

My first attempt at taking photos after talking to Bryan Chin: Thanks

## **Breeding Guppies After a 10 Year Layoff "For The Love Of Guppies"**

Frank Schulerbrandt 11/15/2015

After winning four IFGA color class championship in 2004, I decided to call it a day with the breeding, raising and showing of fancy guppies. I would sell off all of my guppy equipment (tanks, filters, etc) I would now turn my attention to the breeding and raising of wild caught African cichlids from lake Tanganyika in particular Petrochromis and the Neolamprologus family. I had great success with the cichlids as my water was very hard and the PH was 8.6 and stayed that way.

In 2014 I would return to my first love of tropical fish. Yes I was beginning to feel the need to start breeding and raising show guppies and besides those large tanks was taking a toll on me and was just too much work to maintain 1 (8x2x2 240 gallon), 6 (125 gallon), 2(150 gallon), 8(55 gallon) 8(40 breeders), 1(40 long) 2(33 longs) and 11(20 longs) , just too much work.

So after a two year layoff from tropical fish, in 2014 I decided to set up 60 ten gallon tanks for guppies. The 60 ten gallon tanks quickly turned into 135 tanks in a blink of the eye as I decided to put in an overflow water changing system (LOL)...

The building of the rack , the drilling and setting up the tanks , etc was a very time consuming job. Never the less my new fishroom setup got done. A little bit of work got done each night after coming home from work and a 5 to 10 hour stint on the weekends.

The hardest part about getting back into the guppies was now knowing that some of your old time guppy buddies had passed away... Another hard part about getting back into guppies was getting the right guppies genetically so that I could create my own line of guppies.

I do not condone the showing of someone F1s from another breeder, but I do not like to show someone else's F1 guppies. I just don't feel right about that( but that is just the way I feel).

In years past I could go to a particular breeder(knowing the basic genetics of their guppies) and buy a trio of guppies and use that line of fish to cross into to get my desired results. Crossing fish is like a crap shoot, ending up in failure more often than not. Making an educated cross increases your odds of getting close to what you had hoped for. **Remember an Educated Guppy Cross is just but an Educated Guppy Cross GUESS.** My color strains will not end up in the Best Of Show 98 percent of the time, but this is what drives me.

I love making Bi-Colors like my friend Rick Grigsby. I love making Red Bi-Colors, Blue/Green Bi-Colors , Multies and the Black deltas(my first IFGA guppy line and my first IFGA awards).

Trying to make decent Bi-Colors became a problem this go-round. I did not like the results of some Blue/Green Bi-Colors that I made by using a Blue Grass female... the F1's were Blue/Green Bi-Colors but I really hated the pattern... and no two males looked alike...Perhaps in the F2 generation they would have looked better ,but I did not have the time nor the tank space to continue. The snakeskin female did not have the same genetic makeup as in the past. I always ran a Bader Snakeskin line which I always kept even though the males looked crappy, as I did not focus on the Snakeskin breeding program.... The Snakeskin female then always yielded the desired genetics to create my Bi-Colors. Red Bi-Colors, Blue/Green Bi-Colors, Aoc Bi-Colors, it never failed...

I would lose the line when I started breeding African Cichlids. Without the Bader Snakeskin line I was lost. I tried a few crosses from the established IFGA lines , none yielded any of my desired results, as all of the genetics of the guppies that I chose were now different.

I was amazed at one thing. There was one breeder who's basic genetics in his guppies did not change over the decade. All of my crosses using his guppies produced great body, caudal and dorsal shapes. But every darn f1 male had dark off colored or charcoal dorsals. Dorsals

on guppies can be a big problem and time consuming to fix. I should have learned my lesson, the same thing happened to me back in 2001 from the same breeder, same results. No knock on the breeder as his guppies end up on the Best Of Show bench many, many times. This ended up in a waste of time and tank space....

