

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

Volume 22 No.7 March 2010

The

SCAT

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scass.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 March 01 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 club auction. See page 8 for more details

2009 – 2010 Executive

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

2009 – 2010 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 lphelps@vaxxine.com
Membership & Exchanges – Pat Bridges (905) 735-3352
Programs – Pam Danyluck - danyluck@sympatico.ca &
- Tom Hillier - tom.hillier@hotmail.com
Press/publicity – Ken Brady - - (905) 935-4716 - kbrady2@cogeco.ca
Raffle & Draws – Priscilla Heus - (905) 988-9741
Refreshments –
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 wild Anubias caladifolia plant

Photo © by DAVE Unruh

President's Message March 2010

The way I see it:

At the February general meeting Brian Glazier gave a super presentation on nutrition. No not for the two legged masses but how to feed your fish for top growth, conditioning and even a few hints about colour. Also plans to purchase a small notebook computer were completed and we now have that PC making it much easier to provide support to speakers and use in auctions and other club correspondence. It goes nicely with last year's purchase of the digital projector. The jar show was needing more entries and considering our plans to run full show it's a good idea to practice by bringing some fish out to the meeting.

I want to thank everyone who came out to the first meeting dedicated to our fall show and auction. Tom Hillier chaired the meeting and identified lots of item's still to be done or decided on. There were quite a few members present and it is very encouraging that we will have a great show and auction.



A Gourami entered in the February meeting took 1st place photo by © DAve Unruh

Critter Crumbs

Homemade Food

For veggie loving plecós, fish, shrimp & snails.

All my critters love em!

A little goes a long way!

25 grams \$ 1.75, 50 grams \$ 3.50, 100 grams \$ 6.00

CanadianAquariumAuction.com or pjdanyluck@sympatico.ca

This Month's meeting is an Auction. We will not have a jar show or program. It's a great opportunity to pick up some needed equipment and to move out stuff you are not using. Even if you just want to get rid of stuff but don't want to bring it then let someone know and we will take care of it for you. Please be a bit early so paperwork can be done.

Also there is a link to the auction form on our web site.

Please pass the word around because the more people the better.

See you Monday March 1, 2010

Ken

2010 CAOAC Convention

May 21-23, 2010
Sheridan College Oakville, Ontario

Convention Committee

Dave Boehm / Bob Wright / Ann Stevens
Noel Wright / Carl McCleary / Ken Boorman / Terry Little

GUEST SPEAKERS

David Boruchowitz
Spencer Jack
Ad Konings
Ray 'Kingfish' Lucas
Oliver Lucanus
Lee Newman

What else will you get for your money?

Catered banquet dinner Saturday night

Breakfast meal Sunday morning

CAOAC Executive meeting, Annual Elections

and Annual awards presentation

Bring your fish, plants, crafts, photos, reptiles & amphibians to show

Large Auction Sunday afternoon

All this for only \$75 per person!

Purchase your tickets online.

Bring the family! Lots to see and do in the area too!
Check our website for updates on speaker topics and any breaking developments www.caoac.ca

Minutes of the February 1, 2010 General Meeting

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:56 by President Ken Brady.

He welcomed everyone and introduced 2 new members.

Upcoming events were reviewed, as listed in the SCAT and on the CAOAC website.

The Secretary read the January minutes, which were approved as read.

The Treasurer gave his report, which was approved. Tom Hillier requested a Show and Auction meeting on Monday, February 8th, at 7PM.

BAP: A plaque was awarded to Dave Furness for the breeding of 15 livebearers.

Program: Brian Glazier spoke on Fish Nutrition. After the monthly auction, the meeting was adjourned.

February 1, 2010 Executive Meeting

The Executive met to vote on the purchase of a laptop computer for the club's Program Committee and special events use.

A computer from Summit Direct was selected and approved for club purchase.

