



FEBRUARY 2008

VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 2

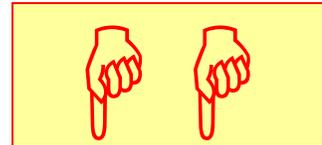
# CELESTIAL PEARL DANIOS BEING AUCTIONED!

## showfish coast

PROVIDING CAMERADERIE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN TROPICAL AND TEMPERATE FISH AND OTHER AQUARIUM LIFE

NEXT MONTH'S MTG: MARCH 2

**Meeting: February 3rd, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**Topic — The oddballs: tetras, killies, cats, etc.**  
*Our speaker this month is Steve Ehrlich of Southland Aquatics*



Steve Ehrlich,  
COAST  
member

I will talk about acquiring, keeping and breeding ODDBALLS. Of course, everyone's definition of oddballs is different, but here's a list of fish I want to talk about: Cave spawning tetras, amazon leaf fish, mouthbrooding bettas and killifish, among others. I have been keeping tropical fish for about twenty years and have always been fascinated by the fish that are most unusual and by trying to breed them. I've been successful with a few and would like to share with the club how I did it, and hopefully inspire some of them to try a few of these fish too. I will be bringing fish from my talk to share with the club.

**FEATURED AUCTION ITEM: THE CELESTIAL PEARL DANIO (GALAXY RASBORA) -- ONE BAG, NO MINIMUM BID.**

The celestial pearl danio (*Celestichthys margaritatus*, formerly known as *Microrasbora sp. galaxy*) was found by a commercial aquarium fish dealer near the town of Hopong in Myanmar (Burma)



photo from <http://www.kmhtun.com/030907.html>

*table of contents*

SUMMARY OF LAST MEETING .....	2
SPECIES PROFILE: CELESTIAL PEARL DANIO .....	2
SPONSORS .....	4
MEMBERSHIP NEWS .....	5
WHEN AND WHERE WE MEET .....	6
BOARD OF DIRECTORS .....	6

AUCTION REGISTRATION FORM .....	7
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION .....	8
.....	
.....	
.....	
.....	

The Showfish is the newsletter of California's Organization of Aquatic Show Tropicals (COAST), a 501(c)(7) not for-profit association registered in California. 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 by Mike and Elaine McCabe of McCabe Printing, 11918 E Rosecrans Ave Suite B, Norwalk, CA 90650.

**Reprint Policy:** Articles and graphics which are marked with a © symbol or annotated as Copyrighted or "property of ..." may not be reprinted without the owner's permission. Unmarked articles and graphics may be reprinted by other fish clubs; please send two copies of the newsletter containing the reprint to C. A. Marelius, 16229 Armstead St. Granada Hills, CA 91344 or email a copy to [rcmarelius@verizon.net](mailto:rcmarelius@verizon.net).

**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.

## Summary of Last Meeting –

**Topic/Speaker:** Jim Herman presented a travelogue on his collecting/touring trip to Malaysia a few years ago. Jim's slides are always interesting, particularly so because of his eclectic interests in fish and other wildlife and his ability to give a sense of the culture at the same time.

**Board meeting business:** Minutes of Board Meeting January 6, 2008. Meeting started at 12:50

President Brian Downing opened meeting and thanked the officers for all their work and their commitments to office this coming year. He also thanked the Jacksons for their involvement in keeping the club going over the years. Many people have joined the club but only wish to attend. If the club is going to be vibrant, we need to encourage more involvement among the membership. Brian exhorted the directors to find another member that could help them with their duties and share the load.

Webmaster Tom Varin asked for contributions and content for the new web page. This may include articles or pictures of fish. He also requested a list of the speakers in advance.

Program chair Charles Clifford asked if we were interested in screen-printing T-shirts. He will look into the cost for next week. Those with artwork for the shirts should bring it to the next meeting.

Showfish editor Charlotte Marelius asked for pictures from new officers.

Next month's meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. because of the Super Bowl.

## Species Profile — *Celestichthys margaritatus*, the Celestial Pearl Danio

*Formerly known as Microrasbora sp. Galaxy or the Galaxy Rasbora*

Reprinted with the permission of UnderWater, the official newsletter of the [Iowa Aquaria Association](http://www.iowaaquaria.com).

