



FEBRUARY 2007

VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 2

# Showfish coast

PROVIDING EDUCATION AND CAMERADERIE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN KEEPING TROPICAL AND TEMPERATE FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

NEXT MONTH'S MTG: MARCH 4

**February 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – Topic: Miniature Oddballs  
– Keeping and Breeding Uncommon Miniature Fish**  
*Speaker: Mike Hellweg – Grand Master Breeder and Horticulturist*

**FRESH  
COFFEE AND  
DOUGHNUTS  
WILL BE  
SERVED**



“In this talk I challenge the audience to “think outside the box” when it comes to working with challenging small fish. It covers my approach to working with and breeding some of the less common small (4” and less) fish in the hobby, with several examples of how it pans out – both successes and failures.”

Mike has been an aquarist and breeder for over 35 years, working almost exclusively with fishes that mature at 4” in length or less in his 90 tanks. With more than 200 species from at least 22 families, he is the top ranked Grand Master Breeder of all time in his local club. He has bred tetras, rasboras, a puffer, pencil fish, rainbows, blue eyes, pipefish, bettas, gudgeons, half beaks, a seahorse, gouramis, and many live bearers and cichlids. With over 175 species of aquatic plants propagated, he is also their top ranked Grand Master Aquatic Horticulturist, and he recently earned the ALA award of Master Breeder. Mike

is currently the President of the Missouri Aquarium Society, the Vice Chairman of the American Livebearer Association and the Historian for the Aquatic Gardener’s Association. He has written over 100 articles for various hobby publications and magazines. He also writes a monthly breeding column for AquariumFish.com, and has three aquarium-related books in pre-publication. He currently owns and operates a retail fish business. (photo, ca. 2004, from <http://www.missouriaquariumsociety.org> )

## What's in the Showfish this month –

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## When do we meet:

COAST meets the first Sunday of every month from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Meeting agendum:	12:30	Board Meeting
	1:00	Meeting begins; general announcements
	1:30	Presentation begins
	2:45	Auction begins
	4:15-4:30	Auction usually ends; check-out begins
	5:00-5:30	Vacate the room

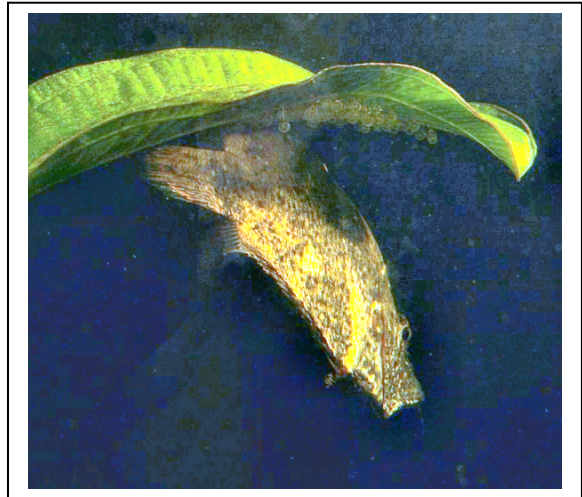
## Where do we meet:

The Center is a brown brick building between a fire station and Lion's Park. Closest major intersection is 19<sup>th</sup> and Harbor Blvd. Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center. in the Victoria Room (usually) or the Harper Room 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA

Steve Ehrlich has spawned his leaf fish!! He's promised an article soon—hurray!  
Photo by Rahul Kumar, manipulated by editor

## Upcoming meetings for 2007:

February 4	Hellweg on breeding small fish <b>STARTS 10:00 A.M.</b>
March 4	Speaker and Topic:
April 1	Speaker and Topic:
May 6	Speaker and Topic:
June 10	Speaker and Topic: <b>SECOND SUNDAY</b>
July 1	Speaker and Topic:
August 5	Speaker and Topic:
September 2	Speaker and Topic:
October 7	Speaker and Topic:
November 4	Speaker and Topic:
December 2	Speaker and Topic:



### Discussion Group (members only)

<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/coastfishclub/>

### Website:

<http://www.coastfishclub.com>

The Showfish is the newsletter of California's Organization of Aquatic Show Tropicals (COAST). It is published six to twelve times a year and is a benefit of membership in COAST. The information and opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and may not reflect those held by COAST or other COAST members.

