

CICHLID TAILS

The Newsletter of The Texas Cichlid Association

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President's Letter

Hello Everyone!

The March meeting was held at the home of David Andrews in Fort Worth. The program was National Geographic's "The Jewel of the Rift" on Lake Tanganyika. David also presented his own video on the many species of fish that he has spawned in his two fish houses. (I have to "tell" on David - his video was "Plan B" because he couldn't find the National Geographic CD. Well, I am glad he did his video, we really enjoyed it!) The only business discussed was the Spring Show. All enjoyed the videos and David's fish.

The Spring Workshop and Show was April 13 – 15, 2007 at the Clarion Hotel DFW South in Irving. The show was well attended, in spite of the inclement weather Friday evening. Our speakers were fantastic, Ad Konings, Dean Hougen and Greg Steeves. Greg, who is from our sister club, Hill Country Cichlid Club, did an excellent job (especially so, because it was his first!) I want to thank the guys that work so hard to set up the show – it is a lot of work and they do an amazing job! Thank you - Page Ullman, David & Nick Andrews, Phil Tucker, Jerry Decker, Paul Scarborough, D'Wyatt Green, Harrell Chism! Thanks to everyone who showed their prize fish - it is no easy task to very carefully bag up those show fish and transport them to the show without snaggin' a fin or two. *Congratulations* to Coleen Ullman, whose *Amphilophus citrinellum* won Best of Show. I would like to thank Coleen and Kathy England for helping out with the registration desk. The auction could not happen without the work of many folks; members and guests would not have a forum for selling fish and equipment without these guys and gals--David Andrews, Larry Lampert, Ernie McAnally, Jim Lancaster, Keith Pearson, Dane Meyer, Amy Gilliam, Carvi Shamsid-Deen, Gary Cooper, Gilbert Love, Randy Rhoades and Danny Young, plus Diane Stewart and Kathy England who ran the silent

auction. Special thanks to Caroline Estes and Houston Aquarium Club President Charles Jones for auctioneering.

The 2007 John Gilliam Memorial Award was presented to Kathy England at the show awards banquet on Saturday evening. Kathy's active participation with the TCA goes back to 1994 when she spent many hours bagging donation fish for the ACA Convention in San Antonio. She has served as co-editor for Cichlid Tails since November 2000. She served as Secretary for five years, from January 2001 to December 2005. Kathy works hard at all of TCA's workshops; she cheerfully works the registration desk, enthusiastically organizes (and donates to) the silent auctions, and auctioneers. She attends most all of TCA's meetings, driving hours from Texarkana. There is nothing Kathy would not do if asked for TCA; she usually volunteers before being asked! TCA is delighted to recognize her many years of volunteering for the organization. **Congratulations Kathy!**

The next monthly meeting is May 19th at Dave Gregory's home. He runs a wholesale tropical fish business called Wise Water Fish Farm on his property. Dave has volunteered to bring in special requests if you will contact him at wisewaterfishfarm@aol.com prior to the meeting. He says to BYOB (no glass) and a lawn chair!

The Hill Country Cichlid Club has graciously invited TCA to their annual picnic at Landa Park on June 9th. HCCC will grill burgers and dogs; bring drinks and snacks. Last year we paddled on the Comel, played horseshoes, and caught critters (fish, too) out of the river, had a great family outing!

The 2007 American Cichlid Association's Annual Convention is July 19th – 22nd in Sacramento, California. The convention is huge: lots of show fish, lots of fish buyin' and sellin', great speakers, a gigantic auction, and a ton of FUN! If you have never been to an ACA convention, make this your first – you will not be disappointed!

Hope to see you all at Dave Gregory's 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.

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Photographer	Randy Rhoades

TCA's website: www.texascichlid.org

Editor's Notes

What's going on at your house? Grass need mowing? Flowerbeds need weeding and replanting? Hedges need trimming? If you have a yard, there's always something that needs to be done, and it's generally not a one-time job.

One idea to improve on the esthetics of your place is the addition of a "pond" and/or a "water feature". This can range from a hole in the ground with a liner, to a heavy-duty horse trough to merely a half-whiskey barrel with an insert. Add a fountain head and a plant or two, and there you go! Beautiful to look at and relaxing to listen to. You can even put your cichlids, and other fish, in larger ponds during the warm summer months. Depending on how you choose to go, it can also be relatively inexpensive.

The summer months are full of outdoor activities, some of which are fish-related. The picnic in New Braunfels, the trip to Decatur, the ACA convention with its various day tours. There's something for everyone, it seems.

