

# CICHLID TAILS

The Newsletter of The Texas Cichlid Association

Volume 23, Issue 5

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## President's Letter

Hello Everyone!

The American Cichlid Association's annual convention was July 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> in Chicago. Several TCA members attended. The quality and quantity of speakers was impressive; I listened to more talks than ever. All kinds of fish were available in the rental tank rooms. We got to visit an awesome fish room owned by GCCA member Ric Perez. Several TCA members visited the Shedd Aquarium and the King Tut exhibit at the Field Museum. And the auction! It was a whopping 16 hours!!! I heard there were over 1,900 bags of fish. It was the first time I ever stayed until the end. I paid for it of course; I had difficulty getting the fish back (and actually accidentally left a few at the hotel). It was a great

convention, just a great time with cichlid folks and friends.

The August TCA meeting was at the Clarion Hotel DFW South. We were able to use the hotel's media room; it was quite nice! Larry Lampert and Ernie McAnally operated the laptop, projector and speakers so we could listen to and see a very humorous talk given by Howard Schmidt and Ric Perez at the ACA convention 2005. Diane Stewart provided a huge selection of snacks and goodies. Thank you, Diane!

September 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> is the date for TCA's Fall Show and Workshop at the Clarion Hotel DFW South in Irving. Show set-up will begin at 9:00am on Friday; volunteers are encouraged to assist Page Ullman and his group. (The same guys always set up and tear down; they could sure use some help!) The show should be ready for fish by 5:00pm. Contact Marvin England or Page Ullman by September 10<sup>th</sup> to reserve a show tank or a rental tank.

Dan Woodland is scheduled to talk Friday evening at 8:00pm. Dan and Steve Lundblad will speak on Saturday beginning at 10:00am. The awards banquet is Saturday evening; Dan Woodland will talk about "Adventures in Panama". Please let me know as soon as possible, verbally or by e-mail, if you plan to attend the banquet (I want to be sure we reserve enough dinners). The auction is Sunday at 11:00, until all bags are sold; again, we need more volunteers!

The annual FOTAS convention, hosted by the Houston Aquarium Society, is October 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> at The Hotel Sofitel in Houston. Speakers include Heiko Bleher, Rusty Wessel, Jeff Senske, and Brett Rowley. They are scheduled to have a show as well. FOTAS is always a fun event to attend; I would encourage everyone to go!

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

## Editor's Notes

ACA 2006 has come and gone and, overall, I believe everyone had a great time. There were airport delays and hotel foul-ups, but it seems that's part of the "ACA Experience" and we have to go with the flow. However, all TCA attendees made it to Chicago and back safely and had fun while they were there, and that's what matters.

The next few weeks are really gonna be hectic ones at the England fish ranch. Marvin is busy, post-retirement, puttering around in the fish house, rearranging tanks, moving fish and fish stuff from there to here and here to there. Plus he's been working on the home remodeling project. The den is almost there! Just a few more tweaks and we can move his big screen TV into it and start on the living room. I am extremely proud of the boy!

And of course there are up-coming fish journeys to make. First the Hill Country auction, then TCA's fall workshop, then FOTAS in Houston. I will be ready to stay home come the end of October!

Aside from the report on ACA 2006, the articles in this issue are borrowed from AquaArticles – what would I do without them?? I know that you TCA folks are keeping fish, spawning fish, are doing fishy things, so why not write about it? **YES, YOU CAN!** I will help any way that I am able, but I need the basic information from you as a starting point.

We are busy planning TCA's Christmas Party, plus the 2007 schedule. If you would like to host a meeting, and have room for 20 – 30 folks to mix and mingle easily (one-bedroom shell dwellers, we love you, but you just don't have enough room for us!), and would like to host a meeting, please let one of the TCA officers or board members know. We would like to visit and see your fish stuff. Same goes for a particular topic or speaker you are interested in. Let someone know.

Gotta run. Time to check on the baby guppies in the pond – they are red and gold and are *so cute*!! See you in September!

Kat

# TCA FALL WORKSHOP, SHOW AND AUCTION

**September 15-17, 2006, at the Clarion Hotel, 4440 W. Airport Freeway, Irving, Texas.** Speakers to date include Steve Lundblad and Dan Woodland. When making your hotel reservations, please ask for the special TCA rate.

Giant All-Species Fish Show -- beautiful awards will be presented to Best of Division and Best in Show winners. Show is sanctioned by the American Cichlid Association.

Awards Banquet Saturday Evening -- Show winners and Breeder Award Program winners will be announced.

