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The

SCAT



In This Issue :

Member Bio

Puntius semifasciolatus

Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi

The Year of the Rainbowfish

scaas.info

Club Notes

Our Mission Statement: Meetings of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society are held on the first Monday of each month, 7.30 p.m., at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union Hall, 70 St. Davids Rd. E. Thorold, ON. 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) <http://www.caoac.ca> .SCAAS is also a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS) <http://www.faas.info/> .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 February 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 by Steve Messier on Salt Water**

2009 – 2010 Executive

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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 an Apistogramma agassizii “sunshine” Photo © by DAve Unruh

Jar Show

The fish of the month for February will be: Loaches and Sharks

Presidents Message

Our first meeting of 2011 is now history. Some very interesting topics came from our members to our panel of experts Tom Dave Ken and Dave which were answered. Bob Hayslip is now the new treasurer. The auction went very well and Joe Krawchuk won the jar show. The Feb meeting will be on the 7th. Anyone interested in going to The Tropical Fish room in Brantford contact me at tom.hillier@hotmail.com so we can set up a date and time. See you all on the 7th. Don't forget the food Bank all donations are welcomed.

Tom

Minutes of January 10, 2011

Meeting commenced at 7.55 pm.

President Tom Hillier

- Welcomed guests and returning members
- Announced the loss of our Treasurer Wally Ebert in December, who will be greatly missed.
- Bob Hayslip will be filling in as Treasurer until the June elections.
- **Upcoming events:**
 - February 13 – 10.30 – CAOAC Executive meeting
 - February 13 - 12:00 PM CAOAC General meeting in Waterdown, ON
 - March 6, 2011 Hamilton & District Aquarium Society AUCTION ONLY
 - March 27, 2011 Brant Aquarium Society SHOW & AUCTION
 - April 10, 2011 Durham Regional Aquarium Society SHOW & AUCTION
 - May 20 - 23, 2011, CAOAC annual convention hosted by the Brant Aquarium Society.
Best Western Brant Park Inn, Brantford ON Canada **SHOW & AUCTION**

Tom Bridges

CAOAC Recognition award nominations for the 2011 convention are due on February 13, 2011. If anyone knows of someone who deserves recognition please let Tom B know.

No Treasurers report

Minutes of the last meeting can be found in the January Scat.

No Breeding Awards

No Horticultural Awards

Our program this meeting was a Question and Answer period where the members could ask our panel for advice. Our panel consisted of Dave Unruh, Tom Bridges, Dave Easingwood and Ken Brady. Discussions about salt water, gold fish and lighting were some of the topics that came up. Some of our members also participated with their experiences.

Door Prize was won by Joseph Krawchuk
Evening Auction

Patrick Shriner presented the Jar Show award to
Joseph Krawchuk

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm

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Editors Notes

This month I came across a breeding report published in the Durham Region Aquarium Society's newsletter "Tank Talk", January 2011 issue that features a very nice dwarf cichlid called "Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi. This is a favorite cichlid of mine that I spawned some time ago. It is great to see this beautiful fish again and I know you will enjoy reading about it on page 10 .

After a couple months absence we have the Member Bio page by Pam Danyluck (on page 8). Learn about members Joseph & Heather Krawchuk who joined the club in September 2010!

On page 13 we also have a BAP article on the pretty Gold barb (*Puntius semifasciolatus*), a fish that could fit in just about any tank and be bred by just about anyone.

Also, starting this month is a nine part series on Rainbowfish, by Derek Tustin from the Durham Region Aquarium Society. If you don't know much about Rainbowfish you will by the time this series wraps up. It starts on page 16.

Tom Bridges (our Breeders Award Program chairman) suggested that we print a list of each members CAOAC Breeder Award history. This may allow other SCAAS members the opportunity to see what fish other club members have bred. It may also be helpful for someone who is trying to breed a fish in that they could contact members for specific help with spawning a fish that is on the members list.

Tom has sent the data base for two of our members – Dave Furness & DAve Unruh. You will find these lists starting on this page.

CAOAC Database Entries for Dave Furness

FISH

Ancistrus sp.
Farlowella acus
Hoplosternum thoracatum
Aequidens portalegrensis
Aequidens rivulatus
Aulonocara stuartgranti
Chromidotilapia guentheri guentheri
Cichlasoma (Archocentrus) nigrofasciatum
Cichlasoma (Herichthys) cyanoguttatum
Cichlasoma (Thorichthys) meeki
Cichlasoma managuense
Cichlasoma nicaraguense
Cichlasoma synspilum
Cyrtocara moorii
Haplochromis compressiceps
Haplochromis sp. 44
Julidochromis dickfeldi
Julidochromis marlieri
Labeotropheus fuelleborni
Labidochromis caeruleus
Neolamprologus brichardi
Neolamprologus sp. "daffodil"
Oreochromis niloticus
Pelvicachromis pulcher
Sarotherodon mossambicus
Telmatochromis bifrenatus
Tilapia buttikoferi
Aplocheilus lineatus
Aplocheilus panchax
Fundulopanchax gardneri Lafia
Fundulopanchax gardneri N'sukka

CLASS DATE

catfish sep00
 catfish mar06
 catfish nov97
 cichlid jan97
 cichlid may97
 cichlid may99
 cichlid sep04
 cichlid jan97
 cichlid apr03
 cichlid sep02
 cichlid may97
 cichlid apr05
 cichlid sep04
 cichlid dec07
 cichlid jan97
 cichlid sep00
 cichlid nov07
 cichlid dec07
 cichlid mar04
 cichlid jan00
 cichlid mar07
 cichlid apr09
 cichlid mar06
 cichlid jun96
 cichlid jan97
 cichlid sep02
 cichlid sep00
 killie apr05
 killie nov97
 killie apr03
 killie may02



