



Showfish

SEPT 2004

NEWSLETTER OF THE COAST FISH CLUB

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 9

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Items for publication in Showfish are due within one week after the monthly meeting and will be included as space and time permit within constraints of club bylaws. Articles received after the deadline will be used in the next newsletter as permitted.

September 5th Meeting — Mystery Speaker (giving their Mystery Presentation).

The reason there is a mystery speaker again is because we have, yet again, no Program Chair People to contact, arrange transportation, or find accommodations for any speakers. There is a direct, linear relationship here: If we don't have Program Chair People, we don't get the best and most interesting speakers, unusual interesting fish, or new members.

Volunteer to be a Program Chair Person to handle one speaker for one meeting; you choose the speaker, you choose the month. Twelve out of 105 members is all it takes. You, yes YOU, could be one of twelve totally Terrifying (Terrified?) Travel Tyros to Teleostian Talkers. We have the power, we have the funds; the speakers are out there, across the land, waiting to be courted, to be invited, to be heard! Get out there and get them!!! Yeah!!! (Is it just me, or is anyone else getting a mental picture of Kermit as the \$6M Frog, introducing a guest to the Muppet Show audience?)

And the Annual Election is this month, too!

September is when we elect new officers to the Board of Directors for a one year term. If you miss the meeting you make wake up elected!

These positions up for election are:

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
TREASURER – *Current One Retiring!*
RECORDING SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY

Presidential Duties: Lead the general and board meetings, make business decisions, help find and develop speakers and presentations. Ask incumbent Art North for more information on the possibilities of the position. Nominated: Art North

Vice Presidential Duties: Stay in the leadership loop so presidential duties can be assumed at the drop of a fish. Participate in board meetings; help find and develop speakers and presentations. Ask incumbent Jim Herman for more information about this position. No Nominees.

Treasurer Duties: Maintain bank account; pay room rental monthly; pay other expenses, get funds for auction check out. Accept membership application and work with membership chair to keep membership database current. Report on Treasury status monthly at Board Meetings. Ask Pauline Jackson for information on the job. No Nominees. **Pauline cannot serve as treasurer this year; a new treasurer must be elected.**

Recording Secretary Duties: Takes and keeps minutes of the board meetings. Can be called upon to help develop an agenda for the board meetings. Handles the rare business correspondence, if any. Position

Membership News —

New/Returning Members

The following people joined COAST this month – Welcome and Thanks!
(No newbies this month)

Renewals

The following people have renewed their memberships—Thank You!
(No renewals this month)

Member Renewals Due or Overdue

Please remember to renew your membership this month. Only one month’s Showfish is sent to people whose memberships have expired.

Due:

Wanda Jacobson
Mike & Elaine McCabe
Kurt Niedrich
Luke Roebuck

Overdue:

- ▶ Sallie Boggs
- ▶ Kevin Bruner
- ▶ Bonnie Lewis
- ▶ Russ Madsen

▶ This symbol means this is your last Showfish until you renew.

Member Renewals Due Next Month

Justin Acuna
Sam Alagala
Brian Downing
Paul and Virginia Engen
Bryan Lampl
Lawrence Leshinski
Albert Lowe

Renewing and transferring members please fill in a fresh membership application and mail to Pauline Jackson. Application and Pauline’s address are on the last sheet of the newsletter. Membership due date is on the Showfish address label.

is currently empty; no nominees.

Correspondence Secretary Duties: Solicits sponsors, who are kept informed of club existence, membership, meetings, etc. Brings donated goods to raffle and holds raffle at each meeting. Ask incumbent Bonnie Lewis for details about the job. No nominees

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Ron Clark, Duncan Mahoney, Charlotte Marelius, and Ken Hengstebeck have agreed to continue in their current positions.

Refreshment Chair: Open. Person/people who make sure our lunch buffet, which is currently a tasty pot luck affair without a menu, has the food to be a meal instead of just snacks and desserts.

Program People: VITAL! URGENT! NECESSARY! We can afford a major speaker twice a year and important regional ones frequently. With no Program People to arrange transportation and accommodations, we can’t get them here. We need several people, so individuals don’t get overwhelmed or serve more than once or twice per year. ■ ■

Fish Addict in the Land of Smiles

By Julie Wright

I was fortunate to visit Thailand this past December as the guest of my friends who raise and show beagles there (Poosak Posayachinda “Eddie”, and Adisak Tresirikasem). The primary focus of my visit was to judge a puppy sweepstakes and to attend their big year-end dog show in Bangkok. However, my friends are well aware of my love for tropical fish (Adisak being responsible for my Betta splendens habit in the first place). Adisak presented me with a gift of several beautiful crown tail male bettas, and Eddie arranged for me to visit the weekly pet market near Bangkok to shop for fish. My instructions were to buy whatever fish I wanted, and he had an expert lined up to care for them and then package them for my trip home. I’m sure you are starting to see the danger involved here; well, you cannot imagine.....

