

The official publication of the St.Catharines & Area Aquarium Society
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The

SCAT



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scaas.info

Club Notes

Our Mission Statement: Meetings of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society are held on the first Monday of each month, 7.30p.m., at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union Hall, 70 St. Davids Rd. E. Thorold, Ont. No meetings are held on Mondays that are holidays. Those meetings are held on the second Monday. There are no meetings during the months of July and August. *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 advanced levels.* The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society is a charter member of the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs Inc. (CAOAC) www.caoac.ca . SCAAS is also a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS). More news and information about St.Catharines & Area Aquarium Society can be found at <http://www.scaas.info>

Our next meeting will be held on April 04 at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union hall, 70 St. Davids Rd.E. Thorold. Start time is 7.30 pm ALL ARE WELCOME
This month's program will be on Angel fish, presented by Tom Bridges

2008 – 2009 Executive

President – Ken Brady - - - (905) 935-4716 kbrady2@cogeco.ca
1st Vice President – John Verhage – (905) 735-7776 jverhage@on.aibn.com
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Treasurer – Wally Ebert - (905) 687-6907 lebort@cogeco.ca
Past President & Editor DAve Unruh (905) 684-9860 dunruh@cogeco.ca

2007 – 2008 Committees

Aquatic Horticulture Awards DAve Unruh (905)684-9860
Archives Tom & Pat Bridges - - (905) 735-3352 tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
Auction Coordinator – Tom Bridges
Auctioneer – open
Breeder Awards – Tom Bridges
CAOAC Representative – Tom Bridges
Jar Show – Pat Shriner – - - (905) 354-1367 gpshriner@sympatico.ca
Library – Gary Phelps - - - (905) 563-6523
Library - Jeff Phelps - - - (905) 892-0248 jphelps@vaxxine.com
Membership & Exchanges – Pat Bridges (905) 735-3352
Programs – open
Press/publicity – Ken Brady - - (905) 935-4716 - kbrady2@cogeco.ca
Raffle & Draws – Priscilla Heus - (905) 988-9741
Refreshments – Bruce Hallet - - (905) 934-7138
Web Master - Ken Brady

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Membership Dues:

Family :\$ 25.00
Single - \$ 20.00
Junior - \$ 10.00 (under 16)
Seniors - \$ 10.00 (over 65)

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Cover photo of a wild
Pterophyllum scalare
Photo © by
DAve Unruh

Presidents Message April 2009

The most important item right now is our upcoming auction on May 2nd. Many of us have been involved and experienced the auction process but for those of you who have not I would like to give you an idea of what it's all about.



SCAAS 2006 auction Photo © by Dave Unruh

First off we raise a bit of money which is important to boost up the clubs bank account to be able to run programs, send out mail, pay insurance etc. Next it's a way to promote the club to other clubs and to the general population. People come from all over to our auctions and go away with a good impression on the quality of the members both as outgoing helpful people and knowledgeable aquarists.



SCAAS 2006 auction photo © by Dave Unruh

It's also a great way to see and buy good quality, healthy fish and usually a good source for less common fish and plants and even to make contact with likeminded hobbyists.

Last but not least it's a fun day full of team work and cooperation. It's a chance to see first hand how the club works and get to know the other members better. It also gives you the opportunity to suggest ways we can improve and help build the club.



Jim Chalmers auctioneering

photo © by Dave Unruh

We will have a list of helpers we need at the April meeting. If you don't want to commit that's OK you can always show up and give us a bit of help on the auction day. Most jobs are easy and flexible for the amount of time you can pitch in with.

Ken

Editors Notes –

This month there are 2 breeding articles from Dave Furness.

From Pam Danyluck we have an update on the Assassin Snails & Member Profile.