Live and Silent Auctions on Sunday -- many unique and hard-to-find items will be available to the highest bidder. *If you have donations for the silent auction, try to get them to Coleen Ullman or Diane Stewart, or bring them with you to the August meeting.*

Huge Raffle on Sunday -- lots of great give-aways, including fish food, tank decorations, filters, other assorted dry goods, and even a big tank!

For more information, contact any TCA officer or board member, or check out the TCA website at [www.texascichlid.org](http://www.texascichlid.org)

## TCA SHOW CLASSES – FALL 2006

### **Division A: Asian, Central and South American Cichlids.**

- Class 1: Discus
- Class 2: All South American Dwarf Cichlids
- Class 3: Angels, Uaru, Biotecus, Crenicara, Aequidens, Geophagus & Related Non-Dwarf South American Cichlids
- Class 4: Central American Cichlids

### **Division B: Lake Malawi Cichlids/Victorian Cichlids**

- Class 5: Mbuna - Pseudotropheus, Melanochromis, Cynotilapia, Labidochromis, Labeotropheus, etc.
- Class 6: Aulonocara & related species
- Class 7: Lake Malawi Haplochromines
- Class 8: Lake Victoria & Lake Kivu Species

### **Division C: Lake Tanganyika Cichlids/Other African Cichlids**

- Class 9: Lamprologus, Neolamprologus, Altolamprologus & Related Genera
- Class 10: Julidochromis & Related Genera
- Class 11: Tropheus, Petrochromis, Cyanthopharynx, Cyphotilapia, Goby Cichlids Ophthalmotilapia, Cyprichromis, Paracyprichromis, Xenotilapia, and All Other Lake Tanganyikan Cichlids Not Listed

Class 12: West African, Madagascar and Other African Cichlids Not Listed Elsewhere

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

- Class 13: Livebearers
- Class 14: Egglayers
- Class 15: Plecostomus
- Class 16: All other Scavengers
- Class 17: Photography

Best of Division A  
Best of Division B  
Best of Division C  
Best in Show

## TCA FALL 2006 SHOW RULES

The show is open to all, and you need not be present to win. Entry fee is \$3.00 per entry. There is no limit to the number of entries per person. An entry consists of a single fish, a pair of fish, or a school of fish of the same species. Only one entry per tank is allowed.

### **SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> IS SHOW ENTRY DEADLINE. NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED!**

No hybrids will be permitted, except discus. The Show Chairmen have final determination as to what is and what is not a hybrid.

Depending on the class, all entries will be shown in 10-gallon or 20-gallon tanks provided by TCA..

Tanks for each show entry will be assigned by class prior to registration on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Assigned tanks will be identified by your registration number. Each tank will have both the class and species printed on its label. No changing of tanks will be allowed. Tampering with or handling of other exhibitors' entries is forbidden, except as required by the Show Committee. **Any entry not complying with the show rules will be disqualified.**

The tanks will be available for set-up at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Entries **must** be in their show tanks by 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Tanks, air and tubing will be provided. Tanks will be filled with dechlorinated water (75 deg. F and Ph near 8.0). No gravel or sand will be permitted in show tanks: however, slate, flowerpots, etc. may be used as long as the judges can remove them.

The decision of the judges and Show Chairmen will be final. The Show Chairmen reserve the right to disqualify fish based on deformities, illness, poor condition, poor health, or death.

Awards will be given to the Best of Show, Division, and Class winners at the banquet on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. You don't have to be present at the banquet to receive an award, although attendance is wholeheartedly encouraged. You must purchase a banquet ticket in order to hear the speaker presentation. Non-paying individuals will not be allowed in the banquet room.

Entries may not be removed from the show room until after the banquet Saturday night, but must be removed by noon on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, or they will be auctioned as TCA donations. **No exceptions will be made!**

Neither the TCA nor the hotel will be held responsible for the loss or damage to the fish and/or equipment, or for personal injury before, during or after the convention.

All individuals wishing to show fish are required to pre-register their entries by contacting Show Co-Chairmen Page Ullman [ullman8@charter.net](mailto:ullman8@charter.net) (817) 831-7876 or Marvin England [marvinengland@hotmail.com](mailto:marvinengland@hotmail.com) (903) 794-3474, **no later than September 11<sup>th</sup>**. **When you contact them, please have the correct class and species name of your show entries as this helps with correct assigning of show tanks**

## **TEXAS CICHLID ASSOCIATION** **FALL 2006 AUCTION RULES**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME—HOBBYIST AND PROFESSIONAL. HOWEVER, YOU MUST PAY THE AUCTION REGISTRATION FEE IN ORDER TO BUY AND SELL.**

Items are accepted at seller's risk. TCA cannot accept responsibility for any item's safekeeping nor its condition either before or after the sale. Once they are registered, all for-sale items become property of the TCA and cannot be withdrawn from the auction.

