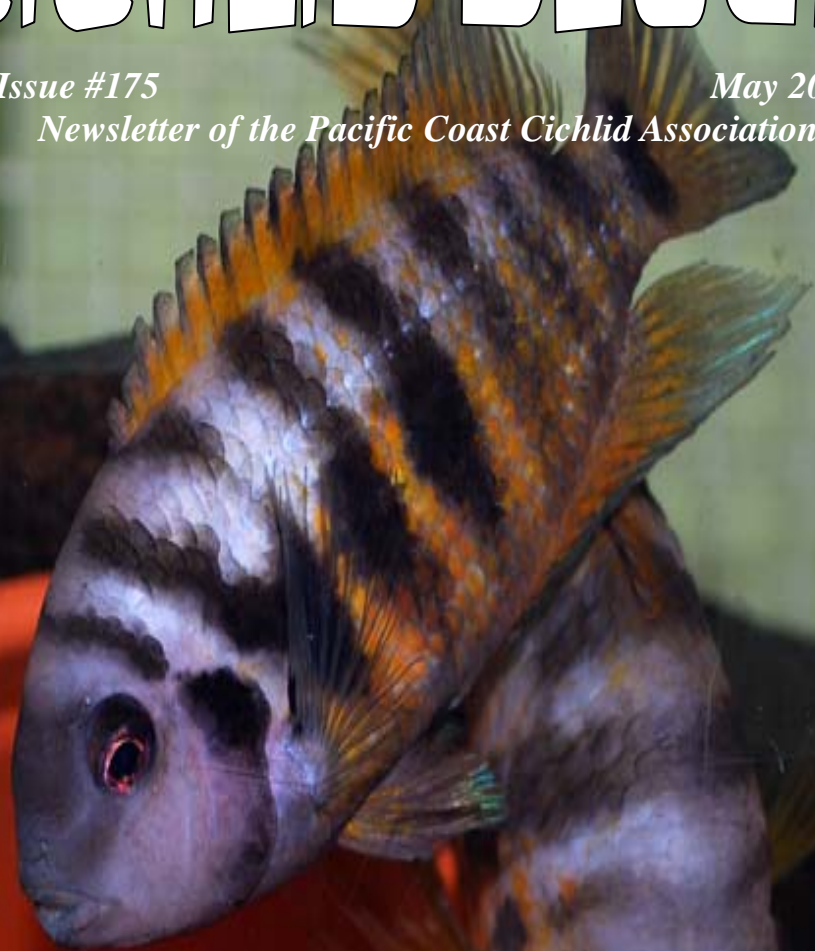


CICHLID BLUES

Issue #175

May 2011

Newsletter of the Pacific Coast Cichlid Association



Visit the PCCA at www.cichlidworld.com

Sam Borstein

CICHLID BLUES

Newsletter of the Pacific Coast Cichlid Association

www.cichlidworld.com

Editor: David Fraguglia.....(408) 391-1983
1026 Pinenut Ct., Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Email: d_frag@yahoo.com

Board of Directors of the PCCA

David Powell.....	President.....	(831) 461-9349
Sonny DiMeo	Vice President	(408) 221-9430
David Powell.....	Secretary.....	(831) 461-9349
Anthony Tu.....	Member	(408) 258-8732
Doug Habersaat.....	Member	(650) 962-8340
Mike Gale	Member	(925) 818-9097
Vern Smith.....	Member	(510) 770-1672
David Fraguglia	Member	(408) 391-1983

