The Official Publication of the St.Catharines & Area Aquarium Society since 1958
Volume 24 no.7 March 2012



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Scanning the Exchanges

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 nonprofit, 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 the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society can be found at http://www.scaas.info

Our next meeting will be held on March 05.12 Start time is 7.30 pm ALL ARE WELCOME This month's program will be Barry McKee on the fishes of Uruguay

2011 – 2012 Executive

President - Tom Hillier - - - - (905)227-5008 - tom.hillier@hotmail.com 1st Vice President – John Verhage – (905) 735-7776 - jverhage@on.aibn.com 2nd V President – Joe Krawchuck (905-325-5562) - drummers secret@hotmail.com Secretary – Pam Danyluck - - - - (905)562-3290 - danyluck @sympatico.ca Treasurer – Bob Hayslip - - - (905) 646-2802 - jules_bob@hotmail.com Past President - Ken Brady - - - (905) 935-4716 - kbrady2@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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Web Master - Ken Brady - - - (905) 935-4716 -

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kbrady2@cogeco.ca

Cover photo of an arawana (Osteoglossum bicirrhosis) eating a mouse Photo © by DAve Unruh

Jar Show

The fish of the month will be Plants

For April it will be Angels & Discus

President's Message

Here it is March already! Last month we had Tom Mason talk on Costa Rica, who did a fantastic job. This month we have Barry McGee from the Durham Club. Some of you may be familiar with him, he tagged along with Tom Mason at our meeting last month. Myself, Dudley and Ken attended the supper in Durham. It was very informative and we really enjoyed ourselves.

The Jar Show is going very well, however we need more fish entered. There are a lot of things going on in the near future with shows and auctions at the clubs in Hamilton, London, Durham and Kitchener. Hopefully we'll have some members attend them. If anyone would like to visit any of the fish stores in Toronto and surrounding area send me an e-mail and we can see what we can come up with.

The tank at the child care centre is nearly finished but we also need a few more fish, if you have some to spare and would like to help out the kids you can call me at 905-227-5008 or email me at tom.hillier@hotmail.com.

And finally with the Easter season fast approaching we have a couple more meetings to collect food for the local food bank. Let's make a special effort this season to help out those less fortunate then ourselves in our community with a can or two of non-perishable foods to be collected at our monthly meetings.

President Tom Hillier

Membership Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2012 by Pam Danyluck

Meeting Commenced at 7:44 pm.

Opening and Welcome: Tom Hillier welcomes everyone present. Also welcomes two new visitors.

Upcoming Events and Announcements: Read by Tom Hillier. We received a thank you letter from Community Care for all our donations. Every month we will continue to accept food donations for them as the food is needed throughout the year not just for holidays. Hamilton Show and Auction Saturday March 17, 2012

Treasure's Report: Bob Hayslip was absent.

Breeding Award Program: Tom Bridges presents certificates to: Joe Krawchuk for Ameca splendens. Dave Unruh for the Whiptail Catfish. (Rineloricaria eigenmanni)

Horticultural Award Program: Joe Krawchuk presents certificates to: Tom Hillier for six different plants

February's Program was presented by Tom Mason. Tom is a curator of birds and invertebrates at the Toronto Zoo. His talk was on the fish of Costa Rica as well as a few other inhabitants. He showed many pictures of the different reptiles and fish and kept us entertained with stories of his experiences.

Refreshment Break supplied by Shawn and ShirleyJar Show Awards: Pat Shriner presented jar show awards to: Joe Krawchuk for First, Second and Third.

Door Prize, Nightly Raffle, Evening Auction

Meeting Adjourned

Executive Meeting Minutes February 12, 2012 by Pam Danyluck

Meeting called to order at 7:25 pm.

In attendance were Tom Hillier, Pam Danyluck, Roman Haljkevic, Dave Unruh, Joe Krawchuk, Bob Hayslip, Tom Bridges, John Verhage and Ken Brady.