Rocioleucis sp.
 photo © by DAve Unruh



Microgeophagus ramirezi
 photo © by DAve Unruh

<i>Ameba splendens</i>	livebearer	mar01
<i>Brachyrhaphis holdridgei</i>	livebearer	apr03
<i>Chapalichthys pardalis</i>	livebearer	feb02
<i>Gambusia affinis</i>	livebearer	mar01
<i>Girardinus falcatus</i>	livebearer	jan10
<i>Girardinus microdactylus</i>	livebearer	jan11
<i>Heterandria formosa</i>	livebearer	dec99
<i>Limia perugiae</i>	livebearer	may99
<i>Poecilia (Acanthophaeus) wingei "Ender's"</i>	livebearer	apr03
<i>Poecilia latipinna</i>	livebearer	feb04
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	livebearer	jan04
<i>Xiphophorus alvarezi</i>	livebearer	jan10
<i>Xiphophorus helleri</i>	livebearer	mar99
<i>Xiphophorus maculatus</i>	livebearer	jan04
<i>Xiphophorus montezumae</i>	livebearer	jan10
<i>Xiphophorus variatus</i>	livebearer	jan10
<i>Hyphessobrycon columbianus</i>	tetra	apr09

Database Entries for Dave Unruh

FISH

<i>Bedotia geayi</i>
<i>Chlamydogobius eremius</i>
<i>Melanotaenia boesemani</i>
<i>Melanotaenia parkinsoni</i>
<i>Melanotaenia splendida</i>
<i>Betta imbellis</i>
<i>Betta picta</i>
<i>Betta splendens</i>
<i>Macropodus concolor</i>
<i>Pseudosphromenus cupanus</i>
<i>Pseudosphromenus dayi</i>
<i>Trichopsis pumilus</i>
<i>Barbus semifasciatus</i>
<i>Barbus tetrazona</i>
<i>Barbus titteya</i>
<i>Brachydanio rerio</i>
<i>Tanichthys albonubes</i>
<i>Ancistrus dolichopterus(Albino)</i>
<i>Ancistrus lineolatus</i>
<i>Corydoras aeneus</i>
<i>Corydoras nanus</i>
<i>Corydoras napoensis</i>
<i>Corydoras sterbai</i>
<i>Corydoras zygatus</i>
<i>Farlowella acus</i>
<i>Synodontis petricola</i>
<i>Acarichthys geayi</i>
<i>Aequidens portalegrensis</i>
<i>Aequidens(Cleithracara) maronii</i>
<i>Apistogramma borelli</i>
<i>Apistogramma cacatuoides</i>
<i>Apistogramma caetei</i>
<i>Apistogramma hongslói</i>
<i>Apistogramma macmasteri</i>
<i>Apistogramma moae</i>
<i>Apistogramma panduro</i>
<i>Apistogramma sp. aff. Ortmanni</i>
<i>Apistogramma steindachneri</i>

CLASS DATE

all other	mar97
all other	mar97
all other	mar.90
all other	dec.92
anabantid	mar04
anabantid	apr03
anabantid	apr99
anabantid	dec98
anabantid	jan03
anabantid	may03
anabantid	oct04
barbs etc.	jan11
barbs etc.	dec98
barbs etc.	apr03
barbs etc.	dec04
catfish	apr03
catfish	86
catfish	apr.95
catfish	feb.96
catfish	jan11
catfish	apr.95
catfish	apr.95
catfish	apr08
catfish	jun05
cichlid	mar.90
cichlid	87
cichlid	87
cichlid	mar.90
cichlid	mar97
cichlid	dec98
cichlid	mar.91
cichlid	mar05
cichlid	feb02
cichlid	apr04
cichlid	mar97