Vote: Yes by J.Verhage, B.Hallett, and C.Carthew
Abstain: W.Ebert Absent: K.Brady

Show and Auction Committee Meeting of February 8,2010.

Chairman T.Hillier presided.

The Show Co-ordinator is D.Unruh, assisted by T.Bridges.

Lists of classes, rules, and awards are to be prepared and presented to the Chairman.

Awards will be: 1st-plaque, 2nd and 3rd-certificate. 'Best'- trophy and cash.

Prices for wood plaques, plates, emblems, and engraving will be investigated by Tom, Chris, And Wally.

Sponsorship fees will be \$20.00 per class. 'Best' sponsorship is to be decided.

Cash awards will be based on # of entries in class.

Show entries will be \$2.00 each for the first 5 entries, and 1.00 each thereafter.

Show entries will be judged by: C.Drew, J.Draper, and an apprentice judge.

The Auction Co-ordinator is J.Verhage.

The stage for the auctioneers is available from the last auction.

Prices for a 'PA' system will be investigated: purchase vs rental.

A printer is required for buyer/seller sheets.

A motion was made by R.Carthew to purchase a printer for the club, compatible with our computer.

Summit Direct representative C.Corfield offered a printer for \$50.00, slightly used, \$250.00 value.

Executive vote to purchase printer from Summit: Yes- Brady, Verhage, Hallett, Carthew. Abstain- Ebert.

Auctioneers will be: R.Wright, J.Chalmers, B.Glazier.

Chit writers: P.Heus, P.Danyluck, P.Bridges

Needed are volunteers for security, chit-running
The Computer Co-ordinator and assistant - to be decided

Refreshment Committee: B.Hallett, L.Wormald, R.Carthew. Need volunteers.

Welcome/Registration: C.Carthew

Finances/Treasurer: W.Ebert, assisted by C.Carthew.

Publicity and Advertising: Web-K.Brady.

Newspapers-C.Carthew. Need volunteers.

Raffle and 50/50 draws: Need volunteers.

Members are reminded that volunteers are needed for this event to be successful. If you can only spare an hour or two, it will be great for everyone.

No one need work all day if everyone works an hour or two. Teamwork will make this event a fun and profitable day.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Claudia Carthew

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 -

February 2010

- *Spawning the HY511 Tetra by Charles Drew
- *Pretty as a Peacock by Larry Johnson
- *Blast From the Past – Big, Bad and Beautiful
By Norm McEvoy

▶ ... in the **Cambridge District Aquarium Society's** newsletter 'Aquatic Views' -

January 2010

- *Breeding African Jewels – Hemichromis cristatus
& Breeding Zebra Danios – Danio rerio
by Anthony McAslin

The Exchange newsletters will be in the club library at the meeting.

**BAP
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
presented at the
February meeting**

Dave Furness

Specialty Livebearer Plaque for 15
Distinct species of livebearers
Congratulations!

Tom Bridges
BAP Chair



**JAR SHOW RULES
AND REGULATIONS**

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



**Help save the club's printing
and mailing costs!**

Receive your newsletter in full colour

If you are receiving the club newsletter by Canada Post, please try switching to an emailed copy. Thanks! Let Pat know at the membership desk or at tp.bridges@sympatico.ca



UPCOMING EVENTS in 2010

March 14th, 2010 [Hamilton & District Aquarium Society](#). AUCTION ONLY.

Waterdown Legion. Waterdown, ON

March 28th, 2010 [Brant Aquarium Society](#), SHOW & AUCTION. Special Events Bldg., Paris Fairgrounds, Paris, ON

April 11th, 2010 [Durham Region Aquarium Society](#). SHOW & AUCTION.

Aquatic Centre, Ajax, ON

May 21st – 24th, 2010

**Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs
51st ANNUAL CONVENTION**

At Sheridan College Oakville.

More details at www.caoac.ca

and click on 2010 convention.



REMEMBER!