Donation Credit Plaque:

Tom Bridges had the metal plaque made up and brought it to the meeting. The plaque gives credit to our Club and Big Al's in Hamilton for donating the tank, equipment and food and will be on the tank at the St. Catharine, Child Care Centre. This is a way for us to give back to the community. Pictures will be taken for the Scat.

Fish raised by the school with be brought to our meeting and auctioned off, all money (club will forfeit the 30%) is to be put into a food fund to purchase more food for the fish at the centre.

Tom Hillier is to send Pam itinerary.

The centre also requires more Platies for their tank. Pam will make up an ad for the Scat and Roman will do a poster for the March meeting.

Treasurer's Position:

Bob Hayslip our current Treasurer has become extremely busy and has other commitments that keep him for attending the meetings. The executive committee has appointed Roman Haljkevic as Treasurer until the elections in June. Bob will get together with Roman to explain the details and together they will update the books.

The address on the cheques will remain as Bob's and he will pass anything on to us until year end. At that time when we have a new elected Treasurer everything will be changed accordingly. Signing authority will remain with Dave Unruh, John Verhage and Bob Hayslip also until a new Treasurer is elected. The following cheques were written by Tom Hillier for Sponsorship of Cichlids over four inches to the Brant Aquarium Society. A cheque to Big Al's for equipment needed in the tank donated to the Child Care Centre.

Auction:

At the next membership meeting we need to ask the membership if we will be having a fall auction and show. If this will be taking place we will need to get volunteers for the various committees in to run the event. A committee for gathering show sponsors will be also be need this year if we are having a show. If the club decides to have an auction we will also need an advertising committee. We have all the equipment now needed for auctions, just need volunteers and paperwork.

Reports:

Treasurer - was asked to prepare a report on money made on raffles to enable us to determine if they are covering the cost of items being purchased. We also require reports from the snack bar. Pam will purchase a leger book for them as this was never set up when Shawn and Shirley took over.

Programs:

The final month's programs have been finalized.

March will be Barry McKee on Fish of Uruguay.

April is a video presentation done by Roman on our members' tanks.

May will be a whole evening auction, no program.

June is our year end BBQ and Elections.

Other:

Kitchener will be putting in a bid for the 2013 CAOAC Convention.

Tom Bridges announced that Bob Wright President of CAOAC would like to hear from anyone who has experienced or experiences any difficulties bringing fish into Canada from the United States.

Raffle set up will be moving to the executive table for the following meetings.

Tables for the year end BBQ will be set up so everyone can sit and socialize while having supper. Barbequing will be done by Tom and John.



Advertising in the Scat by members came up and amount of ads placed by members will be determined by how much room is available.

Inverts breeding program points have been set up, waiting for Tom Mason to get back to Pam on the crayfish points. Pam will send Tom Bridges the points system for the shrimp for him to award certificates.

Meeting adjourned.

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Ancistrus temminchii by Jack VanderAa

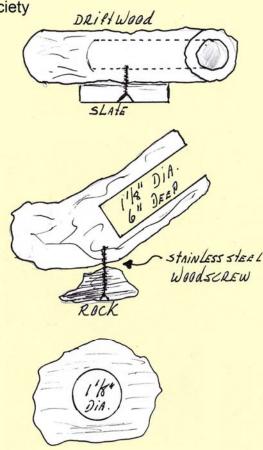
Reprinted from Aqua Antics, the newsletter of the Sarnia Aquarium Society

This little gem, also known as Bristlenose or Bushynose pleco has become extremely popular in the hobby. It stays relatively small, 5-6 inches, is long-lived, 12 years, and is an excellent algae eater, and very peaceful. This Herbivore is from South America, namely Suriname and Guiana. Water conditions seem to be less demanding than most other tropical fish. I find that hard water works, but soft, acidic water is more to their liking, at 75-80 degrees F. Most tanks do not contain enough algae to keep their bellies full, so other foods must be offered. Commercially prepared algae wafers are very good, but not really cheap to buy, so we can feed foods such as par-boiled zucchini, spinach, romaine lettuce, peas, green beans, etc. Bristlenoses will eat as long as there is food available, so feed them a little, often. The above foods need to be partially boiled to stop them from floating. Fellow member Dave Finley sticks a fork through a piece of zucchini or cucumber, and of course, that food has to settle to the bottom. It works!