At this point I tried buying guppies off of AQUABID, just trying to use the females in the crosses. Finally I got two different potential nice Bi-Colors. You would not believe the crap that came from the crosses. The result of the cross had colors and patterns all over the map... The one good thing was there was a potential Multi, and Blue/Green Bi-Colors... In all these crosses, the females came from AQUABID. My Blue/Green Bi-Colors and Multies came from a discarded Green line by Steve Kwartler(a line that was given to him by another breeder). I used the Green male to start. I only used the females as a back cross. The SK Green females were used in the F2 or F3 crosses. Now I am ready to set the line with a SIB cross.

The Red Bi-Colors came from one male that Steve Kwartler gave to me when he sold guppies to John who lives close to me(28 miles away). I used this male on the discarded Green line(when I got green F1 babies from Johns first drop of Greens). I got real good size in caudal, dorsal and the body. At 7.5 months one month after the IFGA Annual these guys are still growing. I also get giant sized Blue/Green females which are worthy of Best Of Show placing.

In the F3 generation of the Red Bi-Colors I started getting Red Bi-Colors with Black in the Caudal and dorsals, making them look like a poor Multi. I also started getting many variations (5) of Multi Grass guppies. These Multi Grass were very , very promising and some had nice size to the caudal and body. Now the problem was to pick out which Multies I wanted to breed. I chose one male that had four colors in the caudal and three colors in the dorsal. The other male that I chose was a male that had big body size but only had three colors (which is not a problem for showing Multies in the IFGA). We shall see what happens...

My Black delta lines will take a little longer to develop as I first thought this was going to be the easiest line to create. It turned out to be the most challenging. I purchased Blacks from two different top breeders. I ran both lines ... I got Blacks, Half Black Blues and Half Black

Purples from one line and the body color needed improvement. The other line I did not like the size of the Blacks... the color was real good on this line once in a while I would get HB-Purples or HB-BLUE.. In both lines the guppies that were not Black got discarded quickly as they were not in my breeding programs goals as I was looking to get Nice size Black deltas.

So the crosses shall begin. One line is noticeably larger but needs improvement in the body color wise. The other line which has better all-around black coloring needs improvement in size. Another cross was to take a Half-Black Purple female and cross into the nice Black coloring of one of the Black delta lines. This F1 cross is three months old , but seems like it takes forever to grow ??? I will hold my fingers crossed(no Pun Intended) as the angle of the caudal coming off of the peduncle looks pretty good.

Photos of the Multi lines that I will be using as a sib cross Line 1: Colorful Line 2: Big body  
Photos of the other lines will be added when I get some more time....

So long for now ... thanks for looking ,to be continued...

This article should have been entitled for “For The Love Of Guppies”

This article is dedicated to those guppy breeders in the South Jersey Guppy Group that are no longer with us and those guppy breeders around the country who are also no longer with us.

