

The official publication of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society
Vol.21, No 3 November 2008

The

SCAT

Assassin Snails

**SCAAS & Children In The Community
Breeding & Raising Large Brine Shrimp**

Zebra Danios

White Clouds

Flame Tetras

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

**Our next meeting will be held on November 03 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 on marine aquariums.**

2008 – 2009 Executive

President – Ken Brady - - - (905) 935-4716 kbrady2@cogeco.ca
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2007 – 2008 Committees

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Auction Coordinator – Tom Bridges
Auctioneer – open
Breeder Awards – Tom Bridges
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Membership & Exchanges – Pat Bridges (905) 735-3352
Programs – open
Press/publicity – Ken Brady - - (905) 935-4716 - kbrady2@cogeco.ca
Raffle & Draws – Priscilla Heus - (905) 988-9741
Refreshments – Bruce Hallet - - (905) 934-7138
Web Master - Ken Brady

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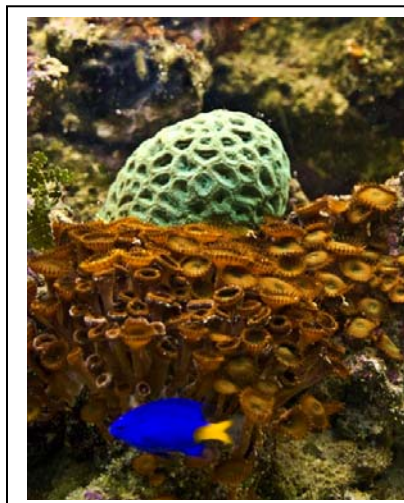
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Membership Dues:

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

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Cover photo of
a section of a
65 gallon
marine tank

Photo © by
DAve Unruh

Editors Notes

This month we have a wide range of articles. Four articles are from the club's December 1960 newsletter. Even though these articles are dated in many ways they are still interesting to read and for the most part the information is still valid. I found Pam's article on assassin snails very interesting as I have not heard of any animal that will eat or kill Malaysian livebearer snails to any great degree. I wonder if these snails could be an alternative to tearing down & sterilizing a tank that is infested with MTS. I have seen tanks that were so infested with these snails that the only alternative is to sterilize the tank & start over.

President's message November 2008

Small things are things that our club is big on.

Some of the things that have amazing positive effects on your club are actually very small things. This makes perfect sense if you think about the effect the guppy or neon, arguably very small things, have had on the hobby.

The guppy tiny and active and full of colour has created so much wonderment as the first fish that many aspiring young and old were able to breed. Well, let's face it- you just kept them alive and they did the rest, but seeing those babies growing and having more babies was and remains just amazing.

The little neon full of activity, pretty tolerant of conditions and showing brilliant colours takes it up a notch to the first real tropical's you proudly showed off to friends and family. Years later you know it wasn't any great accomplishment. They are easy to keep. They need only a little space and eat only a little food.

So how does a little thing have a great big affect on your club? Well little things are; a thank you or a bit of help setting up a room, a short article, a breeding report, a warm welcome to a new member or guests and even patience with other members who may have a different idea how things should be done.

The Jar Show results for September and October are on page four. Next month I hope to be able to print photographs of the fish entered in the Jar Show! Don't miss the Member Bio on page nine. On page eight you can find a short report on the recent show and auction hosted by the Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society. From Tom & Pat Bridges we have two articles this month – SCAAS & Children in the Community & Scanning the Exchanges.

Hope you enjoy this edition of the SCAT!

These can give someone a big boost. I think we are particularly good at these small things, both as part of our hobby and as fellow club members. I am happy to say I am the benefactor of many of them. Without the small things the big things maybe won't happen. They certainly won't be remembered with the same feeling of fun and camaraderie.

So keep it up and as the old saying goes if you take care of the pennies "small things" the dollars "big things" will take care of themselves.

What's happening? We will have a major Auction Saturday May 2nd 2009. The November program will be a recent marine program from CAOAC. November will be Larry Johnson on cichlids. Also with a huge thanks to Pat Bridges we have a new donation of great items from Seachem to use in our monthly raffle. I hear more items are on the way!

Pam is going to be gathering information from willing members on what fish they are keeping. This will give us a quick way to find answers for questions on those fish and also link up persons interested in obtaining fish with breeders who have a surplus.

