

# FOTAS



Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies

# Fish Tales

**Volume 11 Issue 2**

**Jul - Dec 2021**

**What does it take to  
put on a Betta Show?**

**Cheap Water  
Features**

**Hitchhiker's Guide to  
the Planted Tank**



**Introduction to the  
CARES Fish  
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**Area of Concern: Earth**

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### **Design and Layout**

**Gerald Griffin**

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FOTAS Fish Tales Editor:

Gerald Griffin [herpchat@yahoo.com](mailto:herpchat@yahoo.com)

### **Fish Tales 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 [herpchat@yahoo.com](mailto:herpchat@yahoo.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.....

February 28th 2022

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# President's Message



Clay Trachtman  
FOTAS President

*Hello all,*

*2021 has been an important year for FOTAS. I don't want to get into the details here, but in 2014, FOTAS lost its 501 (c) status. The loss was due to paperwork issues, not because FOTAS was no longer fulfilling its mission as a non-profit. As president, one of the things that I want to do is regain that 501 (c) status. In order to do this, we are in the process of straightening out our financials and reapplying for non-profit status.*

*As part of that endeavor, FOTAS has a new Treasurer. Jackie Byers was elected treasurer at the virtual meeting in August. Jackie is an accountant by trade and is very involved with the Southeast Louisiana Aquarium Society (SELAS). At SELAS, she runs the Tanks for Teachers program, a program that places aquariums in schools and teaches both the teacher and some of the students how to maintain the aquarium. I think that Jackie will be great at her new position with FOTAS. Also, at the virtual meeting, it was decided on which locations would hold future FOTAS Annual Conventions. For the first time in my recollection, there is actually demand to host the convention. The calendar goes as follows:*

- 2022 Dallas (Texas Cichlid Association)*
- 2023 Tulsa (Oklahoma Aquarium Association)*
- 2024 Baton Rouge / New Orleans (Southeast Louisiana Aquarium Society)*
- 2025 Dallas (DFW Aquarium Association)*

*Finally, I would like to discuss the lack of articles for FOTAS Fish Tales. FOTAS Fish Tales relies on individual club members for articles. Without content, there is no FOTAS Fish Tales. So, I am imploring you to try to write an article or talk to your fellow club members about writing an article. We really need you. Until next time, happy fish keeping!*

*William "Clay" Trachtman*

# Hitchhiker's Guide to the Planted Tank

**Article by Alex Brown**

**I**t seems there has been a lot of talk lately about pests and parasites (in people's aquariums, I'm not talking about our relatives or co-workers). I thought this would make a great subject for this episode of Brain Ferts. If you've got live plants in your tank, then there is a pretty good chance that you've also got other living things in your tank besides the plants, fish and shrimp you've added on purpose. To be honest, there's a pretty good chance of that even if it's NOT a planted tank. But the "pests" we get in our planted tanks seem to be more noticeable and more annoying to most people.

Where do they come from? The title says it all. Most of them are simply hitchhikers. Unless you buy nothing but tissue cultured plants in those little containers, it is highly likely that at some point (or all points) that you will purchase plants that have hitchhikers. These can be snails, scuds, worms, copepods, amphipods, larvae, eggs, and probably a bunch of other things that go bump in the night. I'm not going to address all of these in all of their incarnations and varieties, because as the meme goes, ain't nobody got time for that! Many of them can be avoided by treating and/or quarantining your plants before introducing them to your aquarium. Treatment can be as simple as a quick dip in a bleach or peroxide solution, to a serious inspection, cleaning and dip all together.

Let's hit everyone's favorite first SNAILS! - Escargot. Mr. Turbo. Slug with a mobile home. It seems that people either love snails or hate them. We're not talking about larger "pet" snails like rabbit or mystery snails. We're talking about the "pest" varieties. When I first started keeping a planted tank, I hated them. I didn't understand. I didn't know how beneficial they can be to any tank, and especially a planted tank. So why does everyone hate snails? In a word. Overpopulation. It seems as though you go to bed one night enjoying your beautiful planted tank, then you wake up, turn the lights on and HOLY SNAIL EXPLOSION BATMAN! They're all over the walls of the tank, the substrate is moving, and you get the hebbie jeebies (technical term). It can be overwhelming, especially when you're not expecting it. But don't despair. There are effortless ways to thin the population. If you catch a bunch on the glass, a credit card with a fish net just underneath scoops them right off the glass and into the net. For the rest, Leave a piece of cucumber or squash on a small plate on the substrate. Come back in a couple of hours and just pull the plate of escargot out of the tank. There is also fighting fire with fire. Bring on the assassin snails! Clea helena will actually eat other snails. So, if you're a lazy tank boss, just hire a few assassins to clean up your streets. Also, a huge visible population of snails is often an indication that there is too much food in the tank. In other words, quit feeding your f in don't



