

The SCAT

The Official Publication Of
The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society Since 1958
Volume 25 Number 3
December, 2012



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About The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society

Meetings of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Seafarers & Teamster's Union Hall, 70 St. David's Rd. E. Thorold, Ontario. Meetings are not held on holidays; if the first Monday of the month is a holiday, the meeting will be held on the second Monday of the month. There are no meetings held in July or August.

The Society was established in 1958 and is a non-profit, educational organization that is dedicated to the task of promoting interest in the breeding, raising, maintenance and study of aquatic life, 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). The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society is also a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS - www.faas.info). More news and information about the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society can be found at - www.scaas.info.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, December 3rd, 2012 at the Seafarers & Teamster's Union Hall, 70 St. David's Rd. E. Thorold, Ontario. Meetings start at 7:30 but feel free to arrive early to enter items for the auction or to "talk fish". All are welcome!
December's Meeting Is A Holiday Get-Together and Raffle. Don't forget to bring a treat to share!

Upcoming CAOAC Events

December 9, 2012 - CAOAC Meeting & Annual Potluck Lunch
11:00 AM - CAOAC Executive meeting Waterdown, ON 12:00 PM - CAOAC General meeting Waterdown, ON

2012-2013 Executive

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Membership Fees

- Family - \$25
- Single - \$20
- Junior (Under 16) - \$10
- Student (With I.D) - \$10
- Senior (Over 65) - \$10
- Senior Couple (Both Over 65) - \$15

Cover Photo
 Courtesy of Joe Krawchuk
 Edited by Lindsey Marin

Jar Shows
December
Swords, Platies &
Mollies
January
Anabantids

Editor's Note

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our members a happy, healthy holiday season and all the best in 2013! Maybe some of you will even have some free time during the holidays to write an article or two for a future publication (hint, hint!).

Please remember to submit all articles by the 20th of each month to ensure that they can be placed in that month's edition.

All The Best!
 Heather Krawchuk

BAP Achievement Awards

Presented At November's Meeting

Joe Krawchuk

Ancistrus sp. (Bristle nosed pleco).....10 pts.

Bob Hayslip

Nimbochromis venustus (Giraffe Hap.).....5 pts.

Cynotilapia sp. "Blue Reef"10 pts.

Congratulations!

Tom Bridges, BAP Chair

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'Twas The Night Before Fish Club

By Heather Krawchuk

'Twas the night before fish club and all through the tanks,
The fishies were happy, for fresh food they gave thanks.
The heaters were set to high seventies with great care,
With hopes that news of breeding soon members could share.

The members were seated so snug in their chairs,
While Pam Danyluck told them all about C.A.R.E.S.
And Tom had his stories about all of his fish travels,
While Ken, the projector cord, he tried to unravel.

Out in the parking lot there arose such a clatter,
It was just clumsy Heather, a tank she had shattered.
Away from the window they all flew like a flash,
It was time for the auction, they all had spare cash.

The moon shone on plants, illuminated by snow,
The H.A.P awards were presented by Joe.
Pat collected fees from late membership offenders,
Tom readied for B.A.P, tightening his suspenders.

When what to our wondering eyes did appear,
But Shirley and Shawn who brought soda, not beer.
Tom tried to get order, but no one could tell,
At last he gave up and he started to yell:
"Now John V! Now Gary! Now Gerald and Bob!
Hey Claudette! Hey Thomas! Hey Dudley and Rob!"

"Go back to your seats! Come sit down one and all!
I want this meeting to be done by next Fall!"
As they all sat back down, order was restored,
The speaker was great and nobody was bored.

Pat Shriner judged fish – how they all twinkled and swam,
Roman gave his report after counting the clams.
Everyone had a good night, some new fish stuff they won,
Another year of fish club seemed about to be done.

Tom walked to the door, to the executive gave a whistle,
"Someone bring my pleco, I think it's got bristles!"
And I heard him exclaim with pride as the last car door slammed,
It'll be a good Christmas for Community Care, look at all these cans!

Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 5th, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm.

New Members and Visitors

New member Paul, one visitor, our speaker and a reporter to cover our speaker for the night.

Announcements - By Tom Hillier

- ~December is our Christmas Potluck and Raffle. Please bring a dish to share.
- ~Please notify the executive of children attending the Christmas Meeting.
- ~Montreal is having an auction in November.
- ~Thank you to all those who helped out at the auction, it was a big success.
- ~Roman was recognized for spending time in New York volunteering after Hurricane Sandy hit.