Each seller is allowed to sell 40 bags of fish, with a maximum of five (5) bags of any one species or color strain. All fish are expected to be bagged properly. **ABSOLUTELY NO ZIP-LOCK BAGS ALLOWED! The seller will be charged \$2.00 for each bag of fish that requires rebagging.**

Seller split will be 75/25 on items selling for less than \$30 and 80/20 on items selling for \$30 and over. TCA will receive a minimum \$1 split on each item sold.

**BIDDERS: Know what you are bidding on. All items are available for inspection prior to the auction. Take the time to examine each item so you positively know what it is BEFORE you bid.**

Each bag must include fish species, quantity, a description if appropriate (breeding pair, trio, sex, etc.), assigned seller initials and a **unique** bag number (do not put your buyer

number on each bag as the bag number). Adult males and females of the same species should be bagged separately and the bags attached together. If you're selling 10 bags, your bags should be numbered 1-10. The information must be legible—use black lettering directly on the bag or lettering on a white label on the bag. Make sure you use permanent markers that won't run or smear when they get wet. Example of how your lettering/labels should read on the bag:

MLE #1  
Altolamprologus calvus  
"Zaire Black" F1  
Breeding Pair

Priority colored dots will be issued at registration. Place one dot on each item for sale. At the beginning of the auction, one color will be drawn at random. The items with that color dot will be sold first. After all the items with that color dot are sold, another color will be drawn. This will continue until all items are sold. **For this auction only, all plants brought to be sold at auction will be sold in the silent auction. Sellers should bag and label all their plant items in the usual manner when preparing their auction items for sale**

Each bidder must register and be assigned their own bidder number. TCA will not split items sold under one bidder number between multiple bidders at checkout time. **Each bidder** is responsible for **EVERYTHING** bought with their bidder number. When an item is sold, the runner will bring the item to the buyer, along with a sales verification form, which the buyer will initial.

**No one will be allowed to remove any auction item from the auction room unless proof of payment is shown. Your proof of payment is your paid auction receipt.**

Once you have cashed out, you will no longer have a bidder number. If you want to purchase other items, you must be issued a new bidder number (there is no additional charge for the second bidder number). **The auction chairperson retains the right to reject any fish not fit for sale (sick fish, deformities, hybrids, etc.).**

**During our spring workshop, a hotel employee commented on attendees bringing their own alcoholic beverages into the hotel, specifically to the show room and the banquet. Because this action violates TCA's contract with the hotel, TCA can be asked to leave if it recurs. TCA wants everyone to have a good time at the workshop, but we ask that attendees please keep alcohol not purchased from the hotel in their rooms and avoid bringing it to common areas of the hotel. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this regard.**

**ACA 2006: Chicago Cichlid Blues**  
**A Visual Review by Ralph DeBoard**

The ACA convention is one of the highlights of the year for many TCA members including Brenda & I. Not surprisingly, Chicago left quite an impact on all of us this summer. I hope this pictorial review provides great memories for those who went, and serves as a motivator for others to consider going to Sacramento next July. *Note: The reading sequence is down the left column then down the right column.*



The Chicago Sheraton Northwest provided the perfect backdrop for the week's events.



Brenda relaxing in our room. The rooms were nice and big – in fact they were so big you could almost lose your auction fish in them if you weren't careful. No. Surely not! No one could do that could they? Well .... stick around and see.



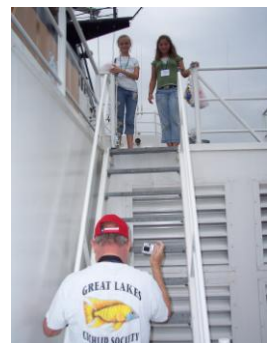
Thursday started off with a boat tour of downtown Chicago. Marvin's grand daughters got front and center seats. Watch out for the sea spray girls!



Can you find the TCA members touring the famous Chicago Navy Pier?



Somehow I ended up with lots of pictures of Marvin taking pictures. That's Sammy on the left and Allye on the right.





Friday's highlight was a behind the scenes tour of the world famous Shedd Aquarium.



