

The

SCAT

The official publication of the St.Catharines & Area Aquarium Society since 1958
Vol.21no 5 January 2009



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Ameca splendens
TMA in North Africa
Photos from the Dec.meeting
What SCAAS members are keeping

scaas.info

Club Notes

Our Mission Statement: Meetings of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society are held on the first Monday of each month, 7.30p.m., at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union Hall, 70 St. Davids Rd. E. Thorold, Ont. No meetings are held on Mondays that are holidays. Those meetings are held on the second Monday. There are no meetings during the months of July and August. *The Society, established in 1958, is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to the task of promoting interest in the breeding, raising, maintenance and study of tropical fish, both at the beginner and advanced levels.* The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society is a charter member of the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs Inc. (CAOAC) www.caoac.ca. SCAAS is also a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS). More news and information about St.Catharines & Area Aquarium Society can be found at <http://www.scaas.info>

Our next meeting will be held on January 05 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 the second part of the Marine program we began in November.

2008 – 2009 Executive

President – Ken Brady - - - (905) 935-4716 kbrady2@cogeco.ca
1st Vice President – John Verhage – (905) 735-7776 jverhage@on.aibn.com
2nd Vice President – Bruce Hallet - (905) 934-7138
Secretary – Claudia Carthew - (905) 684-0394 crcarthew@yahoo.com
Treasurer – Wally Ebert - (905) 687-6907 leberty@cogeco.ca
Past President & Editor DAve Unruh (905) 684-9860 dunruh@cogeco.ca

2007 – 2008 Committees

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

Reprint Policy

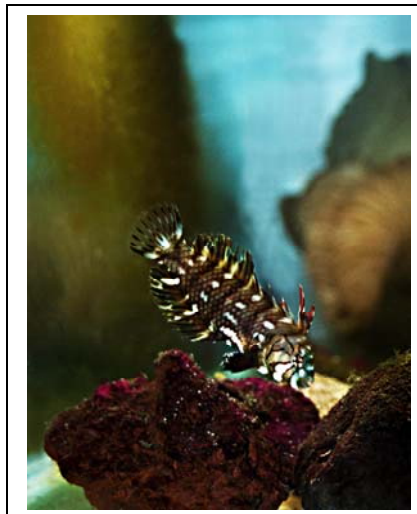
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Membership Dues:

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

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Cover photo of a Novaculichthys taeniourus (Dragon Wrasse)

Photo © by DAve Unruh

Editors Notes

I think we all had a good time at our meeting last month. Larry Johnson's show on collecting cichlids on Lake Malawii was great. There were also about 25 items to be won in our free members raffle. Some were bought by the club & some were donated by various members.

Thanks to all who donated items for the raffle & all who brought all the good things to eat. As usual there was a great variety to choose from.

This month I am printing an article from my friend Rein Breitmaier that was first published in the Kitchener-Waterloo club's newsletter. He reports from North Africa on the fishy things he & Char find there. On page 11 you will find an article on Ameca splendens by Pam Danyluck. Be sure you check out Tom & Pats Scanning the exchanges (on page 7) which includes a short reminder about our monthly club auction.

Happy New Year & I hope you enjoy this edition of The Scat.

Dave

Presidents Message January 2009

Happy New Year !

Well we had a great CHRISTMAS GATHERING. Lots of friends, more new members and great food from the wonderful people who went out of their way to bring it all in.

A great job on the free raffle and as usual the food was all set up and everything done that needed to be done. Santa as usual made his special appearance just for our club. So I asked Santa "why do you do it – you are so busy ". This is what he told me. "We are like his little fish and we need water changes and care to keep us in top form" It's a simple thing, but we still need to take the time to do those thankful things that seem so simple we tend to forget them.

Plans are moving on for our spring auction and lots of interest is popping up. By popular demand our program this month is the next half of the saltwater video we saw a couple of meetings ago.

See you all there with stories of the holidays!

Ken

Anagram for January

Example:

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

*The creature is: **applesnail***

**An anagram for this creature is: Arch
Timber**

The creature is:

Answer will be in the next newsletter.

