

# **CICHLID TAILS**

## **THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS CICHLID ASSOCIATION**

**VOLUME 24, ISSUE 5                      SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007**

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### **President's Letter**

Hello Everyone!

The Sacramento Aquarium Society hosted the American Cichlid Association's 2007 Convention in Sacramento, California. The convention was so much fun!!! Fewer TCA members attending than in previous years, but those who did had a blast! The speakers were great – Ad Konings, Alex Saunders, Oliver Lucanus, Rainer Stawikowski, Tim Hovenac, and Ron Coleman. The show had some really nice fish and rental tank room was hopping as always! Of course, I spent time and \$\$\$ there too! One highlight of the weekend was visiting Pam and Gary Chin's fish house ( not fish room!). It was absolutely awesome! They have many, many, tanks and it has to be the cleanest I have ever seen. Gary says he only breeds the species he likes (he likes lots). At the awards banquet, TCA was applauded for the \$5,000 donation made last year to the Guy Jordan Fund in memory of John Gilliam. The auction turned out to be larger than I had anticipated. I was

disappointed to think I would be unable to bring fish home, which is one of the highlights of any convention, but Jim Ellenburger came to the rescue. He volunteered to ship our fish to Dallas. Ralph and I jumped at that and ended up bringing home, um.., just a *few* boxes. The best part of the convention for me is hanging out and visiting with so many fish friends from all over the country! The 2008 convention is in Atlanta, Georgia. I hope lots of TCA folks will be able to attend!

At the August monthly meeting, hosted by Ernie & Sheila McAnally in Southlake, we all enjoyed watching their vacation videos of the whales in Alaska. What breathtaking sights! Ernie has built a very nice fish room in part of his garage. (It is way too clean, too.) His 144 gallon half-circle aquarium in the game room is beautiful! Thanks to Sheila and Ernie for a very enjoyable evening.

The Hill Country Cichlid Club did an excellent job hosting the 2007 FOTAS Convention in San Antonio earlier this month. Congratulations to HCCC!!! They worked really hard and did a wonderful job! I did enjoy listening to their lineup of speakers – Anton Lamboj, Juan Miguel Artigas Azas, Spencer Jack, and Dave Hansen! Anton makes you want to keep West African species and Spence convinces you to collect in Uruguay (almost). Congratulations to Kathy and Marvin England; they are this year's Altruism Award recipients. They both have volunteered lots of time and energy to the Texas Cichlid Association and FOTAS as well.

TCA's fall event is a one-day auction only at the

Hilton Garden Inn in Irving on October 20th.  
The regular auction rules apply.

Hope to see you at the auction!

- 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**

Here it is almost October - can you believe it? And it's been raining! Looks like we are in for a wet, warm Fall rather than a hot, dry one. But that's okay with me!

FOTAS has come and gone, and Hill Country Cichlid Club did a FANTASTIC job! The speakers were world-class, the show and presentations were well-attended, and everyone that I spoke with had a wonderful time. It was good to catch up with friends we missed at ACA, like Carolyn Estes, Pam Marsh and Pam Chin, who held a B.A.B.E.S. silent auction Saturday afternoon. TCA was well represented during the weekend festivities as well, with several members winning awards for their outstanding show fish.

The Sunday auction filled the room with both for-sale items and bidders. We had to leave at 2:00 in order to make it home at a reasonable hour, but there was still plenty left to sell when we headed northeast. I especially liked the quilt that was raffled off - I just knew I had the winning ticket, but, alas, I was wrong . . . again!

TCA is hosting an auction on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Hilton Garden Inn DFW

South, 2001 Valley View Lane, in Irving. Registration opens at 10:00; auction begins at noon. TCA decided to try a Saturday-only function to see how it worked. Now the folks who had to spend their time on Sunday tearing down tanks can participate in an auction instead, and everyone can go home and get a good night's sleep with no worry about being "alive" at work the next day. So spread the word!

Hope to see everyone at the auction - Marvin's counting the F1 gold head compressiceps he's bringing to sell!

## **The Honduran Episode**

By Patrick A. Tosie, Sr.

