

The Lateral Line

Volume 2, Issue 20

March 2007



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BAP Report

The month of February is still showing the effects of the colder weather this year with only three entries in the BAP. But it was an exciting month for Christy (Texastang) who submitted her "First" entry into the BAP. Congratulations Christy on the spawning of *Neolamprologus multifasciatus*.

March 15, 2007

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Congratulations to Diane (Gryhouse) for the spawning report on the *Ancistrus* sp. "Bristlenose". This is a class "C" fish and the last I looked the little algae-eaters were still available. Although this was only her second entry this year, Diane did make a run at the Breeder of the Year Award last year, and I think she will be in strong contention this year. Congrats again Diane.

I (Bristlenose) finally approved two of my reports which consisted of the *Aulonocara* sp *Jacobfreibergeri* "Swallow tail" and the *Pseudotropheus Tropheops* "Red Cheek".

Though February was not a highly productive month, judging from the conversations I have had with several members, including myself, the totals will start to increase. Congratulations to this month's entry.

■ *Jim Beck*

Cover Photo:
Gobiocichla wonderi
By Dave Hansen

Current BAP Standings	
Name	YTD
Greg W.	70
Dave H.	50
Diane	35
Jim	30
Paul	30
Eric	25

Current Standings (cont)	
Name	YTD
Greg S.	20
Lisa Bl.	20
Duc	20
Robert	20
TexasTang	15
Nick	5

HCCC Monthly Photo Contest



First Place
Dave Hansen
Female *stromboli* with fry



Second Place (Tie)
Nick Andreola
Tropheops Red Fin fry



Second Place (Tie)
Dave Hansen
Steatocranus tinanti juvie

Club Event:**Winter Auction 2007**

Typically, HCCC hosts 2 auctions per year - one in the spring and one in the fall. This year, with FOTAS around the corner, we decided to throw another one in there. The auction was held at the Bracken Methodist Church Hall. It seems that HCCC auctions are a time for heat and humidity. This means that regardless of what the weather may have been like up to the date of the event - auction day usually dawns with lots of sun, lots of humidity and a minimum temperature of 85 degrees. This auction broke the mold! The day dawned overcast and downright cold! The morning temperature was 41 degrees! For once, we didn't have to crank up the air conditioner when we got to the church hall. The doors opened at 10am. Doc arrived early to set up chairs. I must admit that I was in a bit of a panic for this auction. I run the computer. This means that I am recording all buyer info, seller info, sales info along with printing buyer reports and seller reports. This can be a daunting task. I always

have an accomplice - someone to take the sales info on paper. This is an essential function, because sometimes I miss a sales price. Sometimes I get behind because I am entering last minute buyer or seller info. Sometimes I



Photo by Nick Andreola

get behind because someone needs a buyer or seller report. And sometimes a potty break or food break is necessary (I know, I know - the astronaut made it to Florida, some 900 miles, in a Depends - you'd think I could take a lesson from that smart woman...). All was boding well until I got a note from Yvonne, my partner in crime. She was going out of town and wouldn't make the auction. Not a person to panic - I assured her that all would be okay and promptly contacted Jennifer. She heartily agreed to help me wherever I needed

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it. Friday Jennifer called to let me know that she would not be able to make the auction - her parents had planned a surprise trip to visit the Prince Family. Now was time to panic! However, being the procrastinator that I can be - I decided to save my full blown hysteria for the morning of the auction! I arrived and set up, having no idea who my back up would be. Greg came to the rescue! He loaned me Stewart. Stewart is Lee Ann's 13 year old son. I showed Stewart how to record the info and he sat patiently waiting for the auction to begin. I promptly began entering buyer and seller info - the whole while watching the bags begin to pile in. This auction was different in another way as well (besides the weather and timing). We had hot food!! Melody and Marty James, along with Marin Chu had offered to provide some wonderful goodies for our auction participants! Their fare included sloppy joes, hot dogs, chili dogs, cookies, chips, and drinks! For anyone who hasn't been to an auction yet - there is usually

only a soda machine to choose from. If you want food - you must get in your car and drive a few miles to the nearest Mecca of fast food. Hopefully we have started a new trend! The auction began promptly at noon - well, not really - it started at around 12:15... I was trying to get all seller/buyer info in before things kicked off. Stewart soon proved to be a wonderful assistant. With mechanical prowess -



