



# *Fish Tales*

*Volume 7 Issue 2*

*Snorkling the Comal River*

*Fish Room Tours: Art Leuterman*

*A Very Fishy Year!*

*American Cichlid Association Convention 2017*

*A Visit to the Oklahoma Aquarium*

*SELAS Fish Show Recap*



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**Photo by Gerald Griffin**

### **Design and Layout**

**Gerald Griffin**

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Volume 7 Issue 2

The FOTAS Fish Tales is a quarterly publication of the Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies, a non-profit organization. The views and opinions contained within are not necessarily those of the editors and/or the officers and members of the Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies.

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Gerald Griffin [herpchat@yahoo.com](mailto:herpchat@yahoo.com)

Fish Tales Submission Guidelines

Articles:

Please submit all articles in electronic form. We can accept most popular software formats and fonts. Email to [herpchat@yahoo.com](mailto:herpchat@yahoo.com). Photos and graphics are encouraged with your articles! Please remember to include the photo/graphic credits. Graphics and photo files may be submitted in any format, however uncompressed TIFF, JPEG or vector format is preferred, at the highest resolution/file size possible. If you need help with graphics files or your file is too large to email, please contact me for alternative submission info.

Art Submission:

Graphics and photo files may be submitted in any format. However, uncompressed TIFF, JPEG or vector formats are preferred. Please submit the highest resolution possible.

Next deadline.....

September 30th 2017

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# Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies

## President's Message

President's message August 2017

As the sweltering heat of summer continues, I hope everyone is enjoying the season. Many of us have a fish pond in our yards or tubs on our decks with plants and fish in them. This is a part of the hobby, perhaps even an offshoot from traditional aquarium keeping, which seems to be growing each year. It really is an aspect of the hobby quite different from what we are used to. Perhaps someday there will be a pond society established and part of the FOTAS family.

For the second consecutive year, FOTAS contributors have made an impact with the Federation of American Aquarium Societies annual publication awards. Please see the article in this issue for further details but I would be remiss if I didn't thank Gerald Griffin, our extraordinary editor, publisher, designer and superb author of Fish Tales. Thanks as well to all the people that take time to contribute to our excellent magazine. Any contributions or questions can be forwarded to Gerald at [herpchat@yahoo.com](mailto:herpchat@yahoo.com).

The Houston Aquarium Society and Houston Cichlid Club are hosts for the FOTAS convention this year. It will take place in Clear Lake at the NASA Hilton. The dates are October 20th to 22nd. There will be a live fish show, large auction, speakers, and the traditional Funny Money game show and auction, further details to follow soon.

These two clubs will be hosting the American Cichlid Association's annual convention at the same venue July 4th-8th 2018. This is only the third time the ACA has come to Texas. It's a big deal and one no FOTAS member should miss. FOTAS will have a presence there of some sort and we'll discuss this further at the annual meeting October 21st in Clear Lake TX.

The annual FOTAS board meeting and elections generally take place the Saturday morning of our annual convention. This would be October 21st in Clear Lake TX. All positions are up for election this year. The new board resumes FOTAS positions January 1st. Nominations and voting will take place October 21st. All are welcomed at the annual FOTAS meeting.

That's about all for now. I'll see you all in Clear Lake!



Some shots of Previous FOTAS Conventions!



# FOTAS CARES! Second Quarter Report



FOTAS CARES Report Aug 5, 2017

I'm happy to report that our CARES program continues to grow! Since last report we have had several new entries and new participants as well.

Michael Birchell entered two Lake Victoria cichlid species he's working with. These are *Pundamilia nyererei* from Juma Island and *Paralabidochromis chromogynos* from Zue Island. These are still young fish but I'm sure given his expertise, Michael will have them spawning and fry from them soon.

Todd Beasley recently found the hobby again. He has been a long time HCCC member and joined the FOTAS CARES program with his *Aulonocara* sp. "Lwanda". Great start Todd and welcome back!

Victor Bettencourt joined the FOTAS CARES with the entry of two Lake Victoria cichlids, *Paralabidochromis* sp "fire" and *Ptyochromis* sp "salmon". Victor has already successfully spawned the *P. sp.* "salmon". Great work!

I registered my colony of *Platytniodus degeni* from Lake Victoria. These extinct in the wild fish have already given me a spawn.

Jessica Larrabee (aka the Vic Queen) added to her impressive collection with the entry of *Paralabidochromis chilotes* from Zue Island Lake Victoria. This is her 6th FOTAS CARES entry!

Finally, Riccardo Camera registered two cichlids on the CARES Priority List. These are *Coptodon bythobates* and *Ptyochromis* sp. "salmon" from Hippo Point Kenya on the shores of Lake Victoria. Congratulations Riccardo and welcome to FOTAS CARES.

There is still only one club participating in the CARES program and that is the HCCC. Members of the Hill Country Cichlid Club have entered 92 colonies in the FOTAS CARES program. I'm not sure why members from the other FOTAS clubs have not entered their fish....so get with it! You can enter your own fish online at [www.caresforfish.org](http://www.caresforfish.org). If you have any problems at all, feel free to reach out to me at [gasteeves@gmail.com](mailto:gasteeves@gmail.com).



Photos by Pam Chin on her last visit to Lake Malawi.

# FOTAS Wins Even Bigger in the 2016 FAAS Publication Awards!

**A**nother year in on Fish Tales and this year's award cycle was even better than the last! I figured that we would win some awards but again not sure how we would do this cycle. As last time a number of the articles were written by Greg Steeves and myself. I submitted almost every article that was published with a couple of exceptions as they did not qualify as I saw it. I was eager to see how our new people would do as well as how Greg and I would perform this cycle. So again I submitted the articles I selected for this cycle and got some surprises. First off some of the articles I submitted that I thought were sure winners didn't even place. Then articles I had done that I expected to not do anything got first. I have no idea how the judging procedure works but it shows that I have no ability to predict which of my articles will perform the best. I am however happy that FAAS does have this competition so we do have validation as to the worth of our magazine Fish Tales.

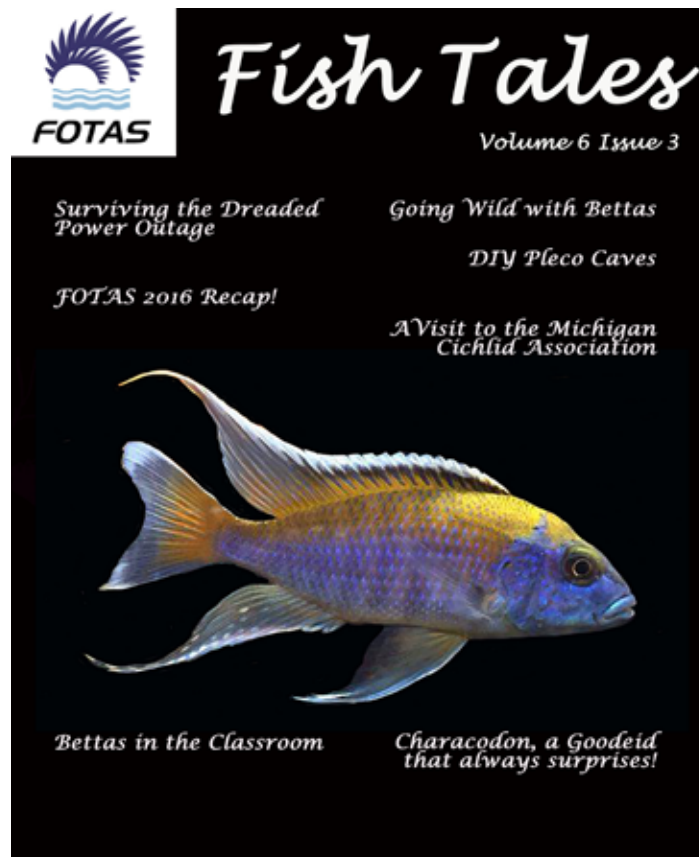
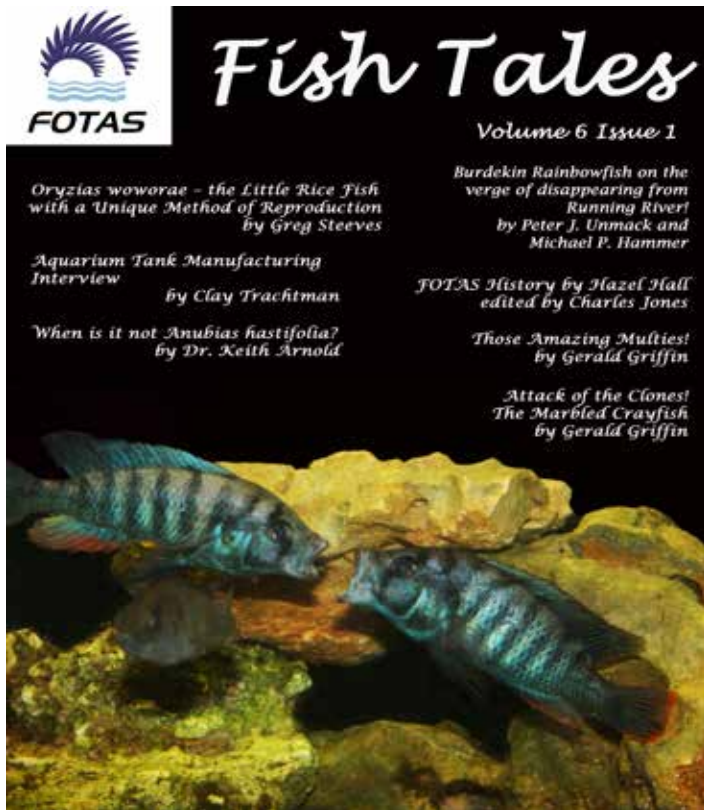
Few except the people that actually make these newsletters and magazines actually know how much work is put into each issue. The satisfaction that Greg and myself get out of Fish Tales is that people do read and enjoy this magazine. However winning awards for it is the gravy on the top. We also love seeing new people that have never written for Fish Tales win awards as we hope that it will encourage them to submit more articles. Let's face it, without submissions we have nothing but Greg and I writing articles and winning all of the awards. I know there are people sick of seeing my articles however Greg's are always entertaining and informative!

