

Official publication of

The **St. Catharines & Area** **Aquarium Society**

Since 1958

The SCAT



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Club Notes



- ▶ Meetings of The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, (S.C.A.A.S.), are held on the first Monday of each month at the Seafarers' and Teamsters' Union Hall, 70 St. David St. E., Thorold, ON. If the first Monday falls on a holiday, the meetings are held on the second Monday.
- ▶ There are no meetings in 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 more advanced levels.
- ▶ S.C.A.A.S. is a charter member of the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs Inc., (C.A.O.A.C.), www.caoac.ca and a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies, (F.A.A.S.), www.faas.info
- ▶ More news and information about S.C.A.A.S. can be found at our web site www.scaas.info and check us out on the new S.C.A.A.S. page at Facebook.com, thanks to Paul Paradis.

**The next meeting is on Monday, February 3, 2014
This month we'll have a CAOAC program titled
Starting a Planted Aquarium**

Committees

- Breeder Awards
Tom Bridges (905) 735-3352
tp.bridges@sympatico.ca

- Horticulture Awards
Joe Krawchuk (905) 325-5562
drummers_secret@hotmail.com

- Auction Coordinator
Tom Bridges – see above

- CAOAC representative
Phil Barrett (905) 931-2044
pbarrett@cogeco.ca

- Newsletter
Position open

- Jar Show Coordinator & Judge
Pat Shriner (905) 354-1367
gpshriner@cogeco.ca

- Membership
Pat Bridges – see Tom above

- Refreshments
Shawn & Shirley Markowski
srogers33@cogeco.ca

- Library
G.O.

- Press/Publicity
Ken Brady (905) 935-4716
kbrady2@cogeco.ca

- Webmasters
Ken Brady and Roman Haljkevic

- Programs & Ways & Means
Tom Hillier
tom.hillier@hotmail.com

Executive

- President: Joe Krawchuk
drummers_secret@hotmail.com
(905) 680-0867

- 1st Vice-President: John Verhage
jperhage@yahoo.com
(905) 735-7776

- 2nd Vice-President: Tom Hillier
tom.hillier@hotmail.com
(905) 227-5008

- Secretary: Tammy Pooley
tamy333@hotmail.com
(905) 325-1622

- Treasurer: Roman Haljkevic
romanhajkevic@gmail.com
(905) 227-7968

- 'Acting' Past President: Ken Brady
kbrady2@cogeco.ca
(905) 935-4716

- 'Honorary' Past President: Paul Paradis
pparadis1@hotmail.com
(905) 941-9867

Membership Fees

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

Upcoming Events

March 15-16 - Calgary will be having its annual speaker weekend, jar show and auction at Montgomery Community Hall. Speakers confirmed are Mike Hellweg and Birger Kamprath.

March 22 Hamilton & District Society Spring Auction and Show – Waterdown

March 29 Brant Aquarium Society Spring Annual Auction & Show.
for more dates go to www.caoac.ca and click on 'Calendar'. ☆

ADVERTISING in 'The SCAT'

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

Jar Show - Fish of the Month

- January** Anabantids
- February** Loaches & Sharks
- March** Plants
- April** Angels & Discus
- May** Dwarf Cichlids
- June** Goldfish & Koi

'Open Class' each month (your choice!)



JOE'S PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE



Greetings All!

The New Year got off to a slow start for the club, courtesy of Mother Nature, who decided to bring a storm on the night of the first meeting of the new year. Some members braved the weather to attend and overall, some great conversations were had. It was great to be able to spend some time talking with fellow-enthusiasts.

Here's hoping that the weather for February's meeting will be better for travel. The [February 3rd](#) meeting will feature a CAOAC film on the topic of planted aquariums. As always, we will also have an auction and a jar show as well.

Let's also not forget that even though the festive season has passed, there are still people in our very own community who are in need. A friendly reminder that the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society collects canned goods and non-perishable food items for Community Care at each and every meeting.

I look forward to seeing all of you out at February's meeting!

