

CICHLID TAILS

The Official Newsletter of the Texas Cichlid Association

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The next step of course was to try and remedy the situation. The library staff had reported the problems to the company to no avail. Incredibly, I was in the driver's seat, and as the library director asked me if I knew of anyone that could do a better job, visions of dollar bills went leaping into the far reaches of my mind. The money I would make here could buy me a stereo, or even a new aquarium for my home. Then suddenly the bubble burst and I fell back to reality. The city was not doing well financially and the money saved here could go to more important things like books! I heard myself telling the director that I would do it for free, and with a handshake she was mine.

I know what you're thinking. Big deal, It's just an aquarium. Let me tell you that you have never lived until you have a setup in the public eye with advice and feedback from all watching you. People told me to start salt, community, cichlid, real planted, plastic planted, colorful, natural, rocky, grassy. The funny thing is, I never asked anyone for advice, It all sort of landed in my lap. Well, I had already made up my mind that this would be an African cichlid tank with plenty of rocks to hide in. I found a local pet shop that would take in the old fish still surviving in the muck, and that same shop donated a whole group of healthy mixed *Pseudotropheus zebra*s at no charge to me. The tank is still running today and it has been over two years now. I proudly display the logo of the pet shop that sponsored me and they see some returns in the form of people who draw interest in the tank and go to them for advice.

A few of my acquaintances in the hobby have criticized me for volunteering my time saying that they would never do anything for free. I say that if you do anything, do it because you love it. And if you really love it, then it's a pleasure to do for free! Volunteer, teach, lead, and you will never go wrong.

The Dirtiest Tank I Ever Saw

by Ruben Neria, of *El Paso, Texas*
Aquarticles

Too many times in my lifetime, I have been asked to perform arduous tasks for which I may or may not have ever gotten paid for. Luckily aquarium keeping has always been a source of both pleasure and enjoyment for me. Keeping this in mind, I was on a day trip to the local library with my daughter when to our dismay we noticed a beautiful seventy gallon tall aquarium in a total state of disarray. The glass was thick with algae, filters clogged and water foul with the pungent odor of ammonia and other toxic chemicals that clung to the surface of the water like some unearthly soup. Needless to say, I quickly inquired at the front desk and was told that a local company was being paid a good amount of money to service the aquarium every month. Unfortunately, they were probably overloaded with work and had somehow forgotten this tank in their busy schedule.

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

EDITOR'S NOTES

Is it still raining? When we were loading up to attend the October workshop, Marvin was wading through ankle-deep water between the fish house and our house, heading toward the van. We got nearly 20 inches of rain in two and a half weeks, so we were nearly swimming. Good weather for ducks (and fish)!

Everyone had a grand time at the October workshop. The speakers' presentations were well attended. We had plenty of folks to help with tank assembly and tear-down. Thanks, again, to Page Ullman for taking care of this in his usual efficient manner. I noticed that John Nicholson brought some of his "discus guys" to help - I guess they were practicing for when NADA hosts its national convention in Irving in June 2010 and they borrow our tanks and stands. Great going, guys!

Congratulations to Kathy Stearns, this year's winner of the John Gilliam Award for service to TCA and the fishkeeping hobby in general. Kathy has many irons in the fire these days and can't be as active in TCA as she has in the past, but she has kept us on the straight and narrow for many years!

I think everyone enjoyed the awards presentation on Saturday evening. We decided to forego a banquet - instead, have an informal awards presentation and then everyone could go their own way for dinner. About 20 folks went to Outback Steakhouse afterwards and had a fun time visiting and talking fish. Be sure to ask Ralph about his special dessert that Alan ordered for him!

TCA's Christmas Party and Crazy Santa Gift Exchange is scheduled for December 12th at the same location as last year. We hope you all can attend and enjoy good food and good fellowship, not to mention fun with "stealing" gifts from each other.

Officer elections will be held in January - please run for an office or a position on the board. We need your input and energy for 2010!

Happy Turkey Day!

Kat

REPORT ON FALL 2009 TCA WORKSHOP AND SHOW

Everyone had a great time beginning on Friday evening. Several folks provided refreshments and an informal "Meet and Great the Speakers" was held. Afterwards, a good number went out to dinner, arriving back at the hotel a little past bed time.

Saturday's speaker presentations were well attended, moreso that in the last several workshops. John Hansen, Mike Wise and Eric Hanneman all gave great presentations. I wonder how many attendees were moved to open a fish store after John's talk?