No visit to Chicago would be complete without a visit to Ric Perez's gigantic fish room – along with pizza and soft drinks, of course. Ric's wife was really upset that he left that "Really Ugly" PVC pipe up above the huge new pond. Yeah, it just ruined the trip for all of us.



As well as the Field Museum and King Tut Exhibit.



Kathy: "Hey Diane look at this cute guy in here." To see the response on the other side of the glass, go to the next page.



We even saw Sue. Or is that Kathy growling at Diane for letting her forget something important?



“Hey Nemo. Come check out these cuties. I want to go home with them.”



Even Ron Georgeone is impressed. “Hey guys. Check this out. Who says size doesn’t matter?”



Marvin looks envious to me. Better keep your eye on him Ric.



“Hey Ralph. Let me know if you see Ric coming this direction. You think I can keep these alive in my pocket until I get back to the hotel?”



Just one of many beautiful fish we saw that day.



The babes sold lots of fish Friday night.



Quiz: What is the name of this fish?



As usual, the fish show included some of the most beautiful specimens in the hobby, such as this solid red discus.



TCA members at the Saturday night banquet. Seated (l to r) Brenda & Ralph DeBoard, Marvin England, Randy Rhoades. Standing (l to r) Dianne Stewart, Larry Lampert, Kathy England.

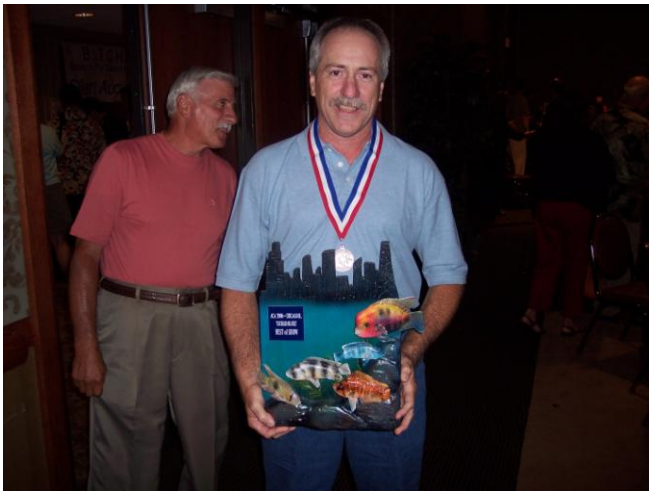


Nandopsis Doviei, a beautiful show entry.



The award plaques were gorgeous.





Ron Georgeone's Aulonocara sp. Lawanda "Red Top" walked away with the Best In Show Award.



By midnight, the crowd had thinned – but TCA and friends were not finished buying.



The highlight for many was the gigantic Sunday fish auction. It started at noon and didn't end until 2:45 AM. Wow!



The scene out back looked a little less pleasant. Ric Perez and company must still unload all this at the storage building.



Halfway through the auction, Diane failed to win "that fish she just had to have", so she decided to drown her sorrows. (This is a joke)



And just as we had begun to believe this was going to be like the "loaves and fishes" story in the Bible, the tables in the back were empty.



By now even Carolyn Estes was getting tired.



As we left Monday morning, the convention area was empty.



You must admit this crew looks pretty spiffy considering it's 2:45 AM.



Uh Oh. I think those 2 babes (aka Kathy & Diane) have abandoned us. Why is the cleaning lady screaming? NO! Not the trash can!



Guess who ended up at the VERY end of the checkout line. I think Kathy was hoping they might find "just one more bag" she could bid on.



Mission accomplished. These 8 tanks in my basement hold most of the fish I came home with.

**TEXAS CICHLID ASSOCIATION**  
**FALL 2006 SILENT AUCTION RULES**

1. Everyone is welcome—hobbyist and professional. However, you must pay the registration fee in order to participate in the silent auction.
2. You must have a bidder number.
3. Each item in the silent auction will have a bidder's sheet. The sheet contains an item number, a description and a starting minimum bid. If you wish to bid on that item, enter your bidder number, your name and your bid amount.
4. You may bid any amount you wish, but your bid must be at least \$1.00 more than the previous bid. **BIDS MUST BE IN WHOLE DOLLARS ONLY. BIDS NOT IN WHOLE DOLLARS WILL BE DEEMED INVALID.**
5. The closing of an item will be announced a few minutes before closing to allow final bids. Once an item is closed, no more bids will be accepted.
6. Upon the close of bidding, the winner of each bid will receive their item and must pay for it at the time they check out of the live auction.
7. All items must be paid for and removed from the hotel by the end of the live auction on Sunday.