Showfish is printed and distributed at cost only by Mike and Elaine McCabe of McCabe Printing, 11918 E Rosecrans Ave Suite B, Norwalk, CA 90650.

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**Exchange Policy:** COAST will exchange newsletters which contain information about fish and the fish hobby with other fish clubs. Please notify the Showfish editor, C.A. Marelius, if your club would like to participate in an exchange program.

# THE ORIGINAL CAVES - RINO'S



Phone 951-657-4634

## Summary: Meeting of January 7th

The General Meeting: Anthony Mazeroll gave an interesting glimpse into field research at the southern tip of Colombia where Peru, Colombia, and Brazil touch. He is studying the angel fish and discus of the Amazon to determine range, population statistics, and viability of the fishery. The work leads him to muddy banks, small streams, a purple dog (the result of being dyed for a local celebration), and oxbow lakes. In the lab, Tony is analyzing the DNA of this fish to determine genetic diversity and add more information to species typing. He referred to a recent paper by J. Ready and S. Kullander which detailed DNA findings that there are three species of discus. The most elusive species is in an area of cocaine farming, so fishing – for food or for research – is just not done. A fish the local fishermen referred to as a discus and that might have been the one indigenous to the cocaine area

turns out to have been *Heros appendiculatus*, known there as *Discus falso*. Tony commented that a significant portion of his DNA research is self-funded and costs many thousands of dollars. When he has young discus for sale, he sells them for a small amount to get cash to pay for the DNA testing. Right now, his fry are not ready for sale, but he will let us know when some are available.

Brian reminded people that it is not good manners to bring deformed or culled fish to the auction unless they are clearly labeled and bagged as feeder fish.

The board meeting was held before the general meeting. Pauline Jackson asked to be reimbursed for the raffle tickets (approved) and Ron Jackson asked if he could purchase items for the raffle table from wholesalers if needed (approved). A compact fluorescent light hood with lamps from Energy Savers will be raffled as a major perpetual item—tickets will be \$1 each and the light will be raffled when a minimum of \$50 in tickets are sold. Pauline and Tom Varin will work together to put old Showfish articles on the website. Coffee and doughnuts will be brought for the meeting in February. Website is being updated and Tom expects to be done soon.

## Membership News

### *New Members:*

(none)

### *Renewing Members:*

Stan Sung                      Wesley Wong  
Sandy Binder

### *Memberships Due in February:*

R and C Marelius      Kanaan Tabikh  
John Fuqua                Richard Woon  
Janice Hazeltine      Christina Marvel  
Ron Harlan                Anders Eriksson  
Mark Binkley             Tom Varin

### *Memberships Due in March:*

Frank, Ilan Chang      Craig Fries  
Barry Heller              Kevin Hromin  
Richard Lin                John, Anne Niemans  
Alfred, Selma Paul      Phil Rodriguez  
Joshua Tenbroek

### *Past Due – This is your last Showfish*

**Pam Harris                Craig David**  
**Sham Kapil                Kam Bhogal**  
**Don Foltz                    John Banic**  
**Suman Kapil                Len Liebrand**  
**Jason, Jennifer Kucera**

## For Sale:

### *Ron Jackson is selling tanks!*

40 gallon aquarium, oak stand and hood (will sell separately)  
55 gallon aquarium  
Home made aquariums of various sizes

## Interested?

Contact Ron at:

Phone: 714-638-8445

Email: katfishron@aol.com

## Manufacturers and Vendors Supporting our Club

*Please support these companies when shopping for food, products, and equipment.*

