

Collecting Plecos in San Antonio

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On the Cover:

Whiptail Catfish

Photo by Ronald Marcos

We want to thank Ronald Marcos for all of the wonderful photographic contributions he has made to this issue of Fish Tales. We also want to thank Andrew Mills for his fantastic contributions to Fish Tales as well. Without these two photographers content this publication would not be as vibrant.

Design and Layout

Gerald Griffin



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Please submit all articles in electronic form. We can accept most popular software formats and fonts. Email to herpchat@yahoo.com. 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.

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Next deadline.....

May 15th, 2015

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Catching Plecos in San Antonio



Clay Trachtman

Clay Trachtman was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. His father, Louis, introduced him to goldfish aquariums at approximately 5 years old, maybe earlier. At the age of about 12, he got his first aquarium, and with that, the sickness started. From albino cichlids to zebra plecostomus, Clay has kept it and attempted to breed it. However, his favorite still remains *Pterygoplichthys gibbiceps*, more commonly known as the Sailfin Plecostomus.

After Hurricane Katrina, Clay temporarily moved to Houston, Texas. It was there that he got his first experience with aquarium societies, going to a Houston Aquarium Society (HAS) Christmas Party. Upon his return to Louisiana, Clay founded the Southeast Louisiana Aquarium Society (SELAS). With over 500 members on the forum, and nearly 50 active members, SELAS is the largest aquarium society in Louisiana.

Clay currently maintains about 600 gallons of water in a townhouse in Baton Rouge, LA. He is currently focused on breeding *Placidochromis phenochilus* (White Lip Mdotoka Cichlid), *Labidochromis caeruleus* (Yellow Lab Cichlid), *Ancistrus* sp. (4) (Blue Eye Bristlenose Pleco), *Betta splendens* (Siamese Fighting Fish) and the occasional unexpected *Synodontis multipunctatus* (Cuckoo Catfish).

Since childhood, my favorite fish has always been the lowly pleco. Most that are sold at fish stores are doomed to live in too small of an aquarium and possibly not being fed; a horrible life. I too was guilty of this when I was young. Luckily, for the captive pleco, knowledge of their care is becoming more available and smaller plecos such as the bristlenose are becoming more and more common. Unfortunately, many people that are unequipped to properly care for the pleco release them into the wild, or in this case, the Comal River near San Antonio, Texas.

The plecos in the Comal River near San Antonio are considered an invasive species, meaning that they

are non-native species.

Without the natural competition and natural predators, invasive species may thrive in their new ecosystem, eventually out competing the indigenous species, decreasing the biodiversity in the area.

Although invasive species are considered bad, their presence in the Comal River allowed me to do to something that I have wanted to do since childhood: catch a pleco in the wild (without spending thousands of dollars to go to South America). That opportunity presented itself in October of 2014, when the Hill Country Cichlid Club hosted the 2014 Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies (FOTAS)



Jim Valenzuela, Clay Trachtman of SELAS and David Andrews of TCA prepare for their Pleco excursion.

Convention in San Antonio. I decided to organize a collection trip the day before the actual convention and invited my fellow fish enthusiasts to join me.

In preparation for the trip, I borrowed a seine and purchased snorkeling equipment and some aqua socks. I also watched a video online of people grabbing wild plecos with their hands. The people in the video recommended getting some cheap all-purpose gloves, so I did that as well.

It was a nice, warmish day when we ventured out. There were about 15 members of various fish clubs who decided to participate. Participants included members of the Oklahoma Aquarium Association, the Houston Aquarium Society, the Texas Cichlid Association, as well as Jim Valenzuela and myself of SELAS.

Because the Comal River is fed by a spring, it was warm, approximately 72o. It actually stays at least that temperature year-round, allowing for introduced species to survive. After taking a few minutes to get adjusted to the temperature, we were off. Most donned facemasks, snorkels and flippers and began the search; Jim spent extra time donning his entire scuba diving equipment.

There was no shortage of plants. Tons and tons of cabomba (*Cabomba* sp.) were located in the middle of the river. It was even flowering under water. The plants were very large, possibly 10 feet or more in height. It was even flowering under water. The plants were very large, possibly 10 feet or more in height. It was really a beautiful site from Fish Tales | 4



Gerald and Kayla Griffin of the OKAA getting ready to look at local livebearers

above, but it became a mess if you were unfortunate enough to become entangled in it (which I did on multiple occasions). In addition I even saw what appeared to be *Riccia* (*Riccia* sp.) Not only was it floating, but it was also at the bottom in a beautiful small carpet. I picked it up off of the bottom, and it was as fragile as it is in the aquarium as it fell apart. It was not rooted, just somehow attached to the detritus at the bottom of the river. To the untrained eye, it appeared to be *Riccia* fluitans. . I also saw what I believe to be *Hygrophila polysperma* growing near the sides of the river in a few large bunches. I did not see the typical sunset coloration at the tops of the plants, so I cannot be certain.