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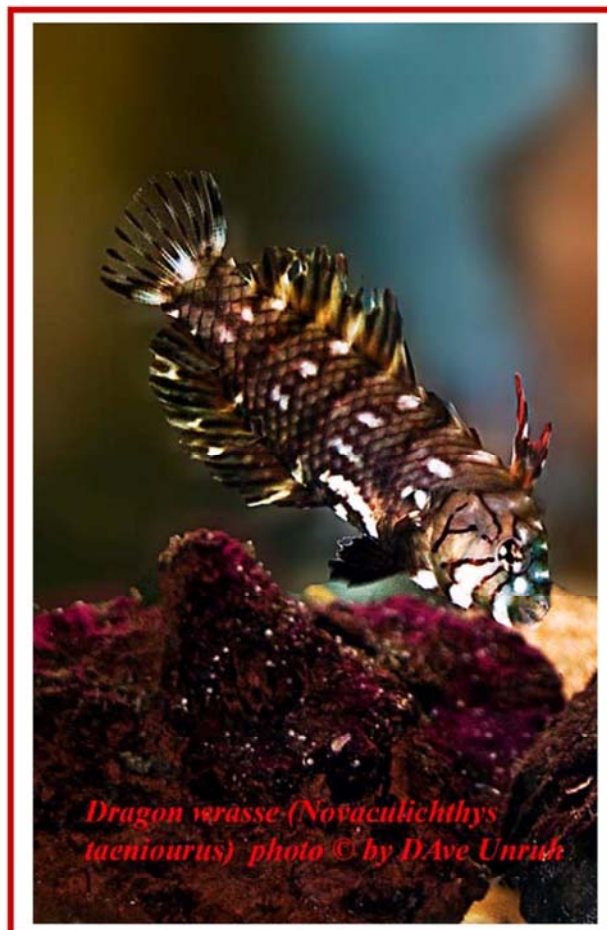
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<i>Apistogramma viejita</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Apistogramma viejita II</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Archocentrus (Cryptoheros) myrnae</i>	cichlid	feb08
<i>Aulonocara hansbaenschi nyassae</i>	cichlid	
<i>Chalinochromis bifrenatus</i>	cichlid	mar.88
<i>Chromidotilapia guentheri guentheri</i>	cichlid	nov01
<i>Cich. (Heros) appendiculatus</i>	cichlid	dec06
<i>Cich. (Hypselecara) coryphaenoides</i>	cichlid	feb.92
<i>Cichlasoma (Amphilophus) citrinellum</i>	cichlid	86
<i>Cichlasoma (Archocentrus) nanoluteus</i>	cichlid	mar06
<i>Cichlasoma (Archocentrus) nigrofasciatum</i>	cichlid	86
<i>Cichlasoma (Thorichthys) meeki</i>	cichlid	mar.91
<i>Cichlasoma aureum</i>	cichlid	apr.95
<i>Cichlasoma managuense</i>	cichlid	87
<i>Cichlasoma nicaraguense</i>	cichlid	apr.95
<i>Cichlasoma salvini</i>	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Cichlasoma spilurum</i>	cichlid	mar.88
<i>Cichlasoma temporalis</i>	cichlid	
<i>Copadichromis borleyi "Kadango"</i>	cichlid	apr99
<i>Crenicichla compressiceps</i>	cichlid	jan05
<i>Crenicichla notophthalmus</i>	cichlid	sep05
<i>Crenicichla regani</i>	cichlid	jan06
<i>Cyphotilapia frontosa "Bur. 6 stripe"</i>	cichlid	mar.90
<i>Cyprichromis leptosoma</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Cyprichromis sp. "leptosoma jumbo"</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Geophagus brasiliensis</i>	cichlid	86
<i>Geophagus hondae</i>	cichlid	87
<i>Geophagus iporangensis</i>	cichlid	mar02
<i>Gephyrochromis lawsi</i>	cichlid	jan07
<i>Gymnogeophagus sp. "Rosario I"</i>	cichlid	mar02
<i>Haplochromis brownae</i>	cichlid	mar.88
<i>Haplochromis emprosaria</i>	cichlid	feb.89
<i>Haplochromis nigricans</i>	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Haplochromis nyererei</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Haplochromis obliquidens "zebra"</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Haplochromis sp. "fire red"</i>	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Haplochromis sp. "flameback"</i>	cichlid	apr99
<i>Haplochromis sp. "rockkribensis"</i>	cichlid	nov01
<i>Haplochromis sp. 44</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Herotilapia multispinosa</i>	cichlid	mar.88
<i>Julidochromis dickfeldi</i>	cichlid	86
<i>Julidochromis marlieri</i>	cichlid	86
<i>Julidochromis ornatus Mutondwe Is.</i>	cichlid	mar.90
<i>Labeotropheus fuelleborni</i>	cichlid	mar.88
<i>Labidochromis caeruleus "yellow"</i>	cichlid	apr99
<i>Labidochromis sp. "perlmutt"</i>	cichlid	apr99
<i>Labidochromis sp. "perlmutt" Mbamba Bay</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Lamprologus congoensis</i>	cichlid	mar.88
<i>Lepidolamprologus hecqui</i>	cichlid	mar05
<i>Melanochromis johanni</i>	cichlid	86
<i>Melanochromis vermivorus</i>	cichlid	mar.88
<i>Nannacara anomala</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Nanochromis parilus</i>	cichlid	apr.95
<i>Nanochromis transvestitus</i>	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Neetroplus nematopus</i>	cichlid	dec.92
<i>Neolamprologus similis</i>	cichlid	jan08
<i>Neolamprologus brevis "sunspot"</i>	cichlid	oct04
<i>Neolamprologus brichardi</i>	cichlid	87
<i>Neolamprologus cylindricus</i>	cichlid	mar.88



Long-fin Bristlenose pleco Photo © by DAVE Unruh



Dragon wrasse (*Novaculichthys taeniourus*) photo © by DAVE Unruh

<i>Neolamprologus falcicula</i>	cichlid	apr03
<i>Neolamprologus longior</i>	cichlid	feb.89
<i>Neolamprologus pulcher "daffodil"</i>	cichlid	feb02
<i>Neolamprologus tetracanthus</i>	cichlid	mar.90
<i>Paracyprichromis nigripinnis</i>	cichlid	apr.95
<i>Pelvicachromis pulcher</i>	cichlid	mar.90
<i>Pelvicachromis roloffi</i>	cichlid	
<i>Pelvicachromis sacrimontis</i>	cichlid	jan04
<i>Pelvicachromis sp. aff. subocellatus</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Pelvicachromis subocellatus Cavally</i>	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Pelvicachromis taeniatus "Cherry cheek"</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Pelvicachromis taeniatus "Nigerian red"</i>	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Pelvicachromis taeniatus Nyong River</i>	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Ps. (Metriaclima) barlowi</i>	cichlid	nov01
<i>Ps. (Metriaclima) sp. "zebra gold"</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Pseudocrenilabrus multicolor</i>	cichlid	apr.95
<i>Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Pseudotropheus demasoni</i>	cichlid	dec02
<i>Pseudotropheus edwardi</i>	cichlid	86
<i>Pseudotropheus greshaki(Cyn. novum)</i>	cichlid	87
<i>Pseudotropheus kenyi</i>	cichlid	mar.88
<i>Pseudotropheus saulosi</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Pseudotropheus sp. "elongatus chewere"</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Pseudotropheus sp. "elongatus ruarwe"</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Pseudotropheus sp. "Zebra chilumba"</i>	cichlid	apr99
<i>Pseudotropheus zebra "red x red"</i>	cichlid	feb.89
<i>Pterophyllum leopardi</i>	cichlid	sep10
<i>Pterophyllum scalare</i>	cichlid	apr99
<i>Ptychochromis oligacanthus</i>	cichlid	apr06
<i>Sciaenochromis fryeri</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Steatocranus casuarius</i>	cichlid	mar.90
<i>Steatocranus mpozoensis</i>	cichlid	apr99
<i>Steatocranus tinanti</i>	cichlid	apr.95
<i>Teleocichla centrarchus</i>	cichlid	mar05
<i>Telmatochromis burgeoni</i>	cichlid	feb.89
<i>Trematocranus jacobfreibergi</i>	cichlid	86
<i>Uaru amphiacanthoides</i>	cichlid	mar.88
<i>Gold Mystery Snail</i>	invertebrate	86
<i>Heteractis sp. (Sand Anemone - marine)</i>	invertebrate	mar.91
<i>Aplocheilichthys lineatus</i>	killie	jan06
<i>Ameiurus splendens</i>	livebearer	86
<i>Girardinus metallicus</i>	livebearer	apr.95
<i>Heterandria formosa</i>	livebearer	jan06
<i>Limia nigrofasciata</i>	livebearer	apr.95
<i>Limia perugiae</i>	livebearer	
<i>Poecilia (Acanthophaeus) wingei "Ender's"</i>	livebearer	apr.95
<i>Poecilia latipinna</i>	livebearer	87
<i>Poecilia picta</i>	livebearer	feb.96
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	livebearer	87
<i>Skiffia multipunctata</i>	livebearer	apr.95
<i>Xiphophorus alvarezii</i>	livebearer	apr09
<i>Xiphophorus montezumae</i>	livebearer	apr05
<i>Pterapogon kauderni</i>	marine	dec98
<i>Aphyocharax rathbuni</i>	tetra	oct02
<i>Hemigrammopetersius caudalis</i>	tetra	dec98
<i>Moenkhausia pittieri</i>	tetra	oct06



