



*Member  
Roster  
Edition*

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# 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: JULY 2

## June 11th: Topic — The legal little fishie niceties

*of collecting, importing, or exporting in California by the USFWS or CFG*

**ALE  
RT!!**

**JUNE MTG IS THE SECOND SUNDAY**

You can read the whole California Fish and Game Code at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=fgc&codebody=> or read just one of its many pertinent parts, such as: § 2118, which states “It is unlawful to import, transport, possess, or release alive into this state, except under a revocable, nontransferable permit as provided in this chapter and the regulations pertaining thereto, any wild animal of the following species: ...” And so the lists begin (but do not end).

Alternatively, you can just come to the meeting, listen, and ask a fish and game officer how to stay on the right side of the law. ■

### **FISH AND GAME CODE, Sect. 17**

"Aquaculture" means that form of agriculture devoted to the propagation, cultivation, maintenance, and harvesting of aquatic plants and animals in marine, brackish, and fresh water. "Aquaculture" does not include species of ornamental marine or freshwater plants and animals not utilized for human consumption or bait purposes that are maintained in closed systems for personal, pet industry, or hobby purposes, however, these species continue to be regulated under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 2116) of Division 3.

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## Species Profile – *Corydoras gracilis* NIJSSEN AND ISBRÜCKER 1976

### A “free floating” dwarf Cory from a tributary of Rio Aripuaña, Amazonas, Brazil

Charlotte Marelius

Along with *Corydoras griseus* HOLLY 1940 (from southern tributaries of the Amazon), *C. habrosus* WEITZMAN 1960 (from Rio Salinas in Venezuela), *C. hastatus* EIGENMANN AND EIGENMANN 1888 (from Rio Guapore in Brazil), and *C. pygmaeus* KNAAK 1966 (from Rio Madeira and tributaries in Brazil), *C. gracilis* is a charming, active, inch-long dwarf catfish of the Amazon Basin. They spend a good deal of their time shoaling in the middle and top zones of the tank, preferably amidst plants with at least half of dozen of their own species.

They are endemic to the Brazilian Amazon Basin and have been found in Rio Tapajos, 66.5 km west of Itaituba. In 1976, Heiko Bleher found them in Rio Juana (Juma) at the Transamazonia Highway, and Rio Madiera within 100 miles of Porto Veo. In 1980, Nijssen and Isbrücker corrected the type locality to 6° 09'S, 59° 55'W in a tributary of Rio Aripuaña. Their streams have many low light areas available – always a favorite of corys – with quiet water at the edges and a mild to moderate current closer toward the middle of the stream. If typical of most corys, *C. gracilis* will generally flee upstream when startled, and will spend its day in deeper water in the current and its nights in the still water and shadows closer to the banks.

They are omnivorous and need a good selection of vegetable and meaty matter that breaks down to a size they can consume. Given their small size, I expect a sizeable portion of their daily intake is zooplankton that lives or settles on plant leaves and substrate. One hobbyist reported being unable to keep *C. gracilis* alive, much less healthy, for more than six months and that *gracilis* had never been spawned in captivity. Other hobbyists give a partial description of *gracilis* spawning behaviour. I suspect that, like *C. pygmaeus*, these fish will probably benefit from a mature tank of average cleanliness that supports a thriving colony of microscopic life to come to full breeding condition. I have seen in my pygmies that some females prefer to mate with a select one or two males, and there may be something similar going on with *gracilis*.

**Spawning:** Male and female *gracilis* have much the same markings and coloring (a silver fish with a black stripe from nose through eye and through tail fin with fine speckling below the stripe), but the female matures to a broader, deeper fish, and she probably ends up a bit longer than the males. There was little information on spawning in these fish, as they are not a very common catfish in the trade. It is a trait of most corys, though, that spawning is more likely to occur and be successful if there three or more males per female. The female will hold two to four eggs between her pelvic fins, where the male will spend 20 or 30 seconds fertilizing them. The female will then swim to what she considers to be a suitable spot and attach her very sticky eggs to chosen surface. *Gracilis* hide their eggs rather than guard them. A large, healthy *gracilis* can produce a hundred eggs; in the wild, and a shoal is capable of doubling its population in about a year and a half.

