

Official publication of

The **St. Catharines & Area** **Aquarium Society**

Since 1958

The SCAT



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Club Notes



- ▶ Meetings of The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, (S.C.A.A.S.), are held on the first Monday of each month at the Seafarers' and Teamsters' Union Hall, 70 St. David St. E., Thorold, ON. If the first Monday falls on a holiday, the meetings are held on the second Monday.
- ▶ There are no meetings in 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 more advanced levels.
- ▶ S.C.A.A.S. is a charter member of the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs Inc., (C.A.O.A.C.), www.caoac.ca and a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies, (F.A.A.S.), www.faas.info
- ▶ More news and information about S.C.A.A.S. can be found at our web site www.scaas.info and check us out on the new S.C.A.A.S. page at Facebook.com, thanks to Paul Paradis.

The next meeting is on Monday, May 5, 2014
The program will be a presentation by Zenin Skomorowski from
KWAS on 'Fish Photography Techniques'

Committees

Breeder Awards
 Tom Bridges (905) 735-3352
tp.bridges@sympatico.ca

Horticulture Awards
 Joe Krawchuk (905) 325-5562
drummers_secret@hotmail.com

Auction Coordinator
 Tom Bridges – see above

CAOAC representative
 Phil Barrett (905) 931-2044
pbarrett@cogeco.ca

Newsletter
 Position open

Jar Show Coordinator & Judge
 Pat Shriner (905) 354-1367
gptriner@cogeco.ca

Membership
 Pat Bridges – see Tom above

Refreshments
 Shawn & Shirley Markowski
srogers33@cogeco.ca

Library
 G.O.

Press/Publicity
 Ken Brady (905) 935-4716
kbrady2@cogeco.ca

Webmasters
 Ken Brady and Roman Haljkevic

Programs & Ways & Means
 Tom Hillier
tom.hillier@hotmail.com

Executive

President: Joe Krawchuk
drummers_secret@hotmail.com
 (905) 680-0867

1st Vice-President: John Verhage
jperhage@yahoo.com
 (905) 735-7776

2nd Vice-President: Tom Hillier
tom.hillier@hotmail.com
 (905) 227-5008

Secretary: Emma McCormack

Treasurer: Roman Haljkevic
romanhaljkevic@gmail.com
 (905) 227-7968

Past President: Ken Brady
kbrady2@cogeco.ca
 (905) 935-4716

Membership Fees

Family	\$25
Single Adult	20
Junior (under 16)	10
Student with card	10
Senior (over 65)	10
Senior couple (both over 65)	15

Upcoming Events

May 4 – London Aquaria Society spring auction

May 16 – 18 CAOAC Convention hosted by the Durham Region Aquarium Society at Humber College, (North Campus), 204 Humber College Blvd, Etobicoke (Rexdale)

June 14 - KWAS presents dinner & Guest Speaker Spencer Jack

June 22 - CAOAC Meeting & President's Barbecue



ADVERTISING in 'The SCAT'

Full Page	\$150
Half Page	100
Quarter Page	80
Business Card	50

Jar Show Fish of the Month

January	Anabantids
February	Loaches & Sharks
March	Plants
April	Angels & Discus
May	Dwarf Cichlids
June	Goldfish & Koi

'Open Class' each month
(your choice!)



JOE'S PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Hello Everyone

It is hard to believe that there are only two meetings left for this year! I don't know if I can speak for everyone, but I feel like this year flew by!

Last month we had a great turnout at our meeting and Javier from NorthFin gave us an excellent presentation on the benefits of feeding a high quality pelleted diet to our fish. It is nice to see a Canadian company producing such a high quality line-up of foods. I know my fish sure enjoyed the samples that were given out at the meeting and I have since bought a bag of the community pellets for my fish.

This month we have a great presentation on aquarium photography. Everyone is encouraged to bring their camera to the meeting because our speaker, Zenin Skomorowski, will be teaching us what settings to use while photographing our fish. He will also be showing us some of his fantastic photographs.

With this year drawing to a close it is time for executive elections as well as a few other positions within our club. Tom Bridges will be the official steering committee and every member is welcome and encouraged to run or nominate another member of the club for a position on the executive. If you are thinking of running for a certain position please feel free to ask the current position holder for more information on what duties their position entails.

After June, the position of The Scat editor will become vacant. Tom and Pat Bridges have done a tremendous job this year and I have certainly enjoyed every issue of The Scat. I would like to thank Tom and Pat on behalf of the club for their outstanding work this year. Without their dedication; the Scat would not have been produced this year. If you are interested in becoming the editor of The Scat please speak to Tom and Pat for more information.