Apistogramma agassizii "sunshine"
photo © by DAve Unruh



Symphysodon aequifasciatus
photo © by DAve Unruh



Panther grouper
(Cromileptes altivelis)
photo © by DAve Unruh

Member Bio

Heather and Joseph Krawchuk Profile

My name is Heather and my brother Joseph and I have lived in Thorold our entire lives. I am a high school teacher and my brother is just wrapping up his final year at Brock; he is studying to become an urban planner and is majoring in human geography.

In the summer I responded to an ad on kijiji about some snails and aquarium plants. It turns out that the man selling them is a member of the club and was nice enough to tell us about it. We joined in September and couldn't be happier! We're really enjoying getting to know everyone and people have been so kind and welcoming.



Joseph & Heather Krawchuk Photo © by DAve Unruh

We always had fish tanks when we were growing up and Joseph bred mollies and platys at

a young age. He moved away from fish for a while and was breeding birds and reptiles, but started some tanks up again a few years ago. Joseph has a beautiful 75 gallon tank that he has recently added a CO2 system to. The plants in that tank literally grow inches every night! He also has several other tanks on the go with various projects and prefers live-bearers because he enjoys watching the babies grow up. Our filtration systems are fluval canisters and aquaclear box filters.

I myself have two tanks on the go; one has a waterfall feature with snails, guppies and shrimp and the other has apple snails and community fish. I also have ten bettas scattered in vases throughout my home. I didn't have any luck with my first clutch of apple snails, but hope to try again soon. I'm also very interested in setting up a tank with gouramis because of their pretty colouring.

Our family really enjoys our aquariums; specifically, our five year old nephew really loves them. When he acts up, we sit him in front of Joseph's huge aquarium rather than putting him on a time out; this calms him down much more quickly than any other method! He also has fun giving the fish names and has spotted many babies that we didn't even know were in there!

We feel very lucky to have found out about the club and look forward to getting to know more of the members!

Jar Show

January 2011 results

Fish of the Month was Anabantids
1st and Best in Show – Joe Krawchuk – 6 points
(for his betta)

No other entries.

February Fish of the month are loaches & sharks



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 –

January, 2011

**Sturisomatichthys* sp. Columbia 1

by Charles Drew

*On the Road to the John Shedd Aquarium

by Norm McEvoy

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

February, 2011

**Nannostomus marginatus* by Brian LaNeve

*How to Avoid Frozen Fish this Winter
by Frank Greco

*It's Winter Again! Beware of Gas Embolism
by James Langhammer

*Snails, snails, snails by Lisa Reel

▶ ... in The Greater Akron Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Tank Topics' –

December 2010/January 2011

*Keeping & Breeding *Brachyrhaphis* sp.
"Costa Rica" by Wayne Toven

If you'd like to read any of the above articles,
just let me know and I'll email them to you.

Pat

My email address is

tp.bridges@sympatico.ca

FISH BAGS

Fish bags (10x20, 8x16 and 8x10) are available for sale at the library in packages of 25 for \$3.75 per pkg.



UPCOMING EVENTS TO OCTOBER, 2011



February 13, 2011 Recognition award nominations for the 2011 convention due.

10:30 a.m. CAOAC Executive meeting in Waterdown, ON

12:00 p.m. CAOAC General meeting in Waterdown, ON

March 6, 2011 Hamilton & District Aquarium Society AUCTION ONLY

March 20, 2011 Annual awards meeting in Waterdown at 9 a.m. Location will be announced closer to the date.

10:30 a.m. CAOAC Executive meeting in Waterdown, ON

12:00 p.m. CAOAC General meeting in Waterdown, ON

March 27, 2011 Brant Aquarium Society SHOW & AUCTION

April 2 - 3, 2011, Calgary Aquarium Society presents a Speaker Weekend with SHOW & AUCTION. Come see Gary Lange, Spencer Jack and Aquaflora at the Montgomery Community Hall, located at the corner of 16th avenue and Home Rd. NW.

