

The Official publication of The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society since 1958

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The

SCAT



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How to Grow Show Quality Fish

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, and 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 December 07 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 presented by Mike Nelson !
We also expect that Santa Claus will be stopping by for a visit with the children!

2008 – 2009 Executive

President – Ken Brady - - - (905) 935-4716 kbradv2@cogeco.ca
1st Vice President – John Verhage – (905) 735-7776 jverhage@on.aibn.com
2nd Vice President – Bruce Hallett - (905) 934-7138
Secretary – Claudia Carthew - (905) 684-0394 crcarthew@yahoo.com
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 gpsriner@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 – Pam Danyluck - danyluck@sympatico.ca &
- Tom Hillier - tom.hillier@hotmail.com
Press/publicity – Ken Brady - - (905) 935-4716 - kbradv2@cogeco.ca
Raffle & Draws – Priscilla Heus - (905) 988-9741
Refreshments – Bruce Hallett - - (905) 934-7138
Web Master - Ken Brady

Reprint Policy

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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 pair of *Glossolepis incisus* (New Guinea Red Rainbowfish)
Photo © by DAve Unruh

The way I see it

President's message December 2009

Wow! Last meeting of this year. HO HO HO Merry Christmas. By now the Aquarium season is in full swing. Shows have come and gone the convention is ramping up and we are planning for next fall! This month however is a time for a bit of a slowdown. And get set to start the year running at full steam.

So what do we plan for? A new fish room, more tanks, BIGGER TANKS! Family who finally either get the bug or at least accept our universal obsession without a bunch of comments like "Your food culture is gross. Or why are there worms in this margarine tub?" Well most of this will remain as a fantasy. Mine is a new fish room so what goes out to make room. Bedrooms... maybe but how will I get a sink in the bedroom. Rec room?... who needs TV... HMM... my wife likes TV. Probably not going there any time soon. How many tanks can fit in that storage closet? Or," we hardly ever use the living room". Well fantasies are sometime better left that way. But we can dream. Just don't let the rest of the family in on the full story or it might be by squashed like a July Mosquito.

Last month we had a lesson in "the grass is not always greener on the other side" from Mr. Native fish himself Bob Wright. I unfortunately missed it but I have heard great feedback and wish to thank Bob for his efforts and work in this area and willingness to share and enlighten us to our home grown jewels along with the regulations of keeping them.

This month is the meeting we all look forward too. The world renowned SCAAS Christmas social. We are having the usual stuff the cup raffle, pot luck treats. Anything is welcome but I think chocolate is safe "wink". We still have a monthly auction and jar show along with a special visitor for the kids. Me too!

We will have a short slide show so the meeting will move along quicker than for an earlier night.

Mike Nelson is going to present slides of his home tanks and things he is breeding. Mike's picture are always great and we look forward to them any chance we get. I hope to see a great turn out, especially the kids.

Ken

SCAT ADS SCAT ADS SCAT ADS SCAT
ForSaleForSaleForSaleForSaleForSale
Bangghai Cardinals (Pterapogon kauderni)
Tank raised from wild stock Dime size
(including fins) \$15.00 each



Metal halide light 150 watts has new bulb
\$100.00

DAve Unruh - dunruh@cogeco.ca (905) 684 -9860

Bangghai Cardinals Photo © by DAve Unruh

Anagram for December

Example:

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

*The creature is: **applesnail***

An anagram for this fish is: Loud Witches

This Fish is: _____

Answer will be in the next newsletter

November's answer: Bolivian Rams

Fishy Anagrams provided courtesy of



Editor's notes

This month we have an introduction to another club member by Pam Danyluck with "Member Profile". Tom & Pat Bridges continue with keeping us informed through "Scanning the Exchanges". Since we missed a month of Cryptic Emersion in October I have printed 2 month's worth in this newsletter. Claudia has sent in the minutes of the last general meeting as well as the minutes of the business meeting so all can be aware of what is going on & being planned. I thank all those who sent in their regular columns & pages.

I have printed Charlie Drew's article "How to Grow Show quality Fish" at the request of Pam. Read it & think about this as you plan what fish to put in our show next year. ***This is the time to start getting your show fish ready!***

Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2009

Submitted by C.Carthew

The General Meeting of SCAAS was Called to Order at 7:29 PM by 1st VP J.Verhage.