I want to remind everyone that our June meeting will be a club social and barbeque. All members are asked to bring a food item for our potluck. Snack foods and desserts are always enjoyed and savoury dishes are a favourite with many members. Please also remember to bring a non-perishable food item or a monetary donation for Community Care.

Joe Krawchuk



JAR SHOW RESULTS

FISH OF THE MONTH - APRIL

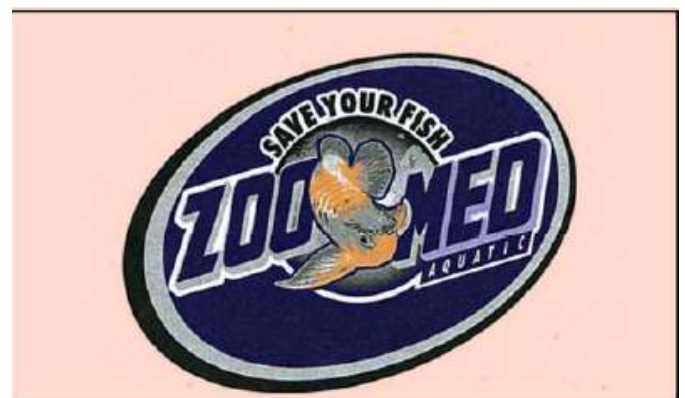
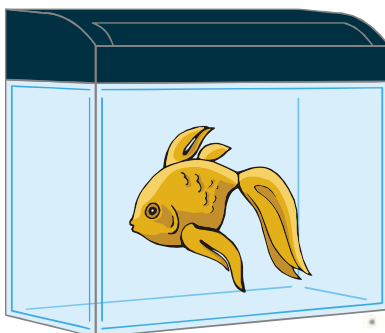
Angels & Discus

1st – Joe Krawchuk

FISH OF THE MONTH – MAY

Dwarf Cichlids

OPEN CLASS – YOUR CHOICE!



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SCAAS Photo Ops for April



The Crowd of Fishiphiles

from another angle



The Guys from NorthFin



yet another angle



Raffle stuff



Lineup for free samples of NorthFin fishfood

Photos by - Sascha Duentsch



Checking the auction items



Jar Show winner!



Our auction in full swing



**St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society
April 2014 Minutes
By Emma**

7:37pm: Meeting called to order

Upcoming Events:

- April 12: Sarnia Region Spring Auction
- May 4: London Region Spring Auction
- May 16-18: CAOAC Convention. Sponsored by Durham Region

Financial Update:

We currently have \$3 100.00 including the float.

Breeder Awards:

- Shane Eaton: Mystery Snails
- Paul Paradis: Blue Neon Peacock Cichlid

Horticultural Awards:

None

Jar Show: Plants

1st place: Joe Krawchuk for his Angel Fish

Next Month's jar show is Dwarf Cichlids

Elections:

Elections are coming up in June. All current executives are willing to stand for their positions. If you would like to run you can nominate yourself. If you would like to nominate somebody else please make sure they are willing and able to handle a full term.

We are in need of an editor for the SCAT. Our current editors Tom and Pat Bridges will no longer be doing the SCAT after June.

7:48pm: Presentation on NorthFin food by Javier and Darius.

After the presentation:

refreshments, raffle, door prize, draws & auction.

******Please remember to bring an item of non perishable food or a donation for community cares to every meeting if you are able to. ******

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Some Fun with *Synodontis petricola*

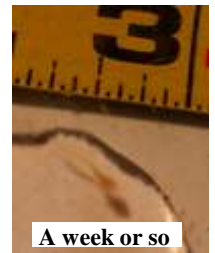
by Tom & Pat Bridges



Faithful readers of The SCAT will remember Pat Shriner's fine breeding report on this fish so, maybe, this is overkill. However, everyone is likely to do something a bit differently and their results may be entertaining, even informative, so ... *for what it's worth*.

Some members of the genus *Synodontis*, like the *petricola*, come from the Rift Lake Tanganyika in Africa. The genus name isn't all that helpful to amateur hobbyists like us since it's made from two words that roughly mean 'together and teeth', and a clinical examination of the teeth of the lower jaws of our fish is not something we usually do. The literature lumps them with Upside-down catfish but ours swim every which way showing no particular preference as long as they can get where they're going. Other references list them as '*brood parasitic cuckoo catfish*' meaning that they sneak their eggs into position to be picked up and incubated by mouth

brooding cichlids. We've never attempted to prove or disprove this ... never even kept them with cichlids, but somehow I doubt it. The eggs are much smaller than any cichlid eggs I've ever seen and the fry are correspondingly tiny when they hatch. But, enough of what they may or may not be. Let's get on with our experience with these neat little Synos.