so much! Now notice the word “visible” in there. Many small “pest” snails like to hide down in the substrate. Especially Malaysian Trumpet Snails (MTS). This is where the benefits start. MTS are excellent at digging around in the substrate which aerates and decompresses the substrate. This can help release anaerobic gasses and make the substrate looser for roots to grow in. Additionally, almost all snails will eat certain algae as well as uneaten food. In other words, they’re excellent tank janitors! Nerite snails are considered one of the best algae eating snails. They’re larger, come neat patterns and colors (google zebra and tiger nerite), and can’t breed in fresh water. They will lay eggs however, which many people consider unsightly. Overall, I feel that snails, no matter the type (MTS, bladder, Ramshorn, Nerite, and many other varieties) are more a helper than a pest, when properly controlled.

Next on my annoying list are SCUDS!  
 - Scuds (Gammarus), which is a type of Amphipod, are fairly harmless in a fish stocked tank and in fact are a great supplemental food source for your fish. You

typically see them in a fish stocked planted tank because they usually get eaten. It has been said that they will eat “plants”, especially mosses. They are so small that any impact they will have on your plants would not be noticeable unless you had a serious infestation. However, in a shrimp stocked planted tank, they are considered a major pest. They are opportunistic eaters and while they prefer plant matter, they are known to also eat baby shrimp. Shrimp breeders usually freak out about scuds in their tank. Removing them 100% is next to impossible without tearing down the tank completely. But they can be easily managed by temporarily adding fish that are adept at hunting them down. Small gouramis seem to be a good choice. However, bear in mind that anything that will eat scuds will also probably eat baby shrimp if they can find/catch them.

Seed Shrimp (Ostracods) – These are another very common “bug” you will find in almost any mature tank if you look in the right places. They’re wacky little herky jerky swimmers that if unchecked can explode



in population in the right conditions. They’re excellent fish food! In a fish stocked tank you’ll likely never see them. In a shrimp tank, while harmless, they can be annoying in large numbers. Your best bet is to use something in the shrimp tank that will eat them. They are small enough that some smaller “shrimp safe” fish will do the job, such as any of the nano rasboras (Emerald, Galaxy, Chili, etc.). You can also put fry from other tanks in your shrimp tank to grow them out and the fry will eat the ostracods. Just don’t forget to take the fry out before they get big enough to have their very own shrimp boil! There’s nothing worse than a gang of teenage guppies sitting around in your tank drinking pilfered beer and eating your baby shrimp. When I get a shrimp tank with a large population of these, I like to manually remove them with a medicinal syringe that has a rigid airline attached to the end with a piece of airline tubing. The extra length makes it easy to suck them up without getting your hands wet, then you can inject them right into another tank with fish that will enjoy eating them.

Copepods/Amphipods/Cyclops/Cladocerans – This group actually covers a lot of different specific varieties of little crustaceans. Water fleas/Daphnia fall into this category. Basically, it's the same story as the seed shrimp above. Pretty much Harmless. Fish eat them. Common in all tanks. Don't freak out if you see them, your tank is healthy.



Insect Larvae – These pests are less common. And depending on what type of insect larvae it is, it could either be harmless fish food, or it could be a Godzilla-like (at least to your livestock) aquarium terrorist bent on eating whatever it can catch

from shrimp to small fish. Dragonfly larvae fall into the fire breathing death machine category. I'm not sure how they'd breathe fire under water, but I'm sure they do! There are as many different types of larvae as there are insects. Many are harmless fish food.

Mosquito larvae make a tasty irresistible snack. A couple are downright scary. If you see one, remove it first, then analyze it later. If it's harmless, put it in one of your tanks with bigger fish and watch them thank you after they burp. If it's something meaner, kill it with fire! No, I'm kidding. Throw it outside in a pond and let it come a beautiful dragonfly, beetle, or other environmentally beneficial insect.