Again this cycle was another who's who in the Aquarium Hobby World and when we saw the placements we were amazed. Greg Steeves won Author of the Year and I was Second. Last year Greg was 3rd place and I wasn't even on the list. I know that this is a definite improvement over last year however we slipped a couple of notches on cover artwork going from 1st to 3rd. I have no idea how to fix this but am playing with layout designs and hoping we can win another 1st next year. Another thing is that we were 2nd best magazine with less than 6 issues for the 2nd year in a row. I want to make it 1st next year. However to do that we need your help! We need the members of FOTAS and even those that are not but want to contribute to send in your submissions so that we can include them in future issues of Fish Tales. So far we have picked up some articles from authors from other Aquarium Societies as we continue to look for top notch contributions. Honestly however there are more than enough people in the groups that make up FOTAS so that we should not have to be worry about finding enough content. Don't think you can actually write an article? Give it a try! Greg and I will help you and you just never know, you could be the next winner of a FAAS Article Award!



# FAAS Awards FOTAS Winners 2016!

**3rd Place Best Changing Cover Original Art**  
**2nd Place Best Editor and Publication 6 or fewer issues**





**Greg Steeves**

**FAAS Author of the Year!**  
**Best Article on a Genus of Fish**  
**1st Place Examination of the**  
**Genus Lipochromis**  
**Best Traveling Article 1st Place**  
**A Visit to the Michigan Cichlid Asso**  
**ciation**  
**Best Conservation Related Article**  
**1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place**  
**FOTAS CARES Reports**  
**Best Spawning Article 500 to 1000 words**  
**Honorable Mention Oryzias**  
**woworae**



**Kyle Osterholt**

**Best Show Article**  
  
**3rd Place**  
  
**American Cichlid**  
**Association Convention**  
**Report**



**CJ Bourg**

**Best Spawning Article more**  
**than 1000 Words**  
  
**2nd Place**  
  
**Spawning Report:**  
**Geophagus neambi**



**Gerald Griffin**

**Author of the Year 2nd Place**  
**Best Article on a Genus of Fish 2nd Place**  
**Going Wild with Bettas**  
**Best Show Article 1st Place**  
**OBBA Hosts IBC Convention 2016,**  
**50th Anniversary of the Internation**  
**al Betta Congress**  
**Best Spawning Article 1000 words or more**  
**1st Place - Attack of the Clones! The**  
**Marbled Crayfish**  
**Best FAAS Related Article 1st Place**  
**FOTAS Wins Awards at FAAS Annual**  
**Publication Award Competition**



**Mike and Lisa**  
**Hufsteler**

**Best How to do it Yourself**  
**Article**

**2nd Place**

**DIY Pleco Caves**



**Marco Arroyo**

**Best Collecting Article**

**2nd Place**

**Charachodon, a Goodeid**  
**that always surprised**





**Keith Arnold**

**Best Article on Plant Maintenance, Cultivation or Reproduction**

**3rd Place**

**When is it not Anubias hastiflora?**



**Clay Trachtman**

**Best Show Article**

**Honorable Mention**

**Northeast Council of Aquarium Societies Report**

**Calling all Artists:**

**Fish Tales is looking for a new logo for our magazine. The logo should be similar in size to the current logo and feature FOTAS in some stylized manor.**

**Send submissions to [herpchat@yahoo.com](mailto:herpchat@yahoo.com)**

# Fish Room Tours: Art Leuterman

by Greg Steeves

I was honored to be asked to present at the Texas Area Killifish Organization's annual show in Houston July 22, 2017. It was a wonderful event as the TAKO annual shows always are. It was held at the local community hall that was the perfect size for the crowd attending. Many of the people there for the show were fish friends in my circle however, there were several that I was yet to meet and glad to make their acquaintance. After taking in the beautiful fish (very few that were familiar to me) and a little socializing, I gave my talk. Immediately after, Art Leuterman, a gentleman well known to many in the aquarium hobby, mentioned that he lived nearby. With a break in the action and an hour before the next speaker, he was persuaded into giving attendees and impromptu tour of his fish building.

Piling into vehicles, the convoy followed him to his house that was very close indeed. I wish I had thought to take a picture of the beautiful bromeliads growing in his front yard leading up to the front entrance of his house. Art's fish room is essentially a stand alone garage-type building not connected to the main house. Upon entering, a tangle of hoses and PVC dangle from

aquariums stacked three high and trash cans filled with water. Only a fellow fish keeper could understand the intricacies of such a set up. Art explained his water conditioning system to us and noted that the trash cans individually contained water of a differing chemical makeup. This man knew what he was doing. All equipment was strategically placed in such a manner as to make maintenance as easy as possible. I always try to look at other people's ingenuity to incorporate into my own setup and immediately had an "ah ha" moment looking at Art's PVC network. In my home water change system I have small pumps in each aquarium that I turn on to drain the water to a central line and eventually outside. I have a valve at the top of each "line out" of the aquarium. What Art did was had the same idea only he used no pump. The valve to start the water flow was located well below the water line on the back of the aquarium. This allowed the water sitting in the PVC pipe to continue to flow by just gravity. If I relocate the valves from my top tier of aquariums as Art did, I would not require pumps at all on those tanks.

My expectations going into this fish room tour was

many small aquariums filled with killifish as this is what I know Art best for. Much to my surprise, his room contained many large aquariums with cichlids! Yes, there were lots of small containers with killies but the vast majority of real estate was devoted to that wonderful family of fishes.

It was immediately quite obvious that Art liked Lake Tanganyika cichlids and of those, *Tropheus* were likely at the top of his list. He had very large colonies (with lots of young) of *Tropheus duboisi*, *Tropheus moori* Ikola, and several other variants of *T. moori* that I can't recall. Housed with the *T. duboisi* was a large colony of *Cyprichromis* "jumbo Kitumba" (I think). Art sent several Tanganyikan species to our last auction and gave me a group of both the *T. duboisi* and *Cyprichromis*. Both species are doing exceptionally well for me. In addition to the above mentioned fishes, there were a couple *Julidochromis* species scattered here and there. One of the most impressive colonies he was housing was *Eretmodus cyanostictus*. All the goby types from Lake Tanganyika have always fascinated me and these were beautiful. Several were holding eggs or fry. Of special interest to me was a species I had never seen before (or couldn't recall seeing) *Pelvicochromis silviae*. This fish was described by my friend Anton Lamboj for his wife Silvia. Art had started with a wild caught pair but was now clearly over run with the species. It was quite impressive to see the success he had with this fish

There were other odds and ends everywhere such as *Lepidiolamprologus kendalli*. These can be a tough



Art graciously gives us a personalized tour.



*Tropheus moori* Ikola Kasier.



A rack dedicated to killifish.

species to work with and I believe is one of Art's current projects. I don't believe he had spawned them as of yet.

I would be remiss if I did not make a mention of the many killifish he was working with. I won't go into detail on them because I can't. I really had no idea of the species that I was looking at only that I do appreciate the beauty of them all. Many were in old metal framed 10 gallon aquariums, littered with oak leaves or over run with java moss. The killies are so incredibly colorful. It's really tough to not get involved with them.

I want to thank Art Leuterman for his hospitality and tour of his fish room. We all have so much we can learn from each other and this was no exception for me. I came along with some ingenious ideas and inspiration to try some of the beautiful fish he works with.

**Editor's Note: This Fish Room along with Art's home and belongings were destroyed by Hurricane Harvey and Art and his wife were evacuated by boat barely in time. His neighbor was not as lucky and perished in the flooding.**

**This might be the last record of Art's marvelous fish and of his Fish Room.**

**Information on how to contribute to the Aquarist Relief Fund is available on Page 44 of this issue.**



*Pelvicochromis silviae.*



*Lepidiolamprologus kendalli.*



Basic but effective décor for breeding several species of killies.



# Snorkling the Comal River!

Some of the beautiful aquatic scenery beneath the surface in Landa Lake.

by JB Edmundson

In early February 2009, our very own Greg Steeves posted some pictures he took while snorkeling in Landa Park. I knew right away I wanted to go on a snorkeling trip with him. I had done some snorkeling in Lake Ontario while stationed in the Army at Ft. Drum (upstate NY). So I contacted Greg and asked when he'd be going again and if I could tag along. You guys know Greg, within a week we were getting our gear on at Landa Park about to take a dip. I'd guess the first time we went, the outside temperature was probably mid- 70's which is pretty constant with a south Texas winter. I put my foot in the water and that almost ended the trip for me. Greg was already face down in the water taking photos. I couldn't chicken out; if he could do it so could I. So I sat down on a rock ledge and slid in, why lie, it was freezing!!

However just like Greg said in a matter of seconds you'd get use to it and that part was true. My first observation of the water was from the banks overlooking the lake, it looked very dirty but once you get into it, it is crystal clear and very clean. You have to manage over some tall plants and grasses but the majority of

the lake is open and rather deep. On the first trip we snorkeled about 45 minutes and only covered about 1/100th of the lake. We saw crayfish, turtles, sailfin mollies, Shiners, Texas Cichlids, BIG Monster Bass and an occasional Pleco.

When we were finished snorkeling we walked back to our cars. We passed a small "man-made" wading pool and Greg and I noticed some very nice Texas Cichlids in full breeding dress. Unable to resist we hopped into the small pool and did a quick snorkel there in water 1-2 feet deep at the most. (For those that haven't been to Landa Park they have made a channel in the spring that feeds the lake and in a flat area they dammed it and it's made a small wading pool.) In the middle of February the cichlids were guarding nests, full of free swimming fry! That was the highlight of my first trip! Once we were changed into dry clothes we planned our next trip!!