So there everyone was, out looking for plecos and other fish. Some of the group stayed closer to shore and grabbed a few live-bearers (*Gambusia* Sp.). We also saw some unknown types of young bass and sun fish. One person in our group attempted to use a casting net, but

was unsuccessful. There was not a pleco to be seen, until....

There it was, sitting nearly motionless on top of a forest of cabomba. It was a monster, easily 4 feet in length and over 20 lbs., the mighty *Hypostomus plecostomus*. I immediately froze; for fear that it would swim away. It was nearly within reach, but not quite. I had seen the videos online of people using gloves to grab the mighty beast, but my gloves were on shore. Do I dare attempt to grab it without the gloves? If I went back to shore and got the gloves, surely the fish would be gone. So I went for it. With all the quickness of a 270 lb. out of shape man, I swiftly grabbed it.

The beast flicked its tail back and forth in effort to escape but to no avail. I screamed out some incomprehensible words to the others to get their attention as I still had the snorkel in my mouth. They understood my unintelligible ramblings and came over with the cameras.

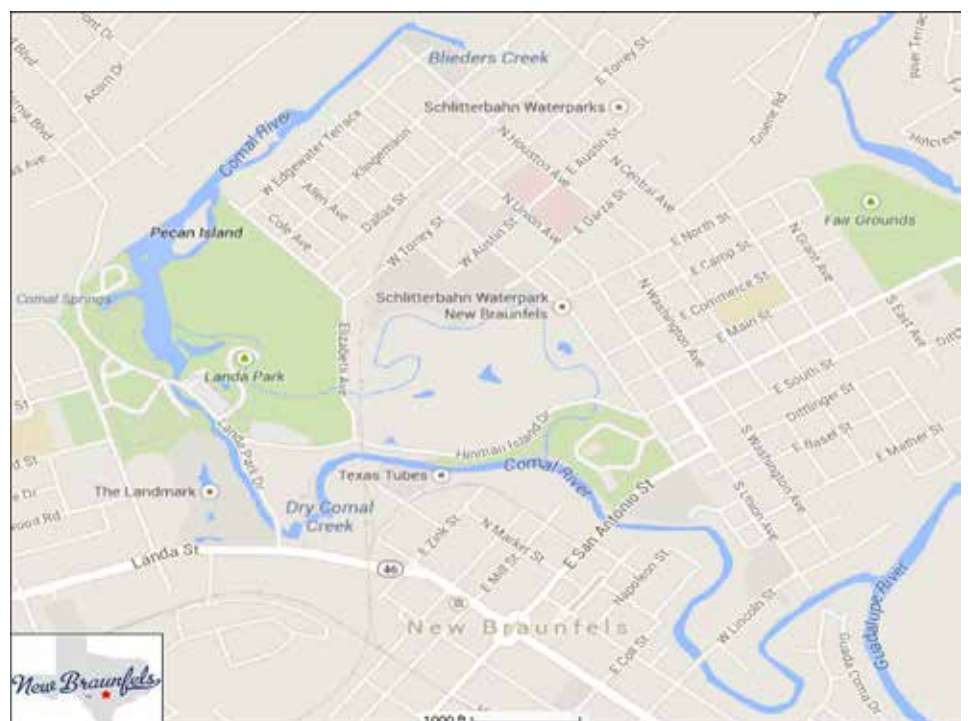


Clay Trachtman with the prize of the day, *Hypostomus plecostomus* which is what this trip was all about.

There it was. I had done something that I had always wanted to do, swim with and catch a pleco in the wild. For others who plan to do this, I would recommend cheap gloves, as I did have some small cuts (large enough to bleed) on my hand, but it was well worth it and was truly a memorable moment that I will never forget.

This article was originally printed in the SELAS (Southeast Louisiana Aquarium Society) Journal the Sentinel and is reprinted with their permission.

Right is a map of the Comal River.