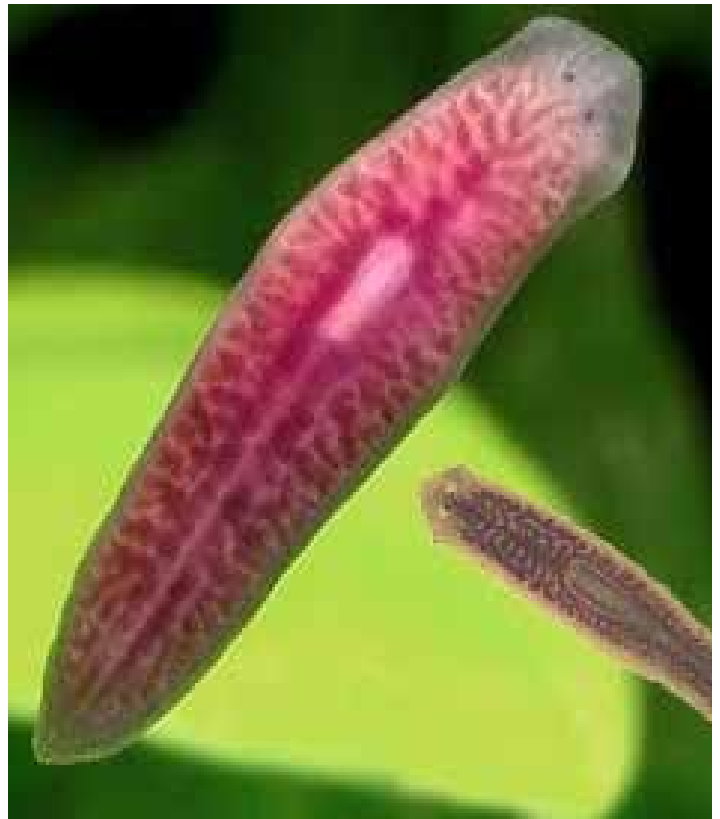
Hydra – HAIL HYDRA! (If you get that reference, we should have beers together) These are certainly an interesting creature in a freshwater tank. They almost look like a teeny tiny coral feather duster type critter, which makes sense because they're actually a freshwater polyp. If a piece of coral, a Venus fly trap, a jellyfish and worm had a baby, this would be it. They're actually pretty interesting, unless you keep shrimp (are we detecting a pattern yet?) Yep, this is another one that will eat your precious shrimp babies. Bigger ones will even eat fish fry and very small adult fish larger than they are! They can move, repro-



duce through the production of buds, and have been known to get as big as an inch. It's a stinging, moving, medusa worm. Really freaking cool or nightmare worthy depending on where you stand. Blue spot gouramis are known voracious eaters of hydra. But many other fish will also eat them like mollies and platys. If you can't or don't want to go the natural route, you can also use the chemical fenbendazole which can be bought as dog de-wormer at most pet stores. This is one pest you really don't want to live with, even if they are pretty cool.

**Worms** – There are MANY types of worms that can just “show up” in an aquarium and especially in a planted tank. There are detritus worms, Planaria, leeches, black worms, white worms, yellow worms, periwinkle worms (OK maybe I made that last one up). Some are good, some are bad, all are great fish food if you have fish as livestock. Generally, you won't even see them much as they tend to hide in the substrate unless you have a large overabundance of food for them in the tank (did I say anything about not overfeeding yet?). But Planaria on the other hand, hey you never would have guessed this I'm sure, they're not good in a shrimp tank! (Seriously I'm getting tired of saying that. Why do I keep shrimp again?) Luckily, there are ways to eradicate them. The aforementioned fenbendazole also works on Planaria! If you don't like using chemicals in your tank like me, they even make these cool little Planaria traps that work fairly well, even in shrimp tanks!

**Springtails** – Arguably there are probably many types of bugs you can find in your planted tank. But this is the only one I'm going to address because I seem to get them a lot. The first time I got them it was a case of “ACK! What are these bugs hopping around in my aquarium?” But as with many of the “pests” we've discussed today, I've learned to appreciate them as a part of this little ecosystem we are trying to create. They're harmless. For your top feeding fish (think guppies, endlers, killies, hatchets, mollies, bettas and the like), they can be a supplemental food source when they can catch them. These little guys are actually cultured on purpose for use in terrariums as they are beneficial for keeping the soil fresh and free of excess foods. In our planted tanks, they don't really serve a benefit. But they don't do any harm either. I've found that they are most often seen in tanks with floating plants and/or wood protruding from the water. They tend to like staying



dry, even though they're perfectly capable of bouncing around on top of the water like little aqua-tiggers (Tiggers are a wonderful thing Hoo hoo hoo HOO!)

