

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

Volume 23 No.5 January 2011

**The**

# **SCAT**

**In This Issue:**

**Bill 125**

**Corydoras napoensis**

**Scanning The Exchanges**

**Pseudotropheus acei (Msuli)**

[scaas.info](http://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 January 10 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 Klaus Steinhaus on "C.A.R.E.S."**

## 2009 – 2010 Executive

President – Tom Hillier - - - (905) 227-5008 [tom.hillier@hotmail.com](mailto:tom.hillier@hotmail.com)  
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2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Bruce Hallett - (905) 934-7138  
Secretary – Pam Danyluck - - (905) 562-3290 [danyluck@sympatico.ca](mailto:danyluck@sympatico.ca)  
Treasurer – Bob Hayslip - - - - - - - [jules\\_bob@hotmail.com](mailto:jules_bob@hotmail.com)  
Past President - Ken Brady - - - (905) 935-4716 [kbrady2@cogeco.ca](mailto:kbrady2@cogeco.ca)

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Auctioneer – open  
Breeder Awards – Tom Bridges  
CAOAC Representative – Tom Bridges  
Editor - DAve Unruh - - - - - (905) 684-9860 [dunruh@cogeco.ca](mailto:dunruh@cogeco.ca)  
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## Membership Dues:

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

## Inside This Issue

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Cover photo of a marine cleaner shrimp (*Lysmata amboinensis*)  
© by DAve Unruh

**The Fish of the Month for January will be Anabantids**

## Presidents Message

**The** New Year is here! 2010 brought many changes but overall was a great year. We had our first show and auction in a long time and it went very well. We had some fantastic speakers and some very interesting meetings which were very informative. Our meetings are very good and more members are becoming involved in the club. Santa visited us on Christmas and did a fantastic job. I thank the members for their contributions to the Christmas party. The food donations for the food bank were also a success, keep it up in the New Year. 2011 will bring us new speakers and a lot more information; we have some very interesting programs set up.

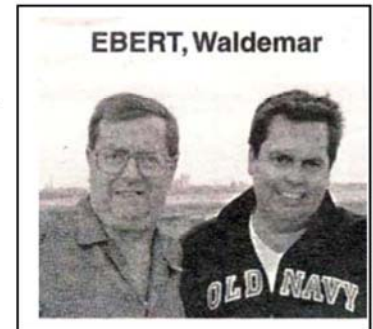
**Now** for some sad news, Waldemar Ebert, better known to us as Wally, passed away on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the age of 71. Wally was our treasurer and good friend who loved our club. Thomas, his son, told me he talked about the club even when he was so sick. Thomas will also be taking over the care of Wally's fish. He will be greatly missed by the members. He was a joy to be around he never had a bad word about anyone. This is not goodbye, you will always be remembered.

Have a happy and safe new year, see you on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Tom Hillier*

### **Obituary - Waldemar (Wally) Ebert**

EBERT, Waldemar - Passed away on Saturday December 18th, 2010, at the St. Catharines General Hospital at the age of 71. Beloved husband of Lilo. Cherished father to Monica and Thomas. Dear Grandpa to Katrina, Steven, Abby, and Isabella. Brother to Karin Engstrom from Maryland. Brother-in-law to Anne-Marie, Inge (Alex), Marianne (Hans). Onkel Wally will be missed by many nieces and nephews in Canada and Germany, as well as many great nieces and nephews. Wally was the treasurer of the St. Catharines and Area Aquarium Society. As per Wally's wishes cremation has taken place.



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# Membership Meeting Minutes December 6, 2010

*Minutes by Pam Danyluck*

*Photos © by Dave Unruh*

Meeting commenced 7:50 pm.

Tom Hillier Announced upcoming events

- Meeting for Kitchener December 7
- Hamilton December 9
- CAOAC meeting December 12



Treasurers report by Wally Ebert.

Still working on the final totals from the Show and Auction



**Breeding Award Presentations by Tom Bridges  
Pat & Tom Bridges 3 awards**

**Our Special Guest was delayed so the auction  
was started.**





The auction was interrupted by the arrival of our Special Guest!



Santa arrives with gift certificates and candy for all the young children at the meeting!

The auction was concluded after the children received their loot.



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During the break we ate the goodies brought in by the members.

A raffle of the chocolate bar & a can of peanuts brought in \$114.00  
The evening concluded with our annual Christmas members raffle.





# Important : Bill 125

Recently it has come to my attention through the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs that there has been a bill introduced by Dave Levac the MPP for Brant. This bill may pertain to some of our pets or ones we may want to keep. Bill 125 titled "Exotic Wildlife in Captivity Act, 2010 covers reptiles, amphibian, birds and small mammals and could eventually cover fish.

