

The



SCAT

The official publication of the **St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society**
since 1958

Vol. 21, No 2 October 2008

In This Issue:

Visiting the Gulf Hatchery
Micro Worm Cultuers
Myriophyllum aquaticum

www.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 October 06 at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union hall,
70 St. Davids Rd.E. Thorold. Start time is 7.30 pm ALL ARE WELCOME
This months program will be on Killi fishes, presented by Brian & Susan Glazier**

2007 – 2008 Executive

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

2007 – 2008 Committees

Aquatic Horticulture Awards DAve Unruh (905)684-9860
Archives Tom & Pat Bridges - - (905) 735-3352 tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
Auction Coordinator – Tom Bridges
Auctioneer – open
Breeder Awards – Tom Bridges
CAOAC Representative – Tom Bridges
Jar Show – Pat Shriner – - - (905) 354-1367 gpsriner@sympatico.ca
Library – Gary Phelps - - - (905) 563-6523
Library - Jeff Phelps - - - (905) 892-0248 jphelps@vaxxine.com
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

- -

Inside This Issue

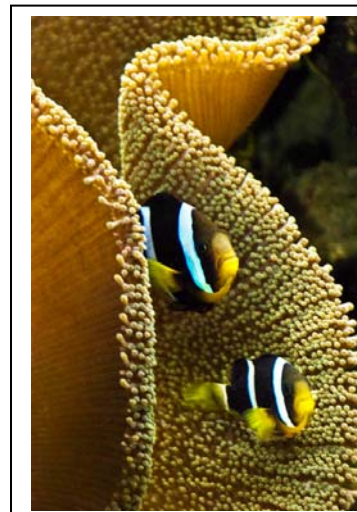
Pg 2 - Club Notes, Executive & BOD list, Membership Dues
Pg 3- Presidents Notes & Jar Show
Pg 4 & 5– Visiting the Gulf Hatchery and Microworms
Pg 5 – Anagram for October & For Sale Ad
Pg 6– Member Profile
Pg 7 – Notes from the Sept. CAOAC meeting
Pg 8 – Scanning The Exchanges
Pg 9 – Myriophyllum aquaticum & Upcoming events
Pg 10- Hagan Ad

Reprint Policy

Any not-for-profit organization may reprint articles from “The Scat” provided credit is given both to the author of the article and to the St.Catharines & Area Aquarium Society (SCAAS) and that two copies of the reprinting publication are sent to : Exchange Editor, Pat Bridges 4 Crescent Dr. Welland, Ont. Canada L3B 2W5. Opinions or endorsements expressed in any article do not necessarily reflect the views of the

Membership Dues :

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



Cover photo of
A pair of
clownfish and
their anemone

Photo © by
DAve Unruh

Presidential Thoughts

October 2008

How does being on a committee or the executive give your hobby a jump up? While these are just my own impressions I think they would be similar for most people. Being more involved with the club gets you fired up. You want to do more. Not just at the club but at home with your own tanks. You want to try out new ideas. Water changes are less of a chore. You will be eager to discuss your trials and failures. You will have an increased confidence and be jumping at the chance to pass on what you learned. You will feel like one of the fraternity of the hobbyist you always wondered "how do they do that". You will find that you know a lot more than you think and will be confident you can keep that special fish you always wanted. In short you won't feel like you have to do it. You just will know how much more enjoyment you will have. That's it. No tricks. Not trying to recruit anyone. Wink, wink.

Well maybe a bit but these are just some impressions on how we can all have a bigger smile at the end of the day just before the lights go out and how you will look forward to that part of your day

every day. Don't believe me just ask some of the newer executive and committee members. They have likely just begun to realize this. Hopefully the stalwart long standing executive members will pause and think if you ask them and it will all come back with smile.

There are some noteworthy events on the horizon. Bruce Hallet's 45th wedding Anniversary way to go! And thanks to Bruce's wife for letting us have him all these years. We will be discussing ordering T-Shirts for members and starting plans for a spring Auction at the October meeting.