April 10, 2011 Durham Region Aquarium Society SHOW & AUCTION

April 17, 2011 (Annual Reports are due)

10:30 a.m. CAOAC Executive meeting in Waterdown, ON

12:00 p.m. CAOAC General meeting in Waterdown, ON

May 20 – 23, 2011, CAOAC annual convention hosted by the Brant Aquarium Society at the Best Western Brant Park Inn, Brantford, ON, Canada SHOW AND AUCTION

June 26, 2011 CAOAC meeting/President's BBQ

10:30 a.m. CAOAC Executive meeting in Waterdown, ON

12:00 p.m. CAOAC General meeting in Waterdown, ON

Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi

Text by Dave Hansen / Photos by Klaus Steinhaus

Originally published in the January 2011 issue of the Durham Region Aquarium Society's Newsletter

Pseudocrenilabrus Nicholsi is a wonderful fish that anyone would be lucky to have in his or her collection. They are peaceful, hardy, and beautiful. Hopefully when you are done reading this you will be ready to add some to one of your tanks.

The genus *Pseudocrenilabrus* consists of 3 species and 5 subspecies. It includes *multicolor*, *multicolor victoriae*, *philander philander*, *philander disperus*, *philander luebberti*, and *nicholsi*. Their range is very wide, covering Egypt to South Africa. About the only place they don't occur is West Africa and central Africa north of the Congo. In general they are a small fish with a rather deep body. As with most Haplochromine, the sexes are dramatically different. The males are larger and are uniquely colored compared to the females. In addition, the males possess longer rays in the unpaired and pelvic fins. In the wild they feed predominately on insects and crustaceans. They are also typical in that they are a mouth brooding, non-pair bonding fish. The water they inhabit in the wild is all over the board, but most species are found in soft water. Now let's discuss our subject, the *nicholsi* in a greater amount of detail.



Origins and distribution: Originally described as *Paratilapia nicholsi* in 1928 by Pellegrin. They live in the Congo region, and are found in-between and including the lakes at Upemba to Ankoro.

Description: Wow!! Looking at one of these beauties in full coloration is incredible. It is an explosion of color and contrast. They max at about the 4" mark. They are deep bodied like other members of the species. The head is a beautiful golden bronze. The lower lips and some areas under their mouth are a very metallic blue. The body is a stunning red and blue pattern that runs the entire length up to the beginning of the tail fin. The tail is fan shaped and a light red with blue specks throughout. The dorsal has a lot of red in it and some lines of blue and the front half is black tipped. The pelvic fin is opaque with very black edges. The anal fin has very similar coloring to the dorsal minus the black tips. Often the males will cruise around much like a peacock, fins fully extended looking incredible. Getting the idea that I think these are gorgeous fish? The females are much more subdued. They have many of the patterns of the males, just no color.



Aquarium life: These are very easy to keep and should present no problems to anyone who has kept cichlids. Due to their smallish size they can be kept in tanks as small as 20 longs quite comfortably. I have had them in a wide variety of sizes and they have done fine in all of them. Tanks had sand bottoms and holey rock for cover. An interesting note is that they can be a bit shy when kept alone. In an attempt to bring them out I put a few zebra danios in with them. That didn't work out too good for the danios as they were shredded pretty quickly. I stuck a trio of peacocks in with them and they were out constantly. At one point they were in with some Malawi mbuna and did wonderful with them as well. Multiple males did fine together and never had any violence aimed at sub-dominant males. In addition, they are not very hard on the females at all. The diet was a crapshoot. Not a whole lot is known about their natural diet, so I attempted to cover it all with a wide variety. I fed NLS pellets as the staple food and supplemented with krill flake, spirulina, frozen plankton, krill, mysis, and some Cyclopeeze. They ate it all eagerly and maintained splendid coloration.



Breeding: I noticed the activity level picking up in the tank and started paying a little bit more attention. The first item I noticed was the dominant male was doing some landscaping of his own. He cleared all the sand out by the edge of a large rock and kept trying to get the females over in the area. He would rush a female, start dancing, and maintain this as he kind of floated over towards his spot. I didn't witness the actual spawning taking place, but a couple of days later I noticed a female with a mouthful of eggs. I left her alone for a while and she wasn't bothered at all.



An odd thing I noticed though was she was eating pretty regularly. She was consuming very small amounts of flake. When the other would eat and expel some small morsels, she would give a quick burst and take some in. I have seen other fish snack occasionally like this, but she did it rather frequently. At about 15 days, I was moving some rocks around and figured it would be a good time to grab her and move her into a different tank. While netting the female, she spit out 8 free-swimming fry to my delight. On a diet of Cyclopeeze and crushed flake, they are doing wonderful.

I can't think of one reason not to have some of these guys in your tanks. They are small, beautiful, and easy to breed. They are not rare, but are not common either. So keep your eyes open and snag some next time you get a chance!!

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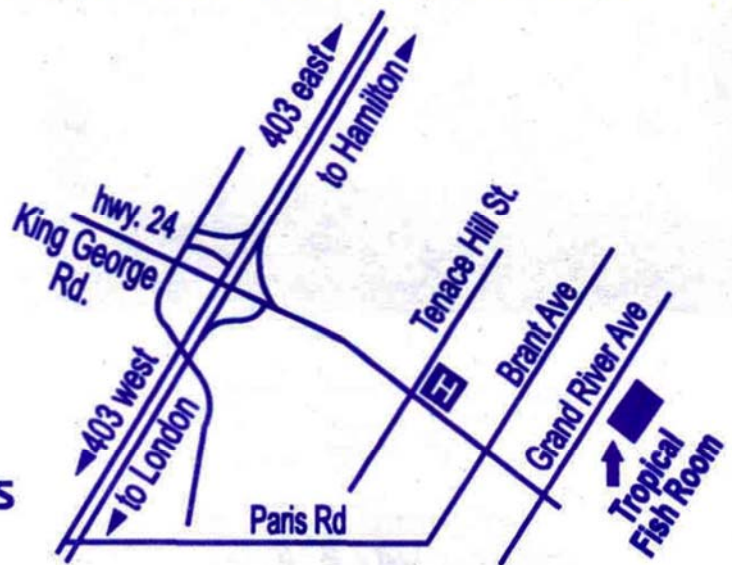
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Gold Barbs

(*Puntius semifasciolatus*)

by DAve Unruh

This barb is very easy to keep & breed. I bought 4 in an auction early in the spring of 2010. I put them in a small tank & sort of forgot about them. They were fed regularly with all the other fish in my fish room, and got water changes every two weeks or so. I bought them with the idea in mind that they would make a good fish to put outside in one of my wood whiskey barrels. When that time arrived I went to catch them and discovered that they had been busy. I now owned 8 of these brightly colored fish. So I put them outside in the front where I kept a half-barrel “pond”. This tank was planted with some *Vallisneria spiralis* plants, a few *Cryptocoryne wendtii* and some watersprite. The barbs were great for this kind of “pond” as they could be seen from above due to their bright gold backs and red fins.

