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SOCIETY**

**25
Years**



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FLORIDA**

TBAS . . . Since 1992

THE FILTER

Limia perugiae
Perugia's limia

Photo Mike Jacobs . . . 2017

**February Meeting:
Jen Williams
Aquascaping**

**February 2018
Volume 27 Issue 7**



TAMPA BAY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

"THE FILTER"

Tampa/St. Pete, Florida

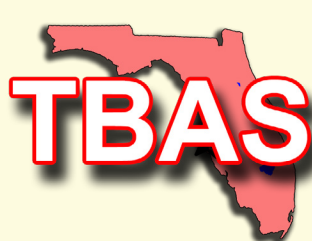
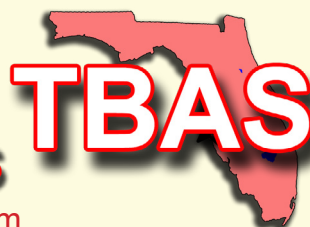
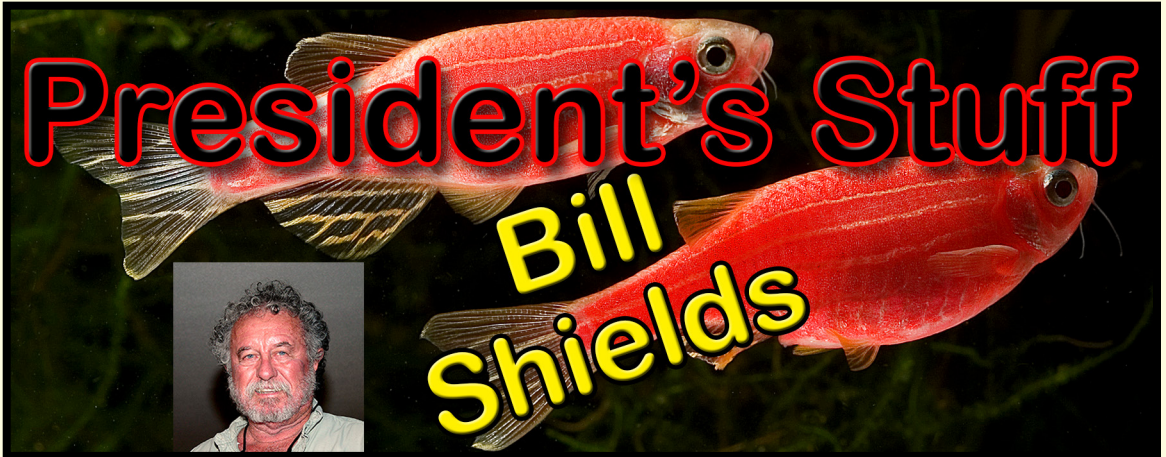


TABLE of CONTENTS

Click on Title to go Directly to Item



3) President's	Bill Shields
4) Fish Photos	Mike Jacobs
8) February & March TBAS Speakers	TBAS
9) Patty Talks	Patty Moncrief
11) Random Shots	Mike Jacobs
12) Angels Plus Videos	TBAS
13-16) TBAS Supporters	TBAS
17) TBAS Officers	TBAS
18) TBAS Information	TBAS



Jen Williams , a BOD member of the Aquatic Gardener's Association (AGA) will be our speaker this month. We will be able to learn how to make all those great plants we acquired at last month's annual plant auction thrive in our tanks.

Big thanks to David Estes, Tampa Bay Cichlids, for the use of his facility to bag and label the plants and our VP Randy Hann for his help in the labeling and bagging.

The Florida State Fair Aquarium Beautiful Competition is open and judged. When you are at the fair take time to see the amazing job our fellow aquarist has done with their entries. The display is located in the Family Living Building open from 9 AM – 9 PM daily. The Fair runs from the 8th – 19th. The FTFFA is also setting up a display featuring a saltwater, a freshwater and Glofish tank in the Agricultural Hall of Fame Building.