Executive Present: J.Verhage, C.Carthew, W.Ebert

The members were welcomed and one new member was introduced. Up coming events were announced: Nov 8, TFCEC Auction; Nov 11, Brant evening auction; Nov 15, CAOAC meeting; Nov 28, HDAS dinner with speaker.

The Secretary read the October General and Executive Meeting Minutes.

The Treasurer reported the float and bank balances.

A motion was made by W. Ebert to publish the minutes of both the General and Executive Meetings in the club newsletter, The Scat. Any corrections, additions, and Motion to Accept as Published would be made at the General Meeting following publication. Motion 2nd: J.Verhage. Vote/Carried.

BAP: Two certificates were presented to John Furness. A plaque, awarded for the breeding of six different Livebearers, was announced for presentation to Pam Danyluck.

The December 7th General Meeting is the annual Christmas Party and visit from Santa. It was requested that members sign-up their children, under age 12, with Pat Bridges. Members were also asked to bring a finger-food, snack, or dessert to share. Beverages will be provided by SCAAS.

The program for the evening was "Native Fish" presented by Bob Wright. It was interesting, informative, current, and well received by the membership.

After a break for refreshments, the membership prize-draw, 50/50 \$plit draw, and auction followed. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Executive Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2009

The Executive Meeting was Called to Order at 7PM by 1st VP J.Verhage.

Executive Present: J.Verhage, B.Hallett, C.Carthew, W.Ebert.

Also Present: P.Danyluck, T.Hillier, T&P Bridges, R.Carthew, P.Barrett, D .Unruh

Discussion: December Christmas Party.

Member-gift auction will be done by Dave Unruh. He will prepare for 37 members. Santa will be Bruce Hallett. He will prepare for 10 children. Ice will be purchased for the soda pop at this, and all future meetings, in lieu of a fridge on the premises.

Show and Auction 2010 Chairman Tom Hillier announced that B.Wright, J.Chalmers, and B.Glazier have agreed to be the auctioneers for the event. He distributed SCAAS business cards to be used to promote the club. They will be available on the membership table at the monthly meetings. The need for donations from businesses and companies was emphasized. Those that support us with donations will be acknowledged in The Scat. Also published in the newsletter will be a list of businesses that will give a discount to our members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

The Crypt Emersion – Part Five (of Ten)

Derek P.S. Tustin

As I mentioned last month, I am starting to look at the small developments in the tank over the weeks, and this had made me look at the tank a bit closer. First, let me present the four weeks photographs, and then I will mention a couple of things that have caught my attention this past month.



Week Twenty-Seven



Week Twenty-Eight

Week Twenty-Nine



Week Thirty

One of the plants I brought back from Edmonton was *Utricularia graminifolia*. A member of the bladderwort family, it can be grown either in the substrate or tied down like some of the aquatic mosses. While it was growing in my tank, I was having a great deal of difficulty in getting it to stay rooted. I had all but given up on it, when one day I was examining my filter out-put. Now, I had actually designed a “chute” of shorts when I was setting up this tank. The reasoning behind this was to allow the water to flow into the tank, rather than form a water-fall which would likely be powerful enough to disturb the substrate in a shallow tank such as this. I had a piece of driftwood from another tank that was naturally shaped like this, and attached it to a piece of slate to ensure that it did not float. While looking at this, I noticed that I had Java moss (*Vesicularia dubyana*) growing on the wood. While this was not a surprise to me, I was surprised with the fact that several strands of the *U. graminifolia* had actually become entangled with the Java moss and were growing quite nicely.



Filter Discharge – Week Twenty-Seven*

During Week 28, I decided that the tank was starting to be a bit too overgrown. While all the plants were doing well, some (such as the smaller clumps of my mystery plant) were not staying rooted, so during Week 29 I pruned the tank. I cleaned up some dead stalks from the various crypts (although to be honest, there haven't been that many), removed some of the mystery plant to my fry tank, and trimmed back the two *Sagittaria* sp.

The last surprise of the month for me was the flourishing of my *Sagittaria sagittifolia* during this last week. The *Sagittaria lorata* seems to have become dormant, but after the pruning the *S. sagittifolia* has really started to grow again. I have no idea why this has happened, but it again adds to the changing landscape of this tank.