<http://www.iowaaquaria.com>

*Submitted by: Travis Henley (Jojoyojimbi)*

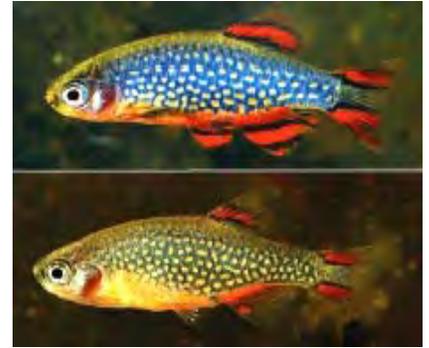


The majority of this article was originally printed in Practical Fishkeeping, a UK-based hobby magazine with a lot of dedicated readers worldwide, I recommend checking out their website at [www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk](http://www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk) It's chock full of great info. All pictures used herein are property and copyright of their original owners; neither I nor the IAA claim any ownership to them. First off, the fish commonly known as *Microrasbora* sp. "Galaxy" is in fact correctly identified as *Celestichthys margaritatus*, a new species name that encompasses only the former *Microrasbora* sp. "Galaxy" and potentially (upon further review) the *Microrasbora erythromicron*.

That said, the Celestial Pearl Danio, as it's more properly called, is a wonderful little fish that's a sexually dimorphic cyprinid, closely related to rasboras and danios.

### Sexing

Males are easily identified by the greater amount of coloration in the anal and caudal fins; the photo that this paragraph surrounds shows a male *Celestichthys margaritatus* on the top, and a female on bottom. Note the higher occurrence of red and black striping in the male's unpaired fins compared to the female's slightly drabber colors but more rotund appearance. Males spend a lot of their time sparring with each other and while it appears rather heated little real damage is done save a few split fins. Females are apparently rather docile and prefer to forage for food rather than fight. Now that you can tell your Celestial Pearl Danios apart, let's discuss breeding the little guys.



### Breeding

Apparently they aren't very difficult save for a few precautions. Males will eat eggs and newborn fry; the fry are quite tiny, requiring either liquid fry food or infusoria until they are large enough to eat baby brine shrimp. It is suggested that you separate a pair into a breeding tank with a mesh screen covered by either a breeding mop or java moss. This will give the eggs the chance to fall through the mesh and into the aquarium below where they can avoid predation by their parents. Reports from owners on [www.petfrd.com](http://www.petfrd.com), the website where this wonderful fish was originally debuted, report multiple spawnings per week with anywhere from 4-12 eggs being common per spawn. Fry will hatch within 72 hours and become free swimming from 2 to 4 days afterwards. At that time they'll require very finely ground flake food, liquid fry food, or infusoria until they are large enough to wean to microworms and bbs. From eggs to colored adults takes approximately three months so there should be plenty of these in the IAA by summer if we all get

started.

### Habitat

The Celestial Pearl Danio (the new, suggested common name) originates from a very fragile ecosystem in Myanmar. The habitat begins with a spring near a village east of Lake Inle at an elevation of 1045m which is diverted for use by the local villagers before being sent to a weir where it's used for irrigation, the 'lake' is only 2'-3' deep and heavily vegetated around the edges. The Galaxy's habit of living in the edges of the vegetation is what has led to its habitat being threatened now. Collectors have destroyed the shoreline vegetation and catches are down to only a few dozen a day. It is very important that anyone obtaining this fish now obtain a large enough group to attempt to breed these wonderful little gems of the nanotank so that future generations of hobbyists will be able to enjoy this wonderful little danio.



Lets see, where's that bring us to now... oh I know, how do you make them at home, at home?

**Caring for *Celestichthys margaritatus***

If there ever was a fish that you could say, "just add water and food and it'll be happy" it seems to be *C. margaritatus*. Keepers have reported spawning in everything from small blackwater tanks with ph 4-5.5 to slightly alkaline tanks with ph 7.8-8.2. When it comes right down to it, this little fish is a survivor on par with the annual killifishes that make it their habit to spring up in mud puddles all over Africa and South America. The true definition of adaptable, they seem to be fine in just about any body of water they've been kept in so far. Should anyone keeping *C. margaritatus* experience any difficulties with a certain water chemistry, please let us know as soon as possible. We want to provide our little galaxies with the most suitable little universes we can.