## *Geophagus Steindachneri*

by Tony Bernard

*From the Monthly Bulletin of the Hamilton  
Aquarium Society  
Aquarticles*

Originally described in 1910 by Eigenmann & Hildebrand, they are found in the major drainages of Columbia. This relatively small fish will grow to a size of 14cm. The females are a little smaller growing to about 11cm. Theirs mouths are turned down, which places them into the *Geophagus* genus. They love to dig and sift through your substrate but they really are not into moving it around. The body of the male is 80% covered with metallic green spots and his body is a cream colour with a black horizontal band down the lateral line. The female looks the same but has fewer metallic spots. They are known in the hobby as the Red Hump Eartheater.

I acquired a bag of juveniles in Sarnia at the local club's auction. They were under an inch in size and were placed into a ten gallon tank for conditioning. I fed a mix of flake foods with small pellets and occasionally threw in some freeze dried foods for flavour. Once they got up to an inch and a half I put them into a growout tank with other various cichlids, some African - well, mostly African. They did fine and grew quickly in the 100 gallon tank. Originally starting with 5 fry I had 3 make it to adults. I am surprised by their aggression towards each other. With one male and two females I figured I was well set up for breeding.

My growout tank became a breeding tank for the *steindachneri* before I was ready to remove them to a smaller venue. With two mouthfuls within a week I was happy and made a note on my tank on the proposed removal of the females. When at all possible I like to place the female into a ten gallon tank by herself, to imprint to the fry the proper release techniques for brooding. A good female will hold a brood for approximately 3 weeks and release the fry within the next. Unfortunately they haven't read any of the books I have and upon the second week they were both eating away with their other tank mates. Grrr came to mind a couple times but they are young and this was likely their first spawn anyway.

The male is very aggressive and is ready to harass the females at any given moment. I believe that an overly stocked tank will help lower the aggression level of the male just by the fact that he can't see them all the time. The next spawning was a few weeks later. I was surprised at the behaviour of the female, she was on a rampage and that other female just couldn't get far enough away from her. I think the constant head butting with the female and the aggressive advances from the male were too much for her and I found her one morning, dead and picked over. To top off the day the female must have celebrated by having a breakfast of baby *steindachneri*.

Well I was upset and irritated so I proceeded to forget about these guys for a bit, just to cool down. Now that the conditions were perfect and nothing else in the tank bothered them, breeding started and with no problem, a nice big mouthful appeared and with a little harassing from the male and the good instincts of the female, not to mention her ability to stay behind him or under something. I was rewarded with a brood of 26 fry the day after I put her into a 3 gallon tank. I made daily water changes of 50% from the parents' tank for a

week then down to a 20% change once a week. The fry easily took crushed flake and high protein powder, and are growing nicely.

The female has spawned again with another big mouthful and I was pleasantly surprised to find her releasing the fry into the 100 gallon tank and taking them back up whenever anyone came too close. I watched this for a while and then caught and stripped her before she released them for good in the big tank. Just like in the wild their odds of making it in there are very small. I am quite fond of these *Geophagus*, they have their own minds and are always active. They are very good breeders and I expect that she will quickly be producing the 40-60 fry that is in the literature I have read. Now that I am more familiar with these fish I'm sure that a species tank would be quite nice. However a pair will quite easily become a cherished addition to a cichlid community tank, African like mine or South American. If you have been thinking about *Geophagus* or *steindachneri* I wouldn't hesitate to recommend The Red Hump Eartheater.

## *Dicrossus filamentosa*

### My trauma in their care and breeding

by Don Maloney

from *Wet Pet Gazette*, Norwalk Aquarium Society  
Aquarticles

*Dicrossus filamentosa* is a dwarf cichlid found only in northern South America. It inhabits small, shallow water courses. There are two known populations of *D. filamentosa*. One is found in the Orinoco headwaters and the other in the Rio Negro. The only method of distinction that I'm aware of is two fold: the males of the Rio Negro morph have a narrow wedge of speckles in the deep fork of the lyre-tailed caudal fin, and the females develop bright red ventral fins after the first spawn. The other population's males have a wide speckled area and their females' ventral fins remain clear after the first spawn. Regardless of the population this is a beautiful fish with a striking checkerboard pattern along its flanks. Hence their common name **checkerboard cichlid**. Please see the cited reference for an accurate physical description of this fish. Every major magazine and reference book has at least one decent picture. In older literature this fish was known as *Crenicara filamentosa*. Because of the wide

availability of photos I will opt to save valuable paper by not describing this stunning fish's appearance. Please forgive me.