Thank you,

Ken Brady, President SCAAS

Anagram for November Example:
*An anagram for this creature is: **alpine alps***
*The creature is: **applesnail***

An anagram for this fish is: **Crayon pad**
The fish is: _____

If anyone would like a hint before next month, contact Pam: pjdanyluck@sympatico.ca

Answer will be in the next newsletter.

October's anagram: decal train art = Cardinal tetra Fishy Anagrams provided courtesy of



JAR SHOW

Here is a Fish of the Month list so you can plan ahead to have an entry each month.

Fish Of The Month
September-----Corydoras & Catfish
October -----Guppies & Tetras
November-----Cichlids over 4”(old & new world) Not including Angels & Discus)
December-----Swords, Platies, Mollies
January-----Barbs & Anabantids
February -----Loaches & Sharks
March -----Plants
April -----Angels & Discus
May -----Dwarf cichlids (old or new world)
June -----Goldfish & Koi



There are lots of different species of fish that you can show for the November Fish of the Month category. Here are two examples.

Above is a Malawi Cichlid – Cyrtocara moorii.

To the right is a South American cichlid – a Herichthys sp.

Next month there will be photos of fish that were entered in the Jar Show.

Jar Show Results

Point structure – 1st – 6 points, 2nd – 5 points, 3rd – 4 points. 1 point for showing

Results from the September meeting.

There were 7 entries.

Fish of the Month: 1st - Les Wormald
2nd - Ernest Biktimirov
3rd - Ron Wormald

Open Class Senior: 1st - Pam Danyluck
2nd - Ken Brady
3rd - Ken Brady

Best in Show - Les Wormald

Results from the October meeting.

There were 6 entries.

Fish of the Month: 1st - Ron Wormald
2nd - Claudia Carthew
3rd - Ron Wormald

Open Class Senior: 1st - Ken Brady
2nd - Pam Danyluck
3rd - Ken Brady

Best in Show - Ken Brady with a Kerry Tetra



Assassin Snails/Anentome Helena

Also known as killer snails or beast snails.

By Pam Danyluck

I purchased mine near the end of August 2008. As per instructions I slowly acclimated them adding my own tank water slowly to the water they came in over a couple of hours. Then set gently on the bottom and shut lights off for half an hour. When I turned on the lights all were gone just like the instructions said. Over the next couple of weeks I would see one out in the evening then two, then three, but the end of two weeks they were out and about during the days and evenings. Seems they need an adjustment period after a major move.

It appears these guys are doing their job, for the last two nights I caught a couple of them eating the Malaysian Trumpet snails. I had already seen one empty MTS and a ramshorn shell empty in the second week. They have not bothered my full size brigs or the shrimp. They are very neat to watch, they seem to wrestle the MTS. I have seen two tackle larger MTS. They have very long necks totally unlike an apple snail.



Photo of an Assassin Snail by Pam Danyluck

Upon closer inspection after about 4 weeks I notice there are quite a few empty MTS shells laying about including these two next the assassin.



Empty Malaysian Livebearer snail shells & partially buried Assassin snail photo by Pam Danyluck

So far information is scarce but this is what I have been able to learn so far. They are fresh water and have a shell with yellow and brown spiral pattern. They are natives of Southeast Asia and can be found in streams with sandy bottoms. They like to burrow into the sand when resting. These snails will eat pest snails even MTS. One article I read said they would only eat small MTS but have witnessed two of them tackling a large MTS, the shell in above picture is what was left in the morning. They are quite active through out the day. Sexing so far is unknown. I have witnessed two moving around the tank joined together so assume it takes two to breed. Some say they are okay with fish as tank mates, but I was afraid the fish might nip and hurt them unintentionally. So I personally have only kept them with large apple snails and cherry shrimp. I have heard that if there are no snails to eat they will not reproduce.

Supplementary feedings are needed if no snails are present. Maximum size is 1 inch and they can live to age of five. They like higher ph of 7.2 - 8 and hardness from 8 - 15. Temperature should be 73 - 80°F and a minimum tank size of 5 gallons. They are not fast reproducers, so no need to worry about swapping one snail over population for another. They will lay eggs on hard surfaces and the eggs kind of square and see through with white centers. If you look on the first picture above the back end of the snail on the plant is what looks to be an egg. It is no longer on the plant, but I have not seen any little ones or any more eggs. I read somewhere when they hatch they bury themselves in the substrate until they are about 5mm. So we shall see.

