

PROFILE OF A GUPPY BREEDER #3

Stephen Kwartler

MR. HALF BLACK AOC

Frank Schulterbrandt 1/15/2016



It gives me great pleasure at this time to introduce Stephen Neil Kwartler, a friend for close to 36+ years. I first met Steve at an all species aquarium show. I was looking at the guppies that were in the show and Steve walked over and starting looking at the guppies as well. I said something to Steve like so you are interested in guppies too. Steve said yes, I have 100 tanks. That's all I needed to hear. This guy is crazy!!! , but low and behold, he did in fact have 100 tanks.

Steve had 100 tanks of HB-Reds crammed into a small area. To be honest the HB-REDS were "so so" and that was being nice. I would eventually make arrangements for Steve and I to pay a visit to Mike Regent, a South Jersey Guppy Group member (as I was also a member of SJGG). Steve would purchase a trio of HB-AOCs from my friend Mike Regent and the rest is history.

I would also like to add that Steve is one of the most meticulous guppy breeders that I have known. Steve's breeding notes are impeccable. His daily routine in the fish room is like clock work, the routine does not change. Steve has been in and out of the hobby a few times, but it does not take him long to get back on track. So lets get right to It with this interview.

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

I must have been 3-4 years old when my dad let me use one of his fish tanks. My mom took me to the pet store and let me pick out my own fish which were several guppies and mollies.

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

My involvement with guppy breeding started when I was in my teens. I had been breeding all types of tropical fish, angels, cichlids of many types and my favorites, guppies. When I was still at home I had about 10 tanks in my bedroom. When I got married in 1974 I made sure there was an extra bedroom which is where I set up my first fish room for guppies. We eventually bought a house and I set up the basement with over 100 used stainless steel tanks. I miss this fish room even to this day. I was always partial to the old slate bottom tanks.

3: Did you belong to any club before joining the SJGG ?

My first club involvement was the Bronx Aquarium Club where I met many new friends that shared their knowledge and offered encouragement. Sometime after that I was at an all specie aquarium show where I met Vic Piteo who was my first guppy mentor. I also met my good friend Frank Schulerbrandt who brought me to my first IFGA guppy auction and it was at this time I joined the South Jersey Guppy Group.

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

I currently have a fish room in my golf cart garage here in Sebring, FL. I have nearly 100 tanks, 60+ 10 gallon and about 40 5 gallon tanks,

5: What are you favorite color / type of guppies ?

My favorite strain of guppies are HB AOC's. I am always working on improving patterns and experimenting with different base colors. Another favorite are HB Purples and HB Greens.

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

My feeding schedule is very simple. I feed dry powdered/crushed dry food an hour after the lights go on. About 3-4 hours later I feed very heavy amounts of newly hatched baby brine shrimp. Three hours later I again feed dry food and 2-3 hours later another heavy feeding of BBS.

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

Lights in my fish room are ceiling mounted florescent bulbs which go on at 9:30 every morning and turn off at 10 PM every night. I do twice weekly water changes each week at 30-40 percent for juveniles/adults and about 70 percent n all fry tanks. I store about 100 gallons of aged water in three pails which is always

filtered and circulated. Using two separate pumps I siphon and fill with the help of remote controlled switches.

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

Years ago several of us were at either at a Milwaukee or Cleveland Annual. A book of photos was being passed around with pictures of several Annuals from several years. Looking through with Captain Frank Ortega and Terry Wasylink and my good friend Bill Klein we realized Bill Orth was wearing the same blue and white shirt in several photos. As we chuckled we looked up and there was Bill Orth wearing that same shirt again. We all broke out in laughter.

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

I remember I obtained some fish from a reputable breeder and within a few days my entire fish room was effected by what seemed to be a plague. All most every tanks became clamped and I lost most of my fish in a very short time. Lesson learned; quarantine all new fish and avoid obtaining new fish unless absolutely necessary.

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

With the insistence of my friend Frank Schulerbrandt I entered a female in the East Coast Guppy Association show. It took first place in Novice and 1st place BOS. That Schulerbrandt knows how to pick them!. After three years of showing my HB AOC's I finally beat the big guns, Mike Lastella, Mike Regent, and Dave Polunas to win my first Color Class Award

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

My tow dry foods are a mixture of Ken's flakes, Shrimp, Plankton, Earthworm, etc.. My other dry food is Ken's Premium Crumbles size 00.

12: Are you the all time leader in HB-AOC ?????

Yes, I am currently thousands of points ahead and my new goal is to recapture winning this class one more time.