The March 1st meeting will be an

auction only – 70/30 split

CASH ONLY – no tabs

Auction starts @ 7:30 p.m.

& ends @ 10

**Please arrive early to register your
items for sale**

Limit 20 items – 1 form

**Registration forms available
at the meeting**

**All remaining items will be
returned to sellers**

**Unclaimed items will become the property of
The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society
(SCAAS)**

The Crypt Emersion – Part Nine (of Ten)

by Derek P.S. Tustin



Week Forty-Eight

As mentioned when I was concluding last month, I was unsure if I should let this tank run its course until I completed a full year, or if I should make some alterations. Overall, I was thinking of leaving it be, but came to realize that the tank had reached an equilibrium and for me to push forward, I would have to make a minor addition or two. While at Menagerie (they were having a plant sale – keep your eyes open because they do this from time-to-time and you can get some really nice plants!) I found another *Anubias frazeri*. I had tried this plant previously in this set-up and had no success. However, with the removal of the rain-maker and the associated pumps, I found that there was an opening in the corner, so I decided to purchase another and see if it will work this time around.

So I made an addition and the tank continued to flourish. Reflecting on the tank, I am somewhat surprised that given the consistent depth of the tank and the fact that there are two *Sagittaria sagittifolia* 'flore peno' in the tank, one continues to grow emersed, while the other remains completely submersed. The two plants are only 15 centimeters (6 inches apart) and were added at the same time. If anyone has a suggestion about why two identical plants in identical conditions have grown in two totally different forms, I would really like to hear it.

My *Anubias hastifolia* threw another leaf and in the period of just under a week it grew to match the height of the other *A. hastifolia* leaves. As you can see, the older leaves have tended to brown around the edges, but over-all they



Anubias frazeri in rear corner, *Lobelia cardinalis* in foreground

have required very little pruning. I imagine if I were to have a higher humidity level around the leaves, this browning would lessen.



A. Hastifolia – Week 48

The *Lobelia cardinalis* continues to grow nicely, and my *Anubias barteri* has also thrown another leaf, this one growing emersed. Finally my *Lemna minor* (duck weed) continues to grow like... well, like a weed. (By the way, if anyone knows of a source for *Lemna major*, I would really appreciate it if they could contact me.)

So, with only four more weeks to go, I must say that I am very appreciative of how this tank has grown. I'll watch it for the last month and let you know if anything changes...

Editors Note – this is almost the end of this 10 part series. It was originally published in the Durham Region Aquarium Society's publication "Tank Talk".

Meet the Real Mr. and Mrs. Bridges

by Linda Crabtree from The Scat April 2005

Editors note - For those newer members we will be doing some reprints of old profiles, so you can get to know some of the more senior members.

Most of you know who Tom and Pat Bridges are but just in case you happen to be new to the club, I'm sure you've noticed the lovely couple who man the table as you come into the room, take your name as a guest or member, are responsible for hanging those name tags on us and make sure the tables are put in place for the meeting and folded up the way they began at the finish of the meeting. They are like fixtures at the club, we all depend on them for all the little things we never think of but need to be done to make the club run smoothly and they never let us down. They are usually the first to arrive and the last to leave. This terrific twosome are Pat and Tom Bridges.

Pat was born in Weston Favell, Northamptonshire, England and was raised near London, well, I'll let her tell it, "I came to Port Colborne from England in 1957. After I finished high school in Port Colborne, most of my working life was spent working at The Tribune (then called The Evening Tribune), first in the accounting department, then in the advertising department for a couple of years. I worked for several years, met Tom in 1962, and we married in 1963. After our daughter was born, I became a stay at home mom. **Tom** was born in Colborne, ON, which is between Oshawa and Belleville, and did most of his growing up on a small farm in the community of Eggleton, Ontario. Stirling was the nearest village, where he attended high school. He went to Queen's University in Kingston, followed by teachers college in Peterborough. His first teaching position was as principal of a small school near Madoc, where he stayed for two years. In 1962, he accepted a position as Principal at Gasline School in Port Colborne. Tom retired from E. W. Farr school in Fenwick."