Gold barbs are originally from Southeast China. They can also be called Green barbs, Chinese barbs, or Schuberti barbs. *Puntius semifasciolatus* (Günther, 1868) is a subtropical freshwater fish belonging to the minnow family (Cyprinidae). Its native habitat is the Red River basin in southeast China. It can be confusing as they are known by many names. This species was originally named *Barbus semifasciolatus*, and is also referred to as *Capoeta semifasciolatus*, *Barbus fasciolatus*, and *Puntius semifasciolatus*. The popular gold strain (all that is available to the hobby) was developed by hobbyist Thomas Shubert of Camden, New Jersey in the 1960's through selective breeding. For many years it was thought to be a distinct species but is in fact a selected “sport” of the indigenous species.

Like most barbs (but not all) gold barbs do not get very large, only up to 7 cm (2.75”). Both sexes are similarly colored. If you guessed gold then you would be right. Females are pretty much all gold (or yellow colored some might say) while males are a bit different. Adults have fairly high arched backs and a short pair of barbels (*thus the name “barbs”*)

on the upper jaw at the corners of the mouth. The back is light reddish brown to a gold color; on males the sides are metallic green or yellow-green, with a brass or golden color below. Females & males both have a black blotch at the caudal peduncle (the area just in front of the caudal (tail) fin). The belly is whitish, turning orange-red in males at mating time. Females will produce up to a hundred or so eggs, they usually spawn in the early morning.



Female *Puntius semifasciolatus*

In the wild, they inhabit running water with a pH range of 6.0 - 8.0, a water hardness of 5.0 - 19.0 dGH, a depth range of 0-16 ft (0 - 5 m) and a temperature range of 64 - 75 °F (18 - 24 °C). Their diet may consist of worms, insects, and plant matter - they will eat pretty much anything.

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Barbs are egglayers. When they breed they scatter their eggs around. We call this kind of breeding activity “egg scatterers”. The eggs usually stick to what ever they land on. In a tank that has lots of plants some of the eggs will be hidden & won’t be eaten by the adults, who only eat the eggs when they are hungry.



Male *Puntius semifasciolatus*

Unfortunately they seem to always be hungry. If the tank (or pond) has a lot of plants some of the eggs will not be found by the adults and may survive. This is what happened in my former whisky barrel that now masquerades as a small pond.

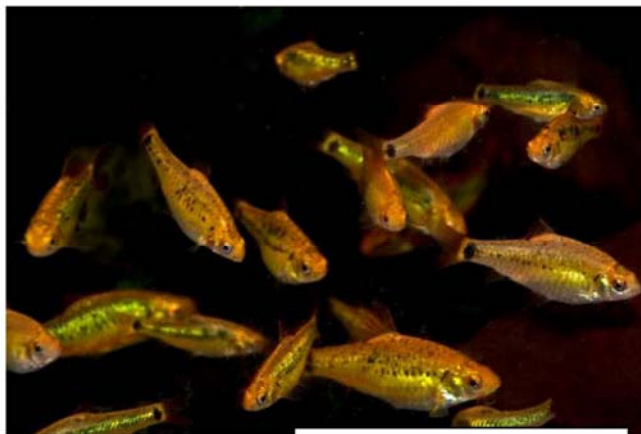


photo © by DAve Unruh

I normally feed the fish in these small aquatic environments very little. The fish in them survive mainly by eating whatever falls into it. They supplement this free fare by also eating algae off of the plants and the sides of the barrel. About once a week I swish a net through one of my daphnia cultures & empty it in the barrel-pond. That is all they gold barb fry got & many of them grew up fine. I ended up taking about 40 gold barbs of various sizes out of the pond, not including the eight barbs I started out with!

The following are the CAOAC BREEDER AWARDS:

BASIC MERIT AWARD

To be given to hobbyists who have advanced well beyond the novice stage. The following requirements will be used by the Awards Committee as a basis for selection of applicants.

- 1) Any application should be made by or countersigned by the executive body of an aquarist club or group.
- 2) The applicant must have experience and a good working knowledge in the care and maintenance of tropical fish.
- 3) The applicant must be successful in spawning at least six (6) species of egg-laying fish with three different spawning habits, e.g. egg-scatterers, bubble-nest-builders, substrate-spawners, mouth-brooders, etc. and raising a reasonable number, of young to eight (8) weeks.

INTERMEDIATE MERIT AWARD

To be given to hobbyists who have advanced to a high level of achievement with constant success in the maintenance, breeding, and raising of tropical fish. The following requirements will be used by the Awards Committee as a basis for the selection of applicants.

- 1) It is mandatory that the applicant be a Basic Merit Award holder.
- 2) All applications should be made by or countersigned by the executive body of an aquarist club or group. Applications will be qualified and/or verified and/or visited by the regional representative.
- 3) The applicant must have a consistent record of successful spawning and raising of good quality, tropical fish.