Tips for Keeping Planted Tanks



Chris Lewis

My first aquarium was the quintessential community tank kept as a child in the late 70s. It contained clown puke gravel, bubbling divers, pirate chests, and one of every fish I could possibly squeeze in. Don't tell the hipster fish police, but we even had a goldfish bowl. Hopefully my aquarium skills have matured way beyond those first tanks. In the early 90s I was fresh out of high school and living on my own. I desperately wanted a saltwater tank, and wandered into a local fish store. However, I was instantly captivated by the large planted aquarium on the wall. Discus, Cardinal Tetras, Rummynose, and Hatchet fish swam amongst driftwood, amazon swords, vallisneria, and a few java ferns. I have been hooked on planted aquariums ever since. Over the years I have kept a wide variety of fresh and saltwater tanks, but planted aquariums remain my passion. The bonus to this great hobby is all the wonderful people I have met over the years. I am a native Texan originally from East Texas, but raised in the Dallas area. Currently I reside in San Antonio, and love this unique section of Texas. Besides keeping fish I also enjoy fresh and saltwater fishing.

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I love planted aquariums, and one thing that makes them special is the variety. You will find a huge variety of aquascaping styles, and a vast selection of flora and fauna. There are also many variations in the methods you can use to be successful. The following are some random tips I use to help maintain my planted aquariums.

DIY root tab fertilizers

Root tab fertilizers are a great addition for plants that feed primarily through their roots. You can make your own root tabs with 00 gel caps, and Osmocote Plus or Dynamite time released plant food. The 00 gel caps are empty vitamin gels caps, and can be purchased from health food or vitamin stores. You can also purchase them via online retailers like Amazon.com. Simply fill the gel caps with the plant food. Then place these tabs under your plants, or about every 6 inches across the aquarium. These will last 6-8 weeks or more depending on how many, and how fast your plants grow. I would suggest placing them deep in the substrate.

CFL Bulbs

The spiral compact fluorescent bulbs that screw into normal incandescent light socket are a great option for planted aquarium lighting. First they are inexpensive, and



Osmocote - container and close up.

come in a wide range of wattage sizes. Plus you have a wide selection of light fixtures you can use them with. Anything from desk lamps, and clamp on shop lights to nicer looking light fixtures. The bulbs provide an impressive amount of light. This variety makes them a good choice for different tank sizes. Two over a 20 gallon tank would provide high light, and one over a 10 or 20 gallon tank would be low light.



Low Tech planted tanks are not that difficult as this example demonstrates.

Trim leaves and roots

Older leaves can look bad over time. Either developing holes or yellow/ brown spots from nutrient deficiencies. Also, leaves can be torn or damaged by fish. These leaves will not repair themselves. Also, these leaves are using nutrients that could benefit healthy growth. Removing these bad leaves will not only make the plant look nicer it will promote new growth. Also, when first planting, or transplanting species with roots like crypts and swords if you trim the root mass it will also promote new growth.

Mr. Clean Magic Eraser

Those white foam blocks sold for cleaning kitchen counters and such, the Mr. Clean Magic Eraser, are great for cleaning aquariums too. I use them to clean the outside glass, and the inside glass too. It is recommended to only use the original Mr. Clean Magic Eraser as it contains no additional scents. I have been using this for the last 2 years, and

not only does it clean the outside of the glass it's great for removing film or algae from the inside glass too.

DIY CO₂ diffuser

There are many ways to diffuse CO₂ into your tank. Some people use chop sticks, or air stones. However, a more effective way is to use a small power head or internal filter. For my DIY CO₂ setups I use the Mini Elite filter. You can place an air stone on the end of your airline coming from your yeast reactor. Then place that inside the filter.

The air stone and impeller will help break up the CO₂ bubbles. Then the mini filter will dispense the CO₂ into your tank. This will provide better absorption of the CO₂ into the water column and help increase flow in your tank. If you are using a powerhead just run the airline into the intake of the powerhead.



Here is an Elite Filter modified with a CO₂ Reactor.



Trimming plants are a good way to maintain growth and keep them healthy.

South American Oddball Catfish Families



Roy Williams

Roy Williams is currently the President of the Greater Houston Aquarium Club. Roy has been keeping fish for 32+ years.

Roy has gravitated to almost all the families and regions at one time or another. It has provided him with a lot of different experiences to draw from.

Outside the hobby, he is an avid RPG enthusiast (Table Top), DJ'ed for years at Number's and a collection of local spots, collect Vinyl records, and have really been enjoying Yoga lately.

Roy also enjoys Soccer matches and follow FIFA and the Dynamo's.

Many of us are quite familiar with catfish from South America, recalling from memory the Loricards, the Corydoras, and even the giant predatory Pimelods. There are a few more, that only have occasional species imported and are often overlooked or forgotten. I thought that bringing them to everyone's attention might remind those of us who have not remembered them in a while or bring them to the attention of any younger aquarists who might be reading this over. I have seen all these in Houston, so rest assured this is not just the extremes seen once. I will cover each family (each of which contains many genus and species) in overview, discuss desired parameters, breeding and desired biotope, general size, and species of note that you might find.