December's anagram answer: Swordtail

Crayon pad = Panda cory

Fishy Anagrams provided courtesy of



JAR SHOW

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

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



Jar Show Results

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

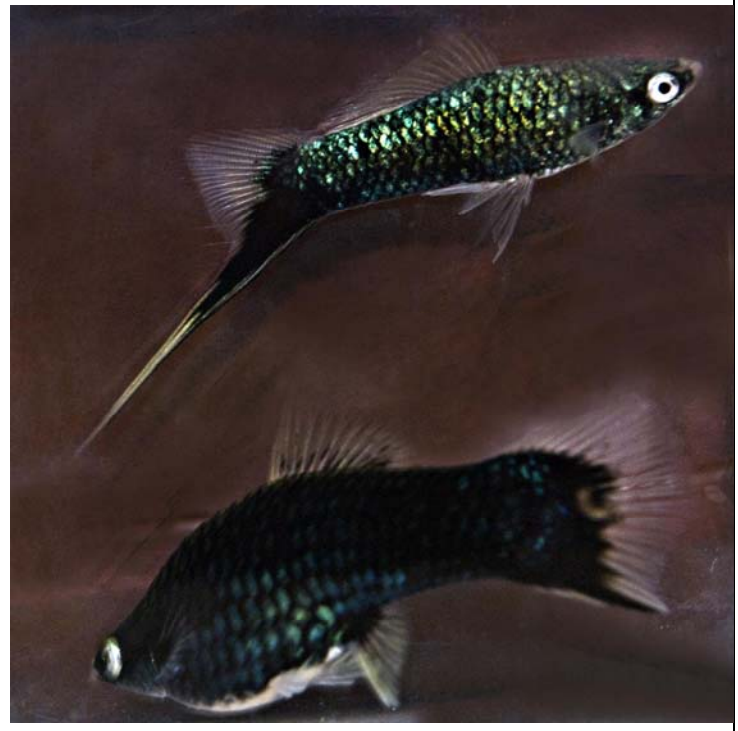
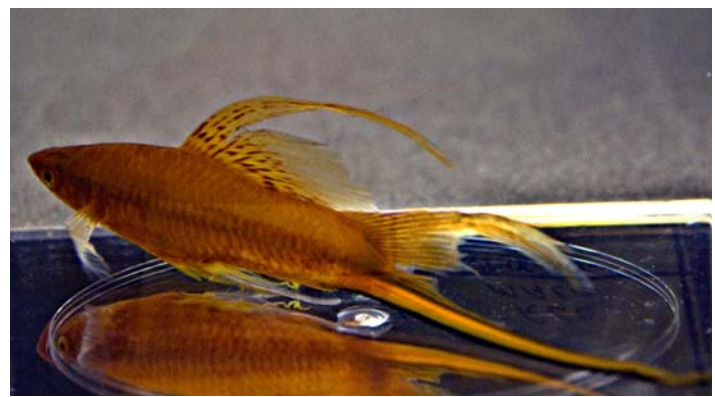
Fish of the Month – Swords, Platies, Mollies

- 1st Les Wormald 6 pts (Black Sword female)
- 2nd Ron Wormald 5 pts (Lyretail red male sword)
- 3rd Ernest Biktimirov 4 pts (sorry, no species listed)

Best in Show Les Wormald - Black Sword (Female)

Other entrants in show

- Les Wormald – Male Black Sword
- Ken Brady – Molly & Red brick sword
- Ron Wormwald – Lyretail Velvet red Male sword



Best in Show – Female Black Sword



The Minimalist Aquarist In North Africa

Doing more with less and keeping it simple: TMA's Collection of Greatest Tales about Tails

— by Rein Breitmaier, KWAS (mrrein@gmail.com)

The one thing that impressed itself upon me as we toured the lands of North Africa was the famine of evidence of fishes. You may recall the biblical story known as the feeding of the five thousand, where Jesus is said to have gathered two loaves of bread and five fishes with which he was able to feed five thousand hungry early Christians. A great story even if you don't cling to the religious tenets imbedded therein.

From time to time TMA would uncover a fishy theme or at least a fishing theme as with our first photo taken in the Mastaba of Ti, at Saqqara in Egypt. Good old Ti was an overseer of pyramid constructions at Abu Sir, which puts him just under 4,500 years ago and this was his personal tomb. The relief depicted was part of a

fishing theme that also included hippos fighting with crocodiles but what is obvious to my eyes is a Synodontis type catfish that jumps out from the mural. The range of these fishes must have included the Nile River in this time but how could they know these fishes often like to swim upside down?

One would not learn this by netting or hooking one on a fishing line. The measure of detail carved into stone that has survived the ages is as good as some line drawings I've seen in some much more recent texts. Could Ti have been an early aquarist?