References:

http://www.tropicalfishfinder.co.uk/fish_detail.asp?id=7311&fishType=tropical

http://www.theaquariumwiki.com/Anentome_helena

http://www.aquarium-glaser.de/en/fish_details.php?product_id=1016

http://www.thinkfish.co.uk/fish/Assassin_Snail

THE S.C.A.A.S. & CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY

Compiled by Pat Bridges, with assistance and photography from Matt Jackson (for the Children's Centre) and Tom Bridges (for the library)



The Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre



The aquariums in The Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre and The St. Catharines Public Library Children's section, are serviced and maintained by volunteers from our club. Matt Jackson and Bruce Hallett look after the setup at the Children's Centre, carrying on the work that Bernie Blondin, who was a founding member of the S.C.A.A.S, did for many years.

Matt writes:
The idea of having a pond at the Niagara Peninsula Children's Center was made a reality by Bernie Blondin. He started with just a little fountain in the outdoor courtyard. When they renovated, they built this one inside the entrance. At one time we also had a couple of tanks, but now there is just the pond.

The thing that makes this project so easy is the small child looking over the railing with a smile from ear to ear. After all the future of this great hobby is the children of today.

Tom and I have enjoyed maintaining the aquarium for the children at the library for about ten years.



The Children's section St. Catharines Public Library



Oktoberfish Show and Auction

Story & photos © by DAVE Unruh

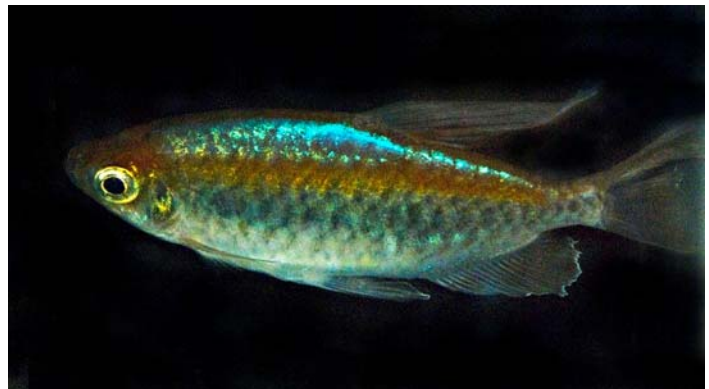
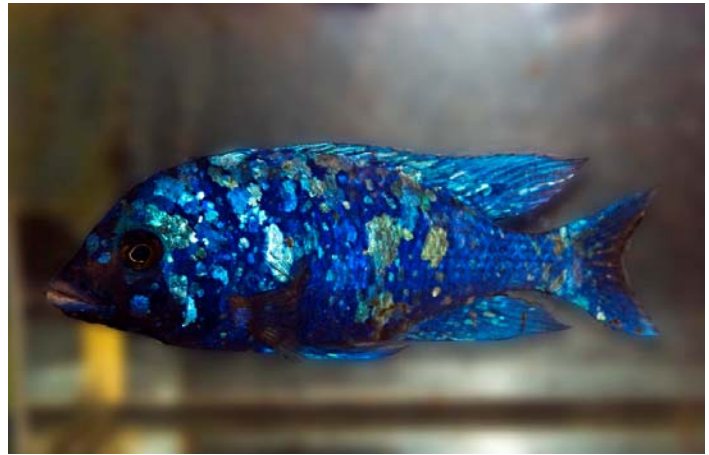
A few SCAAS members made the trip to Waterloo for the annual KWAS show & auction. It was a well run event. The show was large (by today's standard)

with 250 entries. SCAAS member Dave Unruh was the only one from our club who brought entries for the show. He swept the photography class & was awarded Best Novelty for a photo of clownfish.

While there were entries from hobbyists of many clubs the Kitchener-Waterloo Club had the most entries (as one would expect). The best in show was a Tomato Clownfish in the marine class.

KWAS tried something different this year in that they gave out cash awards as well as certificates.

This author went home with more cash than he started out with! The "best of" category winners also were given out attractive trophies. Below are some of the fish that were entered in the show.