First published in *The Darter*, Missouri  
Aquarium Society  
Aquarticles

Early morning, Friday, November the first, I set off on an adventure into the Central American country of Honduras. I left St. Louis on TWA to meet with Rusty Wessel in New Orleans and catch our flight on TACA (Take A Chance Airlines) to the town of La Ceiba, Honduras. The first experience happened leaving St. Louis on TWA - fifteen minutes into the flight the Captain tells us over the intercom that they have a broken fuel line and we will be returning to St. Louis to either change planes or fix the line. We get back to St. Louis and they tell us that they have the part and it will take about an hour to fix. I had two hours planned as a layover, however with the problems the plane had, I wouldn't have any time between flights.

I call New Orleans to the TACA counter, they page Rusty, and I talk to Rusty and tell him that TWA will land about the same time TACA is suppose to leave. (I had to meet Rusty because he had my TACA plane ticket) Rusty says he'll meet me at the luggage carousel and help me get to TACA as quick as possible. If I would happen to miss the flight, the next one wouldn't be until the following day.

When I finally get to New Orleans the Captain tells everyone that he has an international traveler that has to make a flight and to let him get off first. The people on the plane cheer for me as I get off and run to the baggage claim and meet up with Rusty. Everyone else comes to the baggage claim, get their luggage and go on to their destination while I wait for mine. My luggage must have been the last onto the baggage claim area! Rusty helps me with the bags as we run to the TACA counter to check in the luggage. TACA is holding the plane from New Orleans to La Ceiba, Honduras for Rusty and me! On TACA drinks are free and we start getting our money's worth. There is a stop-over in Roatan, an island area known for scuba diving, before we reach La Ceiba at 5:30 PM. It is just getting dark when we reach La Ceiba and we were lucky because if it would have been dark they would not have landed. The airport in La Ceiba does not have radar plus a mountain range is right next to it, so if they can't see they don't fly.

Charlie Pyles, a fellow ACA'er from Louisville is at the airport waiting for us with a rental car and some Honduran money (Lempira). We get through customs without a hitch and are off to our Hotel, the Partanon Beach. The road to the hotel is a short but

bumpy twenty-five minute ride from the airport.

The people in Honduras have dark complexions (they are of Spanish and Indian descent) with dark hair and brown eyes. The women are young, beautiful and wear tight clothes, the men are ugly and look like an old pair of army boots that have been through a war. They seem to be happy all the time even though they are very poor. A good wage in Honduras is 300 Lempiras a week (\$23.35 in U.S. Dollars at the current exchange rate). Driving conditions are a lot different as well (I enjoyed driving there). They do have speed limits and stop signs, however, the police do not have cars so they can not enforce them. The three basic driving rules that people follow are 1 - Whenever you pass someone, you honk your horn. 2 - The oldest, junkiest car has the right of way. 3 - If you are walking, riding a bike or are in the road for any reason and a car comes by, GET OUT OF THE WAY. You can pass whenever and wherever you want, drive as fast as you want, however, you must stop at any police roadblocks. A police roadblock is an orange cone in the middle of the road with three to six machine gun holding policemen standing around. The police have frequent roadblocks to check your papers and the car's papers (currently, they are having a problem with stolen cars). The police are usually trying to get a bribe to let you pass or they are trying to find the least little thing wrong so they can write you a ticket (you pay your ticket right there on the spot to the man writing the ticket).

After we get to the Hotel and check in we are off to a few local bars to sample the native drinks. We get to bed at 4 AM. The next morning I awake at 5:30 and I am ready

to go. I walk on the beach for a little while and then I go to Rusty's door (about 8:00) I knock, and he said to come back at eleven. I go to the restaurant and eat a ham, egg and cheese omelet, toast and juice and walk around to see what is there. I do a quick tour of the town, walk down the beach and go to the pier, where a lot of people are fishing, to see what the locals are catching.

The locals are fishing with a line that is wrapped around a stick, or some other object, they have a small hook on the end of the line with a piece of shrimp on it as bait. They throw it into the water and give it little jerks until they catch something. The fish they are catching look like minnows. They throw them into buckets or plastic bags and save them to eat later.