Treasure's Report - By Roman Haljkevic

Float \$ 256 Bank \$ 1772 (These are approximate amounts.)
Auction results are approximately \$ 1025 before expenses.

BAP

Presented by Tom Bridges to: Bob Hayslip & Joe Krawchuk

HAP

None were presented at this meeting.

PROGRAM

Our program for this evening was on a Turtle Rescue called Little Res Q. Marc Ouellette was our speaker and he is also the founder. They have branches in Thorold, Hamilton, Kitchener, Scarborough and Ottawa. The Res Q takes in unwanted turtles and finds forever homes for them. The list of turtles waiting to get in is quite long due to the demand. Marc explained what is needed to care for these turtles and we even had some live specimens on hand to hold. One of them had been

living in a pail for twenty years before it was rescued and its shell was very deformed as a result. It was an interesting and informative presentation.

BREAK

Refreshments provided by Shaun and Shirley

DOOR PRIZE

EVENING RAFFLE

JAR SHOW AWARD

Presented by Pat Shriner to:

Joe Krawchuk

EVENING AUCTION

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.

**There was no executive meeting held this month.

SCAT Re-Print Policy

Any not-for-profit organization may re-print articles from the SCAT provided that credit is given to the author of the article and to the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society (SCAAS) and that two copies of the re-printed publication are sent to: Exchange Editor, Pat Bridges at 4 Crescent Dr. Welland, ON, Canada L3B 2W5. Opinions or endorsements expressed in any article do not necessarily reflect the views of the SCAAS.



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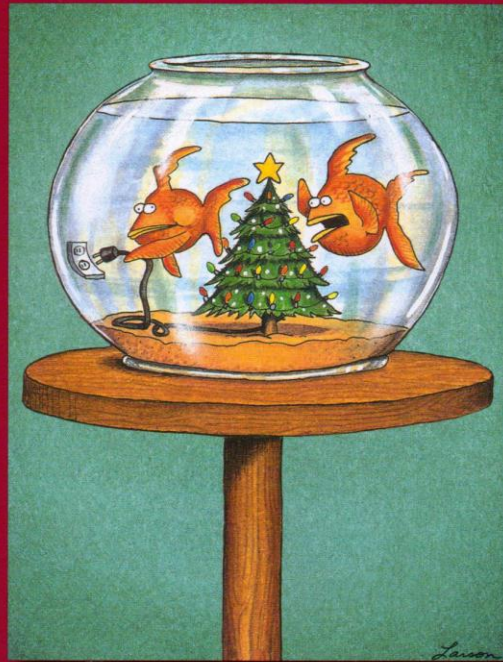
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President's Message

By Tom Hillier

We had a great November meeting with the talk on turtles, I think everyone enjoyed and learned a lot. Our December meeting is all about Christmas with our draws and our pot luck dinner. Pam has some things set up for our meeting which everyone should enjoy. Our special guest should show up for old and young alike.

The executive sends best wishes to all the members of the club and have a safe and happy holiday. Hope to see everyone at our DECEMBER MEETING. Do not forget the FOOD BANK it is the time of year for giving. Happy Holidays.



"Bob! You fool. ... Don't plug that thing in!"

Courtesy of "The Far Side"

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Highlights of November's Meeting

By Heather Krawchuk

In November, we heard from Marc Ouellette, founder of "Little Res Q", a non-profit organization dedicated to providing: "The rescue, rehabilitation and relocation of pet turtles in an attempt to keep them from being released into the wild. Education of current and potential turtle owners in proper turtle care to help them make the right decisions for their pets." The talk was very informative and really gave pause for thought in terms of the huge numbers of turtles in need.

Red eared sliders are the primary turtle that the rescue takes in. Marc reminded us that taking in one of these turtles can be a lifelong commitment as they can live up to fifty years and can reach up to twelve inches in length. In addition to his informative talk, he also had live specimens on hand. This showed us not only how big these turtles can get, but also, sadly, what can happen when they are not properly cared for. Marc showed us a red eared slider that had been living in a bucket for almost twenty years before it was rescued. The resulting damage to its shell was a sad sight to behold; however the fact that this turtle survived and now serves to educate others is a great thing.

I will place a link on our website to the "Little Res Q" - www.littleresq.net . I think that many members were interested in helping, but due to the time of year could not take any little friends for their ponds. Maybe we can keep the rescue in mind for the warmer months and they also gladly accept donations. At the very least, we can help spread the word about the rescue and about responsible aquatic ownership.