A week or so

I first saw Petras in the tanks of our late, lamented club member, Dave Unruh. They were very expensive at that time so I waited for a chance and finally got a bag of six young ones at a Hamilton auction. They were set up in a ten gallon tank with a bare bottom, box filters, an opened ended clay pot and a piece of quartz. Some plants, mostly varieties of Java Fern were added and, since they hail originally from a rift lake, some cichlid salt was added to the water to make it fairly hard and high in pH. They adapted quickly to the tank, readily accepting a variety of flake and pellet food with the occasional addition of some white worms. Over the next year or so they grew to about 3 inches, (8 cm), and seemed vigorous and healthy. They tended to be quite shy and to hide a lot but, sometimes, their notion of hiding, for example, between the tank glass and the back of a box filter meant they were easy to observe, even photograph. They also seemed to like getting together in that clay pot.



Hiding in Plain Sight

I remembered that Dave had a container of marbles in his breeding tank so I took an old box filter apart and assembled it with marbles to make space in the bottom and added the clay pot. The idea was to arrange it so any eggs scattered in the pot might float down among the marbles, out of reach of hungry mouths. I peered in at the marbles from time to time but nothing seemed to be happening and I really stopped paying much attention for the next few months. I had it in mind to 'read up' on how to breed these fish but I procrastinated. Then, serendipity!



Old Egg-trap

One day I was siphoning out some fish mulm from the bottom of the tank preparatory to changing water and I disturbed a plant. I small

Petra, maybe less than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, (2 cm), long, darted out and quickly disappeared into another plant. Aha! I first told Pat and then siphoned some water into a clean bucket and began transferring the tank plants to this bucket. Several more young Petras started swimming about looking for new places to hide and I netted them into an isolation tank. To my surprise, when I rinsed the plants from the bucket before replacing them in the tank, I found a few more fish in the bucket.



Altogether, nine young Petras had been living in that tank for several months. A couple of weeks later I spotted another young fish among the leaves and actually wound up catching two of them so we had our requirement but that was just the beginning.



Juveniles

Continued Fun with *Synodontis petricola*

I took the box filter contraption out, removed the pot, the insert and the marbles and found a half dozen small babies which I proceeded to raise in a margarine container using liquid fry food and micro worms. We had Ron Bishop as a speaker at our club and, following his advice, I created a more effective egg trap. I check its contents every few weeks and sometimes there have been as many as a dozen babies. I even found a couple of tiny eggs on the bottom of the tank, not much over a millimeter in diameter, and hatched them ... tiny eggs with tails.



Growth seems slow at first and unlike some fish they don't come out of hiding to feed right away, but, usually over night the food will disappear and the tiny pink fish will develop patches of black which, after a few months resolve into spots just like miniature copies of their parents. So far we have been able to contribute 2 dozen juveniles to our club and other auctions and we have quite a few more coming along in a separate ten gallon tank. These *Synodontis petricola* are beautiful and interesting and, best of all, quite **easy to breed**.



BAP AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE APRIL MEETING

Dave Furness

Julidochromis ornatus..... 15 pts.
Hemichromis lifalili (Jewel Cichlid) 10

Paul Paradis

Aulonocara stuartgranti (Blue Neon Peacock).. 10
Congratulations!

Tom Bridges
BAP Chairperson

OAA AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE APRIL MEETING

Dave Furness

Neocaridina heteropoda..... 5 pts
Procambarus sp. (marmorkrebs)..... 5
Asolene spixi snails 5

Shane Eaton

Pomacea diffusa..... 10
Congratulations!

Tom Bridges
OAA Chairperson

AHAP AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE APRIL MEETING

No awards this month

Joe Krawchuk
HAP Chairperson

OAA stands for **O**ther **A**quatic **A**nimals, (mainly invertebrates but includes vertebrates such as aquatic frogs).

Please note: The points may change as we find out more regarding degrees of breeding difficulty. Appropriate certificate forms are available from the OAA Chairperson.

This is our regular spot in The SCAT. It'll contain brief descriptions of hobby related items that members have 'For Sale' or 'Want To Buy' or 'Swap' and their names, phone numbers and/or email addresses. (To have items entered, you must get the information to the editor by the deadline for that month.)