Tom and Pat have lived in Welland since the early 60's, and where they live now on Crescent Drive, since 1972. They have a son, Neal, a daughter Susan, a niece and two nephews.

I asked Pat what got them into fish keeping?

"**About** 30 years ago, we had some friends who were interested in tropical fish and they had a beautiful aquarium and were breeding angels. Once we saw their set-up, we were hooked. We set up a tank in our living room, then 10 more in the basement that gradually increased to about 80. We started with guppies and have bred many species of fish since, including discus and angels. **In** the late 70's, a group of us started the Welland & District Aquarium Society, which lasted through to the late 80's. It was a thriving club with many junior members, but despite all efforts, membership gradually dwindled to the point where the club was difficult to maintain. Tom and I visited the St. Catharines Aquarium Society once in a while, and became members in 1987."

How are you involved with fish now, do you specialize in anything?

"**Most** of our aquariums are in the basement. Over the years, we've office before he retired over ten years ago, after a 35 year career as an elementary school principal. The other one, our first aquarium, (30 gallons), is on a bookcase/divider between the front hall and the living room."

I know you are involved in the club more than most people realize. What else do you do for us?

"**Tom** maintains our personal web site and since The St. Catharines club doesn't have its own web page, he includes club information on ours. There are links to a printable membership form, and other clubs' ' happenings', past and present.

Our memories aren't accurate with the exact dates, but I (Pat) have handled the Membership Committee for a long time, and edited/published the newsletter for almost 10 years. In the past Tom was Program Chairman, has taken care of the BAP (Breeders' Award Program) for several years, sets up the meeting room, and manages the monthly auction tables. He has long been the St. Catharines club representative at The Canadian Association of Aquarium Club (C.A.O.A.C.) monthly meetings in

Waterdown, which we both attend. Together we created and maintain a national fish breeders' directory for C.A.O.A.C.

For several years, on a weekly basis, we have maintained the aquarium in the St. Catharines Library, children's section, replacing fish and plants as necessary. It's a 35 gallon hexagonal aquarium and contains a large gold angelfish, an albino bushy-nose plecostomus, cherry barbs and Dave Unruh recently donated some beautiful ruby barbs. African water ferns are attached to a tall piece of driftwood..

We also attend as many other clubs' events as possible, and sometimes present programs as guest speakers," Pat said.

When it comes to pure dedication and the love of the hobby, Pat and Tom Bridges are a hard act to follow. We all owe them a huge thank you for their commitment and hard work and they do it all with a smile and often a wise crack from Pat that can't help but make you laugh. These folks are really the backbone of the club.

These folks are really the backbone of the club. Without them and a couple of others, there wouldn't be much of a function to attend every month. How good it is to be in such company.



Tom & Pat Bridges - photo by Linda Crabtree

Tom and Pat's website is at <http://www3.sympatico.ca/tp.bridges>



The March 1st meeting will be an auction only

- 70/30 split -



Each successful bid paid for by **CASH ONLY** - NO TABS

Seller Registration from 6:45 to 7:30
please arrive early to register your Aquarium related items

Auction starts at 7:30

SPECIAL REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE MEETING . . .

LIMIT -- 20 items (ONE FORM) PER PERSON

* AUCTION WILL END AT 10 p.m.

ALL REMAINING ITEMS WILL BE RETURNED TO SELLERS
Unclaimed items will become the property of SCAAS
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Keeping Anubias

by Dave Unruh *This is an updated version of an article I wrote back in 1995. It was originally published in "Fins 'n Tales", Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society*

Some of the terms used may not be familiar to all readers so there is a glossary of these terms at the end of this article.

