small cities of Autlán and El Grullo and downstream of that a steep and scenic canyon along the edge of the Sierra de Manantlán Biosphere Reserve.

When I first visited the lower Ayuquila in 1986, it had a native fish fauna of at least 12 species, including five livebearers, the Bandfin Splitfin (*Allodontichthys zonistius*) (Figure 1), Goldbreast Splitfin (*Ilyodon furcidens*) (Figure 2), Black Splitfin (*Xenotoca melanosoma*), Pacific Molly (*Poecilia butleri*) (Figure 3), and Golden Livebearer (*Poeciliopsis baenschi*). Only two non-native species were present, the Blue Tilapia (*Oreochromis aureus*) (Figure 4) and the Redbelly Tilapia (*Tilapia zilli*), and neither appeared to be having a substantial effect on the livebearers. Most of the fish species occurred lower down on the river in the canyon where water and habitat quality were good (Figure 5). In the agricultural valley, much of the river was rendered fishless or nearly so from untreated pollution discharges from a large sugar mill near El Grullo (Figure 6). Immediately below the mill, the river water was a thick milky colour (Figure 7), and the bottom was a noxious, poorly consolidated floc from years of pollution. Moving downstream, the river slowly recovered from a combination of natural breakdown of the mill wastes and dilution from cleaner tributaries and springs. But even 30 miles below the mill in the upper canyon, pollution was still evident. No fish at all were present in the first 10 or so miles below the mill discharge. In the next 10 miles, some of the more pollution-tolerant fishes, such as the Goldbreast Splitfin, Pacific Molly, Golden Livebearer, Banded Tetra (*Astyanax aeneus*), and Blue Tilapia began to appear in small numbers. But it was only until about 40 miles below the mill near the junction with the Tuxcacuesco that the full complement of fish species was present.



Figure 1 Bandfin Splitfin (*Allodontichthys zonistius*), a pollution-sensitive native species found in riffles and rapids of the Ayuquila River where water quality is good. Its habitat in shallow, turbulent water has allowed it to persist in the face of non-native Largemouth Bass predation.

Degradation of the Ayuquila was a major concern of farmers, cattle herders, and fishers living along the river, and for many years they advocated forcefully for pollution control. Finally, in the mid-1990's, an agreement was reached by which the mill would discharge its wastes to irrigation ditches that flowed through fields for about 10 miles before entering the river. Although not an ideal solution, natural breakdown of the wastes in the canals did result in a better quality, although certainly not good, discharge to the river. The fish responded almost immediately to the change, and pollution-tolerant species were able to re-colonize the river almost to the discharge point, and less-pollution-tolerant species were able to move upstream about 10 to 15 miles. The length of the river strongly affected by pollution was roughly halved, from over 30 to about 15 miles.



Figure 2 Goldbreast Splitfin (*Ilyodon furcidens*), a pollution-tolerant native species found in pools of the Ayuquila River. Its habitat made it vulnerable to Largemouth Bass predation, but it found refuge in polluted areas of the river where Largemouth Bass could not live. However, the establishment of the non-native Porthole Livebearer, an aggressive, pollution-tolerant predator on young fish, has greatly reduced Goldbreast Splitfin in the polluted parts of the river.



Figure 3 Pacific Molly (*Poecilia butleri*), a pollution-tolerant native species found in pools of the Ayuquila River. Like the Goldbreast Splitfin, its habitat made it vulnerable to Largemouth Bass predation, but it found refuge in polluted areas of the river where Largemouth Bass could not live. However, the establishment of the non-native Porthole Livebearer has greatly reduced the Pacific Molly in the polluted parts of the river.



Figure 4 Blue Tilapia (*Oreochromis aureus*), a pollution-tolerant non-native species that has long been present in the Ayuquila River with no obvious direct effects on native livebearers. However, the widespread moving of Blue Tilapia around Mexico for aquaculture appears to have facilitated the invasion of other non-native species into new areas as well, including possibly the Porthole Livebearer into the Ayuquila River.