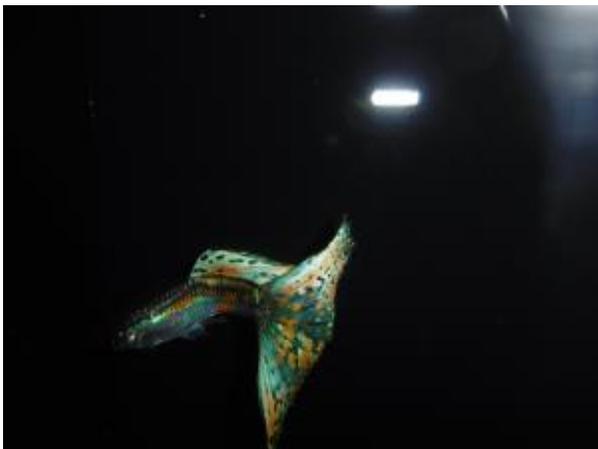
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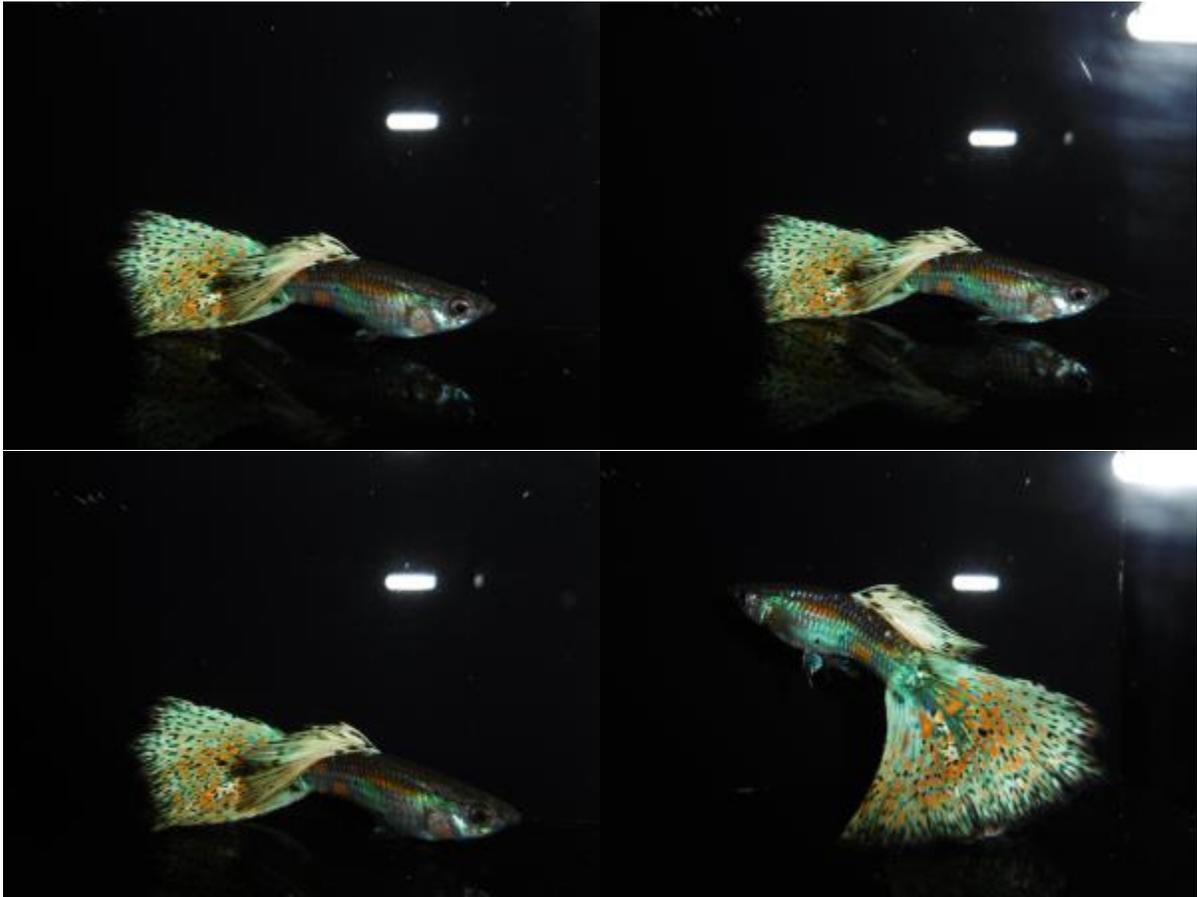
Line 1: Multi more Colorful







Multi Line 2: Big Body: but dorsal color problems (even though there are three colors in the dorsal)





### Update: October 2016

After showing guppies in the 2015-2016 IFGA show season, I was lucky enough to win over 35 first place awards and a couple of Best Of Show Female awards. I also finish first in Grand Overall Female and Second in Grand Overall Male. All in all I had a great year showing guppies. I also got to travel to all of the shows in that show season, Boston, St Louis, South Jersey, Chicago Boston again and the Deep South show in Tennessee. I got to see some fellow hobbyist that I have not seen in over 15 + years.

12 awards



