

THE FILTER

TAMPA BAY
AQUARIUM
SOCIETY

25
Years



ST. PETE/TAMPA
FLORIDA



Poecilia sphenops
Sunset Leopard Molly
Lyretail

TBAS . . . Since 1992

July 2018

Volume 27 Issue 12

Photo Mike Jacobs . . . 2018



TAMPA BAY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

"THE FILTER"

Tampa/St. Pete, Florida

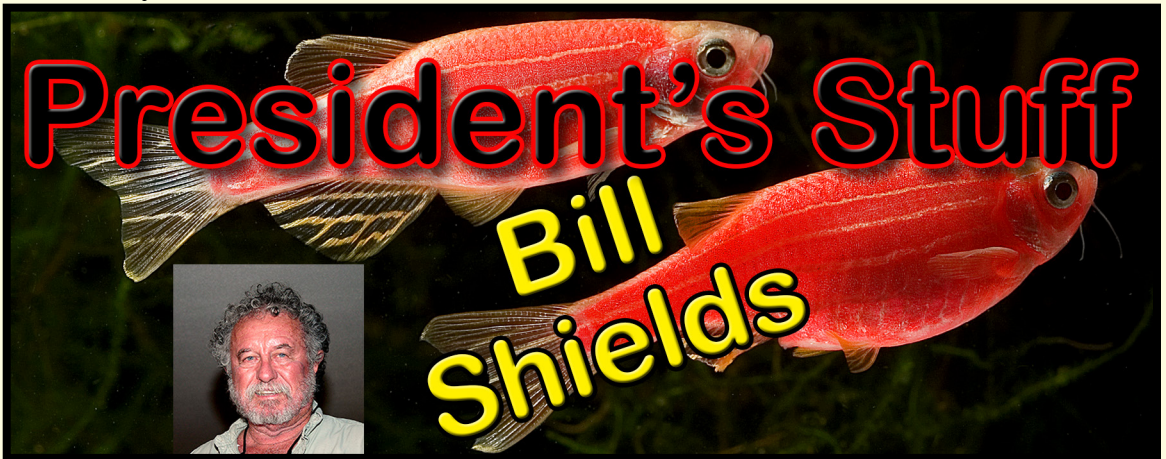
TBAS

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As a follow up to last month's comments about attending a fish convention, our very own Paul and Aurelia Ogles and Bill Little attended the IBC International show in Long Beach, CA held on the Queen Mary. I can't wait to hear about their experiences. I have always had a great time when attending national or international fish conventions. We have an opportunity to attend a local event on July 15th – The Friends of the Florida Fancy Guppy Association's Annual BBQ/ Guppy Show/All species Auction. This is a don't miss opportunity. There is no entry fee for fish, a fantastic BBQ lunch and an all species auction. Check out the Friends of the Florida Fancy Guppy Association fb events page for the directions to Coach's new horse ranch and rules for the show and auction.

Always enjoy the open forum we had at our last meeting. We had to cut it short because of the amount of auction items to be auctioned and the fact that we are on a time schedule for our room – 10PM. I will recommend to the speaker committee to schedule another open forum in the near future.

It is time to start prepping those fish and plants for our Annual Auction on November 17th. Our show chair, Patty Moncrief, will be asking for volunteers as the date approaches so volunteer to help.

The BOD will be going over the feedback from the Questionnaire and implement those suggestions that we can.

It's that time of year already; Ludo Van Den Boert is the chair of the nominations/elections committee. He will be taking nominations from the floor and by email. Nominee has to be in good standing and agree to be nominated. Ludo will need two volunteers to run the voting.

Hopefully you will be able to make this month's meeting when Brian and I share our Puerto Maldonado, Peru collecting trip adventure.

Bill

Bill Shields, President, TBAS

Mike Jacobs **Let's Do PHOTOS!!** 



Above: *Synodontis schoutedeni* Vermiculated Synodontis
Below: *Anomalochromis thomasi* Butterfly Cichlid



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Above: *Puntius titteya* Albino Cherry Barb
Below: *Poecilia latipinna* Sailfin Molly





Above: *Symphysodon aequifasciatus* Wild Discus
Below: *Carassius auratus* Gold Comet





Above: *Hyphessobrycon rosaceus* Rosey Tetra
Below: *Poecilia reticulata* Gold Tux Guppy