Member Profile

By Pam Danyluck

This month's member profile is on Natasa Djermanovic, who was born in Serbia (former Yugoslavia). Natasa lived there until she was six, and then moved to Niagara Falls. She has been in Niagara ever since and is a proud Canadian. Natasa has two girls and one boy, Tatjana is 13, Aleksandar is 13 and Jelena is 12. She is also engaged to another club member Christopher Corfield. Natasa is the manager of Summit Direct Computers in Niagara Falls owned by Wally Ebert's son.

In March of this year Natasa became a member of our club, but has been attending meetings for over a year. She has always been interested in fish and has kept them for about sixteen years. Natasa finds aquariums nice but prefers to spend time with the fish in their own environment and not just trying to recreate it. Natasa scuba dives just for that reason and finds her time spent in the fish's world amazing.

Natasa keeps three 29 gallon BioCubes with saltwater, a 110 gallon saltwater with a 65 gallon sump, a 35 gallon refugium saltwater and one 20 gallon freshwater tank. She has the big tank in a fish room and the rest in other areas of the house.

Her favorite fish are Cardinal tetras and fancy guppies, because they are so interesting looking.

For filtration she uses a biowheeled filter on the freshwater tank and lots of live rock for the saltwater tanks.

Natasa's 3 children love the tanks and find that the guppies and the Banghai cardinals are the most interesting due to the interesting breeding techniques.



Natasa & Radar Photo by Chris Corfield

Wanted

Club members for newsletter profiles! I am still fairly new, okay not so new anymore but I still don't know all of you yet. It would be a big help if anyone willing to have his or her profile done would contact me. You do not need to be an expert fish keeper, just interested in fish.

☺

Please contact me at: pjdanyluck@sympatico.ca 905-562-3290.

50 years ago

(or so) the following 4 articles were printed in the December 1960 Newsletter. The newsletter does not appear to be called "The Scat" at that time. Perhaps this name will be seen in later issues. Back then the phone numbers included letters – such as Mu.4-1340. That's something many of us have never experienced.

BREEDING & RAISING LARGE BRINE

SHRIMP

The following article, submitted by Jim and Bea McMillan, was obtained from it's author, Mr. Robert Walker, a well-known Guppy breeder from Niagara Falls, New York.. Although previously published elsewhere, it would be doubtful if many of our members have had an opportunity to read it before.

Adult brine shrimp can be raised in the home aquarium. I have used the following formula and procedure with excellent success, it must be noted that in order to raise adult brine shrimp successfully, the strict adherence to the formula is of utmost importance. To begin with:

Use a green plastic dish pan, 1 gal. water (1/2 old tank water strained), and, (1/2 conditioned tap water)

1-1/3 cups coarse aquarium salt (sea)

2 tbsp. Epsom Salts

1 tbsp, baking soda

5 to 8 drops liquid plant food (Longlife Brand)

1/10 to 1/5 tablets of Fulton Aquarium plant tabs

1/3 tsp. granular dry baking yeast

(Fleischman's) dissolved first in small amount of lukewarm (80 to 83 deg.) brine. Add to yeast very small pinch of powdered milk; very small pinch of Wawil (any flake food will do – Ed) fish food.

1/2 to 1 tsp. strained nauplii (baby brine shrimp – Ed) transferred from hatching brine
Dissolve salt in water; add plant food, sugar, milk, etc. to yeast..

Let yeast stand for 1/2 hour then stir into the brine then add Nauplii

Mixture will be cloudy. If it becomes clear add another batch of yeast, sugar, milk and plant food. Keep a small 7-1/2 watt bulb burning over pan and cover with glass to reduce evaporation. Keep temperature between 70 to 80 deg. F. If there is a foul odour, the water source was polluted. Try again with safer water.

Once one has a good brine, going, it is good to add some old brine to the new, refilling the old container with equal portions of new brine. In this way, it might be possible to use only conditioned fresh water -- no tank water - - in the new brine.

White Clouds

(Submitted by Joe Vernon)

White Clouds are a fine addition to anyone's fish collection. They are native to China and are named after a mountain in that country.

Not being a tropical in the true sense of the word they can withstand a wide temperature range. This suits them for outside pond life during the summer months and when brought in, they can be kept in unheated aquariums if desired they can withstand temperatures in the low sixties and have been known to breed at sixty-eight.

White Clouds are easily bred. All that is needed is a five-gallon aquarium, well planted and filled

with clean aged water. Place in the tank and sit back and wait for results.