Photo by Nick Andreola

he recorded the staging area and swiftly beat down anyone who tried to put a bag out of order! Our auctioneers, Dave Hansen and Charles Jones - got the auction going in full swing. Another surprise twist to this event was the addition of Robert DeLeon (Ripple) to the auctioneering squad! Robert did a great job at his first time on the mic! In typical HCCC auction fashion - there were a number of deals to be had. Some beautiful Peacocks and Haps made their way to the front and were promptly

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sold for great prices. Kathy Sterns, TCA representative, brought some great bags of fish that



Photo by Nick Andreola

we don't always see at our auction. Frontosa and Calvus/Altos ruled the day in bag prices! Stewart and I continued to plug along at the front. I gracefully only took 1 potty break and Stewart soon tired after almost 3 hours in the chair. What a trooper! When he finally indicated that he had had enough - I couldn't have been prouder! What a great job he did. Jim Beck (Bristlenose) stepped in to relieve Stewart. Jim wasn't nearly as tough as Stewart - but managed to do a great job as well of keeping the info recorded and the bags moving. There were a number of great raffle prizes available at

this auction - Christy and Jason seemed to have cornered the market on getting the good tickets as they took home a few items! I was the proud winner of the HCCC quilt (donated by Doc and his mom)! Good thing someone stopped bidding against me when I said "\$125" - 'cuz I probably would have kept going! That quilt was going home with me no matter what! The auction finally ended after 6pm. We had 470+ items sold and the club took in over \$1,700 to add to our FOTAS fund! This was, by far, our most successful auction to date. And I made it through, with the help of my trusty sidekicks - Stewart and Jim. With 2 potty breaks and nothing to eat all day but some of Marin's cookies, a Sunkist and a bag of Cheetos - I learned a valuable lesson as well... I really think those astronauts are on to something with their food in a tube and their Depends....

■ Diane Tennison

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Club Program:**Endangered Species Program**

The Hill Country Cichlid Club's program to help insure future generations of endangered cichlids began officially on October 12, 2006. Other clubs and organizations, such as the Texas Cichlid Association, have their own programs. These different programs all utilize the IUCN Red List, **International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources**, which lists all endangered species.

Greg (GAS) began the ball rolling by suggesting our club start its own program. The data base, listings, introductions and guidelines were not created overnight. After hard work on the part of Greg, Dave (Mullet), Nick (Nick A) and Paul, the program was established.

The goal of the ESP is:

1- To put the full force of our collective effort into sustaining endangered species for future

generations to enjoy.

2- To organize our efforts in such a way as to increase the opportunities and enhance the



Photo by Dave Hansen

abilities for participants to acquire and successfully maintain viable colonies of these truly rare fish.

3- To add to the existing knowledge base with well-written species articles, photographs and shared techniques for successful maintenance and breeding.

In the short six months since its conception the ESP has nine members listing their colonies. These members have a total of 25 species listed of which there are 16 separate species. Greg has a total of 8 entries. He has

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been working with Victorians for quite some time. If you do not know the situation with Lake Victoria, you might read up on the catastrophe to the cichlid population of that lake. I am working hard on moving out some of my "favorites" to make room for more of my endangered "favorites". I have 6 species working



Photo by Dave Hansen

at this time. Dave (Mullet) has 3 species; Charles (Tangfish23) and Jose (Ciclasoman) have 2 species each. The following have 1 species listed: Greg (Mokkers), Robert (Ripple), Dave (DS1196) and Pat (Nascar2).

Though I listed the number of species each member is currently maintaining, the quantity is not the goal of the program. You have helped if by maintaining just one species. Unlike our BAP, where you're awarded for the hard work in breeding and maintaining different species, the ESP's goal is to help in the future survival

of the endangered fish. This satisfaction is your reward. If you become interested in an endangered species or would like to buy, donate, trade or sell your fish or offspring, our program will provide you with names of others who have the same goal in mind. Of course your resources are not limited to just the participants in our program.

Our list is composed from the IUCN Red List which is very large and we are continually updating our list. The colony list will grow as more members become involved as so will the species list. If you would like to participate in our ESP, contact Dave and add your name to the data base.