The aquarium and water parameters for nearly all corys are pretty much the same:

**Temperature:** 72 – 79°F (22 – 26°C)      **Alkalinity:** pH 6.0 – 8.0      **Hardness:** 2 – 25° dGH

**Tank length:** 24” or longer      **Substrate:** fine gravel or sand, medium to dark in color

Places to hide, places of low light, surface access, several others of its species, and room to rumble are important to all corys; the dwarf catfishes also seem most at ease when there is patchy plant cover from gravel to water surface. ■

... like *C. pygmaeus*, these fish will probably benefit from a mature tank of average cleanliness that supports a thriving colony of microscopic life...



Computer sketches after photos on Aquatic Quotient (top) and Below Water (bottom)

## Conservation News 1 – Winner of the Smart Gear competition

*For a third year now, the World Wildlife Federation has held a contest to find ways to preserve aquatic wildlife, the future of our food supply, and the livelihood of fishermen.*

### Saving sharks with magnets

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Brussels, Belgium – Thousands of sharks could be saved from being caught and killed on fishing lines thanks to the winning entry of this year's WWF-sponsored Smart Gear competition.

Every year thousands of sharks die after becoming snared on hooks set by commercial fisheries to catch fish such as tuna and swordfish. The problem has pushed some shark species to the brink of extinction, with

some populations down by 90 per cent. In addition, millions of tonnes of fish each year are wasted as unwanted bycatch — the incidental capture of non-targeted species — and hundreds of thousands of seabirds, mammals, sea turtles and other marine animals are killed through destructive fishing practices.

However, Michael Herrmann, a research associate at the US-based company Shark Defense, has won the 2006 Smart Gear competition for an innovation that addresses the problem of shark bycatch. Knowing that sharks can detect magnetic fields, Herrmann found that placing strong magnets just above the hooks on longline fishing nets can repel certain shark species. He will receive the US\$25,000 grand prize to further develop and test his winning idea.

“Solutions do exist, or can be developed, and there is no excuse for allowing this level of waste in our seas,” said WWF International's Director General James Leape. “Smarter fishing is critical to ensuring a future for sharks, seabirds and sea turtles. Without urgent and bold legislation to reduce this critical environmental and economic problem, the waste will continue and in the long term, risk putting the fishing industry out of business.”

Smart Gear runner-up prizes went to Chris Carey of Independent Fisheries Ltd, New Zealand, who proposed a flying scarecrow device to scare away birds from getting caught on wires attached to trawl nets, and to Kristian Zachariassen, Faroese Fisheries Laboratory, for inventing a lighter, flexible grid for trawl nets that may allow certain fish to escape.



The International Smart Gear Competition was created by WWF-US in May 2004 to bring together partners representing fishermen, fisheries, policy and science to find solutions that will reduce the unnecessary decline of vulnerable species due to bycatch. More than 80 entries to the competition were received from 26 countries.

*“... millions of tonnes of fish each year are wasted as unwanted bycatch – the incidental capture of non-targeted species – and hundreds of thousands of seabirds, mammals, sea turtles, and other marine animals are killed through destructive fishing practices... Solutions do exist, or can be developed, and there is no excuse for allowing this level of waste in our seas.”*

The winners were chosen by a panel of international judges that included fishermen, researchers, engineers and fisheries managers from all over the world.

"We hope the competition will inspire managers and fishermen to look at practical solutions to reduce the problem of overfishing and declining health of oceans, which is also endangering food security in poorer countries," said Leape. "The Smart Gear competition is an opportunity to find, reward and promote what are very often inexpensive, easy ideas that will be widely embraced by fishermen to improve fishing gears and techniques."