OK so this one got really, REALLY long. I kinda missed last month's episode of Brain Ferts so you're getting a two-for-one deal this time. And I still feel like I only scratched the surface. But hopefully some of you, or at least one of you will have read this far and appreciate the info. So, the next time you see a “pest” in your planted tank, think about what it is actually doing. The chances are that it is actually a benefit to the tank (unless maybe it's a shrimp tank HA!)





# How to make a Cheap Water Feature for your Yard!

**Article by  
Kathy England**

You've seen fancy water features, disappearing fountains, water bubbling up from the middle of a rock bed, waterfalls rushing into koi ponds. They are very expensive to purchase ready-made, and can be time-consuming (and costly) to install. Eureka! I have found a better, and cheaper, way to have a nice little recirculating water feature without all the expense. Plus it's quick and easy to prepare and install.

First, you have to find your water container. This is the time to think outside the box, so to speak. Haunt local flea markets and yard sales to see what you can find, or go through items you are intending to donate to a local charity. I discovered the above flower vase at a community garage sale. It was full of tacky silk flowers and priced at only \$1. What a deal! Needless to say, the flowers had to go. I have also used old crocks, ceramic pitchers, terra cotta bowls and copper vases. Copper is especially nice as it will develop a nice patina over time.

Next you have to drill/punch a hole in the bottom of your container, if it does not already have one. A metal container is easy to deal with—just drill a hole or use a hammer to punch a hole. However, a ceramic or glass container is not easy. I burned up a Dremel when drilling holes in a couple of crocks, but I did manage to get the holes done before it quit on me. I realized later that drill bits are made especially for use on ceramics. Oh, well, too late this time.

The size of the hole is important. You will insert a plastic tube in the hole to direct the water flow, so you should make the hole the same size as you want your tube to be. It depends on the size of your fountain and the amount of water you want to push. On the green ball, I used a tube that allowed just enough water to fill the inside and then sluice down the sides. However, if you want it to have a larger flow, you can use a larger tube.

Okay. So you have the hole drilled, and hopefully you didn't break or burn up anything. What do you do now? The next step is to insert the tube. I used a ¼ inch plastic tube and let it stick up about 4 inches from the bottom of the ball, but still a couple of inches below the surface of the water when the ball filled up. (No one wants to see an ugly old plastic tube sticking out of their nice water feature.) Several inches of the tube should also stick out the bottom of your container. You want your water to flow straight up inside the container, so you may have to do some adjusting of the tube's position. I put large pebbles inside the ball to make sure the tube was straight, and to hold it in place once I got it in the proper position.

Next you need to find the appropriate size water pump for your project. The size depends on the amount of water you want to move. When you have chosen your pump, attach it to the tube sticking out of the bottom of your water feature. You will have to lift your water feature off the bottom of your sump, whatever that might be, in order to have room for the tube to run to the pump. My sump is a shallow "pond" made with 2x4's and a pond liner. I put my water ball on a couple of bricks that lay just under the water's surface, and that worked well.

Once you have the pump attached to the water feature, submerge it into your sump. Turn the pump on and see how the water circulates. You may have to make some adjustments as to the amount of flow. It's personal preference. Now – you have a nice little water feature and the cost was less than \$20, especially if you used equipment you already had laying around the house.

**PULL UP A CHAIR, GET A GLASS OF COLD ICED TEA  
AND ENJOY YOUR NEW WATER FEATURE!**



# What does it take to put on a Betta Show?

**Article by Gerald Griffin**

Every once in a while I see a post in a Betta Group, if I put on a Betta Show would you participate. Within a few months these people have moved onto some other hobby and I am sure they are doing the same things there as well. So what does it really take to put on a Betta Show?

## Planning

Without it you are doomed, it's that plain, that simple. I have seen more than my share of clubs screw up this aspect and ultimately fold after a show or a Convention. Also remember that military adage that 'no plan survives contact with the enemy.' What this means is that during a show anything that can go wrong just might. You will need to have contingency plans in place or be really good at crisis management. Having experienced this firsthand I have become good at both. So, what does planning look like?

## Financial

Do you have enough money to actually hold your show? What fund-raising do you need to do? Is your budget secure or are you willing to pay for this yourself? How cheap/ expensive are you willing to go?