Figure 5 The lower Ayuquila River in the canyon area, where water and habitat quality are generally good, and a diverse native fish community historically was present. However, the invasion of this stretch of the river by the fish-eating Largemouth Bass in the late 1990's led to the loss of many native species.

Good news, right? Unfortunately, the improvement was short lived because of invasive species. About the time that the mill wastes were being diverted to the irrigation canals, non-native Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) (Figure 8) were introduced into a reservoir on the upper Tuxcacuesco River to improve sport and commercial fisheries. The Largemouth Bass rapidly escaped the reservoir, moved down the Tuxcacuesco and began moving up the Ayuquila and down the Armería. Largemouth Bass are efficient predators on smaller fish such as livebearers. The native fishes of the Ayuquila had no previous experience with this sort of fish predator, and they were easy prey for the Largemouth Bass. The Largemouth Bass were primarily pool dwellers, and they quickly eliminated most of the smaller pool species, including Goldbreast Splitfin, Black Splitfin, Pacific Molly, Golden Livebearer, and Banded Tetra. Species that lived in the shallow, fast, turbulent riffles and rapids, such as the Bandfin Splitfin, were somewhat protected from the Largemouth Bass by their habitat, and they managed to persist. Only in the relatively short stretch immediately below the mill discharge, where the water was still too turbid and polluted for the Largemouth Bass, did the Goldbreast Splitfin, Pacific Molly, Golden Livebearer, and Banded Tetra manage to hang on in this part of the Ayuquila River.

The lower Ayuquila settled into a new state in the late 1990's that lasted for about 15 years. The river was cleaner than it had been, but ironically, the fish fauna was actually in worse shape because of the Largemouth Bass. The pollution that remained from the mill provided a refuge area that allowed several pollution-tolerant species to persist, but further downstream where the water was cleaner, the pools had Largemouth Bass and Tilapia and little else.



Figure 6 The sugar mill along the Ayuquila River near the small city of El Grullo. Pollution discharges from this mill reduced native fish abundance over more than 30 miles of river. Partial improvements in discharge water quality led to a partial recovery of the native fish fauna in the polluted part of the river.

Then in the early 2010's, a new non-native species appeared, the Porthole Livebearer (*Poeciliopsis gracilis*) (Figure 9), and the river changed again. This species is native to the Atlantic Ocean slope of southeastern Mexico, far from the Ayuquila. How it managed to move hundreds of miles and leapfrog several mountain ranges is a mystery, but we suspect the species was brought into the Armería basin as a contaminant in a shipment of Tilapia. Tilapia are shipped throughout Mexico to promote aquaculture. Aquaculture often occurs in small semi-natural ponds adjacent to lakes and rivers, and these ponds often contain local livebearers washed into the ponds during floods.

When Tilapia are shipped from one pond to another, and these shipments may sometimes cover long distances, the livebearers are often mixed in. Once the Tilapia and associated livebearers are stocked into new ponds, they are subject to floods that can wash them into natural waters and give them an opportunity to colonize and spread. We think this is what happened with the Porthole Livebearer in the Ayuquila River.

Regardless of how the Porthole Livebearer got there, it found the Ayuquila to its liking and thrived. It too was subject to Largemouth Bass predation, but it was a pollution-tolerant species and found refuge in the polluted area below the mill discharge. Although the Porthole Livebearer is small, it is aggressive and actively feeds on the young of other species. Elsewhere in Mexico, the appearance of non-native Porthole Livebearers has been associated with the rapid decline of native livebearers and minnows. The same happened in the Ayuquila River, and at the time of my last visit, January 2019, I collected hundreds of Porthole Livebearers and Tilapia but only four Goldbreast Splitfin, one Pacific Molly, and no Golden Livebearers or Banded Tetra in an intensive sample of

the polluted area of the river. These four native species persist in other streams in the area that Porthole Livebearers have not yet colonized, but their loss from this stretch of the Ayuquila is ominous.



