

The Lateral Line

Volume 2, Issue 18

January 2007



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BAP Report

The Holidays are past us and the beginning of a new year is already in progress. Not a lot of entries for December, guess the fish weren't too receptive in September and October. But we did have three entries and the first one for the month was from Diane (Gryhouse). Congratulations Diane on your entry of *Ps. Zebra Hara White Top Galilea*.

Greg's (Mokkers) entry of *Stigmatochromis pholidophorus* is a 1st of species spawn. Congratulations Greg and pictures I have seen show that to be a very nice looking fish.

Congratulations goes out to Lisa (LKBlair) and her daughter, Caroline, on their entry of "Bristlenose". This *Ancistrus* species is a Class "C" spawn and the fry are always in demand. This spawning entitled Nick A to received 5 point bonus for second generation spawn. Congrats again Lisa and Caroline. And Nick, keep spreading them fish around.

Just a reminder for the members submitting BAP fish: You can donate your parents or fry to our FOTAS Fund via the Aqua Bid. The auction is doing great, but there is always a need for more donations and you still will receive your BAP credit.

■ Jim Beck

January 15, 2007

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Upcoming Events:

- HCCC Monthly Meeting
January 21st
- HCCC Winter Auction Feb-
ruary 10th

Cover Photo:
Eretmodus cyanostictus
By Dave Hansen

Current BAP Standings	
Name	YTD
Greg W.	70
Dave H.	50
Paul	30
Greg S.	20
Lisa Bl.	20
Diane	15
Nick	5

Club Event:**HCCC Christmas Party 2006**

Ho, Ho, Ho!!! Christmas-time in South Texas means that you listen to Christmas music while in a pair of shorts with flip flops on. That was the scene on Saturday, December 16 at the annual HCCC Christmas Extravaganza!!

Well.... we weren't all in shorts and flip flops - a few made the mistake of coming in long sleeve shirts. Poor souls! It was a balmy 80+ degrees... There's something not right about setting out Turkey and Ham and all of the trimmings with sweat dripping off the end of your nose! However, Club Members outdid themselves again. There were appetizers, side dishes, rolls and DESSERTS! Of course, Greg Steeves and I were in a panic when Yvonne Beevers hadn't shown up with her famous Cheesy Potatoes! She called and said she was stuck by a train. It took a while but she finally arrived.

We had an RSVP list of over 50 members. Not all of them were able to attend, but we had a good showing. There were probably over 40 people there with their families. Numerous people came from Austin, San Antonio, Kerrville and the longest trek award went to Charles Jones who came in from Houston

(accompanied by some delicious stuffed chicken). After we all enjoyed the amazing food - it was time for some awards. Dave Hansen (Mullet) was the Master of Ceremonies. He gave a brief recap about the club's activities to-date, including our fund raising efforts for FOTAS 2007. He then turned the mic over to Yvonne Beevers (Lemurtx) to

present the photo contest winners. She stepped up dressed in her festive green Christmas sweater and obligatory bright yellow fish hat to make the presentations. In true fashion, Dave Hansen and Greg Steeves picked up a number of awards. Someone made a comment about me and the 3rd place spot... which I picked up in the Open Class. Last year, in the presence of my hero Ad Konings - I picked up a SLEW of 3rd place finishes... But it was time for a

Christmas miracle... I also picked up a 2nd place and 2 (count them 2) 1st place wins!! Merry Christmas to me!!

After the photo awards were presented, Dave turned the mic over to Jim Beck (Bristlenose) to present breeder awards. I was pleased to receive a bump to Advanced Breeder this year. Of course, I aspire to the Master



Photo by Nick Andreola

Breeder award. This year there were 2 winners, Greg Steeves (GAS) and Charles Skillern (Tangfish23). Both were on hand to pick up their beautiful plaques. And another of my aspirations, Breeder of the Year, went to David Dockwiller! Congratulations, Doc! Awards were also presented to Dave Schumacher (ds1196) of Dave's Rare Aquarium Fish and Jeff Johnson (jjoilrig) of Texotic Tropicals for

their continued strong support of the club and all of its activities. After the awards were finished we took a brief dessert break while our movie was set up. We watched a presentation on Nicaragua and its various fish populations. I was fascinated by the number of fry these fish have and how well they parent. It was also interesting to see one lake that sits near an active volcano and has pockets of