Aspredinidae = (az pra DIN id dee), the Banjo catfish family. Banjo Catfish are so named due to their flattened banjo like appearance. These are very nocturnal species highly adapted to look like the leaf litter and debris they hide amongst in their natural habitat. They vary in size from a few inches to nearly

a foot, though most stay around the 6" mark. They are very easy going with parameters, 6-8ph with some even being found in brackish conditions occasionally. They feed well on bloodworms and sinking catfish pellets, not too picky. (Continued on next page) (cont.) The common banjo has been bred in captivity, though it rarely is ever done due to its uncommon nature and need for a large group of adults. Others in the family have far stranger means of embryonic implantation of fertilized eggs. Most should be kept in shaded aquariums with copious leaf litter and sand for them to hide in. This actually makes them far bolder and seen more often. The common banjo catfish (*Bunocephalus coracoideus*) is the most often found species. Occasionally I have seen the much larger Eel-tailed Banjo Catfish (*Platystacus cotylephorus*) though they command a higher price. Many of the other 34 species are seen as a bycatch and mixed accidentally in shipments of commons.

Auchenipteridae = (ow ken ip TARE id dee), known as Driftwood or Wood Cats owing to their habit



The common Banjo Catfish is one of more common species kept by catfish lovers. Picture courtesy of Petsolutions.com

of hiding in hollow logs during the day. This family is the only one to undergo internal insemination and fertilization. These are also a very nocturnal family preferring to hide and emerging at dusk or at feeding time and retreating back into cover. They are very fond of planted tanks, having found a strange niche in the hobby amongst their keepers. This family has 92 species across 20 genus and while most are small (3-6"), they do have some bigger predators (10") amongst them. They need stable quality parameters, but pH is not a huge issue and they breed quite readily in planted tanks. Success outside those is scattered and far more difficult. The Oil Cat *Centromochlus perugiae*, is one of the most sought after though quite a few are imported as 'wood-cats' and are a collection of different species. The Jaguar Cat, *Liosomadoras oncinus*, is the big hitter in the family and a sizable predator. Males in the family have an extension on their anal fins that function like gonopodiums for sperm trans-

fer like livebearing fish.

Doradidae = (do rad DA dē), known as the thorny or talking catfish from South America. These look almost prehistoric with barbed plates (scutes) running down their

lateral lines and barbs covering their dorsal, and pectoral fins. They are able to grind their pectoral fins to create a low grunting noise as well as creating sounds with their air bladder, thus giving rise to their name as a 'talking' catfish. They are nocturnal as well, but can become accustomed to lighting and a regular feeding schedule. Some are true tank busters, while other are suited to smaller tanks with manageable adult sizes. They are not particular about the water parameters, but good filtration is a must due to the waste and food these can generate, especially the larger species. They do well in groups and are mild mannered giants, only eating very small fish that can fit in their mouths. They love a tank with driftwood and hiding spots and a sand substrate. Dim lighting will elicit more activity. Reproduction in captivity has occurred, but the accounts vary from bubble nesting to accidental spawning, so a dedicated aquarist could easily get their name



The Eel Tailed Banjo Catfish is relatively rare in the Aquarium hobby but still a fascinating species. Picture courtesy of PlanetCatfish.com.



The Honeycombed Catfish is an oddball rarely seen in the hobby. Picture courtesy of Boronia Aquarium.

their mouths. The Pac-Man Lophiosilurus alexandri is a real oddball and one best suited to a species tank, but very fun to watch.

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This article is a reprint from the Greater Houston Aquarium Club Newsletter.

known by dedicating the time to study them more closely. The most commonly seen are the Striped Raphael *Platydoras armatulus*, which has the bold horizontal black and white horizontal stripes. The Spotted Raphael *Agamyxis pectinifrons*, is very similar, except in coloration, having white spots over a field of black/gray. The Ripsaw catfish/ Niger Catfish *Oxydoras niger*, is a tank buster and should only be kept in public aquariums due to its immense 36" adult size.

and hiding spots provided can be coaxed out with food. They also prefer sand and do well in planted aquariums. Some get larger and have a true oddball mixed in. the Pac-Man catfish is a great example of divergent evolution when compared to the Chaca catfish in SE Asia. The most common is the Bumblebee catfish *Microglanis iheringi*, a small irregularly striped dwarf pimelod that do well in tanks with no tankmates that will fit in