I was able to purchase from a breeder/importer out of Massachusetts on 3/20/97. Researching this fish months before its arrival allowed me to choose carefully the habitat I would use for its home. I recently purchased a 35 gallon breeder and decided to use it - its large bottom area making it ideal for small territorial cichlids and shallow water depth offering excellent light penetration for healthy plant growth and ease of maintenance. It came without a lid. I easily fashioned one out of 1/8th inch plexi-glass. For planting this tank I chose Java fern and Java moss and some of the *salvinia* sp. floating plants, which were good for a while but began growing out of control. I can't tell you how many pounds were pulled out at every water change. Open spaces between the bunches of Java fern patches allowed the fish free-swimming room. The broad leaves of the Java fern are absolutely necessary because this fish deposits the eggs on plant leaves. Coconut shell halves and a small piece of bog wood were in the tank along with a shale cave for the *Apistogramma nijsseni* pair which ultimately spawned in this tank too, at the same time! For substrate I chose fine gravel 1-2" deep for plant roots, but later began to remove some of it because fine gravel holds too much dirt.

Water that has a low pH value and extremely soft is mandatory in the breeding these cichlids. The eggs of this species will easily dissolve in even moderately hard water. I obtain water for these fish two different ways. First, I use rain water collected in a plastic 55 gallon drum, and second, I use tap water. Both rain and tap water are filtered through an A.P. tap water purifier. Then it is trickled through peat to produce a water with a pH of around 5.5-6.0. The water temperature of the new water is slightly cooler (70F to 72F) than that of the aquarium which is kept at 80F to 82F. The addition of slightly cooler water definitely aids in triggering the spawning ritual. Water is changed about 10-15% every 2 weeks.

The fish are fed a variety of foods. This is important as proper conditioning of the fish insures beautiful, healthy fish and frequent spawns. Frozen foods like bloodworm and brine shrimp are fed most often because of their relatively high nutritional value and, most importantly ease of use. I'll treat them occasionally with live brine shrimp, and mosquito larvae when they are "in season". When I'm pressed

for time they'll get Tetra Cichlid flakes. Yes, they'll take dry flakes! I've heard stories of fish keepers going to extreme lengths to procure all sorts of live and home made prepared foods for these fish. That was not the case for me.

Filtration is handled by 3 box filters with ceramic noodle, peat, and floss. Filters are changed when they appear very dirty. The filters are changed on a rotation basis at water change time.

**INFORMATION ON UPCOMING  
TCA MEETINGS**

TCA's annual Christmas Party/Crazy Santa Gift Exchange is scheduled for December 2, 2006, at 7:00 at Ryan's Family Steakhouse, the same location as last year. Make plans now to attend. Participation in the gift exchange is optional, but it sure is fun!

If you would like to host a meeting in 2007, and you have plenty of room for 20 to 30 individuals to mingle comfortably, please contact any TCA officer or board member. Also, if you have any suggestions of a "public" meeting place, please give a TCA officer or board member that information for their consideration.

**REMINDER:** TCA Officer elections will be held at the January meeting. Any TCA member in good standing is eligible to run for office. Please send your nominations to Vice President Coleen Ullman prior to December 1, 2006, if possible.

**FOTAS 2006**  
**Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies**  
 October 20-22, 2006  
 hosted by Houston Aquarium Society

The Hotel Sofitel  
 425 N. Sam Houston Parkway E.  
 Houston, Texas 77060  
 (218) 445-9000  
 (Special FOTAS rate of \$79/night)  
 Speakers include Heiko Blehr, Rusty Wessel,  
 Bret Rowley and Jeff Senske  
 All-species show will be held  
 www.houstonaquariumsociety.org/FOTAS

**TCA FALL 2006 WORKSHOP  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**September 15-17, 2006**

**Clarion Hotel South DFW Airport**

**4440 W. Airport Freeway**

**Irving, Texas 75062**

**(972) 399-1010**

**Ask for the Special TCA Room Rate**

Workshop registration form also available at  
TCA's website

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee per person (covers entire weekend's activities)  
 \$10.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$5.00 12 and under \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Awards Banquet (buffet style):  
 \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$35.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: ALL BANQUET TICKETS MUST BE  
PURCHASED IN ADVANCE BY 9/8/06 DUE TO  
LIMITED SEATING -**

Show Entries: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$3.00 each \_\_\_\_\_  
**FOR SHOW ENTRIES, USE BLANK PAGE**

All show entries must be pre-registered by 9/11/06. See TCA website (texascichlid.org) for show rules and classes. Questions? Contact Show Co-Chairmen Page Ullman at ullman8@charter.net (817) 831-7876 or Marvin England at marvinengland@hotmail.com or (903) 794-3474.

