

CICHLID TAILS

The Official Newsletter of the Texas Cichlid Association

Volume 25, Issue 6

Celebrating 25 Years

November/December 2008

Inside This Issue:

- 1 President's Letter
- 2 Editor's Notes
- 3 FOTAS Show Winners
- 4 FOTAS History
- 4 Fish Quiz
- 5 2008 Catfish Convention Recap
- 7 Tail Trader
- 7 Calendar of Events

help came from Brenda DeBoard, Coleen Ullman, Diane Stewart and Amy Gilliam. A huge **thank you** to Charles Jones for auctioneering, and to Larry Lampert for filing in as much as he could. Also thanks to our runners: Brittany Andrews and her boyfriend, Randy Rhoades, Diane Stewart and Monica & Kyle Osterholt. And last, but definitely not least, special thanks to Corie McAnally, for learning the auction program and keying auction sales!

Hello Everyone!

The FOTAS Convention at the Hilton Garden Inn was a wonderful success!!! The speakers, Ad Konings, Jeff Cardwell, Barbie Fiorentino, and Gary Lange were excellent, very informative and interesting. This convention was a success because many folks worked hard to make it so. I would like to recognize their efforts here.

First, thank you to D'Wyatt Green for designing the new FOTAS shirt and the work to get it printed! It has been awhile since the club has had a t-shirt this nice – good job D'Wyatt! Many thanks to Page Ullman, David Andrews, Nick Andrews, Ernie McAnally, Alan Brunke, D'Wyatt Green, and Sean and the guys from DFW Fishbox for setting up the show. And thanks to Hollis and Garrett Gregory, Phil Tucker, and Kent Huntsuckle for helping to tear it down. Thank you to Marvin England and Page Ullman for organizing (and recruiting!) show entries and awards.

Special thank you to Kathy England for helping with the registration desk and running and organizing the silent auction (thanks to Sheila and Kaci McAnally for help with the silent auction). The auction was run smoothly and efficiently with help from Jim Lancaster, David Andrews, and Ernie McAnally. The auction registration

As I said, there were a lot of folks that worked hard to make the convention successful. I encourage all members to help out, and be a part of your club!

The 2008 John Gilliam Memorial Award was presented to Jim Lancaster at the FOTAS Convention for his contributions to the club and the hobby. Jim has served many terms on the Board of Trustees, served as Webmaster for many years, and has run the software and hardware for the auctions. He worked tirelessly on the ACA Convention in 2005, quite a difficult task! Congratulations Jim!

The annual TCA Christmas Party will be December 13th, at Spring Creek Barbeque in Bedford. The fish gift exchange is always a lot of fun! You never know what you'll end up with, usually something pretty cool.

Election of Officers will be held at the January meeting. As I do every year, I encourage all members to participate! New members bring new ideas, the club needs you! Please contact me if you are interested in running for any position.

Hope to see you at the Christmas Party next month!

- Kathy

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.

Officers:

President	Kathy Stearns
Vice President	Ralph DeBoard
Secretary	Phil Tucker
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TCA Board of Trustees

Dave Gregory	Page Ullman
Alan Young	D'Wyatt Green
Randy Rhoades	Paul Scarborough
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Committee Chairmen

Donations Chairman	Alan Young
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Show Chairmen	Page Ullman Marvin England
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Cichlid Tails Editors	Marvin and Kathy England
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Auction Chairmen	Ernie McAnally David Andrews
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Webmaster	Jim Lancaster
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Photographer	Randy Rhoades
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TCA's website: www.texascichlid.org

EDITOR'S NOTES

The first frost of Fall 2008 has come and gone, but thankfully it was not a "killing frost". Only the tops of the tallest plants were nipped. Unfortunately, the grass was not killed, so mowing is still a necessity.

However, we did get the greenhouse cleaned out and all tender plants put in it. I even dug up my Habanero pepper plant and stuck it in a pot to overwinter it - I will be having hot peppers all winter!

Most of the water/bog plants have been left outside, as they are hardy, including all my pitcher plants. Those are some way cool plants! I did manage to get my tropical water lily stashed in a tank inside the fish house with a light on it. While fishing it out of the container outside, I discovered several small plantlets that I put in pots and stuck in a small tank in the fish house also. We'll see if they do well during the winter - I've never tried to overwinter a tropical lily and I have read that it's pretty hard to manage.