PCCA Chair Positions

Archivist	Mark Tomasello.....	(714) 661-6295
Auction	Jim Ellenberger.....	(408) 225-0639
Awards.....	Sonny DiMeo.....	(408) 221-9430
Back Issues	David Powell	(831) 461-9349
BAP.....	Jim Ellenberger.....	(408) 225-0639
<i>Cichlid Blues</i>	David Fraguglia	(408) 391-1983
<i>Cichlidae Communiqué</i>	Jim Ellenberger.....	(408) 225-0639
Conservation & Grants.....	Chuck Rambo	(408) 225-9175
Exchanges.....	Pam Chin	(916) 682-3742
FAAS	Sonny DiMeo.....	(408) 221-9430
Fish Market.....	David Fraguglia	(408) 391-1983
Historian	Doug Habersaat	(650) 962-8340
Membership.....	Jim Ellenberger.....	(408) 323-0639
Nominations.....	OPEN	
Programs.....	Chuck Rambo	(408) 225-9175
Promotions.....	OPEN	
Purchasing.....	Chuck Rambo	(408) 225-9175
Raffle	Sonny DiMeo.....	(408) 221-9430
Sales.....	Doug Habersaat	(650) 962-8340
Special Events.....	Chuck Rambo	(408) 225-9175
Web Master.....	Anthony Tu.....	(408) 258-8732

Cichlid Blues is published bimonthly alternating with the *Cichlidae Communiqué*, Journal of the PCCA. The Pacific Coast Cichlid Association was founded in August 1980 to meet the needs of the West Coast cichlid hobbyist and, as stated in *Cichlidae Communiqué* #1, "to create an environment which fosters education and the exchange of ideas in a social atmosphere". By-laws were constructed in 1983-84 and the PCCA was incorporated under the laws of the State of California on January 30th, 1985.

REPRINTS: Original material in *Cichlid Blues* may be reprinted by nonprofit organizations (unless otherwise noted) provided that the PCCA, *Cichlid Blues* and the author are credited and two copies of the publication containing the reprint are sent to: PCCA, P.O. Box 28145, San Jose, CA 95159-8145.

NOTES & NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

PCCA Staff	2
Notes & News	3
Membership Report	3
The Prez Mess	4
Entirely Lost	5
Reflections	6
Next Meeting Notice	13
The Last Word	14

Editor's Notes...

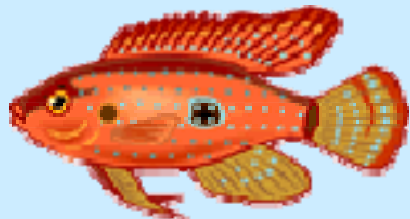
1. Guest Editor...guess who?
2. David, the New-Prez, I'm not sure I'll get used to that.
3. Dr. Ron is back from Costa Rica! Did he take any cute girls?
4. The Ellenberger method™ explained.
5. Morality and Ethics, from Kevin? What is this world coming to?

- Ed.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

AS OF MARCH 10, 2011

CURRENT MEMBERS	95
SINGLE MEMBERS	79
FAMILY MEMBERS	6
LIFE MEMBERS	10
CORPORATE MEMBERS	0



THE PREZ MESS

The Prez Mess...

By David Powell

After many hours of spring cleaning, I have come to the sad conclusion that I don't have room for another tank. I won't say that I have too much junk, but I will admit that I hold on to stuff for longer than I should. You just never know when you might need things such as the original IBM XT keyboard in my hall closet. It has a metal case, weighs about 5 pounds, and has a plug that will not fit any modern computer. However, it goes to the 8088, 8MHz Turbo buried somewhere in my garage. All of my cleaning was prompted by the large tank and stand combo generously donated to the club by Kritter Tanks. Last meeting we showed pictures of the setup and gave the dimensions. The tank and stand are drilled for a wet/dry filter. If you wish to see it in person please contact Sonny. The club will be taking offers on the setup and it will be sold to the highest bidder. We will give you an update at the next meeting to let you know what the price is up to.



The next couple of months will be a busy time for many of us. Besides graduations, Mother's Day is May 8th. I just realized that you will not be reading this until after Mother's Day, so hopefully none of you forgot. Speaking of Mother's Day, maybe my Mom needs a fish tank. Last month we had a great talk by Kevin Plazak on dwarf cichlids. It's always good to hear from a fellow member of the Dead Fish Society. This month we have Chris Clevers coming to talk to us about fish food and nutrition. The tax man has been paid so no excuses this month. Come on out and hear Chris talk about how to keep our fish fat and happy.