Rental Tanks: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I want to buy some tanks:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 10-gallon tanks @ \$8 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 20-gallon tanks @ \$18 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TCA membership dues (\$15 per year includes whole family)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ new \_\_\_\_\_ renewal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Texas Cichlid Association and mail to:

Kathy Stearns  
 1515 Creekview  
 Keller, Texas 76248

## REPORT ON ACA 2006 IN CHICAGO

By Kathy England

Cichlid Blues in Chicago – what a theme! Once again several TCA folks made the journey to the annual convention of the American Cichlid Association, this year hosted by the Greater Chicago Cichlid Association. Several flew and several drove. After a bout of nasty weather, flights into and out of O'Hare were so badly backed up until several folks who flew stated that they could have arrived quicker if they had driven – and it took us 15 hours on the road!

Unlike a lot of ACA folks, we had no problems with our hotel reservation. It seems the hotel overbooked (shades of the last time we were in Chicago!), but things finally worked themselves out. Several hotels near the Sheraton handled the convention overflow easily.

Once we arrived and got everything unpacked, including the two eleven-year-old grandkids, we wandered down to the show room and were pleasantly surprised to find Del Calhoun in attendance with some of his great fish sculptures for sale. I was tempted to purchase the beautiful frosted crystal frontosa, but reluctantly decided to pass. Many show tanks were set up, but only a few show entries had arrived do to the airport conditions. The same was true for the rental tank rooms, which were also full of tanks.

Thursday morning we arose and hopped on the bus for the boat tour, despite thunderstorms in the area. We were assured that the boat was covered. Brenda DeBoard and I couldn't decide if that was a good thing or a bad thing. This was a very interesting tour, and we all learned new things about Chicago and its history. I thought the Chicago Lock was of particular interest. It was installed after the city reversed the flow of the Chicago River to be out of Lake Michigan instead of into it, in order to prevent the Great Lakes from draining dry. An interesting concept, huh? But I guess it could have happened.

A quick visit to the Navy Pier resulted in a career choice by one of the grandchildren. It seems that Marvin took both of them on a tour of a Coast Guard icebreaker that was moored there, and the girls

were introduced to the captain. Sami immediately decided that she wanted to be in the Coast Guard.

Friday dawned sunny for the trip to the Shedd Aquarium. We zipped through there and then walked across the street with several other TCA members to view the King Tut exhibit at the Field Museum. It was amazing to me that all those artifacts were buried for over 3,000 years, yet looked as if they were made only last week. The workmanship was breathtaking. You rarely find those types of craftsmen today.

The Babes In The Cichlid Hobby held their annual "Oral Auction" on Friday night to raise money for the Guy Jordan and Paul Loiselles Funds. The girls had many fish to auction off, thanks to the outstanding efforts of John Hansen with the Florida fish farmers and donations from the Shedd Aquarium.

Saturday involved listening to speakers, hanging out in the show room, and wheeling and dealing with fish folks, trying to get the "bargain of the convention." That evening we all had to get cleaned up for the banquet, which was over by 9:30 – a new record. Wayne Leibel kept everyone in stitches with his talk concerning the quest for the elusive Flowerhorn Cichlid. TCA was well represented in the show, and John Hansen, Dave Gregory and Marvin won awards with their fish. The Best in Show winner was no surprise to anyone – Ron Georgeone, with an outstanding Aulonocara Lawanda "red top".

Sunday we were able to leave the hotel by 10:00, which was rather unusual as it's usually noon before I can get Marvin into the van. We drove back the long way, via St. Louis, so the girls could at least see the Gateway Arch. We had considered taking them up in it, but due to storm-caused power outages in the city we decided to pass. After a night's layover in Missouri, we finally made it home Monday afternoon and discovered only two fish casualties. It was a relief not to have so much stuff to unload; thanks to our two passengers, there was no room to put it. I wonder if Marvin will realize he can survive without taking all that stuff. On second thought, probably not.

Next year's convention will be in Sacramento, California, and will be hosted by the Sacramento Aquarium Society. Mark your calendar and plan on attending. You will have great fun, meet lots of wonderful, knowledgeable cichlid folks, and get to enjoy attending a convention, not working at one!!