END NOTES: Over 250,000 endangered loggerhead turtles and critically endangered leatherback turtles are caught annually on longlines set for tuna, swordfish, and other fish, and 26 species of seabird, including 17 albatross species, are threatened with extinction because of longlining, which kills more than 300,000 seabirds each year. An estimated 89 per cent of hammerhead sharks and 80 per cent of thresher and white sharks have disappeared from the Northeast Atlantic Ocean in the last 18 years, largely due to bycatch.

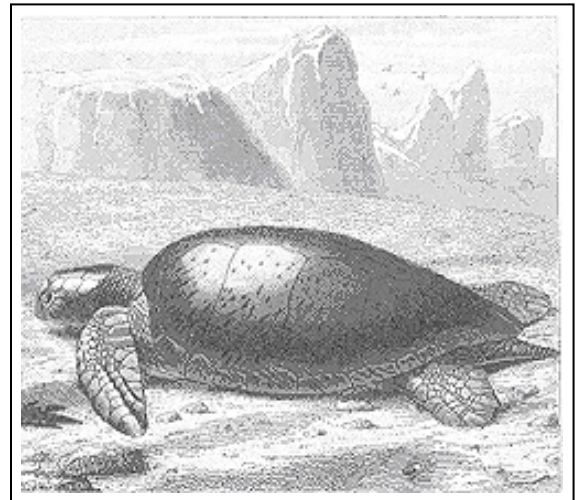
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## **Conservation News 2 – Green, Loggerhead, and Leatherback Turtles** *Sea Turtles Have Record Year at Archie Carr Refuge in Florida*

The Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, the most important sea turtle nesting beach in North America, had a record year for green and leatherback sea turtle nests in 2005. The green sea turtle is listed as endangered or threatened throughout its range, while the leatherback is an endangered species.

The number of green sea turtle nests more than tripled, reaching a record high of 3,638 in 2005 as compared to 982 in 2004. Leatherback turtle nests also numbered a record high of 68, compared to 19 in 2004. Loggerhead turtle nests numbered 11,085 in 2005, compared to 9,138 in 2004, but that increase does not represent the species' highest number. The loggerhead turtle is considered threatened with extinction throughout its range. Why the "banner year" for green and leatherback sea turtles? The reasons could include food availability and population of females, according to Refuge Ranger Joanna Taylor.



Within the Archie Carr Refuge, the 20-mile stretch of coastline from Melbourne Beach to Wabasso Beach is the most important nesting area for loggerhead sea turtles in the Western

Hemisphere, and the second most important loggerhead nesting beach in the world. This area is home to 25 percent of all loggerhead sea turtle and 35 percent of all green sea turtle nests in the United States.

For more information, contact Joanna Taylor, refuge ranger, Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, [archiecarr@fws.gov](mailto:archiecarr@fws.gov); (772) 562-3909. (from US Fish and Wildlife Service newsletter)