Now I have to ask for your help. Don't worry no ball and chains coming out. I want ideas for links to post on our website. Please pass on some sites you like to visit to me in person, by e-mail or any other way. Let me know your favorite links and why you like them.

See you all at the meeting

Ken

JAR SHOW - Here is a fish of the month list so you can plan ahead to have a fish of the month 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



Male Diamond Tetra Photo © by DAve Unruh

This month we have two articles from the November 1960 issue of the SCAT. On page 3 (of the 16 page 9x6" format newsletter) the results of their fish show are printed. The show was considered an "unqualified success" with 5,420 people visiting the event! There were a total of 97 entries consisting of 71 tanks and 26 Betta jars. The best pair of fish in the show was a pair of "White Cloud Mountains" exhibited by Jim McMillan.

Dues for the club were \$2.00 for a single membership and \$3.00 for a married couple. Enjoy the articles - Ed

VISITING THE GULF HATCHERY

(By Laird and Donna Doughty)

In June, 1960, my wife and I had the opportunity to visit the Gulf Fish Farm and Hatchery between Tampa and Sarasota, Florida. Our first impression was far from what we had expected. There was only one main building surrounded by tall weeds. At the office we were told by a busy boss to make ourselves at home. This we did and our questions were answered by one of his helpers.

Much to our surprise, he told us there were 600 ponds on the farm covering 50 acres. In these, all live bearers and some egg layers were outside for the summer. We walked down a roadway between the 12 x 24' ponds and could see many varieties swimming in the pools, Back in the buildings, we were surprised to see a great number of glass tanks, all with extremely dirty coloured water. In these tanks were mostly egg layers spawning. They were spawning in Spanish Moss, which made the water so dirty.

Unlike the first room with glass tanks, the next two larger rooms held double-decked tanks made of plywood. In them were some rare and beautiful fish which were not shown to advantage as there was no glass in the tanks. The walls of these two rooms were lined with about 200-250 Betta Jars. The last room was the packing room.. All shipments are by air in cardboard boxes with plastic bag liners.

As we left, we thought that looks are still only skin deep, for without this hatchery and others in the south, our dealers could not supply us, the hobbyists, with different varieties of fish at such reasonable prices.

MICRO WORM CULTURES

By Ken Secord

Micro worms (*Anguillula selusiae*) are one of the many small cylindrical worms that abound in the earth. They seldom exceed a length of 3/32" and in the average culture a great majority average 1/16" and less.

Although the first cultures of micro worms were developed in earth, like their larger white worm relatives, experiments proved that they thrived in small earth-free containers when provided with acceptable foods, such as cooked cereals (oatmeal being the most commonly used). One must obtain a culture of micro worms from a fellow hobbyist or from a dealer in tropical fish supplies. From this one culture others are developed and a constant supply of live food for small fry is maintained,

Even with limited use it is wise to maintain two cultures to guard against accident or neglect. Obtain two or more small plastic containers with closely fitting covers such as are used in sorting small portions of food in refrigerators. Cover the bottom of each container with about a half-inch layer of cooked oatmeal - a soupy mix, or with a prepared dried cereal food mixed with water (such as Gerbers Mixed Cereal Food for babies).

Place a teaspoonful of micro worm culture on top of the oatmeal and cover the container. Within a few days, the rapidly multiplying (livebearing) worms will cover the surface of the oatmeal and start climbing the sides

of the container. These may be scraped off with the finger or the flat of a razor blade and placed in the tank of young fishes. Some hobbyists use the original method for obtaining micro using small pieces of wood laid crisscross on the culture medium. The worms soon cover the sticks and the topmost sticks are then removed and floated in the aquarium. This method has much to recommend it since the micro are likely to be free of the culture medium and other impurities and a deluge of worms in the aquarium is somewhat reduced.

Another method of feeding involves the use of a feeding ring with a net of coarse cotton cloth attached to the bottom. Micro worms are placed on the cloth within the ring - - gradually finding their way out between the mesh. The method is intended to prevent quantities of worms from settling in the mulm or between particles of coarse sand on the bottom, with consequent fouling of the tank.