## Venues

First off for a simple show, low cost to no cost venues are your best option. However, what are the costs associated with this and what are their hours of operation? Can you finish your show in time? In my days, I have seen a lot of crazy things. A show held in an apartment; a show held in adjoining hotel rooms. I have seen shows at the Veterans of Foreign War Post Lodges and Hotel Show Rooms. I have seen Church meeting rooms and Library meeting rooms. All have benefits and problems associated with them. Find what will work for you and your group. Typically, when you choose to go with cheap venues you will trade off public access. There are a number of things that have to happen during a show and Judging is a major part of the Show. Will Judging be open to the public or not? Usually Judging is closed to the public, especially for the bigger shows. Lodges and Libraries can typically run a few hundred dollars to rent for the weekend. For hotel show rooms you might be able to work out a deal; however, don't be surprised for a price of around \$1000 a day. If you can find a number of people to obtain lodging in the hotel sometimes you can cut this price down. Negotiate!

## Awards

How fancy or plain are you going to be with Awards? Remember that different Betta groups have restrictions on what is an acceptable award. Currently in Area 1 of the International Betta Congress (North America) there are 102 show classes. This would mean at a minimum that you would need 102 1st, 2nd and 3rd place something. They could be ribbons, certificates, medallions, or anything else you could dream up. So that is 306 individual awards. Now let us add in the fact that some classes could potentially need to be split if there are too many entries in that class. This would mean more possible awards. It is also quite likely that a number of classes will have no entries. So, play it safe with a larger number than smaller number of awards. There are three Best of Show and three Reserve Best of Show for the Self Bred, New Breeder, and for Collectors classes. Categories that brings those to six each, 3 for males and 3 for females. Those must be plaques or equivalent. Then there is the best of variety and reserve best of variety (BOV and RBOV). There are four categories that require these, categories A, B, C and E. Plaques and trophies can be from \$100 to as high as you might want to take this. Ribbons can be done cheaply and still look good whereas medallions average between \$2 to \$3 each if you can get them! Right now, all of the places I would use to obtain them are out of stock. So, on the high end that would be over \$1000 on awards alone.

## Display Containers

This is where many clubs run into problems. On average the typically used "Beanie Containers" vary in



A Betta Convention display. There were over 560 Bettas so we had to resort to using the gallon drum bowls from previous shows. Note the beanies on the side.



price considerably depending on where you can buy them and in what quantity you need. For a typical Betta show we figure on the high end of around 500 containers. In Area one the average is between 250 to 350 Bettas per show. Some shows less, some shows more. When I bought new beanies for the 2019 IBC Convention it cost about \$1500 which breaks down to about \$3 per container. The problem right now is actually finding containers. When it comes to show containers, the main requirement is that they have a flat side that allows for the unobstructed view of the Betta in the container. CCW has some cheap alternatives however they do not last long from my experience and become brittle over time. Similar types of containers can be found on U-Line plastics.

### Judges

The IBC does not require that shows offer Judges or Groups of Judges monetary incentives however other Areas of the world this is expected. I am only covering shows in Area 1 so this is not the normal situation. The IBC rules on shows require that the Show Chair check with the Judges as to any expectations the Judges might want/ need in order to Judge. In Area 1 I have never heard of a Judge demanding or requiring any sort of payment to Judge. Most are happy to Judge and eagerly spend their own money on Lodging.



Beanie Containers  
used to display Bettas



Typical Kritter Keepers being  
used for Wild Betta species.



## Stands

These can be anything from simple folding stands to fully set up displays. Your creativity and your budget will dictate what you can come up with. Most shows go with simple and durable. I use something in between which are assembled on site. The cost of these stands varies a lot!



## Miscellaneous Equipment

Are you going to heat the containers? This can be problematic as Betta comfortable temperature and people comfortable temperature are about 100 F different. This can make the show room quite uncomfortable. However, ZooMed makes a heating cable for about \$25 that heats one show rack. During a show you will typically have 10 show racks running so right there that is \$250 on heating alone. Other things to add would be 35 gallon or larger trash cans on casters to move water around the show room. I use pond pumps to move the water from the trash can to the show containers. These pumps vary in price but are quite handy to have when setting up the show room. Hopefully the show space has hot and cold running water that you can mix appropriately to get a desired temperature in the water containers. If not, you may require additional heating such as aquarium heaters or inline heaters that heat the water as it is leaving the container. Hydor makes some good inline heaters for this purpose.

