



# Showfish *coast*

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

NOVEMBER 2008  
VOLUME 17 ISSUE 11



**November 2, Meeting from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Speaker: **NATHAN OKAWA**

Topic: **COLLECTING IN URUGUAY**

Relationships between Uruguay and America are a bit strained these days. Who knows when one of our intrepid collectors will be able to duplicate Nathan's trip. Come and hear what fish collecting in Uruguay is like and if Nathan brought fish home.

Hmmm...relations with Uruguay were okay before Nathan went.

## **NEW 2009 SLATE OF OFFICERS ON BOARD!**

Welcome to Gail McDonald, who has volunteered to help find and contact sponsors for our club and donations for our raffles.

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Publisher: Mike Khalid

Website/Foodstuffs: Tom Varin

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Photos: William Scott

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Treasurer: Jim Herman

Membership: Jeff Long

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Forum publicity: Kristian Downs

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Discussion Group: B. Downing

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## Sponsors

### Aquarium Systems

**Casco (Sea Clear)** <http://www.casco-group.com>

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

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.

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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.

### **Turtle Studies Suggest Health Risks from Environmental Contaminants**

National Institute of Science and Technology news, 2-19-08

[www.nist.gov/public\\_affairs/techbeat/tb2008\\_0219.htm#turtle](http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/techbeat/tb2008_0219.htm#turtle)

NIST research biologist Jennifer M. Keller taking a blood sample from a loggerhead turtle as part of her study looking at the health impacts of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) on the endangered marine reptile.

Credit: NIST

The same chemicals that keep food from sticking to our frying pans and stains from setting in our carpets are damaging the livers and impairing the immune systems of loggerhead turtles—an environmental health impact that also may signal a danger for humans.

Jennifer Keller, a researcher at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Marine Laboratory in Charleston, S.C., reported on Feb. 16 at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) that a scientific team monitoring the blood plasma of loggerhead turtles along the U.S. East Coast consistently found significant levels of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs).

PFCs are used as nonstick coatings and additives in a wide variety



of goods including cookware, furniture fabrics, carpets, food packaging, fire-fighting foams and cosmetics. They are very stable, persist for a long time in the environment and are known to be toxic to the liver, reproductive organs and immune systems of laboratory mammals.

Keller said that in a 2005 study,\* PFC concentrations measured in the plasma of turtles found along the coast from

Florida to North Carolina indicated that PFCs have become a major contaminant for the species. The levels of the most common PFC, perfluoro-octane sulfonate (PFOS), were higher in turtles captured in the north than in the south. Data recently evaluated by NIST and College of Charleston graduate student Steven O'Connell shows that this northern trend of higher PFOS concentrations continues up into the Chesapeake Bay.

Blood chemistry analyses of PFC-contaminated loggerheads suggested damage to liver cells and the suppression of at least one immune function which could lead to a higher risk of disease. To support the "cause-effect relationship" between PFCs and illness, the researchers exposed Western fence lizards to the same PFOS levels found in loggerheads in the wild. The lizards showed significant increases in an enzyme that indicates liver toxicity. They also had signs of suppressed immune function.

These findings, Keller said, indicate that current environmental PFC exposures—at concentrations comparable to those seen in human blood samples—are putting marine species at enhanced risk of health problems from reduced immunity and may suggest a similar threat to us.

Keller reported that a recently completed study\*\* led by colleague Margie Peden–Adams of the Medical University of South Carolina that showed PFOS is toxic to the immune systems of mice at concentrations found both in loggerhead sea turtles and humans. The ability of the mouse immune system to respond to a challenge was reduced in half by PFOS-and this occurred at the lowest level of the compound ever reported for a toxic effect.

If our immune systems have a similar sensitivity to PFOS, Keller explained, humans could be immunocompromised from current environmental exposure to PFOS.

\* J. M. Keller, K. Kannan, S. Taniyasu, N. Yamashita, R.D. Day, M.D.