Do not forget the upcoming First Coast Betta Show and presentation at our May meeting. They just did a show at the Gold Coast Aquarium Society's Swap meet.

Update on my (new to me 125 gal) tank, the fantastic Echinodorus I acquired at the auction are doing well. The WC Peruvian Apisto's and catfish are being moved in slowly but surely. Catching them from their smaller planted tanks is not quite as easy as it seemed. One of the Apistogramma urtega spawned and as I write this another female has taken on that "apisto yellow body color and black forward edge pelvic fin" appearance so expect to see fry again soon.

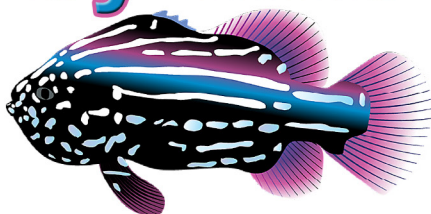
Best Fishes!

Bill

Bill Shields, President, TBAS

FISH PHOTOS

by Mike



All Photos by Mike Jacobs

I'm sitting here thinking "I sure wish I had 2-3 articles to pick from"!!!! And then the idea struck me . . . a PHOTO ARTICLE!!! So here are some of the photos I have taken in the last 2-3-4 months!!! ENJOY!!!



Blue Gularis Killifish

[To Table of Contents](#)