All the best,

Joe Krawchuk

JAR SHOW RESULTS

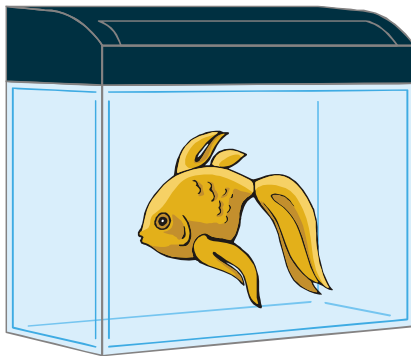
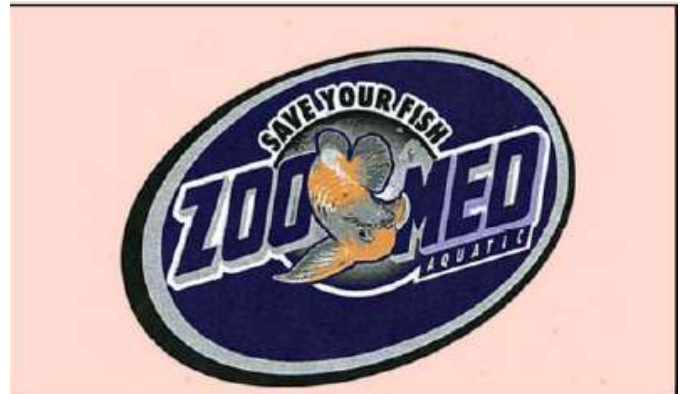
NO ENTRIES FOR JANUARY

BRING YOUR ENTRIES IN FOR
THE FEBRUARY MEETING EH?

FISH OF THE MONTH:

LOACHES AND SHARKS

OPEN CLASS – YOUR CHOICE!



SCAAS January Photo Ops ...



The Bravest few



The Auction must go on



Cleanup
and
fade to
BLACK

*Photos by the
intrepid
Sascha Duentisch!*



In lieu of minutes . . .
A few words from your 'acting' editor

Just in case any of you are thinking about taking on this job, remember that it can be done in the warmth and comfort of your own home. 😊 Pat was sick, (flu/cold?), cold winter winds were howling and blowing snow around our house and the weather forecast was grim. I thought I could make it to Thorold but making it back down the 406 in a storm after dark was too much of a risk. I volunteered to email our members and cancel the meeting but Tom Hillier wisely decided that it was too late for that. He said he'd be there to let those that braved the storm in and he was as good as his word.

It's my understanding that they spent time talking fish, followed by a short auction and went home earlier than usual. There was no program. The plan to get a CAOAC program fell through and I was prepared to fill in with an old slide program on fish breeding. Unfortunately I couldn't do that from the warmth and etc. of my home. Sorry to have let you down.

When we were younger and more 'full of beans', Pat and I were often invited to speak at other clubs. We put on programs for most of the clubs in Ontario as well as many in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Even spoke at a couple of Conventions. It was good fun, we got to know some wonderful fish hobbyists and made some great memories. I'd like to recommend creating a talk/program to those of you who are serious about our beautiful hobby and aren't absolutely terrified by the thought of standing up before a roomful of fellow hobbyists. You don't have to be an expert. You just have to be willing to share your experiences with tropical fish, plants, equipment or whatever. Please give that some thought while you're contemplating the joys of editorship.

Tom B.

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Coldwater Corner

by Dave Easingwood...Jan./2014



My Frozen Pond

Welcome! Happy New Year everyone from me and him. May all your wishes/fishes be little ones.



