

PROFILE OF A GUPPY BREEDER #12

Mike J Lastella

GREEN IS THE COLOR OF MY DREAMS.

Frank Schulterbrandt 3/10/2016



Mike Lastella's greatest love outside of his family was golf and luckily for us his second love was the breeding, raising and showing of fancy guppies. Mike was one of the best guppy breeders in the United States. Mike by trade was a carpenter and had a cabinet making company (**D & M Custom Cabinets**) with about 12 – 15 employees.

Mike and Doris Lastella built their fish room in 1974 and shortly after that Mike started showing guppies regularly.

Mike constructed the East Coast Guppy Assoc. show racks which had florescent 8 foot lamps on each side of the rack. Mike actually made show awards that were clocks which I still have after all of these years (and the clock is still working). Mike was 8 years older than me, I first met him early in 1977, he use to call me Frankie and Steve Kwartler, Stevie. Mike always had a good story to tell. It's hard to say who was funnier, Harold Morgan, Vic Piteo or Mike Lastella.

Mike Ruled the International Fancy Guppy Association (IFGA) **GREEN** color class for years, 9 years to be exact.... He also had Reds, Purples, Blues and Half Black Blues (8 time color class champion). Mike also fooled around with Vienna swordtail guppies for a couple of years. Mike would cross a Vienna Swordtail male into his Green females making the swordtail males a bit larger but never trying to fix the swordtail line, always keeping the Vienna line pure. Mike also had one other line of swordtail guppies, but I just can't remember what type. Mike had multiple lines of Half Black AOCs, but whenever he needed Best Of Show guppies for sure.... Mike would show those hybrid Half Black AOCs that were almost unbeatable. The rest of his lines were line bred contrary to many out there that thought all he did was show Hybrid guppies which was not the case. Many people always wanted to buy those Best Of Show Half Black AOCs , but mike would never sell hybrids to anyone.

Mike was a shining star in the North East for years... Five time IFGA Grand Overall Male Champion. Tons of Best Of Show awards and hundreds of first place awards. and soon to be a MASTER BREEDER as I in his absence from us on this earth, I have petitioned to have him inducted into the MASTER BREEDER class and have submitted an application for him to have this (better late than never) honor bestowed upon him. In my opinion Mike is among the top three breeders in the history of the IFGA. The only thing that stopped this runaway freight train was his health. The only thing that hurt him more than giving up the guppies was giving up his playing golf. In the days when IFGA shows had 600+ to 700+ entries Mike was racking up Best of shows like clockwork.

Mike Lastella got his Greens from Mike Regent another guppy hall of famer (who supplied many of us with his championship show guppies) Mike Regent was a founding member of the South Jersey Guppy Group which I was also a member of. Mike Lastella actually made the Greens just a wee bit better (just enough to win about 10 best of shows with just the Greens in a five year span 1978-1983 and there were more BOS in Greens in the years to follow. Mike also got a line of Half Black AOCs from Mike Regent that he crossed into another line and then to make his Best Of Shows Half Black AOCs , Mike would take that new established Half Black AOC line and make a cross to get his Hybrid Best Of

Show gups.

Mike Lastella was also inducted into the Guppy Hall Of Fame in 1988. Mike's service to the IFGA consisted of show rotation chairman, vice president and finally president of the IFGA. His lovely wife Doris served as secretary of the IFGA as well. Oh and did I forget, Mike Lastella was a certified IFGA judge and was a member of the IFGA judging board. As far as the judging board is concerned as Harold Morgan puts it, Mike has been retired too, LOL.

I remembered one year at the last show of the IFGA show season (an East Coast Guppy Assoc. show) our judging team was judging the blue tank or blue delta class. I believed Joe Smith had blues and we placed Joe Smith's Blues ahead of Mike's Blues. Boy did that set off a firestorm. Mike lost the Blue class that year by less than 60 points.... (there was no way that Mike's guppies were better... that year they had that off colored dorsal) I never saw Mike get so pissed off like that.... Anyway the next day he apologized ,like the true gentleman that he was, but that was Mike for you, a true competitor).

Mike in the early years of showing guppies. Best Of Show at an All Species Aquarium show.
The year 1976.



Mike Lastella having way too much fun at the IFGA Annual. The largest sized trophy is for IFGA Best Of Show you guessed it a GREEN TANK entry. One of the two smaller sized trophies is for Best Of Show for the Guppy World Contest and the other trophy is for first place in the color class at the World Guppy Contest. The World Guppy Contest was combined with the IFGA Annual and by the way Mike made these awards in his shop. I was lucky enough to win two of these clocks and they still work... The year 1983 ... I hope he did not ask his lovely wife Doris to help him carry anything.



Also in the above photo is John O'Brien and his wife

Mike Lastella receiving one of his five IFGA Grand Overall Male Championship Awards
From Ted Lobello



IFGA COLOR CLASS CHAMPIONS the year 1981. Can you find Mike in the photo below ?



Mike Lastella serving as President and Bill Orth serving as Vice President of the IFGA. The years 1986 -1987
Two of the best IFGA guppy breeders.



Mike's fishroom



East Coast guppy show racks with florescent lights



Mike Lastella, Marlyn Johnson and Steve Kwartler judging at an East Coast Guppy Association Show



Michael J Lastella passed away late last year in September 2015 at the age of 73.

**Man that is going to be some guppy show up there in the sky, Mike Regent, Luke Roebuck
and
Mike Lastella.**

Listed are just some of Mike's Best Of Show Awards and Accomplishments

Name Of Show	Show Date	1st Best Of Show
Mid West Guppy	Apr 8-9 1978	HB AOC Delta
Baltimore	June 24-25 1978	HB AOC Tank
NOGBA	Aug 12-13 1978	GREEN DELTA
SJGG	Sept 23-24 1978	HB AOC Delta
Indiana Aquarium	Nov 4-6 1978	GREEN DELTA
East Coast Guppy	Aug 12-12 1980	GREEN TANK
SJGG	June 14-15 1980	HB AOC Delta
Lafayette	July 12-13 1980	HB AOC Tank
Everglades	Apr 4-5 1981	Red Delta
Heartland	Apr 3-4 1982	Blue Tank
SJGG	Apr 17-18 1982	Red Tank
Cleveland	May 22-23 1982	GREEN DELTA
Cleveland	May 22-23 1982	GREEN TANK
Tri State	Aug 7-8 1982	GREEN TANK
East Coast	Nov 4-6 1983	GREEN TANK
Gateway	July 23-24	GREEN DELTA
10+ more part of 85		
Pres IFGA 1986 & 1987		
IFGA Judge & Judging Board Member		
Hall of Fame		
IFGA Male Grand Overall	5 Times	1978,1982,+
IFGA MASTER BREEDER	Awarded Nov. 1st 2016	



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