

# CICHLID TAILS

The Official Newsletter of the Texas Cichlid Association

Volume 27, Issue 1

January/February 2010

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elevation slightly higher than God's design, walked him rapidly to the principal's office.

I recall the simple ten gallon metal frame tank my little brother received for his birthday in 1973. It was set up in the corner of the family room, next to the tv. The little tank had rainbow gravel, a box filter, and a full metal cover with lights. It housed mollies, platies, zebras, and a sickly angelfish. My mother made my brother change the floss whenever it got slightly dirty. (He went through a lot of floss and a lot of fish, until we went over to Mr. Wilson's house, and he set us all straight.) When I sat in front of that tank and peered in, it took away all my pre-teen concerns and I would drift away, lost in the miniature ten gallon world.

Over a quarter of a century later, sitting in front of my wall of tanks, I think about the changes.

The kissing gourami is purely mass-market fodder. We'd much rather have some bizarre anabantoid found only in a certain ditch by the Ho Chi Minh trail at \$200 a pair. The family doctor is now part of a group that works as a team in something called a Wellness Center, and it would never occur to him to handle the billing.

The oscar is now as mundane as a cichlid can get. In the classroom, budgets have taken money away from anything you can't directly attribute to profitability later in junior's life. Here in New Jersey we fund football programs and look the other way when players commit unspeakable acts. But if Mr. Wilson laid a finger on Richie today, he would be in court.

I sit in front of fourteen tanks, most of them 20 or 55 gallons. I have a couple of 10 gallons running that I rarely even look at. Forget the rainbow gravel, I have exotic rainbow fish from the other side of the world. I have cichlids that weren't even discovered when my brother set up that little tank, and I'm always looking for better ones.

I'd trade all the fish I have for just an hour with Dr. Hammett's, Mr. Wilson's, or my brother's fish tank.

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## A Kinder, Gentler Fishtank

By Rick Bolger,

*Reprinted from the North Jersey Aquarium Society Reporter Aquarticles*

Sitting in front of my wall of fish tanks, thinking back...

1968...I recall a waiting room, Dr. Hammett's kissing gouramis, in an exotic world of pink gravel, plastic mermaids, purple plants. Growing up as one of three brothers in a world of poison ivy, bicycle jumping, swamp exploring and rock climbing, I saw a lot of those fish.

When us kids were all done with the various examinations, tetanus shots, and stitches, we accompanied Mom into the Doctor's business office. He personally wrote out the bill and accepted payment.

I recall Mr. Wilson's science class in 1970. He had fish tanks around the perimeter, and at the front of the room, a 90 gallon tank with a lone oscar. We thought that oscar was the most exotic thing in all creation. "They got a piranha at the pet store...Yeah, but Mr. Wilson has an oscar." When Richie Morrow got out of line, Mr. Wilson grabbed him by the arm and yanked him out of his chair. He then exchanged the armhold for a handful of the kid's left ear, and holding it at an

## CICHLID TAILS

**Cichlid Tails** is a bi-monthly publication produced by and for the members of the **Texas Cichlid Association**, a non-profit group of hobbyists dedicated to furthering the aquarium hobby and promoting the practice of keeping cichlids by the dissemination of information. Published since 1983, **Cichlid Tails** is dedicated to sharing technical and educational information on the keeping of the fishes of the family **Cichlidae**, and the keeping of aquariums and aquarium fish in general.

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TCA's website: [www.texascichlid.org](http://www.texascichlid.org)

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Did you attend TCA's Christmas Party and Crazy Santa Gift Exchange? If you didn't, you really missed out on some fun! Not to mention some great barbeque - and the peach cobbler with Blue Bell wasn't bad either! Note that our January meeting is to be held at the same location. You will miss the gift-stealing, but the food will still be available!

Officer and board member elections will be held in January. I already know of a few folks who are running for something. I want to encourage everyone to participate and run for an office or a position on the board. We need your input and energy to help TCA prosper in 2010.

**TCA's Spring Round up is the fourth weekend in April - start preparing now!**



**IT'S A NEW YEAR.**

**GOOD THINGS  
ARE GOING TO HAPPEN.**

**SO HANG IN THERE!!**



# NORTH AMERICAN DISCUS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Show will be held June 10-13, 2010, at the Embassy Suites DFW Airport South, 4650 West Airport Freeway, Irving TX 75062, (972) 313-8028. Registration is \$45 which includes a 1 year membership to NADA or 1 year renewal for current members. NADA has secured a special room rate for this Show; to reserve a room with the special rate, please visit this link:

<http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/DFWSHES-NAD-20100610/index.jhtml>

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Speakers** - The current scheduled speakers and topics are:

John Nicholson, "Discus 101"

Tony Silva, TBA

Discus Hans, "Discus Hans USA"

Jack Wattlely, TBA

Dick Au, TBA

Al Sabetta, "Disease and Sickness"

Phil Edwards, "Plants and Discus"

***Note: Scheduled speakers subject to change and substitutions without notice.***

**Discus Show.** The following classes are available for showing fish: Solid, Fine Line Striated, Thick Line Striated, Spotted, Wild, Open plus Best In Show and Peoples Choice Award.

**Awards Banquet** Saturday evening, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$40. **Auction** Sunday, June 13th, starting at 10 a.m., running until all items are sold.

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**FLORIDA CHILL: MANATEES HUDDLE,  
TURTLES STUNNED**  
**January 8, 2010**

APOLLO BEACH, Florida — More than 200 manatees are wintering in a balmy canal outside a power plant, the latest exotic Florida animals seeking

refuge from the state's frigid temperatures. Giant eagle rays and spinner sharks joined them in the 70-degree Fahrenheit waters Thursday as onlookers watched them frolic. "This is a spa for them," said Wendy Anastasiou, an environmental specialist for the Tampa Electric Company.