To wrap this up, let me remind you that we have elections during the June meeting. Half of the Board of Directors is up for re-election. If you are interested in being on the Board, please contact Mike Gale. The requirement for being a BOD member is pretty minimal. You must be a member in good stand for one year. No pictures of your fish tanks or copies of your birth certificate are required.

Happy fish keeping!

David

ENTIRELY LOST

Entirely Lost: Inane Ramblings Of a Novice Fishkeeper By David Fraguglia



May is here, nearly half of the year has gone by! It is surprising how fast time goes by when you are trying to accomplish entirely too much. How is everyone's fish rooms going? If we go by the average turn out for the club meetings and auction selection it would seem dismal. I figure that many people have broken down a number of their tanks because money is still tight.

That is okay, take a Saturday evening out, come out to Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose, have a good dinner and hang out for a time. The club's essence is the camaraderie, not the buying and selling of bags of fish. There will be a good speaker in Chris Clevers.

Returning to a previous subject, most of my tanks are still down, there is no space. That isn't entirely true, there really is no home, still working on finding that house. Perhaps I am just a bit to selective. Though my requirements aren't too terrible, a decent yard, two bathrooms, not falling apart. I find it amazing how often houses get 'modified' in a manner that that previous owner seemed to think was just fine, but looks to me like is a Winchester Mystery House incarnate. Windows that open up into rooms, or having them open up into each other because an adjacent wall is just two feet away. Bathrooms that are smaller the closets. The list can go on and on.

I think my biggest pet peeve is when people buy new doors, and expect that to increase the value of the home a significant amount. The disappointing thing is that they go to Home Depot and get the off the shelf six panel molded door instead of purchasing something with character. I've ranted enough I think. I've probably repeated myself from a previous issue.

What I'd really love is to have a wall between two rooms that I can knock a big hole in, and have a tank that is framed in one room and sits in the other. I think that that would be cool.

Anyway, I'll see you all at the next meeting!

Dave

REFLECTIONS

Reflections: Save the California Cichlids!

By Ron Coleman



What? Save the California Cichlids?? You are probably thinking that I have spent a little too long in the fish room and I am getting a little soft in the head... well, that certainly could be true, but nonetheless, cichlids in California waters are in trouble and something needs to be done.

First, where are these “California cichlids”? If you look around Northern California you are unlikely to find any cichlids in our local waters. You will find lots of introduced sunfishes and if you are lucky, a few native fishes, but most cichlids cannot handle the cold waters of our winters. This is not the case in southern California. For decades, introduced cichlids have survived in the Salton Sea.

Perhaps you have heard of the Salton Sea, perhaps not, so here is a quick refresher. Located in the Imperial Valley, the Salton Sea is the largest lake in California at close to 1000 square km in area. It is not, however, the largest FRESHWATER lake, because at roughly 45 g/L, the Salton Sea is saltier than the Pacific Ocean (a mere 35 g/L) according to Wikipedia.org. The Salton Sea has a fascinating history. The area which it occupies is one of the lowest in California, over 200 feet below sea level. It has, over the last centuries, alternated between being a lake and being dry desert. In 1905, as the Colorado River swelled, it overflowed into the dry area of the Imperial Valley and created the most recent incarnation of the Salton Sea. The Sea continues to get some input from creeks and agricultural runoff, but it has no outlet. As a consequence, slowly it is evaporating and getting saltier every

REFLECTIONS

year.

Decades ago, cichlids in the form of tilapia were introduced to the Salton Sea. Few native fishes can handle the high summer temperatures and hypersaline conditions. The one contender are pupfishes, those incredible animals that seem to thrive in hot springs where most other fishes have long since perished. But even pupfishes have their limits.

