

FISH TALES

#3

One Box Of Fish

Frank Schulterbrandt 12/22/2015

Once again the year escapes me , It was a South Jersey Guppy show in the early 1980's. The show was held at the Newark, New Jersey airport, The Howard Johnsons at the time, soon to be the Ramada Inn, Soon to be ??? It was the last show of the year, I think it was the 11th show. A lot of show classes were basically decided as the last show of the year usually did not get a lot of entries when a lot of classes were decided. I think the entry show count was around 390 +. The weather was not that great for having a show. Rain here and there but we manage to unload all of the metal shelving, wooden supports, glass bowls and plastic tanks into the Hotel. It rained part of Friday during the show setup and it rained off and on on Saturday. The water storage barrels were set up and the water was treated with Nova Aqua water conditioner. The temperature of the show room was adjusted as we left all of the show entries in their shipping boxes. The set up was done fairly quickly that Friday night and we all left for the night. In those days I could always negotiate a good deal for the club when it came to getting a show site. All I had to do was guarantee 5 rooms (sometimes no rooms) and pay \$450.00 for the show room and one small room for the auction. This Ho-Jo turn Ramada Inn would eventually be the site for Three IFGA Annuals (South Jersey, Big Apple, South Jersey/East Coast).

Saturday morning the stored water was great, the show room was warm and the shipped in fish looked good. We started the shipped in entries early and got a good jump on things... So now all the fish were benched including the walk-ins. The final count took place and compared to the show books. The totals matched up... Soon the Judging teams started to assemble as the judging was just about to start. The judging would be over including the best of show judging. Show awards were given out at the hospitality room.

Sunday morning the ship in entries were being packed up. The auction took place along with the de-benching of the rest of the show entries. The break down of the show was now in full swing. The auction was over, the equipment was packed away.

One of the club members went back to their car and then "THE BOX". There was a box of shipped in entries that came in on Saturday. If the club member did not go home he would not have found the box of guppies. Here it was the show was over and this box of fish was sitting in the trunk of their car, maybe even from Friday. The excuse was too many boxes to fit in the car, so they put the one last box in the trunk of the car for the ride to the show site. Well we reported this to the IFGA. The SJGG lost all of the show points for that show. A couple of people lost class championships but one member lost out on the chance of their first IFGA Grand Overall Female class championship. All his first place and best of show points were taken away and no additional sanctions by the IFGA were rendered.

"ONE BOX OF FISH"