



Fish Tales

vol 4 Issue 1

FOTAS

Past, Present, and Future

by Keith Arnold and Greg Steeves

Home Shows

by Doug Austin

Featherfins in their Natural Habitat

a Book Review by Pam Chin

Success with *Telmatochromis* sp. Red Cheek

by Mack Emmons

Surviving the Dreaded Power Outage

by Gerald Griffin

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On the Cover:

The Chambered Nautilus *Nautilus pompilius* shot with a Cannon Rebel EOS T3i at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. One of the 'primitive' cephalopods of which only one species remains and that species has been divided into two subspecies. The Nautilus has a more primitive eyes then other cephalopod. It also has around 90 tentacles without suckers and has a pair of rhinophores that detect chemicals which helps them find their food in their natural environment.

This species is currently in decline which is alarming scientists as this species could become extinct and is therefore in need of protection.

Cover Design
Kayla Griffin

Cover Photo
Gerald Griffin

Layout
Gerald Griffin



Volume 4 Issue 1

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Fish Tales Submission Guidelines

Articles:

Please submit all articles in electronic form. We can accept most popular software formats and fonts. Email to kayla.griffin@tulsacc.edu. Photos and graphics are encouraged with your articles! Please remember to include the photo/graphic credits. Graphics and photo files may be submitted in any format, however uncompressed TIFF, JPEG or vector format is preferred, at the highest resolution/file size possible. If you need help with graphics files or your file is too large to email, please contact me for alternative submission info.

Art Submission:

Graphics and photo files may be submitted in any format. However, uncompressed TIFF, JPEG or vector formats are preferred. Please submit the highest resolution possible.

Next deadline.....

September 30th, 2014

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From the Editors



GERALD GRIFFIN



KAYLA GRIFFIN

For those of you new to FOTAS – The Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies it is a Union of various Aquarium Clubs from the South Western part of the United States and actually includes one club in Canada. The range and scope of these clubs can be very different from one another but they all share one thing in common and that is the promotion of the Aquarium Hobby for all of their members. For those of you who are FOTAS regulars then you are already acquainted with Kayla and I. We do a lot of work for the International Betta Congress and we have also recently released the OKAA's new magazine the Currents Quarterly.

We want Fish Tales to be something unique which is to highlight the various clubs that make up FOTAS and to bring you articles from the various club members themselves instead of a lot of borrowed content from other magazines you might have already read.

I hope you like our new Layout and how we have put this new magazine together. We owe a lot to our friend from Australia Michael Chang. He created a template we use to do our magazine for the International Betta Congress FLARE! and we have borrowed those templates to do this magazine. It gives us a nice fluid look that we feel looks professional.

As we develop this magazine we will be adding features and columns and hope to be adding an events section highlighting everything across our Region. Coming up soon will be

FOTAS on the weekend of October 25th and we will be there to discuss future issues of Fish Tales as well as the new website we have launched www.FOTAS.co

Best Fishes

Gerald and Kayla Griffin
Editors of the FOTAS Fish Tales.

Is there something you would like to see in the Fish Tales Magazine?

If so let us know!



FOTAS – Past, Present and Future

BY KEITH ARNOLD WITH FORWARD BY GREG STEVES HCCC

As FOTAS enters its 62st year as an official entity the world we live in is entirely different than that of the past. In our federations “modern age” we as aquarists realize that days of an unlimited bounty of aquatic animals for our captive viewing pleasure may well be nearing an end. Our beloved animals face a multitude of factors threatening their very survival. Many of the member clubs of FOTAS have begun programs including captive breeding of threatened species, funding research into curbing habitat destruction and an almost desperate attempt to catalogue what is yet to be discovered. FOTAS must continue to fund research in this area.

We are actively promoting our organization on social media and revamping our web presence. Conventions take on a different culture from year to year. All is left up to the host club. In years past, these annual occurrences were sometimes a formal affair. Today, it is not uncommon for convention banquets to be theme and participants attend in costume. This is much different than days past but as times change, so must we. It is imperative that these events be affordable and enjoyable for all. We have seen a resurrection of the publication “Fish Tales” and forthcoming will include a speaker program to service

member clubs. The future is firm for FOTAS and thanks to a healthy treasury; we are on solid financial ground for a strong future.

We have a core group of people from across our federation that are actively involved and want to make FOTAS the strong group it was in years past. There are great things coming!

A Short History of FOTAS

Dr. Keith Arnold

The Beginnings...

June 21, 1952: J. L. Baughman, Chief Marine Biologist at the Marine Laboratory in Rockport, suggested to some visiting aquarists that the Texas aquarium societies should form a state-wide organization and that he would be happy to host the first annual meeting or convention.