Pseudopimelodidae = (pseudo pim meh LOAD id dee) Mostly contains the smaller to medium pims such as the South American Bumblebee, dwarf marbled catfishes and the larger *Cephalosilurus* species. Relatively easy to keep in the aquarium, can be predatory to the smaller inhabitants, but if tank mates are chosen carefully they will do well. They are not very picky about parameters, doing well enough in our tap from my experience. They are nocturnal as well, but like the others in a dim tank



Jaguar Catfish. Photo Courtesy of PlanetCatfish.com



The Pacman Catfish is occasionally seen in some petshops. This species is similar to the Chaca chaca catfish of Asia. Photo courtesy of Waterwolves.



Striped Raphael Catfish. Picture Courtesy of PlanetCatfish.com.



Spotted Raphael Catfish. Picture Courtesy of BlueGrass Aquatics.com.

About the Greater Houston Aquarium Club:

We are a social club in the Houston area, focusing upon a wide range from planted to Tanganyikan aquariums. The club has been active for over seven years, with monthly meetings and newsletter. The meetings take place at local fish stores and members homes across the entire Houston area. Generally we try and have meetings on the 3rd Saturday of the month, but this can shift with scheduling and availability. We often work with other clubs in the Houston area. All meetings are free to everyone and welcome to anyone who wishes to come. The newsletter is distributed near the first and available to anyone interested. Please check our facebook page/Houston Fish Box club page for the most recent info and meeting schedule and newsletter.

IBC Species Maintenance Program Update



Gerald Griffin

Gerald Griffin is currently the President of the International Betta Congress and the Oklahoma Aquarium Association. He started keeping aquarium fish at the age of 8 and by the age of 12 started breeding Dwarf Gouramis.

Gerald got interested in Bettas after reading Walt Mearns' All About Bettas but instead of being attracted to the show strains he was attracted to the wild species. He has since dedicated his attention to Wild Betta species working with promoting wild Bettas and understanding their biology and breeding habits.

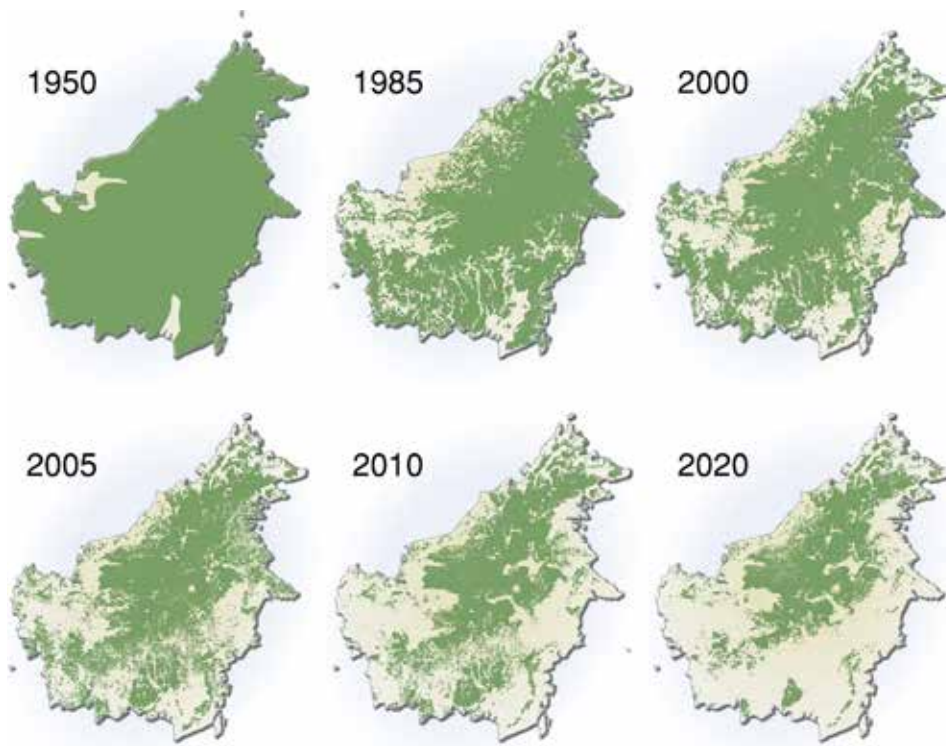
Gerald travels the US promoting Wild Bettas and promoting the keeping and conservation of Wild Bettas. He has been working with the IBC Species Maintenance Program for over 15 years and running it for the last 8 years. He also works on the conservation of other species as well.