Carla Johnson manned the membership table and encouraged everyone whose membership was expiring to renew, with the hope of winning a prize set aside specifically for new and renewing members. Quite a number of people either joined or re-upped, for which we were grateful. Excellent job, Carla!!

We decided to not have a formal awards banquet but instead announce the show winners at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday evening. This seemed to go over well with everyone; I didn't hear anyone complaining about missing the "rubber chicken and green pebbles (peas)" that banquets have become infamous for serving. Congratulations to David Andrews for winning Best Cichlid in Show and to Dave Gregory for winning Best Livebearer in Show.

Sunday's auction went without a hitch, lasting until about 7:30. Lots of great fish were sold, and prices held pretty steady. A good number of bidders were present, despite the fact that the Cowboys were playing in town that afternoon. Congratulations to Jamie Nicholson who was the high bidder for the Cowboys blanket in the silent auction.

Mark your calendars NOW for the fourth weekend of the fourth month in 2010, when TCA will hold its first annual "Spring Roundup". We anticipate holding our spring workshop on this same weekend annually, so everyone will know when it is happening. We are working on obtaining speakers - if you have someone in mind, contact one of the TCA officers.

Show results were as follows:

Division A: Asian, Central and South American Cichlids.

Class 1: Discus, Angels, Uaru

3rd: Ernie McAnally

2nd: Mike and Carla Johnson

1st: Randy Thomas

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

3rd: Kathy Stearns

2nd: Dave Gregory

1st: Kathy Stearns

Class 3: All South American Dwarf Cichlids

3rd: Alan Young

2nd: Debi Swan

1st: Marvin England

Class 4: Central American Cichlids over 6"

3rd: Coleen Ullman

2nd: Mike and Carla Johnson

1st: Kathy Stearns

Class 5: Central American Cichlids under 6"

3rd: Dave Gregory

2nd: Marvin England

1st: Marvin England

Division B: Lake Malawi Cichlids/Victorian Cichlids

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

3rd: David Andrews

2nd: Alan Young

1st: David Andrews

Class 7: Aulonocara & related species

3rd: Ernie McAnally

2nd: Ernie McAnally

1st: Alan Young

Class 8: Lake Malawi Haplochromines

3rd: Alan Young

2nd: Mike and Carla Johnson

1st: Mike Brewer

Class 9: Lake Victoria & Lake Kivu Species

3rd: Ernie McAnally

2nd: Mike and Carla Johnson

1st: Dave Gregory

Division C: Lake Tanganyika Cichlids/Other African Cichlids

Class 10: Lamprologus, Neolamprologus, Altalamprologus & Related Genera

3rd: Dave Gregory

2nd: Alan Young

1st: Alan Young

Class 11: Julidochromis & Related Genera

3rd: Mike and Carla Johnson

2nd: David Andrews

1st: David Andrews

Class 12: Tropheus, Petrochromis

NO ENTRIES

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

NO ENTRIES

Class 14: Cyphotilapia, Madagascar cichlids

3rd: David Andrews

2nd: Alan Young

1st: Alan Young

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

2nd: Dave Gregory

1st: Marvin England

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

Class 16: Livebearers

3rd: Marvin England

2nd: Dave Gregory

1st: Dave Gregory

Class 17: Egglayers

3rd: Marvin England

2nd: Coleen Ullman

1st: Alan Young

Class 18: Scavengers

3rd: Kathy Stearns

2nd: Kathy Stearns

1st: Coleen Ullman

Class 19: All others not listed above

1st: Marvin England

People's Choice Award - Diane Stewart

Best of Division A - Marvin England

Best of Division B - David Andrews

Best of Division C - David Andrews

Best of Division D - Dave Gregory

Best Cichlid in Show - David Andrews

Best Livebearer in Show - Dave Gregory

Officers and Board Members will be elected at the January meeting. We need enthusiastic, creative-thinking folks to run for these offices. If you fit the bill, please run. Any member in good standing (meaning you're paid up on your dues) can run for any position. TCA needs your efforts to keep up the good work!

A R-eel Fish Story

Published by Steve Hoyland, Sr.

Seabreeze News, San Leon, Tx.

Used by Permission

Two weeks ago a group of four men, Steve Jr., Bruce, Ken and Erik, set off on an overnight off-shore fishing trip. They left at noon on a Tuesday and went about 120 miles out into the Gulf. They were having a great night of fishing, catching big snapper, grouper, ling and kings. About 3am, two of them went down below to catch some sleep. The two remaining on deck were catching fish and drinkin' beer.