June 28, 1953: Several leading aquarists attending the Alamo Aquarium Society show called a meeting to set the stage for the formal convention. A second meeting held that September resulted in the formation of the Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies (FOTAS).

And that’s how it began!

The Charter Clubs...

Aquatic Researchers of San Antonio

Houston Aquarium Society, Inc.

Oklahoma City Aquarium Society

San Antonio Aquarium Society

Based on information in the annual convention directory published by the Alamo Aquarium Society in 1978

Significant Years...

1980.. FOTAS established the Raymond Head and Ernest May Altruism Award to honor a person who has contributed to the aquarium hobby in Texas in a significant way. Hazel Hall of the Alamo Aquarium Society became the first winner.

1980. FOTAS established the Exhibitor-of-the-Year Award for participation in FOTAS sanctioned shows. Allen Monroe of the Brazos Valley Aquarium Society won that year.

1983. The FOTAS Board set up a permanent endowment fund to help underwrite expenses. Later that year, the Board decided to establish a separate fund for the Braz Walker Program in Aquarium Sciences. This program consists of three parts: a research award; a special literature collection (housed at the Texas A&M University Sterling A. Evans Library); and a program to promote writing by FOTAS club members. Thus far, three research awards have been granted and the literature collection continues to grow. The writing program remains inactive.

1993. The Houston Aquarium Society presented a check in excess of four thousand dollars to

FOTAS to support the Braz Walker Program. This represented a significant boost in the ability of FOTAS to carry out the goals of that program.

2002. The Texas Cichlid Association hosted the 50th Anniversary of the founding of FOTAS!

Other Member Clubs Through the Years...

Abilene Aquarium Society
 Aquarium Hobbyists of Amarillo
 Arlington Aquarium Society
 Austin Aquarium Society
 Betta Enthusiasts South Texas
 BettaHabari - Houston
 Big Country Aquarium Society – Abilene
 Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
 Capitol Aquarium Society
 Cen-Tex Aquarium Society – Waco
 Dallas Aquarium Society
 Dallas Killifish Society
 Dead Fish Order - Winnipeg
 East Texas Aquarium Society – Tyler
 El Paso Aquarium Society
 Fish Judges Registry of Texas
 Fort Worth Aquarium Society, Inc.
 Galveston County Aquarium Society
 Greater Portland Aquarium Society
 High Plains Aquarium Society – Amarillo
 Hill Country Cichlid Club
 Houston Livebearers Association
 Lake Texoma Aquarium Society
 Lone Star Bettas
 Mid-Cities Aquarium Society
 North Texas Betta Association
 Pride of Pampa Aquarium Club

Convention Sites and Hosts...

1952	Corpus Christi	Organizational meeting
1953	Rockport	Game- Fish and Oyster Laboratory
1954	Galveston	Houston Aquarium Society
1955	Corpus Christi	Alamo Aquarium Society
1956	Austin	Austin Aquarium Society
1957	Dallas	Dallas Aquarium Society
1958	Fort Worth	Fort Worth Aquarium Society
1959	Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi Aquarium Society
1960	Dallas	Tropical Fish Hobbyists of Dallas
1961	Lake Texoma	Lake Texoma Aquarium Society
1962	San Antonio	Aquatic Researchers of San Antonio
1963	Houston	Houston Aquarium Society
1964	San Antonio	Alamo Aquarium Society
1965	Dallas	Tropical Fish Hobbyists of Dallas
1966	Houston	Houston Aquarium society
1967	Fort Worth	Fort Worth Aquarium Society
1968	Dallas	Dallas Aquarium Society
1969	Lubbock	South Plains Aquarium Society
1970	Amarillo	High Plains Aquarium Society
1971	San Antonio	Alamo Aquarium Society
1972	Dallas	Tropical Fish Hobbyists of Dallas
1973	Houston	Houston Aquarium Society
1974	Fort Worth	Fort Worth Aquarium Society
1975	Arlington	Arlington Aquarium Society
1976	Austin	Austin Aquarium Society
1977	College Station	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
1978	San Antonio	Alamo Aquarium Society
1979	Waco	Cen-Tex Aquarium Society
1980	Houston	Houston Aquarium society
1981	College Station	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society**
1982	San Antonio	Alamo Aquarium Society
1983	Houston	Houston Aquarium Society
1984	College Station	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
1985	Dallas	Texas Cichlid Association
1986	Galveston	Houston Aquarium Society
1987	San Antonio	Alamo Aquarium Society
1988	College Station	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society***
1989	Austin	Capital Aquarium Society & Hill County Chapter of the Texas Cichlid Association
1990	Grand Prairie	North Texas Chapter of the Texas Cichlid Association

Pride of Pampa Aquarium
Society
River City Fish Club – Austin
San Antonio Aquatic Plant Club
South Plains Aquarium Society
– Lubbock
Texas Aquarium Society of
Dallas, Inc.
Texas Area Killifish Organization
Texas Betta Society
Texas Cichlid Association
Texas Killifish Society
The Aquarium Society of Lubbock
Tropical Fish Hobbyists of Dallas
Acknowledgement...