<p>Want To Buy</p> <p>No Items wanted this month</p>	<p>For Sale</p> <p>No items for sale this month</p>
<p>No items to SWAP this month</p>	

“Wow!”



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THOUGHTS FROM THE FISH BOWL

By Lee Routhier



So the plan for this column was to discuss how the pond has survived our harsh and very long winter. But in reality although the fish survived, the pond structure itself was another matter. Mother Nature apparently does not take kindly to man-made lakes and waterfalls.

A bit of background -- last year we completed our 4,000 gallon, 4½ feet deep pond, complete with waterfall. One of the major drawbacks to it though, was where we put it. We have a walnut tree in our backyard and no matter where the pond went, that tree was going to affect it. Walnuts and leaves falling into the water and eventually decaying, can be poisonous to fish. Constantly fishing out leaves is also not my idea of spending a relaxing afternoon. To solve this problem we put a net over the pond last fall. As we shut it down for the winter we removed the large pump and added a small heater/bubbler. The heater/bubbler would keep part of the pond from completely icing over and allow oxygen into the pond for the fish. All water plants were cut down and pulled under the water to help them through the winter. The pond is deep enough that the fish were left in the pond.

Over the past few months we have had excessive cold, excessive snow, excessive rain, and excessive mud!!! This past weekend the weather was nice enough that we were able to get out to the back and see how the pond had fared. The net came off and the sun brought the fish up to the surface. I lost count last year but it looked like the majority have survived. Our pond has comets, butterfly goldfish, and shubunkins. We have a few dark ones but as the water is still pretty cloudy I haven't been able to see them. With the snow melting and the rain we have had, water had gotten under the liner which caused it to rise up to the surface a bit. A small pump that we had hooked up under the liner helped us to drain the ground water and the liner is now back in its original form. The plants are already starting to get fresh shoots, and we also spotted one frog and one toad. So you would think the pond was good to go. Not so.

The extreme cold caused the ground to freeze, thaw, freeze, thaw, freeze you get the idea. So the ground shifted. Some of the rocks went into the pond, the net did help, and the waterfall went sideways, literally. One whole day was spent taking the rocks one by one off the waterfall pile, leveling the dirt and rebuilding. Why is it that when you take something apart you can never get it back exactly the same as the way it was before? But we did manage to get it similar. We did get smart this time. Now, underneath all those rocks is a metal frame for support, and those rocks aren't going anywhere next winter.

As I write this I'm sitting out by the pond listening to the waterfall and frogs. It's been backwashed twice and is slowly clearing up. It will be done a few more times over the next week. Bags of barley straw are floating on the top to help with surface algae. In a few weeks we should be seeing tadpoles and possibly baby fish. If my fish multiply as much as they did last year, possibly next spring I will be the one on kijiji posting "free pond fish, bring bucket".

One thing to note -- my neighbors also had the same problem. Did you find an excessive amount of algae growing in your pond over the winter? This is my theory -- normally the fish will eat the algae, since I don't feed them over the winter -- this is what they will eat when needed, but the extreme cold weather possibly caused them to remain dormant more than usual, thereby not eating as much, hence more algae, but that is just my opinion.

Remember: The CAOAC Convention is happening on the Victoria Day weekend, (May 16th to 18th). You can attend the whole convention or just the Saturday speakers, or the speakers and banquet or just the Sunday auction and check out the fish show – (that's FREE). For more information go to <http://www.dras.ca/content.php/225-caoac-cares-convention-2014> . It's a celebration of our hobby so go and have fun!



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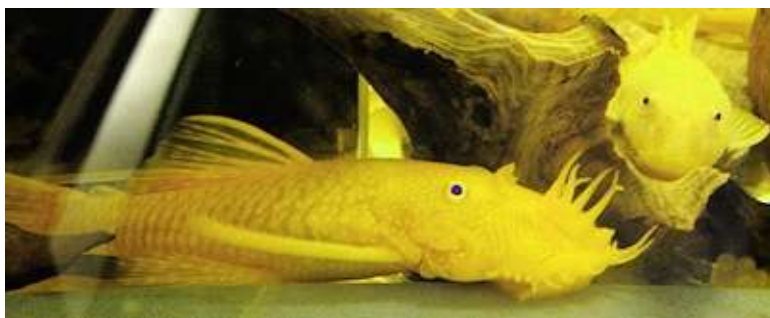