The actual spawning takes place in much the same manner as Zebras. The fish will dash back and forth among the plants, scattering non-adhesive eggs as they go.

The adult fish can be left in the tank after spawning if desired as they will not bother their eggs or young, under normal conditions.

The eggs hatch in about 72 hours and in two or three days, the young fry will be found clinging to the sides of the aquarium near the surface,

They can be brought along quickly on newly hatched brine shrimp and fine dry food.

Breeding temperature is about seventy-five degrees

ZEBRAS

Submitted by Harvey Gratton

These fish belong to the Danio or Brachydanio family, of which there are four branches: the Pearl Danio or Brachydanio albolineatus - from Sumatra, Burma and Thailand - the Spotted Danio or Brachydanio Nigrofasciatus from Burma.

-- The Giant Danio or Danio Malabaricus and last, but not least, the Zebra Danio or Brachydanio Rerio; which is the fish we are most interested in at this time. The Zebra is native to Burma and in its natural state reaches a size of two inches. It is beautifully marked with a series of alternating silver and blue lines which cross the body horizontally and even extends through the caudal and anal fins. In some of the species, the back of the fish is green; the sides and also the anal and caudal fins bluish, through these colors run stripes of yellow from the gill covers to the anal fins; the pectoral and dorsal fins are a light creamish yellow and the dorsal fin has a dark tip. When mature, the male is smaller than the female and more slender, his anal fin is brownish yellow while hers is yellowish.

The easiest way of sexing these fish is to draw an imaginary line through the centre of the fish. The females will then appear to have a much heavier body below this line. Also, the female has blue stripes alternating with silver stripes in her anal fin while in the male these stripes are gold.

They are best spawned in a tank about 14 inches long; 6 inches deep and 8 inches wide, well planted in the centre with nitella or Myriophyllum and the bottom covered with marbles or small stones, which are necessary to save the spawn. During the spawning, the fish become exceedingly animated, chasing one another around in small fast circles. The female drops from 8 to a dozen eggs which are immediately fertilized by the male. These eggs then float down amongst the pebbles where they are safe from the parent fish. This continues until the female has laid from 150 to 350 eggs. You can generally tell when the spawning is completed by the slim appearance of the female and at this time the parent fish should be removed.

The fry hatch in about two days and cling to the plants and sides of the aquarium for from 36 to 48 hours until their yolk sacs are nearly absorbed; then they become free swimming and should be fed with Infusoria. Their normal water temperature is 68 degrees but for spawning should be raised to about 80 degrees.

The Zebra Danio swims in schools, is very strong, active and graceful, also amiable, friendly and alert. It is a good community fish and has been known to live as long as three and a half years. Prepared food may be fed and they will also thrive on live foods.

HYPHESSOBRYCON FLAMMEUS - THE FLAME TETRA

(Submitted by Fred Cullen)

This spritely little tropical fish is a pleasure to own and fascinating to watch. Colorful, alert, and playful, it seems endowed with a real zest for life. Its colour ranges from silver at the head to deep red at the tail. The anal fin is a bright red edged with black. It is a small fellow averaging about 1-1/4 inches in length. Males of the species have tiny hooks on the end of the anal fin which will catch in a net of fine mesh when the net holding fish is

inverted, the coloring of the males tends to be deeper - particularly during breeding - and the black edging of the anal fin is more pronounced. Seventy-two to eighty degrees is best for breeding. Myriophyllum and anchored clumps of Nitella are excellent spawning plants.



Hyphessobrycon flammeus – a male Flame Tetra

It requires a sharp eye to spot the young Tetra fry which appear after an interval of about three days. The tiny fish can only eat the smallest of food at first. Infusoria and liquifry are the two main foods to feed them

To speed the early development of the fry keep the aquarium continuously lighted for two or three weeks. A fifteen-watt lamp for a fifteen-gallon aquarium is sufficient enough light to enable the fry to find food. **As** the fish grow other foods may be offered, having in mind the size of the fish and grading the feed accordingly. As the fry develop, they may be fed newly hatched brine shrimp.