## Labor

A lot of people underestimate the amount of work these shows require. Sure, I can pull off a show with a minimal amount of people, however most shows cannot. The more you conduct shows the short cuts may become apparent. Required people are the Show Chair, Records – Data Entry (may be the Show Chair), Runners (who move fish between Judges and the Show Chair), Judge(s), Show Room Manager (could be Show Chair or other designated person to maintain the se-

curity of the Show Room). The more people you have the easier this becomes. Remember that Judges who are Judging are not allowed into the show room unless the Show Chair needs specific questions answered. Technically, only one Judge is required, however, more Judges make the process move faster and is generally better for everyone involved. Eight would be a good number of people to run a show but it can be done with five (although I would not recommend it). After the show is over Judges often- times help in the breakdown of the show room. Keep in mind the following day is typically an auction which is an all-hands-on deck situation. You will need a records keeper, auctioneer, and runners. Again, five could work but the more you have the easier the auction becomes.

## The Actual Show

Now that the show is running there are a few things to remember: All Bettas must be carded and if uncarded for Judging then they are to be re-carded within 30 minutes and allowed to rest. Also be cognizant of how much time Judging will take; some Judges take longer than others. Also, mistakes do happen and will eat up valuable time. Try to keep these to a minimum. Other Head Judges and I have had situations that had to be addressed by throwing everyone except a few specific individuals out of the show room to fix those mistakes. These pitfalls eat up a lot of time so plan for problems, they do happen. Is there any training going on? This also takes time. It is not uncommon to have apprentices at Shows learning how to Judge and going through the Judging process. If done correctly this also eats into the time during a show. Also, keep in mind that

Judges need breaks, and it is the responsibility of the Show Chair to make sure refreshments and snacks are available if the Judges need them. Do not let any of this discourage you! Once you have done a few shows this will be second nature.

Once all of the Bettas are judged it is time for the Best of Variety and Reserve Best of Variety for each eligible class and finally the Best of Show and Reserve Best of Show from each eligible Best of Variety. This can take up as much time as the previous Judging although normally it does not and only last about an hour or two. These procedures can be found in the IBC Show Standards.



## Judging for Best of Variety.



## More Judging!



## Breakdown

This is also an all-hands-on deck situation. All auction fish must be identified and relocated to one area of the show room. The remaining fish are to be staged so that they can be returned to the owner's box. If the owner is in attendance, they may box their own fish but only after the Show Chair has verified that the owner has his own fish. Once all of the Bettas are bagged up and in the appropriate box the stands are broken down and the beanies returned to their boxes. Now it is time to rest for the night and prepare for the auction on the following day.

## Auction

Exact rules for conducting the auction can be found in the IBC Show Standards. The biggest thing to remember is that not all fish sell and those that do not sell in the auction need to be checked with the owner as to whether they are to be returned with their other fish or if they are donations to the club. It is very important that you and your group know this ahead of time. Typically, after the auction is over there is a no sale table where people can pick through those fish and purchase them for the minimum bid. Those that



Show Room being set up.



Kayla Griffin inputting entry forms.



Dr. Gene Lucas looking over the 1st places in each Class.



Gianne Souza and I actually tied for first in the Wild Betta Classes. Someone yelled out "Wrestle for it" and that is how this picture came to be. I let her take the trophy home and ordered myself a new trophy. Jennifer Lapello was laughing hysterically at this!



do not sell this way will be handled in the manner in which the owner has specified.

### Reporting the Results

Once all of the fish and the awards have been sent to the original owners the Show Report must be filed to the Judging Board no later than the Monday night after the show weekend. Don't worry if there are mistakes. There often times are, and you work with the Judging Board to fix them. Within a few days your Show Report should be finalized. Now is when you can rest and say, "NEVER AGAIN!" until the next time you get talked into doing this.

I hope I haven't scared you off of actually conducting a show because when it is all over and done with, they are a lot of fun!

**Dan Young as the Auctioneer!**



# Introduction to the CARES Fish Preservation Program

## [www.caresforfish.org](http://www.caresforfish.org)

### Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the CARES Preservation Program is to create a base stock of conservation priority species through encouraging hobbyists worldwide to devote tank space to one or more species at risk and distribute offspring to fellow qualified hobbyists, while forming an information network where possible between aquarists, scientists, and conservationists.

### CARES has four major goals:

- 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; and
- 4) to preserve species at risk for future generations.

We truly welcome you and are so glad to have you as a part of this global endeavor! Should you have any questions, or if we can be of help in any way, please do not hesitate to ask!

