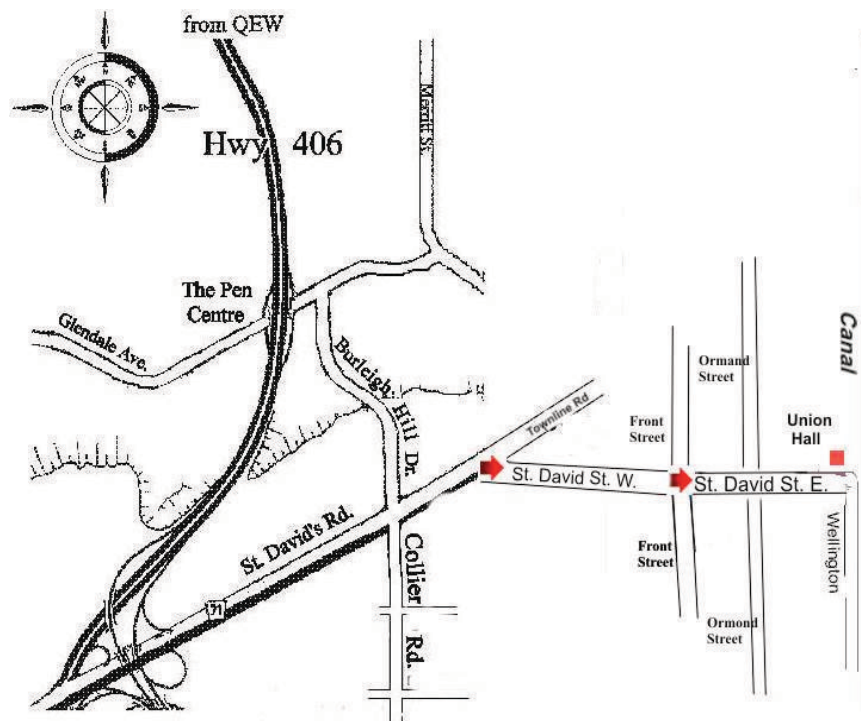


The SCAT



Volume #31 Issue 2

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► Meetings of The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, (S.C.A.A.S.), are held on the First Monday of each month at the Seafarers' and Teamsters' Union Hall, 70 St. David St. E., Thorold, ON. If the First Monday falls on a holiday, the meetings are held on the second Monday. **Meetings begin at 7:30. There are no meetings in July and August.** ► **Our Mission Statement:** The society, established in 1958, is a non-profit educational organization, dedicated to the task of promoting interest in the breeding, raising, maintenance and study of tropical Fish, both at the beginner and more advanced levels. ► S.C.A.A.S. is a charter member of the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs Inc., (C.A.O.A.C.), www.caoac.ca and a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies, (F.A.A.S.), www.faas.info ► More news and information about S.C.A.A.S. can be found at our web site www.scaas.info

Executive

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Advertising in 'The SCAT'

Full Page	\$150
Half Page	\$100
Quarter Page	\$ 80
Business Card	\$50

Membership Fees

Family	\$25
Single Adult	\$20
Junior (under 16)	\$10
Student with card	\$10
Senior over 65	\$10
Senior Couple over 65	\$15

Committees

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Jar Show F.O.M.

- September Goldfish
- October Danios, Barbs & Tetras
- November Cichlids (any type)
- December. No Specific Fish of the Month – Open to All Types
- January Plants
- February Loaches & Sharks
- March Swords, Platies, Mollies
- April Anabantids including Gouramis and Bettas
- May Guppies
- June Corys & Catfish (including plecos)
- OPEN CLASS EVERY MONTH

October Program

On Monday, October 1st, Chris Hudson will deliver the "Introduction to Keeping Jellyfish" presentation. Chris Hudson is the owner of Toronto-based EverClear Aquatics (<http://jellyfishaquarium.ca/>) that installs and manages custom aquarium systems and is Canada's only distributor of live jellyfish for the aquarium hobby. In his presentation, Chris will discuss everything we need to know about keeping jellyfish in a home aquarium and more. Specifically, he will talk about jellyfish myths and facts, principles of jellyfish aquarium design, jellyfish species suitable for aquariums, jellyfish anatomy, husbandry, nutrition, and jellyfish aquarium maintenance. Of course we will also have our regular draws and mini auction to follow.