Our program is underway and is off to a good start. Our club no doubt will receive more recognition with the recent endeavors by Dave Hansen and Greg Steeves.

They have furthered our program by assisting another group with their program by donating endangered fish. They have corresponded with Claudia Dickinson, chairman of the ACA

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CARES program and have assisted the Lime Kiln Middle School in Maryland who has what they call "Aqua Havens for Education". This school has become the flagship for the Education Cares Center. The offspring of the fish will be shipped to qualified CARES schools across the country, achieving ultimate awards



Photo by Dave Hansen

of recognition for the students for each species shared with, and registered by, another CARES school. This program is run by a gentleman named Bob Keddell who is devoted to species survival and propagation of threatened cichlids. Five species were sent to them which consisted of: *Astatotilapia latifasciata*, *Haplochromis* sp. "all red" (Nawampassa), *Platytaeniodus* sp. "red tail sheller", *Harpagochromis* sp. "golden duck" and *Lithochromis xanthopteryx*. Also Rusty Wessel sent the endangered Central American Cichlid *Thorichthys*. These species should help them with their program. The school has already posted species in our ESP.

I am posting a quote from Claudia that was in her correspondence thanking the organizations for their help. The last lines represent what we as individuals are trying to achieve: *"There is great excitement in the school amongst the students over their special Aqua Havens CARES charges, and immense pride within the student body, the faculty, and the community. We are most grateful to each of you, and to ACA CARES, the AKA, the LIKA, the ALA, and the HCCC, for all that you do for our young people and for our fish at risk!"*

"It is about our fish, and it is about people. We are one team, working together. We can and we will make a difference!"

This article was just an overview of our ESP, but there is more interesting reading if you check out the individual colonies listed in the program. Go to the Main Page of the Lateral Line and click on to get in and become involved in the ESP.

■ Jim Beck

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Product Review:**Marineland C-360 Canister Filter**

When I first heard about Marineland's new line of canister filters I was intrigued. I felt they had the potential to be interesting because the canister market has needed another good inexpensive canister filter and their promise of virtually no bypass made me think this just might be the one. After viewing their wonderful piece of flash marketing material, I was even more excited. All the same, I had quite a few unanswered questions about this unit. How is it priced, is it competing with the inexpensive Filstar units or up closer to the high-end Eheim units? How true are the claims of minimal bypass? What is the build quality like? I have had one for several weeks now and I feel comfortable writing a review that will answer some of these questions.

Pricing and Specifications

The Marineland C-360 is rated at 360 GPH and for Aquariums up to 100g. The street price for this unit seems to be between \$110 and \$165 on-line. Availability still seems to be fairly low as of 3/10/2007. I have not seen them in shops yet to report local prices.

Initial Impressions

When I first received my unit I was impressed by the presentation of the packaging. It is very well done. Being part of Spectrum Brands, Inc must give Marineland access to a decent marketing budget. However, the packing leaves a little to be desired. The canister is in a thin bubble wrap bag but is basically just sitting in

the box other than that. If you have this unit shipped to you I would make sure that it shipped in another box. The C-360 is a nice



Photo by Evan Bowers

looking filter. It has a clean look and is an attractive silver and black. The unit has a top handle that pulls up for easy carrying. The handle feels pretty weak but I have not had a

problem yet.

Media

The C-360 includes all needed media in the box which is a great benefit as you do not have to buy anything else. This canister has four 8 ½" x 2 ¾" (approximately) interlocking media trays. Each media tray has a handle for easy removal during cleaning. The bottom basket has a coarse foam block and a fine foam block. In the next basket are three bags of Marineland Black Diamond carbon. The next basket contains small bio-balls. The top media basket is filled with ceramic rings and it is topped with a fine filtration pad.

Tubing and Attachments

This Marineland canister comes with two lengths of tubing. Each piece is approximately five feet long. The tubing is translucent black and has the Marineland logo attractively printed on it in white. It is very thick. It is hard to measure but I would say that the tubing is about ¾" ID (Internal Diameter). It is definitely bigger than the 5/8" tubing that all my other canisters use. It was relatively easy to work with, especially given its large size. However, it was very difficult to cut because it was so thick. Also, I think it is worth noting that not many inline attachments come in this size. It may take some adjustment to get standard attachments onto these hoses.