gases that rise up through the water. Looks like the lake is populated with airstones! Apparently, the bubbles are VERY hot and the fish do well to avoid them. While watching the movie, my phone beeped... I had brought my teenage daughter and her best friend. The text message said "OMG - were soooooo bored". I just don't get it. What teenager WOULDN'T be interested in the spawning and parenting habits of Nicaraguan fish?? I got up to find the restroom and found them sitting in the back with Amanda (Dave Schumacher's better half). She informed me that the girls were educating her

on "Emo's". This is similar to what we called "Punks" or "Skaters" in my day. However, Amanda was pleased to learn that apparently there are "Happy Emo's" (of which my daughter and her friends belong). Since most Emo's are depressed and sullen - I was quite "happy" about that myself. I promised the girl's 15 more minutes. The movie finished and we began the cleanup.



Oh, the gift bags.....
Yeah, no HCCC Christmas party is complete without those! Robert (Ripple) and his wife put together bags for all of the children in attendance. And I have never walked away with so many Marineland products and Hikari samples!! WOW!!
Thanks to everyone who put those together.

Thanks to everyone who attended and brought the amazing food (p.s. sorry about the burned rolls - I should NOT be put in charge of that next year...). Thanks to everyone who helped with setup and cleanup. And a special Merry Christmas thanks to all of our HCCC members. Thanks for making this club one of the highlights of my life for friendship and people to share my little "fish addiction". Here's wishing that everyone has a safe and happy holiday season!

■ Diane Tennison

Retrospective: 2006 Year in Review

The third full year of HCCC existence has expired. The membership holds strong as our club continues to grow into a cohesive unit. At the beginning of the year it was decided that we would accept the opportunity to host the Federation of Texas Aquarium Societies annual convention. This chance is presented to member clubs on a rotating basis and with eight clubs presently with memberships in FOTAS, it is possible that we will not get another hosting prospect until 2015. As a relatively new club it was decided that if we were going to host FOTAS, it would be nothing short of top-notch. We set our sights are high and it was explained that in order to achieve a convention of the level we want, a huge cost would be involved. The Hill Country Cichlid Club members understood and set the year of 2006 as primarily a fund raising effort. We have been very successful with over \$4500.00 banked so far. When the HCCC sets

their mind to something, it will happen.

Retrospective summary:

In January members were treated to a presentation by Donald Davis entitled An Overview



of Digital Photography. This was held in Austin.

The February meeting was hosted by Jennifer Prince at her home in Austin. Lots of great food was provided. Jennifer proudly displayed her beautiful aquariums for all to see and many took the chance to do some photography as well.

We held an auction in March. Carlos Cardenas owner of River City Aquatics and long time club supporter graciously picked up the facility cost in Austin. This

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event ran very smooth and a great time was had by all. Also in March the TCA held its spring show and auction. A good HCCC contingent made the trip north to Ft. Worth for a great show hosted by our good friends.



Photo by Jennifer Prince

The April outing was JJ's first annual crawfish boil at his fishplex. This was the talk of the message board for a couple weeks. It must be noted that "annual" means just that. Jeff was planning the 2007 crawfish boil the very next day! During this time many members assisted Young Dave in relocating his equipment from New Braunfels to San Antonio. Dave bought the business formerly known as Armkes Rare Aquarium Fish and had to relocated hundreds of aquariums and equipment. Dave is a popular member in the club and we were all happy to help him out where we could. His name also changed at this time from

Young Dave to Rare Dave.

The May meeting was held at Daves Rare Aquarium Fish in San Antonio. Everyone was quite impressed with the new shop.

In June we hosted a BBQ in Landa Park New Braunfels and invited our friends from the TCA to join us. Many people and their families took advantage of some great food, fish collecting, a horseshoe tournament and lots of great laughs. It was decided that this would become an annual event for our club.

July was ACA month. This year is was held in Chicago and hosted by the GCCA. A contingent from the HCCC attended and gave the convention rave reviews.

The August meeting was again held at DRAF. Dave gave a presentation on constructing egg tumblers and everyone in attendance went

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home with one.

In September we held our fall auction in San Antonio at the Bracken Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. This facility has become a favorite location for club activities. This auction was suppose to be on the small side but ended up consisting of more than 400 lots. Dave and Charles handled auctioneering duties and



zipped through everything in record time. If not for them we would still be there. Rare Dave graciously paid for the use of the facility.