The group of plants known as Anubias has been a favorite of mine for over 25 years. During that time I have had at least 12 species of Anubias, although not all at once. I have also been fortunate enough to be able to obtain several species that were collected from their natural habitats. Anubias plants are found in West Africa. Wild plants are quite a bit larger than plants that have been cultivated in aquariums. Wild plants have a more robust appearance to them, with larger leaves & taller plants. As an example, most *A. lanceolata* plants that we see are only about 30 - 36cm tall, while I have received wild specimens that were 50 -55cm tall. Cuttings from wild plants will carry on that "larger" growth for several generations. The drawback to wild plants is that they are more expensive, although I think that they are well worth the price.



Anubias barteri var. caladifolia – Photo © by DAve Unruh

Many of the areas where these plants are collected are politically unstable (very violent) and thus when a collector goes out in search of the "elusive" Anubias, he takes a gunner, armed with automatic

weapons, on each jeep in the group. The trouble and risk involved in bringing these plants (and fish) from those areas are the reasons why the prices are so high. Hopefully the area of West Africa will stabilize and we will see more plants & fish at lower prices.

Natural conditions for Anubias vary quite widely in the areas of temperature, pH and conductivity. Temperatures range from 23°C to 28°C. pH values can be as low as 4.5 or as high as 7.2. Conductivity starts at an extreme low of 5 μ S (micro-seimens) and up to a high of 85 μ S. Nitrate is almost non-existent—from 0.0 to .05 mg/L. Our water in St. Catharines is about 150 – 200 μ S with a pH of about 7.0.



Anubias barteri – photo © by DAve Unruh
– note the leaf on the right side is damaged. This leaf should be removed as it will not get better & will become a site for algae to attach

Fortunately, Anubias can be grown successfully in conditions that are not exactly the same as the natural conditions. Of course, we could duplicate all of the conditions if we try hard enough but for many aquarists maintaining water with a conductivity less than 100 μ S is not practical. If your tap water is very hard then it is not at all practical to try and maintain a hardness of 3 DH unless you have a reverse osmosis filter. So what conditions are suitable? I have found that temperature is not that important so long as extremes are avoided. Anywhere between 24°C

and 28°C seems to be okay. I tend to keep mine about 26°C. pH should not be above 8.0—6.8 to 7.2 would be much better. Conductivity is something most aquarists are unfamiliar with, mainly because they do not have a meter. Fortunately, conductivity and hardness are not that great a factor with Anubias although it is better to have the water as soft as possible. Keep nitrates down - as low as possible. Regular water changes are important.

The substrate should be fertilized. I have the best results with laterite mixed in the gravel or a very well established (old) substrate. Fertilizer tablets are pushed in the gravel near the roots every three weeks. I also add a liquid fertilizer (Sera) and keep the iron level at 1 mg/L.

Anubias seem to get along with just about any kind of light. I have used fluorescent, compact fluorescent and halogen bulbs, all with good success. Anubias will also grow well in shaded areas although the rate of growth is slow. As a general rule never bury the rhizome when planting. Bury the roots but leave the rhizome above the gravel. The plant may also be attached to rocks or wood such as ironwood.



Anubias barteri var. nana – Photo © by DAVE Unruh
Note the new olive-green colored leaf on the left. Older leaves are dark green. On the right is a very small Anubias sometimes called Anubias nana “pygmy” with leaves smaller than a dime.

Anubias barteri and Anubias barteri var. nana
Many articles and hobbyists call the second A. nana but it really appears to be a sub-species of A. barteri. The barteri complex has at least 5 sub-species—nana, barteri barteri, augustifolia,

cladifolia, and glabra. Anubias barteri var.nana is the smallest of all the Anubias—there is no debate here. I have a type of nana which grows leaves no larger than 1.5cm long and 1cm wide.

There are also larger nana plants that produce leaves up to 7cm long and 4cm wide. It is one of the easier Anubias to flower. Nana or barteri are usually the first Anubias that aquarists are able to get to flower.