Please note an earlier start time for this meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Last Month's Meeting Minutes

- 7:45 Meeting Called to Order
- B.A.P. Report - several awards pending
- A.H.A.P. Report - several awards pending
- Library Report - New Amazonas Magazines have arrived
- Hamilton Auction was the following weekend
- St Catharines auction will be held Nov. 4th
- Frank Aguirre - Plecos the "L" Numbers
- Mini auction held

Upcoming Events

14- Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society Auction & Show - details are to follow

16 - CAOAC Executive Meeting 10:00 General meeting will follow NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE; IT WILL BE AT THE KWAS AUCTION

21 - Calgary Aquarium Society Auction details

28- Peel Region Aquarium Club Auction & Show - details here

27-28 - Saskatoon Aquarium Society speaker weekend with Spencer Jack, details to follow





Pat's Presidential Message

Welcome to you all, it was good to see so many familiar faces as well as several new members at our September meeting. We had 49 in attendance at that meeting. Frank Aquirre gave a really interesting talk on plecos. There are so many amazing varieties out there, many of which do find their way into our aquariums.

Chris Hudson will deliver the "Introduction to Keeping Jellyfish" presentation at our club meeting on Monday, October 1. This is a first for our club and I look forward to learning on keeping these fascinating creatures.

As a reminder our club is having our annual fall auction on November 4, 2018 at the hall. If you are able to help out the club for any or all of the day it would be greatly appreciated. This is our largest fundraiser for the year which allows us to continue to bring in interesting speakers throughout the year. Please see any member of the executive at the October meeting if you are able to volunteer for this auction.

I hope to see you at the meeting on October 1, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Thank you

Pat

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St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society Annual Fund Raiser



AUCTION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018

At the Seafarers and Teamsters Union Hall
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ENTRANCE IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

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ENTRANCE**

WASHROOMS ARE NOT WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE



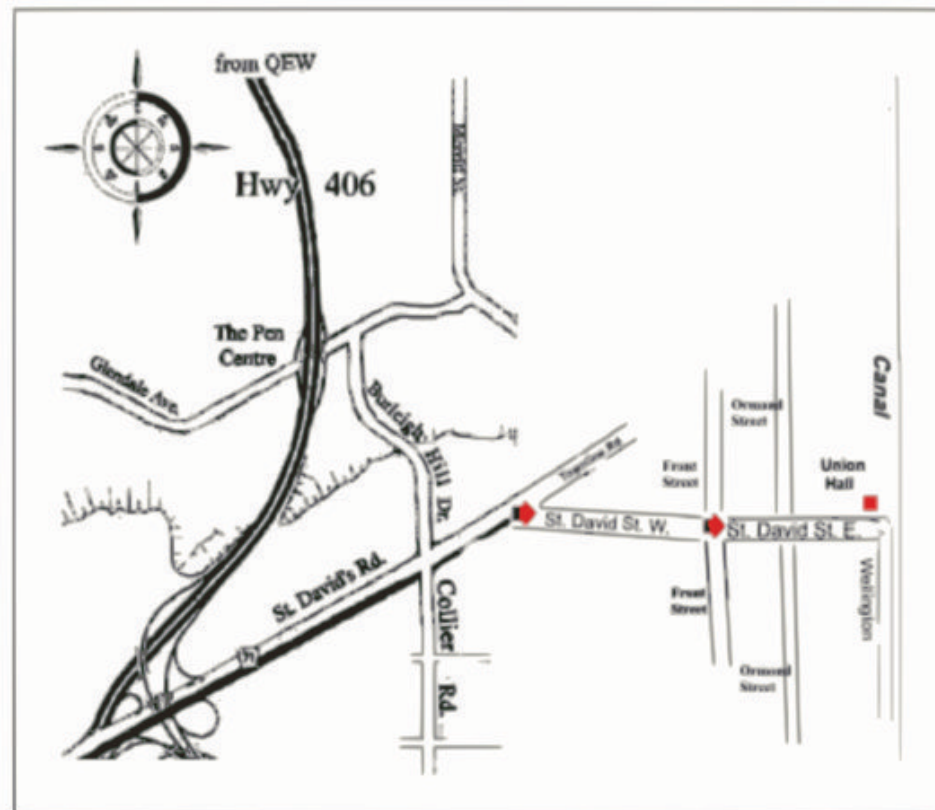
Doors open at 8 a.m.

Auction begins at approx. 10 a.m.

CASH ONLY

Auction forms will be provided

Sellers numbers (lot #'s) available after 8 a.m.



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www.scaas.info

and click on
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**Refreshments
available**

Only aquarium hobby-related items will be accepted for auction



Words From the Editor

Well it was good to be back for the first meeting of the season, and it was nice to see so many in attendance. Always glad to see new faces among the familiar. Last month i found our speaker rather informative and i can honestly say I did learn a lot. The speaker that Ernest has lined up for this month promises to also be rather informative, and I am really looking forward to this presentation. As well I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting on Monday.