In October the owner of Darby's Tropicals hosted a HCCC gathering. Also this month, the Houston Aquarium Society hosted FOTAS. Again, a number of club members road tripped. This was a fantastic time and we can only hope to do the job when we host FOTAS that HAS did.

The November outing was to the San Antonio Zoo. This is sure to be another annual trip for the club.

December was our Christmas party. This is always the highlight of the year and looked forward to by all. This capped another great year for the HCCC.

Club Direction:

This past year has seen some changes in the Leadership group. Diane and Jim were inducted in February followed by Jennifer in June. All changes to the Leadership Group occur from within. There are no particular criteria for becoming an LG member. When a position opens we actively discuss who would make for good candidates. We make all decisions together and in the past, choices have been made based on personality within the club and club involvement. Our club is run differently than most other clubs. The Leadership Group is a survival mechanism to ensure the HCCC will be around for many years to come.

There have been some tough decisions made

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this year in regards to membership. It is unfortunate that no matter how successful an organization becomes, there are always those that for one reason or another wish to destroy it. We need not tolerate this.



There is another issue of trying to get back that personal feeling we had in the first couple years of our existence. We have grown quickly in terms of membership this year. We want to find methods to let everyone meet and get to know each other.

As this club has grown, the need for more members to step forward and offer to help out where needed has become extremely important. Please

think of how you can best help out and make it happen.

Robert has continued to edit the Lateral Line, our club publication. He is always in need of material, so write often about your hobby.

Jim has done a great job with the BAP since taking over last year. The number of spawns and species recorded by club members is astounding. Nick has launched the Endangered Species Program (ESP). This is a way for us hobbyists to really make a difference in species survival. If you are not familiar with this program, take some time and read up about it on the web site. Diane has done a great job handling membership. Dave is in charge of our treasury. All scheduling of club activities are handled by Doc. Jennifer and Rare Dave have headed up an ongoing fundraiser of donated fish posted for auction on Aquabid.

Remember that this is your club. Get involved!

■ Greg Steeves

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Profile:**Meet a New Member**

Dave Hansen graciously offered me an opportunity to revive the "Meet a New Member" article for the Lateral Line. I have boundless energy and am quite talkative, so it took little or no time for me to take this and run with it. Dave H. explained that he used to email questions to new members, but decided to let me format this article on my own. I guess he has seen me in action on the forum, where I have been known to ask and answer my own questions. Oh, and comment when no comment is due. Did I leave anything out Dave Hansen?

I chose to go 'old school' with this article and research Lateral Line articles from April and May 2005. I know it was years ago, but I read the "Meet a New Member" articles by founding father, Dave Hansen, and founding mother, Terry Isbell. I wrote down notes and took what I liked from both articles. Like any decent teacher, I learn from the best and steal ideas from the rest. My final decision was to use a combination of questions from both these articles and to interrogate, or interview, myself without any conflict, hopefully.

Kevin: Tell us how and about when you fell into the hobby.

Kevin: My parents used to keep aquariums in the house as far back as I can remember. They even kept *Synodontis nigriventris* and probably did not know it. They called it the "Upside-Down catfish." They also kept tropical community fish like tetras and angelfish.

Kevin: What were your earliest fish?

Kevin: My first aquarium was bought for me when I was 12 years old. I kept community tropical fish including some swordtails that were suicidal. They would be swimming one day and found a week later behind the stand, desiccated. I also kept a crayfish that I raised since a juvenile. When it was time for us to move again, he was 12" long and turned from bright red to bright blue!

In high school I kept Altum angels from Forever Pets on Nacadoches Road. I also kept *Pelvachromis Pulcher*, *Corydas* catfish, neon tetras, and a few other community fish. The Kribs were what led me down that dusty, arid, African road.

In college, I snuck a 20 gallon high tank into my dormroom where the strict rule was, "No fish tanks above 10 gallons." In my contraband tank was *Lodotropheus sprengerae*, *Labidochromis caeruleus*, *Melanochromis interruptus* (my favorite), and a couple of *Synodontis* budgetti (I still have these catfish to

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this day. They must be 10 years old by now and I haven't managed to kill them, yet.)

Kevin: What is your setup like now and what fish do you keep?