- 4) The minimum requirements will be the successful spawning and raising of a reasonable number* of young to eight (8) weeks from the following list. A variance of three (3) fish will be allowed providing the total number of species (sixteen 16 or more) is acceptable. This would allow a breeder who is not particularly interested in some group of fish to replace a maximum of three (3) with species of a group in which he is interested. It would also allow for inclusion of fish which presently do not fit into the list.

Cichlids 3 species	Anabantids 2 species
Minnnows 1 species	Barbs 2 species
Tetras 1 species	Killies (1 annual, 1 top-spawner) 2 species
Catfish 1 species	Livebearers 4 species
	<i>Total of sixteen (16) species</i>

MERIT AWARD

To be given to hobbyists who have reached a more advanced level of achievement with consistent success in the maintenance, breeding, and raising of tropical fish. The following requirements will be used by the Awards Committee as a basis for the selection of applicants.

- 1) It is mandatory that the applicant be an Intermediate Merit Award holder.
- 2) All applications should be made by or countersigned by the executive body of an aquarist club or group. Applications will be qualified and/or verified and/or visited by the regional representative.
- 3) The applicant must have a consistent record of successful spawning and raising of good quality tropical fish.
- 4) The minimum requirements will be the successful spawning and raising of a reasonable number of young to eight (8) weeks from the following list. A variance of six (6) fish will be allowed providing the total number of species, thirty-five (35) or more is acceptable. This would allow a breeder who is not particularly interested in some group of fish to replace a maximum of six (6) with species of a group in which he is interested. It would also allow for inclusion of fish which presently do not fit into the list. The application must include at least four (4) "Target Fish"

Anabantids 5 species	Livebearers 4 species
Tetras 4 species	Barbs 4 species
Cichlids (5 substrate, 4 mouthbrooder) 9 species	Minnnows 3 species
Catfish 2 species	Killies (2 annuals, 2 top spawners) 4 species
	<i>Total of thirty-five (35) species</i>

SENIOR MERIT AWARD

To be given to hobbyists who have advanced to the highest level of outstanding achievement in the maintenance, breeding, and raising of tropical fish. The following will serve to clarify the standards required by the Awards Committee before this award will be made.

- 1) The Senior Merit Award will be awarded only to those hobbyists who, in the opinion of the Awards Committee, have reached a most outstanding level of achievement.
- 2) Applicants must be nominated by the executive body of an aquarist club or group or by a member of the Awards Committee.
- 3) The applicant must already be a holder of the Merit Award.
- 4) The minimum requirements will be the successful spawning and raising a reasonable number of young to eight (8) weeks of seventy-five (75) species which cannot include more than ten (10) livebearers. The application must include at least ten (10) "Target Fish".

Note: Since the term "a reasonable number" is almost impossible to define, the applicant should attempt to raise a quantity of fry that approaches production capability of the species in question.

Year of the Rainbowfish

A monthly column about Rainbowfish
by Derek P. S. Tustin



Reprinted from the Durham Region Aquarium Society's Newsletter "Tank Talk", January 2011

Rainbowfish: An Introduction

DRAS is fun. DRAS is educational. I've had the chance to both learn and speak on aquatic plants, and have listened to various people expand on the fish they are keeping and/or have knowledge about. But over the years it has been cichlids this and cichlids that (no offense Klaus, Barry, et. al.), livebearers this and livebearers that (sorry George), guppies this and guppies that (sorry Doug), and plecos this and plecos that (again no offense to Doug and none to Ivan, Kevin or Annette). While informative, I've always wanted to know... what about the Rainbowfish?

When I first got into the hobby in a serious fashion, Rainbowfish were the ones that first caught my attention and are the ones that have held it ever since. I've tried to talk with members about these fabulous fish numerous times and usually get either; a) a blank stare or, b) a comment (usually with a German accent) following the lines of "Ah, cichlid food!" So enough already! This year, through this and the next nine editions of *Tank Talk*, I'm going to introduce you all to the many wonders of these fabulous fish. Some of you may already know a bit about them, and several will probably a lot more, but I'm hoping that at the end of the year you will *all* truly appreciate them. My friends – get ready for "The Year of the Rainbowfish"!

So what's a Rainbowfish?

There are two families of very closely related freshwater fish, Melanotaeniidae and Pseudomugilidae that originate from and are restricted to Australia, New Guinea and several small islands off the coast of New Guinea. While there is some controversy over Pseudomugilidae being a separate family or a subfamily of Melanotaeniidae, they are all commonly referred to as Rainbowfish.

The two families with their genera are:



Melanotaeniidae

Cairnsichthys (1 species)
Chilatherina (10 species)
Glossolepis (9 species)
Iriatherina (1 species)
Melanotaenia (52 species)
Pelangia (1 species)
Rhadinocentrus (1 species)

Pseudomugilidae

Kiunga (2 species)
Pseudomugil (15 species)
Scaturiginichthys (1 species)

It *must* be emphasized that the number of species listed for each of the genera is not static with new species being discovered all the time. For instance, of the 52 known and described species of *Melanotaenia*, 5 have been described since 2000, 11 were described between 1990 and 1999, and 15 were described between 1980 and 1989. In other words, of the 52 *Melanotaenia* species currently described, 31 of them, or approximately

60%, were only described in the last 30 years. When you consider that the earliest description of a *Melanotaenia* species occurred in 1843 (167 years ago), you can understand that the last 3 decades has seen a virtual explosion of knowledge about Rainbowfish.

Overall, they are relatively small and very colourful with all native to freshwater habitats although some can tolerate brackish water. They can be found in a variety of freshwater habits, including rivers, lakes and swamps throughout Australia and New Guinea. They are usually less than 12.5 centimetres (5”) in length, although one species, *Melanotaenia vanheurni*, can grow to 20 cm (8”). To me Rainbowfish, especially the *Melanotaenia*, *Chilatherina* and *Glossolepis* species, are probably the most traditional “fish-shaped” fish there are. Plecos are flat-bottomed, guppies have the funky tail, cichlids are more “boxy”...but Rainbowfish look like the traditional fish you drew when you were a child.

