



MARCH 2006

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 3

# 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: APRIL 2

## March 5 – Cichlids from the Crater

### *A William Heijns' film of cichlids of Nicaragua's lakes*

The cichlids of Nicaragua have surprised ichthyologists on more than one occasion. The *Hypsophrys nicaraguensis* are among the first witnessed fish who babysit and guard the fry of a predator – in this case the large game fish, *Parachromis dovii* – and in exchange get a safer environment for their own fry. This incredible film is a compendium of stills and video footage recorded

over several expeditions by William Heijns to study the cichlids of Nicaragua's crater lakes. It contains unique footage of cichlid behaviour in their natural habitat. The film features *Amphilophus zaliosus* on the hunt in Lake Apoyo and the amazing spawning and broodcare of cichlids in Lake Xiloá. With any luck, we'll be watching it on the "big screen" thanks to our new digital projector!

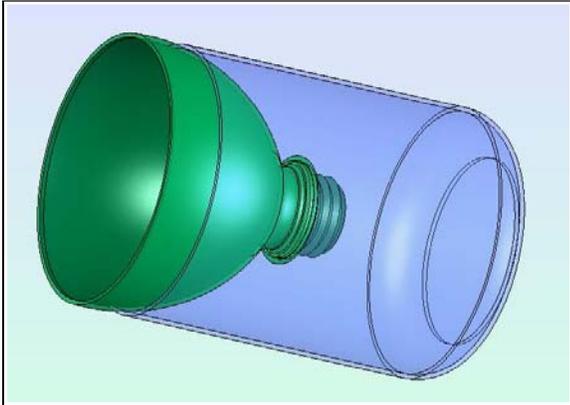
**The Jaguar cichlid of Lake Managua**



CATCHING FISH – DIY; TANK, STAND FOR SALE	2	AUCTION CHANGES	5
GENUS PROFILE – Coastal Newts	2	SYNOPSIS OF FEBRUARY MTG, ANNOUNCEMENTS	5
MEMBERSHIP NEWS	4	BOARD OF DIRECTORS	6
LOCAL FISH STORE REVIEW - PACIFIC AQUATICS	4	WHEN AND WHERE WE MEET	6

# Catching small fish in a planted tank

*A quick, simple trap you can make to catch fish amidst plants*



**FOR SALE – \$250 for set**

55 G Acrylic tank with oak stand and oak canopy, in superb shape. Contact Ron Jackson 714-638-8445

## TO MAKE THE TRAP

1. Cut a quart (or smaller) soda bottle into a column portion and a conical portion.
2. Use a dab of RTV to glue the two pieces together temporarily. Cure for 72 hours.

## TO USE THE TRAP

1. Don't feed your fish for a day.
2. Put your hungry fish's favorite irresistible food into the trap.
3. Submerge the trap in the tank.
4. Go away for a while, come back and lift out the trap with the newly caught fish.

## SUGGESTION:

Put a few holes in the cone or column section to let air out and water in.

## Genus profile – the Pacific Coast *Taricha* newts

*Try a river tank with these bright-bellied amphibians*

There are three species of coastal newts, the Rough-skinned Newt (*Taricha granulosa*, divided into two subspecies: *T. granulosa granulosa* the Rough-Skinned Newt, and *T. granulosa mazamae* the Crater Lake Rough-Skinned Newt), the Red-bellied Newt (*Taricha rivularis*), and the California Newt (*Taricha torosa*, divided into two subspecies: *T. t. torosa* Coastal Range Newt and *T. t. sierrae* Sierra Newt). They are black, brown or tan on top with bellies that range from yellow to deep orange in color. None of them are slimy, but rather have moist, bumpy skin in their terrestrial phase (*Taricha* comes from *tarichos*, a Greek word meaning “mummy”). All of them adapt well to aquarium life, and may even mate and lay eggs in their small aquatic habitat. They like to hide under logs, in leaf litter, or in the spaces between rocks. They are most active at night, so if you want to see them often, you will need to have soft, low lighting to make them believe day is night. Their other favorite time to appear is after a rain storm, but that's harder to arrange indoors.