TCA has had a fun and successful 25th year, including hosting a great FOTAS convention. I think next year's convention will be hosted by HAS, so be sure to make plans to attend.

The TCA Christmas Party is scheduled for December 13th. See the enclosed flyer. Also, don't miss the January meeting or you will miss a great presentation by Greg Steeves concerning one of the current major projects that Hill Country Cichlid Club is supporting.

Hope to see you on December 13th. I already have my Christmas gift decided upon - what about you?

Kat

Federation of
Texas Aquarium Societies
2008 Annual Convention

Hosted by the Texas Cichlid Association

FOTAS 2008 SHOW WINNERS

Division A: Central and South American Cichlids.

Class 1: Discus, Angels, Uaru

1st Place: Mike & Carla Johnson

2nd Place: Mike & Carla Johnson

3rd Place: Keith Arnold

Class 2: Biotecus, Crenicara, Aequidens, Geophagus and Related Non-Dwarf South American Cichlids

1st Place: Marvin England

2nd Place: Marvin England

3rd Place: Dave Gregory

Class 3: All South American Dwarf Cichlids

1st Place: Marvin England

2nd Place: Mike Johnson

3rd Place: Debi Swan

Class 4: Central American Cichlids over 6"

1st Place: Dave Gregory

2nd Place: Coleen Ullman

3rd Place: Coleen Ullman

Class 5: Central American Cichlids under 6"

1st Place: Marvin England

2nd Place: Marvin England

3rd Place: Ron Trebor

Division B: Lake Malawi Cichlids/Victorian Cichlids

Class 6 Mbuna - Pseudotropheus, Melanochromis, Cynotilapia, Labidochromis, Labeotropheus, etc.

1st Place: Ernie McAnally

2nd Place: Marvin England

3rd Place: Ron Trebor

Class 7: Aulonocara & related species

1st Place: Ernie McAnally

2nd Place: Mike Johnson

3rd Place: Randy Rhoades

Class 8: Lake Malawi Haplochromines

1st Place: Randy Rhoades

2nd Place: Danny Young

3rd Place: Mike Johnson

Class 9: Lake Victoria & Lake Kivu Species

1st Place: Ron Trebor

2nd Place: Alan Young

3rd Place: Dave Gregory

Division C: Lake Tanganyika Cichlids/Other Old World Cichlids

Class 10: Lamprologus, Neolamprologus, Altolamprologus & Related Genera

1st Place: Dave Myers

2nd Place: Alan Young

3rd Place: Dave Myers

Class 11: Julidochromis & Related Genera

1st Place: Dave Gregory

2nd Place: Marvin England

3rd Place: Keith Arnold

Class 12: Tropheus, Petrochromis,

1st Place: Alan Young

2nd Place: John Hansen

3rd Place: Randy Rhoades

Class 13: Featherfins - Cyanthopharynx, Ophthalmotilapia, Cyprichromis, Paracyprichromis, Xenotilapia, Goby Cichlids

1st Place: Marvin England

2nd Place: Randy Rhoades

Class 14: Cyphotilapia, Madagascar cichlids

1st Place: David Andrews

2nd Place: Marvin England

Class 15: West African and Old World Cichlids Not Listed Elsewhere

1st Place: Marvin England

2nd Place: Marvin England

3rd Place: Dave Gregory

Other Classes (Not Eligible For Best In Show or Best Of Division Awards)

Class 16: Livebearers

1st Place: Coleen Ullman

2nd Place: Keith Arnold

3rd Place: Coleen Ullman

Class 17: Egglayers

1st Place: Kent Huntsuckle

2nd Place: Marvin England

3rd Place: Marvin England

Class 18: Plecostomus and all other Scavengers

1st Place: Randy Rhoades

2nd Place: Marvin England

3rd Place: Marvin England

Best of Division A - Marvin England

Best of Division B - Ernie McAnally

Best of Division C - David Andrews

Best of Division D - Randy Rhoades

People's Choice Award - Marvin England

Best Cichlid in Show - Marvin England

FOTAS HISTORY

1998 FOTAS Convention Notes

By Diane Stewart

The 1998 FOTAS convention was held on August 21-23, 1998 at the Holiday Inn in College Station. I had a lot of fun and met some of the members of the Houston Aquarium Society and other Texas clubs. On Saturday, there were several speakers. There were three members of the Texas A&M faculty that gave talks on fish health, native Texas fish, and slides of a South American research trip. I think the TCA would enjoy these speakers to visit us sometime. FOTAS also invited Steve Lundblad, Lake Malawi peacock specialist. I enjoyed the non-cichlid speakers almost as much as I enjoyed Steve's talk.