Let's not forget FOTAS. This will be Hill Country Cichlid Club's first time to host this event, and they are looking forward to it. Lots of TCA folk are planning on attending, so let's have a great turnout and support our sister club. On-line registration is now available at the HCCC website.

Not much is going on at the England Fish Ranch. The stray cat who wandered up finally dominoed – had 4 kittens on our front porch. Doubled our cat population in a matter of hours. Anyone need a kitten? They should be able to leave Mom by the middle of June. They are definitely not staying here! Our black lab just doesn't understand what's going on, but then she's never been the brightest light in the trailer park.

REPORT ON TCA'S **SPRING 2007** **SHOW AND WORKSHOP**

TCA held its annual Spring Show, Workshop and Auction April 13-15 at the Clarion Inn in Irving, Texas. Despite tornadoes and baseball-sized hail in some areas of the Metroplex, a good turnout was had.

Show entries numbered nearly 100, considerably fewer than in years past, but no complaints were heard from those folks who assisted in setting up and tearing down the show and rental tanks.

Speakers Ad Konings, Greg Steeves and Dean Hougen passed along valuable information with regard to various types of cichlid species. It is always a pleasure to have such knowledgeable individuals available to our members.

Saturday night's banquet was sold out. After Ad Konings gave a show talk on Malawi cichlids, several special awards were given out by master of ceremonies Ralph DeBoard to various TCA members. Kathy England was this year's winner of the John Gilliam Memorial Award for her service to TCA. David Andrews and Curtis Johnson won awards through their participation in TCA's Breeder Award Program. David Andrews had spawned the greatest number of different species, so he received the Most Prolific Breeder Award.

Then the show winners were announced.

All entries were spectacular this year, but the judges felt that the most spectacular was Coleen Ullman's red devil. Congratulations to Coleen on her second TCA Best in Show.

The auctions on Sunday, both live and silent, were absolutely wild! All live plants are now sold through the silent auction, and over 100 were sold

there on Sunday – pond plants, bog plants, aquarium plants, and regular old garden and flowerbed plants. Not to mention gift baskets, blankets, jewelry, pillows, and other assorted donations. We had so many silent auction donations that some were kept back to use during the fall auction.

The live auction contained the usual fish, rocks and wood, and lasted 12 hours. All those who stayed until the "bitter end" are to be commended on their dedication (or their insanity). The most important things were that everyone had a great time and got home safely Sunday night.

Stay tuned, gentle readers, for information regarding TCA's fall function at a later date.

TCA SHOW WINNERS **SPRING 2007**

The following is a list of show winners for the TCA Spring 2007 show. Congratulations to everyone who showed a fish – you are all winners!

Division A: Asian, Central and South American Cichlids.

Class 1: Discus, Angels, Uaru, Biotocus, Crenicara, Aequidens, Geophagus & Related Non-Dwarf South American Cichlids

First Place: Catherine McNamee

Second Place: Walter Taylor

Third Place: Kathy Stearns

Class 2: All South American Dwarf Cichlids

First Place: Curtis Johnson

Second Place: Curtis Johnson

Third Place: Curtis Johnson

Class 3: Central American Cichlids

First Place: Coleen Ullman

Second Place: Coleen Ullman

Third Place: Dave Gregory

Division B: Lake Malawi Cichlids/Victorian Cichlids

Class 4: Mbuna - Pseudotropheus,
Melanochromis, Cynotilapia, Labidochromis,
Labeotropheus, etc.
First Place: Nancy Clark
Second Place: Marvin England
Third Place: Randy Rhoades

Class 5: Aulonocara & related species
First Place: John Hansen
Second Place: Ernie McAnally
Third Place: John Hansen

Class 6: Lake Malawi Haplochromines
First Place: John Hansen
Second Place: Ernie McAnally
Third Place: Ernie McAnally

Class 7: Lake Victoria & Lake Kivu species
First Place: Greg Steeves
Second Place: Greg Steeves
Third Place: Ernie McAnally

Division C: Lake Tanganyika Cichlids/Other African Cichlids

Class 8: Lamprologus, Neolamprologus,
Altolamprologus & Related Genera
First Place: Marvin England
Second Place: Marvin England
Third Place: Marvin England

Class 9: Julidochromis & Related Genera
First Place: Phil Tucker
Second Place: Harrell Chism
Third Place: Alan Young

Class 10: Tropheus, Petrochromis,
Cyanthopharynx, Cyphotilapia,, Goby Cichlids
Ophthalmotilapia, Cyprichromis,
Paracyprichromis, Xenotilapia, and All Other
African Cichlids Not Listed Elsewhere
First Place: Greg Steeves
Second Place: Greg Steeves
Third Place: Dave Gregory