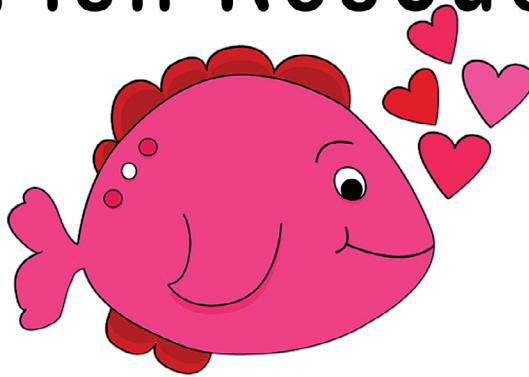




Above: *Pristella maxillaris* X-ray Gold Albino Tetra
Below: *Lasiancistrus* sp. (L178) Redfin Speckled Pleco



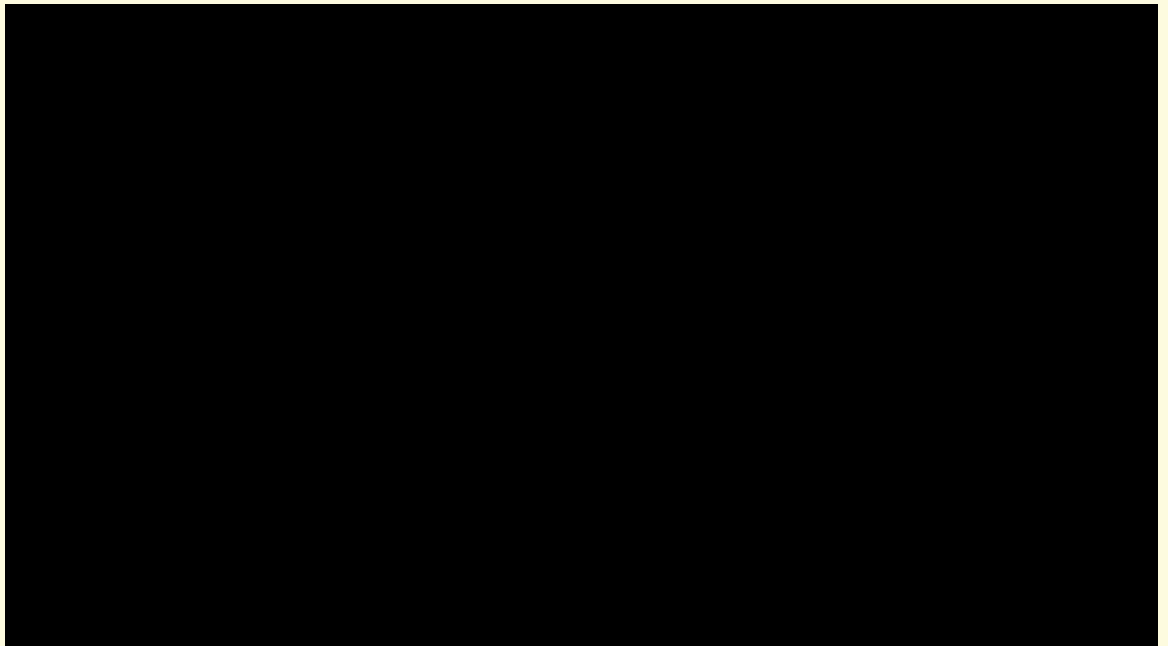
Big Tanks, Big Fish, and Big Rich . . . Touring Ohio Fish Rescue



[Click on the](#)



[to See Video](#)





Ask Patty: Is That Fish Legal?

A friend of mine called me the other day concerned that a new fish that had been given to her might be a Piranha. A real PIRANHA! I went to her house and picked up the fish and took it home to ID it and turn it over to the proper authorities if necessary. The fish turned out to be a badly damaged *Myleus rubripinnis luna*, Moon Red Hook, a rather rare fish. It is in the same family as the Piranha, but it was not a Piranha and I am keeping it!

Piranha are not legal in Florida or many other southern states. Many people are surprised to find that a fish is legal in some areas and not in others. If released into the wild they won't survive the winter up north, but they will in Florida. There are restricted species, fish that can be kept with a permit. These include some types of Tilapia and Silver and Black Arowanas. There are prohibited species, one that can't be kept at all. Some of the nastiest fish fall into this category: Snakeheads, Electric Eels and Catfish, Nile Perch, Walking Catfish and Piranha. There are more fish in both categories, but I was unable to get a list from the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission before this article had to be submitted. I will get a current set of rules and print them in an upcoming article.