## **Conservation News 3 – Nile Perch in Lake Victoria**

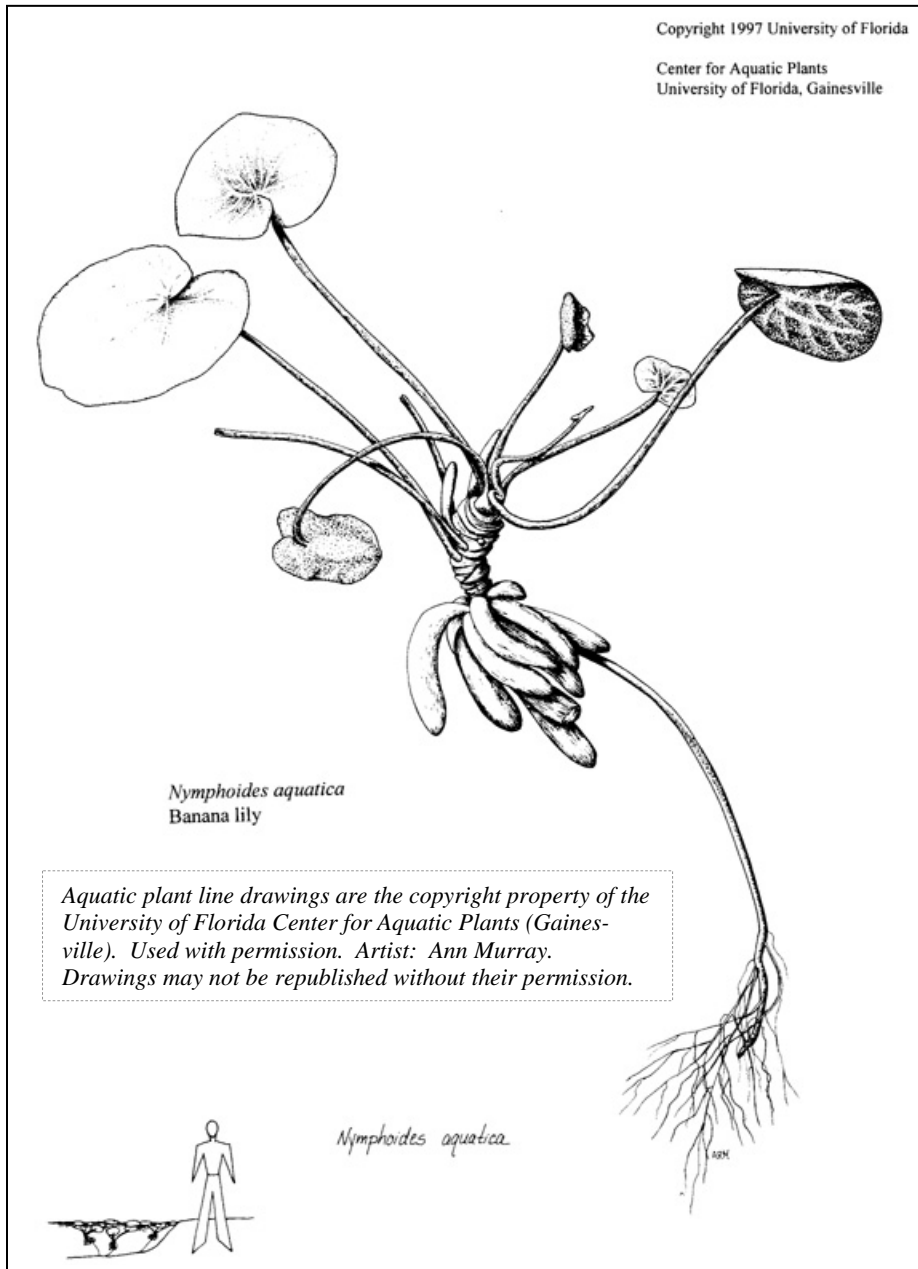
*Now it's into shoes!* BBC reports there is now a shoe factory in Kampala, Uganda which uses scraps of skin of the Nile Perch, which ate most of Lake Victoria's haplochromines into extinction, to make shoes. The

skins are tanned, dyed, and pieced together to form sandal straps in this new local industry sponsored by United Nation's small business development group UNIDO. ■

## Plant Bit – *Nymphoides aquatica*

*The Banana Lily, an Atlantic Coast native of the United States*

C. Marelius



One of the first things you need to know about this odd aquarium and pond plant is that it can overwhelm the natural ponds and slow streams of this altitude and latitude with no human help. Please be careful in your growing, propagating, or disposing of the Banana Lily; make sure it stays in your tank or pond -- or your garbage can.

**Substrate:** plain washed gravel

**Lighting:** sunny

**pH value:** not critical

**Hardness:** not critical

**Temperature:** 68° to 77°F

**Flowers:** small white blossoms above the water surface growing on stalks from the leaves' axils.

**Leaves:** borne on petioles up to 12" long; they vary from bright green to reddish in color. Leaves will float if the water depth permits; for the plant to thrive, water should be shallow enough for the leaves to be on or near the water surface.