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Breeding the Blue-eyed Albino Pleco

by Tom Hillier



These plecos are actually leucistic, not albino. They are algae eating machines, but rarely eat aquarium plants. Gentle enough to be with community fish, but when larger can handle being with some cichlids. They are native to South America. They will get between 4-5 inches,

water temp. 69-80 F°. Give them plenty of caves and places to hide. They will eat vegetables, algae wafers, driftwood, and once a week feed them frozen and live foods. They also come with black eyes. *(Editor's note: Leucism results from a general lessening or lack of all pigment which, for complicated reasons does not affect eye colour whereas albinism results from a lack of melanin which allows the blood vessel colour to show through as red.)*

Breeding Dragon's Blood Peacocks

By Tom Hillier

The Latin name is *Aulonocara* sp. 'Dragon's Blood'. These are a beautiful fish with so many variables in the color scheme. The size is usually less than 16cm and the temperature of the water is 22-28C°. They're easy to care for. It is best to keep them in groups or with other fish with the same temperament. As far as food goes -- a good pellet food or flake with the occasional feeding of shrimp, bloodworms, earthworms or other live food. An aquarium of 200 L is a good size. Put in plenty of caves and hiding places as well as an open space to swim. They are a mouth brooding egg-layer.

Only the males will develop the brilliant coloration. They will hybridize with other *Aulonocara* species. Extremely variable in colouration; they can be all red to orange, pink, yellow blue, purple or mixtures. When bred, a portion will often turn out grey/blue, appearing nothing like their parents. *(Editor's note: Dragon's Bloods are an aquarium developed strain. Possibly created from *Aulonocara stuartgranti* according to some sources.)*



Zenin wants you to bring your cameras and your questions to his presentation next Monday evening. He'd also like to see some fish entries in the Jar Show so you can practice some of his tips afterward. Don't let him down! Any fish can be entered in the Open Class and/or Dwarf Cichlids in the Fish of the Month.





CAOAC Convention Toronto 2014 - "Conservation & Preservation" Presented by Durham Region Aquarium Society (DRAS)

May 16th - 18th 2014 - Victoria Day Weekend.
Humber College, North Campus, 205 Humber College Blvd., Toronto. (Free parking)
Fish Show including Conservation Biotope displays
Auction open to all attendees and public - Vendor hall and Auction combined Sunday
Room Sales: Friday and Saturday for attendees

Conservation and Preservation is our theme with displays on:

C.A.R.E.S. Conservation, Awareness, Recognition, Encouragement, Support - Preservation Program

COTERC Canadian Organization for Tropical Education and Rainforest Conservation
- *Caño Palma Biological Station, Costa Rica*

Madagascar MAD Fish Conservation featuring - *Ptychochromis insolitus* - The "Mangarahara" Cichlid

DRAS guarantee a "minimum" \$1,000.00 Conservation donation from net proceeds to recognized aquatic fish conservation program(s).

Schedule of Events

Friday May 16th, 2014

12:00pm - 9:00pm Registration - Convention
12:00pm - 7:00pm Showroom set-up
7:00pm - 8:00pm Icebreaker
8:00pm - 9:00pm Speaker
9:30pm - 10:30pm Speaker
10:30pm - ? CAOAC Hospitality Suite

Saturday May 17, 2014

7:30am - 9:00am Hot Breakfast
8:00am - 6:00pm Registration - Convention
9:00am - 12:00pm Showroom
9:00am - 5:00pm Silent Auction
9:00am - 10:00am Speaker
10:30am - 11:30am Speaker
11:30am - 1:30pm Lunch Break
Show Judging
1:30pm - 2:30pm Speaker
3:00pm - 4:00pm Speaker
6:00pm - 8:30pm Banquet Buffet Dinner
8:30pm - 9:30pm Banquet Speaker
9:30pm - 10:00pm Award Presentations
10:00pm - 10:30pm Dry Goods Auction
10:30pm - ? CAOAC Hospitality Suite

Sunday May 18, 2014

7:30 am - 9:00am Continental Breakfast
10:00am - 4:00pm Vendor Sales
9:00am - 11:00pm CAOAC AGM & Awards
9:30am - 10:45am Auction Seller Registration
11:00am - Finish Auction

CAOAC Convention Registration

Full Registration.....\$79.00
Speakers, Banquet,
Saturday Hot Breakfast,
Sunday Continental Breakfast
Speakers only..... \$39.00
Banquet only..... \$39.00
Full Meal Plan.....\$55.00
(Banquet plus 2 Breakfasts)