There are lots of new Aulonocara species and varieties being imported from Africa and Steve Lundblad is really knowledgeable about them. Steve can even tell the different species of Aulonocara females from one another. You should call him if you are thinking about getting a new type of peacock-he will have lots of suggestions! There are Swallowtails, Blue Neons, Blue Dorsal Flavescents, Blue Orchids, Ethelwynses, Chitandes, etc. You can contact Steve at The Cichlid Exchange in Portland Oregon (503-287-4731). In addition to gorgeous slides of the peacocks, Steve did mention two bits of advice that I thought sounded like good ideas. Soak pelleted fish food in liquid vitamins or medicines before feeding to your fish. This will decrease the waste of the liquid product. Also, he likes to have a small amount of sand on the bottom of his breeder tanks, but not too much. Instead, he paints the bottom of the tank (not sure if on the outside or inside) with a sand-colored paint. That way, if the fish move all the sand away, they won't be spooked by being able to see through the bottom.

Due to rain, some of the activities scheduled for Saturday afternoon had a low attendance or were canceled. Several members of the TCA visited each of the local aquarium stores. Then, there was a FOTAS banquet on Saturday night. The food was really good (for banquet food). We had "chicken-fried chicken cordon-bleu", really! They have a tradition of auctioning a few items at their banquet as fund-raisers for FOTAS. One of these is a plain paper bag with a "mystery fish" item in it. It usually gets auctioned for 50 to 100 dollars. Then, after the bag has been auctioned, they charge everyone else a dollar to see what it is. So, if you don't pay a dollar, you'll never know

what's in the bag! And you can't get anyone to tell, either.

There was a FOTAS auction on Sunday. There were quite a few cichlids. I enjoyed seeing some of the live-bearers and different varieties of bettas. There were also some neat aquarium plants auctioned. I noticed the auction prices were pretty high for the plants.

New FOTAS officers were elected during the weekend. Kathy Stearns of TCA is the secretary of FOTAS. Having FOTAS be the "federation" for all Texas aquarium societies is a good idea. The level of FOTAS activity may increase in the future. One important reason to have a FOTAS is the ability to have a consolidated voice during any aquarium legislation issues. Another distinct advantage of belonging to FOTAS is being able to coordinate workshop dates so that there aren't multiple workshops/auctions being held on the same dates. (The local club is a member of FOTAS; each club has one person who is considered the FOTAS "delegate.") We discussed contacting other known aquarium clubs to see if they would like to join FOTAS (marine clubs, etc.)

HOUSTON AQUARIUM SOCIETY'S

FALL LIVE FISH AUCTION

November 16, 2008

American Legion Post

11702 Galveston Road, Houston

10:00 - Seller Check-in; 11:00 Auction begins

Call (832) 595-2777 or (281) 286-2238 for info

FISH QUIZ

Try your luck - how many can you answer correctly? Answers will appear in the January/February issue.

1. What is special about *Herichthys cyanoguttatus*?
2. What is the scientific name for the "cuckoo catfish"?
3. What is the world's smallest cichlid, and where does it originate?