**Propagation:** separating adventitious plantlets, dividing rootstock or runners.

The banana-like tubers at the base of the leaves store fluid, making it possible for the plant to survive drying out. ■

## Summary of Meeting Last Month –

**Topic/Speaker** was Dr. Karen Peyser, DVM, speaking about medical quarantine procedures for fish. Karen is a long-time member of COAST whose fascination is with discus. Although a general animal vet herself, Karen has carefully assessed and tested medical quarantine procedures with her own fish, drawing on the texts of Gratzek's "Aquariology" series of books by Tetra Press and Dr. Nora's book on fish diseases for health information and quarantine protocol. She also networks with Dr. Hildreth in Irvine, whose veterinary specialty is fish (especially koi), and she has learned the wisdom of medical quarantine from his experiences, as well.

One of her summary statements was perhaps Karen's most sobering warning: if you quarantine your new fish *without* medicine, all you are doing is making sure the best-adapted carriers of disease and parasites survive to infect your other fish. She follows Gratzek's basic protocol of rest the fish in a clean, comfortable tank then treat for external parasites and bacteria with formaldehyde (with or without malachite green), rest, treat for internal parasites with Droncit (praziquantal?) for tapeworm and Flagyl for other intestinal parasites, rest, and end up by treating with a broad spectrum antibiotic for fish. She emphasized that vets could not dispense medicines without at least an initial examination of the patient, so you have to take a fish to the vet clinic if you need them to prescribe something.

**General meeting** – Steve Ehrlich, our program manager, requests help in contacting and making arrangements with speakers; he simply doesn't have the time to do the work every month. He has contact information on several possible speakers, so you don't have to hunt anyone down. All help will be useful. Tom Varin made his debut as Refreshment Chair this last month, bringing hot dogs, buns, condiments and chips aplenty. He posted the prices for hot dogs, chips, and sodas, so people would know what to stick in the kitty to pay for their lunch.

**Board meeting** – Brian Downing purchased a new laptop for the club that is just right for speaker presentations and doing the auction work. A used laptop was also purchased for back-up and for use during meetings where the new computer is being used in the presentation while auction work needs to be done. The treasury remains sound, even though it's been depleted with major equipment purchases this year. Pauline continued with her newly instituted practice of giving new members receipt and membership cards. It was agreed upon in go back to the practice of member sign in and name tags so we get an idea of what members like to come to see and so we can learn each others' names, not just the names of what fish we keep. ■

<b><u>Membership News</u></b>			
<i>Gossip</i>	<i>New Members – Welcome</i>	<i>Renewing Members – Thank You</i>	<i>Memberships due this month</i>
Mr. and Mrs. Cesar Mora gave birth to their first child, a beautiful son, between our April and May meeting.	<b>Chris Stinnet</b> of Simi Valley (No. 22) <b>William J. Scott</b> of Victorville (No. 19) <b>Rich Beckett</b> of Burbank (No. 5) <b>Marvin Zabie</b> of Gardena (No. 21)	Kanaan Tabikh Michael Moore William Moreno  John Martin of Llano (No. 132), is a returning member, a welcome sight to see after a lengthy hiatus.	Larry Gentry Mike Khalid Harold Lieberman
<i>Two months past due – no more newsletters will be sent</i>		<i>One month past due – this is your last newsletter</i>	
Andy Yee	Corey Anderson	Robin, Bill Arostegui Jerry Robinson Bruce Wilson	John Pitcairn Ron Hongo

## **Electrical ratings – Just what do those IP numbers mean?**

*For America, there's a NEMA rating, but for the rest of the world, electrical enclosure characteristics are given an IP rating per specification BS EN 60529.*

The two digit IP (International Protection) ratings, such as IP67, will tell you the kind and extent of protection provided by the enclosure of your electrical goodie. Enclosure includes concepts like plugs and insulated /

armored shielding on wires. The characteristics rated by the first digit are for solid matter (soil, dust, foreign objects) and, by the second digit, for water (dripping, pressurized, immersed in).