S. Sagittifolia* – Week Thirty

Other than the above, nothing major has happened in the tank. I did change one of the small pumps I am using to make "rain" in the tank, and am considering some future alterations to that set-up. I am also hopeful that I will be obtaining some celestial pearl danios (aka galaxy rasboras) (*Celestichthys margaritatus*), the species of fish I had originally wanted to stock this tank with, from a fellow club member. I don't think I will overstock the tank with the addition of a handful of these fish. So back I go to watching this tank, spending a couple of minutes every night looking at it to see what has changed, and marvelling at the beauty of this little slice of nature.

The Crypt Emersion – Part Six (of Ten)

Derek P.S. Tustin

First off, here are the pictures of each week that has passed.



Week Thirty One



Week Thirty-Two



Week Thirty-Three



Week Thirty-Four

Well, the celestial pearl danios (aka galaxy rasboras) (*Celestichthys margaritatus*) that I was expecting from a fellow DRAS member didn't arrive, so I didn't undertake the stock addition that I was planning. On the other hand, I'm hoping to get them this month, and maybe they will be more appropriate as a Christmas present to myself!

During Week 31, I noticed the Java moss (*Vesicularia dubyana*) that I mentioned last month had actually grown up the plastic on my filter. It isn't hampering anything, so I won't remove it, but I do find it interesting that it is growing up the plastic, and growing quite nicely as well.

The next week, Week 32, I noticed a single leaf of one of the *Cryptocoryne beckettii* growing out of the water. I



Java Moss – Week 31

was hoping that this would be the first stage of some leaves actually growing emersed in this set-up, but within two days, the leaf was back lying on the surface.

The following week, Week 33, all I really did was clean my rainmaker.

During Week 34 work sent me downtown. On the way back I stopped in at Menagerie. I picked up a rare sword plant for one of my other tanks, and at the same time decided to try another type of sag, *Sagittaria subulata*, in this tank. So far they haven't rooted too well, but they haven't died either.

The same week, I got a pleasant surprise. My *Sagittaria sagitifolia* has been doing extremely well, and it threw an unexpected flower.



S. Sagitifolia Flowers

Again, I have no solid plans for additions or subtractions at this time, other than the hoped for celestial pearl danios.

Member Profile

By Pam Danyluck

This month's member profile is on Clyde Beam. He was born and raised in Fort Erie and now lives in St. Catharines. Clyde is retired from Stelco and joined our club September 13, 1999.

He has been interested in fish since he was a kid. Clyde has five tanks running at the moment. A 55 gallon is in his living room houses a gold angel, three rasboras, a pleco, two cories and a clown loach. The rest of the tanks are in the backroom of his apartment which has become a mini fish room. The 40 gallon holds silver and black angels. The three remaining tanks contain swordtails in one, swordtail fry in another and his goldfish in the last tank. The goldfish are only indoors for the

winter as they spend the summer out on his patio.



Angels and Swordtails are Clydes favourites because of the fins and their swords.

Clyde uses a fluval, aquaclear, tetra and corner filters.

Thanks Clyde for letting us get to know you a little better.

Wanted

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.

SCANNING THE EXCHANGES & etc.

... with Pat and Tom ...



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

▶ ... in the Hamilton & District Aquarium Society's monthly bulletin

November, 2009

- *How to Grow Show Quality Fish by Charles Drew
- *Discus made Simple ... or Discus for Dummies Part 3 by Joe Bastianpillai
- *Gouramis – The Bubblesnest Builders by Ken Kirkwood

▶ ... in the Sarnia Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Aqua Antics' –

November, 2009

- *Melanotaenia boesmani: Spawning Report by Peter Melady
- *Marsh Marigold (Caltha palustris) by Ron Urry

▶ ... in the Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Fincinati' –

October/November, 2009

- *The Yolk Sac by Lenny Llambi
- *Cyprichromis sp. "leptosome jumbo" Kitumba & "Enantiopus sp. Kilesa" (Kitumba) by Todd Leising
- *Betta Macrostoma by Dave Cook
- *Fish Week in the 6th Grade: an article by Melissa Stolz, with an intro by Mark Johnson.

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

BAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS presented at the November meeting



Dave Furness

Pseudotropheus crabro – Bumblebees

.....10 pts.

Xyphophorus variatus 5

Congratulations!