Eugene Danner Manufacturing, 160 Oval Drive, Islandia, NY 11749  
Hikari Sales, Shawn Bonham, 2804 McCone Avenue, Hayward, CA 94545  
Energy Savers Unlimited, Inc., 910 E. Sandhill Avenue, Carson, CA 90746  
Omega Sea, Ltd, Marty Crews, 3767 Lane Rd. Ext., Unit B, Perry, OH 44801  
Jungle Laboratories, Lisa Hendrix, 120 Industrial Drive, Cibolo, TX 78108  
Hamilton Technology Corporation, 14902 S. Figueroa St., Gardena, CA 90248  
Marine Enterprises International, Inc., Bob Spellman, Sales Mgr, 8800 A Kolso Dr., Baltimore, MD 21221  
PetSolutions, 802 N. Orchard Lane, Beavercreek, OH 45434  
Aquaculture Tech, Inc., 5935 Ravenwood Rd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312  
Doctors Foster and Smith, Janine Fuchs, 2253 Air Park Rd., Rhinelander, WI 54501  
Perfecto Manufacturing, Inc., Susan Rogers, 20975 Creek Rd., Noblesville, IN 46060  
Aquarium Systems, 8141 Tyler Blvd., Mentor, OH 44060-4889  
Seachem



## DIY Canister Filter, Part 2 (See January 2007 Showfish for Part 1)

<http://www.petfrd.com> (author nickname "damnit", posted September 17, 2004)



### *How it was done*

#### **1. Marking out the inlet and outlet holes**

After all the equipment had been purchased, it was time to sit down for the actual work. First thing I did was to mark out the location of the inlet hole. As this type of filter works with the help of gravity, you need to place the inlet as low as possible so that gravity will help pull the water down through the inlet, and the pump will help push the water back into the tank. With this in mind, I marked the center of the hole as low as possible on the Lock-n-Lock container.

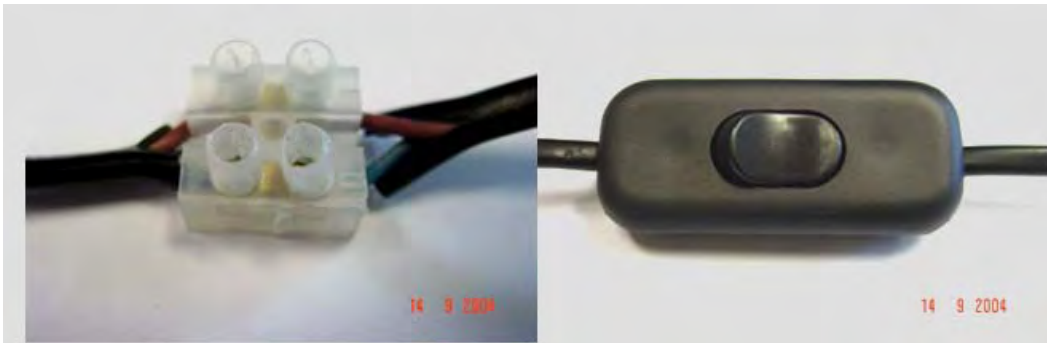
Next, I positioned the pump below the container cover and marked the center of the hole for the outlet. As I was doing this, I realized I needed another hole for the power cord of the pump ! So I marked 2 small holes side by side on the cover of the container.

#### **2. The drilling**

After marking out the center of the hole locations, it was easy. Choose a drill bit which is slightly smaller than the actual hole. This is because you want the holes to fit the pipes as snugly as possible so that the joints are leak proof. You can either use a power drill, or a compass penknife (which is basically a compass with one end as a sharp point and the other end as a penknife). I found out that the power drill is much easier and faster after trying out to make the inlet hole with a compass penknife.

After the holes are made, you will need to use a penknife or round file to slowly enlarge the hole till it is 99% fitting the joints. After that, you need to use a bit of force to push in the pipe/L-joint. It should fit in tightly. If it fits in too easily, it means that the hole you made is too big.