Registration contact: Barry McKee - barry.mckee@rogers.com

CAOAC Convention Show Classes

Best of Show
Best Livebearer
Best Egglayer

- 1 Old World Cichlids
- 2 New World Cichlids
- 3 Old World Killifish
- 4 New World Killifish
- 5 Anabantoids AOV
- 6 Betta Male
- 7 Betta Female
- 8 Corydoras, Brochis & Aspidoras
- 9 Suckermouth Catfish
- 10 Catfish AOV
- 11 Rainbow Fish
- 12 Characins & Cyprinids (incl. Sharks & Loaches)
- 13 All Xiphophorous (incl. Platies)
- 14 Guppy male
- 15 Guppy female
- 16 AOV Livebearer (incl. Mollies)
- 17 AOV Fish & Aquatic Animal
- 18 Junior
- 19 Classic couples
- 20 Freshwater Shrimps
- 21 Photography
- 22 Aquatic Plants
- 23 Biotope Aquarium 5 gal & under

Fish Breeding Achievements

This time I've chosen to feature the achievements of **John Verhage**, **Ron Williams** and **Pam Danyluck**. They are three of our more accomplished fish breeders.

John Verhage	
FISH	CLASS
Melanotaenia splendida splendida	all other
Telmatherina ladigesii	all other
Colisa lalia	anabantid
Colisa sota (chuna)	anabantid
Trichogaster microlepis	anabantid
Trichogaster trichopterus	anabantid
Barbus tetrazona	barbs etc.
Ancistrus dolichopterus	catfish
Corydoras aeneus (albino)	catfish
Apistogramma borelli(pertense)	cichlid
Aulonocara stuartgranti	cichlid
Cyphotilapia frontosa	cichlid
Geophagus brasiliensis	cichlid
Geophagus rhabdotus	cichlid
Haplochromis burtoni	cichlid
Haplochromis electra	cichlid
Haplochromis sp. 44	cichlid
Hemichromis bimaculatus	cichlid
Julidochromis dickfeldi	cichlid
Julidochromis marlieri	cichlid
Julidochromis transcriptus	cichlid
Labeotropheus trewavasae	cichlid
Labidochromis caeruleus	cichlid
Melanochromis johanni	cichlid
Neolamprologus pulcher "daffodil"	cichlid
Pelvicachromis pulcher	cichlid
Pseudotropheus acei	cichlid
Pseudotropheus demasoni	cichlid
Pseudotropheus zebra	cichlid
Pterophyllum scalare	cichlid
Tropheus moorii "Chimba"	cichlid
Cynolebias (Nematolebias) whitei	killie
Epiplatys dageti	killie
Ameca splendens	livebearer
Poecilia latipinna	livebearer
Xiphophorus maculatus	livebearer
Ampullaria cuprina	mollusc

Ron Williams	
FISH	CLASS
Barbus conchoniui	barbs etc.
Corydoras aeneus	catfish
Aequidens pulcher	cichlid
Aulonocara nyassae	cichlid
Cichlasoma (Archocentrus) nigrofasciatum	cichlid
Geophagus brasiliensis	cichlid
Hap. (Astatotilapia) barbarae	cichlid
Hap. (Astatotilapia) burtoni	cichlid
Hemichromis bimaculatus	cichlid
Julidochromis marlieri	cichlid
Julidochromis transcriptus	cichlid
Labeotropheus trewavasae	cichlid
Melanochromis chipokae	cichlid
Melanochromis johanni	cichlid
Pelvicachromis pulcher	cichlid
Pseudocrenilabrus multicolor	cichlid
Poecilia reticulata	livebearer
Xiphophorus helleri	livebearer
Ramshorn snail	mollusc

Pam Danyluck	
FISH	CLASS
Ancistrus dolichopterus(Albino)	catfish
Cichlasoma (Archocentrus) nigrofasciatum	cichlid
Ameca splendens	livebearer
Gambusia affinis holbrooki	livebearer
Heterandria formosa	livebearer
Limia perugiae	livebearer
Limia vittata	livebearer
Poecilia (Acanthophaecelus) wingei	livebearer
Poecilia reticulata	livebearer
Poecilia sphenops	livebearer
Xiphophorus helleri	livebearer
Xiphophorus maculatus	livebearer
Xiphophorus montezumae	livebearer

Don't forget that our election for next year's executive happens at the June meeting. Give some thought to how you might help your club. Also, the club needs an Editor for the coming year.

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