Figure 7 A view of the river immediately below the mill discharge in 1990 prior to the discharge being diverted to irrigation canals. The milky colour indicated very poor water quality, and this stretch of the river was fishless.



Figure 8 Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), a non-native fish predator whose invasion of the Ayuquila River led to the loss of many small, pool-dwelling native species from areas of the river with good water quality.



Figure 9 Porthole Livebearer (*Poeciliopsis gracilis*), an aggressive, non-native predator on young fish whose establishment has led to major declines in the abundance of pollution-tolerant native species from their refuge in the polluted stretch of the river.

The take-home message from the Ayuquila River saga is that although pollution and invasive species are both serious threats to the native fish fauna, invasive species are likely to be the more long-lasting and difficult-to-address issue. They are insidious. Pollution has certainly had a strong negative effect on the fishes of the river, but ultimately it could be at least partially controlled. And once pollution was lessened, the native fauna bounced back quickly. However, when pollution was reduced, the effects of invasive species remained and were in fact amplified, as cleaner water allowed invasive Largemouth Bass to colonize even more of the river. The subsequent establishment of Porthole Livebearer seems to be eliminating several pollution-tolerant native fish species from the one refuge they have had from Largemouth Bass. Together, these two invasive species have done more damage to the native fish fauna than the mill pollution ever did, even at its worst. And unfortunately, unlike mill pollution, it's hard to imagine how Largemouth Bass and Porthole Livebearer could ever be controlled in the Ayuquila River, which now has many thousands of individuals spread out over dozens of miles. Sadly, it appears that the loss of native fish diversity from the lower Ayuquila River may be permanent.

This article first appeared in Issue 249 of "Livebearers", the Bulletin of the American Livebearer association, and is reproduced here with the kind permission of the ALA and of Dr John Lyons.

Report on the BLA / Fancy Guppy meeting, Sunday 25th July, Leicester.

I had been looking forward to this meeting for months. Lots of thought, lots of planning and lots of “Zoom” meetings went into the preparation for it. I would like to give special thanks to Steve Oliver, Clive Walker, John Fish, Alan Dunne Kamil Gradzewicz and Bill Galbally for all the time and effort they put into the planning. There were lots of “ifs and buts” and it was only decided that the event would definitely go ahead just a couple of weeks before the event.

The meeting was held in Braunstone Working Men’s Club [previously the venue for charity auctions] and the main hall there is large and spacious, giving room for social distancing and allowing us to feel safe.

A total of about 90 people attended, enough to give a good “vibe” without being at all crowded. It was good to see all the old faces for the first time in a year and a half and also good to meet some new ones. A very warm welcome to Des and Bryan and my apologies that I didn’t get chance to chat with you for longer.

As soon after I arrived as I could I went to look at the fish in the livebearer show. Among many stunning fish here the ones that caught my eye were a pair of *Brachyrhaphis roseni* that were both huge and brilliantly coloured and a lovely male *Characodon lateralis* “los Beros”. Then on to the fancy guppy show. Now fancy guppies are not really my thing but here there were many stunning examples of the breeders’ art which almost persuaded me to give up some tank space to them. It is just a shame that Bill Galbally was so busy organising and running this part of the event that I had little chance to catch up with him. There were also sales tables selling plants (lots of them at bargain prices), books and dry goods. FishScience had a sales table with the full range of their foods at discount prices – lots of bargains to be had.