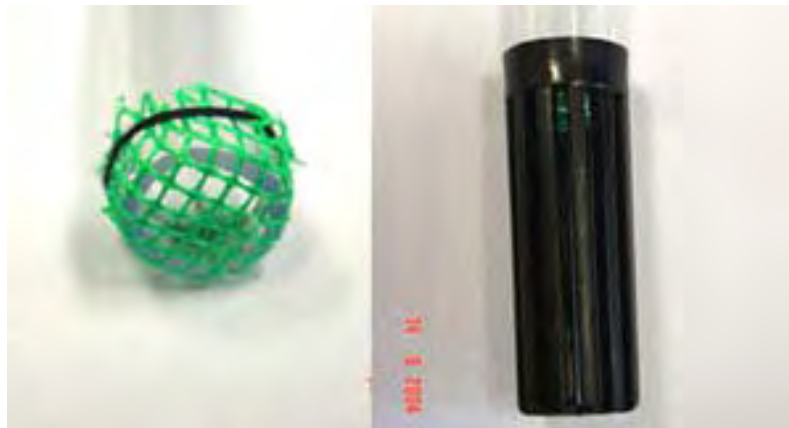
For the outlet section, I drilled 2 small holes side by side, one for the output tubing to fit and the other for the power cord of the pump. Once done, I strung the power cord through one of the smaller holes. Note that at this point, you do need to cut off the power plug of the pump and reconnect it back later on in order to thread the wiring through the small hole. Mine was reconnected back using a temporary connector and will be moved to a manual ON/OFF switch later.



3. The assembling Simple as plug-and-play! Plug the inlet pipe and L-joint into the hole on the canister body, plug the pump outlet through the hole on cover and pull the power cord through the smaller hole on cover. For the pump outlet, I fitted the hose tightly and the pump was held in place below the cover without any silicon.

#### 4. Improvements to the DIY canister

I decided to add a strainer at the inlet as the inlet's opening is quite big, and I sure do not want any tank inhabitants accidentally getting sucked into the filter.



#### 5. The testing phase

Of course, since this DIY filter is going to be used on my office desk, it had better be tested out first lest the office carpet gets all wet from a leak somewhere.

Everything (except the media) was setup with the tubes inside a pail of water. Using the outlet hose, I sucked at it to start the water flow into the container. Once it was almost full, I started the pump and voila, water started



flowing back into the pail. It was then I started to notice that there are some air bubbles seeping into the container. It seems some air is seeping in through the inlet hole. Well, I proceeded to plug that hole with silicon to prevent leakage. The outlet hole was also given a coat of silicone for good measure as was the hole for the power cord to go through.



So basically there you have it, your very own simple DIY canister filter for under \$10. Hope you have fun making your very own mini canister filter too.

**Tips & Tricks:**

1. Hot water can be used to expand the hose to fit over the tubes. This is what my colleague did for the inlet pipe and hose, as both of these have approximately the same diameter.
2. When working with silicon, it may be useful to note that water with some dish washing liquid makes silicon stay off your fingers and also makes the silicon handiwork much neater!
3. Make sure the areas where you apply the silicon on is dry and free of dirt and/or particles. This helps the silicon adhere better to the surface.

**Calculating Heater Requirements –**

*And tips for keeping your fish warm without losing all your cold hard cash*

Tank Capacity (gallons / liters)	Heater wattage needed to cause “x” degrees increase over the lowest ambient temperature in the fish room		
	5°C / 9°F	10°C / 18°F	15°C / 27°F
5 gal (25 L)	25 W	25 W	75 W
10 gal (50 L)	50 W	50 W	100 W
20 gal (75 L)	50 W	75 W	150 W
25 gal (100 L)	75 W	100 W	200 W
40 gal (150 L)	100 W	150 W	300 W
50 gal (200 L)	150 W	200 W	2 each 200 W
65 gal (250 L)	200 W	250 W	2 each 250 W
75 gal (300 L)	250 W	300 W	2 each 300 W

Heat salvaging techniques:

- From Ian Fuller’s book on breeding Coryadoridine catfish: when using a blower, locate the intake of the air blower up near the ceiling, where the air is a few degrees warmer.
- From Kent Webster’s breeding and stocking facility (maintained at 76°F), where he uses a steady stream of tap water flowing through his tanks to maintain pristine water quality: Coil 1000 feet of thin-walled piping, preferably black, and hang it at the peak of the ceiling. By the time the water has gone through that much coiled piping, water temperature will have reached room ambient (a rise of 8°F to 12°F for his city water)

Minimizing heat loss:

- Wrap the sides and back walls of the tank in sheets of insulating plastic—the type that is bubble wrap with aluminized Mylar foil coating works well. If room permits, sheets of Styrofoam will work better.
- Put a sheet of Styrofoam on the top of the tank canopy glass if you don’t need overhead lighting.
- Use a substrate cable heater with external controller for even heating the rises through the water column all across the tank instead of a heater that creates one narrow column of higher heat dispersed by water flow. Cost savings hint: get the controller without the display—the dial is labeled and accurate within a degree or two.