Arendt, A.L. Segars and J. R. Kucklick. Perfluorinated compounds in the plasma of loggerhead and Kemp's Ridley sea turtles from the southeastern coast of the U.S. Environmental Science and Technology, Vol. 39, pp. 9101-9108 (2005).

\*\* M.M. Peden-Adams, J.M. Keller, J.G. EuDaly, J. Berger, G.S. Gilkeson and D.E. Keil. Suppression of humoral immunity in mice following exposure to perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). Submitted for publication.

Media Contact: Michael Newman, michael.newman@nist.gov, (301) 975-3025



**WILL YOUR RAFFLE TICKET WIN THIS  
55-GALLON GLASS TANK WITH FINISHED  
WOODEN STAND AND LIGHT STRIP?**

**THIS AQUARIUM KIT WAS DONATED TO OUR CLUB BY  
MARINELAND AT THE AMERICA'S FAMILY PET EXPO.**

The raffle goal is to raise **\$250 in ticket sales** by the end of November's meeting (we're almost half way there already) and then give the aquarium to some lucky ticket holder.

And no, the decorations don't come with it—but you can take home some beautiful driftwood and plants from the auction.

## MEMBER GOSSIP

Vinny Kutty was the featured speaker at the Pacific Coast Cichlid Association in October. When his flight didn't get him to the airport on time, PCCA ran their auction first so Vin could get to the meeting and talk about his pike cichlids.

Tom Varin handled his surgery well last month, but I haven't heard from him about results and how he is now.

## MEMBERSHIP STATUS

### Due This Month

296 Charles Clifford  
390 Mike Ganotisi  
389 Raul Giles Rodas

### Due Sept. or Oct.

387 Dick Au  
364 Perry Ciampaglia  
113 Ron Hongo  
385 Tien-Yeo Hsu  
363 Victoria Kuhl  
237 Ron & Mamie Nash  
16 Mike & Elaine McCabe  
386 Sandeep Sasi  
388 Jeff Sevening  
18 Wanda Jacobson

### New, Renewing Members

### THANK YOU & WELCOME

14 Ken and Eva Hengstebeck  
57 Chris, Kathleen Breitreutz  
425 Rene Fisk  
281 Anthony Mazeroll  
424 Larry McCullah  
71 Kathleen Van Dam  
419 Emily Szombathyl  
40 Nathan Okawa



**Time and place we meet:**

**Time: the first Sunday of every month from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

**MEETING AGENDUM:**

12:30 Board Meeting  
1:00 General mtg, announcements  
1:30 Presentation begins  
2:45 Auction begins  
4:15-4:30 Auction check-out begins  
5:00-5:30 Vacate the room

**Place we meet:**

We meet in the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center in the Victoria Room (usually) or the Harper Room. The Center is a brown brick building between a fire station and Lion's Park. Closest major intersection is 19th and Harbor Blvd.

Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center  
1845 Park Avenue  
Costa Mesa, CA

**Discussion Group:** <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/coast-fishclub/>

**Website:** <http://www.coastfishclub.com>

**Newsletter:** The club's newsletter, the Showfish, is published at least six times a year (usually 10 to 12) and mailed to arrive a day or two before the meeting. The current issue is published on our discussion group in the "Files" section around the 25th of the month, and previous months' Showfish are published on our website.

**Meeting dates for 2008**

**All meetings will be in the Victoria Room unless otherwise noted.**

November 2

December 7



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

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

<http://www.coastfishclub.com>

c/o C. A. Marelius, Showfish Editor

16229 Armstead Street

Granada Hills, CA 91344-3009

**MEETING NOVEMBER 2nd, 2008**

**1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

**Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center**

**Victoria Room**

**1845 Park Avenue**

**Costa Mesa, CA**

***Largest Tropical Fish, Plants & Accessories  
Auction in California. Guests Welcomed.***