There were no lectures/talks at this event but there was a Q & A session with Shaun Stevens. Shaun introduced himself and explained that he looks after the aquarium at “Tropiquaria” in Somerset. He maintains a number of show tanks in the viewing area but the main interest for me is behind the scenes. Shaun has built up the largest collection of *Goodeids* in Britain (and the second largest in Europe after the Haus des Meeres in Vienna) with 45 different ESU’s [i.e. species or varieties of species from different locations]. Shaun has been to Mexico and visited the site of the re-introduction of *Zoogoneticus tequila* – the Rio Teuchitlan. He went on to say that the same river is the historical home of *Skiffia francesae*, which became extinct in the wild soon after its discovery and which has also now been re-introduced this year from captive-bred stock. A survey of the *Z. tequilathis* spring showed that they have been doing well and numbers are increasing. It is too early to say how the *S. francesae* are doing. Local people, especially schoolchildren, have been involved and are very keen that the re-introduction scheme should succeed. I asked Shaun about the lake into which the Rio Teuchitlan flows (the Presa de la Vega). When I was there in 2016 it was badly polluted by agricultural run-off and the surface was largely covered by water hyacinths. We found only one *Goodeid* there. Apparently, efforts have been made to clean up the lake and the water hyacinth is now much reduced. [Good!]

Shaun went on to explain that the biggest problems facing *Goodeids* in Mexico are pollution, including sewage and from the sugar cane industry, and the release of tilapia. When the tilapia are released into lakes and rivers there are almost always large-mouthed bass, sunfish and *Pseudoxiphophorus bimaculatus* in with them and these fish prey on *Goodeids* and wipe them out. The people of Mexico don't even like the taste of tilapia but the government there still foists the fish onto them.

A quick lunch [many thanks to Kamil and Jamie; the coffee cake was delicious!] and then on to the auction. The auctioneers were Dave Macallister and Alan Rothwell, long-time stalwarts of the BLA with something to say about each species for sale. There were many hard-to-find fish in the auction and also some real bargains to be had. Some of the fancy guppies, which to my eyes looked just as good as those winning prizes in the show, sold for just £3 for two pairs. Notable species included the pike top-minnow, *Belonesox belizanus*. There were two pairs in the auction and both went for £15 the pair.

Comments and notes from our Chairman, Paddy Davies

Well a great auction, with few unsolds and some strong prices!

First the absolute Bargains!

Xiphophorous xiphidium 'Rio Santa Engracia' 1979 £10

Belonesox belizanus Pairs - £15! Someone got a steal

The Top Prices!

Girardinus uninotatus 'Slack handful of young' '2009' £31

Poecilia chica - 2 Pairs £31

Heterandria formosa (x6)

Xiphophorus alvarezzi £41

Xiphophorus cortezi £31

Xiphophorus milleri (x6) £31

Xiphophorus clemenciae £32

Xiphophorus pygmaeus £32

Zoogeneticus tequila £43

Goodeids:

Ataeniobius toweri 'Lago De Crede'

Chapalichthys encaustus

Chapalichthys pardalis

Ilyodon whitei

Skiffia multipunctata 'Rio Camacurao'

Skiffia sp. sayula

Xenotoca doadroi 'san sebastian'

Xenotoca doadroi ' San Marcos'

Zoogeneticus tequila 'Rio Teuchtilan'

Poecillids:

Belonesox belizanus
Heterandria formosa ' with Data'
Phallichthys tico
Poecilia chica ' with data'
Poecilia mexicana

Limia islai
Limia melanogaster
Limia vittata
Neoheterandria elegans

Xiphophorus alverezi
Xiphophorus clemenciae
Xiphophorus continens
Xiphophorus cortezi
Xiphophorus helleri 'Yucatan'
Xiphophorus milleri
Xiphophorus pygmaeus
Xiphophorus variatus 'Laguna'
Xiphophorus xiphidium 'Rio Santa Engnacia' 1979

Cultivated Livebearers:

Poecilia reticulata 'Bristol Guppys'
Poecilia reticulata 'Moscow'
Poecilia reticulata - Red Japanese Blue Double Sword
Poecilia reticulata 'pink Round tail Moscow' Guppy
Poecilia reticulata - Top Blonde Red Speartail Guppy
Poecilia reticulata 'Red Tuxedo Koi' Guppy
Poecilia reticulata ' Albino red Guppy
Poecilia reticulata = Platinum spade tail
Pocilia sphenops 'Black Molly'
Poecilia wingii Blue star
Poecilia wingii Double sword
Poecilia wingii Hybrid Santa Maria

Non Livebearers offered on sales table:
All UK Hobbyist bred!