Micro worm cultures may remain sweet for about two weeks -- after which time the fermenting food medium creates a very unpleasant odour, It is then time to start a new culture and discard the old,

The addition of a little yeast to the cereal either wet or dry yeast -- creates a more vigorous culture. Dried cereals when mixed with water and a few grains of dry yeast will “rise” -- and for a day or two the culture may appear to be too dry for propagation of the worms. However, the cereal soon settles and it may be necessary to pour off a little surplus water that the desired moist but “solid” surface of food may be uncovered.

Even adult fishes such as guppies and platies will eat micro, although it takes many scoops to make a mouthful. The chief danger in feeding such small food to a large fish is in the possibility of water pollution. Larger fish are not persistent enough in cleaning the bottom of the tank- and the escaping micro, soon dying, foul the water. Micro worm cultures do well in subdued light or darkness and in temperatures ranging from 70 to 75 degrees. However, vigorous colonies of micro have been raised under so many varying conditions of light and heat that such specifications seem rather superfluous and unnecessary. Sufficient to say, perhaps, that they will prosper in the average room or basement of the home.

Anagram for October

Example:

*An anagram for this creature is: **alpine alps***

*The creature is: **apple snail***

An anagram for this fish is: **decal train art**

The fish is: _____

If anyone would like a hint before next month, contact Pam: pjdanyluck@sympatico.ca
Answer will be in the next newsletter.
Fishy Anagrams provided courtesy of



ForSaleForSaleForSaleForSaleForSale

I have a well-established 55 gallon fresh water aquarium which I would like to sell with all the gear, the fish and several aquarium atlases. I'd like to make sure the fish go to someone who can care for them well. The tank is filtered with a Fluval 304 only about 2 years old. I have 2 large Kissing Gouramis at least 8 years old, a large albino algae eater even older, 8 or so neon tetras, an orange platy(I think) and a zebra fish, all in excellent health. I'd like to sell every thing as a package but I would be willing to sell the fish separately and the gear as a package.

Asking \$ 150.00 for all.

Please let me know if you or any of your members might be interested. I live in Thorold and can be reached at 905-680-8843 or by email at fbush@sympatico.ca

Regards,
Fred Bush

Member Profile - Kevin Bonnar

By Pam Danyluck Aquarium Photos by Kevin Bonnar

Where were you born? I was born in St. Catharines Ontario.

Did you grow up there?

No I grew up in both Thorold and Fonthill (alternating between my parents houses).

Where do you live now? I own a home in Thorold.

What do you do for work?

I work as a mechanic at West Lake Tire and Auto

When did you become a member of our club?

I will become a member as soon as I can get a hold of someone to give some cash to!



Kevin Bonnar Photo © by DAve Unruh

When did you get interested in fish?

My wife wanted a freshwater fish tank for her birthday. Despite not understanding why anyone would want one, I went ahead and bought one for her. I got hooked fast and before long, as she says it, it became my tank. Almost daily I shopped for new additions for the tank. During these visits my eyes would always avert to the saltwater tanks in the other section though, captured by the colors and vibrancy. Long story short, it turns out maintaining freshwater wasn't for us. Within 6 months all our fish were dead and the wife had lost interest. But my interest had just been peaked. I jumped in with both feet and bought a used 55-gallon marine tank.

How many tanks do you keep now?



We currently have 5 marine tanks up and running (not including sumps).

Do you have a dedicated fish room?

Yes, the wife was generous enough to give up the office for 3 of my tanks and spare equipment. But if I had my way I would just redo the whole main floor with glass and flood the basement ☺ (you get the point!)

What kind of fish do you keep?

I keep a huge array of marine fish, from mandarin gobies and Banggai cardinals to clowns and seahorses.

Any favorites?

We put a lot of thought into selecting the fish so we love them all. But I myself am more into coral now that I've been in the hobby for a while.

What kind of filtering system do you use?

I use skimmers and a Euroreef Rs80 on my main display and I use a huge MRC (My Reef Creations) stage 3 with a dual down draft on my three frag tanks. This skimmer can handle upwards of 600gal.



