

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Andrew Piorkowski



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Sex male | Date of birth 22/11/1983 | Nationality USA

CONSERVATION PROJEKT

Allotoca – Mesa Central

CLUB/ORGANIZATION

N/A (joining as an individual)

CAPACITY

20+ aquaria

VIVARISTIC EXPERIENCE

since 1975

geographical area, family

North & Central American; Goodeidae (~1.5 yrs), Poeciliidae (~20 yrs)

- Also have been keeping aquatic emydid turtles (~25 yrs)

breeding success

Currently breeding:

- Goodeids (Ataeniobius toweri, Skiffia multipunctata, Xenotoca doadrioi, Zoogoneticus tequila)
- Poeciliids (Limia sp. Tiger, Heterandria formosa, Poecilia reticulata, Poecilia sphenops, Xiphophorus continens, Xiphophorus evelynae, Xiphophorus helleri, Xiphophorus variatus)

- My goal is to assist in the conservation & preservation of species at risk due to various reasons. After my initial exposure to goodeids a few years ago, I dove into research to learn more about them. I began reaching out to keepers and ultimately joined a club, the Chicago Livebearer Society. I had been keeping line-bred domestic strains for a number of years and decided I could apply my husbandry experience to help out this family of variable fish.
- I have always had an interest in livebearers, and the evolutionary oddity that is true viviparity in these obscure Mexican fish is fascinating to me. With my scientific background, I enjoy reading about the phylogenetic relationships of many animals, and I found the presence of the trophotaenial structure to be truly special. Another of my favorite types of fish belong to the genus Polypterus, which are known to be the only vertebrate with lungs but no trachea, leading Cuvier to state that the expedition in which they were found could have yield nothing else and still have been considered a success. There is so much in the natural world worth knowing about and protecting. It would be a shame to lose these creatures, especially due to apathy or monetary concerns.
- About 6 months ago I started posting my videos on YouTube to help spread awareness for goodeids in general. I had found that even when speaking to self styled „fish experts“, many had never heard of this esoteric group. Part of this is to help disseminate information that I found difficult to consolidate due to the incomplete sources found out there, especially when comparing to the husbandry guidelines that can be found for many of the other more common species kept in aquaria.