4. What is the world's largest cichlid and where does it originate?
5. What is one of the main differences between Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika and Lake Malawi?
6. Which fish would do better in a planted tank, Heros severus or Nanochromis transvestitus?
7. Name at least 1 special thing that you need in order to spawn killifish.
8. What is the life span of a guppy?
9. List two species of "featherfins" from Lake Tanganyika.
10. What do you get when you feed a Tropheus moorii carnivore flakes/tablets?
11. Are wild-caught zebra plecos currently being legally imported into the US?
12. You put a herd of clown loaches into your tank in order to get rid of what?
13. How did symphysodon receive its common name?
14. Where is the Rio Xingu located?
15. Name 2 common "low light" aquarium plants.
16. What is the common name of the Keyhole Cichlid?
17. How did Apistogramma cacatuoides get its name, or what does its name refer to?
18. What is the largest angelfish species found in the wild?
19. When is the only time you can leave several male Betta splendens in the same tank for an extended period of time without them killing each other?
20. What is the common "generic" name for the Aulonocara species found in Lake Malawi?
21. Is it possible to keep Neolamprologus multifasciatus and Cyprichromis species in the same tank? Why or why not?
22. Why are some of the Geophagus species called "earth eaters"?
23. What makes the black in a "black water" river like the Rio Negro?
24. How many fish conventions have been held in Texas this year? Extra points if you can name at least 2.
25. If someone tells you that a fish has a "L" number, what type of fish are they talking about?
26. What types of cichlids are found in India?
27. What is the name of the species that contains colorful dwarf South American cichlids?
28. What most important thing must a pair of bristlenose plecos have before they will spawn?
29. Where is the American Cichlid Association's 2009 convention being held?
30. Where is the American Cichlid Association's 2010 convention being held?

2008 All-Aquarium Catfish Convention
Expedition Amazon!
October 16-19, 2008
Laurel, Maryland
Hosted by
Potomac Valley Aquarium Society

Marvin and I were lucky enough to be able to attend this convention, which was both fun and educational.

Speakers included Dr. Devon Graham (Expedition Amazon); Dr. Wayne Leibel (Waters of the Amazon), Julian "Jools" Dignall (Catfish Collecting Adventures in South America); Ingo Seidel (Breeding Loricariid Catfishes); Hans-Georg Evers (Ecology of Corydoras & Other Small Aquarium Catfishes); and Lee Finley (keynote speaker). An all-species show as held, as well as a Sunday auction. Trips were planned to the Baltimore Inner Harbor and local fish stores. Collectors also had an opportunity to get wet.

We selected the trip to the Baltimore Inner Harbor, a place I had never been. While waiting for the bus to leave, numerous folks were lining up with fish boxes to take them with to the fish store tour and the collecting area.

Our bus dropped us off in front of the Baltimore Aquarium with an admonition from the driver to not be late when she returned to pick us up as buses are not allowed to park in front of the aquarium for more than 10 minutes lest they be ticketed.

The Baltimore Aquarium was beautiful! I have seen several world-class aquariums over the past few years, and this is definitely near the top. The exhibits were well-thought out and had depth to them due to the flowing backgrounds.

After touring the Aquarium, we met up with Dave and Bev from Ohio for lunch. What fun it was to sit overlooking the water and munch on Baltimore's world-famous crab cakes!

While there we also managed to visit the Star Spangled Banner Museum (to see a copy of the original manuscript of the Star Spangled Banner) and the USS Torsk, a World War II submarine that had the distinction of sinking the last Japanese ship of World War II. After walking through the submarine, I have a whole new respect for those sailors who served in one. It was not something I would be able to do, I believe.

Saturday was spent listening to excellent speaker presentations by world-class South American pleco experts. Marvin also kept the vendors busy with his

shopping, especially the spawning cave makers, although he was not the only one buying. I managed to bring home some spectacular anubias and java ferns attached to wood.

Our friend Larry Jenks from New Jersey was the big winner during Saturday night's awards banquet. He won Best Cichlid in Show, Best Livebearer in Show and Best Egglayer in Show. I think he was worn out from walking up to get all those awards!

We carried fish to sell, and what we had left on Sunday morning were bagged for entry in the auction. They conduct their auction similar to ours in some ways, but a little different in others. For instance, they group all used tanks and other equipment at the back of the room with appropriate table numbers on them so they can be sold with that particular batch of items. This keeps all the clutter of tanks in one area so folks can look at them without interrupting the auction. They also all no looking at auction items on the tables after the auction begins. A break is taken at about 1:30 and pizza is delivered for those who bought a ticket for it.

Because we wanted to get out of the DC area Sunday afternoon so as to avoid Monday morning rush hour traffic, we left the auction at around 2:30. We managed to make it all the way to Bristol, Virginia, where we spent the night. The next morning we noticed frost on the roofs of several area houses, but thankfully not on our van as we had left all our plants packed up in it overnight. After a quick trip by Bristol Motor Speedway to take a picture so I could prove I was there, it was time to head home.

