

## **PROFILE OF A GUPPY BREEDER #9**

**Gary Mousseau**

**MR. HALF BLACK YELLOW**

**(Yellow is the color of my dreams)**

Frank Schulterbrandt 3/3/2016



Again, we all have stories as to how we got involved with tropical fish and fancy guppies. Our stories seem to overlap and take on the same paths. The exposure to tropical fish at an early age, then sports, then girls, then family, then tropical fish again and finally back to guppies. How many of you have taken similar paths ? So it is also true with the man who I am about to introduce to you. Ladies and gents I introduce to you Mr. Gary Mousseau, the mild mannered , quiet gentleman from the Land of the Lakes State Michigan. Michigan borders on four of the five Grate lakes, so it is only fitting that Gary has been involved with water and fish. Gary has ruled the Half Black yellow Class in the International Fancy Guppy Association (IFGA) for years. Consider him the shark in the water and if anyone, I mean anyone challenges him in the Half Black Yellow color class, they quickly become shark bait in the IFGA standings. I also found this fact to be quite amusing, Michigan has the only floating post office. Gary has won Guppy man of the year 2 times, has won the Half Black Yellow Class more times than I can remember. Gary has won numerous IFGA Best Of Show awards and most of all he has attained the IFGA highest accolade status of MASTER BREEDER. This award has only been attained by less than 15 guppy breeders out of hundreds of exhibitors in the IFGA. So without further ado the interview will start right now.

**1: When/how did first get involved with tropical fish ?**

I first got involved with tropical fish when I was eleven years old and a neighbor friend received a ten gallon tank for Christmas. The first thing I did after seeing it was to run home and ask my parents to get me a ten gallon aquarium. They got it for my birthday.

**2: When did you get involved with guppies and how long have you been raising guppies and why guppies ?**

I got involved with guppies when I was about 15 years old. I have been raising guppies off and on for forty five years. I enjoy all the colors and the quick turn around of the fry.

**3: Did you belong to any club before joining the Michigan Guppy Breeders ?**

I belonged to Motor City Aquarium Society where I am on the board of directors and I am a manufacturer's representative to this day. I have been a member of MCAS off and on since I was eleven years old.

**4: How many tanks do you have and what size tanks are they ?**

I share 154 tanks with my son Tim which consists of twenty, ten, five and two gallon tanks.

**5: What are you favorite colors / types of guppies ?**

My favorite strains are Half Black Yellow, Half Black AOC, Half Black Pastel and Red Albino.

**6: How many times a day do you feed your guppies and what do you feed them ?**

I feed my guppies 5 times a day with a combination of baby brine shrimp, granular food and frozen brine shrimp.

**7: What is you water maintenance routine and your lighting system (how long the lights are on / off) ?**

As most of you know Tim and I have an automatic water system. We change four zones every other day. My lighting system consists of having our lights on at 7 AM and off at 8 PM.

**8: What was the funniest thing that happened to you while you have been breeding guppies.**

The funniest thing that has happened to me while breeding guppies is watching Paul Gorski getting chewed out by Ethel Shubel. This was very funny to me.

**9: What was the worst thing that happened to you while you have been breeding guppies.**

The worst thing that happened to me while breeding guppies is when one of our timers in on of our zones stuck while I was on vacation. Basically it chlorinated 28 tanks in that zone. All the fish were dead or disintegrated

**10: How long did it take for you to get your first IFGA award and then to win your first IFGA Color Class ?**

I started showing guppies in the IFGA in 1988 at a IFGA guppy show in Cleveland. I won first place in the Black Female class. I then showed at four more IFGA shows that year and won the Black Female color class.

**11:** Besides Baby Brine Shrimp what is your two favorite foods to feed your guppies ?

My two favorite foods to feed my guppies are Shubel mix and Plankton Gold.

**12:** When did your son Tim get involved with guppies.

My son Tim got involved with guppies in the IFGA when he was 14 years old.

**13:** I see that Tim got good on the job training, any special routines in teaching him.

My special routines in teaching Tim were to train him to cull good and follow the IFGA Judging Standards.

**14:** How have you been able to maintain the good yellow coloring in your HB-Yellows and HB body color over the years ?

I've been able to maintain the color in my Half Black Yellows by always maintaining three to four lines..To maintain my Half Black body color I never picked females that have a lot of black body color.I want the male to carry and dominate the Half Black color.

**15:** Out of my own curiosity , because you like HB-Yellows, did you ever try breeding straight Yellows ?

Yes, I did try breeding straight Yellow guppies. I won the Yellow class 3 times in the early 2000 years.

**16:** Are you the all time leader in the HB-Yellow class ?????

Yes, I have many points and I am the all time leader in the Half Black Yellow class.

**17:** About how many IFGA first place awards do you think you have won ??? estimate

I estimate I have won about 350 first place awards since I started in the IFGA.

**Gary Mousseau**  
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