Winter Weather

I'm starting to write this on Dec. 22nd because the weather this last week has been a test for all us pond keepers. We had severe snow at the beginning of the week and 'By Gum it were Cold!' -15°C at

night and still snowing on and off for three days. A good test for the pond heaters, they did all function properly but at 300W each I sometimes wonder how much it is costing me. Then came a thaw and the freezing rain. That covered all the branches around my ponds with ice and the heater was unplugged. The top pond waterfall started working again on its own so I know I'm getting some surface inter-action as a substitute for a de-icer. I noticed Big Al's sell a 100W pond de-icer for \$70.00 so I may buy one to save electricity costs. Maybe they will include the de-icer in the Big Al's Boxing Day Sale, always worth going to see and great bargains. Last year at the Mississauga store I bought a 50 gallon Bow Aquarium for \$75 'as-is', it now is the centerpiece of my fish house and contains my best female 2 yr. old Bristol Shubunkin with 10 of her babies which are 3cm long and showing some nice shape and colour.

Jan. 22nd, it's been a very cold start to the New Year, temperatures well below freezing day and night, I struggle to keep my fish house at 9°C, the fish have slowed down and are having a winter rest. I went to Big Al's Boxing Day Sale and bought a little Ryukin, a twin tail goldfish variety I have always wanted to keep. They are a deep bodied fish, similar to a Fantail, but with a hump behind their head. They are a 'newer' goldfish and currently there are no show standards for them in the UK. A committee is deciding what the standard should be. So there is opportunity to be part of that process with input and results from line breeding.