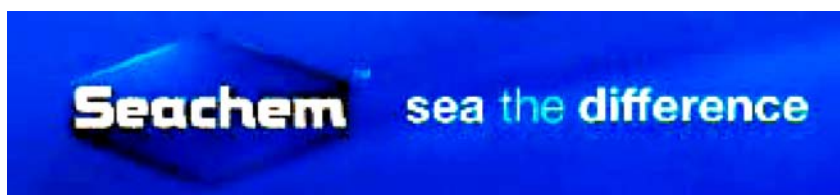
The tank temperature for baby tropicals should be maintained in the neighborhood of 75 degrees, and a slight aeration of the aquarium water is desirable. A slow circulation of the water assists in keeping all levels at the same temperature Neutral to slightly acid water 6.8 to 7.0 is best.

Short quick drives are made by the males and in the process tiny eggs are scattered by the females in or near clumps of plants. After the spawning has taken place, the fish should be removed from the tank to prevent them from seeking out and eating the eggs.

UPCOMING EVENTS HOSTED BY CAOAC MEMBER CLUBS

- | | |
|---|---|
| November 2, 2008 | PEEL REGIONAL AQUARIUM CLUB
Auction only
Information at e-mail frank_aguirre2001@yahoo.com |
| November 8, 2008 | HAMILTON & DISTRICT AQUARIUM SOCIETY
Spencer Jack dinner & speaker
Information at www.hdass.ca |
| November 12, 2008
Wednesday Evening
7:00 – 10:00 PM | BRANT AQUARIUM SOCIETY
Club Meeting AUCTION ONLY
information at www.brantaquariumsociety.ca
Or tlittle28@rogers.com |

The St.Catharines Aquarium & Area Society has recently received a donation of water conditioners from Seachem. We appreciate this donation & thank Seachem for their generosity



SCANNING THE EXCHANGES & etc.

... with Pat and Tom ...

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

▶ ... in the Greater Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Tank Topics' -

August/September, 2008

- *Observations on spawning *Ctenopoma kingsleyae* by Bud & Cathy White
- *Another Trip to the Candy Store, Searching for Chocolates by Wayne Toven
- **Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl*, the Northern Swordtail of Tamaulipas Mexico by Rich Serva

AQUARIUM HOBBYISTS – YOU CAN HELP THE ENVIRONMENT



Got an unwanted fish? Know of someone who has an unwanted fish? Our society will assist in trying to find homes for any unwanted fish. Most aquarium fish, plants, crayfish, snails, frogs, salamanders and turtles are not native to Ontario. Releasing them into a lake, river, pond or wetland

is not only against the law, but it could establish a new population which has environmental and economic impacts.

Most aquarium plants and animals sold in pet stores are imported from Florida, Central and South America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Some of these species are tolerant of colder climates and can survive over winter in Ontario. Although you may think you are doing them a favour, releasing aquarium animals into Ontario waters is NOT a humane way to dispose of an unwanted pet. They may soon die due to predation or temperature extremes, or may die slowly due to starvation, parasites and diseases.

September, 2008

- ▶ ... in the Hamilton & District Aquarium Society's monthly bulletin –
- *Spawning the Celestial Pearl Danio by Charles Drew
- Metriclimia hajomaylandi and Prysonotus by Larry Johnson
- *Charlie's Pond by Charles Drew
- *Blast from the Past – An Excess of *Astyanax* by Paul McFarlane

▶ ... in the Durham Region Aquarium Society's Newsletter 'Tank Talk' -

- *Cryptic Emersion – Part Three (of ten) & My Green Wet Thumb – Summer Flowers by Derek P. S. Tustin

The newsletters listed above will be at the sign-in desk at the start of the next meeting, then in the club library.



T-Shirts?

Pat B., SCAAS membership committee chair, has received a few inquiries regarding SCAAS t-shirts. Along with Pat, the executive committee Ken, John, Bruce, Claudia and Wally, would like to know how many of you would commit to buying a t-shirt. If there are enough of us, then we'll cost them and get back to you. If you're interested, please sign the sheet at the membership table, along with your size...extra large sizes usually cost more.



This is the official logo of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society.

Freeze Dried Bits + Flakes + Multi-Vitamins

PLUS

Nutrafin Max Plus is a unique 3 in 1 fish food that contains a combination of freeze dried bits, flakes and multi-vitamins. Only the highest quality ingredients are declared special enough to be called "PLUS."

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed!

Nutrafin Max Plus

- Brine Shrimp Flakes plus bits of freeze dried brine shrimp
- Mysis Flakes plus bits of freeze dried mysis
- Earthworm Flakes plus bits of freeze dried tubifex worms