Bichir lapradei



**Gold Line Royal
Pleco**

Glolight Rasbora





**Piebald
Fenestratus**



**Peacock Red
Flush**



**Mahseer
Barb**

**Red Spot
Severum**



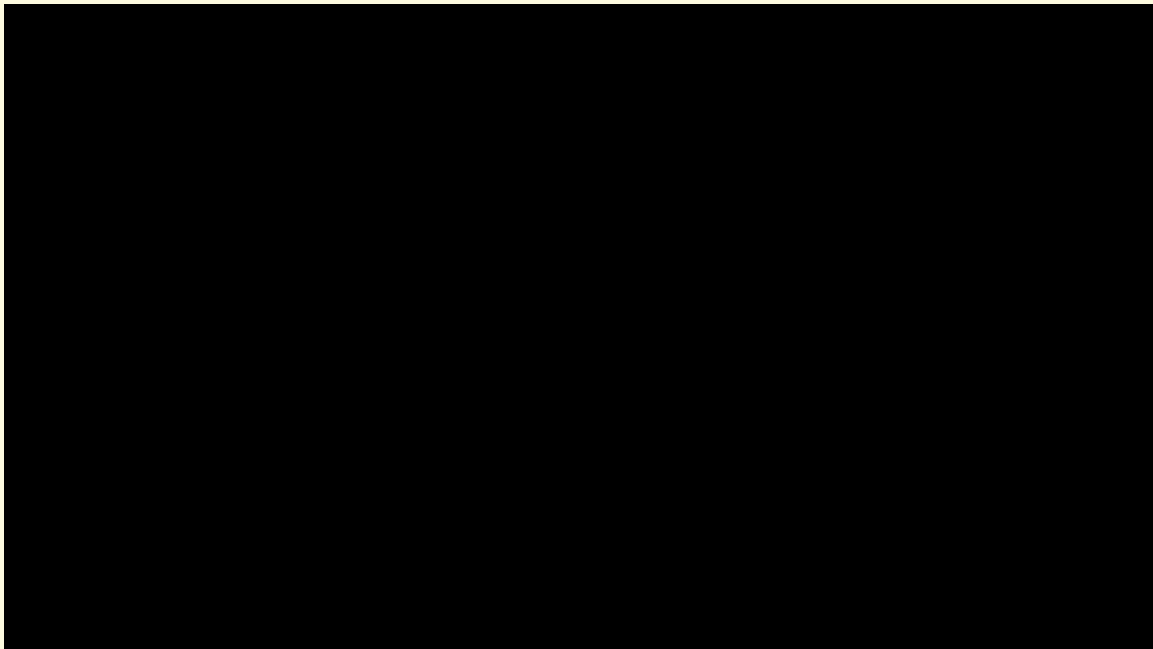
**Fiddler
Crab**

**Roseline
Shark**

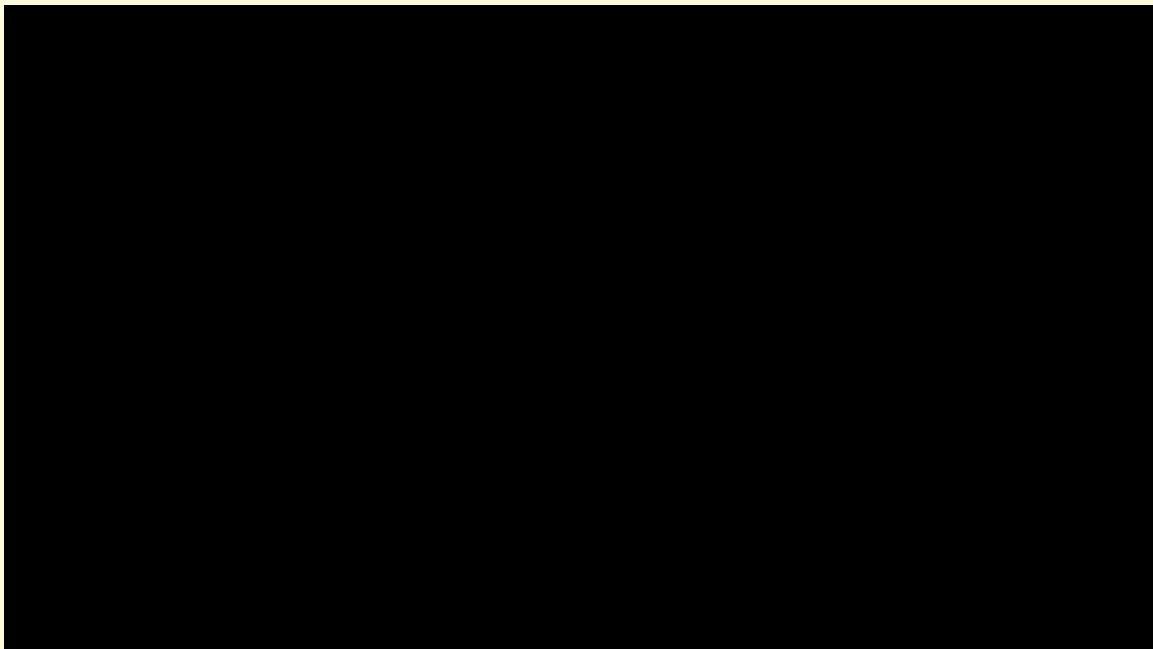


The next two months' speakers!!

February Speaker . . . Jen Williams - Aquascaping



March Speaker . . . Ted Judy - Altum Angels





WATCH THE COLD!!!

The afternoon high is a very pleasant 65 degrees with low humidity. We opened our windows to air out the house from the long summer of 24 hours-a-day air conditioning. By late evening, the temperature dropped into the mid 50s . . . great sleeping weather . . . and the windows were closed for the night. What a beautiful day it had been! A couple of days later, we noticed that our fish were covered in little white spots. They have the DREADED ICK! Testing shows that the water quality was good and no new fish were added. How could this have happened? How do we save our fish?

Fish get sick for a reason, so what happened? The temperature in the tank dropped several degrees in less than 24 hours and no doubt severely stressed the fish. The temperature in larger bodies of water is much more stable and usually doesn't drop more than a degree or two a day . . . it that. But in much smaller bodies of water, like our fish tanks, the temperature is not as stable. Unless there is a heater in the tank, the temperature can drop very rapidly. When this happens the fishes' immune systems are depressed and the nasty little ick parasites take hold. If something is not done very quickly, many of the fish will die.

