



Showfish

JUNE 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE COAST FISH CLUB

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 6

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Edited by Charlotte Marelius

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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.

June Meeting will be held on **June 12th** — The meeting will be in our regular **Victoria Room**.

The Lion's Club hosts their annual Fish Fry (gasp!) on the first Sunday of June in their park adjacent to the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center, so our meeting will be held the second Sunday of the month when we will have spaces in which to park

July's Meeting is on July 10th to avoid conflict with weekend of Independence Day, the 4th of July.
The meeting will be held in Harper Room, the smaller room we usually get when there's a conflict of rooms.

Sound Advice — Do not tell fish stories where the people know you; but particularly, don't tell them where they know the fish. Mark Twain

GRATITUDE PAYMENTS —

Barbara Healy-Sprague and A.J. Sprague brought two huge platters of roast beef sandwiches and turkey sandwiches. Ron and Pauline Jackson, ably assisted by Robin Arostegui, brought a variety of Mexican finger foods, such as taquitos, and there was also plenty of fresh vegetables, chips, and cake. Amazingly, it was nearly completely consumed!

There will probably not be a July Showfish as the editor will be recovering from a surgery which cures Type II diabetes.

May Meeting Synopsis — Our May meeting was full of information on the not-so-delicate discus, one of those special fish that has the intelligence and psychological nature to form relationships with their feeders. As it is a cichlid, I'm sure that, in it's eyes, the discus is investing affection in important assets of its territory. Bruce Wilson of Majestic Aquatics, a discus wholesaler (<http://www.majesticaquatics.com>) and long-time discus breeder, explained that these elegant schooling fish native to the Amazon place great importance on the stability of their surroundings and will thrive as long as their water parameters are honored and their environment provides them with the feeling of security.

In honor of his friendship with the late, world-class discus breeder, Jim Quarles, Bruce donated copies of Jim's last book to all club members who wanted to know more about keeping and raising discus.

Bruce presented an enjoyable and informative talk and fielded many questions from the audience. Many thanks!

Nag, nag, nag –

The club asks members to add just \$1 or \$2 to the buffet money jar when we eat and soda is 50¢ each, so members got a huge, healthy meal for a deal in May. In April, so many members forgot this policy that the club ended up paying for people to eat. The buffet table is not a profit center, but there’s no such thing as a free lunch (trust me, we’re fish people, so you know we’ve tried to find one); it just needs to pay for itself. Members donate small food items, like chips and dip or plastic spoons and forks, in exchange for lunch, but the club reimburses members (upon prearrangement) for a main course they bring or it buys food from a nearby restaurant.

There is no food and refreshments chairman this year; individuals have been carrying the responsibility (bless ‘em), so remember to bring food to the buffet table now and again, or we may have to start eating feeder guppies during the meeting. (“Don’t eat the green ones, they’re not ripe” -- from *A Fish Called Wanda*)

BOOK REVIEW – Fisheries science texts

In the Fisheries Science List, a teacher recently asked what were some possible introductory texts for college students who were not necessarily science majors. Here are some of the scientists and teachers recommendations [edited].

P. J. Harrison and T. R. Parson, eds. (2000) “Fisheries Oceanography - An Integrative Approach to Fisheries Ecology and Management” Blackwell Science, ISSN 1054 6006, ISBN 0-632-05566-9.

...the most up to date, in depth science referenced text on the shelves, ... The Chapters are very effective, and each has an exceptional array of support documentation - and 'modern' examples. ; recommended as a good introduction to a wide range of subject matter... The bibliography is extensive.

Jennings S., Kaiser, M. J., and Reynolds, J. D. (2001). “Marine Fisheries Ecology”. Blackwell Science, Oxford, UK

Reviewed favorably in Fish and fisheries 2003(4): 372-378 by A. O. Misund. ...ambitious, challenging and highly informative. ...it is ok. I've found that I had to use several other books as reference material. ... I found it a little bit superficial, because too often some "evidence" from reported "experiments" seem lacking serious experimental approach. So you have to carefully read the original paper (nice bibliography) and if the case explain why some conclusion seems inappropriate, no matter the journal published it. ... an excellent text, a new edition should be out later this year. ...covers all everything from ecology, early life history, management, etc. and in a good amount of detail; the concepts were easily explained.

Wootton, R.J. 1998. “Ecology of Teleost Fishes”, 2nd edition. Kluwer Academic Publishers.

...ecology part is good; [much of the information is based on] freshwater and tropical environment. ... Cool book, I use it in part to prepare my other courses that are fish-related (Ichthyology and Fish Culture).

D. H. Cushing. 1905. “Population production and regulation in the sea”

Membership News –

New/Returning Members

The following people joined COAST recently - Welcome and Thanks!
Ron Hongo of Montebello
Bruce Wilson of Riverside

Renewals Received

The following people have renewed their memberships—Thank You!
John Niemans
Jeff Long

Member Renewals Due Now

Please remember to renew your membership this month.
David Ogershok
Larry Gentry
Sal Arias
Chuck Mateo

Member Renewals Due in May

William Moreno
Michael Moore
Barbara and Kirk Bean
Kent and Eva Hengstebeck

Showfish is not sent to people whose memberships have been expired more than one month.