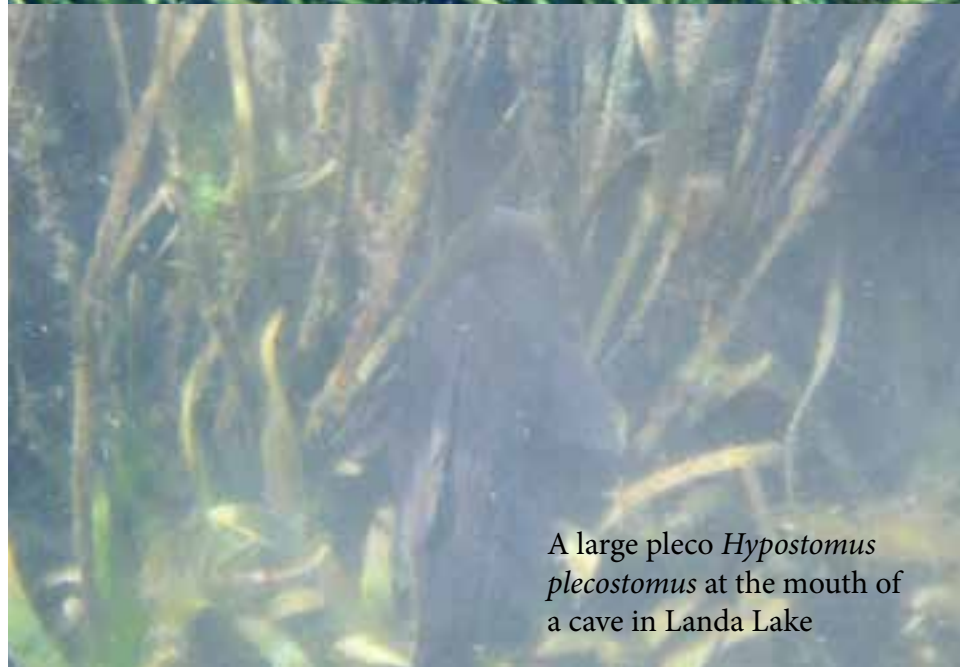
My family had a Disney World trip the first week in March so we had to plan around that for the second snorkel trip. Rather than wait till I got back from

Disney we decided to hit the lake a few days before we left for Florida. This trip was probably the longest snorkel we've ever done. I am guessing we were in the water over 2 hours. We saw pretty much the same fish as before with the addition of a massive school of some kind of *Tilapia*. The highlight of this trip was Greg and I found a rock cave in the bottom of the lake with a 2-3 foot Pleco partially inside the cave. Greg dove down to get a good look at it but it startled the fish and it took off. The cool thing was there were hundreds if not a thousand tiny Pleco fry swarming around in the entrance of the cave and it looked like a small cloud in the water. We couldn't resist a visit to the wading pool and after finishing snorkeling in the lake we went to investigate the cichlid population there. Like last time there were plenty of Texas Cichlids guarding nests. As we walked we planned to do another trip as soon as I got back from Disney World.

The third snorkel trip was in mid-to late March and it was a shorter dive in the "main" lake. Shortly after getting in the water I was attacked by a giant anaconda sized snake. (The size of the snake has actually grown from about 1-2 feet to at least 20 feet in just 4 months through the various tellings of the story). Believe me when I saw the snake I managed to make it to the bank in Olympic record time! When Greg came over and I told him "WE" decided to go over to the wading pool, instead of the main lake. We weren't scared, just so you know, but we didn't want to cause the snake any more stress. In the wading pool we were able to borrow a few "wild caught" Texas



Large expanses of Jungle val (*Vallisneria americana*) is home to uncountable livebearers, shrimp and other creatures.



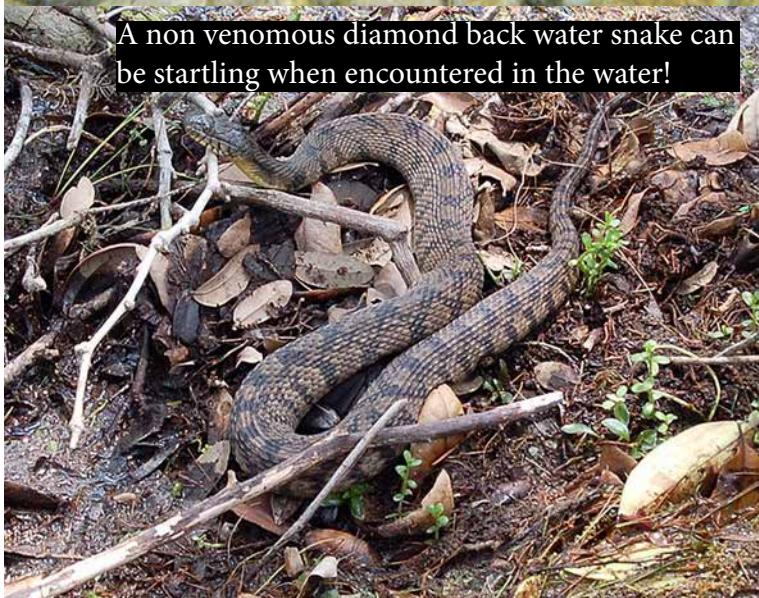
A large pleco *Hypostomus plecostomus* at the mouth of a cave in Landa Lake



*Herichthys cyanoguttatus* in Landa Park, New Braunfels, TX.



*Herichthys cyanoguttatus* guarding a pit full of fry.



A non venomous diamond back water snake can be startling when encountered in the water!



One of the many local species of sunfishes.

Cichlid fry with small hand held fish nets for scientific reasons. Due to Greg’s travels and my work schedule we didn’t get to snorkel for the next month.

The fourth snorkel trip was at the yearly HCCC picnic. Luckily, to offer some proof of the snake story in the last snorkel trip, while everyone was socializing a nice snake was seen by several members and photos were taken. This was the same type of snake I saw before and it was determined to be a “water snake” and totally harmless... but I must add when swimming in the water with them they are “VERY DANGEROUS” snakes!! After a nice meal the guys (JB, DanJay, Dave Hansen, Greg Steeves and Nick Andreola.) decided to hit the water and take a dip in the main lake. Not even 5 minutes into the swim the park rangers made us exit the lake and told us we couldn’t swim in the lake for environmental reasons. Rather than cause a big scene we drove over to the Comal River and took a little snorkel there. It turned out to be a really good spot with some interesting fish but the view wasn’t crystal clear due to the current and tubers everywhere. We decided to make a “Snork Club” and do more snorkeling in the future.

The 5th snorkel trip in San Marcos I was unable to attend. However I hear it was a real blast. The guys went high tech on this trip and even “Chummed” for fish! Thanks in part to Rare Dave!

The 6th trip was Greg and I again. This was a really good trip down the Comal River again. We found lots and lots of cool fish and Greg was able to get several photos to include the famous one of me that is somewhat out of focus but no one was looking at me anyway!! This was a good 2 hour trip and we had a blast. We were able to get a few more Texas Cichlid fry on this dive as well as some nice plants.

I really hope the club embraces the snorkeling opportunities in our local area. Don’t go to a lake or river and say it looks nice or look at the ducks and minnows. Get in the water and see that there is a

whole “nother” world under the surface. The best part about all the snorkeling trips we have been on is that the total cost when combined is \$0!! Once you have the basic equipment of a mask, snorkel and flippers (total cost \$20-30) the rest is free and the aquatic life is priceless. Greg and I meet for lunch and then we’re off to the water. Keep an eye out in the “Snork Club” section for an upcoming trip and think about joining us!!

# The Office Shrimp Bowl

by Doug Austin

When I started working for my current employer in 2011 I noticed that some people had Betta bowls. I had an old goldfish bowl about of 2.5 gallons that I thought would be a good home for a Betta. I set it up with three types of plants, *Anubis barter nana*, Java Moss (*Vesicularia dubyana*) and Guppy grass (*Najas guadalupensis*). I also got a Betta.

When selecting a Betta I picked out what is now called a Plakat. The term Plakat is now used for fancy Bettas that do not have the gene for long fins. The term Plakat was originally used for Bettas that were bred for fighting. The fighting Plakat have larger bodies, but do not have good colors.

After a few months my Betta died from a disease. I decided that one of the problems of keeping Bettas where I worked is that the climate control was turned off on the weekends. This meant that I needed to pick an aquatic animal that could tolerate a wide range of temperatures. Our office rules do not allow use of the electric outlet for non-work related reasons. This means no filters or air pumps. When thinking about species which do not produce much waste, what quickly popped into my head was freshwater shrimp. They have become popular in recent years, are small and there are a number of species available. The three big requirements that come to mind are that the species of freshwater shrimp need to be small, tolerate a wide range of temperature and do well in hard water. This eliminated the Bee shrimp (*Caridina cantonensis*), as they like soft water. Also I eliminated Cardinal shrimp (*Caridina dennerli*) and other Suliwasi shrimp because they need warm water. I decided to go with Neo

shrimp (*Neocardinia davidi*) who do well in hard or soft water, and since their native range extends as far north as Beijing, they can take a wide range of temperatures.

My maintenance routine involves doing water changes in an office environment. My technique for doing water changes works like this. First I put the shrimp bowl on top of a ream of paper. I then place the ream of paper on a trash can liner. I use an airline tube to siphon water from the bowl to a one gallon (3.8 liter) water jar. This works out fine. Once the siphon starts, I can turn around and go back to work and not worry about it over flowing.

When it is time to refill the bowl I put the bowl back on the table and put two more reams of paper in the trash can liner. I put a 3 liter water bottler on top of the paper and siphon aged clean water from the bottle to bowl. I use the 3 liter bottle for the refill because it has a bigger opening, than the one gallon bottle. As the water level in the refill bottle goes down, I pour more water into it. I have never over-filled the bowl because I know that the water level in the refill bottle will drop faster than the bowl will fill. That's because the bowl has a bigger surface area. When the water evaporates, I replace it with RO or distilled water, this is to prevent the water from getting harder. I feed the shrimp parts of algae wafers. Over the years I have keep two varieties of *Neocardinia davidi*, Cherry Shrimp and Blue Neos. One of my blue Neos ended up looking like what is called a Carbon Rili. I must to say that I like having a little bit of nature in my office, and shrimp are not just cool, but are better suited to the office environment.



# Breeding Bristle-Nosed Catfish...One at a Time

by Keith Arnold

I have tried to spawn bristle-nosed catfish on several occasions in past years without success. Last year Kevin Conway, our ichthyologist for the department, agreed to attend the HCCC fall auction. Prior to our travel, my wife, Bev, and I visited Kevin's home as she was to care for his dog during our travels. I was amazed to see a large tank filled with albino bristle-nosed catfish of all sizes.

A few days after Kevin and I attended the HCCC, Kevin gave me two bags of these catfish one bag had three males and a female The other bag had three fish whose sex I had not yet determined. I placed the one bag of four fish into a 20-long tank which housed my colony of Mayan swordtails (plus lots of Ramshorn snails). The tank has several Anubias nana, two pieces of petrified wood, and two "caves".

The second bag went into a 10-gallon tank with a small Anubias nana and a few snails.

After a few weeks, one of the males in the swordtail tank showed signs of protecting a clutch of eggs. This continued for a number of days and I had hopes of seeing tiny catfish swimming along the tank bottom. That didn't happen and therefore I had thought the spawning attempts had failed. To my surprise, four or five weeks later, I discovered a 1-inch young catfish coming out to feed.

And that's the way it remained until I had to clean one of the two filters on the tank. The filter was so filled with mulm that I had to remove the filter from the tank and take it to a sink to wash out the mulm. I reset the filter, but it still wasn't performing correctly, so back to the sink. To my surprise, I found a young catfish less than an inch in length wiggling in the mulm – fortunately, I had a strainer in the sink and the thick mulm clogged it or I might have never known about the "successful" spawning. I can only surmise that, shortly after becoming free-swimming, this fry entered the intake tube of the filter, survived the turmoil of the impellor region, and found sufficient food in the filter box not only to survive, but to grow.