The Charter Club information came from the 1978 FOTAS convention directory published by the Alamo Aquarium Society. The information of the formation of FOTAS and the list of former member clubs came from. "Aquarium Clubs of the Lone Star State" by Jare Sausaman; Kathy Stearns kindly loaned FOTAS her copy of this important source of information.

1991	Houston	Houston Aquarium Society
1992	San Antonio	Alamo Aquarium Society
1993	College Station	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
1994	Austin	Capitol Aquarium Society
1995	Fort Worth	Texas Cichlid Association
1996	Houston	Houston Aquarium Society
1997	San Antonio	Alamo Aquarium Society
1998	College Station	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
1999	Arlington	Texas Cichlid Association
2000	Houston	Houston Aquarium Society
2001	College Station	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
2002	Arlington	Texas Cichlid Association: Golden Anniversary Celebration for FOTAS
2003	Houston	Houston Aquarium Society
2004	Arlington	Texas Cichlid Association
2005	College Station	Brazos Valley Aquarium Society
2006	Houston	Houston Aquarium Society
2007	San Antonio	Hill Country Cichlid Club
2008	Irving	Texas Cichlid Association
2009	Houston	Houston Aquarium Society
2010	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma Aquarium Association
2011	San Antonio	Hill Country Cichlid Club
2012	Irving	Texas Cichlid Association
2013	Houston	Houston Aquarium Society

** First appearance of the Braz Walker "Mystery Fish"

*** Co-sponsored the American Livebearer Convention



FOTAS 2013 with its 70s theme.



FOTAS 2011

Surviving the Dreaded Power Outage

BY GERALD GRIFFIN - OKAA, OBBA

There is no doubt that living in the Midwest particularly Oklahoma that you will be subjected to power outages from time to time. However the last major ice storm could become a more frequent event if what some global climatologists are predicting. During the last ice storm many people lost all of their tank inhabitants and had to start over from scratch. So how do you protect yourself from losing the inhabitants of your tank provided you suffer a power loss for an extended period of time?

The first step is to know what happens to your tank when the power goes out. The most important step is the plumbing because of the potential for structural damage. Most fish tanks are not plumbed so that this is not an issue. However if your tank or tanks are plumbed then you need to see what is going to happen with the water when the power is out. This is easy to simulate since you can just turn off the power and see what happens with the water. If the water does not leak out of the tank and its plumbing then you are in good shape. If it does because of a sump or something similar then it might be a good idea to put a flow regulator on it that only allows water to flow in one direction. These can be obtained at Lowe's or

Home Depot for little cost and placed in line with the plumbing.

Short Term Power Outages are those that last for a few hours. These can be caused by localized power outage (caused by the tanks power being interrupted such as a power bar being accidentally turned off or by tripping a breaker) or general where the power is out in part or all of the community.

Localized power outages caused by the power being accidentally turned off are easy enough to fix, an alarm can be plugged in that sounds when the power is interrupted is the easiest fix. Those caused by breakers can be harder to locate. One issue is stray voltage. Stray voltage can cause electrical equipment to malfunction causing a tripped breaker. If the breaker is tripped one must examine all of the equipment carefully. The main culprits are cracks in the heaters, bad impellers in pumps, or pumps that are seized up. All equipment should be grounded in three prong outlets. For large tanks it would be best to have at least two outlets dedicated to the tank's equipment.

For short term power outages there will not likely be any problems. Most power outages occur during

hot or cold weather however the tank should be at a stable temperature and its oxygen levels should be fine during this type of outage. Do not try to regulate the temperature during these events as it could cause more harm than the outage itself.

Long term power outages are system outages that last for several hours or more. Depending on several factors will determine what precautions if any can be taken to help the tank and its inhabitants along during the crisis.

First let's look at what happens. When the power goes out the circulation in the tank stops. Filter pad go from aerobic activity to anaerobic activity. It would be best to pull these out of the filters and store them in tank water. Do not run the filters in the tank that has had its power off for several hours without cleaning the filter pads. During the anaerobic activity the bacteria produce hydrogen sulfide (rotted egg smell) and methane which are both toxic to fish.

Oxygen depletion is one of the worst things that happen during power outages. Causes include a heavy fish load, temperature increase, planted tanks and

increasing fish activity caused by feeding. The type of tank will determine what steps need to be taken to minimize damage.