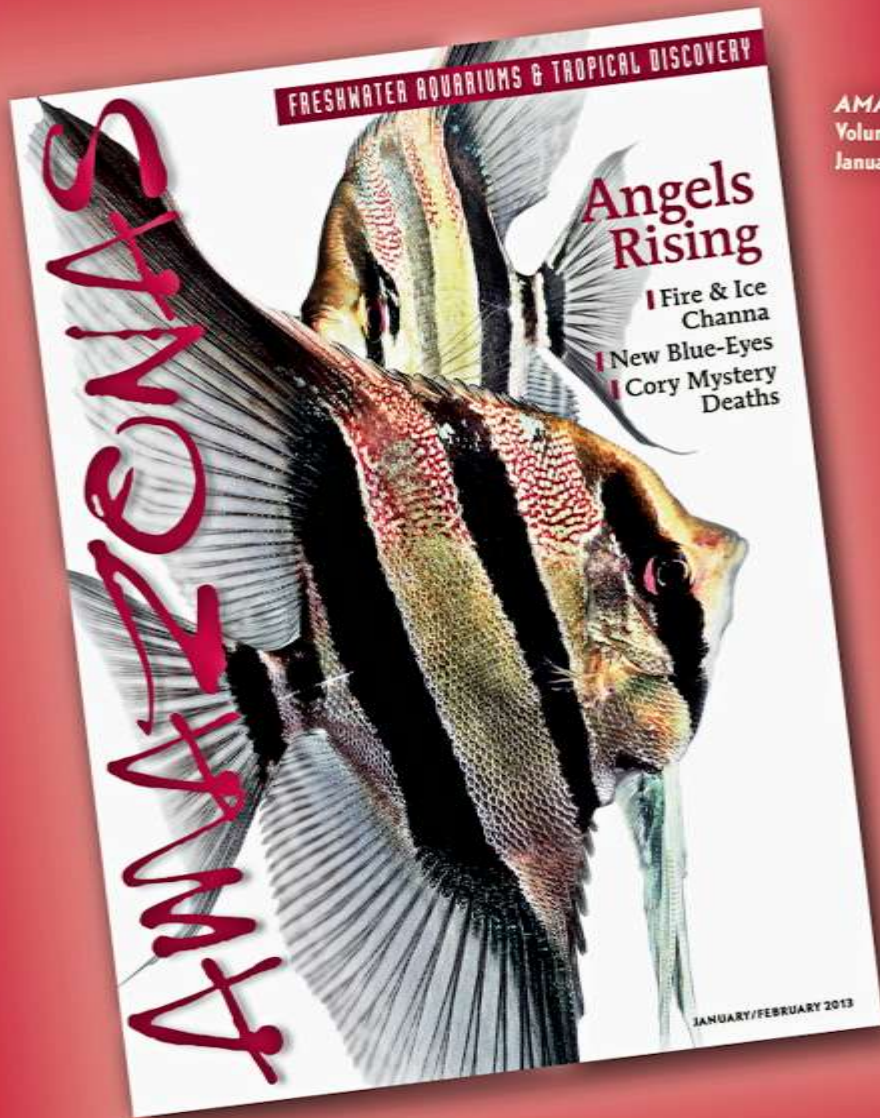
Ryukin Goldfish

Coming out of Big Al's I noticed a Chinese Mall next door so I went for a walk and there were two Aquatic Shops in the Mall!! One had a tank of mature Ryukins!!!, about 8, they were fist size and good examples of the breed, it was my lucky day. I bought one female, \$50 (a lot of money for me) but worth it, she makes quite a show in a 30 gallon inside tank. I chose her because she has good deep body shape, has symmetrical red and white markings and a 'pronounced bump' behind her head. It has created an exciting new interest for me in my goldfish keeping so I'm glad I walked over to the Mall. Pictures of typical adult Ryukins are below.

I now have an interest in, and keep, a singletail (my Bristols) and twintail (Ryukin) variety of goldfish. I would be interested to know if any other members have Ryukins or know of people who keep and breed them, I will be looking for a good male soon to try and breed in the Spring of 2014, but for the moment a good start to the New Year.



“Wow!”



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Synodontis Petricola Breeding

by *Patrick Shriner*



output spray bar from this filter.

I originally obtained my cats through several of our club auctions a number of years ago. I believe that these fish were offspring that Dave Unruh had spawned. They are quite rare at the aquarium stores. I have only seen them for sale on one occasion at Finatics Aquarium in Mississauga.

These catfish are quite active (both during the day and night) and travel throughout the tank. They are ravenous and feed on a combination of cichlid pellets, Tetra Colour bits, and Critter Crumbs. They range in size from approximately 2.5" to 4" in length and are quite hardy in my opinion. They grow fairly slowly compared to other fish. The females appear to be larger and rounder than the males.

We had a speaker, Mr. Ron Bishop, at our October 2013 meeting who discussed making your own various aquarium friendly gadgets, setups, etc., one of which was a breeding setup for these catfish. My setup consisted of a locking food storage container (from the dollar store) with a large hole cut into the lid. Next, a plastic flower pot with an enlarged hole cut from the base was secured in the lid. A layer of marbles was put on the bottom of the storage container (mine are various colours; I have read that some people prefer to use dark colours only for this setup). An embroidery plastic screen was cut to size and placed on top of the marbles.

So in summary, the setup has

- the locking food storage container with
- a single layer of marbles,
- plastic screen, and
- inverted flower pot secured by the locking lid of the container.

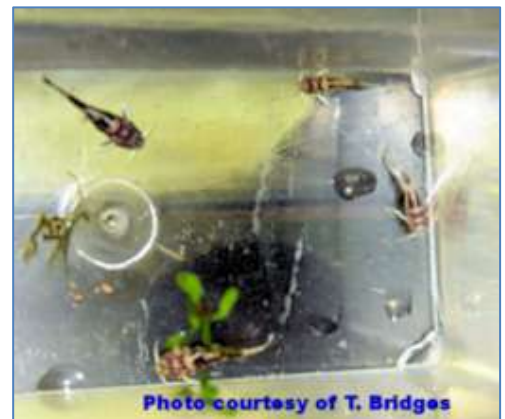
The device was placed in the tank and within minutes the catfish were already exploring this new cave. I left it for a couple of weeks and then removed it from the tank. I removed the marbles and noticed that there were about twenty very small white wigglers present. I moved the fry to a 2 ½ gallon tank containing water from the parents tank with a foam filter and heater. Since the fry were so small, I was able to obtain a microworm culture from Pat and Tom to start the fry off.



The fry seemed to relish the microworms and grew fairly slowly. They are almost two months old now and are about 3/4". They are still fed microworms and crushed Tetra bits.