CAOAC is requesting our help in opposing Bill 125. The purpose of the bill is to control possession of dangerous animals in captivity and to make the owners liable for any damage caused by any of these animals if they were to escape.

Quote from Bob Wright President of the CAOAC in his December Message

## ***"IMPORTANT – YOUR ACTION IS REQUIRED IN RESPONSE TO BILL 125***

***Please check out the information and link to Bill 125. Exotic Wildlife in Captivity Act, 2010 For anyone in Ontario, this legislation represents a threat to many of our pets even though it does not cover fish at the moment it could with a very minor amendment and it certainly does cover any small mammal, amphibian, reptile or bird that we might want to keep.***

***I believe the MPP wanted to control the keeping of wild cats and other dangerous animals but the definition of exotic wildlife that he has chosen is way broader than his stated intent. Please take the time to write to your local MPP and express your opposition to this legislation.***

***Please visit the news page for a direct link to review this bill. I would encourage all individuals and all clubs to make their views known. Please also bring this to the attention of your local retailers as it has grave potential to affect their businesses."***

Petition letters have been provided online at the bottom of the CAOAC News page. All links/addresses provided below for more information and as well as a link to the addresses of our MMPs. Anyone who does not have access to a computer and would like to have a copy of the petition to send into your local MPP can contact me by phone.

Pam  
905-562-3290

**Bob Wright's Message For December 2010 - <http://www.caoac.ca/>  
MPP Dave Levac Introduces Exotic Wildlife Legislation Press Release -  
<http://www.davelevac.on.ca/pressreleases.aspx?id=125>**

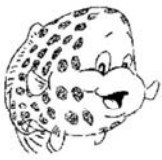
**News Page - <http://www.caoac.ca/news.html>**

**Bill 125 - [http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills\\_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=2423](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=2423)**

**MPPs - [http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members\\_current.do?locale=en](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/members/members_current.do?locale=en)**

# SCANNING THE EXCHANGES & etc.

with Pat and Tom



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

- ▶ ... In the Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Fins & Tales' – December 2010
  - \*Sucker's First Pleco & Name That Fish & Living with Livebearers & PlantEd Tank
  - Big Black Barrels by Ed Koerner
  
- ▶ ... in the Hamilton & District Aquarium Society's monthly bulletin – December 2010
  - \*How to Become a Fish Breeder by Charles Drew
  - \*Return of the Living Slime by Tom Tota
  
- ▶ ... in the Tropical Fish Club of Erie County, Inc. newsletter 'Some Things Fishy' – November 2010
  - \*Albino Oscar – author unknown
  
- ▶ ... 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. My email address is [tp.bridges@sympatico.ca](mailto: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.



## JAR SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

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



## BAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS presented at the December meeting

Pat and Tom Bridges

Cyphotilapia frontosa.....20 pts.

Brachyrhaphis roseni..... 5

Corydoras pygmaeus.....15

Congratulations!

Tom Bridges

BAP Chair



## UPCOMING EVENTS TO MARCH 27, 2011

January 16, 2011 Newsletter award nominations are due and club memberships accepted

10:30 AM CAOAC Executive meeting in Waterdown, ON

12:00 PM CAOAC General meeting in Waterdown, ON

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

10:30 AM CAOAC Executive meeting in Waterdown, ON

12:00 PM CAOAC General meeting in Waterdown, ON

March 6, 2011 Hamilton & District Aquarium Society AUCTION ONLY

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

10:30 AM CAOAC Executive meeting in Waterdown, ON

12:00 PM CAOAC General meeting in Waterdown, ON



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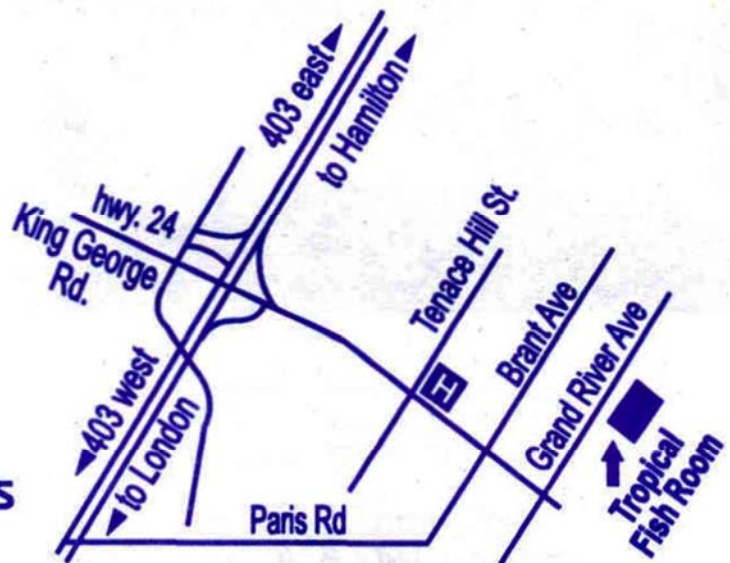
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## Pseudotropheus Acei (Msuli)

### A BAP report by Dave Furness

This nice little fish is from the West Coast of Lake Malawi, where there are two different varieties found. The most common is the Yellow tail, *Pseudotropheus acei* (Msuli). There is also the White Tail, *Pseudotropheus acei* (Ngara). The body on both species have a tubular blue body and grow to about 7 inches TL.