But just because a fish is native to Florida doesn't mean that we can keep

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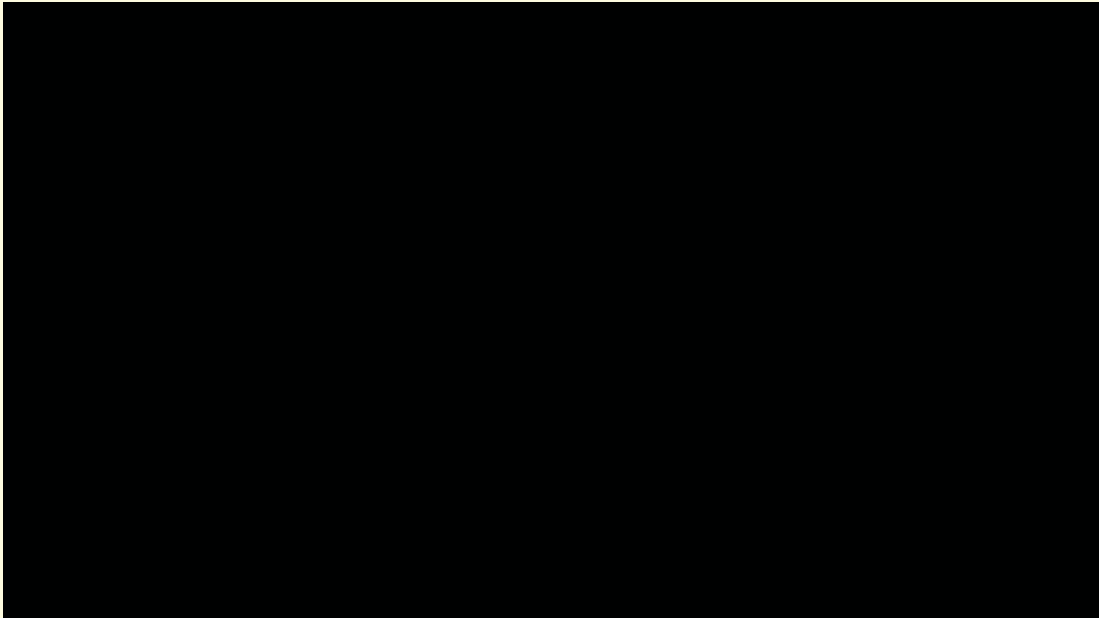
them in a tank either. I can't tell you how many times someone has told me that they are keeping a baby Bass, or Redfish or Snook. I have always taken great care to tell them that this is illegal. You can not keep game fish without a permit! There are even fish on the endangered species list and you can't keep them either.

Why would some fish be illegal? Well, unfortunately too many people buy fish without finding out how big they get, or how nasty they get. When the fish gets too big or mean for the tank they take them out and let it go in some lake or a stream. It is against the law to release any fish that is non-native to Florida. Many people don't think about the damage fish will do to the environment. Cichlids in the Everglades are gobbling up the native fish at a frightening rate. If you go fishing there, you are just as likely to catch an Oscar as you are to catch a Bass. Many local lakes have a strong population of South American Cichlids, too. But it is not all the fault of hobbyist either. There have been floods at fish farms that have released fish into the local waters. There was a case of a truck accident that released a walking catfish into a lake (this didn't happen in Florida). Accidents will happen. Hurricane Andrew destroyed many homes and the zoo. We will never know how many fish tanks were destroyed and how many fish were released.

As a final note, this doesn't just happen in freshwater. A USF professor told me of a fisherman that brought in a Panther Grouper that he caught by the Skyway Bridge. He wanted to know what it was. As hobbyists we must act responsibly with our pets, but we must also make an effort to inform others who don't know the laws. This is the only way to protect our environment of unique fish. Until next month, keep your fishy friends happy.