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

Class 11: Livebearers
First Place: Marvin England
Second Place: Dave Gregory
Third Place: Marvin England

Class 12: Egglayers
THERE WERE NO ENTRIES IN THIS CLASS

Class 13: Plecostomus and other Scavengers
First Place: Coleen Ullman
Second Place: Marvin England
Third Place: Coleen Ullman

Best of Division A: Coleen Ullman

Best of Division B: Ernie McAnally

Best of Division C: Greg Steeves

Best in Show: Coleen Ullman



FOTAS 2007

A Message From Greg Steeves

The Hill Country Cichlid Club is looking forward to hosting this year's FOTAS convention in San Antonio. After long discussions, we have decided that because we are a cichlid club, the events will be centered on this subject. The speakers and presentations, as well as the show are mostly themed around catfish and cichlids.

We understand that this might not be the optimal lineup for the other FOTAS member clubs, so if your organization is interested in hosting a show or bringing in a speaker to better suit your interest, by all means contact me, Greg Steeves (gsteeves@gvvc.com), and we will do our best to accommodate you.

The online registration site is up and running. I would like to advise everyone that there is very limited room at the banquet so if you plan on attending please make sure you sign up as soon as possible to avoid disappointment (we only have 70 seats available). The banquet speaker is Anton Lamboj so it's certain to be an excellent presentation.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Dave Hansen (dshansen19@sbcglobal.net), or go to the HCCC website, which is located at: www.hillcountrycichlidclub.com. We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio on September 7th through the 9th

Greg

INFORMATION ON UPCOMING TCA MEETINGS

On May 19th we will visit Dave Gregory's Wise Water Fish Farm in Decatur, approximately 4 miles north of Boyd. To get to Dave's house, at Hwy 287 North and Hwy 114 West, take the 114 West to Bridgeport exit Go 5 miles West on Hwy 114. Turn right at the 2nd Dollar Store, FM 730 North. Go 3.9 miles. Turn right at Anneville Cemetery Road, aka County Road 4371. Go ¼ mile. Turn right at Private Road 4379. At the intersection, there is no left turn and there is a cluster of 7 mailboxes on the left and a red house & barn with

a vineyard on the right. Go ¼ mile; the gate with JH is on the left. Bear left down the hill into the pasture toward the barn. If you get lost, call Dave at. (817) 319-8969.

NOTE: DAVE SAYS THE SKEETERS GET REALLY FIERCE AROUND DUSK, SO THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 4:00 INSTEAD OF THE USUAL 7:00.

On June 9th, TCA folks will travel to Landa Park in New Braunfels to attend Hill Country Cichlid Club's annual picnic. The picnic will be held at the same place as last year. HCCC furnishes all food and sodas. Bring your lawn chairs and plan on relaxing, visiting and talking fish.

July is the annual American Cichlid Club convention, this year to be held in Sacramento, California. If you have not already made your reservations, please do so promptly. Once you attend one of these functions, you will be "hooked"!

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

What's Going On

With Other Texas Aquarium Clubs

Hill Country Cichlid Club

Summer Cichlid Day Auction: Saturday, June 16th 2007 . Doors open at 10:00 a.m. Auction begins at 12:00 p.m. **Location:** Bracken United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 20377 FM 2252, San Antonio.

HCCC is also hosting their second annual Fishy Picnic on June 9th in Landa Park in New Braunfels. Everyone who attended last year had a great time – sitting under the trees, enjoying the cool breeze, shooting the breeze about fish (or anything else), and getting to know other fish folks. For more information on the HCCC, the picnic, or the June auction, please check out their website and forum:

<http://www.hillcountrycichlidclub.com>

Dallas Killifish Association

The Dallas Killifish Association meets at 1 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month. For more information, call John Nicholson at (903) 527-5174 or contact the DKA at Webmaster@Dallaskillifish.com

Texas Area Killifish Organization

TAKO (Texas Area Killifish Organization) is an affiliate of the AKA (American Killifish Association). TAKO groups are currently located in Dallas and Houston. Meetings are held monthly. TAKO holds an annual killifish show and auction in July. Membership reaches across Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. New members are always welcome. There is no membership fee TAKO is financially supported through the annual auction and the TAKO Exchange (auction of fish and items at the meetings). For information on the meetings, TAKO, the AKA, or Killifish, e-mail: tako@daclarue.com.

Texas Betta Society

The Texas Betta Society meets monthly at the Warmack Branch Library (Program Room), 760 Bardin Road, in Grand Prairie. For more information on the TBS, go to their website: www.texasbetta.com.