I picked up six individuals at the club auction and placed them into a 100 gallon tank. The tank was furnished with a few rocks and some artificial plants. The PH was about 7.4 and the temperature was 76 degrees F.

This species are omnivorous, so they were fed algae wafers, lettuce, mixed flakes, and a modest amount of brine shrimp and micro worms.

*Pseudotropheus* *acei* are mouth brooders, and are an easy fish to spawn. They often spawn over rocks or a pit, if you have a graveled tank, where the female releases her eggs and the male fertilizes them. It is only the female that picks them up and incubates them. They continue to hold the fry until the yolk sacs have been consumed. A mature female can release up to 50 eggs at each spawning.



*D.Furness's acei*

Photo © by Dave Unruh

When I noticed that she was carrying eggs, I left her in her tank for 4 or 5 days and then removed her to her own tank so she could release her fry, when they were ready. The female was removed after the fry were free swimming and she was able to feed for a few days to help her regain her strength.

The fry were fed powered flakes, micro worms, at first. Small pieces of algae wafers were also introduced.

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# THE ST. CATHARINES & AREA AQUARIUM SOCIETY

## JAR SHOW RULES

1. The monthly jar show will consist of three separate classes:
  - (a) Fish of the Month (found in the SCAT each month)
  - (b) Open Class
  - (c) Junior Class (16 yrs. of age and under]
2. All members entering FISH OF THE MONTH may be Senior or Junior with no distinction. If a Junior is awarded points, these points go to his/her Junior total points.
  - (a) Square-faced jars are acceptable.
  - (b) Drum bowls are permitted for Bettas and Guppies. No round jars are permitted. If fish is too large, an aquarium of up to 20 gallons may be used.
3. The Jar Show Chairperson will have complete control of all entries, disqualifying sick or injured fish, etc.
4. No plants, gravel, ornamentation, artificial colouring or medication of any kind will be allowed. Solid coloured paper backing outside of tanks is permissible.
5. (a) Members may enter a total of three (3) entries each month. Visitors may show fish on their first and/or second visit but must take membership in order to make any subsequent showings.
  - (b) A family membership consists of a couple (and their children if any). A family entering monthly jar shows is only allowed to enter a total of three (3) fish as a family holding a family membership. These entries must come under individual point scoring as a Junior or Senior.
6. All entries for the Jar Show must be single fish only.
7. The decision of the judge/s is final. Judges will be available for comment at the close of the meeting.



# Spawning Corydoras

## napoensis

by Dave Unruh

I came across these fish at an auction this past fall. They were a good size with a pleasing appearance so I took a chance and bid on them. I was quite happy to get the winning bid and I took the four fish home. A bit of research told me that *Corydoras napoensis* comes from the Rio Napo and Rio Aguarico systems in Ecuador, from the Rio Nanay in Peru and from the Rio Atacuari and Rio Amazonas in Colombia. It is a rather small medium size *Corydoras* that grows to about 5cm (2 inches) for the females and a bit smaller for the males. The only other way I could tell the males from the female was that the female was much fatter than the males, particularly noticeable when they were viewed from above.



Female *Corydoras napoensis* photo © by Dave Unruh

They were about 2 – 3 cm long (about an inch) and I put them in a 25 gallon tank that currently had no fish in it. This tank had a silica sand bottom and was planted with some



Male *Corydoras napoensis* photo © by Dave Unruh

*Anubias nana* and *barteri* plants. It was filtered by a Tetra foam filter and was at room temperature which was about 26°C.

I fed them Tetra Color Bits, live baby brine shrimp and frozen bloodworms. After about a month I decided that they were sufficiently conditioned that I would try spawning them. There was one that was obviously a female as it was very fat while the other three were much slenderer. There are 3 other species that look like *Corydoras napoensis* but there are small differences that can be used to correctly identify them. These species are *Corydoras elegans*, which is very commonly found in pet shop and harder to find *Corydoras nanus* and *Corydoras pestai*.

It turned out to be very easy to get them to breed as they spawned on the first attempt. I did a 50% water change and simply replaced the water with cold reverse osmosis water. They laid eggs all over the place – on the glass, the filter & the plants. I decided to scrape the eggs off the glass and hatch them in a small tank.