Most hobbyists find all Anubias to be slow growing. However, under good conditions many will grow at a fairly quick rate, perhaps one new leaf each week or two (some of the Anubias species I have kept have produced a new leaf about once a month!) Once the plant is established one may find that the plant is branching out and is producing a new leaf on every offshoot. Nana & barteri will flower underwater, something that not all Anubias will do.

Many people confuse the larger nana type with the barteri type but there is a simple way to tell them apart. A. barteri nana has a leaf that is ovate while A. barteri barteri has a leaf that is cordate. The actual shape of the leaf of A. barteri barteri varies quite a bit (it may sometimes be described as ovate-lanceolate) but the base is always heart-shaped or lobed.

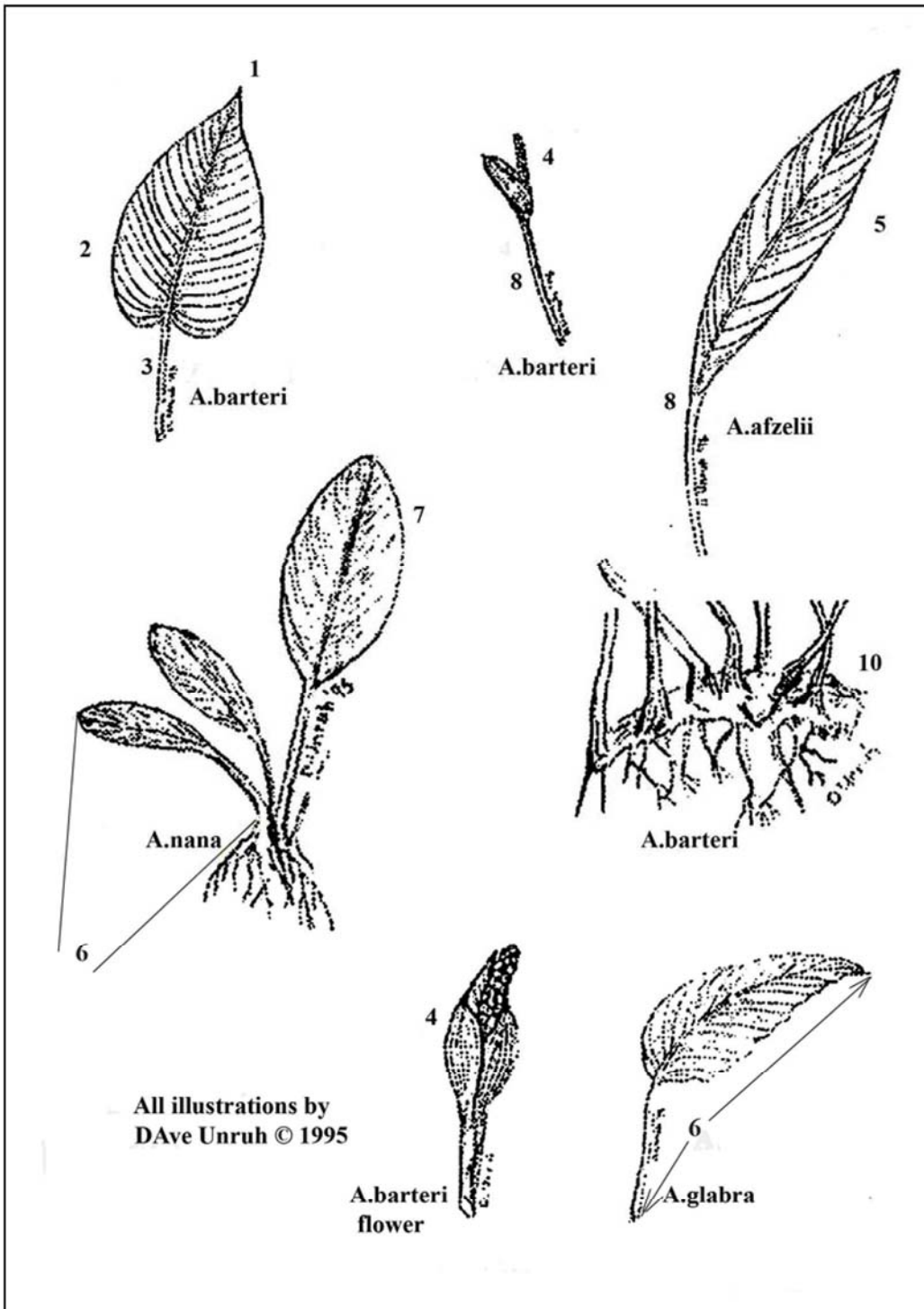


Anubias barteri var.nana photo © by DAVE Unruh
The yellow leaves are generally a sign of low iron levels
Correct by the use of liquid plant fertilizers with high amounts of iron

In part 2 I will describe more Anubias species with drawings & photographs and give some tips on diagnosing and solving some problems with them.

References: Aquarium Plants by Dr. K. Rataj & T. Horeman
 Aquarien Pflanzen by H.C.D. Dewit
 Baensch Atlas #1, 2, &3 by Dr. R. Riehi & H. Baensch