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

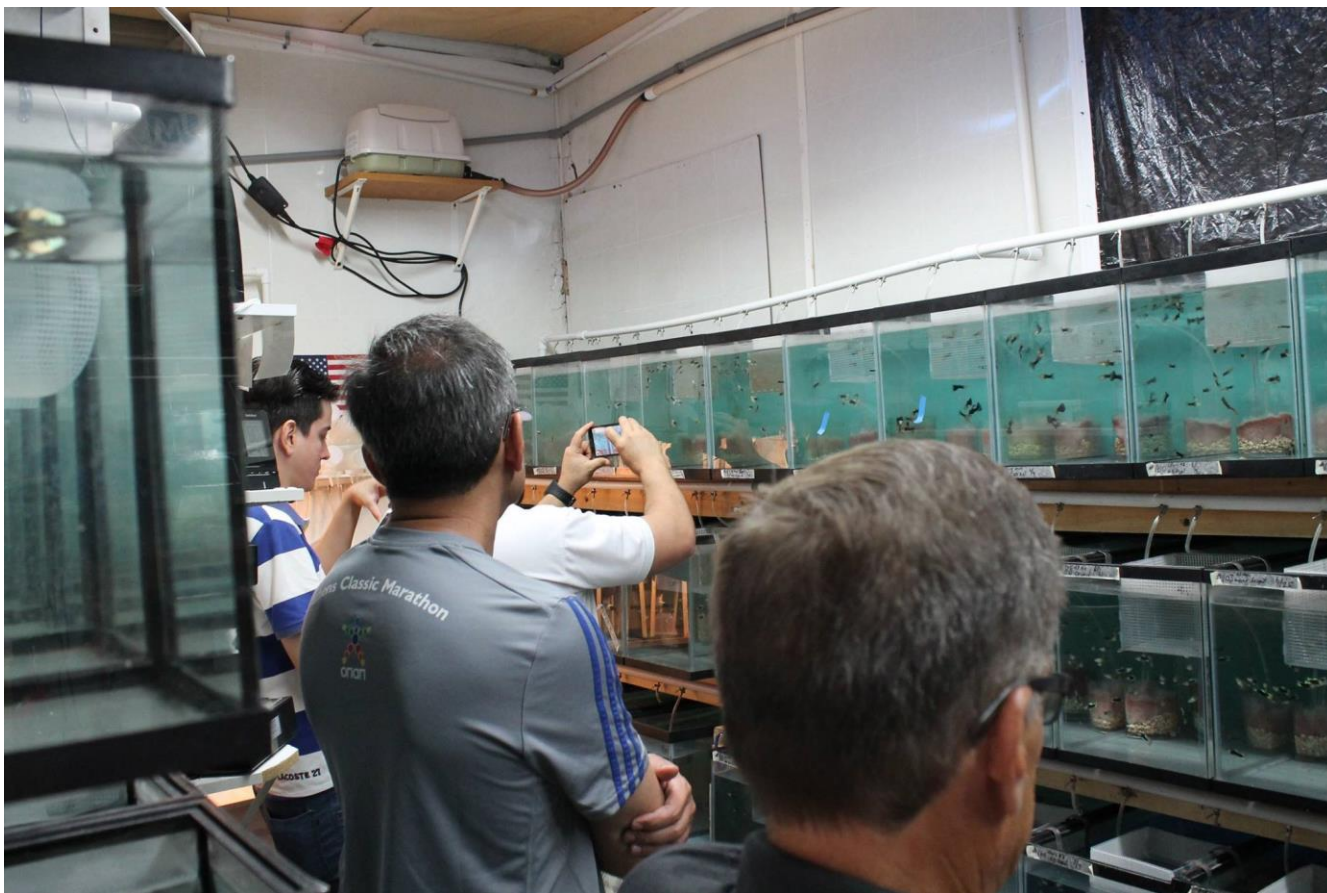
Too many to remember. Besides winning the HB AOC class numerous times I have won the HB Purple class and HB Green class the first year they were approved classes. I have also won HB Red class and Multi class. One year the Big Apple Guppy Club sponsored the Pink class which I won as well.



Steve's old fish room when I first met him in
"DA BRONX"



Steve's current fish room in Sebring Florida



Steve giving a tour of his fish room to some international guppy breeders ,
that were in Florida for a World Guppy Contest in 2015.



Steve the entertainer



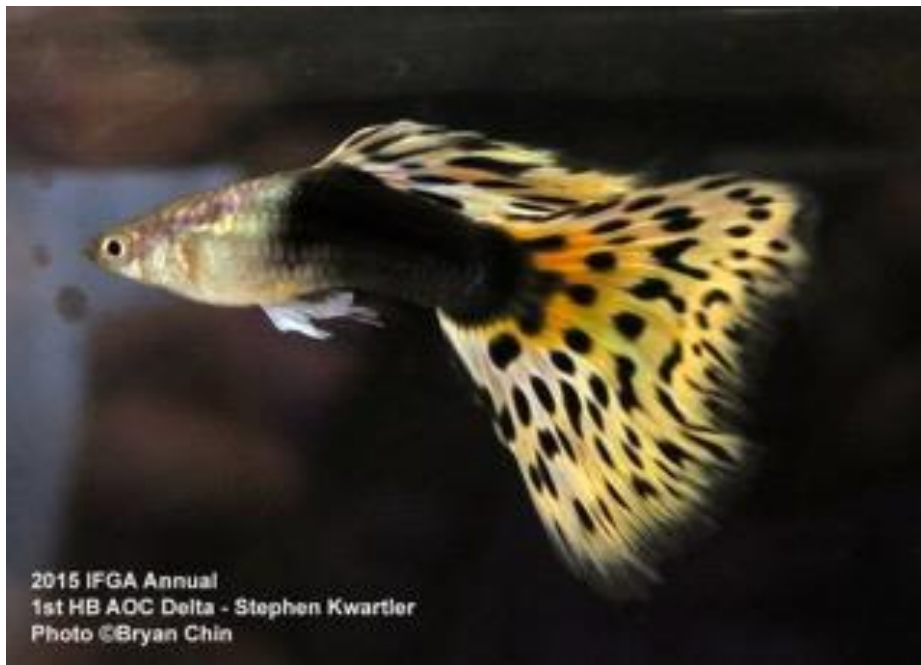
Serious international guppy conversation....



Steve on his way to becoming a full CERTIFIED IFGA JUDGE ... again 2015



Steve inspecting the guppies



In Summation

Steve is also a Fully Certified IFGA Judge and has achieved the IFGA Master Breeder Status, the highest accolade the IFGA awards, and finally, Steve has been elected to the GUPPY HALL OF FAME.

I am truly glad that I met this crazy guy at a fish show.

Stephen Neil Kwartler
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