**Solid Objects rating codes:**

- 0: Does not protect against any solid objects
- 1: Protects against objects less than 50mm
- 2: Protects against objects less than 12.5mm
- 3: Protects against objects less than 2.5mm
- 4: Protects against objects less than 1.0 mm
- 5: Protects against dust well enough that performance of the equipment is not affected
- 6: Totally dust tight.

**Water Resistance rating codes:**

- 0: Does not protect at all
- 1: Protects against vertically dripping water
- 2: Protects against dripping water when tilted  $\leq 15^\circ$
- 3: Protects against spraying water
- 4: Protects against splashing water
- 5: Protects against jets of water
- 6: Protects against powerful jets of water
- 7: Protects against immersion at  $\leq 1$  M for 30 minutes
- 8: Protects against continuous immersion in water to a depth specified by the manufacturer

Items are usually considered weatherproof when rated IP55 and safe to operate submerged when rated IP68. ■

## Allergic Reaction – Fishkeepers are being unique again

*Bloodworms causing problems with hobbyists themselves instead of hobbyists' fishes.*

Practical Fishkeeping reports that an article just published in the Journal of Investigational Allergology and Clinical Immunology details the incidence of rashes, nose and eye problems, and difficulty breathing and swallowing in a hobbyist after he fed bloodworms. Chironomid allergies have been seen only in those who handle bloodworms to feed their fish. The condition is very rare, but Practical Fishkeeping noted that it has previously printed a letter in the Ask the Experts column from a reader who suffered from the condition.

Reference: Cabrerizo Ballesteros S, de Barrio M, Baeza ML, Rubio Sotés M (2006) - Allergy to chironomid larvae (red midge larvae) in non professional handlers of fish food. J Investig Allergol Clin Immunol. 2006; 16(1): 63-8.)

## 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
	1:30	Presentation begins
	2:45	Auction begins
	4:15-4:30	Auction usually ends; check-out begins
	5:00-5:30	Vacate the room

**Scheduled meeting dates are:**

May 7	Topic: Quarantine Procedures	September 3	Topic: Charles Clifford, Angels
<b>June 11</b>	<b>Topic: Legal Import and Collection</b>	October 1	Topic: Chuck Rambo, African Adven
July 2	Topic: TBD	November 5	Topic: Bill Thompson, Building Pools
August 6	Topic: Rusty Wessel, Cent Amer Fish	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.

## Speaker Lineup *Brief description of confirmed speakers this year*

*Brian Downing*

**August 6th Speaker: Rusty Wessel** Rusty Wessel maintains over 8000 gallons of freshwater aquariums in his state of the art fish house. He has been on over fifty collecting trips to a variety of locations including Africa, Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Mexico. Considered by many to be the ultimate collector, he has introduced many new species to the aquarium hobby. Rusty's articles and photos have appeared in a wide distribution of specialized aquarium publications including Tropical Fish Hobbyist.

**September 3rd Speaker: Charles Clifford** Charles has been breeding angelfish commercially for years, supplying many local fish stores. You've seen some of his beautiful fish bring top dollar at our auctions. He'll share his experience in breeding and raising angelfish and maybe a few secrets!

**October 1st Speaker: Chuck Rambo** Chuck Rambo has been active in the American Cichlid Association since it was founded in the late 1960's. He was once President of the local cichlid association before moving to Northern California and is now active in the Pacific Coast Cichlid Association. He has worked tirelessly to forward the understanding of cichlids and to preserve those in danger of survival. He has a vast store of knowledge and experience about all kinds of cichlids and how to take care of them.

**November 5th Speaker: Bill Thompson** Bill Thompson, President, Koi Club of San Diego, will talk to us on building a backyard pond. We'll probably learn quite a lot about koi too! Don't miss this one!

### Board of Directors



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