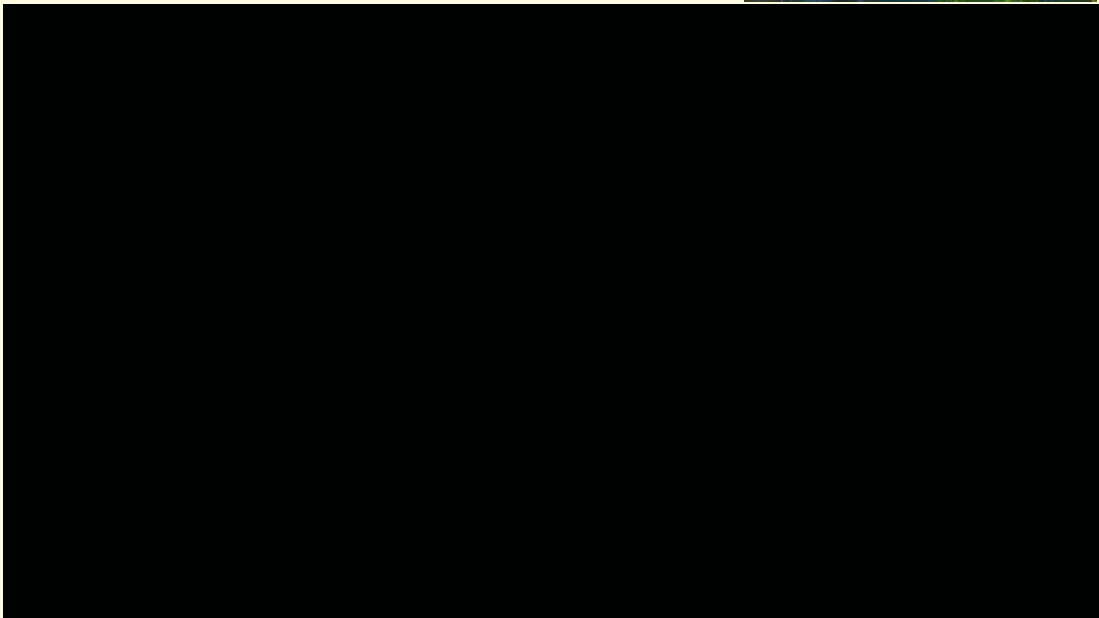
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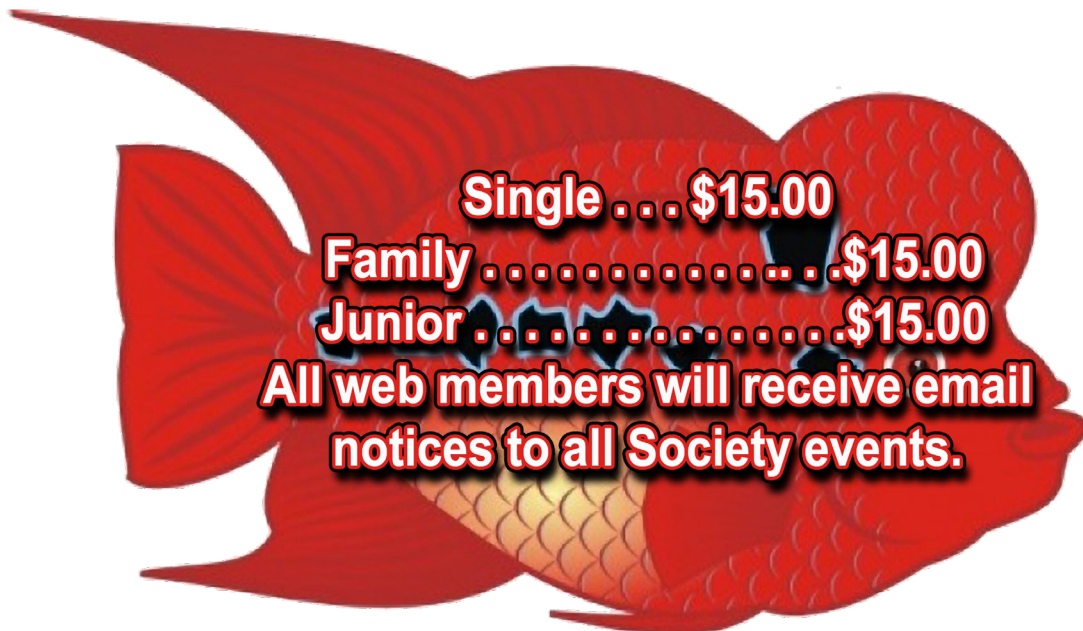
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Empire Gudgeon . . . *Hypseleotris compressa*

photo: Mike Jacobs 2017

MEMBERSHIP DUES!!!!



Single ... \$15.00

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Junior\$15.00

**All web members will receive email
notices to all Society events.**

Membership Dues for TBAS are due on the anniversary of your sign-up date every year. Please make sure you check the “sign-in” list on the table at every meeting to check your “Dues-Date” ... Thanks!!!

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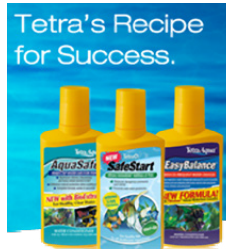
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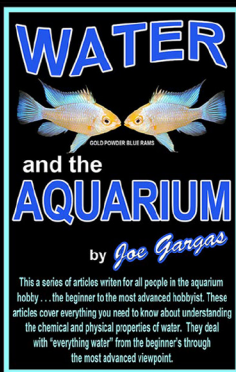


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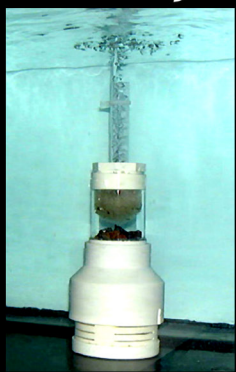


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St. Pete/Tampa, Florida**

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