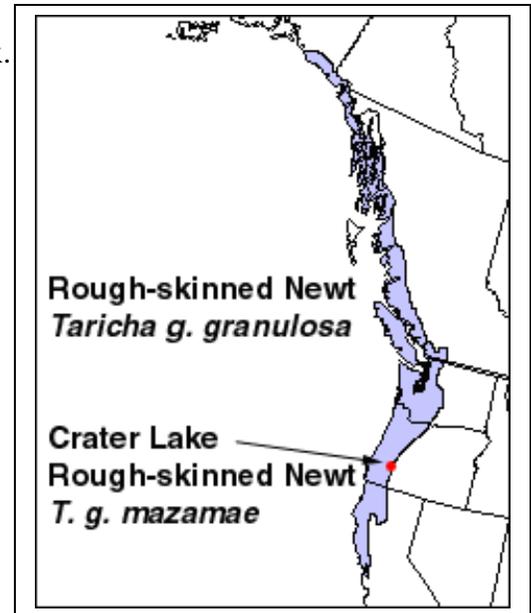
They grow to 5 ½ to 8 inches, depending on sex and species, and all have something in common with the puffer fishes – tetrodotoxin. Other than hiding, it's their only defense. Their teeth are pretty useless against anything but their food. Their defensive posture is to pose on their hind legs with tail and back arched, “hands” in the air, and bright, colorful belly fully visible (bright colors are often a warning of poison in the herpetile community). If you eat one, you will die. As a matter of fact, should ten of you get together and split one for dinner, all ten of you will have had the pleasure of sharing your last meal with friends. So, here's a simple rule: don't put beans up your nose or newts in your mouth. You should not handle one if you have open wounds on your hands, as the toxin is produced in skin secretions. For your safety, always wash your hands with soap and water after handling

... simple rule: don't put beans up your nose or newts in your mouth.

these newts. For its safety, wash your hands before you handle this salamander: newts' skin absorbs water and chemicals. Your skin oil can make it sick.

Newts get most of their daily water needs by absorbing it through their skin, so it is critical that they have a moist environment with clean, high quality water available. Their life cycle requires both clean water and a bit of forest / pond-side ground. They start out life as tadpole-tailed larvae with external gills and black spots. As they mature, developing their legs and lungs, the young newts become principally land-based animals, a time of life during which they are called efts. They can take a couple of years to fully mature and think about the opposite sex. They are terrestrial in the late summer and fall months, preferring to hide under logs and in rock crevices of valley and foothill hardwood or hardwood-conifer forests. They like to swim in pools at any age. Dietary preferences are earthworms, snails, slugs, sowbugs, and a variety of insects (they are particularly fond of plant lice). The larval newts chow down on small aquatic organisms and the organic debris that collects on stones, sticks, and weeds.

After the first rains of winter, the efts return to the water to breed, metamorphosing again to become aquatic newts. Their tails become flattened like a tadpole's tail, their skin becomes smooth, their belly color becomes brighter and the males develop a bulge under the base of their tails. Their reproductive season is from December through early May; they prefer to return to the pools where they were hatched to breed. The first significant rains of fall/winter generally trigger a migration of as much as half a mile (hey, when your stride is a half inch in length, that's a lot of ground) to their ponds, where the eggs will be laid up to 6 inches under water on submerged vegetation or rocks in sticky gel plaques of about 1.5 inches in diameter.



Newts are sensitive creatures; so please don't name them Wayne or Fig.