I am also always looking for articles submitted from the members as well as suggestions for what you would like to see in your newsletter.

Feedback, suggestions, or you're not receiving the newsletter and wish to be, email me scateditor2018@gmail.com

Or come see me at the meeting.

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C.A.O.A.C. Update

From Phil Barrett

The most recent Caoac meeting was held Sunday September 16th. It was decided that the next Caoac meeting would be held Sunday October the 14th in Kitchener in a meeting room provided by the Kitchener club. This is during their October fish show and auction with hopes of exposing more people to what Caoac does. Any club member is welcome to join the general meeting. The executive meeting is to be held at 10 a.m. and the general meeting to follow immediately after, most likely at or a little before 11 a.m.

It was announced that there will be a revamping of the caoac website. During the last weekend of November there will be another Pet Expo held at the International Centre and caoac will be hosting a booth to promote the fish keeping hobby, anyone interested in volunteering their help would greatly be appreciated. If you are interested in helping at the Pet Expo you can contact the president Nancy Egelton, her contact information is available on the website or speak to me and I can help you get in touch with the right person.

Finally if anyone is interested they are welcome to join any of the general meetings and see what's going on behind the scenes to help promote the aquarium keeping hobby and support your local clubs.

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Keeping and Breeding Demasoni Cichlids

By Andrew Fruck

The Demasoni Cichlid (*Pseudotropheus Demasoni*) is an African Cichlid from Lake Malawi. It is a "newer" species on the market with plenty of them showing up in pet stores over the last couple of years.

Demasoni cichlids are an easy to keep cichlid however they are very aggressive. They are best kept with mbuna cichlids, especially some of the larger mbuna.

They should be kept just like most mbuna cichlids. The temperature should be roughly 78F-80F with plenty of rocks and places to hide, especially from each other. These cichlids are very territorial towards each other and cichlids that share similar appearances (colours and stripes) so the more space and hiding areas the better. They are a prime candidate for overcrowding to reduce aggression but remember in order to do that, you should increase the filter capacity of the tank exponentially to ensure that water quality does not suffer.

I use a mix of NorthFin cichlid, krill and veggie formulas with my Demasoni's. I have found this to be sufficient to raise and breed these pretty cichlids. You can add algae wafers and other vegetable rich foods to their diet. I have seen breeders offer the occasional piece of zucchini to their fish as well

The average adult size is about 3" with males being slightly larger than females. Once the group has reached an adult size, I start twice weekly water changes of 40%. I use water that is a little cooler than the tank temperature to spark a spawning reaction. In addition to the water changes I also increase the amount of food offered. Being that females are mouth brooders, once they are holding eggs they will go a while without eating so gaining a bit of weight before breeding will help with the recovery time.

Sexing Demasoni is fairly difficult. You can look for the typical egg spots that male Africans display however I have seen females that also had egg spots on their anal fins. The easiest way to sex them is to get a group of 6-10 and allow them to grow together. Once you see the dominant male and females that are holding eggs, there is your group.

Once your cichlids have successfully bred, the female will hold onto the eggs and eventual fry for approximately 3 weeks. She will tumble the eggs in her mouth during the entire period. This moves water over the progeny and keeps O2 from building up and killing them. Of course you could remove the eggs from the female and place them into a tumbler to allow the female a quick recovery.

If you choose to allow the female to incubate on her own, it is best to remove the female from the main tank after about 17 days and put her in a tank by herself with some decorations. This allows the fry a chance to get away and not get eaten once she spits the fry out.

Once the babies are free swimming, they can be fed baby brine shrimp, first bites and crushed up flake food. I usually feed 2-3 times a day. I also do a small water change daily with the babies using a piece of tubing as a siphon to remove any uneaten food and keep the water quality high.