Our next friend of the hobby is from the same depiction of everyday life in the 5th Dynasty of Egypt's Old Kingdom and

certainly has Cichlid written all over his features. Compare this chiseled masterpiece with a Tilapia that I spotted in an aquarium a week later. While it is possible that some trade existed with other parts of the world, it seems unlikely that fishes would have survived a camel trek across the desert so again these fishes must have been native to the Nile River.

What happened with the underlings however did not translate to the nobility. Where we saw many food stuffs including animals offered to the various Gods of the day as depicted on tomb walls, fishes were never on the list. Isis, the Goddess of magic, protector of her brother husband Osiris (inter-marrying of close family members was not forbidden



then), is credited with the start of the fishes ban. It seems the Goddess had a jealous brother-in-law Seth (God of chaos, go figure), who killed Osiris one day and chopped him into 45 pieces, throwing them into the river. Of course being a Goddess bestows special powers onto oneself, so the poor widow of legend managed to salvage 44 of the pieces of her late husband from the river and reassembled him. One little part necessary for procreation (draw your own picture here folks) remained missing. As the fishes of the river were held in this tale to have been responsible for digesting that 'manhood' portion of poor Osiris' anatomy, they were thereafter deemed unsuitable or unclean as dinner fare for the Pharaohs. They considered themselves to be no less than living Gods after all. Don't feel too badly for Isis and Osiris though as they lived happily ever after and were even blessed with a son (Horus) and that's another whole story of legend. The fishes sadly never recovered any position of importance to the Egyptians beyond serving as peasant food for the masses.

To ensure balanced reporting, permit me also to share another side of a story. In

Morocco, an ancient Eel pit remains within a fortress outside the Capital, Rabat, which at one time in history was a Roman outpost and at another time, a Moorish stronghold.

Within the Chellah as it is known, the small dark stone-lined water feature remains still, surrounded today by eager cats hoping for an eel sandwich. The eels for their part are said to hold great reproductive powers and local women to this day attend to feed hard boiled eggs to the eels in hopes of enhancing their own fertility by association. Not one to take such legend too lightly, TMA had the ancient caretaker feed the eels for me, to lure them out. This meter long beauty with electric blue pectoral fins sidled out of the shadows for a quick chomp before retreating again. I hate to think what the water chemistry in the pond must be, what with all the uneaten egg salad laying about on the bottom, but then again there is probably a host of young eels feeding on the infusoria cultures abounding from that.

Lastly, while touring in central Spain we saw the adjacent piece in a local art show. It speaks to the state of our environment in a smart and demonstrative way.

Entitled Perca (for perch) anillada (for annihilation) with the subtitle Lepomis (sunfish) industrial mutation it fancifully reveals the artist's intent. This fish's story is revealed in its hundreds of pop can pull tabs for scales and is said to 'use this extraordinary adaptation brought about by contamination of its marine environment to camouflage itself and thereby avoid predators. My tip of the hat goes to the budding young art student who's name was lost to me (when my notebook was lost/stolen somewhere in Rabat, Morocco) for this excellent work. Envision with me, a chain mail suit of armour for our fishes, sufficient so that we 'bumblers of the planet' could do them no further harm.

Have you told your kids a fish story today?

TMA



SCANNING THE EXCHANGES & etc.

... with Pat and Tom ...



BAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS presented at the December meeting

Pamela Danyluck

Ameca splendens 10 pts.

Congratulations!

Tom Bridges, BAP chairperson

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

▶ ... in the Hamilton and District Aquarium Society's bulletin - October, 2008

- *Breeding Aulonocara Maylandi by Larry Johnson
- *Spawning the Goo Obo Gudgeon & Charlie's Pond by Charles Drew
- *Blast from the Past – Aeration 50 Years Ago by George Crites, reprinted from the September, 1988 Fish Finatics (Montreal Aquarium Society)

▶ ... in the Sarnia Aquarium Society's Newsletter – Aqua Antics - December, 2008

- *Myriophyllum pinnatum – Foxtail by Peter Melady
- *Shell Dwellers by Jack VanderAa

▶ ... in the Durham Region Aquarium Society's newsletter – Tank Talk – December, 2008

- *Cryptic Emersion – Part 6 of Ten & My Green Wet Thumb: Floating Gardens & Eyeballs on Oddballs: Ummmmm, Chocolate ... (Gouramis) by Derek P. S. Tustin

The newsletters listed on this page will be at the sign-in desk at the start of the next meeting, then in the club library.