Well, two in the spawning column – how many to go? When will my next young bristlenose make its appearance? As for the other three catfish, I guess I had best determine if the group includes a female!!



# FOTAS 2017

**by Charles Jones**

October 20-22, 2017 is the date of this year's Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies Convention and is being jointly hosted by the Houston Aquarium Society and the Houston Cichlid Club. If my count is correct it is my 15th to be attending. This is somewhat of a unique event and organization. It is a travelling convention and has been responsible for some of the good friendships that I have made over the years. Over the last 15 years it has certainly expanded, even beyond its name, as it now has membership clubs outside of the State of Texas. It has certainly been my pleasure to participate for all these years.

We have had speakers from all over the world. This year's speakers will tend to be more of a local flavor and will draw from the member clubs of the organization. Now I can list the speakers and I certainly will before I am done here but something else strikes me about them and indeed many of us that have been involved in FOTAS. Each of us still has our main club for the most part but for many of us the lines are blurring a bit and that I consider to be a good thing. Texas is a big place and obviously when you consider that some of the member clubs are from beyond its borders it makes the distance even more of a factor. But that notwithstanding it seems like each year I see more and more crossover of clubs attending other clubs' activities. And I think that is a very good thing. Now some might say that a good portion of us have a fish problem and there is undoubtedly truth in that but it's not just that. There are a lot of close friendships that have arisen from this organization, directly or indirectly, and with everyone's time seeming to be at more and more of a premium in today's society, those bonds are wonderful things. I see this as the organization's greatest strength. To be sure conservation and education are certainly important as well but those things are best accomplished through a group of friends with like-minded ideals and goals.

It is those ideals and goals in mind that made it important to me to bring in some new folks. The Houston Cichlid Club is filled with folks that are dedicated to the hobby. Being a relatively new organization their strength comes from both their enthusiasm and their many members with a great deal of fishkeeping knowledge. It is my hope that after getting a bit of experience with this year's convention that they will be able to host many conventions in the years to come. Austin Prestridge is a good leader and has many knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and dedicated people around him and I see great things for this organization going forward.

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I would be remiss in not mentioning that, although FOTAS is a wonderful organization and this will be a top notch convention, we also are looking at this as a kind of warm up event. Next year these same two clubs are joining forces again to host the American Cichlid Association's national convention. For those of you who do not know, this is a really big deal. It has never been in the Houston area before and has not been to the State of Texas since 2004. It is everything you would expect of a national convention and much more. There will be hundreds of attendees, world renowned speakers, a show with hundreds of cichlid entries, several auctions including perhaps the largest of its kind on Sunday, and guided side trips to some of the area attractions earlier in the week. It is planned for July 4-8, 2018 and we will get started with the annual fireworks show over Clear Lake, on which the event hotel sits. So for everyone I've heard over the years saying they would attend if it came back to Texas...here you go.

This year's FOTAS convention will feature speakers Greg Steeves, Dave Schumacher, Susan Robinson, and Kathy England. There will also be a mystery speaker on Friday night that you will not want to miss. A fish show will be held at this event and on Saturday night we put on something special. Traditional awards dinners can be a little boring. The event Saturday night is anything but boring. The awards for the show will be given and some individual honors bestowed and we will even have a couple of mini fundraising auctions, some of which will feature mystery items and we are even going to feed you. Then however you will become part of something that is becoming somewhat of a tradition. The FOTAS funny money contest and auction is a crazy event where everyone gets to take home items (some fish...some not) worth way more than the price of admission. The best part is that you get to bid on it with play money won at what might be loosely called a trivia contest run in the best spirit of a game show. After all the play money is handed out the bidding begins. Watching Greg Steeves laugh at me for not knowing how to ask for bids with play money is part of the fun...apparently. I think everyone who has attended one of these in the past probably sees it as their favorite event over the weekend. But get some sleep and come back the next day for one of the biggest live fish and aquatic merchandise auctions of its type.

I hope to see everyone in October and then again in July of next year. Registration is now open at [www.selas.us/FOTAS/](http://www.selas.us/FOTAS/)



# American Cichlid Association Convention 2017

by Zenin Skomorowski

This past July, I was fortunate to attend the American Cichlid Association (ACA) annual convention. It was held from Thursday July 13 to Sunday July 16 in Novi Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. This annual convention moves around the U.S. each year. In the past, it has been held in cities such as Cincinnati Ohio, Denver Colorado, Atlanta Georgia, Fort Worth Texas, Chicago Illinois, Sacramento California, Milwaukee Wisconsin and Washington D.C. I have wanted to attend but the locations were too far away to drive from here in southern Ontario Canada, and flying was out of the question due to the cost. However, the Michigan Cichlid Association (MCA) offered to host it for 2017 ... sweet! Only a 3 hour drive away, even closer than the 5 hours I usually drive to Cleveland Ohio for the Ohio Cichlid Extravaganza (OCA) each November.

What is the purpose and goals of the American Cichlid Association ?

According to their website <http://cichlid.org>

- o To gather, organize, and disseminate knowledge of fish in the genetic family Cichlidae;
- o To encourage and further the study and conservation of cichlids in their natural habitats, and in the hobby;
- o To encourage the study and preservation of

of cichlids by awarding grants for research and conservation;

- o To further the conservation of the natural habitat of cichlids;
- o To provide a means for individuals to acquire and distribute cichlids;
- o To promote fellowship amongst the members.

The events at the convention supported all these goals.

For you to see in person, fish that you may have only seen in books or on the internet, there was a cichlid show with 20 to 30 classes. Entrants paid a small fee to display their best fish as well as win some awards for their efforts. This year there were 116 show entries. There would have been many more if Scott Meyers from Cleveland would have been able to make it. I have seen many of his fish at the OCA annual Extravaganza show, and I am sure they would have done well here as well.

In the showroom, there were two banks of aquariums for hobbyist sellers to feature their fish for sale as well as sales from hotel rooms. I purchased some young *Guianacara stergiosi*, a nice bandit acara cichlid. I was also able to purchase some non-cichlids, a group of small *Striata Botia*, and some corys. You never know for sure what you will be able to buy at a convention.



Some sellers do publish lists online before hand, but many do not.

There were many speaker presentations to increase your knowledge of keeping and breeding cichlids as well as what is their biotope in nature. Some of the topics were; “Shell dwellers of Lake Tanganyika”, “Keeping *Apistogramma*: The Little Jewels of South America”, “Congo *Cromidotilapines*”, “Cichlids of Mexico”, “My Fascination With *Tropheus*”, “Lake Malawi National Park Conservation Update”. These were presented by well known speakers like Ted Judy, Pam Chin, Juan Miguel Artigas Azas and a couple of speakers new to me; Chris Carpenter and Jeff Michels. Our good friend Larry Johnson from Hamilton presented “Swimming with Cichlids Lake Malawi Safari 2016”. A bonus presentation was from local catfish breeder Dale Ernst on “*Hypancistrus* from Rio Xingu and a few other catfish”. Rick Preuss from Preuss Pets in Lansing gave some history of his family’s fabulous store. I will feature our visit to Preuss Pets in another article.

After checking in at the registration desk and picking up the goodie bag and t-shirt, I looked in the bag to find that ZooMed had donated a powerhead to each attendee. There were samples of food and discount coupons for local fish shops as well as an issue of Amazonas and Cich-Fish Tales | 20

lid News. One of the organizers, Josh Cunningham mentioned that there were 274 registered attendees, plus walk-ins that were just shopping and looking around. I saw Canadians from Windsor, Chatham, London, Hamilton, Toronto, Durham (east of Toronto). There were many familiar faces from previous OCA conventions as well.

There were opportunities to visit local fish shops as well as personal fishrooms. Fellow Kwas members Brent Lemanski and Terry Clements car pooled to this

convention with me as well as visiting local (and not so local fish shops), more about that in another article. We missed the kid’s tank decorating contest since we went to visit fish stores in Lansing and Highland. There were specialty auctions, like vendor dry goods and Babes in the Cichlid Hobby that support the convention as well as making donations to support conservation and education initiatives. Also, there were many silent auction items you could bid on, as well as complete aquarium setups and groups of fish.

Convention attendees also had the opportunity to see the latest and greatest filtration, lighting and accessories for their aquariums. Specialty foods were also featured. There were 15 vendors on hand to answer



questions and in most cases, sell dry goods, fish and plants. Some of the vendors were Segrest Farms and Imperial Tropicals from Florida, Ken Boorman (Lisa's Lair Books), Mike Schadle (used books), Nancy Villars-Hallgring from SCC (ceramic caves and logs), Darius from NorthFin Foods, Stephan Tanner from Swiss Tropicals (poret foam and maten filters), Piscine Energetics with their food made with mysis shrimp and ZooMed with many products for the aquarium. The Saturday evening awards dinner featured a fun presentation that poked fun at many MCA members. There were awards given for the show as well as ACA annual awards. I was asked to take photos of the show class winners and they were used during the presentation of awards. I will have to remember to bring better lighting next time since the black plastic backgrounds of the show tanks made it very difficult to get very good photo results.



Rambo and Pam Chin from California and others that I would not normally have meet. I am glad I went and I look forward to seeing you at the next convention.

Sunday was the large auction of cichlids, catfish and plants. There were about 575 items, something for everyone.

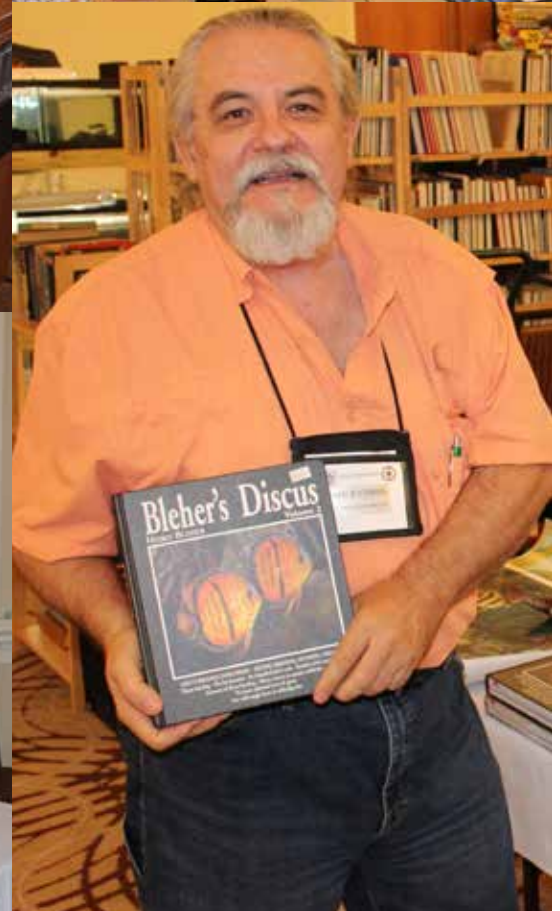
In summary, I would have to say that this convention had may similar attributes to other conventions I have attended, but I met many people from other parts of the U.S. like Rick Borstein from Chicago, Chuck

*Cruisin' for Cichlids*



ACA 2017







# A Very Fishy Year

By Riccardo Camera

It's hard to say if a visit to the fish store was more exciting when I thought I knew everything or now that I know that I know nothing. Many things have changed this year as it relates to the way in which I approach the hobby. I would like to think a lot of things will change every year that I am in the hobby. This year was special however. A great deal of the changes were basic fish-life-saving changes. Fundamentals that I may never change again. You see this year was my first year in the hobby. A year that I can never experience again. A very fishy year.