As with most cichlids the babies are slow growing, in fact I would say that these are even slower to grow than most cichlids. It can take 9 months or more to grow babies to an adult size



Fun Facts About Fish

- 1. Most fish reproduce by laying eggs, though some fish, such as great white sharks, give birth to live babies called pups.**
- 2. Lungfish can live out of water for several years. It secretes a mucus cocoon and burrows itself under the unbaked earth. It takes in air with its lung through a built-in breathing tube that leads to the surface. A lungfish has both gills and a lung.**
- 3. Some fish, such as the great white shark, can raise their body temperature. This helps them hunt for prey in cold water.**
- 4. The oldest known age for a fish was an Australian lungfish. In 2003, it was still alive and well at 65 years old.**
- 5. Fish use a variety of low-pitched sounds to convey messages to each other. They moan, grunt, croak, boom, hiss, whistle, creak, shriek, and wail. They rattle their bones and gnash their teeth. However, fish do not have vocal chords. They use other parts of their bodies to make noises, such as vibrating muscles against their swim bladder.**
- 6. Fish can form schools containing millions of fish. They use their eyes and something called a lateral line to hold their places in the school. The lateral line is a row of pores running along the fish's sides from head to tail. Special hairs in the pores sense changes in water pressure from the movements of other fish or predators.**
- 7. Interesting Starfish Fact**
- 8. Starfish don't have a brain or blood**
- 9. Starfish are not fish. Neither are jellyfish.**
- 10. Since a fish's jaw is not attached to its skull, many fishes can shoot their mouths forward like a spring to catch startled prey.**
- 11. Electric eels and electric rays have enough electricity to kill a horse.**
- 12. Sharks are the only fish that have eyelids.**
- 13. Fish have sleep-like periods where they have lowered response to stimuli, slowed physical activity, and reduced metabolism but they do not share the same changes in brain waves as humans do when they sleep.**
- 14. Some fish, such as the herbivorous fish (grazers), often lack jaw teeth but have tooth-like grinding mills in their throats called pharyngeal teeth**
- 15. Most fish have taste buds all over their body.**
- 16. An estimated one third of male fish in British waters are changing sex due to pollution in human sewage.**
- 17. Saltwater fish need to drink more water than freshwater fish. Since seawater is saltier than the liquids in a fish's body, water inside the fish is constantly flowing out. If they didn't drink to replace the lost water, saltwater fish would dry up like prunes.**
- 18. The oldest fishhook ever found dates back to about 42,000 years ago**
- 19. Most fish have little salt in them. Sharks, however, have meat as salty as the ocean they live in.**
- 20. Most brands of lipstick contain fish scales.**
- 21. Most fish can see in color and use colours to camouflage themselves or defend themselves and their territory. Most fish have the best possible eyesight for their habitat and can most certainly see you peering at them in a fish tank. Some fish can see polarized and ultraviolet light.**



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Turquoise Cichlid

Herichthys tepehua "ssp turquoise"

By Andrew Fruck

The turquoise cichlid is a North American cichlid found in South Eastern Mexico. As a member of the genus *Herichthys*, it is closely related to the more widely available Texas cichlid. Although it is rarely seen in the hobby, it is a rather attractive cichlid that is under-appreciated.

I haven't seen this cichlid available in the hobby for many years so when the opportunity to get my breeding pair was presented to me, I had to jump at the chance.

In nature this cichlid has been collected in rather foul smelling water in smaller tributaries containing overgrown plants and rich in tannins. It is believed to also be present in the larger rivers that feed the tributaries however collecting in these locations has proven more difficult.

These cichlids can be reasonably aggressive similar to the Texas cichlid however the pair that I have has been relatively peaceful with each other. As they are a breeding pair I have them in their own tank to limit aggression and to ensure that they are left alone while breeding.

The tank itself is a 40 gallon aquarium with large pebble gravel, some rocks and a large tube that they can hide in. The temperature is kept between 76-78F. The only light in the tank comes from the room. There is no lighting above the tank however the room itself can get reasonably bright.

I feed my cichlids a mix of foods including NorthFin cichlid pellets, shrimp pieces, small pieces of smelt, krill and bug bites. They are fed 5 times a week typically. They do receive additional foods while breeding to ensure they are able to keep their weights normal.

Breeding is a longer process than with other cichlids I have spawned. They go through the usual motions - digging a pit, cleaning off a spot on the rock, increased aggression and of course swelling in the females abdomen. Their breeding tubes are then dropped and they go through this process for 4-5 days with their breeding tubes down before they lay eggs.

So far they always seem to lay their eggs on the same rock. There appears to be 400-500 eggs per breeding. The parents take great care in fanning the eggs and protecting them from predators (usually my hand while feeding). After a few days the eggs start to hatch and are still stuck to the rock. In a few days the babies are done absorbing the egg sacks and although they are free from the rock, they do not do much swimming. During this time the female moves them into the pipe where they live for a few more days while they continue to move around slightly as a large mass.

Once they are free swimming I start to feed the babies. I feed them crushed discus flake, baby brine shrimp and NorthFin baby food twice daily. The babies are like most hatchling fish, pretty clear and colourless for the first while.



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