Tanks with little plants are the easiest to safeguard. For these tanks it would be best to increase the water flow and watch for extremes in temperature. A battery powered air pump with covering the tank should do the best. Most fish can take temperatures from 60 to 90 Fahrenheit without too many problems as long as the change is gradual. The covering of the tank will help regulate temperature some but will also darken the tank which will move the fish to a lower activity level thus conserving oxygen. In tanks with a heavy fish load such as many African Cichlid tanks you should increase the circulation as much as possible or move some fish to tubs of water to decrease the bio-load of the tank.

Planted tanks can cause problems during dark cycles as the plants consume oxygen and give off carbon dioxide which not only cause oxygen distress to fish but it could also change the pH of the water which could lead to shock to the fish. Planted tanks definitely need to have the water

circulated so a battery air pump would be a necessity. If the tank has Carbon Dioxide injected into the tank this should be turned off until after the power outage is over. Planted tanks should not be covered so that the plants can receive some light. If there is no light source such as a window near the tank then cover the tank and circulate the water with a battery powered air pump.

Reef Tanks are the worst to deal with during power outages because the fragile nature of its inhabitants. Additional water circulation is a must and depending on the monetary value of the tank might be a good idea to invest in a generator to keep the tanks equipment running. Priority in equipment should be circulation first followed by heaters if cold and depending on the lights; low power usage lights would also be good.

When the power does come back on prime filter units and get them running without the filter pads for a few minutes and then add the cleaned filter pads. Let the temperature of the tanks reach a safe temperature gradually. The quicker the temperature change the greater the chance of the fish

contracting some illness which in this cause would most likely be ich. When the temperature reaches safe range remove any dead fish. Fish that are swimming erratically should be left in the tank and monitored in case they do die. Many distressed fish can recover and live normally.

With a little forethought and a little planning having one's fish tanks during a power outage do not have to be a total loss. Investing in a power generator or battery operated air pumps could save a lot of headaches down the road.

Editor's Note: The Oklahoma Aquarium Association has a disaster relief plan for its members. In case of long term power outages members on the disaster relief plan not affected by the power outage will house fish for members affected by the power outage. This is on a space available basis however many members keep multiple tanks both fresh and salt water. This plan was designed after the last ice storm when so many members started to lose fish. Hopefully it will never be needed but is available to members of the OKAA.



Battery Powered air pumps like this one from Hagen can be a life saver when it comes to keeping water flow going in your tanks during a power outage.



Home Shows

BY DOUG AUSTIN – TAKO, SAAPC

Many years back, in the '80s or '90s at the FOTAS convention we had a Dutch Aquarium. The Dutch Aquarium was a big aquarium filled with aquatic plants and little or no hardscape, except terracing so the plants in the back would be higher than the ones in the front.

He also explained the system used for Aquarium shows in the Netherlands. The Dutch Aquarium shows are based on a system of home shows. The judges go to the homes of the hobbyist to judge their tanks. There would be a city show. Those winners would compete in a state or regional show. The regional winners would then be judged for a National championship. With Texas being much bigger than the Netherlands, a state show would be out of the question, but we could have a regional show in the San Antonio/Austin area.

Another system of an Aquarium home show is used by the Aquatic

Gardeners Association (AGA). The AGA has a worldwide show where

the judges judge photos of tanks. This show has eight classes ranging in size from under 28litter/7.4gallon to over 320litter/84.5gallon. There are has classes for Biotope and Paludarium. One bonus of entering the AGA show is that the judges will critique your tank, not just give you're a score. Last year the Houston Aquarium Society did a fish photo show at FOTAS.

Back in the day, all species clubs would hold shows at malls and hotels. Clubs like the Houston Aquarium Society and the Brazos Valley Aquarium Society would hold shows judged by the Fish Judges Registry of Texas using FOTAS show and Judging Regulations.

Thanks to Keith Arnold I have a copy of the latest revision of the FOTAS show rules. These have not been updated since 1990! Because of changes in technology, aquarium culture and the differences between a home show and a mall show, some changes need to be considered.

The 1990 rules state "Any incandescent or fluorescent white

light will be permitted". This is out of date because LED is very now common. Other types of lighting may be considered for inclusion.

The rules say the tank background must be of one uniform color. People whose tanks have a printed background or a moss wall might not want to enter, or will feel put out when their tank is DQ.

Another class that may need revision is the Community Group. This class is for a tank containing different species of compatible aquatic animals swimming in all levels of the tank. This class dates from before open top tanks became popular. With an open top tank you do not want top swimmers because they are jumpers. This class should be split into two, or a provision should be made so an open top tank without top swimmers can compete.