S.C.A.A.S. MONTHLY CLUB AUCTIONS

Remember the club policy of a three bag limit on any one item

With the usual small group of buyers, you're already pushing your luck on getting a decent price on the second and third items.

Remember the auction is a way to raise money to keep the club 'up and running'

We're all happy to get a 'good buy', but from the seller's point of view, what's the point of bringing decent items for sale, if he/she consistently gets only a dollar or two for them. They'll stop bringing them and buyers will have a lot less to choose from.

MAKE AUCTIONS MORE FUN FOR EVERYONE. HELP MAKE THEM A WINNING SITUATION FOR BOTH BUYERS AND SELLERS!

Member Profile

By Pam Danyluck

This months profile is on Jack VanderMass, and written by Jack.

My name is Jack VanderMaas. I was born on March 6 1964 in the beautiful city of Zierikzee, a fishermen's city in the south western province (Zeeland) in The Netherlands. When I was six we moved to Goes, also on one of the islands in Zeeland. I grew up in this province until I immigrated to Canada in 1988. I moved back in with my parents who lived in St Catharines, I met Cathy here in Canada and we got married in 1990. We were blessed with two sons, Jesse 14 and Devin 12 and live now in the beautiful town of Vineland.



After working for some other flower wholesale companies, in 2001 I started my own business. Bloomfield Flowers, which is a

cut flower wholesale company. My customers are the local flower shops in the Niagara region.

About 8 years ago my Dad and I became members of the club. When I grew up we always had a big aquarium in our living room. Most of the time there were lots of fish in this tank, but at one time we only had a paradise fish (*Macropodus opercularis*) in there for the longest time. I had a tank in my room also and was keeping mainly guppies and mollies. I did not keep any fish for a while until I got the urge again to start an aquarium, this was in 1994. I tried every thing and could keep nothing alive, until I discovered the African Cichlids. These fish I was able to keep alive for a long time and I still keep these fish today. I only have 2 tanks, and not a dedicated fish room. In one tank I have *Julidochromis regani* and an albino Bristlenose pleco and in the other tank I have *Haplochromis*. I do like African Cichlids because they are very hardy and territorial and most of them are very colourful. My very favorite African cichlid is the Daffodil and the Julies.

The filtering system I use in both tanks is just a basic sponge filter and this works very well for me.

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

Photos from the December Christmas Party (© by DAVE Unruh)





Fish discussions abound (What else?)



Raffle goodies waiting to be won

Santa directing the food preparations



Santa Claus waiting for the children



Ameca Splendens or Butterfly Goodied

By Pam Danyluck

In the spring of 2008 I won some of these on the Canadian auction site. They were still quite young when they arrived from Alberta. One of the reasons I bid on these fish is because they may be extinct in the wild. I wanted to breed them and pass on to friends here to help keep them thriving, if only in aquariums. They are a family of at least 40 species all from Mexico. The Ameca splendens were previously found in Rio Ameca drainage in Mexico. These fish prettily coloured fish are a lively bunch also curious and hungry.



Male Ameca splendens Photo by Pam Danyluck

Great algae eaters, they even eat Black Beard Algae. I would recommend a 40 gallon tank as a minimum requirement as they are strong swimmers. I have heard various reports of these fish being fin nippers and in the beginning I had them in my 75 gallon with smaller fish and they were very nippy. I then placed them in a tank by themselves with the exception on one lone female endler. There was no evidence of fin nipping on them or the endler. So after some time when the occupants of the 75 gallon were all adults I moved them back to the big tank. They have been in

it for a few months and all is going well. These fish are very pretty for wild type livebearers. Males have a noticeable intense yellow rim on their caudal fin. The body colour is grayish with both sexes and both have black spots. Both sexes have a band from gills to the tails of black spots. Males can reach 8 centimeters and females 12 centimeters, some aquarium raised males can reach grow as large as the females.

Ranking of males is determined by fighting. The males position themselves beside each other and open all their fins and hit the other with fast tail blows. Some times biting occurs, but serious injuries are few. The low ranking males do not display their colours and seem to be smaller.

The Ameca's courting and the competition of males is worth watching. The females start the courting by shivering gently in front of the male. The male joins in when the shivering gets more intense, they then swim to each other and mate. Females can not store sperm like guppies and must be inseminated for each and every pregnancy. Gestation lasts 55 to 60 days. The Amecas become sexually mature at 3 months. By then the males have grown into their full coloration. Females deliver their first young at about 5 months when they are approximately 5 centimeters. Batches are small at first and will increase as the female matures.