Like all hobbyists, and in agreement with the laws of physics, I started with zero fish tanks. Following zero fish tanks there was one. Following that approximately twenty-seven fish tanks. Well who am I kidding, exactly twenty-seven fish tanks. I know this because my tanks are numbered. Add to that a one hundred and ten gallon mini-pond. This is not numbered because it is made of non-glass, and I limit my tank numbering to tanks made of glass. Some of you are reading this and thinking to yourself, "those are rookie numbers" and some might be reading this and thinking "OMG this man has lost all self-control". I find both viewpoints equally valid, and so I am always in a state of insecurity about my fish room. It is hard not to be jealous or

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embarrassed by the amount of tanks I have, depending on who I am talking to. I do try to temper this mental disharmony with some actual enjoyment of fish keeping (I talk to my fish when I feed them). As you might imagine, in my head I have hundreds of tanks with hundreds of different species virtually thriving and propagating, and sometimes I have just one tank in my head, and that tank is the most perfect tank I can make it.

Fishkeeping is not my first hobby. It's not the first hobby to feel the brunt of my compulsions. As a preteen I collected baseball cards (I knew Wade Boggs, Paul Molitor and Pete Incaviglia's batting averages). In high school I was in a band (I studied chord charts incessantly). I was once a DJ (I've got thousands of obscure records to prove it). There was a period of time when my only hobbies were vices (I know what it means to try and work through a mean hangover and I know that I love to see an inside straight hit.) Unfortunately those last hobbies I also call my thirties. As I started to say goodbye to my thirties, which were clearly not the new twenties in any kind of positive way, I started to undergo some changes. Firstly I met my lovely and supportive wife. I also decided that both her and I deserved a healthier Riccardo. I put down the bottle, I



read a couple pages of ethical philosophy and I stopped eating meat. I stopped sleeping in and I started going camping and hiking. I started to love my pets more. The outside world became exciting again. I attacked it with a youthful exuberance that I had not had in many years. I heard birds chirping and I wanted to know what kind of birds they were. We added two more dogs to our family. I would have rescued every single dog if I could have. That's when my wife had an epiphany. There was no more room on our bed for dogs, how about we get some fish (no, not for our bed!)? My wife is German you see, and any aquarist that has researched a specific species, or has bought advanced aquarium equipment will know that Germans (more than a few of them) love fishkeeping.

My wife it would appear, and I hope she is not reading this, is a genius (evil or otherwise it doesn't really matter). The aquarium was small yet intricate enough to contain my excessive tinkering and, dare I say it, obsessive compulsive tendencies. The fish themselves came in almost endless varieties which meant I could dedicate hours upon hours to just researching one genus. Throw in invertebrates, plants, water chemistry, ichthyology, aquarium clubs, fish stores, etc. etc. and I could expend all my energy negative or otherwise into this hobby and hopefully produce something tangible. I'm not sure if she thought we were just going to get one fish tank or not...but she's never seemed shocked at the mention of my next fish project.

I got my first tank for Father's Day 2016. We purchased a used tank from a guy I know only as Koopa. It only seems appropriate that it would happen that way. Koopa was an online friend from the world of Clash of Clans. The previous focus (Clash of Clans) of my all-in type of behavior. It wasn't just the game that had



captivated me, but all the projects I could build around it. I created a web page, I learned how to use an API, I recruited and built a social media presence for our clan. This was all overkill for a game you play on your phone, but its sort of how I roll. So we bought a used tank from Koopa, and we somehow agreed on a price for the tank. I know that sounds impossible, that there would be a semi online transaction between a novice and an experienced fishkeeper that didn't result in a gross overvaluing of the sales item by one of the sides. He named his price and I agreed because it was the price I had in mind. I was the new proud owner of a rimless 7 gallon (he claimed 10) with a Fluval light



and a Eheim filter with some dragon rock and a couple of Pygmy Corydoras thrown in because the tank was established already.

I tried to fit every fish in the world into that poor little tank. Guppies, Gouramis, Plecos. If a big box pet store sold it, I wanted it. You already know how this ends. I'll spare you the details, but if I was a little boy holding an ice-cream cone, I definitely dropped the ice cream. If I was a little girl holding a new puppy, I definitely squeezed too ..... well you get the picture.

I learned most of the basics pretty quickly. Water chemistry, minimum tank size, bioload, suitable tank mates, the nitrogen cycle....well I was still thumbing my nose at the nitrogen cycle seven tanks in to my collection, because let's face it the nitrogen cycle is magic and unless you see a bacteria bloom or your fish die, who knows what the hell is going on.

My first two tanks were hand me downs. I gave no consideration as to what size they were, what their footprint was or what type of fish might thrive in them. Small tanks required small fish, big tanks..big fish, but small tanks also took big fish that were still small. That's pretty much how the number of tanks started to explode in my house. Fish started to grow and while I was horribly uneducated in fish care, I could tell that things were getting cramped. Fins were getting nipped. The fish were angry, they demanded bigger tanks. Every misstep became a learning opportunity. If a fish killed another fish, I read another article.

When I look back on the last year, it does seem amazing to me the amount of knowledge I have acquired. So many firsts, so many lessons learned. How to maintain an aquarium, how much to feed my fish (I'm still an overfeeder), water chemistry, usable light spectrum, animal husbandry, horticulture, ichthyology (one of my favorite subjects). I joined an aquarium club, I entered a fish show, I selectively bred fish, I made YouTube videos. I lived life, I loved my family, and I created the most perfect little worlds I could for these precious little creatures that live the majority of their lives in my care.

27 tanks and a pond later I am looking forward to an even fishier year.





**T**he Oklahoma Aquarium is a diamond in the rough when compared to other State Attractions. Sure it is not as flashy or as inspiring as other Aquariums across North America but for a land locked state, it is quite magnificent in its own right and with admission prices under \$20 it is not a budget breaker like a number of other Aquariums across North America. Situated on the Arkansas River in the town of Jenks Oklahoma the Aquarium is a 72,000 square foot attraction which opened on May 28th, 2003. The Aquarium itself is the “indoor ocean” in the 4 state area and boasts more than 100 exhibits. One of its accolades is the largest number of bull sharks in an aquarium setting and was featured on Discovery’s Shark Week in 2003.

The basic concept of the Oklahoma Aquarium came in 1984 from Doug Kemper and P. R. Ramey who literally drew out the plans for the Aquarium on a napkin. Through many years of hard work, fundraising and dedication their dream became a reality breaking ground in 2002. One of what I personally found to be entertaining was during the opening of the Aquarium beside each exhibit was a recipe for that particular inhabitant. The general public was not as amused as I was with that type of display and thought it was “distasteful” and the recipes were removed.

The Aquarium itself is broken up into a number of

exhibit areas which are changed out from time to time. One of the first set of exhibits is the Amazing Invertebrates. Inside this exhibit area are a number of sponges, barnacles, sea urchins, anemones and other types such as shrimp and lobsters. There is also an interactive shrimp boat display as well.

One of the centerpieces of the Aquarium is the half million gallon tank which features a dome and tunnels where visitors can walk through and view the sharks from the underside. Other side displays informs the visitors about shark anatomy and fun shark facts in addition to nurse sharks also residing in the exhibit.

Extreme Fishes covers evolutionary adaptations various species of fish have had to make in order to survive on our planet. The centerpiece of this exhibit area is the Extreme Amazon exhibit which features tank busters such as arapaima, pacu, red-tailed catfish, arowanas and peacock bass. This exhibit also features tunnels so children can get a “fish-eye” view with the fishes.

Aquatic Oklahoma introduces visitors to various fish native to Oklahoma including various gar species including the monster alligator gar, paddlefish, stripped bass, various sunfish species, turtles, salamanders and a 120 year old alligator snapping turtle.

The Ozark Stream display is very interesting as it sets

up a number of pools via a series of ripple streams and various fishes native to Arkansas and Oklahoma are featured. The exhibit is relatively realistic and filled with dace, northern hog suckers, darters, sunfish, red horses and a number of other species as well. This exhibit also features raccoons and river otters and did previously host a beaver before the beavers death last year. For me this is one of my favorite exhibits as most people in our state do not know our state fishes unless it is a game fish.

The Eco Zone introduces visitors to a variety of habitats to salt flats, shoreline habitat, intertidal pools, marshes, rocky coasts, kelp forests and coral reefs. There are also a couple of interactive touch pools where children and “larger children” can feed the sting-rays, pet the sharks, and touch a number of other intertidal invertebrates such as urchins, sea stars, mermaid purses as well as other invertebrates from time to time.

Marvels and Mysteries introduce visitors to various species of jellyfish, electric eels, archer fish, piranha, sea horses and a number of other oddball fish. The displays are nicely done and offer a number of insights into the evolution and development of a number of species of invertebrates and fishes. In this section are also a number of cardinal fishes and discussions on mouthbrooding fishes.





The newest exhibit is Sea Turtle Island. This exhibit features a 56,000 gallon tank surrounded by a boardwalk with 3 viewing levels. The display itself houses two loggerhead sea turtles, a few species of reef sharks including some bonnet-head sharks and numerous species of fishes found in the warm Atlantic Oceanic waters.



For its location being landlocked and not near any major cities, the Oklahoma Aquarium is truly a diamond in the rough. The majority of visitors are pleased as to the overall layout and design of this Aquarium. Compared to other Aquariums it is not large, nor does it have a number of the exhibits as other Aquariums do. However the overall design and the fact it is not overly priced makes this an Aquarium well worth visiting.



Mark Denaro preparing his camera on a trip to the Oklahoma Aquarium. Mark spent the day giving talks at NWAAS and OKAA Tulsa Chapter.