Freshwater ick is characterized by small, white, rounded spots (the size of the period at the end of a sentence) on the body and fins of the fish. The spots visible on the fish are actually a combination of cyst (caused by an immune reaction

by the fish (and the parasite). The parasite penetrates the skin and gills of the host. This form of the parasite can not be killed by medication. Later in their life cycle, the ick parasite drops off their host (the fish) and matures further in the substrate or on the surface of plants or other structures in the tank. They then reproduce, each ick, parasite releasing up to 1,000 free swimming forms, known as tomites, into the water. These tomites must find a fish host with 48-72 hours at 75-79 degrees F or they will die. This free swimming tomite stage is the for that can be killed by medication.

The first thing to do is put a heater in the tank to maintain a stable water temperature. Any infected fish should be removed to a hospital tank whenever possible. The best course of action is to treat the fish with a formalin-malachite green combination. However, this treatment is also the harshest medication for the fish to tolerate. Formalin alone is the next best treatment and less stressful. These two medications must be used cautiously for fine-scaled or scale-less fish. In every case, be sure to red the directions for dosage. If for some reason, medicating is inappropriate, increasing the salinity of the treatment tank (for fish species that can tolerate the higher levels) often works because the salinity disrupts the ick life cycle.

If you are using a hospital tank, raise the temperature to about 80-84 degrees F. This will cause the parasites to drop off faster and reproduce. Remember, the medication only kills the free swimming tomites. Be sure to do a water change after the first 48 hours to improve water quality and vacuum the gravel to reduce the number of maturing parasites. When the spots are all gone, don't celebrate yet . . . often three to five treatments, every other day are necessary to control and eliminate the disease. When you're pretty sure the disease is gone, bring the temperature down one to two degrees a day until it matches the main tank. Then return the fish to the main tank. Don't forget to keep a heater in the tank to maintain temperature stability.

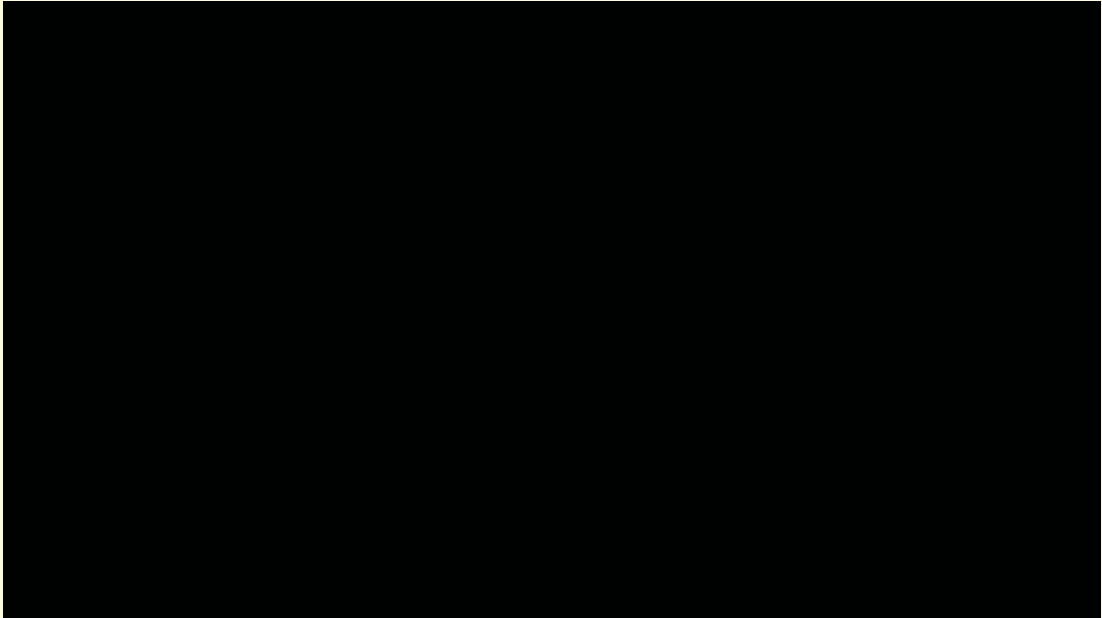
If a hospital tank can't be used and you must treat the main tank, raise the water temperature to 80-82 degrees F. Be sure to remove all carbon. Add the medication to the tank (follow the dosage instructions!). Unfortunately, your plants and invertebrates may suffer. So, if possible, move them to another tank for at least three to four days. This will also break the life cycle of the parasites living on the plants. Don't forget to do a water change after treatments to prevent water quality problems.