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I have been directly involved with the Species Maintenance Program for over a dozen years now and thought why not cover what has happened in the Betta world for the last 10 years. In that time 26 species had been formally described. Some of those species were known in Science as Sp. And were awaiting formal descriptions however the vast majority was discovered just a few years before their description. Of those one species that was thought extinct in the wild was rediscovered and was split into two species and earned itself a new complex. Six species were listed as vulnerable in 2003 and are still vulnerable in 2013, and two species were added to the vulnerable list. Three species that were identified as Critically Endangered in 2003 are still Critically Endangered in 2013, while one species went from Vulnerable in 2003 to Critically Endangered in 2013 and another species went from Critically Endangered in 2003 to Endangered in 2013. As of this time 52 species have not been evaluated so their exact status in the wild is actually unknown. Four species are of Least Concern mean-

ing that their status is secure in the wild and another four species did not have enough data during evaluation to make a conclusion as to their status. Right now South East Asia is going through some very rapid changes and is quickly developing land. I therefore find this data disturbing as some of these species could become extinct before their actual status is actually known. Some of the wild Betta species are only known from small areas of distribution and are therefore threatened from habitat degradation and fragmentation. This could easily push those species into extinction.

For the last 10 years or so I have been preaching the plight of the Wild Betta species. The main threats still remain which are deforestation, global warming and urban sprawl while the splendens complex faces the additional threat of the release of domestic splendens into their environment which causes hybridization with the wild stocks causing the loss of the species. The locations where pure splendens can be found are becoming smaller and



The deforestation of Borneo is happening faster than previously predicted. Here is the predictions from the Woodrow Wilson Institute and even these figures are alarming.

smaller every year.

Deforestation is a big threat at the current time. At one time Southeast Asia was home to very large forests that have been logged both legally and illegally. The illegal or pirate logging is estimated to be about 40% of what has been harvested from Borneo. Thailand has lost over 66% percent of their forests and Borneo is not far behind. The problems with Borneo are that the demand for lumber from lumber mills far exceeds what is being harvested and in addition extensive areas are being logged out and replaced with palm oil plantations. Over 80% of the Lowlands in Indonesian Borneo have been logged or are slated to be logged. This extensive modification of the environment is happening much faster than predicted and the calculations from the Woodrow Wilson Institute are actually quite conservative. The disruption to the

environment has a twofold effect. First off it changes the streams and rivers silting them out because the trees are no longer there to hold the

soil so this will cause the fish to die out in those rivers and streams. The second effect is the modification to the ecosystem creates a shift in the biota which can also have negative effects on wild Betta populations. The other problem with this is the fact siltation then is carried into the reefs around Borneo causing wholesale destruction of the corals in the reefs outright killing them.

Urban Sprawl is another major problem with wild Betta species as "Pristine Wilderness" is converted to use either by expanding cities or by industry needing more room. In my head constantly plays "Big Yellow Taxi" by Counting Crows anytime I think about the situation in Southeast Asia "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot". That song always brings tears to my eyes because of the photo documentation of Michael Lo showing the destruction and habitat modifi-



Here is a logging road built into the Borneo Rainforest. Picture courtesy of Wiki-Commons.



Here the rainforest is being cleared out for a Palm Plantation. In Borneo major tracts of Rainforest are being cleared for the Palm trees which are used in producing Bio-Deisel.

cation currently going on in his paradise of Borneo. This is also a topic I discuss in my classes. I have to bring home the fact that we do not rule Southeast Asia and the local peoples or any peoples in general only think about conservation after their primary needs are met or as I put it simply, “when they have food in their bellies and their housing needs are met then they can think about more abstract things such as preserving wildlife”. One of the greatest threats to any species is habitat fragmentation. This is dangerous as it limits or eliminates exchanges in the gene pool of the species and can in itself lead to speciation given enough time. Also when a species or population is in a limited area like what we are currently seeing with *Betta simplex*, one small disaster can cause the entire species to go into extinction.

The other threat that wild Betta species face is Climate Modification. In all computer simulations

simulations Southeast Asia will receive less rainfall. This will without a doubt change the climate and habitat creating the possibility of minor waterways drying up thereby

eliminating areas that would have once contained wild Betta species. The implications would be as the area dries out it would lead to more forest fires and with the lack of tree cover could cause flooding and or siltation just like would be seen in deforestation. .