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

*What's Going On*  
*With Other Texas Aquarium Clubs*

### Hill Country Cichlid Club

These great cichlid folks hold regular monthly meetings. An auction is scheduled for September 2<sup>nd</sup> near San Antonio. For more information, please go to the HCCC website: [www.xdeleon.com/hccc](http://www.xdeleon.com/hccc)

### Dallas Killifish Association

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

### Texas Betta Society

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

**During our spring workshop, a hotel employee commented on attendees bringing their own alcoholic beverages into the hotel, specifically to the show room and the banquet. Because this action violates TCA's contract with the hotel, TCA can be asked to leave if it recurs. TCA wants everyone to have a good time at the workshop, but we ask that attendees please keep alcohol not purchased from the hotel in their rooms and avoid bringing it to common areas of the hotel. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this regard.**

## 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 – 1-1¼" \$1.50 each  
Ps. Demasoni - 1 ½ - 2" \$2.50 each  
Ps. Demasoni - 2 ½ - 3" \$5.00 each  
Neolamprologus Leleupi (orange) – 2-3" \$10.00 each  
Hap. Red Empress (Malawi)– 1 ¼ - 1 ½" \$1.50 each  
Hap. Half Crimson (Victorian) - 1 ¼ - 2 ½" \$2.00 each  
Hap. Hippo Point Salmon (Victorian) - 1 ¼ - 2" \$2.00 each

Aulonocara Golden Peacock - 1 ¼ - 2" \$2.00 each  
Melanochromis Auratus "albino" - 3-3 ½" \$4.00 each  
Julidochromis. Transcriptus – 1-1 ¾" \$2.00 each  
Julidochromis Dickfeldi - 1-1 ¼" \$2.00 each  
Neolamprologus Multifasciatus – ¾-1 ¼" \$3.00 each  
Cyno. Afra "Cobue" - 1-1.5" \$2.00 each

### **Phil Tucker**

[philtucker@charter.net](mailto:philtucker@charter.net)

Will deliver to meetings

#### **FOR SALE:**

Chalinochromis brichardi 2.5" \$8  
Bristlenose plecos 1.5" \$2  
Bristlenose pleco breeder pairs \$40  
Pseudotropheus demasoni 1"+ \$2  
Cyphotilapia frontosa Burundi F1/F2 2.5-4" \$20  
Synodontis petricola 1-1.5" \$5  
Julidochromis ornatus albino 1"+ \$4  
Julidochromis marleri "Mgara Burundi" 1.5" \$4  
Julidochromis regani "Karalini Orange" 2" \$5  
Cyp. leptosoma "Chituta Neon Head" 1.5-2" \$7

### **Randy Rhoades**

(817) 426-0901

#### **FOR SALE:**

Aulonocara Blue Regal, Red Shoulder and Jacobfreibergeri Eureka Red - \$4 each  
Aulonocara Sunshine - \$3 each  
Aulonocara Flavescent - \$5 each  
Yellow Labidochromis - \$4 each  
Malawi Haplochromines: Red Empress and Electric Blue - \$3 each  
Otopharynx lithobates "red top" - \$5 each  
Two 55-gallon tanks: 1 with top, stand and gravel; 1 with top and undergravel filter

## Calendar of Events

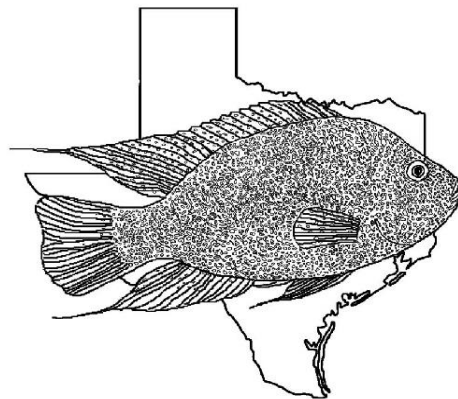
**September 15-17, 2006:** TCA Fall Workshop & Auction. Speakers include Steve Lundblad and Dan Woodland.

**October 20-22, 2006:** FOTAS hosted by Houston Aquarium Society. For more information go to HAS website: [www.houstonaquariumsociety.org](http://www.houstonaquariumsociety.org).

**December 2, 2006:** Christmas Party & Crazy Santa gift exchange, 7:00 at Ryan's Steakhouse, North Richland Hills (same place as last year).

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***OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF***



***THE TEXAS CICHLID ASSOCIATION***

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