I started seeing fry appearing 3 – 6 at a time, but never in large drops. On October 31 I was doing a water change and noticed one of the female looked extremely very big as if she was ready to drop. I transferred her to a 5 gallon drop tank and hour later started to see fry. These fry were huge in comparison to other livebearer fry, some almost an inch long. It is no wonder she looked so huge. In approximately an hour she had dropped about six and an hour later 4 more. The final count was 12. When born they have the remnants of the umbilical cord called trophataenia which I was able to see with the last batch born. This disappears in a couple of days. After the females have given birth they look so emaciated, that you

think your going to loose them. They quickly recovered with good food and a couple of extra feedings. While pregnant the females need to be fed more often and with quality food as the fry are getting

nutrition directly from the female through the trophataenia. Keeping these fish is fairly easy. They tolerate a wide range of water parameters.



Female Ameca Splendens Photo by Pam Danyluck

I keep them in water with a ph of 7.6 and temperature ranges from 72 – 79 depending on the season. Some say that warmer temperatures bring out their colours more. I feed mine a variety of vegetable or spirulina based foods and occasionally protein flakes. Hope some day you will give them a try and help keep them in the hobby.

“WHAT SCAAS MEMBERS ARE KEEPING?”

By Pam Danyluck

This is an up to date list of what our members keep and specialize in, including contact information. To be added to this list, please see Pam to fill out a form or email her at danyluck@sympatico.ca

DAve Unruh	(905) 648-9860 dunruh@cogeco.ca
Specialty:	Cichlids
Others:	Plants Marines Some Catfish
Some of the Fish I am keeping as of October 2008	Pseudotropheus demasoni - wild caught (wc) Neolamprologus marunguensis – (wc) Heros appendiculatus – (wc) Julidochromis marlieri “Gombie” - (wc) Pterophyllum scalare – Angel fish – (wc) Pseudomugil gertrudae –(wc) Symphysodon aequifasciata axelrodi (brown discus) – aquarium strain Hoplosternum pectoral (Hoplo Catfish) Pseudosphromenus dayi – (wc) Synodontis petricola Callopleysiops altivelis(Marine Comet) Snowflake morray eel Gold Spot morray eel Amphiprion clarkia (clownfish) Novaculichthys taeniourus (Dragon Wrasse)

Pam Danyluck	danyluck@sympatico.ca
Specialty: Apple snails	Pomacea bridgesii(Mystery) Pomacea insularium Pomacea canaliculata Asolene spixi
Albino BNS	Long and short finned

Pam Danyluck cont'd	
Keeping as of October 8, 2008 Others: Livebearers	<u>Domestic</u> Platies Swords Mollies <u>Wild Types</u> Ameca Splendens(endangered) Carlhubbsia stuarti Killifish: Fundulopanchax oeseri (endangered) Fundulopanchax gardneri makurdi Cories: Weitzmani Albino Bronze Dainty (habrosus) Pygmy (hastatus) Black Phantom aspidoras Red Cherry Shrimp Green Shrimp Assassin Snails

Tom & Pat Bridges	tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
Specialty:	Angels Anableps
Others: The fish we are keeping as of October 2008	Plecostomus Endlers Livebearers Limia perugiae Celestial Pearl Danios Columbian tetras
For more information see our website:	http://www3.sympatico.ca/tp.bridges/home.html

Kevin Bonnar	905-680-0473/fishmongers@hotmail.com
Specialty:	Salt Water
LPS - Large Polyp Stony	Acros regular & deep water
Softies – Zoas & Leathers	Clowns
Breeding Banghii Cardinals	Almost any high end coral

Bohdan Nebesny	bnebesny@hotmail.com
Specialty:	Red Belly Piranhas (10 years)

Wanted ☺

Club members for newsletter profiles! I am still fairly new, so I don't know all of you yet. 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

SCAT ADS SCAT ADS SCAT ADS SCAT ADS SCAT ADS SCAT ADS SCAT ADS

Wanted – Jungle val plants (wide variety) that are over 24” tall. Contact DAve Unruh @ 905 684-9860 or email @ dunruh@cogeco.ca

Freeze Dried Bits + Flakes + Multi-Vitamins **PLUS**

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100% Satisfaction
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- Mysis Flakes plus bits of freeze dried mysis
- Earthworm Flakes plus bits of freeze dried tubifex worms