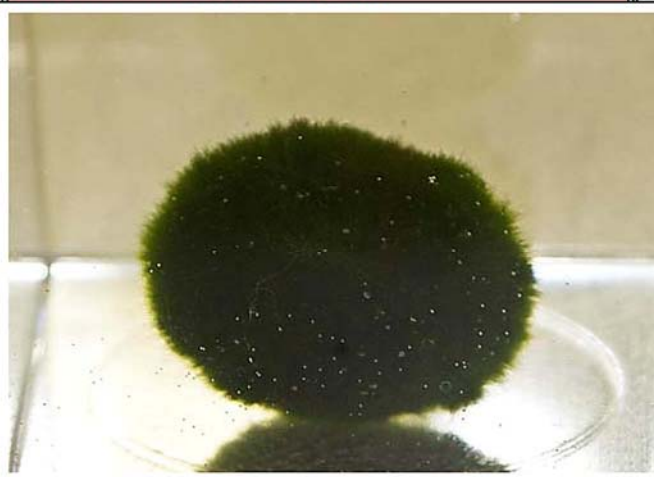
Tom & Pat continue to highlight great articles from other aquarium clubs in “Scanning the Exchanges”.

Dave Unruh highlights some information on blue-green algae

JAR SHOW

Here is a Fish of the Month list so you can plan ahead to have an entry each month.

Fish Of The Month	
September-----	Corydoras & Catfish
October -----	Guppies & Tetras
November-----	Cichlids over 4”(old & new world) Not including Angels & Discus)
December-----	Swords, Platies, Mollies
January-----	Barbs & Anabantids
February -----	Loaches & Sharks
March -----	Plants
April -----	Angels & Discus
May -----	Dwarf cichlids (old or new world)
June -----	Goldfish & Koi



Moss Ball (*Aegagropila linnaei*)



Java Fern - (*Microsorium pteropus*)

Jar Show Results

Point structure – 1st – 6 points, 2nd – 5 points, 3rd – 4 points. 1 point for showing

Fish of the Month - Plants

- 1st – Moss Ball
- 2nd – Red Lotus Lily
- 3rd – Java Fern

(Sorry – entrants names unavailable)



Pair of Discus (*Symphysodon aequifasciatus*)
Angels & Discus –May Fish of the month Photo © by DAve Unruh



Red Tiger Lotus (*Nymphaea lotus* v. "Red")

Hyphessobrycon Columbianus

The **Columbian Tetra** by **Dave Furness**

This tetra has only been available in the hobby for the last few years. Most of these tetras are bred at fish farms around the world. This is because of the area from which they come. They are found in the remote part of the Rio Acandi drainage system, near the Atlantic coast of Columbia.

The males are a little bigger than the females and grow between two and two and a half inches. Probably one of the best ways to tell which one is the female is by the roundness of the belly when full of eggs. Both of the sexes are shades of blue and red. The blue is on the body and the red is on the fins.

Columbian Tetras are egg scatterers who like to deposit on plants if they can. Some people who spawn these fish may like to use a



Columbian Tetras

Photo by Dave Furness

spawning grid or mop, but I decided to use java moss spread across the bare bottom tank. You do not need a very large tank to spawn them. A tank between five to fifteen gallons will do. The water in the aquarium consisted of two thirds tap water and one third RO water. The temperature of the water was 77 degrees F and the pH was around 6.9 and 7.0 .

I stocked the tank with six adults that I had bought at a local pet shop. The water level of their home was two thirds tap water and one third reverse osmosis water. I added the RO water by gradually by putting in a little bit each day over the course of a week. I also added a half a capsule of the Black water extract as well.

I ignored the tank for quit awhile, while I was redoing my fish room with a couple of friends of mine. I didn't discover the fry until I was doing a water change and accidentally sucked up a couple of the fry that was scooting around under the Java moss. I noticed that the fry were large enough to be able to take micro worms in their diet. The surviving fry probably lived off the bacteria in the tank at first, then continued their growth on the flake food and micro worms that the parents were receiving. When I had discovered them they were perfectly formed with the light blue colour on the body and a light red on the fins.

Anagram for April

Example:

*An anagram for this creature is: **alpine alps***

*The creature is: **applesnail*** **An anagram for this fish is: Well won by manner**The fish is: _____

Answer will be in the next newsletter.

March's answer: Amazon sword (sorry, it was actually a plant, not a fish)

Fishy Anagrams provided courtesy of



Update on the Assassin Snails

By Pamela Danyluck

I purchased six of these in August of 2008 and I now have about eight which appear to be all offspring of the originals. Last night I fed my home made critter crumbs which usually bring the Mts out in droves. This morning in the assassin snail tank there was no evidence of any live Mts around the critter crumbs, except for empty shells.