These are just a few things to think of, to make rules for aquarium shows in the 21st century.



Featherfins in their Natural Habitat

A BOOK REVIEW BY PAM CHIN - PCCA

At last a book on one of the most popular groups of cichlids found in Lake Tanganyika; Featherfins! It is filled with great information, about the lake itself and the details on each genus is covered. The taxonomic history is quite interesting, some of which has been controversial over the years but Konings puts it all in perspective.

Featherfins In Their Natural Habitat is the latest entry in a series of electronic books about cichlids according to genus or grouping by world famous cichlid expert Ad Konings.

These fresh water fish are only found in Lake Tanganyika, the second largest lake in the world, where the cichlid fauna has fascinated aquarists for more than 40 years. This small group of cichlids are from the tribe Ectodini and they include the following genera: *Ophthalmotilapia*, *Cyathopharynx*, *Cunningtonia*, and *Aulonocranus*. They have been combined into one group because of their outstanding fins and swallowtail. The pelvic fins are so long they extend back to the tail, and in most species they have a white or yellow tips called

lappets to aid in the spawning ritual.

Sought after by aquarists for the bright colors in the males and also for their interesting social behaviors. Males are highly territorial and some species build bowers in the sand or on rocks and near rocks, while others protect high areas on larger boulders. Life is all about attracting a female to your territory!

This book has 120 pages with 13 chapters; Introduction, Lake Tanganyika, The Genera, *Ophthalmotilapia ventralis*, *Ophthalmotilapia boops*, *Ophthalmotilapia nasuta*, *Ophthalmotilapia* sp. *paranasuta*, *Cyathopharynx*, *Aulonocranus dewindti*, *Cunningtonia longiventralis*, In the Aquarium, References and Index. Each chapter is filled with incredible pictures, most are in their natural habitat. This I-Book also includes several of Konings' personal videos from Lake Tanganyika showing these species defending and maintaining their sand castles.

This is a must have book for all Tanganyikan cichlid enthusiasts, I really enjoyed it..

Introduction

Featherfins" is the collective common name for cichlids of the Tanganyika genera *Ophthalmotilapia*, *Cyathopharynx*, *Cunningtonia*, and *Aulonocranus*. Males of all these species—eight in total—are characterized by elongate pelvic fins with yellow tips. Featherfins have fascinated aquarists ever since they were first exported from Lake Tanganyika in the 1970s. It may have been their "fairytale" shape, or their spectacular coloration, that immediately appealed to hobbyists. They have never been easy to ship from the lake, and the stress during transport caused most males to lose all coloration and appeal to hobbyists. However, breeding efforts by dedicated aquarists in the early days provided a stable supply of featherfins, which catapulted them to their current popularity among hobbyists.

All featherfins are maternal mouthbrooders which means that only the females brood the eggs and larvae in the mouth, usually for a period of about three weeks, before they are released. The interesting part of the breeding technique of most featherfin species involves the function of

the yellow tips at the ends of the male's ventral fins: these resemble eggs in some species, and probably function as egg-dummies in order to ensure fertilization of the real eggs inside the female's mouth. The male starts a spawning bout by releasing a small "splash" of sperm cells, encapsulated in a gel-like matrix, in his spawning crater. Since this sperm-gel mass is invisible he indicates to the female where he dropped the

sperm by holding the yellow tips at the end of the ventral fins right at the same spot of sperm release. By snapping at these tips the female also inhales some of the sperm. The female subsequently deposits eggs at the same spot and these can already become partly coated with the sticky sperm-gel mass. The next batch of eggs may, however, be laid in another male's bower as broods are usually sired by two or three different males.

When the fish are given ample space, such intricate breeding behavior can be observed in the aquarium as well. The magnificent coloration of a breeding featherfin male is often the focal point of a (community) aquarium. The final chapter in this book offers some advice regarding the keeping and breeding of these wonderful cichlids. Enjoy them!

Success with *Telmatochromis* sp. 'Red Cheek'

BY MACK EMMONS - OKAA

Telmatochromis sp. 'Red Cheek' is an intriguing cichlid native to Lake

Tanganyika. This species, although on the aggressive side, can add some great character to a tank. Although their coloring isn't as spectacular as some of the other cichlid species from Lake Tanganyika, they make a great addition to any mid-sized tank with similarly aggressive species. They also provide for a great breeding experience.