As the Salton Sea grows ever saltier, it appears (though even this is not certain) that the native pupfishes will disappear. That leaves only the tilapia. You may be wondering as to the exact identity of this tilapia, after all, there are many species of tilapia, such as *Tilapia zilli*, *Oreochromis mossambicus*, *O. niloticus*, *O. aureus*, etc . Which of these is found in the Salton Sea? The answer is we are not exactly sure. Various species of tilapia have been in the Salton Sea at one time or another and as tilapia are want to do, they hybridize. As best as we can tell, the fish that exists in the Salton Sea now is a rather peculiar hybrid of two species *Oreochromis mossambicus* and *O. urolepis hornorum*. It is this fish that we are now working to save.

WHAT? Why would anyone want to save introduced hybrid tilapia in California? The answer is that modern conservation biology has to deal with the hand we are given and sometimes that hand is not the one we might want, nonetheless that is what we have to deal with.

As water has become increasingly valuable (and scarce) in California, and it never was abundant in southern California in the first place, the role of the Salton Sea as a refuge for birds has increased. It is now an important feeding area for thousands of birds such as brown pelicans, and those birds eat fish.

So, to save the birds, we need to save the fish – the hybrid, introduced tilapia. The plan is to create what are known as conservation ponds on one part of the Salton Sea. While the whole sea is too large to control, it should be possible through some expensive engineering of

REFLECTIONS

water inputs and outflows to control the salinity in these ponds to a stable, though rather high salinity and temperature. The lower the salinity, the more expensive it gets. The question then is how high can the salinity be and still have the tilapia survive? While other researchers have established that tilapia can live at extraordinarily high salinity, the question a student in my lab, Shannon Waters, is investigating, is will they still breed at those salinities? And, will they still do proper mouthbrooding? Stay tuned as the experiments progress.

We are certainly in strange new times.



This is the tank that was donated by Kritter Tanks. It is 60” wide, 26” deep, and 30” front to back. It is approximately 170 gallons with a built in overflow and is drilled thru the bottom. With the stand and canopy, the overall height is 59”. This will be sold at the meeting on Saturday. Bids are currently being accepted.

SPONSORS

THANK YOU

The PCCA is very fortunate to have many corporate, retail and private sponsors.
Please support them as they have supported us!

AQUATIC LIFE FORMS

1247 N. Mary Avenue
Sunnyvale, Ca 94087
408.245.9600

KRITTER TANKS

Phone/Fax: 650-561-4404
E-mail: gen@kritttertanks.com
164 Jefferson Drive
Suite D
Menlo Park, CA 94025
www.kritttertanks.com

NEPTUNE AQUATICS

1752 Houret Ct.
Milpitas, CA 95035
Phone/Fax: 408-935-9471
www.neptuneaquatics.com

OUR GENEROUS CORPORATE SPONSORS

Boyd Enterprises
Fastags
Hikari Products, USA
Kent Marine
Kordon/Novalek, Inc
Mars Fishcare
Ocean Nutrition
Ocean Star International
Rolf C. Hagen Corp.
Seachem
United Pet Care
ZooMed

BAP STANDING

By Jim Ellenberger

Dave is a bit late with this issue, so I have not had time to update the totals.

The BAP Lite Special (thru June) will be any Central American cichlids.