Member Renewals Past Due

- ▶ John Simons
- ▶ Steve Dickens
- ▶ Mike Khalid
- ▶ Craig David
- ▶ Frank Paiste
- ▶ Katy Manetta
- ▶ Kevin Cury
- ▶ Charles Pratt

- ▶ Nathan Okawa
- ▶ Harold Lieberman
- ▶ Frank and Ilan Chang
- ▶ Julie Wright
- ▶ David and Amy Hue
- ▶ Anthony Gomez

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

Member Renewals Due in June

Joe and Esther Candelaria
Russ Madsen
(Continued page 4)

Board of Directors

President:

Art North 714-898-2412
enorth1234@socal.rr.com

Vice President

Brian Downing 858-759-4841
brianjdowning@msn.com

Treasurer

Jim Herman 626-335-8327
jhfinwing@msn.com
(Pauline Jackson will substitute
when Jim is out field collecting or
whatever)

Recording Secretary

Ron Nash

Directors

Ron Jackson 714-638-8445
katfishron@aol.com
Ken Hengstebeck 714-538-8393
kenfish@sbcglobal.net
John Skocilic
Skoc@yahoo.com

**Membership Chair, Editor, Web
Site Administration**

Charlotte Marelus 818-360-7102
rcmarelius@earthlink.net

Auctioneer

Duncan Mahoney 310-391-3704
dmahoney@usc.edu

Printing and Distribution

Mike McCabe 562-888-1992
mccabeprint@yahoo.com

Positions Needing Warm Bodies

Corresponding 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

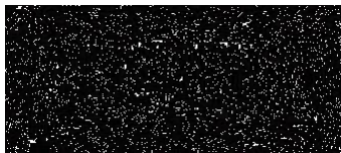
For map, see Orange County Thomas
Bros Guide pg 888 Zone J3. Maps are
also shown on our website:
<http://www.fishclub.freesevers.com>
and Internet map sites.

COAST MEETING DATES:

May 1, June 12, July 10, August 8,
September 4 (tentative)

OUR SPONSORS – Manufacturers Who Support Our Club

When making buying decisions, please assess these companies' products and remember the investment they make in the tropical fish hobby. I'm sorry I've missed some sponsors, I did not see the raffle table this month.



Pond Attitudes –



Remember to:

1. Keep fun in your pond.
2. Vary proportions of “natural” ponds.
3. Build ponds all members of your family can enjoy.

Photos courtesy of <http://www.illianagardenpond.org>

SPECIES BIT – *Crenicichla Regani*, The Gentle Pike
By Don Zilliox (The Zman)

Species of Apistogramma and smaller Cichlasoma types dominate my tanks, but on a recent trip to Cleveland for the Ohio Cichlid Association Cichlid Extravaganza I found none listed on the showroom bulletin board. What I did find were "dwarf" pikes (genus *Crenicichla*), so just out of curiosity I went to check them out. After looking at three pair of *Crenicichla regani* Ploeg, 1989, I decided to purchase only one 3" pair. Little did I know I would later regret that decision. At the time I simply figured they would make a nice addition to a large display tank, and I would have something different to show club members when I arrived back home.

Always having been told that pike cichlids would accept only live foods, I purchased a couple dozen feeder guppies and placed them along with the pikes in a 20-gallon slate-bottom tank just to grow them out. A half-dozen 4" clay flowerpots were placed in different locations about the tank. I cut an entranceway in each just large enough for the fish to enter, as I normally do with my apistos. A few floating killifish-type "mops" were added along with a large handful of Java moss. No gravel or any other type of substrate was used; two jumbo bubble-up box filters completed the setup. All I had to do was sit back and watch the fighting, as I was sure they would kill each other sooner or later. And sure enough the male began chasing the female relentlessly about the tank; I felt so sorry for her that he was removed to an adjacent tank and both were forgotten. After another two months I noticed both displaying through the glass sidewalls.

Given their interest in each other, I returned the male to the main tank, but a clear glass divider was inserted to separate him from the female. Both live baby brine shrimp and frozen brine shrimp were accepted greedily. At this time the pair was maintained in regular tap water with a hardness of 170ppm and a pH of 7.5 at a temperature of 78 degrees F. Next I removed 80% of the water, replacing it with purified RO water at a temperature of 72 degrees F. This drastic change quickly brought down the tank temperature to 74 degrees F with a hardness of 40ppm and a pH of 6.0. Over the next two days the temperature returned to 78 degrees F. and the female's belly developed a rosy hue. The divider was then removed and since nothing violent resulted I left the pair together overnight. The next morning the male was patrolling the tank, but the female was nowhere to be seen. Hours later I could wait no longer and began lifting the pots to locate her carcass - assuming the worse - but instead was delighted to find her hiding under one of them, guarding a clutch of beige-colored eggs hanging from the ceiling by fine, short threads. The male was then immediately transferred to his previous home. Nothing else much was observed for the next five days until I finally noticed wrigglers on the slate bottom under the pot, guarded carefully by the attentive female.

By this time the male had reached about 4" in length, the female 3.5". He had a light tan ground color with a very dark lateral stripe; the pointed dorsal and anal fins were pale orange edged in bluish-black. The female had more rounded unpaired fins; the dorsal fin contained an extensive black blotch surrounded by a starkly contrasting white border. Five days later I finally observed fry swimming about the tank, herded along in a small tight school by the female. At this time freshly hatched brine shrimp nauplii were provided, and soon after all the fry were observed with pink distended bellies. The original feeder guppies

