



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

Our next meeting will be held on May 07.12 Start time is 7.30 pm ALL ARE WELCOME
This month's program will be an auction of our member's fish, plants & hardware.

Come a bit early to register your items!

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

2011 – 2012 Committees

Aquatic Horticulture Awards - Joe Krawchuck drummers secret@hotmail.com Archives - Tom & Pat Bridges - - (905) 735-3352 - tp.bridges@sympatico.ca Auction Coordinator - Tom Bridges - (905) 735-3352 - tp.bridges@sympatico.ca Breeder Awards - Tom Bridges - - (905) 735-3352 - tp.bridges@sympatico.ca CAOAC Representative - Tom Hillier (905)227-5008 - tom.hillier@hotmail.com Editor - DAve Unruh - - - - (905) 684-9860 dunruh@cogeco.ca Jar Show - Pat Shriner -(905) 354-1367 gpshriner@sympatico.ca Library – Gary Phelps - - (905) 563-6523gphelps@yahoo.ca Library - Jeff Phelps - - -(905) 892-0248 lphelps@vaxxine.com Membership & Exchanges – Pat Bridges (905) 735-3352 tp.bridges@sympatico.ca Programs - Pam Danyluck - - danyluck@sympatico.ca Tom Hillier tom.hillier@hotmail.com Press/publicity - Ken Brady -- (905) 935-4716 kbrady2@cogeco.ca Raffle & Draws -Refreshments - Shawn & Shirley Markowski -- --srogers33@cogeco.ca Web Master - Ken Brady - - - (905) 935-4716 kbrady2@cogeco.ca

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 Herichthys tetracanthus (Cuban Cichlid) belonging to Dave Furness Photo © by DAve Unruh

Jar Show The fish of the month will be Dwarf Cichlids (under 4"TL) For June it will be Koi and Goldfish

President's Message

Here it is May already. Ponds are being readied for the summer. Good luck to everyone with a pond. At our April meeting Roman Haljkevic did a video presentation on members' tanks and it was fabulous. A lot of work went it to it and we thank him. Members are already signing up for next year. As a club the members gave a donation to the food bank last month.

We will be having a show and auction in October. We have to start working on this very soon so lots of volunteers will be needed.

Some of the members went to the Durham auction and it was packed.

We are planning another trip to Toronto in the near future and anyone interested contact me. Don't forget the food bank.

7om

Membership Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2012 Meeting Commenced at 7:40 pm.

Opening and Welcome: Tom Hillier welcomes everyone present. No guests or new members at this meeting.

Upcoming Events and Announcements: Read by Tom Hillier

Durham Show and Auction April 15th with sponsor tables. CAOAC Convention Easter WeekendLive Reptile and Aquatic Auction Sunday May 27 hosted by CAOAC London Spring Auction May 6 in Dorchester

We may be having our Show and Auction on October 20 or 21 just waiting for approval.

The Brant show and auction was on March 25th and prices were good.

Agua Inspiration in Toronto is offering a discount to our members.

Treasure's Report: Presented by Roman Haljkevic

Float \$250 aprox. Bank \$1,814 Total Funds \$2,078

Breeding Award Program: Tom Bridges presents certificates to:

Dave Furness for Lamprologus ornatapinnis (Shell Dwellers)

DAve Unruh for Tropheus sp."Ikola"

Dudley Philip for Pseudotropheus sp. "polit" & Metriclima greshakei

A special award was given to Tom Hillier for Danio Roseus for the first bred in CAOAC

Any Other Aquatic Animal Breeding Award Program: None presented

Horticultural Award Program: None presented

April's Program was a video of some of our member's fish rooms and tanks accompanied by music. Roman Haljkevic visited some homes of our members and put this great video together for us. He may be doing this again next year for us. Anyone interested in having your fish room or tanks video taped for our members to see please contact Roman.

Refreshment Break supplied by Shawn and Shirley

Jar Show Awards: Pat Shriner presented jar show awards to: Joe Krawchuk, his Angel fish received 1st and Best in Show

Door Prize .Nightly Raffle. Raffle for Truk Lagoon Photo donated by Natasha after her program in January.

Evening Auction

Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Note from Pam Danyluck re: Programs

May's meeting will be an Evening Auction so thin out those schools and bring in your extra fish to auction off. Used and new aquarium related items may also be brought in for auction. Spring clean those fishrooms and auction of your equipment you are no longer using. Just a reminder to bring fish in properly bagged and labeled. Make sure fish have lots of air and bags hold water. The club has fish bags available for sale at our meetings.

This is also the month that a steering committee begins taking nominations for next years executive positions.

The steering committee will be announced at the May meeting.