I go back to the hotel at eleven, Rusty and Charlie are getting ready. We eat lunch, make plans on where to go and are off.

The first road block out of La Ceiba is at the Rio Cangrejal and the police detain us, then they tell us to follow them to the police station. One of the policemen gets into the van with us and leads us to the station. They say the rental car papers are wrong and we cannot take the car, they have to keep it. At first they do not let us take our stuff (camera, collecting items, extra shoes and changes of clothes) out of the car but after a couple hours they let us get our belongings out of the car but they do not let us take the car. We take a taxi back to the hotel, put our stuff away and go to a bar. They rest of the day is spent between the bars and trying to get the car problem worked out. We go to bed early the next morning.

I wake up at 4:45 AM the following day, the

whole trip I can not sleep very late either because I am overly excited or the bed is too lumpy. I take a shower, get dressed and watch some VH-1 on the TV. After a little while I go to the restaurant, get breakfast and watch the waves hit the beach. Late morning Rusty, Charlie and I get a taxi driver, named Israel, to take us to the Rio Jutiapa (the Rio Jutiapa is a clear, fast moving mountain stream where Rusty discovered his namesake fish, (*Theraps wesseli*) to catch fish. I see *Cichlasoma spilurum*, some mexicana type tetras (that bite your legs) several *Poecilia* species, some gobies and catfish. I did not see any *Cichlasoma* "Theraps" *wesseli* but this is the location where Rusty found his fish. A lot of local children start to collect to see what the crazy Americans are doing and then they help us catch fish. We pull a seine and get a gallon of *Poecilia* species. Just up the river from where we are collecting, the local women are doing laundry. There must have been a soccer game the day before because one of them is doing the soccer team's uniforms.

After we collect we take the fish we wanted to keep back to the hotel (the fish we didn't keep the children bagged up to save for their dinner). When we reached the hotel we set up some pumps and airstones in the bags, did a water change, got ready and went bar hopping. There was one bar, which a Canadian guy named Mark owned, that was our favorite place to go. It was a kind of sports bar, it had a couple TV's in it, the bartender could speak English, they had a dart board and they had great food. The bar was also a popular spot for English speaking tourist and locals so you could go there and speak in our native tongue to other English

speaking people. Speaking English in a bar to someone that didn't know was something that was very uncommon in Honduras.

The next day we plan to go to the town of Choluteca to catch some *Amphilophus (Cichlasoma) hogaboomorus* and *Anableps dowi*. Choluteca is close to the Nicaragua border. The drive from La Ceiba is about 300 miles and take us ten hours. The drive is an experience. At one point Charlie spins the truck around trying to drive too fast on the mountain road across the country. He is driving too fast because he was tailgating someone and when he finally passes them, they start tailgating us with their high beams on. We get to Choluteca, check into a hotel and go to a small tributary of the Choluteca river and night fish. When we pull up to the creek the first thing we see is EYES skimming across the water. The *Anableps* are swimming all around. We get into the water and start catching as many as we can of *Amphilophus (Cichlasoma) hogaboomorus* and the *Anableps dowi*. When we get our fill, we go back to the hotel, separate the fish and set them up with air and go out to eat.

The next day we go to the Nicaraguan border and try to enter the country. The police detain us at the border, they do not let us take our car across because they say that the papers are wrong. They take us back to the town of San Marcos and keep us for a while. We take the police captain out to lunch and he lets us go after he receives a confirmation from the rental agency over the phone. We are suppose to pick up some paperwork in Tegucigalpa (the Honduran capital city) on our way back to La Ceiba. We go back to the hotel to unload our things, then we go to the bar. Several hours

later we go back to the creek where we were the night before to catch some more fish. I have a hard time catching fish, I say they were moving faster, Rusty and Charlie say I've had too much to drink. After we caught our self imposed limit, we head back to the hotel to put the fish away.

After we clean up we go to a nice restaurant, (Charlie, if you see this do you remember; Is that a dime in your ear?) have a good dinner, go to a disco for a little while and go to bed. The drive back to La Ceiba the next day goes without any problems.