Ancistrus L144 Longfin Breeding Pair
Ancistrus snow white
Botia histrionica Long Term Captive
Corydoras CW 10 = Gold Laser
Corydoras CW 23 - red laser
Corydoras aldolfi
Corydoras boesmani
Danikillia sp shurokay
Hyphessobrycon amapaensis
Hyphessobrycon margitae
Hyphessobrycon nigricintus

Hyphessobrycon wadai
Moenkhausia pittieri
Neolamprologus pulcher
Synodontis angelicus - Long Term Captive
Tanicthys albonubes 'longfin'

There were also a number of plants sold. A huge “Thank-you” to Dave and Alan, who made it a show as much as an auction. Thanks also to Tim and John, who contributed much to the event behind the scenes. Overall, we raised £100 for the Air Ambulance and £592 each for Tropiquaria and Chester Zoo Aquarium for their conservation work.

Now I am just looking forward to the next event, a two-day affair in September. [See “Diary Dates”.]



Dave Macallister in action during the auction ; *Photo : John Fish*



Photo : *Tim Edwards*



Characodon lateralis : Photo : *Tim Edwards*



Photo : *Tim Edwards*



Pseudoxiphophorus anzetui : Photo : *Tim Edwards*



Photo : *Tim Edwards*



Limia vittata : Photo : *Tim Edwards*



Photo : *Tim Edwards*

Results of the livebearer show

Class 1 Cultivated - *Xiphophorus variatus* - S+S Brown.

Class 2 Wildform poecilia/limia - *Poecilia chica* - Bob Kirk

Class 3 Wildform Xiphophorus swords- *Xiphophorus pygmaeus* - Eddie Wade

Class 4 Wildform xiphophorus platy- *Xiphophorus meyeri* - Eddie Wade

Class 5 Goodies - *Zoogoneticus tequila* - Bob Kirk

Class 6 AOV Livebearer – *Heterandra [Pseudoxiphophorus] anzetui* - Eddie Wade

Class 7 Livebearer pairs - *Poecilia chica* - Bob Kirk

Class 8 Livebearer breeders - *Characodon lateralis* - Eddie Wade

We had 52 entries..

Best in show was a *XIPHOPHORUS MEYERI* brought to the show by EDDIE WADE from the Isle of Wight !

We had 17 in the Goodeid class including 13 *Zoogoneticus tequila* !

Other highlights were some stunning *Poecilia chica* in the Pairs and singles, also some cracking *Brachyrhaphis roseni* and a very big *Heterandria ansetuoi* too.

Every class winner had an engraved Cup to take home to keep and all entrants said they were looking forward to next year's event.

A plea for our hooks!

After the show and auction in Leicester, the hooks that supported the bags of fish on the stands went missing. Do you have them? There were 108 of them in a polythene bag. If you have them can you get them to the Fishkeepers Extravaganza to save us the expense of buying 108 more? Please! If you could let us know that you will be bringing them along it will save us having to go out and get more in advance of the event. Thanking you in anticipation.

Post Script

Four weeks after the BLA / FGUK meeting I attended the Preston & District Aquarist Society auction held at the Conservative Club in Leyland, Lancashire. The event was well-attended, the room was crowded and visitors came from as far afield as Glasgow. The auctioneer was Steven Spenser, the boss of my personal favourite aquarium shop, Aqualife Leyland. Steven is both highly knowledgeable and amusing, and kept the auction moving at a cracking pace. There was a large selection of dry goods sold, lots of plants which went for very reasonable prices and a huge variety of fish species. There were lots of different corydoras, several L-number catfish and *synodontis*. many different rainbowfish, some cichlids and oddballs – but not many species of livebearers other than the ones that I took. There were several lots of guppies, apart from which the most notable livebearers were *Poecilia chica*, *P. obscura*, *Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl* and *Ameca splendens* and some cultivated platies and swordtails.