Kevin: Tanganyikans, I tell you! I have the same 20 gallon high from college with the same catfish. In there are some rogue Tanganyikans that don't get along with any other cichlids in my house. They even eat angrily and show little appreciation for me. I feed high quality New Life Spectrum and Omega One Super Veggie Pellets and they still glare at me with disdain. I need to call Cesar "The Dog Whisperer" for some help with these guys. I am not the "alpha male" leading this pack here. The pack includes: a large *Tropheus* sp. Red Moliro (5-6") 'the leader', one *Neolamprologus Cylindricus* (4-5") 'the instigator', and the two 'invincible' *Synodontis budgetti*. They battle each other all the time and there are surprisingly no injuries. Oh, but there is some gravel moving and they keep me awake with all the noise.

In a 55 gallon, I have 17 *Tropheus brichardi* Kabimba "Canary Cheek," one *Tropheus* sp. Red Moliro, one lone male *Eretmodus cyanostictus* sp. Red Ikola 'the cranky boss', one *Auchenoglanis occidentalis*, and one *Synodontis longirostris*. The tank has holey rock, limestone boulders, and is planted with amazon swords, red ludwiga, crypts, mondo grass, and java fern. In another tank, I have 6 *Callochromis macrops* Namansi "Green Face," 6 *Cyathopharynx foai* Mbita "Yellow Chin," 6 *Synodontis petricola*, 5 *Neolamprologus brevis*

Katabe "Orange Spot or Head," 4 *Lamprologus Stappersi* "Pearly Ocellatus," and 3 *Altalamprologus Compressiceps* Zambia "Yellow Calvus." This tank is a grow out tank with limestone rocks, *vallisneria*, mondo grass, and variegated grass.

In a 125 gallon tank, I have 3 *Ophthalmotilapia ventralis* Mpimbwe "Silver Streak," 6 *Cyprichromis leptosoma* 'Jumbo' Katete, 2 *Altalamprologus Compressiceps* Mwela "Orange" and 2 *Cyphotilapia* sp. "North" Karilani. This tank has holey rock, limestone flat rocks to make caves, and is planted with various *anubias* including *afzelli*, *congensis*, and *barteri*. Madagascan lace bulb plants also add to the aesthetics of this tank.

Kevin: What if any, are your future plans for your setup?

Kevin: I will quote Diane Tennison here and say, "More tanks, more fish."

Kevin: What is your occupation?

Kevin: I am a special education teacher for an elementary school in San Antonio. If anyone ever questions my high energy level, I have to sustain it to get through my day. These children that I work with have A.D.D./A.D.H.D., specific learning disabilities, and emotional disabilities. I did have two that are high functioning students with autism and none that are mentally retarded. All my students are capable of passing the state exam starting in 3rd grade like everyone else. I have a 100% pass rate, so far and yes, it is a

lot of work! Teaching reading, language arts, and math is my specialty.

Kevin: Any other pets or critters besides fish?

Kevin: Four family dogs.

Kevin: Have you always lived in San Antonio, if not, where did you grow up, school, etc.?

Kevin: I am a classic military brat. My father is retired USAF personnel and we have lived in Alaska, New York, Germany, Virginia, and San Antonio. Because we moved around quite a bit when my father would be stationed at another base, I am used to leaving friends behind and trying my best to make new ones at our new destinations. I have developed a defense mechanism, I guess, to make the emotional hardships of leaving friends behind a little easier.

Kevin: What are your favorite things about HCCC?

Kevin: Let's be honest, the discounts. Dave Schumacher knows me on a first and last name basis. I have all the receipts since September and I am afraid to add them all up to see how much I have spent altogether. It's best not to

know, but I am guessing in the high three-figure range. I helped him move into that new house of his in more ways than one.

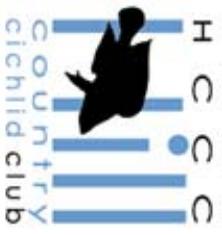
Kevin: If you could have a dream job, what would it be?

Kevin: Hmm...I would like to be a psychologist some day and specialize in self-help. Joking aside, I earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from St. Mary's University. A decision has to be made on graduate school in the near future for me to earn any money out of my degree. Until then, I teach.

So, there you go. If you want to know any more about me, just ask in the forum or at a future meeting. I will gladly answer any questions that I can, and change subjects quickly when I can't. Just kidding, I am a very friendly and generous guy that you would be glad to know. Look forward to meeting with each and every one of you as we take this journey of keeping cichlids together.

■ *Kevin Allen*

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