I have 5, 10 gallon tanks each of which houses a family of Bristlenoses. I have regulars, long finned and albinos. The water in these tanks looks like strong tea. Driftwood makes it dark and acidic, and I believe this closely resembles their original habitat because they are doing so well. Some of us have been successful breeding the Bristlenose. Pieces of plastic pipe, fixed to a flat rock, at a 45 degree angle has worked for us. However, I have

found that a cave, drilled into a piece of driftwood is ideal. Some authors and salespeople may suggest that driftwood must be treated before it is put into an aquarium. I don't agree. A bone-dry piece of driftwood that's been laying in the sun for who knows how long, is perfect for this application. My driftwood comes from the beaches of any of the Great Lakes. I cut it (if needed) drill it, mount it and use it. The wood should be wide enough and long enough to enable you to drill a 1 1/8 " cave, about 6" deep. Don't drill through the wood but into it as one end must be closed off. The fish appear to be very comfortable in such a home, and that is what we need to achieve. Happy fish will reward you. The driftwood needs to be mounted on a rock, slate, piece of glass or anything that will stop it from floating. Stainless steel screws are probably the safest way to attach the two. Positioning the cave in a horizontal position works fine.

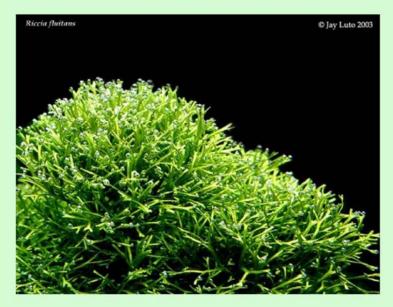
I have not witnessed actual spawning, as this Pleco is somewhat secretive and shy. The female lays up to 200 eggs and places them on the ceiling, deep inside the cave. The male full fills his obligation and looks after the eggs. The female has nothing to do with raising or caring for the young. The eggs take up to 10 days to hatch and the fry take up to 4 days to absorb their yolk sacs. At this stage, the fry, although herbivore, love newly hatched brine shrimp and will eat it for 6 weeks or longer.





Horticultural Highlight

By Joseph Krawchuk



Riccia fluitans is also commonly known as Crystalwort. Riccia is a very popular choice for keeping in aquariums as it is a very hardy plant that can either be anchored or can float. Even novice aquarists can normally keep Riccia fluitans without any trouble. Due to its versatility, it is often used for elaborate aquascaping in show aquariums. Riccia fluitans, like most aquatic plants, is not a good choice for planteating fish as it makes a wonderful meal for them.

Riccia fluitans forms dense clusters of bright green threads. If you do not prune it frequently, Riccia fluitans will grow into a round clump with a slightly flattened top and bottom. Small clumps of Riccia fluitans normally float at or just below the surface of the water. As the plant grows bigger and heavier, it will gradually sink down into the water.

Riccia fluitans does not develop any real root system, but it can anchor itself to solid objects such as rocks and branches. You can use a piece of string or some fishing line to attach your Riccia fluitans to begin with and then remove the string/fishing line when the plant has anchored itself. In some cases, there will be no need to remove the thread because the plant will grow around it.

As mentioned earlier, Riccia fluitans is a truly versatile plant that can be utilized in a wide range of ways in the aquarium. Even though it is considered a floating plant, it can be grown completely submerged. You can let it float free or anchor it to rocks and driftwood to make an "aquarium lawn". You can let it grow over rocks and pieces of driftwood in the aquarium to create a green, hilly landscape.

Caring for Riccia fluitans is not a difficult task, unless you wish to spend a lot of time pruning it into specific shapes. Riccia fluitans is found in a wide assortment of habitats around many different parts of the world, and can tolerate a water temperature from 15 to 30 degrees Celsius. This means that you can keep it in a variety of different tank environments with a variety of different fish and plant species. The water can be fairly soft to really hard with the pHranging from 6.0 to 8.0. This is yet another reason why most people can be successful with it.