Tom Bridges



JAR SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

will be on display at the jar show table at each meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS in 2010

March 14th, 2010 [Hamilton & District Aquarium Society](#). AUCTION ONLY. Waterdown Legion. Waterdown, ON

March 28th, 2010 [Brant Aquarium Society](#), SHOW & AUCTION. Special Events Bldg., Paris Fairgrounds, Paris, ON

April 11th, 2010 [Durham Region Aquarium Society](#). SHOW & AUCTION. Aquatic Centre, Ajax, ON

May 21st – 24th, 2010
Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs --
51st ANNUAL CONVENTION
At Sheridan College Oakville.
More details as available.

How to grow Show Quality fish

By Charles Drew – Reprinted from the November 2009 newsletter of the Hamilton & District Aquarium Society

Photos added to article by the editor

Growing show quality fish is not all that difficult. It starts by buying young fish. Or, the route I like to take is by raising fry that I have spawned myself. If you have spawned the fish you know how the fry have been fed and treated from day one. It starts the first day they start to feed. For many small fry they start with a good infusoria and larger ones with micro worms for a few days before adding newly hatched live baby brine shrimp to their menu. After the first week, water changes should begin with an inch or two every couple of days to start. After they reach about 3/8" long they will probably need to be moved to a larger tank. This will usually result in a growth spurt.

At this size a quality flake food should be crushed and added to their diet. A good quality food has fish meal listed in the ingredients list on the label.

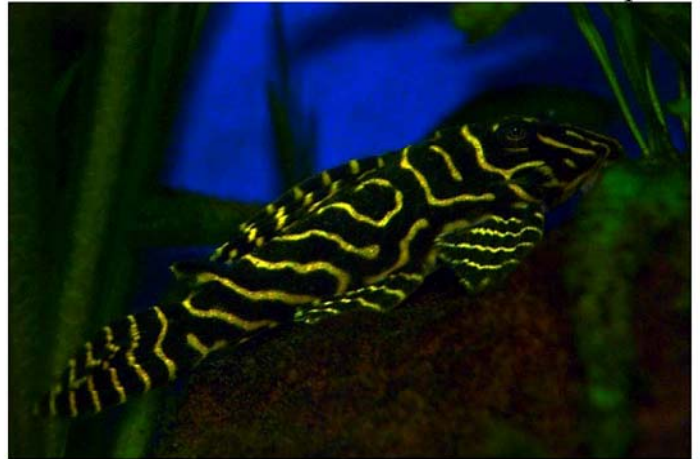


Flake Food

photo © by DAve Unruh

As the fish grow larger, to about an inch, you may be able to see some that are achieving better

size or in the case of some species even starting to show their sex. At this time a half dozen or so that you decide to grow into show stock should be put into a larger tank. How much larger? Well going on the old one gallon of water per inch of fish rule of thumb here is how to calculate it. If the potential full adult size of the fish is listed at three inches it is best it has that number of gallons per fish to grow in. Now don't think you can throw a one inch fish in a three gallon tank and it will grow to three inches. This does not work. Take ten one inch fry and place them in a thirty gallon tank where they have room to swim and exercise and develop.



Gold Zebra Pleco

photo © by DAve Unruh

Good food is one of the main issues in growing show fish. At one inch long most fish can eat frozen brine shrimp and blood worms. If it is spring, summer or fall you may catch your own live food or cultivate your own daphnia or mosquito larvae outdoors. Don't worry about the West Nile Virus. The rest of the world has lived with it for years and their populations still keep increasing. If you feel hardy, glass fly larva can be caught through the ice all winter in many farm ponds. If you prefer you can buy live Black Worms from one of the local dealers. They are an excellent food for growth and conditioning fish for spawning.



Gold Ocellatus photo © by DAve Unruh

There are other factors to consider when growing show fish. Plants in the tank use up the fish waste and help to keep the water quality good. Livebearers such as swords, platies and mollies like a lot of vegetable in their diets. One of the reasons my swords grow big is that they are in tanks with Bushynose Plecos and get to eat zucchini every day. My show stopper Blue Rams are just from my community tank with discus, torpedo barbs and some scavengers.



Aequidens sp. Red Edged Acara Photo by DAve Unruh

They get a good, high protein diet of shrimp, blood worm, beef heart and sinking pellets. All of

this makes them grow big and beautiful. The tank gets a one third water change once a week. A few thousand trumpet snails make sure there is no food left over to rot and pollute. Raising good fish is easy. Good food and good water and lots of TLC are all that is needed.



Xiphophorus alvarezii photo © by DAve Unruh

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