Much thanks goes out to Marc for the presentation and to Pam Danyluck for arranging it.



Picture © Joe Krawchuk

Fin/Tail Rot In Aquarium Fish

By Heather Krawchuk

At a recent fish auction, my friend, knowing how much I love guppies and the color purple, bought me a bag of purple guppies. I was thrilled, until Pam and my brother noticed that they had fin rot. It was in the early stages and hard to see, but it was there nonetheless. Wanting to make sure that I returned them to good health as soon as possible, I did a lot of research regarding the best methods of curing it.

Fin rot is a bacterial infection that is a common, and preventable, illness in aquarium fish. While poor tank conditions are the direct cause of fin rot, things like stress, moves, over-crowding and aggressive tank mates make a fish more likely to get fin rot. In advanced stages, this illness is difficult to cure and can easily kill infected fish and their tank mates.

My particular fish had white edges to their fins. Other indicators of fin rot include frayed fins, inflammation of the fins and the rotting away of the entire fin.



In this picture, taken from www.aquariumlife.net, the fin rot on the goldfish is quite noticeable and advanced.

Fin rot generally occurs when there is a stressor in a fish's environment. Poor water quality and low water temperature are two of the main causes. As such, the first step in treating fin rot is to ensure that the water quality is good and that the water is the right temperature. Being that I had placed my new fish in a clean, cycled aquarium, I knew that I could skip this step as it was already taken care of, but the person who sold them at the auction likely needs a good water change in their tank and perhaps to adjust their temperature, too!

In addition, too much food debris or feeding fish outdated foods can also contribute to fin rot. Feeding fish fresh and high quality food in quantities that they can quickly consume will reduce the risk of this illness.

The pH in the tank should also be checked as pH that is either too high or too low for a particular species can lead to fin rot as well.

As soon as the base cause of the illness has been found and corrected, the disease itself still needs to be treated, usually with antibiotics. Many websites that I found suggested adding aquarium salt to my tank, but since I have scale-less catfish, I knew that this should be avoided as they are very sensitive to it. Sites suggested a treatment that works to combat gram-negative organisms. Chloramphenicol, Oxytetracycline and Tetracycline were all suggested.

As I write this, I have just added a combination of Melafix and Pimafix to my tank. In conjunction with regular water changes, feeding fresh foods and ensuring that the water temperature is good, I'll hopefully be able to report about some healthy purple guppies in next month's SCAT!



RONA
Welland

Breeding Ancistrus cf. cirrhosus

By Bob Hayslip

Editor's Note: Two months ago, I featured an article written by Joe Krawchuk about breeding bristlenose plecos. The following is an article written on the same subject by Bob Hayslip. I think that one of the nice things about our club and about the hobby in general, is that it's great to see that there is more than one way to accomplish the same end result and that different methods work for different people.

This interesting species of the plecostomus family, which commonly goes by the name bristlenose pleco, is quite common throughout the hobby. Mine happen to be of the calico variety, which is obtained through back breeding various color strands to obtain this desired pattern. This species gets its common name from the bristles found on the head and face of the males. I obtained mine from our 2011 auction.

I keep them in a 55 gallon community aquarium that includes my 6.5" red tailed black shark, a couple of small tetra species, a pile of guppies, a couple different species of corys, and a pair of red swordtails. The tank is decorated with some rock arranged in a little reef-type setup with a lot of spaces to act as caves for hiding, a few medium sized pieces of wood, and a variety of plant species. As with all of my tanks, I use sand as substrate, as I believe this gives a more natural look to the tank. Tank filtration is kept very simple. I use two 125 gallon rated sponge filters which are powered by a Rena 400 air pump. The tank temperature is kept at 76 F, and the pH is based on city water.

As for foods used, they tend to eat whatever can manage to make it past their tank mates. This would include flakes, cichlid pellets, zucchini, beef heart, a variety of frozen foods, frozen peas, vegetables and different live worms. I only supplement algae wafers in addition to the previously mentioned foods for the plecos directly.

Conditioning took a little work. I probably went a bit overboard from what was required, but this is what I did. I picked up a piece of Malaysian bog wood that looked like a small cave. Next, using a hammer and chisel, I hollowed out the bottom a little more to give the male some room (If you are not a handy individual, nor have any experience using hand tools, I would not recommend doing this...chisels are quite sharp, and being driven by a hammer, could leave you with a nasty gash and a probable hospital visit).