Ricca fluitans provides great shelter for fry, and small fry can also feed on micro organisms that live on the plant itself. You can either let your Ricca fluitans float at the surface, or anchor it down and create a "lawn" in which eggs and fry can stay hidden. By including plenty of Ricca fluitans, you can actually achieve a rather high survival rate even when fry are left in the same aquarium as adult fish. I have had much success with this myself. If you do not wish to set up a separate fry-rearing aquarium, adding plenty of Ricca fluitans is a great alternative for many species. This is a plant that I highly recommend to anyone, but especially to those looking for an easy starter plant.



Riccia attached to wood Photo © by DAve Unruh

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Member Bio

by Heather Krawchuck

This month we are happy to introduce two young members who learned about the club through their friendship; Reid Thompson (right) and Thomas Fast (left). Both boys are growing up in St. Catharines and have had an interest in fish for several years.

It's great to see young members with such an enthusiasm for the hobby already. I would encourage everyone to speak to the boys during breaks to help them with their fish knowledge, as they are the future of our club. I'm sure they will be eager to listen to exciting fish tales and to ask questions, too.

Thomas currently has three tanks, which contain an assortment of cichlids, gouramis, tetras, goldfish and a clown loach. His dream for the future is to have a ninety gallon salt water tank. With lots of knowledge and dedication, I'm sure this will come to fruition one day! Good luck, Thomas.

Reid's family, on the other hand, only has one indoor tank, but also two large ponds, five fish

bowls and a containment tank for the pond fish for the winter months. Reid says that he has so many fish it's hard to remember the specifics, such as the types that he has. However, he also adds that he really loves fish and is happy that he's in the club. Members will be happy to fill you in and help you find ways to remember what types of fish you have, Reid.



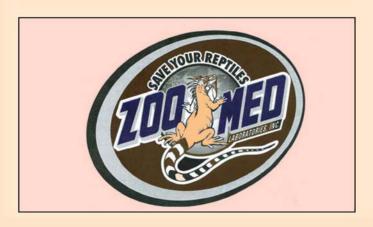
On behalf of the St. Catharines and Area Aquarium Society, I would like to formally welcome Reid and Thomas to the club. We enjoy having you and hope that your love and knowledge of fish and related subjects continues to grow and thrive.

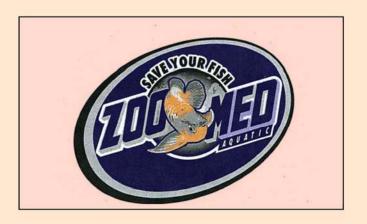
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Danio roseus

Text & photo by Tom Hillier

These fish are from the Mekong River basin in Nong Khai and Chiang Rai provinces, northern Thailand and Louangphaalang Province, northern Laos and Myanmar. These fish will accept all food offered -- flake, small pellet, but also feed them frozen and live. The females are larger than the males with a stockier body.



To breed these fish you can use mops, java moss or marbles. I used marbles so the eggs fall between them and the parents can't eat them. When the eggs are laid remove the parents. The eggs will hatch in 24 to 36 hours. When they are free swimming feed them infusoria micro worms or powered food. The life span is about 5 years.

These fish are very peaceful and make an ideal fish in a well planted community tank. They have no special needs as far as water chemistry goes. They are a schooling fish and should be kept with 8 to 10 others. They will do well with other small cyprinids as well as tetras, livebearers, rainbowfish, catfish and loaches. When you have a number of these fish in a school they are less nervous and the males will display their best colours as they compete with male for female attention. I have them with Black tetras gold guppies and plecos.

Clea helena

Text & photo by Tom Hillier

Clea helena formerly known as Anentome helena. This is a fresh water snail, a Southeast Asian species related to the marine whelks (family Buccindae). In the trade it is most commonly called the Assassin snail or snail eating snail.