We headed out to the pet market early in the morning. Breeders and farmers come from all over the countryside each week to sell their wares at this market, which covers about three acres. Unfortunately, Thailand does not have the laws or public awareness of humane issues regarding animals that I am used to in Southern California. I was saddened to see many under-age rabbits and puppies offered for sale. The fish, however were plentiful, beautiful and in the wonderful condition you would expect since we were in an ideal tropical environment.

I restricted my purchases to Betta splendens and my old-time favorite Delta tail guppies. I ended up with two versions of a German strain of half-black delta tail guppies as my choices—in albino and black. The guppy breeder obviously cared very much about her fish. She went into detail on how to package and care for them in transport and sent us off with complimentary food and stress medication for them. I ordered some female crown tail bettas to pair with the males Adisak had given me. I found a lovely Blue Butterfly pattern almost half-moon male and a girl for him. I was proud to keep it down to what I thought would fit nicely into my luggage for the trip home.

I desperately wanted to bring home some of the beautiful plants that I saw, but I had no idea what the restrictions might be on plant species,

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Positions Needing Warm Bodies

Recording Secretary
Refreshment Chair, Program Chair;
Auction Clerk; and Storekeeper

COAST fish club meets the first Sunday of every month, in Costa Mesa from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center, Victoria Room
1845 Park Avenue,
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

For map, see Orange County Thomas Bros Guide pg 888 Zone J3. Maps are also shown on our website: www.fishclub.freesevers.com and Internet map sites.

COAST Meeting Dates:

Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5

and decided to stick with fish species I knew were OK for import.

I enjoyed a wonderful trip visiting the Grand Palace in Bangkok and then spending a few days relaxing on the beach at Phuket Island. I highly recommend Thailand for vacationing. I am anxious to go back again. On the final day of my trip we visited the "One province, One product" market. This is the culmination of the King's program for each province to have a product to produce and promote to improve the economy and living conditions for the working class people. Vendors representing every area of Thailand gather at this year-end exhibition. The size and scope of this market defies description. If you can picture about three Houston Astro Halls filled with vendors showcasing everything from furniture to flowers, plus an entire building devoted to food products you will begin to have an idea what it was like.

I somehow managed to walk into the one corner of the one building that had tropical fish. The first few booths were goldfish and koi and I was starting to feel pretty safe.....until I saw the bettas. There, before my eyes were some gorgeous Half Moons----I was carrying my flashlight, so I 'spered' the fish bowl to bowl and looked and looked because I really couldn't believe what I was seeing. Two more bettas joined my entourage. The most amazing thing, however were some giant bettas. They were mostly Cambodian in color and a good three inches in body PLUS finnage over that. The finnage was very average, but the size was awesome and the colors very attractive. The breeder did not speak English, but he told me via my Thai friends that he is working to improve the finnage. He also indicated that the fish I was looking at were only three months old, so the finnage may actually be better than I thought. I have his contact information and plan to bring some of these giants home on my next visit.

The trip home was the true adventure. It is probably best that I not elaborate in print, but I will tell you this..... it is my advice that tropical fish NOT be transported as carry-on luggage in the current security-conscious climate at our airports. Not one fish was lost from purchase to my arrival home. In fact, the guppies managed to triple their numbers. I have been too busy to spawn the bettas yet, but hope to do so soon. I have primarily just enjoyed watching and caring for these souvenirs of my dream vacation in Thailand. In fact, except for a carved horse statue and a few articles of clothing, fish are my only souvenirs. What could be better!

Species Profile — *Nothobranchias guentheri* (Pfeffer 1893) A Killifish for Alkaline Water

Many of the species of the Nothobranchias genus of killifish can live full, reproductive, comfortable lives in hard, alkaline water. For some, their origin water is hard and alkaline, for others it's neutral ± 0.5 pH. The Nothobranchias guentheri is of moderate difficulty to maintain and is of average difficulty to difficult to breed; consistently good, slightly salty water is key to their health. Alkaline, salty water helps these jumpers fend off costia, to which they are particularly susceptible.