Assassin Snail

Photo by

Pam

Danyluck

I did go and check my other tanks just in case this was a fluke. This is what netted from another tank with out assassins.



Malaysian Livebearing
Snails

Photo by Pam Danyluck

SCANNING THE EXCHANGES & etc.

... with Pat and Tom ...



GOOD READING IN THE S.C.A.A.S. LIBRARY ...

▶ ... in the Hamilton and District Aquarium Society's bulletin –

March, 2009

- *Asolene spixi, The Zebra Apple Snail
by Charles Drew
- *Livebearing Fish Use in Tanks
by Dr. Adrian Lawler (retired) Aquarium Supervisor, J. L. Scott Aquarium (Biloxi, MS)
- *Growing Adult Brine Shrimp by William Berg
From the web site:
www.aquaticcommunity.com
- *Blast From the Past – Pseudotropheus Zebra – Red by Red by Wayne Block

▶ ... in The Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society's newsletter 'The Youngstown Aquarist' –

March/April, 2009

- *A Fairy Tale by Anon
- *Here it is! Pterolebias phasianus by Curt Smith
- *Protecting Malawi cichlids by Ad Konings

▶ ... in The Central New York Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Reflector' -

March, 2009

- *Stupid Fish Tricks by Wlad Franco-Valias
Originally published in 'The Calquarium' the newsletter of the Calgary Aquarium Society.

▶ ... in The Durham Region Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Tank Talk' –

- *Eyeballs on Oddballs: A Whale of a Nasty Fish
by Derek P. S. Tustin
- *The "Conservation Connection" by Tom Mason

▶ ... in the Tropical Fish Club of Erie County's newsletter 'Some Things Fishy' –

March, 2009

- *Decapsulating Brine Shrimp Eggs
by Craig Watson & Roy P. E. Yanong
- *Pleco Breeding Techniques by Larry Vires

The above newsletters will be in the club library at the meeting.

BAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS presented at the March meeting

Ernest Biktimorov
Convict cichlids – *Crytoheros nigrofasciatus*
..... 5 pts.

Pat and Tom Bridges
Xiphophorus montezumae 5
Congratulations!
Tom Bridges, BAP chairperson



Member Profile

By Pam Danyluck

This month's member profile is on another one of our newer members Bob Hayslip. Bob was born September 27, 1978 in Fort Erie and lived there until he was six when he moved to Stevensville. At the age of nine he then moved to Midhurst, a small town north of Barrie for one year and then it was back to Stevensville when he remained until he was twenty-six. At the age of twenty-six he moved to St. Catharines and has been there for four years.

Bob is engaged to Julie Murray and they have a dog named Mindy who is eight and a cat named Bella who is thirteen. They are expecting their first niece or nephew in June of 2009. Bob works for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority as a laborer, working in the conservation area.



Bob Hayslip

Photo © by Dave Unruh

He became a member on Monday January 5, 2008. He first became interested in fish at a very young age. He was given his first gold fish and bowl at the age of six, which lasted less time than his interest in the hobby at that age. Bob's family members and friends had fish as he was growing up, but his family never did. At fourteen Bob completed scuba training and enjoyed all the sights to be held underwater, especially watching the fish and how they interacted with him as a diver.

Bob currently keeps one tank a thirty-two gallon freshwater tropical. Bob is in the market for another somewhere in the 90 – 125 gallon range, but not at the point yet, were he is in desperate need. Bob's dedicated fish room is his living room.

In his thirty-two gallon tank he has one red tailed black shark, one silver tipped shark, one spotted high finned pleco, one catfish, two algae eaters, one angel, two gouramis, two clown loaches, three danios, one fancy guppy and one red clawed crab.

Bob's favorites would include the full grown six inch red tailed shark, who has a bit of a temper and has a really nice deep red tail. Another is the three inch baby silver shark which he loves to watch cruise around the tank, he looks like a 16 foot great white when it moves. All the rest of his other fish are favorites as well, for their own little things that they do differently and individually.