All at once, Bruce got a big run on his line. This thing went all around the boat and took over twenty minutes to bring up. When they got it up to the surface, they did not know what it was. It looked prehistoric. Steve Jr. put a gaff in it and the two men drug it aboard the 33 foot boat. As soon as this big thing hit the deck, it went after them. It was an eel over 6 feet long, weighing close to 100 pounds. It had a mouth full of teeth and was extremely pissed off.

It was estimated at a later day to be sixty years old. Bruce said it came at him and Steve, Jr. like an anaconda with it's head up striking them like a rattlesnake. It was highly agitated. Next, the creature fell down below on to the floor between the two sleeping men on their bunks. When they heard the thud and turned on the light, the eel raised it's head right above Ken's face. Erik rolled over and grabbed the 9mm pistol. Steve Jr. started yelling. "Don't shoot the gun in the boat! We're 120 miles from land!" Next thing you know, all four fishermen are on the deck and the gigantic eel had control of the bottom of the boat.

The four needed to work up a plan of action, so they drank awhile. It was determined that Steve Jr. would

distract the eel because he drank the most alcohol and thought that he was bulletproof. He opened up the sliding door down below to see what the “monster” was doing. As the door opened, the eel came up the two steps biting at anything along the way. The four brave men ran to the wheel house like women and shut the door. They never did identify which one screamed like a girl.

Inside the wheel house, they started calming down and decided they would drink a couple more beers. They then came up with a new battle plan. Steve Jr. went out on the deck to get it’s attention. The eel attacked and Steve Jr. climbed up on top of the captain’s chair. Ken threw a blanket on top of the giant eel while Erik and Bruce beat the hell out of it with a steel gaff and 120 quart ice chest lid. After the creature was subdued, they put it into a 190 quart ice chest.

The four brave sailors got themselves a beer and were laughing at the situation when the ice lid was knocked off and the eel slithering out of the ice chest and after them again. Bruce said the eel was in attack mode and out for vengeance. The four each picked up something and the fight was on. After beating the creature with gaffs, ice chest lids and fire extinguishers again, they subdued the massive carnivore and put it back into the ice chest. This time, they tied the lid down and put another ice chest on top of that one. Eighteen hours later they returned to the dock and started unloading the boat. They did “rock, paper, scissors” to determine who would peek into the ice chest. Here is a picture of Bruce Gordy with the eel that he caught and fought.



Mike Beth of Texarkana won the big raffle tank at the auction - way to go, Mike!

2009 FOTAS ALTRUISM AWARD WINNER
ANNOUNCED

The Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies, during its annual convention held September 11-13, 2009, hosted by Houston Aquarium Society, named Walden “Wally” Nida, from the Texas Betta Society, as the 2009 winner of the Altruism Award. The Altruism Award is presented annually to an individual for his or her outstanding service to the fishkeeping hobby and to their local club or other aquarium/fishkeeping organization.



Wally is the face of the Texas Betta Society, which is located in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. He handles organization of meetings and shows, takes care of getting imported show bettas into the country, and is generous with his fish stock, giving fish to those who are interested but perhaps unable to afford good quality fish. Wally is also active in the IBC Species Maintenance Program, helping to preserve wild bettas whose habitats are threatened and which could become extinct in the wild.

Wally and the Texas Betta Society recently hosted the national show and convention of the International Betta Congress in Irving, Texas. They did such a good job that they have been requested to host it again in 2011!

Kudos to you, Wally, for your work in the aquarium hobby, for encouraging individuals to participate, and for your concerns regarding betta conservation. Congratulations on being the latest winner of the FOTAS Altruism Award.

NOAA Announces Emergency Rule to Protect 'Threatened' Sea Turtles

On April 29, 2009, NOAA's Fisheries Service announced an emergency rule to protect threatened sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico.



The temporary rule, which takes effect May 18, will require the commercial reef fish longline fleet to fish seaward of a line approximating the 50-fathom contour in the Gulf of Mexico. Current regulations require this fleet to fish seaward of 20-fathoms.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council requested this emergency rule after a NOAA observer study documented the reef fish longline fleet was incidentally catching and killing too many loggerhead sea turtles. This emergency rule will primarily affect longline fishermen who target shallow-water grouper species, such as red grouper. Most shallow-water grouper fishing occurs within the 50-fathom contour off the west Florida shelf – an important sea turtle feeding area – where most of the incidental sea turtle bycatches occur. The emergency rule also prohibits all reef fish longline fishing east of 85 degrees 30 minutes west longitude in the Gulf of Mexico after the quotas for deep water grouper and tilefish are reached.