## Board of Directors

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Mamie Nash   Kevin Hromin   Kirk Bean   Charlotte Marelius   Tom Varin   Ron Nash

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BAG LABELS FOR AUCTION ITEMS

<p><b>LOT NO.</b> _____</p> <p>QTY IN BAG _____</p> <p>( _____ Unsexed; _____ M; _____ F )</p> <p>SPECIES _____</p> <p>Phone No. _____</p>	<p><b>LOT NO.</b> _____</p> <p>QTY IN BAG _____</p> <p>( _____ Unsexed; _____ M; _____ F )</p> <p>SPECIES _____</p> <p>Phone No. _____</p>
<p><b>LOT NO.</b> _____</p> <p>QTY IN BAG _____</p> <p>( _____ Unsexed; _____ M; _____ F )</p> <p>SPECIES _____</p> <p>Phone No. _____</p>	<p><b>LOT NO.</b> _____</p> <p>QTY IN BAG _____</p> <p>( _____ Unsexed; _____ M; _____ F )</p> <p>SPECIES _____</p> <p>Phone No. _____</p>
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**Auction Rules**

You must be a current member of COAST to sell items at the auction.

**NOTE WELL:**  
Buyer Beware! Auction items are sold "as is" and COAST does not guarantee items sold at auction as to health, accuracy, working condition, suitability, etc.

**BAGGING FISH:**  
Use proper fish bags.  
Double bag the fish.  
**Bag adult males separately from females and separate territorial or aggressive fish** from each other to minimize damage or death. Individual bags can then be taped together to be sold as pairs or groups.

Do not feed fish the night before. Bag fish in clean water, with a ratio of 1/3 water to 2/3 air. Bag fish at home please.

**LABELLING:**  
Label bags with member no. and bag no., qty and sex of fish, genus/species, and phone no. Paper labels are preferred. Use Sharpie for marking on bags if reqd.

**PLANTS:**  
Plants may be single bagged and do not need to be submerged in water. Label as for fish.

<b>SELLER NAME:</b>		Date	Member No.		
BAG NO.	QTY	NAME OR DESCRIPTION		Sold for Amount	Mark if donating
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
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21					
22					
23					
24					

**Bag sexually relentless or aggressive males in a bag separately from their females.**  
  
**Bag territorial or aggressive fish in individual bags.**

Turn completed and double checked auction form in to an auction recorder.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION .....

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL .....

GUEST Registry / AUCTION Sign-In .....

**COAST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Mail to: **Pauline Jackson, COAST Treasurer**

**10926 Ranney Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92843**

(Received by \_\_\_\_\_ Date Rcvd \_\_\_\_\_ Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Member No. \_\_\_\_\_ )

**Yes!** I want to be a member or guest of COAST. Enclosed/attached is my check or money order made **payable to COAST in the amount of \$20** for a one year membership as an individual or family (within the same household please). Senior citizen (aged 62 or over) or junior (aged 20 or under) memberships are \$15 for one year. Members receive Showfish (ten to twelve issues a year), which contains information of interest to hobbyists. Meetings have programs specific to the hobby, and you are eligible to participate in our monthly auctions and raffles. Why wait any longer?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your membership and registration. Please tell us how you heard about COAST:

Member  Magazine  Fish Store  Website  Showfish Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

What fish do keep / want to keep? \_\_\_\_\_

What contact information would you like to list in the Membership Roster? (Membership Rosters are COAST property and distributed only within the club to encourage fellowship among members.)

Publish full contact info (default)  Do not publish street address  Do not publish phone  Do not publish email

Unless otherwise specified, the full membership listing of member no., name, phone number, address, city, state and zip code will be listed in our membership directory. Please be sure to notify us of any changes in your contact information, either by email or by using this form.

**Please fill it out completely when you're renewing, too. That's how we keep the membership list correct and up to date.**

**CALIFORNIA'S ORGANIZATION OF AQUATIC SHOW TROPICALS**  
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