Picking up a pleco cave from one of the auctions, or one of our trusted hobby stores will also work. I then drilled a small hole in a piece of slate to act as a weighted base, screwed the slate to the wood, and then placed this new cave into the aquarium. The male took to it right away, and began to clean it out. In typical pleco breeding style, the female came by a few times to inspect his work, and once she liked what she saw, nature took its course.

Once the female was ready to lay her eggs, the male was then tasked with keeping the cave clean and fanning water over the eggs on the inside of the cave. The first round of breeding was done in the early hours of March 12/2012, and I ended up with approximately 40-50 fry. As I write this, it is late October of the same year, and I have very rarely seen my male since adding that cave...but my population of fry is constantly growing!

Once bred, the fry are free-swimming within 5-7 days and feel safe to leave the care of the male at about the 2 week mark. The fry start out by eating the yolk sack of the egg, so therefore I am not starting the fry on anything special as it pertains to foods. Once they are finished with the yolk, they are simply on the same diet as the rest of the community. As the population grows, however, the larger ones are being removed from the tank and placed within new tanks with new mates.

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Let's Have A Little Fun!

November's Answers:

1.) This fish is known as being an effective insectivore in areas known for disease spread by mosquitoes. **Guppy**

2.) These suckers are well know by aquarists with algae ridden tanks; especially brown algae. They spend a considerable amount of time on the bottom of the tank and love wood.

Otocinclus

3.) Four of the barbels stem from the base on the upper lip. They have three vertical stripes - one across the head and the other two across the body. Some species are active at dusk, others are nocturnal and they are extremely difficult to sex. **Clown Loach**

4.) These fish are used in 'fighting' contests in Thailand and can wrestle for up to an hour. The mouth can be used to steer and balance and they are excellent jumpers. **Half Beak**

5.) This disc-shaped Amazonian fish has two long ventral fins. It is striped and is very difficult to sex. Probably one of the most easily recognizable fish by non-aquarium owners. **Angelfish**

December Questions

Courtesy of www.funtrivia.com

1.) These fish are found in both fresh and saltwater. They have tooth-plates that are used to grind up one of their favorite meals - snails. They are also found as food items in some Japanese restaurants, and can be extremely toxic if not prepared properly.

- Pufferfish
- Blowfish
- Damselfish
- Cardinal Tetra

2.) This fish has an electric organ that allows it to transmit micro voltages. Its brain is exceptionally large in proportion to other fish and it is believed to be very intelligent.

- Elephant fish
- Clown Loach
- Tropheus Moori
- American Flag fish

3.) One of the most colorful South American dwarf cichlids. The females get pink bellies when gravid and they usually spawn on a flat rock or a pit in the gravel. They prefer acidic water.

- Kribensis
- Plecostomus
- German Blue Ram
- Kissing gourami

4.) The male of this species is beautifully colored, while the female is bland. They are bubble-nest builders and have no qualms about small enclosures. The males do not get along, and are known to kill females that are unwilling to mate.

- Australian Rainbow
- Molly
- Siamese fighting fish
- Siamese flying fox

5.) Another popular fish which loves its swimming space. They are shoaling fish, very fast swimmers, and they are extremely peaceful. They will nip at algae, and are know for sifting through bottom-debris.

- Hatchet fish
- Angelfish
- Bala sharks
- Zebra pleco

If Fish Could Change the Names of Popular Christmas Songs, Here's How They Might Look (courtesy of www.jimrothermel.com):

Shark The Herald Angelfish Sing

The First No-Eel

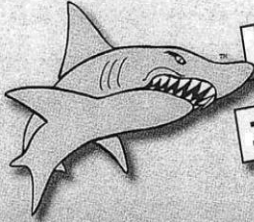
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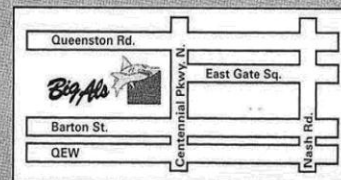
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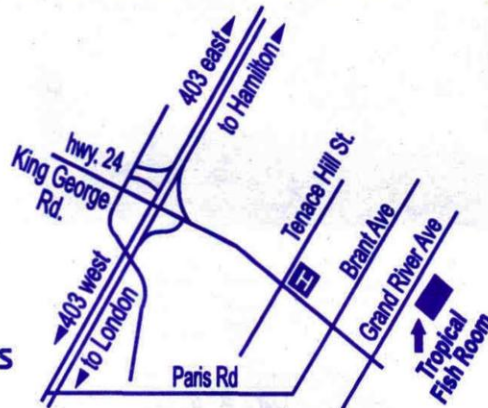
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