So if you know of some one who you think would be good on the executive committee,

please forward your nomination(s) to the steering committee at the May and June meetings.

June's meeting will be our year end BB2/potluck, Award presentations and another chance for nominations before the executive is decided for next year.

If there is more than one person running for a position then there will be a vote.

Please bring a dish to add to our potluck table to go with the BB2 items.

I am already starting to set up programs for next fall and would love to hear from anyone about programs they would like to see.

Also looking for members who would like to do a program for the club. Please email me <u>danyluck@sympatico.ca</u>.

Thanks.

Pam

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The Seven Deadly Sins of Pondkeeping

By Greg Speichert

Originally published in **Water Gardening** Magazine, May/June 1998

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Aquarticles http://www.aquarticles.com

1. Making the pond too small, too shallow, or too deep.

Many first-time pond builders do not realize how many gallons it takes to make up a square foot of water. Two hundred fifty gallons sounds like a lot at first, but it is only enough to fill an area about 4 foot square and 2 feet deep. The best rule of thumb is to make the pond as large as you can for the space where you want it to go. If you really do want to start out small with an in-ground pond, then line the pond with EPDM rubber liner, so that you can add on when you decide to expand the pond or install a stream or waterfall. When it comes to depth, check with pond owners in your area to find out what works best in your climate. If the pond is too shallow, it will be difficult to care for fish or plants. The same is true if the pond is too deep.

2. Buying a pump that's too low in capacity or too high in electrical use.

Measuring proper pump size is another matter that should be given thought and consideration. A cheaper pump with lower capacity may seem like a bargain when you are in the store, but once you bring it home and it barely powers a little fountain, it will not look like such a good deal any more. Make sure to pay close attention to the energy use of the pump. Buying a cheaper brand that uses a lot of electricity will end up costing you more money in less than a year's time. You will spend more money on your electric bill than you would have if you had simply bought a better pump. Invest in a good pump with a decent warranty. Avoid ones that are oil-cooled, since they can leak oil into the pond.

3. Making the waterfall or stream too big or too small for the pond.

Adding a running water feature to a pond is a wonderful idea. Unfortunately, it is not always easy to figure out how big to make the stream or waterfall. You have to keep in mind the amount of water that will be used by the water feature, because this will drain down the pond when the waterfall is running, and fill up the pond when the waterfall is turned off. There are excellent books on the market for waterfalls and streams. Buy them, borrow them from a friend, the pond club, or the local public library, and study

them before you put in a running water feature for your pond.

4. Ringing the pond in stone so that it looks like a necklace.

A pond is not particularly attractive when it looks like it has been edged by the kind of jewelry that Wilma Rubble wore in the Flinstones cartoons. At our nursery, the display ponds have what we call "planting pockets." These are areas that are scooped out along the perimeter of the pond, so that we can fill them with soil and plant water plants in them. Smaller sized stones are then placed over the soil. You can even build a bog garden at the edge of the pond, and then from there link the pond to your perennial border. Try to make your pond look like it fits with the rest of your landscape.

5. Neglecting to use enough plants to help balance the pond.

You may think that we recommend using plants just because we sell them. Ask any water gardener if more plants have improved the balance in their pond, and they will tell you that the plants have worked wonders. Oxygenators help reduce algae growth in the spring, and several marginal plants will help keep it to a minimum throughout the summer. Plants are also beneficial because they help shade the pond and keep the water temperature cooler through the heat of the summer.

6. Expecting the pond to look like a swimming pool.

North Americans are known for their cleanliness, and the same is true when it comes to their ponds. New pond keepers are aghast when algae starts to grow and the water clarity turns cloudy. This is normal, and a certain amount of algae is inevitable. You just have to know how to handle it and how to keep it to a minimum. You will never get rid of it completely, however. At least not if you want to have a pond with fish, plants and other living creatures. For those who cannot tolerate a single particle of algae along the side of the pond, or who cannot stand the usual seasonal changes of water clarity, we recommend that they get rid of their fish and plants, and that they regularly add bleach. If they want fish or water lilies, we suggest ones made of plastic. Having a live pond is like having children – you learn to appreciate their core beauty and overlook dirt or untidiness around the edges.

7. Having either too many fish or not enough filtration.

Many gardeners decide to have ponds in their backyards because they want to have fish. The rest don't realize that fish are needed until after they have installed the pond. Putting too many fish in the pond, however, can be a disaster. It can seriously compromise the quality of water and place the lives of all of the fish in jeopardy. Too many fish can quickly foul the water, deplete the oxygen level, and change the ammonia levels to serious or even toxic. This is especially true in the middle of summer when pond temperatures rise during the day and drop at night. We use a conservative recommendation of one sixinch fish for every 100 gallons of pond water. If you want to have a lot of fish in your pond, then read everything you can find on fish health, maintenance, and water quality, and be prepared to add hard goods to your pond, such as filter units and ultraviolet sterilizers, to keep your pond water healthy for the fish!