Unfortunately the eggs did not hatch, I thought perhaps I may have damaged the eggs when I scraped them off of the glass.

I decided on a different approach. This time I moved the corys to a ten gallon tank, using the foam filter and water from the tank. I placed the tank on the bottom of one of my racks so the tank would be near the floor where the temperature was cooler. The water was about 23°C.

Then after a week of heavy feedings of the same foods I again did a 50% water change and used cold reverse osmosis water to fill up the tank. The temperature after the water change was 19°C.

The next morning I came and checked the tank to find eggs all over the glass & on the filter. The eggs were in groups of ten to twenty eggs. This time I removed the fish and left the eggs in the tank. I added my favorite anti-fungus agent (*Acriflavine*) & waited for the eggs to hatch.





*C.napoensis* eggs on sponge & filter tube photo © by DAve Unruh

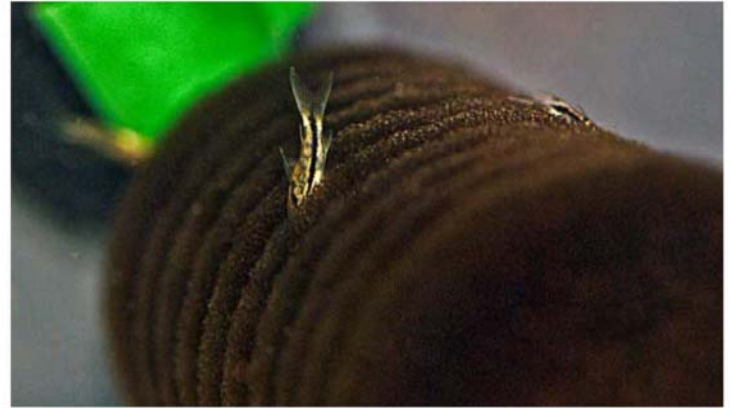
**This** time I was not disappointed as three days later I had what appeared to be at least 100 to 150 little wrigglers with egg sacs in the tank. I moved them to a two gallon tank. They were very small and I suddenly realized that I had not given much thought as to what I would feed the fry. Even newly hatched baby brine shrimp would be too large for them to eat. Fortunately I had some Kent Marine PhytoPlex, which is Aqua-cultured phytoplankton, similar to green water & the corys thrived on it. After 4 days on it I began to add some liquifry as well.



*Cory fry on sponge* Photo © by DAve Unruh

**After** I had moved them to the two gallon tank I siphoned out about half the water every day & replaced it with half reverse osmosis water and tap water. A few days later I began to give them newly hatched baby brine shrimp. This worked out pretty well and after 3 weeks I had well over a hundred little corys. At this point I had a bit of a die off and lost about 50 fry over a week. Then the losses stopped and they have been fine. The growth rate seemed rather fast, but now seems to have slowed down. The first successful spawn took place on October 20, 2010 so at the time when this article was written the corydoras fry are about 3 ½ months. The largest is about 1.5 cm long (Total length) while the smallest is just under 1cm TL.

**The** cory fry are eating much the same food as their parents with the exception of frozen bloodworms which I think may still be too large for them to eat. They also enjoy freeze-dried Tubifex worms. A few hours after feeding they can be seen foraging in the sponge filter for food items that have been sucked into the filter foam



*C. napoensis* fry diving into a foam filter for food Photo © by DAve Unruh

**This** is a cory that I highly recommend for all levels of hobbyists. Corydoras napoensis would be ideal for beginner hobbyists who are hoping to try their hand at breeding. The hardest part I think was having a small first food for the fry to eat, and that is a simple matter of buying the appropriate food. One could even grow ones own green water and not have to purchase anything unusual.



**Two corys from the same spawn – note the size difference & the pattern difference. The larger cory has grown from the pattern that the smaller one still has. The dots on the side have grown into a stripe. The fry are still quite small. For scale reference note that the air tube at the top of the photo is a standard 3/16" air line.** Photo © by DAve Unruh

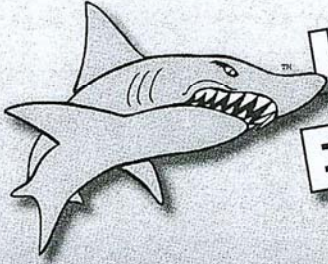




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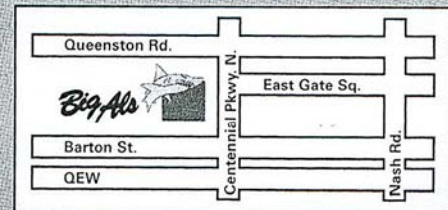
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