- Jim

BAP REPORT & POINT SUMMARY

Current Point Totals -- As of March 10, 2011

Bireley, Rich.....	595	Bousfield, Dan.....	120	Cain, Bill and Tessa.....	3810
Chin Family.....	21255	Coleman, Ron.....	2302	Di Meo, Sonny.....	140
Ellenberger, Jim.....	14577	Fraguglia, Dave.....	140	Francis, Jimmy & Angie..	555
Gale, Mike.....	50	Hansen, Troy.....	1795	Hooks, Roger.....	5620
Hopp, David.....	2872	Huerta, Eric.....	50	Kennedy, John.....	230
Kennedy, Warren.....	1210	Kong, Richard & Brandon..	275	Lambert, John.....	980
Mader, Rolf.....	3010	McLaughlin, Michael.....	1085	Mortensen, Michael.....	298
Plante, Leo.....	1640	Plazak, Kevin.....	6070	Powell, David.....	160
Pyle, Michael.....	550	Rambo, Chuck.....	5005	Rinck, Mike.....	365
Ritchie, Forrest.....	695	Sasakado, Toshiyuki.....	1273	Sexton, Patrick.....	50
Shields, Robert.....	2818	Smith, Vern.....	830	Spielman, Daniel.....	2423
Tomasello, Mark.....	1665	Tu, Anthony.....	9178	Zadnik, Kurt.....	7535

Point Changes in *Italics*

Largest Point Increase – Jim Ellenberger 13352 to 14577 a 1225 point increase

These are the current point totals as computed by the BAP Committee Chairperson. If you have any questions, please see the Chairperson at the membership meetings, or contact the Chairperson at the phone number listed on page 2 of the *Cichlid Blues*. Any participants not in good membership standing will be deleted from the BAP points report after a one issue grace period.

FISH MARKET

Members may have 10 lines of advertising free. Additional lines cost 50 cents each. Equipment may also be listed. The PCCA cannot guarantee the quality of items advertised here.

Send your Ads to:

David Fraguglia

1026 Pinenut Ct.

Sunnyvale, CA 94087

d_frag@yahoo.com

Neptune Aquatics

All PCCA members receive 10% off

Neptune Aquatics Team

1752 Houret Ct., Milpitas, CA 95035

Phone: 408.935.9471

<http://www.neptuneaquatics.com>

sales@neptuneaquatics.com



Roger Hooks

1260 Audubon Dr., San Jose, CA 95122

Rogerhooks78@yahoo.com

Sciaenochromis fryeri "electric blue"	2"	\$2.00 ea.
Neolamprologus pulcher "daffodil"	2"	\$2.00 ea.
Lamprologus multifasciatus Breeding colony 1/M 3/F		\$20.00 gr.
Cyprichromis leptosma "coloratus"	2"	\$5.00 ea.
Neolamprologus tetracanthus 3"F 4"M		\$30.00 pr.
Altolamprologus compressiceps "ink fin" 4" male		\$20.00 ea.
Paralabidochromis sp. "fire red Uganda" 3"F 4"M		\$15.00 pr.
Lepidolamprologus hecqui.....	2"	\$3.00 ea.
Synodontis multipunctatus 4" male.....		\$20.00 ea.



Acrylic Aquarium Fabrications

www.KritterTanks.com

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome New PCCA Members

Many of you may be reading this issue for the first time as a PCCA member. This space has been designated to both welcome you and introduce you to some of the benefits and services available to you.

First, you should check the mailing label on the cover to see that your expiration date is correct. If it is different from your expectations you should contact the Membership Chairperson noted on page two of this newsletter.

With that out of the way, a list of club services and benefits are in order.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

All PCCA members may participate in regular Membership Meetings, supply items for the auction, run tabs to purchase auction items and utilize other club resources.

PUBLICATIONS

On every even numbered month, each member will receive the *Cichlidae Communiqué*. This award-winning journal is supplemented on the odd numbered months with the *Cichlid Blues*, quite possibly the finest blue newsletter in the entire world.

CONTESTS, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Members are also eligible to participate in club sponsored events such as field trips to other area clubs, seminars on aquarium related subjects, conferences and work-shops.

Additional member benefits include a Breeders Awards Program whose standings are listed in the *Cichlid Blues*, the finest, all blue aquarium related journal ever.

PCCA

P.O. Box 28145
San Jose, CA 95159-8145

Membership Application

Membership Dues

		<u>Printed</u>	<u>Emailed</u>
Single:	One Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15
	Two Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
Family:	One Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20
	Two Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Foreign:	One Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15

Foreign includes all locations outside the North American Continent.