# Aquatic Oklahoma



# Ozark Stream



# Shark Adventure





# Amazing Invertebrates



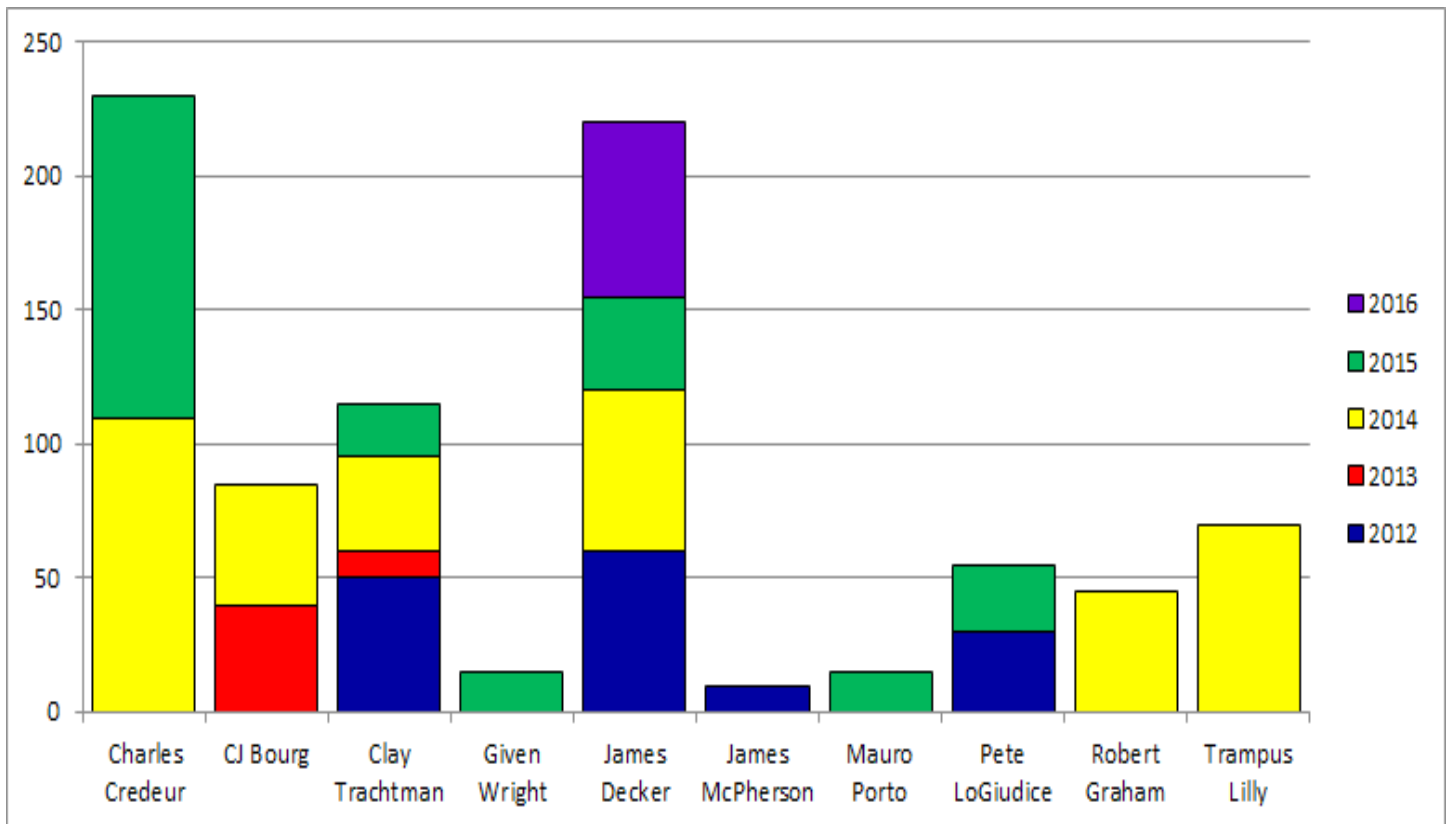
# Sea Turtle Island



# Extreme Fishes



# SELAS Breeders Award Program Update



In 2016, only James Decker added to his point total in the SELAS BAP by successfully breeding the following species fish: *Burjurquina vittata* (Golden Acara), *Vieja heterospilus*, *Neolamprologus caudopunctatus* and *Neolamprologus multifasciatus*. He also bred the following shrimp species: *Caridina* sp. (Golden Sunset Shrimp) and *Neocaridina davidi* (Blue Velvet Shrimp). Way to go Decker!

If you would like to participate in the SELAS BAP, please contact Clay Trachtman at [clayt101@cox.net](mailto:clayt101@cox.net).

# SELAS Show Recap

by Clay Trachtman

On Sunday, July 23, 2017, the Southeast Louisiana Aquarium Society (SELAS) held its first ever fish show. The show was a rousing success with 34 entries in four classes: New World Cichlid, Old World Cichlid, Catfish and Other. In addition, there were also awards for Best in Show and People's Choice. It cost \$5 to enter a fish, but winning the prizes made the cost worthwhile. The winner of each class received \$50 cash as well as \$100 in gift certificates to local fish stores.

SELAS had great local sponsorship for the show from several local fish stores. 50 Fathoms Pet Shop, Aquatic Sealife, Aquatic Specialties, and Louisiana Fish Store each gave \$25 gift certificates to the winner of each class. Additionally, the best cichlid (Old World or New World) in the show received a medal from the American Cichlid Association (ACA), while Best in Show would also receive a year subscription to Amazonas Magazine.

Judges for the show were Chip Van Geffen, owner of Aquatic Specialties, James McPherson, former manager of Rose Garden Center, and CJ Bourg (replacing Jack Dunn), who is world renowned for his knowledge of the geophagus genus and really needs no introduction. Judging was based on the following using a 10-point scale:

- Animal looks as close to ideal as one would expect of a perfect representative (not oversized or undersized, good color that is not abnormal, etc.) (10 Points)
- Anatomy of animal is ideal (fins, scales, jaw, etc.) (10 Points)
- Judges' discretion which could include attitude, fin extensions, and personal choice (10 Points)

In addition, Jackie Byers (famous for her cultivation work of the pitcher plant *Nepenthes nottoodifficulti*) of Louisiana Fish Store chose a winner for a \$50 gift certificate to Louisiana Fish Store.

Grace Sheehan won the Other Class with a Siamese Fighting Fish (*Betta Spendens*) and Clay Trachtman won the Catfish Class with an L-177 Gold Nugget Pleco (*Baryancistrus xanthellus*). The Old World

Cichlid Class was won by Robert Graham with an Ngora Flametail (*Aulonocara stuartgranti* "Mdoka"). However, the big winner of the event was KJ Skinner with his *Paraneetroplus synspilus*, not only winning the New World Class but also Best in Show. His fish also took home the medal from the ACA as well as the \$50 gift certificate from Louisiana Fish Store. The final award, the People's Choice Award came down to a tiebreaker between Robert Graham's Ngora Flametail and James Decker's Red Tapajos Pike (*Crenicichla* sp. "Tapajos Red"), with the Ngora Flametail winning a tiebreaker drawing.



KJ Skinner with his Best in Show winning *Paraneetroplus synspilus*.



Judges for the show, from left to right: James McPherson, CJ Bourg and Chip Van Geffen.



Robert Graham with his Ngara Flametail (*Aulonocara stuartgranti* "Mdoka") that won the Old World Cichlid Class.

KJ Skinner's *Paraneetroplus synspilus* won Best in Show.



Grace Sheehan and her granddaughter Rayne McQueen show off their Other Class winning *Betta splendens*.





**FEATURING**  
**WORLD CLASS SPEAKERS • FUNNY MONEY AUCTION**  
**ACA SANCTIONED FISH SHOW • LIVE FISH AUCTION**

**LOCATION**  
**HILTON NASA CLEAR LAKE**  
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**[WWW.SELAS.US/FOTAS](http://WWW.SELAS.US/FOTAS)**



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**MENU FOOD AVAILABLE**



		27th Annual		TAKO Belle Revue			
				Show & Auction			
Class	Entry	Entrant	Points	Place	Auction	Price	Bidder
<b>I</b>	<b>New World Non-Annuals</b>						
1-1	Fundulus notatus	D. Ebeling	93	1	Y		
1-2	Fundulus xenicus	D. Ebeling	91	2	Y		
1-3	Fundulus notatus Trio	D. Ebeling	88		Y		
1-4	Fundulus notatus	D. Ebeling	85		Y		
1-5	Jordanella floridae	D. Ebeling	90	3	Y		
1-6	Jordanella floridae	D. Ebeling	86		Y		
<b>II</b>	<b>Rivulus</b>						
2-1	Rivulus tenuis Tacotalpa Park	A. Leuterman	85		N		
2-2	Rivulus hildebrandi PAN 09-1 Trio	A. Leuterman	84		N		
2-3	Rivulus fransvermeuleni Bakhuis SUR 2010-02	A. Leuterman	82		Y		
2-4	Rivulus fransvermeuleni Bakhuis SUR 2010-02	R. Ivik	89	3	Y		
2-5	Rivulus cryptocallus	A. Leuterman	87		N		
2-6	Rivulus cryptocallus	R. Ivik	82		Y		
2-7	Rivulus ornatus Neue Horizonte	A. Leuterman	85		N		
2-8	Rivulus montium PBS 02-32	R. Ivik	92	1	Y		
2-9	Rivulus fuscolineatus Senderos Oasis Cano Negro CR 01-11	R. Ivik	83		N		
2-10	Rivulus fuscolineatus Senderos Oasis Cano Negro CR 01-11	R. Ivik	88		N		
2-11	Rivulus fuscolineatus Senderos Oasis Cano Negro CR 01-11	A. Leuterman	77		N		
2-12	Rivulus rubrolineatus KM 54	A. Leuterman	75		Y		
2-13	Rivulus leticia TP 2016-3	A. Leuterman	85		N		
2-14	Rivulus sp. Kuna Yala PAN 2012-24	R. Ivik	86		Y		
2-15	Rivulus hartii Isla Margarita	A. Leuterman	90	2	N		
2-16	Rivulus aff. montium Nuevo Tonosi PAN 2012-28	A. Leuterman	87		N		
2-17	Rivulus derhami Tingo Maria PCCC 11-1	B. Sommers	83		Y		
<b>III</b>	<b>New World Annuals</b>						
3-1	Gnatholebias zonatus VEH 2014-01	A. Leuterman	90	2	N		
3-2	Gnatholebias zonatus VEH 2014-01	D. Weisman	85		Y		
3-3	Ophthalmolebias constanciae Barra de Sao Joao WS	A. Leuterman	87	3	N		
3-4	Ophthalmolebias constanciae Barra de Sao Joao WS	A. Leuterman	79		N		
3-5	Ophthalmolebias constanciae Barra de Sao Joao WS	A. Leuterman	79		N		
3-6	Simpsonichthys santanae	T. Kean			MDOA		
3-7	Ophthalmolebias constanciae Barra de Sao Joao WS	G. Greenwood	82		Y		
3-8	Hypsolebias magnificus	P. Christ			DOA		
3-9	Ophthalmolebias constanciae Barra de Sao Joao WS	M. Leutermann	75		N		
3-10	Nematolebias whitei Cabo Frio	B. Sommers	93	BOS	Y		
<b>IV</b>	<b>Nothobranchius</b>						
4-1	Nothobranchius kafuensis KSF ZAM 087-1	T. Kean	82		Y		
4-2	Nothobranchius hassoni DRCH 2008-10 Bukeya	T. Kean	88	2	Y		
4-3	Nothobranchius polli Kyembe DRCH 2008-2	T. Kean	81		Y		
4-4	Nothobranchius chochamandai Kasomeno CD 13-11	T. Kean	83		Y		
4-5	Nothobranchius cardinalis Lisinjiri River TAN 97-27	T. Kean			DOA		
4-6	Nothobranchius capriiviensis Salambala NG MM 14	T. Kean			DOA		
4-7	Nothobranchius kilomberoensis Ifakara TAN 95-4	G. Greenwood	80		Y		
4-8	Nothobranchius korthausae Red	G. Greenwood	80		FDBA		
4-9	Nothobranchius fuscotaeniatus Kitonga North TAN 97-9	P. Christ	86	3	Y		
4-10	Nothobranchius ruudwildekampi Darasak 2011-35	P. Christ			MDBJ		
4-11	Nothobranchius cardinalis Lisinjiri River TAN 97-27	P. Christ			DOA		
4-12	Nothobranchius kilomberoensis Ifakara TAN 95-4	P. Christ	90	1	Y		
	<b>V &amp; VI Combined</b>						
<b>V</b>	<b>Fundulopanchax - except Paraphyosemion</b>						
5-1	Fundulopanchax arnoldi Ughelli NG MM 14	T. Kean	94	1	Y		
5-2	Fundulopanchax oeseri Trio	J. Gasior	85	3	Y		
<b>VI</b>	<b>Fundulopanchax - Paraphyosemion</b>						
6-1	Fundulopanchax cinnamomeum Kurume ADL 13-35 (trio)	R. Ivik	82		Y		
6-2	Fundulopanchax spoorenbergi	R. Ivik	92	2	Y		
6-3	Fundulopanchax gardneri Innidere	M. Leuterman	74		N		