The males are brilliantly colored, with their trademark diagonal red lines on the operculum, green or blue scales outlined in varying widths of red causing a netlike pattern or chevron-shaped bars, a solid red tail outlined in dark brown, and a blue dorsal fin with red dots and a margin of light blue. The yellow pectoral fins are edged in light blue, while the anal fins

Plant Bit – *Ranunculus alismifolius* Geyer ex Benth var. *alismellus* Gray

The Dwarf Plantain Buttercup

(NOTE: MANY RANUNCULUS ARE HIGHLY TOXIC; this may or may not be one of the toxic ones.)

Perennial medium green herb reaching 8 to 11 inches in height, with ovate blade-like leaves 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches wide. Solitary bisexual yellow flower with 1/4 inch radial petals is typically borne atop a long, thick stem in June and July. Native range southern California to Washington, and into Nevada, found in the Klamath Ranges, High North Coast Ranges, High Cascade Range, High Sierra Nevada, San Bernardino Mountains, San Jacinto Mountains, White and Inyo Mountains at elevations of 4500 to 12000 feet. Soil needs to have excellent drainage and continuously moist or wet soil. Grows in zones 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 16, and 17.

References: USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database, Duncan & Keener 1991 Phytologia 70:24–27, UC Berkeley’s Jebson Manual. Photo copyright by Gary Monroe of USDA-NRCS PLANTS; may be used for non-commercial purposes without charge.



have a spattering of red spots on a field of yellow. This little 5.5 cm total length (male) fish is no slouch in a beauty contest. The to 6.3cm TL females, of course, are colored plain sandy beige to be ignored.

In the wild, male body color may be yellow, bright blue, greenish-blue, or pale blue. Individual scales have a red edge that varies in width, resulting in body patterns that may be fine and netlike, or thicker and slightly chevron shaped bars as they approach an always solid red tail. The tails may or may not have a black/brown margin. Wild color variation also include dorsal and anal fins, which may be yellow or red, usually with a blue edge, either solid or patterned. There are also aquarium strains with yellow tails and blue tails; the blue tail is a recessive trait.

N. guentheri is an annual killi, meaning that in the wild they are born, reproduce and die in within one rainy season; they can live longer in an aquarium. The species survive the dry season by one generation laying eggs in the muddy bottom, where the eggs sit in the drying mud, waiting for the rains (diapause phase). The rains come again in about three months, producing a flurry of hatching. They grow to maturity in 6 to 8 weeks and start spawning.

With that kind of time pressure, you can see why males get a bit aggressive toward the females, sometimes pushing them into the substrate – it is important to have at least two females per male. They are a bottom dwelling species that spawn by ploughing into litter (such as peat moss) over the substrate. If you want a high percentage of viable eggs, it’s important that you keep the killi pair or trio in a small 2.5 gallon tank or provide a small container of peat for them in a ten gallon tank with plenty of refuge and plants.

Guentheri lay a few sand-colored eggs every day (part of the species’ strategy to produce eggs that are ready for the rains over a wide span of time). Remove the container of peat moss a couple of times a month and pour it into a very fine mesh or strainer. Hand squeeze the peat to remove as much water as possible (the filamentous eggs are not fragile, they can take gentle handling). After the eggs-in-peat have sat in the air for three or four hours on paper towels ‘til the peat is crumbly, place the peat in a plastic bag then in a brown paper bag, and close it so the eggs stay in the dark. Remember to label the bag with the species name, collection date, and the date to put the eggs back into water. During the ten to twelve week diapause, eggs should be kept at about the same temperature as the parental tank. Get your cultures of tiniest food ready (green water, infusoria, microworms) and have some fresh APR (artificial powdered rotifer) on hand for the fry.

To determine if the eggs are ready to be hatched, examine them closely; if you can see the tiny black spots that are their eyes in the majority of the eggs, it’s time. All of the eggs will not be ready at the same time, and it is inevitable that some will not hatch or hatch but not be ready to live yet. To hatch the eggs, pour water from the parental tank into a shallow tank (a plastic shoebox will do nicely), sprinkle the eggs-in-peat-moss over the top of the water, and go away for 12 –24 hours.

When you come back, be prepared to replace an initial 10% to 25% of the water with clean, aged water and to feed the fry. Like the parents, the fry are not overly sensitive to water chemistry, they are sensitive to abrupt changes in water chemistry. They are too small to endure filtration for many days, so it is imperative that every time you feed, you replace a small bit of their water. They can eat baby brine shrimp soon after hatching – just when depends on which species of shrimp you have to offer them, as size varies with species.