*C. margaritatus* will take readily to bbs (baby brine shrimp), Cyclops, *Daphnia*, crushed flake food, and any other suitable edible matter that's dropped in front of it. Take care when feeding frozen foods, as one report states that shortly after biting off a chunk from a frozen block of blood worms, the dominant male expired of unknown causes, possibly choking or a fatal case of 'slurpie brain freeze'.

**Epilogue**

I hope I've helped shed some light on these new little guys and inspired all the current *margaritatus* keepers to try their best to raise and distribute their fry amongst the IAA members who are ready, willing, and able to supply the fry with adequate care and support.

**Bibliography**

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/03/070307-newfish.html>  
 Maryann Mott, for National Geographic News, March 7, 2007

[http://www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/pfk/pages/show\\_article.php?article\\_id=557](http://www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/pfk/pages/show_article.php?article_id=557)  
 Matt Clarke, Published online: 09.11.06

<http://www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/pfk/pages/item.php?news=1210>  
 Matt Clarke, Published online: 28.2.2007

<http://www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/pfk/pages/item.php?news=1197>  
 Matt Clarke, Published online: 5.2.2007

<http://www.petfrd.com/forum/showthread.php?t=20442&page=1&pp=15>  
 Various members, with special thanks to Kamphol for introducing this fish.

**Manufacturers, Vendors Supporting our Club**

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

- [Aquaria](#), 6100 Condor Dr, Moorpark, CA 91302
- [Aquarium Systems](#), 8141 Tyler Blvd., Mentor, OH 44060-4889  
Noblesville, IN 46060
- [Casco Group \(SeaClear\)](#), 17719 Valley View, Cerritos, CA 90703
- [Drs. Foster and Smith](#), Janine Fuchs, 2253 Air Park Rd., Rhinelander, WI 54501
- [Energy Savers Unlimited, Inc.](#), 910 E. Sandhill Avenue, Carson, CA 90746





- [Eugene Danner Manufacturing](#), 160 Oval Drive, Islandia, NY 11749
- [Hamilton Technology Corp.](#), 14902 S. Figueroa St., Gardena, CA 90248
- [HBH Pet Products](#), PO Box 967, Springville, UT 84663
- [Hikari](#) Sales, Shawn Bonham, 2804 McCone Avenue, Hayward, CA 94545
- [Jungle Laboratories](#), Lisa Hendrix, 120 Industrial Dr , Cibolo, TX 78108
- [Marc Weiss Companies, Inc.](#), 5935 Ravenwood Rd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312
- [Marine Enterprises International, Inc.](#), Bob Spellman, Sales Mgr, 8800 A Kolso Dr., Baltimore, MD 21221
- [Novalek, Inc.](#) 2242 Davis Court, Hayward, CA 94545
- [Omega Sea, Ltd](#), Marty Crews, 3767 Lane Rd. Ext., Unit B, Perry, OH 44801
- [Perfecto Manufacturing, Inc.](#), Susan Rogers, 20975 Creek Rd.,
- [PetSolutions](#), 802 N. Orchard Lane, Beavercreek, OH 45434
- [San Francisco Bay Brand, Inc.](#), Allen Green, 8239 Enterprise Dr., Newark, CA 94560
- [Seachem Laboratories, Inc.](#), 1000 Seachem Dr., Madison, GA 30650
- [Tetra](#), Dick Razzi, 301 Commerce Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060

*Newest member, arriving Jan 20, 2008  
Cassandra Ganotisi – Congratulations!*



**Membership News –**

*New Members--Welcome:*

- 387 Dick Au, San Francisco (Oct)
- 386 Sandeep Sasi, Los Angeles (Oct)
- 385 Tien-Yeo Hsu, Mission Viejo (Oct)
- 388 Jeff Sevening, La Mirada (Oct)
- 390 Mike Ganotisi, Anaheim (Nov)
- 389 Paul Giles Rodas, La Mirada (Nov)
- 395 Rick Handfield, R. Sta. Margarita (Jan)