<b>VII</b>	<b>Fundulopanchax sjoestedti</b>					
7-1	Fundulopanchax sjoestedti German Blau Trio	A. Leuterman	83		N	
7-2	Fundulopanchax sjoestedti Blue	A. Leuterman	81		N	
7-3	Fundulopanchax sjoestedti Blue	A. Leuterman	84		N	
7-4	Fundulopanchax sjoestedti Niger Delta	A. Leuterman	80		N	
7-5	Fundulopanchax sjoestedti Dwarf Red	A. Leuterman	90	2	N	
7-6	Fundulopanchax sjoestedti Blue	M. Leutermann	80		N	
7-7	Fundulopanchax sjoestedti Blue	M. Leutermann	79		N	
7-8	Fundulopanchax sjoestedti Blue	M. Leutermann	83		N	
7-9	Fundulopanchax sjoestedti Dwarf Red Trio	A. Leuterman	83		N	
7-10	Fundulopanchax sjoestedti Niger Delta	M. Leutermann	89	3	N	
7-11	Fundulopanchax sjoestedti Trio	D. Ebeling	92	1	Y	
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Mesoaphyosemion - ex. Calliurum</b>					
8-1	Aphyosemion gabunense GBG 93-3	R. Ivik	85		Y	
8-2	Aphyosemion primigenium GEB 94-21	R. Ivik	89	3	Y	
8-3	Aphyosemion pyrophore Komono Yellow	M. Hlavaty	84		Y	
8-4	Aphyosemion ogoense GHP 80/24	M. Hlavaty	91	2	Y	
8-5	Aphyosemion gabunense gabunense GBG 93/30	J. Metzger	95	RBOS	Y	
8-6	Aphyosemion cameronense South Makokou ABDEK 12/482 Trio	J. Gasior	83		Y	
8-7	Aphyosemion pyrophore Komono Yellow	B. Sommers	79		Y	
8-8	Aphyosemion pyrophore Komono Yellow	B. Sommers	81		Y	
8-9	Aphyosemion pyrophore Komono Yellow	B. Sommers	84		Y	
<b>IX</b>	<b>Mesoaphyosemion - Calliurum</b>					
9-1	Aphyosemion australe	G. Skidmore			DOA	
9-2	Aphyosemion australe Cap Esterias BSWG 97-24	G. Greenwood	93	1	Y	
9-3	Aphyosemion australe Aq. Str.	S. Rabke	86	2	N	
9-4	Aphyosemion australe Choc	M. Leutermann	80	3	N	
<b>X</b>	<b>Chromaphyosemion</b>					
10-1	Aphyosemion splendopleure Tiko	A. Leuterman	80		N	
10-2	Aphyosemion bivittatum Mbonge	M. Hlavaty	82		Y	
10-3	Aphyosemion volcanum Mbonge	J. Metzger	88	3	Y	
10-4	Aphyosemion volcanum Chute d'Ekom HLM 99/1	J. Metzger	93	1	Y	
10-5	Aphyosemion riggenbachi Ndokama	G. Greenwood	84		Y	
10-6	Aphyosemion bitaeniatum Ijebu Ode 6 females	B. Sommers	91	2	Y	
<b>XI</b>	<b>Callopanchax, Archiaphyosemion &amp; Scriptaphyosemion</b>					
11-1	Scriptaphyosemion guignardi Sougetta	A. Leuterman	86		N	
11-2	Scriptaphyosemion guignardi Mamou	A. Leuterman	84		N	
11-3	Scriptaphyosemion etzeli Yek Bir	A. Leuterman	83		N	
11-4	Scriptaphyosemion liberiense calabaricus	A. Leuterman	81		N	
11-5	Nimbapanchax petersi Banco Park	A. Leuterman	80		N	
11-6	Nimbapanchax petersi Banco Park	A. Leuterman	81		N	
11-7	Scriptaphyosemion etzeli Lungi Lol 99-10	A. Leuterman	81		Y	
11-8	Scriptaphyosemion schmitti Juarzon	A. Leuterman	92	2	N	
11-9	Scriptaphyosemion schmitti Juarzon Trio	D. Weisman	84		Y	
11-10	Scriptaphyosemion banforense Banfora	A. Leuterman	83		N	
11-11	Scriptaphyosemion guignardi Mamou	A. Leuterman	80		N	
11-12	Scriptaphyosemion schmitti Juarzon	A. Leuterman	90	3	N	
11-13	Scriptaphyosemion guignardi Sougetta	A. Leuterman	82		N	
11-14	Callopanchax occidentalis Teme Yellah SL89 DRCH	B. Sommers	95	1	Y	
11-15	Callopanchax monoviae Paynesville L97	B. Sommers	80		Y	
11-16	Callopanchax occidentalis Teme Yellah SL89 DRCH	B. Sommers	82		Y	
11-17	Callopanchax monoviae Paynesville L97	B. Sommers	82		Y	
11-18	Scriptaphyosemion etzeli Lungi Lol 99-10	S. Rabke	84		N	
<b>XII</b>	<b>Aphyosemion (All Others)</b>					
12-1	Aphyosemion cyanostictum SAM GBN 88-29	T. Kean	91	3	Y	
12-2	Aphyosemion musafirii AVD 2007-1	J. Metzger	70		Y	
12-3	Aphyosemion ocellatum GJS 00/5 Sika Sika	J. Metzger	82		Y	
12-4	Aphyosemion coeleste Mounana	J. Metzger	93	2	Y	
12-5	Aphyosemion rectogoense PEG 95-16	D. Weisman	83		Y	
12-6	Aphyosemion wachtersi FCO 11/4 Trio	J. Gasior	88		Pr only - Y	
12-7	Aphyosemion labarrei Kingember Inkisi River, Congo AVD 2011	G. Greenwood	84		Y	
12-8	Aphyosemion sp. Ntoba FCCO 2013 15	J. Metzger	83		Y	
12-9	Aphyosemion cyanostictum SAM GBN 88-29	B. Young	87		Y	
12-10	Aphyosemion georgiae GBBS 99-19	B. Young	86		Y	

12-11	Aphyosemion fulgens LEC 93/7	B. Young	87		Y	
12-12	Aphyosemion elberti Ntui	B. Sommers	85		Y	
12-13	Aphyosemion elberti Ntui	B. Sommers	94	1	Y	
12-14	Aphyosemion lamberti PEG 2009-14	B. Sommers	83		Y	
12-15	Aphyosemion lamberti PEG 2009-14	B. Sommers	81		Y	
12-16	Aphyosemion musafirii AVD 2007-1	S. Rabke	85		Y	
12-17	Aphyosemion exiguum Moyenam ADK 2010-305	S. Rabke	84		Y	
<b>XIII</b>	<b>Epiplatys</b>					
13-1	Epiplatys annulatus	A. Leuterman	80		N	
13-2	Epiplatys annulatus	A. Leuterman	76		N	
13-3	Epiplatys aff. fasciolatus Guinea 2014	A. Leuterman	90	1	N	
13-4	Epiplatys aff. fasciolatus Guinea 2014	A. Leuterman	86	2	N	
13-5	Epiplatys dageti	S. Rabke	84	3	N	
<b>XIV</b>	<b>All Other African/Eurasian</b>					
14-1	Aplocheilus lineatus Red	A. Leuterman	75	3	Y	
14-2	Procatopus nototaenia	M. Hlavaty	84	2	Y	
14-3	Aplocheilus lineatus Red	A. Leuterman	89	1	Y	
<b>XV</b>	<b>Matched Breeding Pairs</b>					
15-1	Nimbapanchax petersi Banco Park	A. Leuterman	84		N	
15-2	Ophthalmolebias constanciae Barra de Sao Joao WS	A. Leuterman	80		Y	
15-3	Nimbapanchax petersi Banco Park	G. Greenwood	81		N	
15-4	Scriptaphyosemion schmitti Juarzon	A. Leuterman	76		N	
15-5	Aphyosemion aff. cameronense Ebangminko JVC 13/11	J. Metzger	73		N	
15-6	Aphyosemion aff. cameronense Ebangminko JVC 13/11	J. Metzger	71		N	
15-7	Fundulus notatus	D. Ebeling	90	2	Y	
15-8	Fundulus notatus	D. Ebeling	79		Y	
15-9	Jordanella floridae	D. Ebeling	80		Y	
15-10	Jordanella floridae	D. Ebeling	82		Y	
15-11	Aphyosemion elberti Ntui	B. Sommers	93	1	Y	
15-12	Aphyosemion lamberti PEG 2009-14	B. Sommers	81		Y	
15-13	Aphyosemion lamberti PEG 2009-14	B. Sommers	88	3	Y	
15-14	Fundulus xenicus	D. Ebeling	73		Y	
15-15	Fundulus xenicus	D. Ebeling	72		Y	