"We are working closely with the council and constituents to find more permanent solutions to protect sea turtles affected by this fishing gear," said Roy Crabtree, NOAA's Fisheries Service southeast regional administrator. "I hope we can identify options that not

only provide sea turtles the protection they need, but minimize the economic affects to the fishing industry."

Loggerhead sea turtles are listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. NOAA's Fisheries Service is implementing the emergency rule in accordance with both the Endangered Species Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that conservation and management measures minimize bycatch of non-target species and minimize mortality when bycatch cannot be avoided.

The emergency rule will be in effect for 180 days and can be extended for up to an additional 186 days. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is considering actions to address this issue on a long-term basis.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin. website.

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2010, ALL TCA DUES WILL BE PAYABLE ON JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR. ALL DUES PAID FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31 OF A PRECEDING YEAR WILL PAY YOU UP THROUGH DECEMBER 31 OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR. (FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU RENEW FROM 10/1 THROUGH 12/31 OF 2009, YOU WILL BE PAID UP THROUGH 2010 AND WILL NEED TO RENEW BY 1/1/2011 FOR 2011.) THIS WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR EVERYONE TO REMEMBER TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP. SO CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER MAILING LABEL AND SEE IF YOU NEED TO RENEW TODAY!

Here's a little quiz from the Atlanta Area Aquarium Association's newsletter. How many will you answer correctly?

Three items in each group have something in common. Find the one that does not belong and identify what the remaining three have in common.

- 1) a) Ramshorn b) Apple c) Tuba d) Mystery
- 2) a) Lamprologus b) Tropheus c) Tilapia d) Apistograma
- 3) a) Betta b) Corydoras c) Guppy d) Nothobranchius
- 4) a) Duck weed b) Frog bit c) Salvinia d) Anubias
- 5) a) Lemon b) Neon c) Prince d) Emperor
- 6) a) Choaking b) Croaking c) Dwarf d) Pearl
- 7) a) Bubblynest b) Cave c) Mouth d) Tail
- 8) a) Tetracycline b) Methylene Blue c) Ph Down
d) Penicillin
- 9) a) Wet/dry b) Halide c) Sponge d) Canister
- 10) a) Poecilia b) Xiphophorus c) Platyensis
d) Gambusia

ANSWERS WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

Woman Eats Ex's Goldfish After Spat

Fight Over Jewelry Leads to Untimely Demise in Frying Pan for Seven Pet Fish

PASADENA, Texas — Authorities say a Houston-area woman who was burned up at her former common-law husband fried their pet goldfish and ate some of them. Pasadena police say it's a civil matter and no charges will be filed. The seven goldfish were purchased together by the couple during happier times.

Police spokesman Vance Mitchell says the man reported on Saturday that the woman took the goldfish from his apartment.

Mitchell says the two argued earlier about some jewelry the man had given her but took back. She wanted the jewelry returned.

Officers who were dispatched to the woman's home arrived to find four fried goldfish on a plate. The woman said she already ate the other three.

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.

Randy Rhoades

(817) 426-0901

fish_man_randy@yahoo.com

FOR SALE:

240-gal full setup with overflow filter and wet-dry filter - \$1,000 for all

Calendar of Events

December 12, 2009: Annual Christmas Party and Crazy Santa Gift Exchange, 7:00 at Spring Creek Barbeque, 1509 Airport Freeway, in Bedford.

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

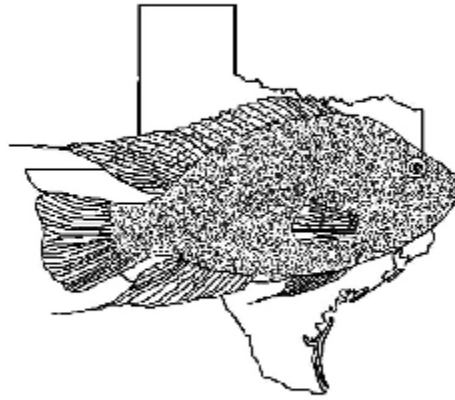
February 20, 2010: Regular meeting, 7:00, at Dawson Middle School, 400 S. Kimball Avenue, Southlake. John Nicholson will be speaking on the North American Discus Association.

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.

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF



THE TEXAS CICHLID ASSOCIATION

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