Members Receive:

Cichlidae communiqué
PCCA Journal, Bimonthly
Cichlid Blues, PCCA Newsletter, Bimonthly (emailed)
Free Fishmarket Advertising,
Both publications

- New Member Renewal
 Change of Address

Name:

Street:

City:

Telephone:

Email (required):

May 14, 2011
Chris Clevers
Nutrition and
Foods

Meeting Time and Location

5:00

Harry's Hofbrau

390 Saratoga Avenue

San Jose, CA

Upcoming Events

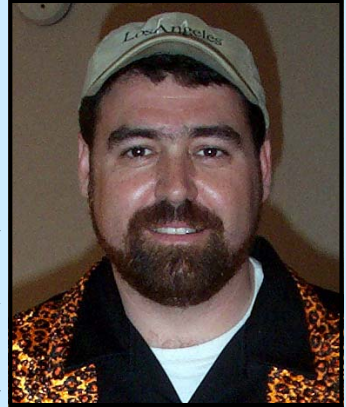
May 14th
Chris Clevers
Nutrition and Foods

May 14, 2011
Harry Hofbrau

Meeting
Starts Promptly
at 6:00 pm
Social hour at 5:00 pm
Large monthly Auction
Items include fish, aquarium
items and books.

THE LAST WORD

The Last Word By Kevin Plazak



One of the rare joys of the hobby is a really nicely put together community aquarium. As a cichlid breeder I would generally set up my tanks to hold a breeding pair or group to maximum effect. This was getting dull and near the end of my "serious hobby" (now its business with a little hobby on the side) I would try to produce two species per tank, three if I could swing it. This is when I first starting feeling the magic of a community aquarium.

Setting up a community of mostly cichlids (if not all cichlids) does involve some thought and some knowledge of the species your keeping. Knowing which species are likely to bring out the best in another species is nearly impossible to get right 100% of the time but there are some tricks that will help you get more than one species in a tank to great effect.

The first and most important trick is to pick a larger species and a smaller species. An example would be a full sized Labeotropheus and a Labidochromis. If the tank is adequately rocked or "tubed" the larger Labeotropheus will find the space it needs and leave the Labidochromis alone. I wouldn't have guessed that would be the outcome AND it might not happen in your tanks the same way it did for me but it led to a lot of other breeding communities. Copadichromis and Labidochromis. Dwarf species of Pseudotropheus and Protomelas.

When a species didn't have a good cichlid species to breed with, I would look for Rainbows or Livebearers. There is no end to the mixing and matching when you are looking to find that perfect tank. Having recently set up another hobby tank in my home -- I have come to find

THE LAST WORD

having a blend of a lot of species -- Cichlids, Tetras, Plants, Snails, Loaches -- it makes for a biologically messy tank from a collection and habitat perspective but every layer of the tank is chock full and the cichlids have the cave I provided and really enjoy the space. Their color is perfect and they eat like pigs.

The point here being that if you are locked into a struggle with finding the joy in your hobby and you are breeding cichlids in single species tanks -- perhaps a little change of scenery in the tank is the path for you. Start exploring your options and before long the joy of the hobby will infuse you once again. Dropping in at your local fish stores, checking the online offerings, talking to fellow hobbyists about your options for finding a rare and odd species... I know the fish store is still my favorite hang out when I am having a day on the town.

The hobby is not growing, in part because the hobby takes people towards a point rather than towards a range. It is easy to focus in on and master a group of fish. If you have mastered *Frontosa* breeding -- I would give even odds you haven't really sorted out [West African cichlid breeding](#) and behavior. Same goes with *Apistogramma* and *Parachromis* -- it is the rare hobbyist who finds all facets of the cichlid hobby in their tanks before giving up on the hobby. And honestly -- the most fun I've had is sorting out what's possible. What isn't possible isn't as much fun but BOY can *Aulonocara* move when a *Melanochromis* is hot on its tail...

Kevin