The shell of Clea helena is conical. The shell is yellow with a brown spiral band and is strongly ribbed. They can get to about 20mm 15 to 18 is more typical. lea helena is a tropical species with a wide distribution across Southeast Asia. While most whelks live in the sea, like its genus, Clea helena are confined to freshwater.

They are hardy and easy to maintain. My assassins are in every tank. They prefer a sandy bottom as they spend much of their time buried in the sand. In the wild they will feed on decaying matter as well as live prey such as worms and snails.

Under aquarium conditions they will eat large numbers of small snails including Melanoides, tuberculata, Physa spp., and juvenile Tylomelani. The larger snails are ignored. Other foods are bloodworms, krill, catfish pellets and algae wafers.

The assassin snail breeds well under aquarium conditions. The number of offspring is relatively small. The snails are not hermaphrodites so a large number is required to assure the group contains both sexes. Mating is a leisurely affair with snails sticking to one another for hours at a time.



Clea helena eggs are laid singly and deposited on sold surfaces such as stones or other objects in the aquarium. Once the eggs hatch the snails disappear into the sand for several months. Then one day there they are on top of the sand.

Aquarium at the Child Care Centre

The Child Care Centre is in need of more Platies, if you have any extra please contact Tom Hillier @ tom.hillier@hotmail.com

Thanks





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SCANNING THE EXCHANGES



& etc.

with Pat and Tom

GOOD READING...

... in the Sarnia Aquarium Society's Newsletter 'Aqua Antics'-

January/February, 2012

★Beef Heart Mixture – author unknown

*Ancistrus Temminckii & Neolamprologus Caudopunctatus by Jack VanderAa

*Poropanchax Normani by Peter Melady

County's newsletter 'Some Things Fishy'-February, 2012

★Heterandria Formosa – A Tiny Livebearer by Clint Norwood

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

January/February, 2012

★Spawning the Nigerian Red Taeniatus by Charlie Grimes

*Habitat by Kevin Plazak

... in the Long Island Aquarium Society's Newsletter 'Paradise Press' –

January, 2012

*LIAS Breeders Award Program by Michael Weiner

Society's monthly bulletin –

February, 2012

★Spawning Pelvicachromis Taeniatus (Moliwe) by Charles Drew

*Cryogenic Reptiles by Virginia Morell

Most clubs' newsletters are on their web sites. If they are not available to you, let me know and I'll provide you with the article you'd like to read.

Pat

BAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS presented at the February meeting

Dave Unruh

Whiptail catfish (Rineloricaria eigenmanni)20 pts. **Joe Krawchuk** -Ameca splendens....10

Congratulations! Tom Bridges, BAP chair

UPCOMING EVENTS To June 24, 2012

March 17 - Hamilton Aquarium Club auction March 25 - Brant Aquarium Society.

Spring auction and show.

March 31 – Calgary Aquarium Society speaker weekend.

April 6 – 8 – Aquaria Expo and CAOAC CONVENTION, hosted by the Aquarium Society of Winnipeg.

April 15 – Durham Regional Aquarium Society. Aquariama -- auction, Vendor Expo and a Nano Tank Show/display.

April 21 – Sarnia Aquarium Society. Spring auction.

May 6 – London Aquaria Society. Spring auction.

May 27 – 2012 Toronto Reptile & Tropical Fish Expo.

ALWAYS CHECK EVENTS IN CASE OF CHANGES!

go to http://www.caoac.ca/.html
go to Calendar and the list of respective clubs.

MONTHLY SCAAS AUCTIONS!

In the interest of time and better prices, please stick to the club policy of putting no more than three of one kind of item in the auction, (e.g. 3 bags of Hornwort, guppies, etc.). Thanks!



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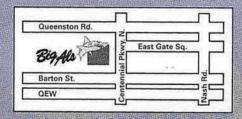
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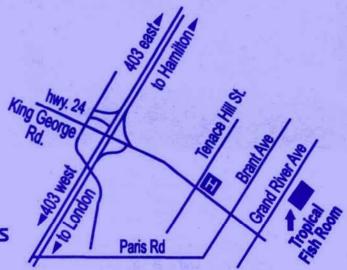
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