Although it is impossible to see what future wild Betta species will actually have there is no doubt that for many species they will soon be facing pressures that they have never had to deal with before and could be forced into extinction. The flip side of that coin is how many species have gone into extinction before we actually got to see what they were? On a good note a lot of progress is being made in breeding wild Betta species in captivity and long term maintenance of wild Betta species is possible. We in the Species Maintenance Program have learned a lot from the propagation of these species and



Here is a ground shot of the Palm trees growing in the cleared areas. Pictures courtesy of Wiki-Commons.

with the efforts of Hermanus Haryanto and Joty Atmadjaja for supplying the SMPs of Australia and the United States, many of these species that are in trouble might be saved. It is also great to see so much enthusiasm that I now have hope that the keeping and maintaining wild Betta species for the long term is not only possible but will happen.

The reconfiguration by bringing the Species Maintenance Program to Facebook has proven to be very successful and we have seen the expansion of the Maintenance Program in Australia in addition to its expansion in South East Asia. The cooperation for the common good is commendable. The future is bright again as we all work to save these precious jewels that have been bestowed to us by our creator!

Right are two pictures of fish that were presented to me for classification as the collectors thought they had found new species. These fish are both hybrids of *Betta splendens* and *Betta smaragdina*.



Left a picture of a Wild *Betta splendens* male. Picture by Nonn Panitvong from the IBC - SMP collection.

Evaluation of Betta species from 2003 to 2013

Species	Author	Status 2003	Status 2013
Betta akarensis	Regan, 1910	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta albimarginata	Kottelat & Ng, 1994	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta anabatooides	Bleeker, 1851	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta antoni	Tan & Ng, 2006	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta apollon	Schindler & Schmidt, 2006	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta aurigans	Tan & Lim, 2004	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta balunga	Herre, 1940	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta bellica	Sauvage, 1884	Least Concern	Least Concern
Betta breviobesus	Tan & Kottelat, 1998	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta brownorum	Witte & Schmidt, 1992	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta burdigala	Kottelat & Ng, 1994	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Betta channoides	Kottelat & Ng, 1994	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta chini	Ng, 1993	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Betta chloropharynx	Kottelat & Ng, 1994	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Betta coccina	Vierke, 1979	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta compuncta	Tan & Ng, 2006	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta cracens	Tan & Ng, 2005	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta dennisyongi	Tan, 2013	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta dimidiata	Roberts, 1989	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta edithae	Vierke, 1984	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta enisae	Kottelat, 1995	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta falx	Tan & Kottelat, 1998	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta ferox	Schindler & Schmidt, 2006	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta foerschi	Vierke, 1979	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta fusca	Regan, 1910	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta gladiator	Tan & Ng, 2005	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta hendra	Schindler & Linke, 2013	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta hipposideros	Ng & Kottelat, 1994	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Betta ibanorum	Tan & Ng, 2004	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta ideii	Tan & Ng, 2006	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta imbellis	Ladiges, 1975	Not Evaluated	Least Concern
Betta krataios	Tan & Ng, 2006	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta kuehnei	Schindler & Schmidt, 2008	Was not formally described	Data Deficient
Betta lehi	Tan & Ng, 2005	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta livida	Ng & Kottelat, 1992	Critically Endangered	Endangered
Betta macrostoma	Regan 1910	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Betta mahachaiensis	Kowasupat, Panijpan, Ruenwongsa & Sriwattanarothai 2012	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated

Evaluation of Betta species from 2003 to 2013

Species	Author	Status 2003	Status 2013
Betta mandor	Tan & Ng, 2006	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta midas	Tan, 2009	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta minopinna	Tan & Tan, 1994	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
Betta obscura	Tan & Ng, 2005	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta ocellata	De Beaufort, 1933	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta pallida	Schindler & Schmidt, 2004	Was not formally described	Data Deficient
Betta pallifina	Tan & Ng, 2005	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta pardalotos	Tan, 2009	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta patoti	Weber & de Beaufort, 1922	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta persephone	Schaller, 1986	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
Betta pi	Tan, 1998	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta picta	(Valenciennes, 1846)	Not Evaluated	Least Concern
Betta pinguis	Tan & Kottelat, 1998	Not Evaluated	Vulnerable
Betta prima	Kottelat, 1994	Not Evaluated	Least Concern
Betta pugnax	(Cantor, 1849)	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta pulchra	Tan & Tan, 1996	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta raja	Tan & Ng, 2005	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta renata	Tan, 1998	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta rubra	Perugia, 1893	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta rutilans	Witte & Kottelat, 1991	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta schalleri	Kottelat & Ng, 1994	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta siamorientalis	Kowasupat, Panijpan, Ruen-wongsa & Sriwattanarothai 2012	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta simorum	Tan & Ng, 1996	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta simplex	Kottelat, 1994	Vulnerable	Critically Endangered
Betta smaragdina	Ladiges, 1972	Not Evaluated	Data Deficient - Threatened
Betta spilotogeta	Ng & Kottelat, 1994	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered
Betta splendens	Regan, 1910	Not Evaluated	Vulnerable
Betta stigmosa	Tan & Ng, 2005	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta stiktos	Tan & Ng, 2005	Was not formally described	Data Deficient
Betta strohi	Schaller & Kottelat, 1989	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta taeniata	Regan, 1910	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta tomi	Ng & Kottelat, 1994	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Betta tussya	Schaller, 1985	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta uberis	Tan & Ng, 2006	Was not formally described	Not Evaluated
Betta unimaculata	(Popta, 1905)	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated
Betta waseri	Krummenacher, 1986	Not Evaluated	Not Evaluated