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Aulonocara jacobfreibergi (Undu Reef)

Lemon Jakes Photo & text by Tom Hillier

Its name comes from the Greek "Aulos" meaning flute for the large sensory pores in the head region. They have enlarged pre-orbital bones and have few or no scales on the cheek area. The large pores are part of the lateral line (sensory) system. These pores are important in detecting minute water movements and transmit electrical impulse through the nervous system, alerting the fish to the presence of prey.

These are peacocks from Lake Malawi. There common names are Mamelela, Malawi Butterfly or lemon Jake. Their origin is Undu Reef, Tanzania. Their diet is Carnivore.



They are called Peacock Cichlids due to the fantastic coloration developed by the dominant males. They are Malawi mouth brooders. They are very protective of their young however do not put smaller fry in with larger fry from another breeding as they will become food .They need a very high protein diet in the aquarium, frozen, live or homemade food. Aulonocara jacobfreibergi are among a small group of Aulonocara that are cave dwellers. They like an open area with sandy bottom where they can be found during the day, then retreat to their caves for the night.. The smallest aquarium they should be kept in is a 30 gallon but in this case a bigger tank is better. Juveniles have brown stripes on a light brown ground. Males begin to color at (2-3in) and full coloration at (3-4in). Female coloration is similar to juveniles. Maturity is reached at (3-4in) slightly smaller in females.

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Xiphophorus mayae

by Dave Furness

Xiphophorus mayae is an extremely attractive swordtail which reaches a length of six inches. The fish are comfortable with a water temperature between 70 to 78 degrees F, and a pH between 7.4 and 7.8. I have kept this pair in a ten gallon tank with several amazon sword plants, a box filter and a few Cherry shrimp.

I have fed the pair over the past year with a variety of foods, such as, flake, brine shrimp, some blood worms and daphnia. It seemed to take awhile before the female had become gravid. She held onto the fry for quit a long time and did not seem comfortable enough to let them go.



Male Xiphophorus mayae

I bought a couple of breeding traps, one for the female and one for the male, since I didn't have another tank to place him in. The female was placed in a breeding trap with the grid open at the bottom, so the fry could exit into the tank. The water temperature in this tank was 76 degrees F, and a PH of 7.8.

Two days after the female was introduced to the trap, she released around 32 fry into the tank.

The fry were fed the same day with crushed flakes and newly hatched brine shrimp.

Skiffia lermae

by Dave Furness

This endangered two and a half inch fish belongs to the Goodeid family, and is often called the Olive skiffia.

Hailing from Mexico, Skiffia Iermae inhabits the basin of the Rio Grande de Morelia and Lagos de Palzcuaro.

I have had these fish twice before and had no luck with them. I had them in a 15 gallon aquarium with some floating plants, along with some ornaments to hide in.

I was hoping that if there were any fry, that they could hide among the plants. The water at the time had a PH of 7.2 and a temperature of 74 degrees F.. The latest pair of skiffia lermae were conditioned on flake and frozen foods.



When the female became gravid, I put her into a breeding trap where she gave birth to twelve large fry. The fry were large enough to take crushed flake and newly hatched brine shrimp.

The pair at this time were kept in a ten gallon tank with a water temperature of 76 degrees F and a PH of 7.8.

Horticultural Highlight

By Joe Krawchuk



The Java Fern

The Java Fern, or Microsorum pteropus, is found naturally in Southeast Asia and the Philippines. It is a nice plant to have in any aquarium as it is very lush and green and makes for great aesthetics. I have found that the java fern isn't the easiest plant to keep in an aquarium, but it's definitely not the most difficult either. It requires a temperature of between 64 and 82 degrees Fahrenheit, and a pH of between 5.5 and 7.0. In terms of lighting, my experience is that the java fern actually does best when kept away from bright lights. The plant takes in most of its nutrients through its leaves; therefore they tend to blacken if there are insufficient nutrients in the water to support it.

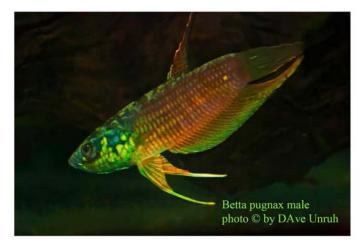
Java Fern does best when attached to rocks or pieces of driftwood, rather than being buried in gravel or sand. The easiest way to do this is to wrap it around the wood or rock using fishing line or an elastic band (the latter not being as visually appealing). Over time, the plant will send its roots out onto the material and the fishing line won't even be noticeable. This not only improves the growth rate and health of the plant, but it also adds some nice visual appeal to any tank.