An Aquaclear 50 power filter is the filter Bob is using on his tank.

Bob's fiancée Julie, likes to look at the tank and add fish when they go to the pet store. Usually though the red tailed black shark likes to eat her fish within a couple of days. Julie is trying to put a bug in Bob's ear about setting up a cichlid tank, so the transition, though slow is probably going to happen as Bob also happens to like cichlids too.

Thank you Bob for letting us get to know you a little better.

Members willing to be interviewed for member profiles! It would be a big help if anyone willing to have his or her profile done would contact me. You do not need to be an expert fish keeper, just interested in fish. © Please contact me at: pjdanyluck@sympatico.ca or 905-562-3290.

Blue-green Algae

By Dave Unruh

If you have ever had an outbreak of this type of algae, you already know that it can be one of the worst types of algae to get rid of. Sometimes it seems that it cannot be defeated and the only recourse is to start over - sterilize everything in the tank, and throw out all the plants.

I have recently been fighting what seemed to be a losing battle with this type of algae (it is not really an algae - it is actually a bacterial infection). That is why the traditional methods do not normally work with this infestation. Most fish that eat algae (maybe all) won't touch this stuff. If you manually remove the algae from the tank, it reappears after a few days. If you resort to chemical solutions, the products available to kill algae do not work on this plague.



An aquarium without the algae plague

Photo © by Dave Unruh

There is an old saying that goes something like this "To defeat your enemy, you must know your enemy". In the case of the enemy algae, it will pay to know what it is and what causes it to occur. This may present a bit of a problem as most books skip over this type of algae or just mention it in passing. A few books will describe this "algae" and suggest a method or two to get rid of it but these methods rarely work, if at all.

What is it? As previously mentioned, Blue-green algae is a bacterium, of the class Cyanophyta. It

can produce toxins that are harmful to fish and plants. It can be black, dark green, or dark blue and generally appears in a flat sheet that can cover everything in site. The tank may also have an unpleasant smell, not unlike a bog. The plants will likely be unhealthy with very poor growth, if any. It is composed of thousands of cells that make up this gelatinous mess.

What causes it? Here there is some confusion. Some books claim it is caused by unclean conditions in the aquarium-overfeeding, overpopulation of fish, inadequate filtration or poor water movement. Others claim these cells develop in fresh tap water, particularly if there is a high percentage of calcium salts as well as newly established aquariums or when a large portion of water is changed too frequently and replaced with hard tap water.

These may be true, or not, I am not convinced either way. I do believe that these algae can be transferred from one aquarium to another by adding water such as when you introduce a new fish or plant to your aquarium, or it may be attached to a new plant. Thus I think one should never just empty a bag of fish, water and all to one's aquarium. Also, you should carefully inspect any new plant that you add to your aquarium. If you know the plant comes from an aquarium that is infected with blue-green algae, then it should not be placed in your tank until it has been "sterilized".

What kills it? First of all, none of the ordinary algae-killing preparations will work. So don't waste your money on those. Don't bother purchasing algae-eating fish as they will just ignore this stuff. But, there is one animal that will definitely eat this "algae" and that is a shrimp called *Caridina japonica* (Japanese algae eating shrimp). They were first brought to the attention of the aquarium hobby by Takashi Amano through his books entitled *Nature Aquarium World* (three volumes). Amano researched many kinds of freshwater shrimps that were native to Japan. He discovered that *Caridina japonica* or as the

Japanese call it *Yamato-numa-ebi* (which is Japanese for Japanese Marsh Shrimp) would eat all kinds of algae, in fact, Amano states that yamato-numaebi is the best living thing for dealing with algae in an aquarium." This shrimp also became known as the "Amana Shrimp" as he was the first to use this shrimp in aquaria for the purpose of controlling algae.

Unfortunately these shrimp were quite hard to come by here in North America, let alone Canada. But, as time went by, the aquarium trade caught on and now they can be found here in Ontario. I was able to develop a fairly reliable source for this shrimp and I am in total agreement with Amano's statement. You should be able to find them in stores priced anywhere from \$3.00 up to \$6.00 each!