Betta foerschi male, Foerschi Complex. A medium sized mouthbrooder that is still rare in the hobby. Photo by Ronald Marcos.



Betta dimidiata male, Dimidiata Complex. A medium sized mouthbrooder that is also rare in the hobby. Photo by Ronald Marcos.



Betta hendra, Coccina Complex. Another rare find in the Betta Hobby. This is a very recently described species. Photo by Ronald Marcos.



Betta sp. Wojak, Coccina Complex. A rare find in the Betta Hobby. This species has yet to undergo Scientific description. Photo by Andrew Mills.

FOTAS

Community

Calendar

March 15th - Houston Aquarium Society Spring Auction

American Legion Post, 11702 Old Galveston Road, Houston Texas

March 21st - Greater Houston Aquarium Club 3rd Annual Native Collecting Trip

6923 Bruchmeade Land, Katy, TX

March 29th - Hill Country Cichlid Club Spring Auction

Schertz Civic Center

April 11th - Texas Guppy Association Guppy Show (Sanctioned by the IFGA)

Pear Tree Inn, San Antonio TX

April 19th - Texas Cichlid Association Auction

Hilton Garden Inn DFW South, 2001 Valley View Lane, Irving TX

May 16th - Hill Country Cichlid Club - FOTAS Bar B Que

Landa Park, New Braunfels TX

May 23rd - Oklahoma Aquarium Association Spring Auction

Cleveland County Fairgrounds, Norman OK

June 28th - Hill Country Cichlid Club Swap Meet

Schertz Civic Center

July 11th - Texas Area Killifish Organization - 2015 TAKO BELLE REVUE

Hampton Inn, Seguin TX



Members Only **BBQ !!!**



The Hill Country Cichlid Club will host a BBQ Saturday May 16th, around noon. We will be grilling at site #2 in Landa Park New Braunfels, Texas. We are inviting all FOTAS clubs members and their families for a day of food and fun at the park. This is one of the most beautiful natural places in all of Texas. Be prepared for some fish collecting and perhaps even a snorkel trip in the Comal River.

Texas Cichlid Association Spring Auction April 19th 2015

**Hilton Garden Inn DFW South
2001 Valley View Lane
Irving Texas 75061
(972) 313-2800**

As usual 3 different things will be taking place – somewhat simultaneously.

Live Auction	Only Live Fish, rocks, and tanks over 20 gallons allowed
Silent Auction	All items not listed above, including plants, tanks 20 gallons & under, decorations, etc
Buy It Now Table	This option is not available at this auction.
The Raffle	Buy tickets at the registration table at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Schedule

8:30 AM	Latest arrival time for TCA members to arrive to help with setup.
9:00 AM	Registration will be open for sellers only.
10:00 AM	Registration Table will be open for buyer registration. No buyers allowed in until after registration.
11:00 AM	Live Auction will begin.
??	The auction will end when the last item has been sold
??	Final raffle will be conducted after the auction ends. You must still be present to win.

Detailed Auction Rules are the same as in the past.

**<http://www.texascichlid.org/auctions/auction-rules/>
<http://www.texascichlid.org/auctions/silent-auction-rules/>**

OKAA Spring Auction

Saturday May 23rd

All Things Aquatic!

Fish

Tanks

Plants

Food

Shrimp

Books

Snails

Supplies

**Aquarium
Association**

Cleveland County Fairgrounds

Doors open at 9:30 am

Bidding starts at 11:00 am

Auction Rules can be found at

www.theOKAA.org

Previous Issue of Fish Tales

What would you like to see in the next Fish Tales Magazine?

Contact the Editor if you have story ideas or would like to contribute to Fish Tales!