The next day we go back to the Rio Jutiapa to catch some more fish. I see several *Theraps (Cichlasoma) wesseli* but am unable to catch them. We get some more livebearers and head back to town.

These are just some of the things that happened, there are a lot more exciting things that happened than time I have to tell you. This was the best time I have ever had related to the aquarium hobby. I would strongly suggest to anyone that gets a chance to go on a collecting trip.

## **Collecting Wild Bog Plants**

By Charles Drew

*From the monthly Bulletin of the Hamilton  
and District Aquarium Society*

Aquarticles

Collecting wild bog plants not only gives you first hand knowledge on how and where they grow, but is also an outing in the great outdoors. It is not against the law so long as you are not in a conservation park or bio preserve.

Ponds, streams, roadside ditches along with

Northern lakes, and beaver swamps are all excellent sources of free plants. There is no need to take more than two or three of each type because most, if given proper care, are very prolific. In fact you might say they grow like weeds. Last August, Janet and I decided to take a weekend and visit South Western Ontario, to be more precise, Point Pelee. We started out under a cloudy sky and drove through a God fearing thunderstorm between Simcoe and Tillsonburg. As we drove down Hwy 3, the weather cleared and we were blessed with a beautiful day.

We reached Point Pelee Park early in the afternoon and went in to visit the sand bar at the end. Twelve years ago when we were there, it was only a few hundred feet long. This time it had to be at least a mile and a half. Janet had me walk every inch of the way. Due to the summer heat and drought, the forest and bush were tinder dry and Lake Erie nearly a metre low. The marsh was shallow and stagnant, in fact, it stank. We saw some nice bog and water plants from the boardwalk but signs referring to people as thieves who so much as picked up a feather, snail shell or a stick of drift wood made me realize that you may get hung from the tallest tree if you were caught taking a piece of frogbit. Early the next day after visiting Jack Miners Preserve and a big nursery centre we headed for Belle River on Lake Huron shore. Upon reaching this little town we thought it fitting to visit their Tim Horton's and the pier at the river mouth, before heading east along the lake shore road. After several miles the road ended and we were forced to turn onto a side road heading inland. As we turned I spotted a water filled ditch which ran between the road and a farmer's field. I stopped for a

look. Bonanza! Several painted turtles slid off their rocks into the water and a foot long black bass headed for cover in the weeds. There was frogbit, giant arrowhead over three feet tall and towering rush in bloom. That threw me, I didn't know it bloomed the third week in August. Also there was a plant I had never seen before. A look in the book, Wetland Plants of Ontario, revealed it to be what is called the Stiff Arrowhead (*Sagittaria rigida*). Unlike its cousin the Broad Leafed Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*), it has a narrow, lance shaped leaf. The white, three petal flowers look the same. Also blooming was water willow.. a woody shrub that grows in or near the water's edge. It is very pretty with its pink-purple flower clusters that grow from the leaf axils. Although they were small specimens and will no doubt root from cuttings, I passed, because they can grow over six feet tall.

So with a collection of new plants, blue clay on my shoes, and a reprimand from Janet for not bringing my rubber boots, we headed home. Incidentally most water plants love clay.

**A SILENT AUCTION WILL BE HELD DURING THE OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> "LIVE" AUCTION. PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO KATHY ENGLAND AT THE HOTEL THAT SATURDAY MORNING. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF TCA!**

**FALL 2007 AUCTION RULES**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME, BUT 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.**

**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). 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

Adult males and females of the same species should be bagged separately and the bags attached together.

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.

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.).**

## **FALL 2007 SILENT AUCTION RULES**

**1. EVERYONE IS WELCOME, BUT 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, a starting minimum bid, and an "open" and "close" time. If you wish to bid on that item, enter your bidder number, your name and the amount you wish to bid on that item.

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 IGNORED.**

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 that time.

7. All items must be paid for and removed from the hotel by the end of the live auction on Sunday.

**NOTE: All plants will be sold via the silent auction; however, they must be bagged and marked as if they were being sold in the "regular" auction. Plants will *not* be considered donations; regular auction split will apply**

## **ON THE ROAD AGAIN**



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

**Hill Country Cichlid Club**

HCCC meets monthly and has programs regarding various topics. For more information on upcoming events, please go to: [www.hillcountrycichlidclub.com](http://www.hillcountrycichlidclub.com).