Here are some plant terms you should know as they relate to Anubias. The numbers correspond with the numbers on the drawings where illustrated.



1. Apex- the free end or tip of a leaf blade.
2. Blade - leaf blade, the thin flattened part of a leaf.
3. Cordate – of a leaf - heart-shaped
4. Inflorescence – the flowering shoot – collective flower or flowers of a plant
5. Lanceolate – of a leaf, lance shaped, longer than broad
6. Leaf – a two part organ consisting of a blade (or lamina) attached to the stem by a stalk or petiole
7. Ovate – of a leaf, egg-shaped
8. Peduncle - a stalk supporting an inflorescence
9. Petiole - the leaf stalk, joining the blade to the stem
10. Rhizome - the stock or lower part of the stem which is like a root but differs in the presence of one or more buds or leaves
11. Sessile - attached directly by the base: not raised upon a stalk or peduncle
12. Spadix – an inflorescence, a form of spike
13. Spathe - the floral envelope enclosing the inflorescence
14. Spike - an inflorescence in which the flowers are sessile along an undivided axis

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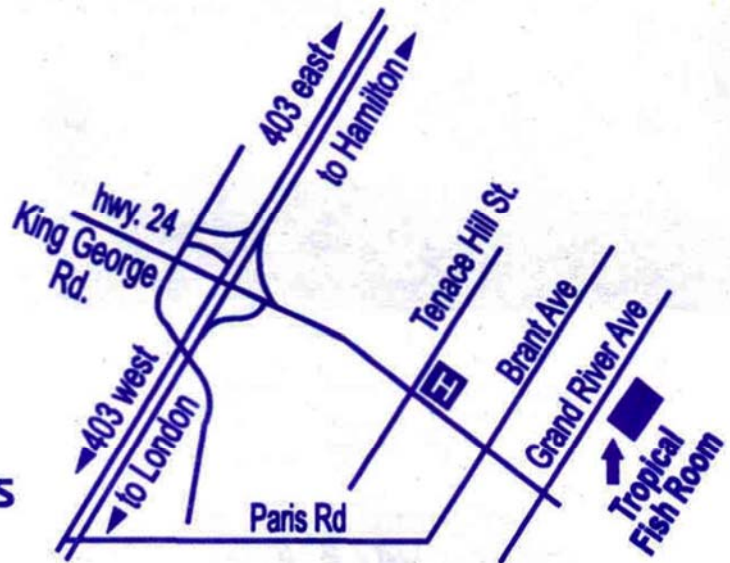
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4 Photos



Apricot crab



Short spine Sea Urchin



Pelvicachromis wotri



Red Coris Wrasse

all photos © by Dave Unruh

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