Does your family enjoy and or participate in your hobby?

The wife isn't as enthralled by it all as I am but she loves our main set up and especially

the seahorses. And she's very supportive; despite it taking up a lot of room in the house and a lot of my/our time. Our extended family

really admires the tanks, especially her grandparents. We just set them up with a 29 gal nano and now they are hooked!



Notes from the September CAOAC Meeting

At the September CAOAC meeting held today, Sunday, September 22, 2008. 7 clubs were represented with 17 votes possible.

There is a working balance of \$2719.70

In the treasurer's report, September, 2008, the 'difference for the month', reported as -\$788.33 should be reported as a plus.

The CAOAC Archivist's position is open.

Convention 2009 will be hosted by CAOAC. It is the 50th anniversary of CAOAC. It will be on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 15/16/17/18, 2009. Venue to be determined by next month's meeting. Speakers already confirmed are Heiko Bleher and Frank Aguirre.

Anyone wishing to volunteer their help may contact any member of the CAOAC executive committee.

Convention t-shirts are being priced.

Jim Robinson & Heiko Bleher will be added to the speakers' page on the caoac website.

The speaker policy as proposed at the February meeting of caoac, to be voted on at the September 21st meeting, was voted down. -- see the September issue of the CAOAC newsletter.

The Brant club's November auction will be entirely an auction. Their March 28 auction will have tables for rent for used items.

Durham has had Udo Roman, speaking on a homemade Hamburg filter, along with a power point presentation. Durham is also having an auction for their November meeting.

The Hamilton Club has chosen March 22, and October 4 as their dates for 2009.

Sarnia dates for 2009 are April 28 and September 12

Tom Bridges, CAOAC representative

SCANNING THE EXCHANGES & etc.

... with Pat and Tom ...

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

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

September, 2008

*My Green Wet Thumb – Summer Flowers
By Derek P. S. Tustin

▶ ... in Central New York Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Reflector' -

September, 2008

*The Unexpected Flower & Result of Repotting
by Ray Spahn

▶ ... in The Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society's newsletter 'The Youngstown Aquarist' -

September/October, 2008

*My Favorite Hobbyist Authors by Curt Smith
*Sometimes You Gets the Fish ... Sometimes The Fish Gets You by Gregg Michael

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

BAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS presented at the September meeting

Dave Unruh – *Neolamprologus marunguensis*
..... 15 pts
Congratulations!
Tom Bridges, BAP chairperson



S.C.A.A.S. members...

keep receiving your newsletters and membership privileges -- renew your dues and pick up your new 2008-2009 membership card at the October meeting.
See you there!

Pat B.



Welcome new members

Kevin Bonner
Ron Williams



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.

Parrots Feather (Myriophyllum aquaticum) by DAve Unruh

This plant is quite common and usually found in most stores. But for some reason I have never bought this plant. This summer I happened upon it and decided to buy a few to put in my barrel ponds. It is an attractive plant, particularly when it grows out of the water.



Emersed form of Parrots feather Photo © by DAve Unruh

The Myriophyllum family has five species in it with M.aquaticum being the most attractive (in my opinion). Like all Myriophyllum species there is an emersed form and a submersed form. While it grows

best as an emersed form, it still does well as a submersed form. To keep it in its submersed form all one has to do is too cut off the part of the plant that is above the water line. The cut off part can be planted in the substrate of the aquarium and will start another plant. About the only thing it needs is bright light. If the light is not bright enough it will grow into a scraggly looking plant. It is a good plant for the sides and back of the aquarium as it will grow tall, but it must be trimmed regularly to keep it in its submersed form. Otherwise it will begin forming shoots at the surface of the water and growing out of the aquarium.



Submersed form photo © by DAve Unruh

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 5 – Hamilton & District Aquarium Society – Auction & Fea Market – info at www.hads.ca

October 26 – Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society - Show & Auction – info at www.kwas.ca

November2 – Peel Regional Aquarium Club - - Auction only - info at Frank_Aguiire2001@yahoo.com

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