**Houston Aquarium Society**

Monthly meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 at local aquarium shops. Also, a Fall Auction has been planned. For more info, go to the HAS website: [www.houstonaquariumsociety.org](http://www.houstonaquariumsociety.org)

**TAKO**

**(Texas Area Killifish Organization)**

TAKO holds monthly meetings and an annual Killifish show and auction. There are no membership dues. For more information, contact TAKO President Doug Ebeling, via e-mail at [ebeling@charter.net](mailto:ebeling@charter.net), or the TAKO website: [www.tako.daelarue.com](http://www.tako.daelarue.com)

**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, contact the DKA webmaster at [Webmaster@Dallaskillifish.com](mailto:Webmaster@Dallaskillifish.com)

**Texas Betta Society**

The Texas Betta 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).

**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.

**J.J.'s Tropaquatics**

**John Hansen**

**(501) 760-3801**

[jjstropaquatics@yahoo.com](mailto:jjstropaquatics@yahoo.com)

**Will deliver to TCA Fall Auction**

**FOR SALE:**

**Aulonocara species**

(all 3.5" plus - \$25/pr. Males \$15; Females \$10):

Tangerine  
Albino Red Eureka  
Ruby Red  
Bi-Color 500  
Jacobfreibergi  
Ngora Flame Tail  
Sunshine  
Red Shoulder

**Tropheus species**

(all 3" plus - all \$10 each unsexed):

DuBoisi  
Bemba  
Kiriza

**Lake Malawi**

(all 3" plus; all unsexed)

Hap. Moorii	\$8
Red Zebra	\$5
Cobalt Zebra	\$5
R.B. Zebra	\$5
Lab. Fuelleborni (3.5" plus)	\$5
Super Red Empress (4")	\$6

**January 19, 2008:** Regular monthly meeting, 7:00, location TBA later. Officer and Board Member election will be held. If you are a TCA member in good standing and are interested in running for an office, please advise the TCA Secretary.

**February 16, 2008:** Regular monthly meeting, 7:00, at location TBA later.

**New World:**

Green Severum (3" plus)	\$3.50
Gold Severum (3")	\$4.25
Cich. Robertsoni (3")	\$2.75
Cich. Red Auteum (2.5")	\$3.25
Cich. Meeki (firemouth) (2.5")	\$2.25
Cich. Hartwegi (4")	\$6.00
Cich. Nicaraguense (3" plus)	\$4.00
Cich. Zonarus (3" plus)	\$5.00
Cich. Brasiliensis (3")	\$5.00
Cich. Balzani (2.5")	\$6.00

**Plecos:**

Ancistrus regular Large \$5; Small

\$  
2

Ancistrus Red L-157 Med. \$5;  
Small \$3

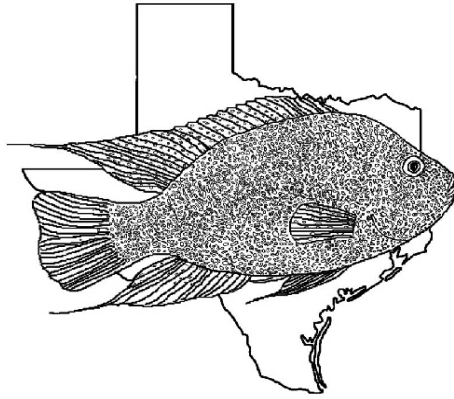
**Calendar of Events**

**October 20, 2007:** TCA Fall Auction; Hilton Garden Inn DFW South, 2001 Valley View Lane, Irving. Registration opens at 10:00; auction begins at noon.

**December 2007:** Annual TCA Christmas Party and Crazy Santa gift exchange; date, time and location TBA later; flyers at auction and information on TCA website..

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*OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF*



*THE TEXAS CICHLID ASSOCIATION*

Texas Cichlid Association  
Kathy Stearns, President  
1515 Creekview Drive  
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