Java ferns propagate by sending shoots out via the roots and leaves, which in turn become small plants. They are a slower-growing plant unless you are using a C02 system, but they do grow at a fairly steady rate. They can be found in most stores at reasonable prices and are a nice addition to most tanks.

Some information reports that herbivorous fish will not/do not eat Java Fern and that it is thus a good plant to keep with said fish. I, however, think that herbivorous fish will eat just about any plant if they're in the mood, so my recommendation would be to avoid it!

Keeping & Breeding Betta pugnax by DAve Unruh

Betta pugnax is a midsized labyrinth species belonging to the Belontiidae species with males growing up to 10 cm(SL) (4"), or about 13 – 15cm (5 or 6" if the caudal fin is included). Females are of similar size. Both sexes have a pointed caudal fin, although the male's fin extension is much longer than on the female's caudal fin. When they are comfortable in their surroundings they will look their best. Males are brighter colored with glowing green scales against their dark grayish-brown body. The gill areas tend to show the most shimmering green color.



This labyrinth fish is also known by the following synonyms: Betta brederi, Betta macrophthalma, and Macropodus pugnax. They are found in Malaysia, Singapore, the Indonesian Riau Islands & Sumatra. The pH of their natural habitats can range from 4.0 to 7.5 so I think it is safe to say that pH is not that important as long as extremes are avoided (although some might say that a pH of 4 is extreme).



Betta pugnax is a peaceful species, although when breeding, males can become somewhat aggressive towards the female and other fish. Some accounts I have read recommend that a few males be kept with one female to spread out the aggression away from the female I would guess. But this was not the case with the fish I spawned.

I was able to obtain an adult pair from Dave Furness and I placed them in a 3 foot long 25 gallon tank. Cover consisted of quite a few midsized Java fern plants that were anchored on a large piece of ironwood. I also added a few 8" lengths of 1.5" pvc pipe but those were pretty much ignored by both fish. The tank was filtered by a double Tetra foam filter. There was no heater as the tank was on the upper shelf of my racks, and the temperature in the fish room was about 25° C. I used only tap water, which according to my meters has a pH of 6.98 and 160TDS (250 μ S).

They were fed Tetra Bits, frozen bloodworms and krill as well as some live daphnia. Surprisingly they seemed partial to the Tetra Bits over any of the other foods I gave them.

I was unable to see them spawn so the only indicator I had was the bulging buccal cavity of the male. When these fish spawn the female is the one who first picks up the eggs during the actual spawning. Eggs and sperm are released during the usual Anabantoid embrace when the male wraps his body around that of the female. After the female has picked up the eggs she spits them into the water near the male and he picks them out of the water and becomes the egg brooder! I left the female in the tank with the male, but after almost two weeks I removed the female in order that the male could have some recuperation time after he released the fry.

The male seemed to spend most of his time under part of the ironwood where he was mostly hidden. After 15 days he let the fry out. They were completely developed miniature reproductions of the adults colored light brown with a darker horizontal stripe running through the eye and down to the caudal fin. There was also a fainter stripe above and below that stripe. There were about 40 fry.



The fry easily took newly hatched brine shrimp as their first food. I fed them this until after a week I crushed some Tetra Bits for them. After this I gave them some crushed flake food as well, alternating the brine shrimp and the prepared foods. The male did not bother they fry as they grew up and after 6 months the fry are about 3 to 5 cm long. There were virtually no casualties as I ended up with a little over 40 young bettas.





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Editors Notes

Thanks to all who submitted BAP articles, minutes, photos or whatever for this edition of the Scat.

You may notice that "Scanning the Exchanges" is not printed this month as Pat has decided not to produce it anymore. I have enjoyed reading it in the Scat for as long as I can remember reading the Scat.

As an editor I allways knew that I could count on getting that page on time for every edition.

Thank You Pat !!!.







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

Dudley Phillip

Pseudotropheus sp. "polit"......10 pts. Metriaclima greshakei10 **Dave Furness** Lamprologus ornatipinnis......15 **Dave Unruh** Tropheus sp. "Ikola"......15

Tom Bridges, BAP chair Congratulations!

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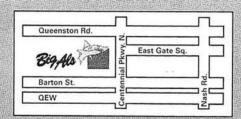
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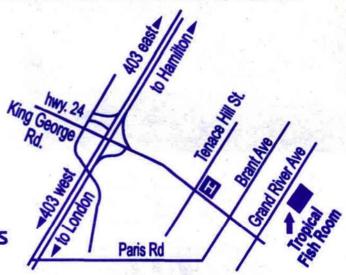
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