With temperatures well below normal, some less resourceful animals needed help from humans to survive.

Along Florida's Atlantic Coast, 93 sea turtles were found floating a lagoon and experts said the cold water shocked their tropically inclined systems. Most were endangered green sea turtles who were sent to research facilities for care. We try to collect them and get them to a warm location so we can check them out," said Roger Pszonowsky, a volunteer with the Sea Turtle Preservation Society in Brevard County, Florida. Freshwater turtles can go into mud and hibernate, he said, but sea turtles don't have the same advantage and that's why they suffer from "cold stunning."

Animals that live in the water weren't the only ones affected. Iguanas fell out of trees in South Florida because the cold-blooded reptiles become immobilized and lose their grip when the temperature falls into the 40s or below.

Things are less dire for the manatees, which are not in immediate danger. On Thursday, the gentle giants at the Big Bend Power Plant in Apollo Beach - some weighing 3,000 pounds - floated slowly to the water's surface to sip air. Every so often, one would surface on its belly, making the crowd on a viewing platform ooh and ahhh.

Anastasiou said it's typical for the giant, vegetarian mammals to seek warmer water in the winter when the temperature of Tampa Bay dips below 68 degrees. Even when it is chilly, the sea cows swim out to the Gulf of Mexico to graze on grass during the day. During cold spells, the animals congregate in massive numbers, which is impressive for the humans who flock to the viewing centers to gawk.

# TAIL TRADER

Got something fishy to sell or trade? All TCA members in good standing may advertise fish, equipment and related supplies for sale, or place a "want" ad free. Notify the Cichlid Tails editors.

David Andrews  
3828 Wayland Dr  
Fort Worth, TX 76133  
817-291-4169  
dandrews12@att.net

## FOR SALE:

Albino Dwarf Bristlenose Plecos \$3.00 each  
Dwarf Bristlenose Plecos - Brown \$2.00 each  
Neolamprologus Leleupi (Orange) - 1 1/2" \$3.00 each  
Neolamprologus Leleupi (Orange) - 2 1/2" \$7.00 each  
Endlers Livebearers 50 cents each  
Pseudotropheus Flavus - 1 1/4" - 1 1/2" \$1.00 each  
Cyphotilapia Frontosa Mpimbwe - 2 1/2" - 3" \$15.00 each  
Juli Transcriptus - 1 1/4" - 1 1/2" \$2.00 each  
Juli Dickfeldi - 1 1/4" - 1 1/2" \$2.00 each  
Juli Regani - 3" \$5.00  
Juli Regani - 1 1/4" - 1 1/2" \$2.00 each  
Red Devils - 1/2" (well on their way to mean) - 10 cents  
***FREE - Jewel Cichlids - 4" - one very colorful (red), one afraid to color up and missing a pectoral fin***

Philip Tucker  
817-726-6262  
philiptucker@charter.net

## FOR SALE:

J regani "Karalini Orange" 2"+ \$3  
J marlieri "Magara Burundi" 2" \$3  
J dickfeldi 2.5"+ \$3  
L fulleborni "Marmalade Cat" 2.5"+ \$3  
Marbled Crawdad "Self Cloning" 1" \$2  
Brown Bristlenose Pleco 1.5" \$2  
Brown Longfin Bristlenose Pleco 1.5" \$4

Albino Longfin Bristlenose Pleco 1.5" \$4  
Albino Bristlenose Pleco 1.5" \$3  
Red Cherry or Yellow Shrimp \$2  
Syno. petricola F0 11 adults \$200/group

## Calendar of Events

January 16, 2010: Regular monthly meeting at 7:00, Spring Creek Barbeque, 1509 Airport Frwy, Bedford. Officers & Board member election..

February 20, 2010: Regular meeting, 7:00, at Dawson Middle School, 400 S. Kimball Avenue, Southlake. John Nicholson will be speaking on the North American Discus Association.

February 21, 2010: Houston Aquarium Society Spring Auction at American Legion Post 11702, Galveston Road, Houston (where the jet is). 10 a.m. Seller/Bidder check-in; 11 a.m. auction starts. No outside food or drink is allowed. ***This is a non-smoking facility.*** NOTE: The American Legion will be serving their monthly steak dinner - a steak, baked potato and salad will be available for purchase during the afternoon for a nominal charge. Call 281-286-2238 for more details

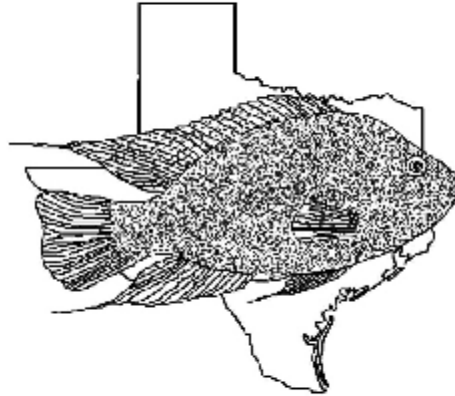
March 20, 2010: Regular meeting, 7:00 at Dawson Middle School, 400 S. Kimball Avenue, Southlake. Program to be announced later.

April 23-25, 2010: First Annual TCA Spring Roundup Show, Workshop & Auction, to be held on the fourth weekend of the fourth month ***ANNUALLY***. Steve Lundblad is confirmed speaker--more info as it becomes available.

June 10-13, 2010: NADA Annual Convention, at the Embassy Suites DFW Airport South, 4650 West Airport Freeway, Irving TX 75062, (972) 313-8028. For more information, contact John Nicholson or go to [www.discus2010.com](http://www.discus2010.com).

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**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF**



**THE TEXAS CICHLID ASSOCIATION**

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