Key	Authority Name
KB	Ken Boorman
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CRC	The Cichlid Room Companion
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Red List:
MH	Mike Hellweg
AK	Ad Konings
AL	Anton Lamboj, Ph.D.
GL	Gary Lange
PVL	Paul V. Loiselle, Ph.D.
JL	John Lyons, Ph.D.
RP	Richard Pierce, Ph.D.
GS	Greg Steeves
ST	Stephan Tanner, Ph.D.
MT	Michael Tobler, Ph.D.
TECM	The Endemic Cichlids of Madagascar — Patrick de Rham and Jean-Claude Nourissat

Refer to this list to see if a species of fish you are keeping is conservation priority at risk and the current status of that species. Enter the species that you are currently maintaining on your club's CARES Registration Sheet along with where or from whom your specimens were obtained, and the approximate date that they were obtained. You may also use this list to search for a species that you are interested in working with in the future.

# Priority list: Anabantidae

Species	Classification	Assessment	Authority
<i>Belontia signata</i>	CWU		PVL
<i>Betta albimarginata</i>	CVU	Mar 09	AL
<i>Betta brownorum</i>	CEN		PB
<i>Betta burdigala</i>	VU	Aug 96	IUCN
<i>Betta channoides</i>	VU	Mar 09	AL
<i>Betta chini</i>	VU		IUCN
<i>Betta chloropharynx</i>	VU		IUCN
<i>Betta coccina</i>	CEN		PVL
<i>Betta foerschi</i>	CEN		PVL
<i>Betta hipposideros</i>	VU		IUCN
<i>Betta livida</i>	EN		IUCN
<i>Betta macrostoma</i>	VU		IUCN
<i>Betta miniopinna</i>	CR		IUCN
<i>Betta persephone</i>	CR		IUCN
<i>Betta pi</i>	CVU	May 12	AL
<i>Betta rutilans</i>	CEN		PVL
<i>Betta schalleri</i>	CEN		PVL
<i>Betta simplex</i>	CR	May 12	IUCN
<i>Betta spilotogena</i>	CR		IUCN
<i>Betta tomi</i>	VU		IUCN
<i>Betta tussya</i>	CEN		PVL
<i>Betta uberis</i>	CCR	May 12	AL
<i>Macropodus hongkongensis</i>	CVU	May 12	AL
<i>Malpulutta kretseri</i>	CEN		PVL
<i>Parosphromenus alfredi</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus alleni</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus anjunganensis</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus bintan</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus deissneri</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus filamentosus</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus harveyi</i>	EN	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus linkei</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus nanyi</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus opallios</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus ornatICAUDA</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus pahueensis</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus paludicola</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus parvulus</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus quindecim</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus rubrimontis</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus sumatranus</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL
<i>Parosphromenus tweediei</i>	CVU	Sep 09	AL



# Deciphering the List

## CARES risk classifications

If a species is approved for inclusion on the CARES Conservation Priority List and that species is not on the IUCN Red List or CARES Authorities feel from personal field observation that the species requires a different classification than that assigned by the IUCN Red List, the following classifications will apply.

Key	Classification	Description
CNT	Near Threatened	Species which are close to qualifying for classification to Vulnerable.
CVU	Vulnerable	Species facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future.
CEN	Endangered	Species facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future (includes species on the ALA list (2) shown as Threatened).
CCR	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered Species facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future (same as 'EE' used by de Rham and Nourissat).
CEW	Extinct in the Wild	Known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity, or as a naturalized population (or populations) well outside the past range.

## International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classification

If a species is approved for inclusion on the CARES Conservation Priority List and that species is also on the IUCN Red List, in most cases the IUCN Red List classification is used by CARES, with great appreciation to those who place much effort into the IUCN Red List.

Key	Classification	Description
NT	Near Threatened	Taxa which do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but which are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
VU	Vulnerable	A taxon is Vulnerable when it is not Critically Endangered or Endangered but is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future.
EN	Endangered	A taxon is Endangered when it is not Critically Endangered but is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.
CR	Critically Endangered	A taxon is Critically Endangered when it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future.
EW	Extinct in the Wild	taxon is Extinct in the wild when it is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population (or populations) well outside the past range. A taxon is presumed extinct in the wild when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form.

The full classification criteria for species in risk of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (version 2.3) can be found in the IUCN Red List site.

# Area of Concern: Earth

Article by: Riccardo Camera



fish species live in freshwater, and freshwater habitats compromise .02% of available aquatic habitable volume. It stands to reason that even small reductions in the available freshwater habitats can cause a huge decrease in freshwater species.

The time for a realignment of priorities is now. As participants in CARES we possess a unique ability to make a connection with the hobby at large and share fish that are endangered or threatened. It is not merely biomass that we must share though, it's knowledge, it's empathy, it's passion that we must share.