Loss of habitat, disappearance of ponds, and – most especially – the introduction of crayfish and mosquito fish are threats to the survival of these cute little buggers with their horizontal pupils and irises comprised of two horizontal gold stripes. They can regenerate tails, legs, even part of their spinal column, but loss of eggs to introduced predators is something for which they have no defense. The California newt is a Species of Concern (not quite on the Red List or federal list of endangered animals). Look for them in the streams, ponds, and drainages on the coastal side of the San Gabriel Mountains, Santa Ana Mountains, and Cuyamaca Mountains.

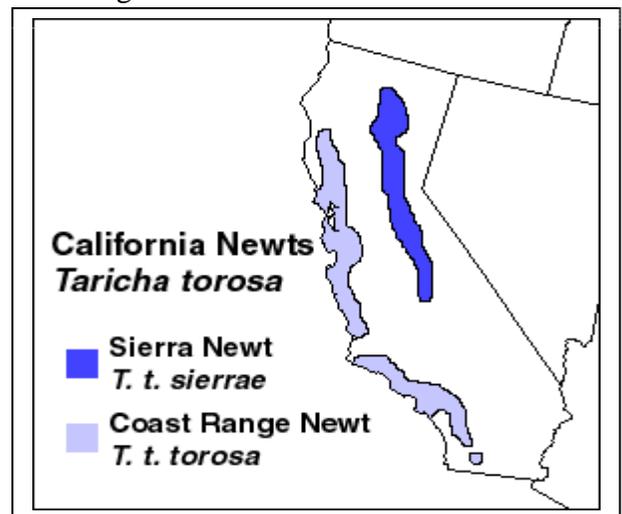
To find out more about these odd representatives of aquatic life, use keyword phrases such as “newt Taricha”, “newt coastal” or the scientific or common names of the newts to search the internet.

## New catfish described!

**Scientific name:** *Synodontis acanthoperca* Friel and Vigliotta 2006. **Origin:** Ogooue River, Gabon, Africa.. **Size:** Adults fully grown at 4-5cm. **Diet:** Probably aquatic invertebrates.

**Habitat:** A rheophilic species that lives among rapids. **More**

**info:** <http://www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/pfk/pages/item.php?news=842>



# Membership News

<i>Health News</i>	<i>Errata</i>	<i>Renewed-Thank You!</i>	<i>Due in March</i>
<p><b><u>Chris Breitzkreutz</u></b> is recovering from quadruple coronary artery bypass grafts coupled with the removal of part of his aorta. It was very seriously touch and go there for a while, but he is now at home and recovering.</p>	<p><b><u>Barbara Healy-Sprague</u></b>'s membership expires 9-06, not 9-05.  <b><u>Art North</u></b> called to say he is still a member, he just can't come to meetings. Dues come due in 9-06.</p>	<p>Jason, Jennifer Kucera                      Ronald Harlan                      Tom Varin                      Barry Heller                      John Fuqua                      Christina Marvel                      Richard Woon</p>	<p>Alan Blum                      Scott Daeschner                      Craig Fries                      Martin Gee                      Gary Lange                      Wook Lim                      Richard Lin                      Anthony Mazeroll                      John, Anne Niemans                      Nathan Okawa                      Matthew Perry                      Alfred and Selma Paul                      Alberto Restreppo                      Elissa Ritt                      Phil Rodriguez                      Joshua Tenebroek                      Gary Chow</p>
	<p><b><i>New Members-Welcome!</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Past Due-Last Newsletter</i></b></p>	
	<p><b><u>Anders Eriksson</u></b> of San Juan Capistrano (No. 347)   <b><u>Mark Binkley</u></b> of Thousand Oaks (No. 350)</p>	<p>Pam Harris                      Janice Hazeltine                      Rick, Charlotte Marelius                      Ron, Mamie Nash                      Jim Tello                      Kenaan Tabikh</p>	

## Local Fish Store Review – *Pacific Aquatics West*

Tucked back on Canoga Avenue side of Ralph's Shopping Center on the northwest corner of Devonshire St. and Canoga Ave. in Chatsworth is the small fish store, Pacific Aquatics West (and yes, there was once a Pacific Aquatics East, but it's gone now). The selection of freshwater fish is small but very nicely chosen. There are several of the fairly common stock, but there are lots more of ones that are not seen everywhere all the time. There were several interesting tetra, blue rams in absolutely radiant health, tiny little Indian puffers, kuhli loaches, yo-yo loaches and *Corydoras habrosus*. There were mudpuppies in the back room being acclimated.