I was made very welcome at the auction and will try to get back there for the next one. I will also try to include details of forthcoming P&DAS auctions in future newsletters.

Greg

Diary dates

And now the big one, the "Fishkeeping Extravaganza"! The most ambitious event that has been planned in my time in the BLA. Our autumn convention is a joint event with the British Killifish Association, the British Cichlid Association and the Fancy Guppy UK. There are going to be talks, shows, discussions and auctions. There will be the chance to meet old friends and make new ones. It should be possible to see many species of fish that we have never seen before. The quality of the guppies in the guppy show has to be seen to be believed. The auctions give us the chance to

sell those surplus fish that you bred during lockdown and also the chance to buy species of fish that you are unlikely ever to see in an aquarium shop. There will also be sales tables and trade stands.

A plea for help ! The members of the BLA committee will be very busy during the event so if you can help out, even for just an hour or two, then we will be extremely grateful. I am going to be on the BLA sales table. **Help!**

It is going to be the fishkeeping event of the year and I hope that as many BLA members as possible will book tickets and come along. If you do make it there, please come and say hello.

The venue

Holiday Inn,
Carter Lane East,
South Normanton,
Alfreton,
Derbyshire, DE55 2EH [Just off Junction 28 of the M1]

The date

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September, 2021

The cost

Tickets are £5 per day

Accommodation

Rooms at the Holiday Inn.

How do I book tickets for the event?

Tickets can be booked via the BKA website. There are no tickets available on the day.

Tickets can be booked via the website below :_

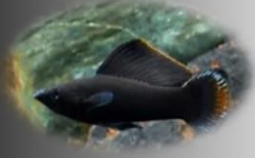
<https://killis.org.uk/wp/fishkeeping-extravaganza-2021/>

How do I book a hotel room

Go to the "Hotels.com" website, [or "Expedia" or "Trivago"] search for South Normanton, choose Holiday Inn (Carters Lane) and you should find the special deals on offer after you put in the dates required and the number of people. The deals as of today (Sunday morning) were £110 for both nights (no breakfast) and £130 for both nights with breakfast. You can cancel up to the 10th September. There is also a possibility of group bookings if there is a bigger group requiring rooms.

What about this buffet meal on the Saturday night that I have heard about?

Well, first book your tickets to the event and then book your buffet meal through the BKA website.



Fishkeeping Extravaganza

18th / 19th of September



2021



Venue

Holiday Inn

South Normanton

Derbyshire

DE55 2EH

**Lectures
Trade Stands
and
Auctions
Both Days**

Opening hours
Sat 10.00am-5.30pm
Sun 10.00am-4.30pm

Day Tickets can now be purchased from the web address below . Tickets cannot be purchased on the door .

Only £5.00 per person per day

<https://killis.org.uk/wp/fishkeeping-extravaganza-2021/> and follow link



A plea from Alan Lusby

Long-time BLA member Alan Lusby is coming to the Fishkeepers' Extravaganza but cannot stay for the BLA auction on the Sunday afternoon. He will be bringing quite a lot of fish which he would like to swap for some of the species that he is seeking.

Alan will be bringing :-

Lots of *Xiphophorus montezuma*, some *Zoogoneticus tequila*, some *Skiffia multipunctata*, a few *Heterandria Formosa* and some *gardneri* killies.

Alan would like to swap the above for any of the more unusual species of *Xiphophorus* and also for *Limia nigrofasciata*.

If you want to organise something before the Fishkeepers' Extravaganza then get back to me and I will give you Alan's email address.

A cancelation

Like a few other BLA members, I had been hoping to attend the Goodeid Working Group joint meeting and convention with the Xiphophorus Working Group this October in Ostrava, Czech Republic. Unfortunately, this meeting has been cancelled due to the continuing Covid – 19 situation.