I first acquired a pair from a local shop where they had spawned in the tank, keeping close to 10 other aggressive fish at a distance. Showing their die-hard parenting skills. The pair was young, with the male only 2 inches, with the female close to 1½ inches. The female laid around 15 eggs on the roof of a cave that had been dug

out under a rock. While the female guarded the eggs, the male guarded the area, occasionally digging to keep the cave in proper order. At this point, I witnessed increased aggression from both the male and the female. I also noticed the eggs were a white coloring, giving me the implication that either due to inexperience or the male's infertility (still too young) the eggs were infertile. At this point, I took the pair, and the rock they had spawned on home. The eggs were lost a few hours later.

Once in my aquarium, they settled in and remained sub-dominant fish for close to 3 months before they gained dominance in the tank. At this point the male was close to 4 inches, while the female is around 2 inches. When dominance was gained, spawning began. They were fed a varied

diet, with an abundance of protein. Their preferred spawning site has been large shells, such as conch shells. Profuse digging by the male was observed before/during spawning. The pair were provided with a large rock pile, and three shells large enough for the female, but too small for the male. Spawning took place on and off over the period of a day. The male would begin by dancing and enticing the female towards a shell. Once she was ready, she entered and laid her eggs, while the male waited at the entrance releasing his milt.

Little aggression was witnessed between the pair, but I found the male to be very defensive and aggressive towards other fish in the tank. Once spawning was complete, the female tended to the eggs while the male guarded

the territory similar to the activity I witnessed before.

This activity proceeded for around 10-12 days, at which point the free-swimming fry emerged from the shell. The fry were a little less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch long, had already absorbed their yolk sacks and were ready for food. The parents did not show any fry care after this point. They began the spawning process again typically 3-5 days later. The parents seemed to ignore the previous brood, which may represent colonial abilities, although I have witnessed cannibalism between fry of different broods and sizes. Brood sizes from my pair started around 20, and were close to 45 by the 3rd spawn. Fry that are left with the parents won't stand much chance surviving, although a few may. I have found it is best to remove them to a separate, bare bottom aquarium equipped with a soiled sponge filter. Daily water changes, and once daily feedings

of Baby Brine Shrimp kept the fry healthy and growing well. At one month of age, they are a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and can be slowly weaned off live foods onto prepared foods such as crushed flake and pellets. The fry grow at a slow-moderate rate. Fry from my pair were raised in a standard 10 gallon aquarium, with a bare bottom. I chose to use a bare bottom for ease of cleaning and to save money. The pH and hardness were kept similar to that of the parents' tank, temperature was kept at around 73 degrees. Water changes consisted of a 40% change daily. As mentioned growth was at a slow to moderate rate, although growth rates could be increased if reared at a higher temperature and fed smaller more frequent feedings throughout the day versus one large feeding daily. For the first two weeks, the fry appeared to remain rather inactive, remaining near the bottom for a great majority of the time, including during feeding time. After these

two weeks, the fry began to develop more coloring and began being more active and venturing higher away from the substrate during feedings and occasionally during daily activities.

The water in which breeding began was medium hard, with a pH of around 7.8. Weekly 30% water changes were performed on the 40 gallon tank the pair were housed in. The water was maintained at a steady 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

I have found this species to be quite enjoyable, and the colors not often seen at first glance are quite beautiful. This species is a wonderful, and recommend addition to any aquarium with similar sized species that sport a similar temperament. Their breeding patterns and habits are an intriguing and spectacular sight to witness.



A young
Telmatochromis sp.
'Red Cheek' on the
prowl for food.



FOTAS 2014

With presentations by

Pam Chin

José M Gonzalez

Kathy England

Steve Edie



San Antonio Aquatic Plant Club



CARES Funny Money Auction

Banquet, Shows, Auction, Contests

October 24-26, 2014

Schertz Texas

FOTAS 2014 Overview

BY GREG STEVES -HCCC

Schertz Community Center
1400 Schertz Parkway
Schertz, TX

Cichlid and Catfish Show

Everyone is invited to participate in the cichlid and catfish show. There is no cost for entry. You are required to provide your own container and air driven filtration for your animals (air and airline will be provided). If you are showing an especially sensitive fish, you might want to bring your own water as well. Tanks can be set up any time after Friday October 24th at 5:00 PM. Judging will take place Saturday afternoon. Tanks must be dissembled and removed by Saturday evening. Awards will be presented at the banquet Saturday night.

Photo Contest

Picture size 5x7

Must submit two original pictures of the same fish that you currently own. A picture of each side of the fish preferred.

Digital entries preferred and will be printed prior to FOTAS so they can be displayed. These must be sent to Jaaquatics@yahoo.com by Thursday August 23rd. Hard copy entries are also permitted but must notify in advance that the photos will be brought by the entrant to the show.

Judging will be based on photo quality and composition.

**** cannot be photoshopped or hormonized fish****

Categories for entry:
Old World Cichlids

New World Cichlids
Show Tanks

There will be a maximum of two entries per person per category for a maximum total of six entries per person.

Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category.

There is no entry fee to enter photos. Please print your name clearly on the back of each entry. For more information contact Jake and August Coe at Jaaquatics@yahoo.com

Betta Show

For information on the IBC sanctioned show at FOTAS 2014, please contact Lori Green at lorisgreen@sbcglobal.net.

Killifish Show

For information on the Killifish show featured at FOTAS 2014, please contact Art Leuterman at aleuterman@slb.com.

Planted Bowl Show

This year the San Antonio Aquatic Plant Club will be hosting a "Jarrarium" contest which will be similar to our Big Bowl Build Off. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SAAPC/>). However, in this contest you can use any container 1 gallon or under. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Also, all entries will be on display during the FOTAS convention. Entry is open to anyone. For more information,

contact Chris Lewis at Chrislewistx@gmail.com.

Free to enter!

Young Aquarist Endangered Species Poster Contest

Let's educate others on the plight of endangered species all over the world! Here's a great way to increase awareness and understanding of our important natural treasures.

1. Choose a species from the CARES priority list: http://www.carespreservation.com/priority_list.html

2. Research this species to identify their interesting characteristics

3. Create a 2D poster on the species including at least the following criteria:
a color image (painting, drawing, photo, etc)
several interesting facts
mature size and range of species (optional) an explanation of why the species is endangered, any way that we can aid the species as a hobbyist group, info on what types of help are already underway, etc.

4. Poster submissions due Oct 24th, and judging will take place Oct 24-25. Prizes will be awarded Oct 25th at the FOTAS Banquet..

5. All posters will be accepted and displayed, but prize(s) will be awarded based on appeal, quality, and creativity of the winner(s).

Free to enter!

For more information contact
Jack Jeansonne
at jkjeansonne@yahoo.com.

Aquarium Trivia Contest

Okay all you aquarium clubs and facebook groups, it's time to show the world which organization is the most aquatically savvy. The Right Honorable Steve Edie will be hosting a quiz pitting one club against another. Winner will move on until a champion is declared. Get your four most knowledgeable buddies together to take on the world. First eight teams will be entered into the Aquarium Trivia Contest! Free to enter!

Speakers

Pam Chin
Jose Gonzales
Steve Edie
Kathy England
Chris Lewis

20 Years of the Babes in the Cichlid Hobby!

The Babes in the Cichlid Hobby will be holding their silent auction on aquarium paraphernalia Friday and Saturday. Support the BABES and support cichlid conservation world-wide.

Banquet

Banquet cost is 25.00 per person and includes the meal, awards presentation and participation in the CARES no money show and auction. In addition and in accordance with the long standing traditions of FOTAS, The Braz Walker and Dr. Keith Arnold auctions will be held at the banquet. The banquet is 80's themed and you are encouraged to dig deep into your closet and dust off those leggings, jean jackets and leather vests (participation optional). Tickets must be purchased by October 22nd.

Tee Shirts

Convention tee shirts are available and must be ordered by October 1st. These are available in all sizes at a cost of 15.00 each. They are available in both white and black.

—
Greg Steeves
C.A.R.E.S. Program Specialist - To the world you are but a single person, but to an entire species, you could be the whole world.
www.carespreservation.com

Hotels

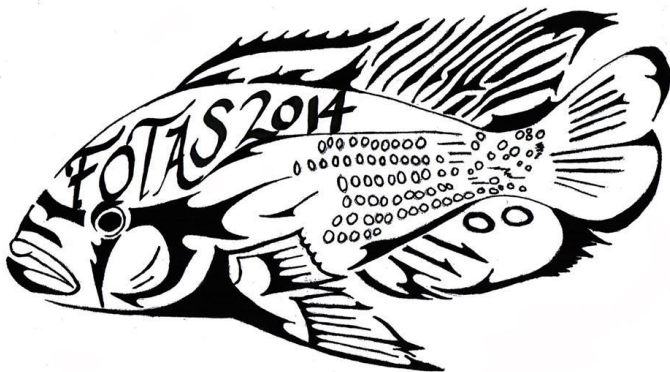
There are several hotels in every price range in the area. These four locations are the closest to where FOTAS is being held (2 miles). The speakers will be staying at the Fairfield Inn and Suites. There are no events taking place at the hotels so we are leaving it up to the attendees to make their own reservations.