The intake tube for this unit is a fixed size, two piece unit. It is solid black and is barely visible in a tank with a black background. It is about 17 ½" long when assembled. Because of this, this canister would not be appropriate for a shallow aquarium.

The outflow attachment is also black. It is a pretty interesting assembly. It is a single piece that can be rotated 360 degrees horizon-



Photo by Evan Bowers

tally. The spray nozzle has a v-shaped piece of plastic which forces the water to flow in two different directions. This can be rotated approximately 160 degrees to spray water in different direction. No spray bar is included.

The quick disconnect valve block is also black. It has two angled hose barbs that rotate 360 degrees horizontally. Each hose barb has two hose nuts which are used to connect the tubing without the need for clamps. The quick disconnect block has two levers. It has an outer lever that is used to reduce or stop the

flow through the tubes. Underneath the outer lever is another lever which is raised and twisted to release the valve block from the canister. I liked that you could stop the flow of the water without shutting off the canister or releasing the valve block. Some canister filters have a single lever which performs both functions which means that you have to turn the canister off to stop the flow.

Documentation

The Marineland documentation comes in two parts. The first is a black and white fold-out that has basic operating instructions, safety information and troubleshooting guidelines. The second is a big color setup foldout. Although this is quite brief, it includes lots of pictures which made setup very straightforward.

Bypass

First, a quick explanation on what bypass is for any who is not familiar with the term. Bypass is when water flows around the filter media instead of through the filter media. Bypass is bad because the whole purpose of your filter is to pass the water through the filter media thereby filtering the water. When a filter allows for a lot of bypass, your filter may not be doing much except providing water circulation.

The C-360 works by passing water down the canister through a series of interconnected tubes in each media basket. The water is then forced up through the media from the bottom to

the top. The baskets fit together quite snugly and although I have no scientific proof, it seems reasonable to believe that Marineland's claims of virtually no bypass are justified.

Installation

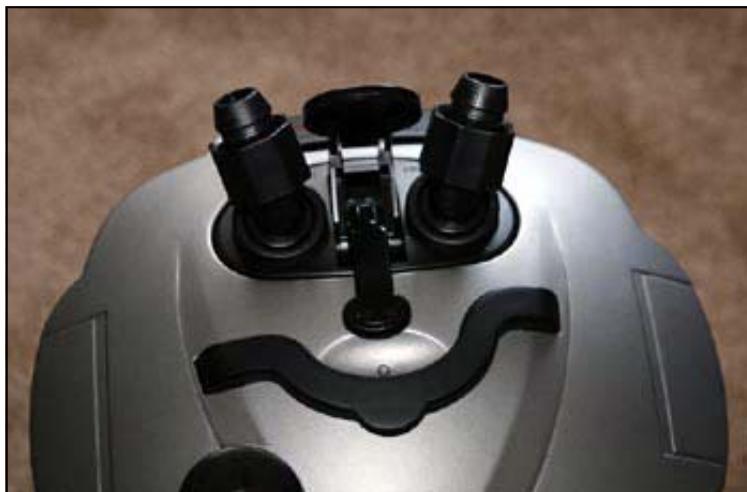


Photo by Evan Bowers

Installing the C-360 was quite simple. First, I unpacked the unit and removed all the packing material. I then opened the canister by opening two large latches and pulling up on the two release handles. This unsealed the top of the canister which contains the motor housing. Inside were four media baskets already filled with media in the correct order. All I had to do was remove the bio-balls and ceramic rings from their bags and pour them into the baskets. I then restacked the trays and replaced the top.

Next, the hoses were attached to intake and outflow assemblies with plastic hose clamps.

I then attached both assemblies to the tank using the supplied suction cups. I had to move the filter into the cabinet at this point so I could get the hoses cut to the right lengths and attached to the quick disconnect valve block. This was harder than it needed to be because the hoses are very thick and the scissors I was using were not really up to the task. I would recommend something a little stronger than scissors for cutting these tubes. Once cut, they were easily attached to the valve block by pushing the ends on and twisting the hose nuts closed.

At this point, it is pretty much installed. All that was left was to connect to the quick disconnect valve to the tank, plug it in and depress the priming button twice. Or at least this was what the instructions said. I found the priming mechanism to be a little less effective than that. I had to press it about 10 times to get it started. However, once it finally started, water flowed into the canister and all was well.