*Due this month:*

- 258 Ron Harlan
- 97 Rick, Charlotte Marelius
- 4 Tom Varin

*Renewals—Thank You:*

- 364 Perry Ciampaglia (Oct)
- 113 Ron Hongo (Oct)
- 363 Victoria Kuhl (Oct)
- 281 Anthony Mazeroll (Oct)
- 237 Ron & Mamie Nash (Oct)
- 296 Charles Clifford (Nov)
- 288 Richard Lin (Nov)
- 46 Alan Rosen (Dec)
- 137 Brian Downing (Oct)

**Past Due—This Is Your Last Showfish:**

- 131 Karen Peyser (Dec)
- 3 Marc, Barbara Allen (Dec)
- 369 José Rodriguez (Dec)
- 370 KC Clark, Lisa Kutzmarski (Dec)

**Past Due—Due in January:**

- 47 Stan Sung
- 371 Kelly Hsueh, Wesley Wong
- 284 Sandy Binder

## Where and when we meet in 2008

*All meetings are held at 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, at the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center in the Victoria Room.* Meetings are on the first Sunday every month from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

March 2

April 6—speaker Paul Loiselle

May 4—speaker Dan Woodland

June 8, the **SECOND** Sunday

July 6

August 3

September 7

October 5

November 2

December 7

## Board of Directors 2008



Brian Downing  
858-759-4841

[briandowning@msn.com](mailto:briandowning@msn.com)  
**PRESIDENT**



Kirk Bean  
858-361-8745

[Kb1752@sbc.com](mailto:Kb1752@sbc.com)  
**VICE PRESIDENT**



Jim Herman  
626-355-8327

[jhfinwing@msn.com](mailto:jhfinwing@msn.com)  
**TREASURER**



Mamie Nash  
714-226-0045

[coast@ronaldvnash.com](mailto:coast@ronaldvnash.com)  
**DIRECTOR**



Larry Guillow

**RECORDING  
SECRETARY**



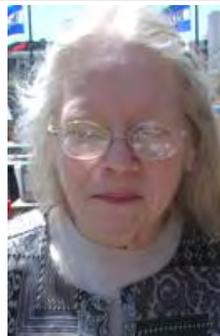
Mike McCabe  
562-868-1992

[mccabeprint@yahoo.com](mailto:mccabeprint@yahoo.com)  
**PUBLISHER**



Ron Nash  
714-226-0045

[coast@ronaldvnash.com](mailto:coast@ronaldvnash.com)  
**AUCTION CHAIR**



Charlotte Marelus  
818-360-7102

[rcmarelius@verizon.net](mailto:rcmarelius@verizon.net)  
**EDITOR**



Richard Marelus  
818-360-7102

[rcmarelius@verizon.net](mailto:rcmarelius@verizon.net)  
**DIRECTOR**



Tom Varin  
714-962-8541

[tvarin@usa.net](mailto:tvarin@usa.net)  
**WEBMSTR, FOOD CHR**

Nathan Okawa  
[nhokawa@earthlink.net](mailto:nhokawa@earthlink.net)  
**CORRESPONDING  
SECRETARY**

Charles Clifford  
760-579-8208  
[4cliffords@cox.net](mailto:4cliffords@cox.net)  
**PROGRAM CHAIR**

Duncan Mahoney  
310-391-3704  
[dmahoney@usc.edu](mailto:dmahoney@usc.edu)  
**AUCTIONEER**

**THIS POSITION  
IS AVAILABLE;  
PLEASE APPLY  
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

SELLER NAME:		Date	Member No.		<b>Auction Rules</b> 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. <b>Bag adult males separately from females and separate territorial or aggressive fish</b> 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 submersed in water. Label as for fish.
BAG NO.	QTY	NAME OR DESCRIPTION	Sold for Amount	Mark if donating	
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6		<p>Bag sexually relentless or aggressive males in a bag separately from their females.</p> <p>Bag territorial or aggressive fish in individual bags.</p>			
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION .....

**COAST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL .....

Mail to: **Jim Herman, COAST Treasurer**

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

**1317 Bradley Court, Glendora, CA 91740**

(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 our newsletter, Showfish (six to twelve issues a year), and are eligible to participate in our monthly auctions and raffles.

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**

COAST is a 501(c)(7) Not-For-Profit Association

stamp

<http://www.coastfishclub.com>

c/o C. A. Marelius, Showfish Editor  
16229 Armstead St.  
Granada Hills, CA 91344-3009