Fairfield Inn and Suites
5008 Corridor Loop Road
Schertz, TX 78154
1-210-658-1466

Hampton Inn and Suites
17702 IH-35 North
Schertz, Texas
888-370-0981

Best Western Plus Atrium Inn
17401 IH 35 N
Schertz, Texas, 78154-1265
210-651-4100

La Quinta Inn and Suites
17650 Four Oaks Ln
Schertz, TX 78154
1-210-655-2700



Here to the left is the totally awesome T-Shirt design for FOTAS. Cost is \$15 and they must be reserved by October 1st 2014!

FOTAS Event Calendar

BY FOTAS STAFF

August

3rd – HCCC Auction, Schertz Tx,

For more information go to www.hillcountrycichlidclub.com

16th – OKAA Meeting – Kyle Osterholt – Shell Dwelling Cichlids

For more information go to www.theOKAA.org

23rd – TCA Meeting and Cookout

For more information go to www.texascichlid.org

24th – SAAPC Meeting and Big Bowl Build Off

For more information go to www.facebook.com/groups/SAAPC/

September

20th – OKAA Mini Auction

For more information go to www.theOKAA.org

26th – 28th – TCA Fall Show, Workshop and Auction

For more information go to www.texascichlid.org

October

18th – OKAA Meeting TBA

For more information go to www.theOKAA.org

24th – 26th – FOTAS 2014 Annual Convention

For more information go to www.facebook.com/groups/485957431518245/



Texas Cichlid Association
Dedicated to keeping cichlids





Live Fish, Plants and Equipment AUCTION

August 3rd, 2014

Schertz Community Center

Doors open at 10:00 am

Auction begins at noon

Schertz Community Center

1400 Schertz Parkway

Schertz, TX

<http://www.hillcountrycichlidclub.com/events.php>



August 24th 2014
Water Garden Gems
Marion Texas

Our next contest is "The Big Bowl Build Off". Everyone must use the same glass bowl (which is available at Michaels craft store), and aquatic only plants. The bowls can be setup emersed or immersed. Any hard scape materials, substrate, etc are up to the individual member. The bowls will be judged to pick the winners at the August meeting. The glass bowls are \$5.99 but they offer 40% off coupons that can be printed or used from a smart phone. With the discount the total with tax is \$3.89. The bowl sku will be posted in the comments, any questions please feel free to ask.

Texas Cichlid Association

Dedicated to keeping cichlids

TEXAS CICHLID ASSOCIATION

FALL 2014 SHOW, WORKSHOP AND AUCTION

September 26 – 28 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Irving

Texas Cichlid Association will conduct an all-species fish show, provide informative speakers and host huge live and silent auctions on September 26-28, 2014, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Irving (the usual location). Speakers at this time include John Nicholson and Greg Steeves. Page Ullman will be taking show entries until the Monday before the show. Cost is only \$3 per entry. Contact Page at (817) 905-8184 or ullman8@charter.net if you wish to show fish. Classes are shown on the TCA website. Classes with less than 3 entries will not be judged. Show setup will begin Friday morning at the hotel. Volunteers are needed to help set up and then tear down on Sunday morning. Tanks will be available at no cost for out-of-town participants to hold their auction fish until Sunday. These tanks must be reserved in advance by calling Page. NO SELLING OUT OF HOLDING TANKS WILL BE ALLOWED.

Registration cost for the weekend is \$10, or \$5 per day. In lieu of an awards banquet, there will be a pizza party Saturday evening in the show/speaker room at about 7:00. If you wish to participate, cost will be \$10 per person, \$5 per kid age 12 and under, payable no later than 3:00 Saturday afternoon. A sign-up sheet will be at the registration table. In connection with the pizza party, there will be a short speaker presentation, and then show winners will be announced. Show entries cannot be removed from the premises until after the Best in Show winner is announced.

Registration for Sunday's auction begins at 10:00 a.m., with the auction to start at around 11:30. All items should contain your seller mark (usually your initials – check with the registration table to make sure they are not being used by someone else) and an item number. All plants, some driftwood, spawning caves, some used equipment, and miscellaneous small items will be sold in the silent auction and should be marked as if they were being sold in the live auction. Most club donations will be sold in the silent auction.

Once again, Deep Sea Aquatics has donated a beautiful tank and stand which will be raffled off on Sunday at the end of the auction. Raffle tickets can be purchased throughout the weekend from the registration table for \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. Additional raffle items will be given away Sunday during the auction.

If you have any questions concerning this event, please contact the following individuals:

[Mike Johnson \(903\) 880-3565](tel:9038803565) [Page Ullman \(817\) 905-8184](tel:8179058184) [Alan Young \(817\) 683-7659](tel:8176837659)



OKAA Mini Auction
September 20th 2014

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center



Many items up for auction and the split will be 70/30 (70% to the seller, 30% to the organization)

For more information contact:

Kyle Osterholt 405-818-2826 or Gerald Griffin 918-581-4663