Maintenance

Maintaining this filter is relatively easy. When it comes time to clean the filter you simply pull up the top lever to stop the flow, unplug the units power cord and lift and twist the release lever to disconnect the canister from the tubing. The filter is now free to be moved to your cleaning area of choice. Now you open it up and remove the media baskets one at a time. The fine filtration pad and the sponges should

be cleaned or replaced as required. The carbon can be replaced if you normally use chemical filtration. Otherwise that basket can be left empty. The basket of bio-balls and the basket of ceramic rings should not be cleaned and should not be allowed to dry as they should contain a good portion of your nitrify-



Photo by Evan Bowers

ing bacteria. Then just dump the canister out, replace all the media baskets and reconnect. The canister should refill with water without the need for additional priming. It should take less than ten minutes once you have done it once or twice. The only challenge I had with this whole procedure is that the baskets lock together fairly snugly so sometimes the baskets will come out together or attached to the

top.

Pros and Cons

Pros:

This canister is well priced for what you get.
All needed media is included.
Build quality is acceptable for this price point.
It is extremely quiet.
Installation is easy.
The quick disconnect valve works well and I like the two lever design.
No bypass design.

Cons:

The priming button is not great.
No spray bar attachment included.
Fixed length intake tube may be a problem for shorter tanks.

Overall Conclusion

Overall, I like this filter a lot. It sells inexpensively and seems to be effective. I have had one running for several weeks now and the flow is still fine. Given the newness of this product I do have questions about long term reliability but only time will tell. I am disappointed that a spray bar was not included. I like that it is quiet and that its design does not lead itself to bypass. In the end, I would recommend this filter to anyone looking for a canister filter on a budget.

As compared to the Rena Filstar XP3

The price of the C-360 and the XP3 are pretty close when you factor the cost of media. The Rena unit comes with a spray bar and an adjustable length intake tube. Build quality is better on the C-360. The C-360's dual lever

approach to stopping the flow of water and releasing the quick disconnect is superior to the XP3's single lever. Since I use black backgrounds typically I also prefer the black intake tube of the C-360 vs. the pale blue of the XP3. On the other hand, the XP3 comes with excellent documentation. For me, it is a toss up between these two units depending on your exact needs.

As compared to the Eheim Professional II 2028

These two filters are actually fairly similar in design. That being said, the Eheim Professional II is a much nicer filter. Build quality is superb on the Eheim. The tubing is flexible and easy to work with. The priming button was more effective for me. The media baskets are huge. Also, the water flow seems to be at least as high even though it is rated quite a bit lower. However, all of this comes at a much higher price tag. The Eheim unit is nearly twice as expensive after factoring the cost of media in. In the end, your available budget should decide which you should purchase.

I hope you liked my first review and I am planning to submit another review next month, the Eheim Professional II 2028.

■ *Evan Bowers*

Event Calendar:**Upcoming Events in Texas**

All of the information has been obtained from other club's websites. Dates and times have not been confirmed. Please check with each club if you plan to attend any of their events. This list may not be complete so don't assume every event is included here.

March:

March 17th

Time: 1 P.M.

Hill Country Cichlid Club—Monthly meeting

March 17th

Time: 7 P.M.

Texas Cichlid Association—Regular Monthly Meeting at the home of David Andrews, 3828 Wayland Drive, Fort Worth. Phone: (817) 291-4169

March 18th

Time: 11 A.M.

Houston Aquarium Society—Spring Live Fish Auction. Doors open at 10 A.M. for sellers. American Legion Post, 11702 Galveston Rd., Houston.

April:

April 13th-15th

Texas Cichlid Association—Spring Show and Workshop at the Clarion Hotel DFW South in Irving. Confirmed speakers to date include Ad Konings and Greg Steeves.

April 15th

Time: 2 P.M.

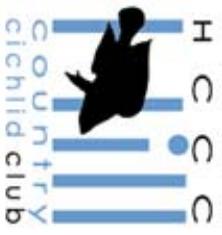
Hill Country Cichlid Club—Monthly meeting at Jeff Johnson's house. Details to follow.

May:

May 19th

Time: 2 P.M.

Hill Country Cichlid Club—Quarterly meeting at Bracken United Methodist Church.



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