**To Contribute go to**  
<https://www.gofundme.com/aquarist-hurricane-relief>  
**to make Donations**

The screenshot shows a GoFundMe campaign page for "Aquarist Hurricane Relief". At the top, there are navigation links for "gofundme", "Search", and "Start a Fundraiser". On the right, there are buttons for "Share", "Tweet", and "Donate". The main image is a photograph of a fish store with rows of cages. Below the image is the title "Aquarist Hurricane Relief" and social sharing buttons for "Share" and "Tweet", along with a share count of "196 shares". On the right side, a green banner says "This campaign is trending!". Below that, a progress bar shows "\$2,100 of \$1,000 goal" and "Raised by 25 people in 17 days". There are two large orange buttons: "Donate Now" and "Share on Facebook". At the bottom right, it says "Created August 30, 2017" and lists the creator as "Greg Steeves" from "Animals" in "CANYON LAKE, TX". A "Top Supporters" section and a "First Donor" section are also visible.

# AQUARISTS CAN PROMOTE CONSERVATION

There are many threats to species around the world, and the aquarium hobby is often listed as one. But the hobby has the power to provide a lot of benefit, and there are a number of ways that we can promote conservation and even save species from extinction.



**CAPTIVE BREEDING**

The vast majority of freshwater fish and an increasing number of marine fish are being primarily sourced through captive breeding initiatives.



**IN SITU CONSERVATION**

Multiple organizations worldwide are working with local communities to develop sustainable environmental fisheries and promote the conservation of natural habitats.



**CORAL REEF RESTORATION**

One method of fighting reef loss is through the cultivation and re-planting of corals. A portion of the corals grown can be sold to hobbyists to raise funds for these operations.

**OVER 90%** of freshwater fish available in the hobby come from captive breed sources. From large scale fish farms to small scale breeding operations to individual hobbyists, freshwater ornamental fish are being raised around the world. If you see it in a store or in an aquarium, the odds are that it was bred in captivity.

Due to their more complex life cycle, a relatively small proportion of marine fish have been successfully bred, but this number is continually rising as researchers unlock the secrets to success. Currently, **OVER 10%** of fish in the marine aquarium trade are sourced from captive breed sources, including popular favorites such as clownfish, corydoras, biennies, and even certain angelfish species.

**Rising Tide CONSERVATION** is leading the way in supporting researchers as they learn how to successfully breed marine fish and then sharing that information so that others can build upon it, making these captive bred species available to the public. The first ever captive bred Yellow Tang (*Acanthurus lineatus*) was made available to the hobby in March of 2016 after success by The Oceanic Institute at Hawaii Pacific University (another successful batch was announced August of 2016 as well), and the first ever captive bred Blue Tang (*Acanthurus coeruleus*) was announced in July 2016 by the University of Florida's Tropical Aquaculture Lab.

While captive breeding fish is a great way to reduce pressure from overfishing, it does not solve most species' biggest threat, habitat degradation. However, as a hobbyist you can help support efforts to preserve these habitats. A number of organizations around the world are working to support ornamental fisheries and reduce environmental impacts.

**PROJECT PIABA** Buy A Fish, Save A Tree

The goal of Project Piaba is to support and strengthen the Amazonian fisheries of the Rio Negro in order to keep the ornamental fisheries viable. These sustainable fisheries are able to bring income to remote areas of the Amazon and discourage them from turning to other, more destructive, industries such as mining or logging.

**25 YEARS** Project Piaba has been studying the impact of the Rio Negro fisheries.

**46 THOUSAND** Number of captive bred fish available within the Project Piaba network. This is the largest trade of captive bred fish in the world.

**20-40 MILLION** Number of Aquarium Fish Sold for Exporters in Brazil

**245 BILLIONS** Fish species are on Brazil's export list and have been observed by scientists in the Rio Negro.

**60 PERCENT** of the income of Brazil's fish exporters comes from the ornamental fish trade.

**LINE** Improving Lives. Preserving Nature.

**Indonesia**

A hotspot of marine ornamental fish collection for the global market for at least 25 years, while the trade provides an important source of income for thousands of coastal communities.

LINE is the first and only NGO working on development of sustainable marine ornamental fisheries in Indonesia. It aims to support the conservation and management of marine ornamental fisheries throughout Indonesia. LINE does this by empowering coastal communities, providing training in practical skills, promoting fair trade and more sustainable practices of marine resource use.

**CORAL REEFS** are one of the foundational building blocks of aquatic marine life. It is estimated that there are millions of species that live in or around reefs. Unfortunately, there are many places where the health of coral reefs are declining. Many scientists are looking into ways to reverse this trend, but one of the best methods we have to directly help reef health is through growing and planting cultured corals. This is an expensive process, and there are few groups willing to fund them. In order to keep these projects going, there are several organizations such as the Coral Restoration Foundation who make a portion of their cultured corals available for sale into the hobby, using that income to help fund their work.

**CORAL RESTORATION FOUNDATION**

Saving the planet by saving the reefs.

Coral Restoration Foundation is a nonprofit ocean conservation organization working to restore coral reefs. The organization is doing this by educating others on the importance of the oceans, along with using science to further research and implementing techniques. Coral Restoration is dedicated to creating effective nurseries and restoration programs for threatened coral species.

**OVER 22,000** Coral outplanted to reefs in 2015

**FISH EXTINCT IN THE WILD BUT PRESENT IN CAPTIVITY**

<i>Cyathostomus leui</i>	<i>Prognathochromis penneri</i>
<i>Cyathostomus sp. 'Severed moust'</i>	<i>Tramitichromis variabilis</i>
<i>Entomochromis sp. 'Red back scorpion'</i>	<i>Tramitichromis labifer</i>
<i>Paragochromis sp. 'Orange rock hunker'</i>	<i>Tropheus moorii</i>
<i>Hypophthalmis retrodors</i>	<i>Tsichochromis sp. 'Blue tipped'</i>
<i>Labrochromis labialis</i>	<i>Tanichthys albanus</i>
<i>Lipochromis parvidens</i>	<i>Cyprinodon abramis</i>
<i>Lipochromis sp. 'Instami hunker'</i>	<i>Cyprinodon longidorsalis</i>
<i>Lipochromis sp. 'Two stripe white lip'</i>	<i>Megapogon aporus</i>
<i>Myxochromis obtusus</i>	<i>Atilapia zocansensis</i>
<i>Myxochromis sp. 'Serpoid elongate'</i>	<i>Xiphophorus coelestis</i>
<i>Myxochromis devincenzi</i>	<i>Xiphophorus meyeri</i>
<i>Platyteniodon elegans</i>	<i>Zoogoneticus purpuraceus</i>

According to the CARES Preservation Program Priority List (released 10/20/2016), the above fish species are only known to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a reintroduced population (or populations) well outside their past range. If not maintained in captivity, these species would be globally extinct.

**A LOOK AT LAKE VICTORIA**

Africa's Lake Victoria, the largest tropical lake in the world, was once home to a large number of unique species including over 300 of haplochromine cichlids. A number of issues have created pressure on the native species of Lake Victoria, invasive species such as the Nile Perch, which was intentionally introduced to grow a food fishery, and pollution has devastated the biodiversity of the lake, leaving only a handful of native species to struggle for survival.

A number of plans for saving as many Victorian species as possible have been implemented by both scientific and hobbyist groups, and sometimes there is even overlap between conservation methods. The hobbyist CARES Preservation Program encourages breeding efforts by hobbyists, and AZA Species Survival Plans are in effect for a number of different species. Some of these species, such as *Prognathochromis penneri*, have even been supplied to AZA facilities by hobbyist sources.

**5 SPECIES SAVED FROM GLOBAL EXTINCTION**

**Redtail Shark**  
*Epiplatys spilargenteus*

Native to Thailand, the Redtail Shark had been thought to be completely extinct in the wild until the discovery of a single population was announced in 2014. While some sources claim that collection for the aquarium trade has played a large part, habitat degradation has been the most significant factor in their loss as dams and the draining of wetlands have both changed the waterways where they live. Pollution from agriculture has also been a factor in their decline. However, they have remained to be one of the more common aquarium species due to huge numbers of them being born raised.

**Asotiti**  
*Amblystoma maculatum*

Even though it's an amphibian and not a fish, Asotiti are fully aquatic and can be included in discussions of the aquarium trade. Asotiti are native to only two lakes in Mexico, Lake Chapala has been fully drained and no longer exists. Lake Xochimilco has been reduced to more streams and are heavily polluted. As such, Asotiti populations have drastically declined. They are currently listed as Critically Endangered, although a 2013 expedition was unable to find any. They are commonly found in the US and can be easily found in a number of different color forms.

**Banggai Cardinalfish**  
*Pterapogon kauderni*

The aquarium trade has been a double edged sword for the Banggai Cardinalfish. Their native range is extremely small, only one small sea around the Banggai Islands of Indonesia, and for many years they were heavily collected for the aquarium trade. This led to their numbers falling dramatically. However, they have since become regularly bred, with the vast majority available now coming from captive sources. Additionally, robust populations have been found outside of their native range, adding some security to their wild survival.

**White Cloud**  
*Tanichthys albanus*

The story of the White Cloud is very similar to that of the Redtail Shark. White Clouds are native to China, where their populations have plummeted due to pollution and tourism. They were discovered in the wild in 1983, but were upgraded to critically endangered after a population was discovered in the early 2000s. They are readily captive bred in large numbers and are very common in the aquarium trade.

**Topaz Cichlid**  
*Amphilichthys nana*

Native to the Rio Seco in the Basin of Panama and Costa Rica, populations of Topaz Cichlid have been decimated by habitat loss as the result of expansion in the commercial banana industry. While it is not officially evaluated by the IUCN, its populations are low enough to qualify as being endangered. Topaz Cichlids are not as popular or easy to find, but there are dedicated hobbyists working to keep viable populations going.

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*Aquatic Experience Chicago!*

*A Visit to Dick Moore's Fishroom*

*A Visit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium*

*Bettas Return to Canada Part II*

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