Everyone's tank gets ick sometime, but if we do everything we can to prevent problems like sudden temperature drops and the introduction of un-quarantined fish, then an "ick-disaster" will happen far less often and fewer fish will be lost. Until next month, keep those fish happy and keep those questions coming.



Crystal Red Shrimp . . . Hinomaru

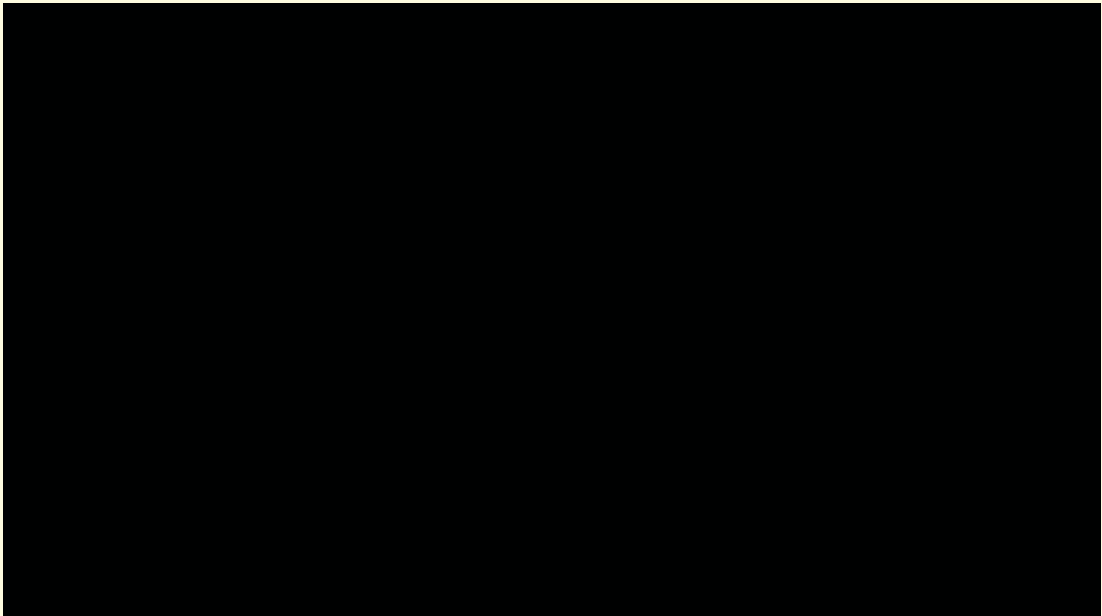
photo: Mike Jacobs 2017



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To Table of Contents

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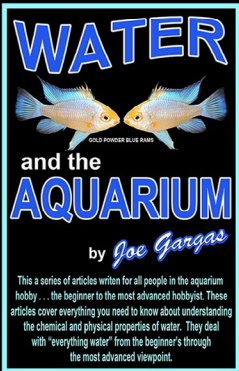


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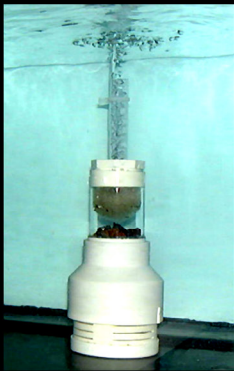
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