I remove and check the breeder cave about once a week. There are usually several wigglers down in the marbles. I have also seen small brown/gold coloured eggs. The eggs hatch within 24 hours. It's a good idea to change the container on a regular basis because debris and fish wastes from the main tank do find their way into the cave.

This has been quite a rewarding experience and it just shows the interesting things that you can learn about the aquarium hobby from the great speakers that our club brings in on a monthly basis.



Breeding Tiger limia

by *Dave Furness*



The two inch Tiger Limia is a peaceful community fish that hails from Lake Miragoane in Haiti. This fish was once misidentified as *Limia garnieri*. The juvenile forms of these fish look a lot like *Limia nigrofasciata*. Though similar in appearance when younger, this species was found to be closely related to *Limia nigrofasciata*, but attains a very different appearance as it ages. It has now been determined to be a new species.

The water conditions for this fish are not critical, but the water quality is very important. They can be kept in a five gallon aquarium, but a twenty gallon is better. I find that



these fish are a little timid, so it is best to keep them in a well planted tank.

When feeding this *Limia*, vegetable matter should be made available, such as algae wafers, zucchini, or some blanched spinach.

My fish were also fed with flake food or newly hatched brine shrimp. When left in a secure environment, they will have from five to twenty fry every 30 days.



Hi Everyone!

This month, we're starting what could turn out to be a regular spot in The SCAT. It'll contain brief descriptions of hobby related items that our members have '**For Sale**' or '**Want To Buy**' or '**Swap**' and their names, phone numbers and/or email addresses. *(To have items entered, you must get the information to the editor by the deadline for that month.)*

Want To Buy

1. a white worms culture
2. 3 - 5 juvenile electric yellow cichlids

Ernest Biktimirov - Ph. (905) 688-1362

For Sale

I sell high quality, natural fish food for marine, cichlids, and community fish. Contact Lee Routhier swimmingalong1@gmail.com for details.

No items to SWAP this month

Breeding Danio rerio

by *Dave Furness*



Brachydanio rerio, more popularity known as the Zebra Danio has been in the hobby for longer than I can remember. This 2.5 inch fish hails from Eastern India, from Calcutta to Masulipatam. The males are long and slender while the females are more silvery and rounded. The temperature of their tank should be from 64 to 74° F, but for breeding it should be raised to 75°. There are no special requirements on the pH or the hardness. The breeding tanks water should be shallow,

about 4 to 5 in. deep. It should have marbles on the bottom with either Java moss or artificial plants anchored there. Put at least one female and two males into the breeding tank at night, then remove them the following night. They lay between 400 to 500 eggs, and they hatch in two days. Feed the fry infusoria or liquid fry for egg layers until they seem large enough to eat newly hatched brine shrimp. The fry will be hard to see at first, for they look like tiny hairs clinging to the glass. If you don't have a small enough tank for spawning, you can use a small clear, critter container, that you can buy at your local pet shop. Just place it at the bottom of the tank with your marbles and Java moss in it. The fish will spawn in that, if the rest of the tank is bare. Remove the container from the tank in a couple of days. You can then keep an eye on it for life in a couple more days. Also remember to place an air line in the container with very low volume. If you can't see anything at first, keep an eye on it for a couple more weeks, for the fry are so small, that they are difficult to see.



THOUGHTS FROM THE FISH BOWL

By Lee Routhier



I have had enough of winter, anyone else? I look out my back window where my pond is supposed to be. I know it's there -- I see rocks, but most of it is covered in ice and snow. I'm anxious to get out there, watch the fish and listen to the waterfall of my aquatic garden.

Speaking of gardens, have you ever planned an outdoor garden? How many of you have bought a small pretty plant and placed it anywhere? What happens? A plant in the wrong location may die due to too much sun or not enough, too much water or not enough. In a few years this tiny pretty plant or bush may take over the space and crowd out the other plants. The key to a successful, low maintenance garden that can be enjoyed season after season is to plan ahead. It takes time, research and patience.

