



FISHKEEPING NEWS

Conservation at school, award-winning shop for sale, and more.

CONSERVATION

School conservation project breeds endangered fish

A conservation project has been launched in Kossuth Lajos High School, Mosonmagyaróvár, called the KLG Goodeid Projekt.

Goodeidae is a family of Mexican fish that live in highland branches and lakes. Altogether, about 40 described Goodeids are known. Unfortunately, most are endangered, with some already extinct in the wild and others, like *Characodon garmani*, entirely extinct.

At the school, a breeding facility has been set-up with over 40 aquariums, in which 20 species of Goodeid will be bred. It's hoped that this can be increased later.

Project manager Mark Liziczai says: "Our goal is not only to keep and breed these fish but also to strengthen the aquarium population. Therefore, some of the fish we manage to breed will be given to fish breeders free of charge. These fish are too valued to be bought by a lot of people. If possible, we would like to give fish to breeders living in different countries because it's very important to breed as many of these fish as possible. Then we will give fish only to really good and reliable shops and retailers. It would be nice to help any re-introducing or half-wild breeding projects like the ones in Mexico. Another major mission of ours is to introduce and



Skiffia multipunctata.

ANTON LAMBOI

popularise these fish.

"Our initiative is unique because we are the first and only school in the world where these fish are kept, bred and protected. Apart from Kossuth Lajos High School, Goodeids are kept in a university in Mexico, in some zoos and aquariums and of course at some private breeders. Unfortunately there are not many of them.

"Our school and project won a membership of Goodeid Working Group (GWG) for the first time as a school in the world. The GWG, founded in 2009, is a worldwide organisation for the

breeding and protection of Goodeids. You can find a database on its website, where breeders can register how many young and adult fish they have per species and variation. This is an excellent way to get a precise number of each one of the fish GWG members possess.

"Since the project started in September, 2013 we have given more than 120 fish to breeders and experts. We have already bred more than 13 species, including *Allotoca meeki* — one of the rarest of the family. The first Hungarian-bred fry of *A. meeki* were born in May 2013.

"Haus des Meeres in Vienna, which is a kind of breeding centre of these fish, is among our supporters, giving us the aquariums and equipment we needed, as well as the fish. Michael Köck, a curator at Haus des Meeres, was one of the founder members of GWG.

We have further supporters from abroad such as Heiko Bleher, while our most important supporters in Hungary are the Hungarian Aquaristic Society and the only aquaristik journal called 'Akvarium Magazin'. We are also supported by a few wholesalers and

SHOP NEWS

Multi award-winning shop for sale

Fancy running an award winning, nationally famous fishkeeping institution in Cornwall? Your dream could come true as four times PFK 'Retailer of the Year' winner Tri-Mar Aquatics and Reptiles is for sale, writes **Bob Mehen**.

Tri-Mar has been in business since 1966 and last year moved from its home in Tuckingmill to state of the art facilities in nearby Pool. Owner Monty Ray, who has run Tri-Mar since 1987, has decided that now the shop is settled in its new premises he deserves a well-earned retirement as he approaches his 70th birthday.

"I've been here for the better part of 30 years and Tri-Mar itself will be 50 next year, so I've decided it's time for a rest," he says.

Tri-Mar has 84 tropical, 23 coldwater and 30 marine tanks, four coral trays and a large aquatic plant cascade plus a dedicated reptile, amphibian and invert room. Ample parking and easy, level access means the shop is open to all.

More info: Call RTA Business Estate Agents on 0161 432 8181.

BOB MEHEN





Ameca splendens.



Xenotoca eiseni.

retailers. We are grateful for any support, as we're a non-profit organisation.

What's being bred?

The project breeds 20 Goodeid species, some of which are extinct in the wild. These include the Tequila splitfin, *Zoogoneticus tequila*. If everything goes well, breeders in Mexico will be able to re-introduce some specimens into wild habitats in the near future. *Skiffia francesae* is another well-known species, which according to the IUCN Red List has been extinct in the wild for decades. *Skiffia* sp. 'Sayula' doesn't even have a valid scientific name yet. It was collected in the Cuyacapan spring, which has already dried out. It has been known only for a few years.

Critically endangered species on the brink of extinction in the wild include the Butterfly splitfin, *Ameca splendens* and the Balsas splitfin *Ilyodon whitei*. All three species of *Zoogoneticus* (*Z. purhepechus*, *Z. quitzeensis*, *Z. tequila*) are being bred at the breeding station. Two of these are critically endangered, while *Z. tequila* is extinct in the wild.

Other highly endangered Goodeids being bred include *Allotoca diazi*, *Ataeniobius toweri*, *Chapalichthys pardalis*, *Ilyodon cortesae*, *Neotoca bilineata*, *Alloodontichthys tamazulae*, *Skiffia multipunctata* and *Xenotoca eiseni*.

Positive influence

Mark Liziczai says: "Our project plays a vital role in teaching, since we are able to show the students the protection of different species in practice. They can study the fish and look after them, so their ecological outlook can be influenced in a positive way.

"Since October 2013, our school has had a modern, well-equipped laboratory, making the teaching of science subjects much easier and it is regularly visited by students from local schools.

"We are breeding other kinds of fish as well as the Goodeids, and we keep a lot of tropical fish species in the lab and in the research centre, including Blind cave tetra, Black ghost knifefish, hatchetfish and endangered Asian fish."

More info: www.klgoodeid.aweb.tk or visit the project's Facebook page.

HEALTH



Monty undergoes life-saving surgery.

Goldfish has £200 op to remove tumour

Monty, a five-year-old goldfish from Bristol, has had a £200 operation to remove a tumour from behind his eye.

The tumours had begun to spread along Monty's back and his owners were desperate to save him. The surgery was undertaken by a team of vets from Highcroft Veterinary Group and Bristol Zoo, and took 45 minutes.

Despite losing an eye during the operation, Monty the goldfish has recovered well and is now back at home.

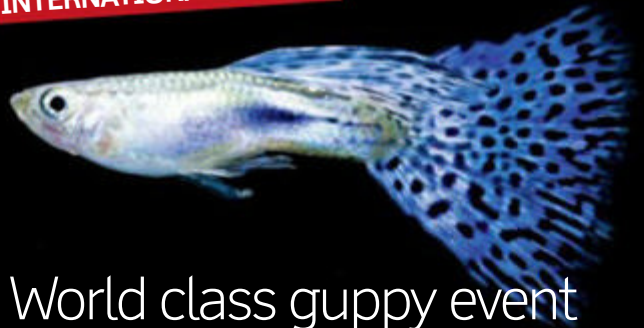
DIGITAL

PFK available on android

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INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



World class guppy event

The 18th World Guppy Contest takes place in Tampa, Florida, from September 3-7, 2015, and will see international guppy breeders from at least four continents presenting their best fish, top speakers, plus an auction on the Sunday. There will also be the opportunity to visit a fish farm and take part in a wild fish collection trip.

The event is sponsored by the Florida Fancy Guppy Club and takes place at the Crowne Plaza Tampa Westshore hotel, located just minutes from Tampa International Airport. Rooms are available at the discounted rate of \$82 a night plus taxes until August 4.

More info: www.18thworldguppycontest2015.com