Update to Water Composition Table shown in August 2004 Showfish

San Fernando Valley Water:

Alkalinity	81-199
Aluminum	< 55
Arsenic	< 2.0 – 10
Boron.....	120-530
Calcium	22-82
Chloride.....	29-96
Conductivity.....	234-530
Fluoride	0.13-1.1
Hardness (CaCO ₃).....	95-299
Potassium	2.6-4.4
Lead	9.8
Manganese	not listed
Magnesium.....	1.0-21
Sodium.....	32-67
Nitrate (NO ₃).....	2-19
pH.....	7.4-8.3
Sulfate	27-177
TDS	234-530
Uranium.....	< 2-9.6
Vanadium	3-4.6

Events Elsewhere in the hobby —

1. Greater Portland Aq. Soc. Annual Show, September 11-12, Portland, Oregon <http://www.gpas.org>
2. Sacramento Aq. Soc. Annual FINDIG Tropical Fish Convention, October 15-17 in Rancho Cordova, California <http://www.sacramentoaquariumsociety.org/activities/findig.html>
3. Potomac Valley Aq. Soc. All Aquarium Catfish Convention and auction, October 15-17 in Laurel, Maryland (between Baltimore and Washington D.C.) <http://www.pvas.com/catfish/welcome.htm>

After two or three weeks, the *guentheri* can be transferred to a larger tank with a seasoned sponge filter. Frequent small water changes remain key to their survival and growth.

N. guentheri are endemic to the Island of Zanzibar off the coast of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania; they are locally endangered. They were introduced to Turkey, India, the Solomon Islands, and Hawaii in an effort to control mosquito population. They prefer still, clear water about 18 inches deep on coastal lowlands with a dark bottom of leaf litter and mulm over clay soil or fine sand. Like nearly all killies, they don't care for bright light. Temperature should be between 22° to 32° C, with 23° to 25°C optimum. There is some indication that temperature biases the gender ratio of the fry. Figures for recommended pH ranged from 6.5 to 7.5, reflecting the species' adaptability. Homewaters tend to be 6.5 to 7.0, with a dGH of 4 to 10 (28 to 170 ppm). They are mostly carnivorous, and particularly like to munch on ants and insects; they will accept various forms of food.

New species of whales identified*

Source: paraphrased from the article "*Japanese Scientists Identify New Species of Whale*" in the July 21, 2004 issue of BioBeat Online Magazine from Applied Biosystems, whose products made much of the research and analyses possible.

The first new species of large, filter-feeding (baleen or rorqual) whale to be described in 90 years is named *Balaenoptera omurai* in honor of the late Dr. Hideo Omura, a Japanese scientist much respected for his contributions to the advancement of whale studies. Scientists have chosen "Tsunoshima Kujira" as the common name of the whale, in recognition of the invaluable work of the people of Tsunoshima Island who volunteered for the task of burying the entire whale in the sand in 1998 and tending the area for nearly one year until natural processes removed all tissue from the skeleton.

New analyses of the remains of eight whales caught almost 30 years ago, together with analyses of remains of a ninth whale killed accidentally in 1998 and beached on Tsunoshima Island, prove that these nine whales are members of an entirely new species of baleen whale. The work supporting the new species' classifications was described in Nature [Wada, S., Oishi, M., and Yamada, T.K., "A Newly Discovered Species of Living Baleen Whale," *Nature* **426: 278-281** (November 20, 2003)].

The research effort, which included allozyme analysis and mitochondrial DNA analysis to substantiate and support conclusions reached on the basis of more conventional studies, such as external morphology and skeletal analyses, also revealed that some of the whales previously thought to be Bryde's whales (*B. brydei*) also should be classified as a new species, Eden's whales (*B. edeni*).

Other members of *Balaenoptera* genus are *B. musculus* (blue whale), *B. physalus* (fin whale), *B. borealis* (sei whale), *B. acutorostrata* (common minke whale), and *B. bonaerensis* (Antarctic minke whale).

*Whales, it's true, are not fish, but they are aquatic, tropical at least part of their lives, and a few of them are definitely shown, so they qualify to fit in here.

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 (COAST's monthly publication), 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 Other _____
 Renewing Returning Update Guest Referred by _____

Hobby Interests _____

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

Yes to full membership listing Name, Phone Name, email Name, City

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**

www.fishclub.freeservers.com

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COAST is a Not-For-Profit Association



This month's meeting is Sept. 5 Labor Day.

Next month's meeting will be October 3rd.