What a wonderful time we had visiting with all those catfish folks, and cichlid folks, too. We picked up a lot of spawning caves, fish food, t-shirts and plants, plus a wealth of knowledge on habitat and how to sex and spawn some of the L-number plecos. As soon as we arrived home, Marvin began planning on where to put our various "fancy" plecos in hopes of encouraging them to spawn. I am keeping my fingers crossed.

PVAS plans on hosting another catfish convention in 2010, although the topic has yet to be determined. However, if you are a catfish freak like me, mark your calendar NOW. You will not be disappointed!

TCA OFFICER ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE JANUARY MEETING. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RUN FOR AN OFFICE, PLEASE CONTACT PHIL TUCKER, TCA SECRETARY.

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
(817) 291-4169
dandrews12@access4less.net
FOR SALE:

Demasoni – 1¼" - 1 1/2" \$1.50 each
Albino Dwarf Bristlenose Plecos \$3.00 each
Marble Angels -half-dollar+ size \$4.00 each
Marble/SilverAngels - quarter size \$1.00 each
Endlers Livebearers \$0.50 each
Golden Peacock Maleri Island - 1 1/2" - 2" \$2.00 each
Pseudo. Flavus "Chinyankwazi" - 1 1/2" - 1 3/4" \$2.00 each
Telmatochromis Brichardi - Magara - F1 - 1 1/4" - 1 1/2" \$2.00 each
Pelmatochromis Nigrofasciatus - F1 - (West African) - 1 1/4"-1 1/2" \$1.00 each
Juli Dickfeldi - 1 1/2" - 1 3/4" \$2.00 each
Juli Transcriptus - 1 1/4" \$2.00 each
Red Empress - 1 1/4" - 1 1/2" \$2.00 each
Lemon Jakes - 1 1/4" - 1 1/2" \$2.00 each

Calendar of Events

December 13, 2008: Annual Christmas Party and Crazy Santa Gift Exchange, 7:00 at the Spring Creek BBQ located at 1509 Airport Freeway (West of Hwy. 360) in Bedford. Phone number is (817) 545-0184.

January 17, 2009: Regular monthly meeting at 5:00 at the home of Dave Gregory, 391 Private Road 4379, Decatur. (817) 319-8969. From Dallas take 114 West to Boyd, Texas. Turn right at the second Dollar Store (FM730). Go North 3.9 miles and turn right on Anneville Cemetery Road. Go 1/4 mile and turn right; another 1/4 mile and turn left at green gate with JH on it and go straight to the house. From Fort Worth take 287 to 114 and then follow the above directions. Office elections will be held. Additionally, Greg Steeves from Hill Country Cichlid Club will be our guest speaker. **Dave has asked that all attendees meet at his house first due to it being dark outside and there not being a good, level trail from the fish house to his house; after the meeting anyone who wants to trek down to the fish house is welcome to do so. Please bring your own flashlight.**

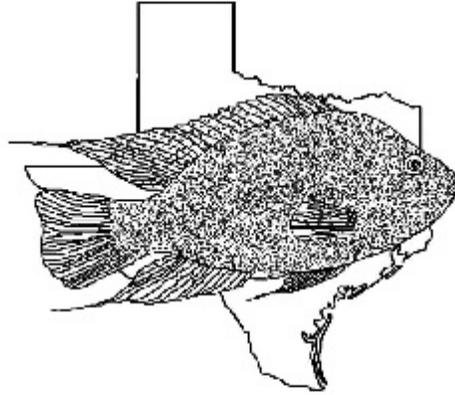
February 21, 2009: Regular monthly meeting at 7:00 at the home of Ernie and Sheila McAnally, 605 Aberdeen Way, Southlake, Texas. (817) 329-2096.

March 21, 2009: Regular monthly meeting at 7:00; location to be announced later. If you would like to host this meeting, please let one of the TCA officers know.

Fourth Weekend In April (April 24-26): TCA Spring Show & Workshop. Location and more information to be announced later.

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF



THE TEXAS CICHLID ASSOCIATION

**Texas Cichlid Association
Kathy Stearns, President
1515 Creekview Drive
Keller, Texas 76248**