The very unusual thing was the complete absence of sick or dead fish. No fish were stressed, frightened, or failing. Most tanks had one or two nice plants in them as well, and the plants were also growing. The tanks were clean, the store was clean, and the hard goods selection, although limited, was pertinent and of good quality. The owner's advice was sound, he was unafraid to admit ignorance, he made no attempt to push his selection of goods other than to recommend them, and he was courteous and attentive to customers. Prices are average for the area.

The address is 21413 Devonshire St. Exit the 118 Fwy at DeSoto or Topanga Canyon Blvd; Canoga is one of those stop-start streets. Hours: 10-7 T-F, 10-6 Sat. Closed Sunday and Monday (open by appointment on Monday).



## Auction changes – *Necessitated by the increasing frequency of incorrect tallies and people forgetting to check out*



- **Buyers must use a bidding card with their own member number** when bidding on items. If you don't know your member number, ask the auction chair, the treasurer, or the membership chair; they all have membership lists.
- **Check out will begin at the close of the auction.** There will be no checkouts during the auction anymore.
- **Be prepared to show your receipt before leaving with items** you bought. The auction chair will give you a receipt listing your purchases when you check out.

Our auctions are consistently entertaining and feature great bargains. Reinstating these proven policies will keep the auctions fun and worthwhile for all participants.

---

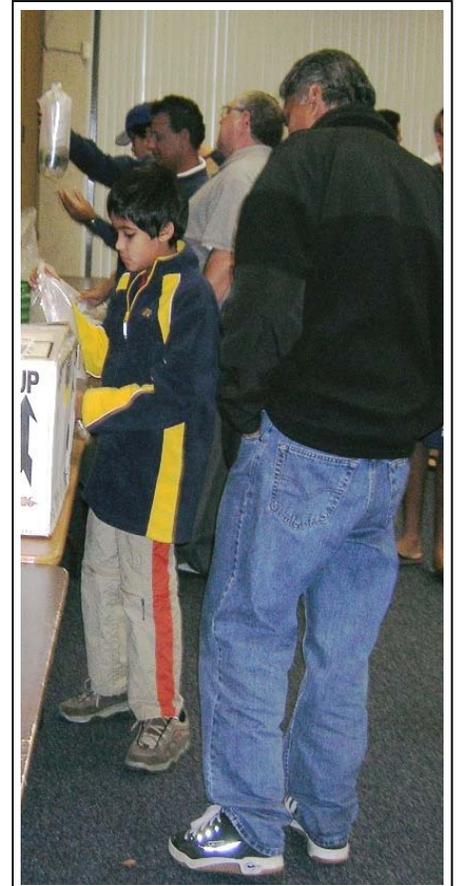
## February meeting synopsis – *A fresh subject from the speaker, Mark Binkley, and the deal of the decade at the auction*

Our program chair's eclectic interests proved of tremendous benefit to us in February, where our **featured speaker, Mark Binkley**, gave an interesting **program on native North American fishes**. There are many colorful natives suitable for aquarium life, most of which do quite well in room-temperature water and power filter current. The natives are often friendly and quick to learn how to get fed more often by being charming. Mark runs Jonah's Aquarium in Thousand Oaks, and he brought examples of some of the collecting equipment available there, such as large-throated metal-hooped picking nets with soft netting suitable for catching small fish in weedy environs and seine nets for working streams and ponds.