The same can be said for setting up an aquarium. Whether fresh or saltwater, before putting the first drop of water in the tank, think what you want your end result to look like. What type of fish you want can be the deciding factor in what goes in first, what goes in last, and what doesn't go in at all. In case of a marine reef, consider the corals. Some corals work better on the bottom while others prefer the rocks. Some corals will be aggressive towards other corals and even fish. If you wish to put in snails, large hermit crabs may not be a good addition.

Remember a tiny fish will not always be tiny, and a small calm fish may turn out to be territorial and dominant where you are unable to add anything else in afterward. My motto is TRaP. Time, Research and Patience, so the in the end you are not "Trapped" with something you don't want.



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CAOAC AWARDS INFORMATION

The following are the requirements to obtain the various **Fish Breeders Achievement Awards** available from CAOAC, (Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs). These awards are usually presented at the CAOAC Convention held in May. The forms used to qualify for one of these awards must be completed, signed by the Breeders Awards Program Chair and sent in during February. More information about CAOAC's awards is available on the CAOAC web site at <http://www.caoac.ca/awards.html>.

If you believe you qualify for any of these awards, please email or talk to me at the February club meeting. I'll have a supply of the necessary Fish Breeder Award forms with me and/or you can download what you need from <http://www.caoac.ca/downloads.html>.

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, bubbler-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 **seventeen (17)** 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

Minnnows 1 species

Tetras 1 species

Catfish 1 species

Anabantids 2 species

Barbs 2 species

Killies (1 annual, 1 top-spawner) 2 species

Livebearers 4 species

Shrimps/Snails 1 specie

Common snails (ie. common ramshorn, pond snails and Malaysian livebearing snails) are excluded from consideration

Total of **seventeen (17)** species

[top](#)

ADVANCED 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-seven (37)** 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". (See list or "Target Fish" on ~~page 8109~~). http://www.caoac.ca/target_list.html (binder no longer exists).

- Anabantids 5 species
- Tetras 4 species
- Cichlids (5 substrate, 4 mouthbrooders) 9 species
- Catfish 2 species
- Livebearers 4 species
- Barbs 4 species
- Minnnows 3 species
- Killie (2 annuals, 2 top spawners) 4 species
- Shrimp/Snails 2 species
- Common snails (ie common ramshorns, pond snails, and Malaysian Livebearing snails) are excluded from consideration.
- Total of **thirty-seven (37)** species

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 Advanced 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". (See list of "Target Fish" on ~~page 8109~~) http://www.caoac.ca/target_list.html (binder no longer exists).

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.

In addition to the above general fish breeding awards, there are Specialists Awards for:

Cichlids Characins Killifish Livebearers Catfish & Rift Lake Cichlids

(Check http://www.caoac.ca/specialist_award.html for information and requirements.) -- Tom B.

With my BAP chairperson's hat on I should tell you I would like to feature the fish breeding accomplishments of those members who take an active part in the Breeders Award Program. This time I've chosen Patrick Shriner. You all know him as our faithful Jar Show Chair. He is also an enthusiastic hobbyist and an accomplished tropical fish breeder. I suspect that Patrick has bred many more species than have been record in the box on the right. Consider these to be a sample of his achievements. Even so, the cichlids listed here qualify him for the **CAOAC CICHLID BASIC MERIT AWARD**. As well, his catfish successes will be rewarded with a plaque. Congratulations, Patrick – well done!

Breeding Records for Pat Shriner	
Ancistrus sp.	catfish
Synodontis petricola	catfish
Cichlasoma (Archocentrus) nigrofasciatum	cichlid
Cichlasoma managuense	cichlid
Haplochromis kirkii	cichlid
Haplochromis similis	cichlid
Herotilapia multispinosa	cichlid
Labeotropheus fueelleborni	cichlid
Labidochromis caeruleus	cichlid
Melanochromis auratus	cichlid
Neolamprologus tetracanthus	cichlid
Pseudotropheus crabro	cichlid
Pseudotropheus zebra "red x red"	cichlid
Sarotherodon mossambicus	cichlid

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