Houston Aquarium Society

Summer Auction is scheduled for June 8, 2007, at the American Legion Post, 11702 Galveston Road in Houston. Seller check-in is at 10 a.m.; auction starts at 11 a.m. If you wish to obtain a seller number before the auction, or if you have any other questions, please call (281) 286-2238. The American Legion Post will serve refreshments at a nominal fee. **Please no outside food or drink!** Call (281) 286-2238 or (281) 565-4561 for more details.

Houston Livebearers Association

The Houston Livebearers Association invites all Texas aquarium societies to attend its gigantic auction Saturday, May 26th at the Galveston County Fair & Rodeo Fair Grounds, at Jack Brooks Park on Highway 6 in Hitchcock, You may enter the Fairgrounds Parking area from FM 2004 and drive through the Park or enter from Hwy 6. Check in 9am/start 11am/ closed 8 pm.

The HLA will charge 25% commission (10% for the clubs and 15% fee for the HLA to cover administration, check collections, and rent), collect/pay 8.25% taxes on all sales and let the

sellers decide which participating club gets the club commission for each item when they sign in. The HLA will charge \$5 for bidder cards. Sales commissions will be waived for auction workers. All items will be sold "as is".

Presidents of participating clubs will be required to appoint or approve exactly two auction workers from their membership in order for their club to participate in the event. The president of the HLA will appoint and approve the remainder of the auction workers.

Sellers will be charged \$2/bag for rebagging leaking bags. The club doing the rebagging keeps the proceeds. Sellers and clubs will be paid two to four weeks in arrears to allow time to cash checks. The Galveston County 4-H Club will have the food and beverage concession. No food or beverages from outside will be allowed. This is a smoke free building and no alcoholic beverages will be permitted.

For more information on this great auction, please contact Max Smith at guppymax@msn.com.

Oklahoma Aquarium Association

The Oklahoma City chapter of the OAA meets the first Saturday of each month. Every third meeting is held at a member's house in the evening. Meetings generally involve a presentation and include an auction of live fish and plants. Participation in the monthly meetings is open to the public and there is no charge for attending. For more information and to check on upcoming event, visit their website: www.okcaa.org

TAIL TRADER

Got something fishy to sell or trade? Notify the *Cichlid Tails* editor. All TCA members in good standing may advertise fish, equipment and related supplies for sale, or place a "want" ad free. Advertise your stuff here – someone may need it!

David Andrews

(817) 291-4169

FOR SALE:

Pseudotropheus DeMasoni	1 - 1 1/4"	\$1.50
Pseudotropheus DeMasoni	1 1/2 - 2"	\$2.50
Golden Peacock		
	1 1/2 - 2 1/2"	\$3.00
Albino Auratus		
	1 1/4 - 1 1/2:	\$2.00
Neolamp. multifasciatus	3/4 - 1 1/4"	\$3.00
Snow white Socolofi	1 1/4 - 1 1/2"	\$2.00
Snow whie Socolofi males	4"	\$5.00
Julidochromis transcriptus	1 1/4 - 1 1/2"	\$2.00
Albino dwarf bristlenose plecos		\$4.00

Kathy England

903-794-FISH

FOR SALE:

marvinengland@hotmail.com

Pond and bog plants for sale, including water clover, water poppy, white snowflakes, horsetail reed and umbrella palms. Call or e-mail for what's available and their prices.

Sorry about the strange and incomplete look of this issue (I had to do some "creative" cutting and pasting), but our computer crashed . . . again. This time we had to fork over the money to get a totally new system. Unfortunately, at the time of this publication, we were unable to retrieve any data from the old computer's hard drive. Luckily I had downloaded to a CD this issue of Cichlid

Tails, with only a little editing necessary. So I finished it up on my computer at work and got it mailed out.

Calendar of Events

May 19, 2007: Regular monthly meeting at 4:00 at Dave Gregory's Wise Water Fish Farm, 391 PR Road 4379, Decatur, Texas. Call Dave at (817) 319-8969 if you get lost.

June 9, 2007: Hill Country Cichlid Club Summer Auction. See information under "On the Road Again" in this issue of "Cichlid Tails".

July 19-22, 2007: Annual American Cichlid Association Convention in Sacramento, California. On-line registration is now available. For more information, go to www.cichlid.org.

August 18, 2007: Regular meeting at 7:00. Site to be announced later.

September 7-9, 2007: Annual Convention of the Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies, hosted by Hill Country Cichlid Club at the **Springhill Suites by Marriott**, 3636 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, Texas. (210) 737-9275. Show classes and a tentative schedule have been posted on-line; also, on-line registration is now available. For more information, go to Hill Country Cichlid Club's website: www.hillcountrycichlidclub.com.

October, 2007: TCA's Fall Workshop/Auction; date and location to be announced later.