**Announcements:** Brian Downing drew everyone's attention to our **new digital projector**. Tom Varin, co-developer of our new website, <http://www.coastfishclub.com>, announced **our website provides the opportunity for every member to have their own personal email address**, for example tvarin@coastfishclub.com, through the website. The website can receive / hold mail or automatically forward it to your existing email. The Showfish can be viewed on the site now.

**Those interested in being in the America's Family Pet Fair at Orange Cty Fairground in Costa Mesa on Apr 21-23, contact [Brian Downing](#).**

**Craig David brought five rare *Puntius denisonii*, Red-line Torpedo Barbs, to the auction table. They were beautiful, 3" long fish in excellent color. They sold to Charlotte Marelus for \$38 for the bag, about a fourth the market value for five 1 1/2" long specimens.**





Brian Downing John Skocilic Rahul Kumar Ron Estrada Ron Jackson Scott Kroeger Steve Ehrlich Tom Varin

## Board of Directors

PRESIDENT Brian Downing <a href="mailto:brianjdowning@msn.com">brianjdowning@msn.com</a> 858-759-4841	EDITOR Charlotte Marelius <a href="mailto:rcmarelius@earthlink.net">rcmarelius@earthlink.net</a> 818-360-7102	DIRECTOR Ron Estrada (email TBD) (phone TBD)
VICE PRESIDENT (vacant)	PROGRAM CHAIR Steve Ehrlich <a href="mailto:hedabuvh20@aol.com">hedabuvh20@aol.com</a> 310-398-4103	DIRECTOR Ron Jackson <a href="mailto:katfishron@aol.com">katfishron@aol.com</a> 714-638-8445
TREASURER John Skocilic <a href="mailto:jskoc@yahoo.com">jskoc@yahoo.com</a> 714-225-3491 (On medical leave – Pauline Jackson is filling in: <a href="mailto:imbubsie@aol.com">imbubsie@aol.com</a> 714-638-8445)	WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT AND ADMIN Tom Varin <a href="mailto:tvarin@usa.net">tvarin@usa.net</a> 714-962-8541 Rahul Kumar <a href="mailto:cichlidiot@gmail.com">cichlidiot@gmail.com</a> 310-824-1787	DIRECTOR Scott Kroeger (email TBD) 949-701-0429  PUBLISHER Mike McCabe <a href="mailto:mccabeprint@yahoo.com">mccabeprint@yahoo.com</a> 562-868-1992
SECRETARIES Recording: Ron Nash Corresponding: Mamie Nash <a href="mailto:coast@ronalvdnash.com">coast@ronalvdnash.com</a> 714-226-0045	MEMBERSHIP Charlotte Marelius  AUCTION CHAIR Ron Nash	AUCTIONEER Duncan Mahoney <a href="mailto:dmahoney@usc.edu">dmahoney@usc.edu</a> 310-391-3704

## When and Where the COAST Club Meets

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

Meeting agendum:

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

Scheduled meeting dates are:

March 5	Topic: Cichlids of the Craters	August 6	Topic: TBD
April 2	Topic: Bettas of the Wild	September 3	Topic: TBD
May 7	Topic: TBD	October 1	Topic: TBD
June 4	Topic: TBD	November 5	Topic: TBD
July 2	Topic: TBD	December 3	Topic: TBD

We meet at the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center at 1845 Park Ave, Costa Mesa 92627; usually in the Victoria Room, alternatively in the Harper Room. The Center is a dark brick building between the fire station or library and the Lion's Park. The closest large intersection is Harbor Blvd. and 19<sup>th</sup> Street.



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

Address, City, Phone, Email (default)  Phone, City, Email  Phone, City  Email, City  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**  
<http://www.coastfishclub.com>  
c/o C. A. Marelius, Showfish Editor  
16229 Armstead St.  
Granada Hills, CA 91344-3009

**COAST is a Not-For-Profit Association**

stamp

**This month's meeting is on March 5th**  
Next month's meeting will be on April 2nd.