As mentioned, the first Rainbowfish was described back in 1843. Since then countless ichthyologists have tramped through Australia and New Guinea, poking, diving and wading into further countless bodies of water and finding new and wonderful forms of these fish. In the last 30 years or so, the two most prolific discoverers and collectors have undoubtedly been Dr. Gerald Allen and Heiko Bleher.

Why Are They From Two Places?

I’d bet dimes to dollars that most members of DRAS have never heard of Sahul. So to confuse you, I’ll tell you that Sahul is where Rainbowfish are from. During the last ice age about 18,000 years ago, the sea levels were substantially lower around the world. As a result of the lower sea levels Australia, New Guinea and Tasmania were actually one land mass. (In fact, from about 100,000 years ago to 5,000 years ago, some part of Australia was always connected to some part of New Guinea.) On the attached map you can see the current landmasses of Australia, New Guinea and Tasmania outlined in red within what was the Sahul continent of 18,000 years ago.



As you can see, 18,000 years ago it was possible to walk from the southern coast of today’s Tasmania all the way to the northern coast of current day New Guinea. And of course, where you can walk, water could flow. Rivers flowed throughout the Sahul continent, and the predecessors of today’s Rainbowfish swam through those rivers. As the ice age receded, the ice caps melted and the sea levels rose, once again separating the landmasses of Australia and New Guinea. But the Rainbowfish remained in the now distant rivers becoming separate but closely related species. (For those of you interested, Monash University in Melbourne, Australia has a project tracking the progression of the Sahul continent over the millennia as the oceans rose and fell. It’s really very cool and you might want to check it out at <http://sahultime.monash.edu.au>.)

Rainbowfish living there have probably been discovered. Oh, there are still some places to go and things to find, but for the most part it has been pretty much explored and is a pretty hospitable place, at least compared to New Guinea.

Why Hasn't It New Guinea Been Totally Explored?

At 785,753 square kilometers, New Guinea is the world's second largest island (Greenland is first at 2,130,800 km²), but is one of the least explored places on the planet. While New Guinea is less than 0.5% of the surface of the Earth, it has an estimated 5% to 10% of the total species on Earth... and many, many of those unknown and undiscovered. Politically it is divided in two, with the eastern half of the island being a separate country, Papua New Guinea, and the western half comprised of two provinces of Indonesia.

But why can't people just wander through New Guinea and discover stuff? Well, the population of New Guinea is not homogeneous, but rather heterogeneous. (Didn't know you were going to get a language lesson, did you? Homogeneous = composed of similar or identical parts, uniform in nature. Heterogeneous = differing in kind, having unlike qualities or characteristics.) The inhabitants of the New Guinea have several **thousand** different communities or tribes, most with only a few hundred members. Each group may have different languages, customs and traditions, and many have been engaged in conflict with other groups for thousands of years.

Then there is the geography and infrastructure of the island. The CIA World Factbook provides information on every country on the planet, and provides detailed information on various facets of the country like population and infrastructure. For Papua New Guinea, the eastern half of the island, the CIA World Factbook informs that there are 562 runways. Of those, only 21 are paved. So to fly there, you are flying into primitive conditions. Under the section for "Economy" the CIA World Factbook notes that "*Papua New Guinea is richly endowed with natural resources, but exploitation has been hampered by rugged terrain and the high cost of developing infrastructure.*"

So you've got an island with rugged terrain that is difficult to move around, very little infrastructure, that is divided between two countries and with thousands of different groups who don't necessarily get along with their neighbours. Their concern isn't finding new species of fish, but rather just surviving. So it is kind of hard for ichthyologists to go exploring. You have to give kudos to those that have and will manage expeditions to one of the last truly wild and unexplored frontiers on Earth.

What's To Come This Year?

Even in the span of ten issues of *Tank Talk*, there is no way that I can provide a comprehensive examination of all the facets of Rainbowfish and their place in our hobby. However, I will be looking at several aspects over the coming year in the hopes that I will pique your interest. Tentatively, here is what I will be writing on;

February:	<i>Melanotaenia</i> species
March:	<i>Chilatherina</i> species
April:	<i>Glossolepis</i> species
May:	The other Sahul Rainbowfish
June:	The Madagascar Rainbowfish
September:	Breeding Rainbowfish
October:	Albino Rainbowfish
November:	My adventure in obtaining <i>Melanotaenia oktediensis</i>
December:	Resources and the Australian New Guinea Fish Association (ANGFA)

If you feel up to it and want to do some advance reading, I would highly recommend that you visit the premier Rainbowfish website on the internet, *Home of the Rainbowfish* (<http://members.optushome.com.au/chelmon>). The site creator, author, owner and maintainer, Adrian Tappin is probably one of the most knowledgeable Rainbowfish keepers globally, and is also the author of the book *Rainbow fishes ~ Their Care & Keeping in Captivity* which is available as a free download from the website. (I'll be revisiting Mr. Tappin and his website and book in December, but I don't want to deprive you of probably the best Rainbowfish resources for a year.)

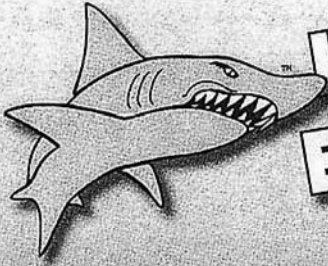
Let me know if you have any questions and I can incorporate answers in the coming year. By the end of it all, I hope you will have learned something about these wonderful fish and want to keep some yourself.



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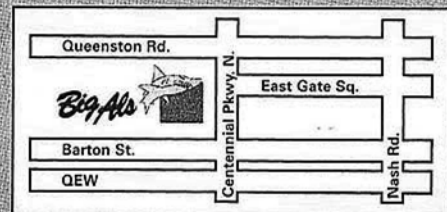
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