Female *Caridina japonica* Photo © by Dave Unruh

These shrimp will eat blue-green algae but since these shrimp only grow to about 3 cm (1 & 1/4") they can become food for larger fish. This means that not all aquaria can house these shrimps. Also, while they can be used as a control for algae they may not be the solution for ridding a tank of blue-green algae. To do this we must resort to chemical means. Since blue-green algae is a bacteria, we should use an antibiotic, preferably one that will not be harmful to fish. One that has been recommended and is sometimes effective is Erythromycin thiocyanate, but I found

this to be ineffective in the long term. I also tried Maracyn, but again no success. Finally, I tried Furan-2 (made by Aquarium Pharmaceuticals) and had excellent results. I used it at the recommended dosage (it is used to treat such fish diseases as "black molly disease", Furunculosis, dropsy, gill diseases, and fin & tail rot.) Each capsule contains 60mg nitrofurazone, 25mg furazolidone & 2mg methylene blue.

After 3 days, all the blue-green algae had disappeared and after one week I performed a 25 % water change which included siphoning the mulm off of the bottom. There was a lot of mulm and I suspect that the mulm was the residue of the blue – green algae. At this time the blue-green algae has not reappeared and the plants have already started to grow and spread. This large show tank (90 gallons) should soon be back to its normal healthy and flourishing appearance.

This article was written quite awhile ago; I have just touched it up a bit & added the photos. Hope it was beneficial to someone!

Dave

Sources which were useful in the writing of this article: Aquarium Plants by Dr. Karel Rataj, TFH

Water Plants in the Aquarium by Ines Scheurmann, Barrons

The Aquatic Gardener (Journal of the Aquatic Gardeners Association

Nature Aquarium World Book I by Takashi Amano, TFH.

Upcoming Events

March 29 - Brant Auction

April 18 - Sarnia Auction

April 19 - Durham Auction & Show

May 02 - St.Catharines Auction

May 03 - London Auction

May - 15 - 17 - CAOAC Convention

With show & Auction

Neolamprologus "sp." Daffodil

By Dave Furness

This cichlid is an attractive little fish which lives amongst the rocks of Lake Tanganyika. I picked up six of these fish from the club action. At first I thought that they may be *N. Pulcher* because of the facial markings and the light colour, but after taking a couple of photos and talking to Dave Unruh, I realized



Neolamprologus sp.daffodil Photo by Dave Furness

that they were indeed a species of Daffodil.

I had forgotten about them after a while, and after a couple of months later when I had more time for them, I had noticed that the six fish had paired themselves off in 100 gallon cichlid tank and were spawning. Since they were in a community tank, a lot of the fry were being picked off. So I removed one of the pairs and put them in a fifteen gallon tank with a hollow log and some Java moss. The temperature of the tank was 76 degrees F and the PH was 7.6 .

The pair took up house in the hollow log where the female stays all the time with the eggs and then the wrigglers. When they got a little older the male starts to take the fry around the tank. First close to home, then when a little older he takes them around the rest of the tank where they nibble on the bacteria on the bottom, or pick off some powered flake food as it falls. It is about this time that I start to feed them some micro worms. When breeding, they produce successive broods. The older juveniles actively help their parents in defending the younger fry.

St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society

Annual Fund Raiser

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2009

Registration begins at 8 a.m. Auction starts at 10 a.m.

► At the Seafarers' and Teamsters' Union Hall

70 St. David's Rd E

Thorold ON

► THE HALL ENTRANCE IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

THE WASHROOMS ARE NOT WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

BACK
ENTRANCE

For more info.: Tom at
tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
905 735 3352
or John at
jverhage@on.aibn.com
905 708 9397



AUCTION

Freeze Dried Bits + Flakes + Multi-Vitamins PLUS

Nutrafin Max Plus is a unique 3 in 1 fish food that contains a combination of freeze dried bits, flakes and multi-vitamins. Only the highest quality ingredients are declared special enough to be called "PLUS."

100% Satisfaction
Guaranteed!

Nutrafin Max Plus

- Brine Shrimp Flakes plus bits of freeze dried brine shrimp
- Mysis Flakes plus bits of freeze dried mysis
- Earthworm Flakes plus bits of freeze dried tubifex worms