For new hobbyists it is extremely hard to make a connection between a *Maylandia estherae* specimen and the over-fishing and pollution of lake Malawi. For some this is a lack of concern but I would posit that for most this is just a lack of knowledge. As a collective we possess a lot of that knowledge that might spur our fellow hobbyists into action.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists six major threats to freshwater habitat. Listed on the Freshwater Fish Specialists Group website, they are Habitat modification, Invasive Species, Overfishing, Environmental Pollution, Forestry Practice and Climate Change. Just thinking about this list conjures up feelings of dread, impending doom and hopelessness. There is a silver lining though, all of these are byproducts of humanity's abusive relationship with Mother Earth. I know, I know...it doesn't sound like a silver lining, but it means that with some adjustments to our priorities and our attitudes we can at least stem the tide of destruction.

Per Leveque et al., 40% of all described

In future issues I hope that you the readers of this magazine will contribute first-hand reports of the state of freshwater habitats around the world. I know that just this year we have had members visiting the rift lakes and one member has a planned trip to some unique freshwater habitats of Mexico.

“There is certainly a role for all of us in conservation whether it be the breeding of threatened species, the care of them or the sharing of knowledge.”



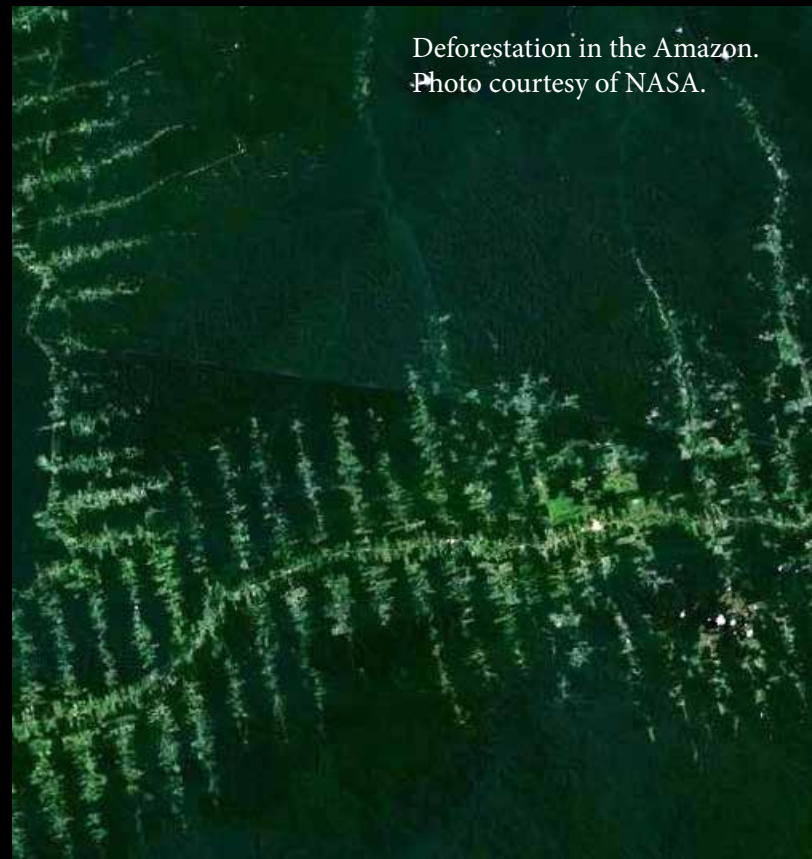
I hope that in some small way this new incarnation of the Exchange can facilitate the passing of knowledge and become a source of inspiration.

I hope you will join me in the effort to spread the word and spread the fish. If you are wondering if the time for action is now, I will leave you with these facts:

“Fewer than 70 of the world’s 177 longest rivers remain free of man-made obstructions.” - WWF

“Reasonable estimates project that future increases in extinctions will range from 53 to 86 species by 2050.” - Bioscience re: the extinction rate of North American freshwater fish.”

“About 40 percent of the fish species in the world live in freshwater biomes, and in the past 20 years, freshwater fish populations have declined by over 20 percent.”  
- Sciencing.com



Deforestation in the Amazon.  
Photo courtesy of NASA.





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just off I-49, Exit #81 (west)**

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**Northwest Arkansas  
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**Contact the Editor if you have story ideas or would like to contribute to Fish Tales!**

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**Volume 11 Issue 1**

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**Jan - Jun 2021**

**Adventures in  
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**The Betta Photography  
of Kenny Seaw**



**Why doesn't  
that plant grow  
in my tank?**

***Harpogochromis* Pfeffer,  
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