



**The SCAT**  
**The Official Publication of the**  
**St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society**  
**Since 1958**

**Volume 25 Number 1**  
**October, 2012**

*In This Issue:*

Dave Unruh - In Memoriam

Breeding Red Shouldered Severum

Breeding the Ancistrus Plecostomus

C.A.R.E.S Program

# About The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society

Meetings of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m at the Seafarers & Teamster's Union Hall, 70 St. Davids Rd. E. Thorold, Ontario. Meetings are not held on holidays; if the first Monday of the month is a holiday, the meeting will be held on the second Monday of the month. There are no meetings held in July or August.

The Society was established in 1958 and is a non-profit, educational organization that is dedicated to the task of promoting interest in the breeding, raising, maintenance and study of aquatic life, 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](http://www.caoac.ca)). The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society is also a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS - [www.faas.info](http://www.faas.info)). More news and information about the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society can be found at - [www.scaas.info](http://www.scaas.info).

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 1st, 2012 at the Seafarers & Teamster's Union Hall, 70 St. Davids Rd. E. Thorold, Ontario. Meetings start at 7:30 but feel free to arrive early to enter items for the auction or to "talk fish".

All are welcome!

October's speaker is Al Ridley who will be talking about cichlids.

## Upcoming CAOAC Events:

September 30, 2012 – London Aquaria Society Auction and Show

October 28, 2012 – Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society Oktoberfish Show & Auction

### 2012-2013 Executive

President	Tom Hillier	(905) 227-5008	tom.hillier@hotmail.com
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	John Verhage	(905) 735-7776	jverhage@on.aibn.com
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Joe Krawchuk	(905) 325-5562	josephkrawchuk@gmail.ca
Secretary	Pam Danyluck	(905) 562-3290	danuluck@sympatico.ca
Treasurer	Roman Hajkevic		romanhaljevic@gmail.com
Past President	Ken Brady	(905) 935-4716	kbrady2@cogeco.ca

### 2012-2013 Committees

Breeder Awards	Tom Bridges	(905) 735-3352	tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
Horticultural Awards	Joe Krawchuk	(905) 325-5562	josephkrawchuk@gmail.ca
Archives	Tom & Pat Bridges	(905) 735-3352	tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
Auction Coordinator	Tom Bridges	(905) 735-3352	tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
CAOAC Representative	Tom Hillier	(905) 227-5008	tom.hillier@hotmail.com
SCAT Editor	Open		
Jar Show Coordinator and Judge	Pat Shriner	(905) 354-1367	gpshriner@sympatico.ca
Library	Open		
Membership	Pat Bridges	(905) 735-3352	tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
Press/Publicity	Ken Brady	(905) 935-4716	kbrady2@cogeco.ca
Community Liaison	Heather Krawchuk	(905) 680-0867	hkrawchuk@yahoo.com
Refreshments	Shawn Markowski	Shirley Markowski	srogers33@cogeco.ca
Web Master	Ken Brady	(905) 935-4716	kbrady2@cogeco.ca
Web Master	Heather Krawchuk	(905) 680-0867	hkrawchuk@yahoo.com

### In This Issue:

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### Membership Fees

- Family - \$25
- Single - \$20
- Junior (Under 16) - \$10
- Student (With I.D) - \$10
- Senior (Over 65) - \$10
- Senior Couple (Both Over 65) - \$15

Cover Photo Of  
Albino Bushnose Pleco  
Courtesy Of Joe Krawchuk

### Jar Shows

**October  
Barbs & Tetras**

**November  
Rift Lake Cichlids**

### Temporary Editor's Note

Initially, I was asked to help out with October's editing of the SCAT until Dave was feeling better. I will now help out as much as I can until another volunteer comes forward. Nobody can compete with the quality of the newsletters that Dave produced. You'll notice some formatting changes, which I hope you will enjoy, while at the same time, many elements are the same to pay homage to Dave.

I am DESPERATE for articles, so PLEASE consider sending some my way via e-mail at any time along with ideas for new features, layouts, etc...

Thanks in advance,  
Heather Krawchuk

**BAP Achievement Award**  
Presented At September Meeting

**Dave Furness**  
Heros appendiculatus  
Red Shouldered Severum  
10 Points  
Congratulations!  
*Tom Bridges, BAP Chair*

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## **The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society Has Lost A Friend**

UNRUH, David Roy - Suddenly at his home in St. Catharines on Sunday, September 16, 2012, Dave Unruh, aged 54 years. Beloved husband of Beth. Dear father of Leanne and Stephanie (Graham) Campbell. Son of Betty and the late Roy Unruh. Brother of Karen Nichols and Gary Unruh. According to Dave's wishes, cremation has taken place. If desired, memorial donations to Mennonite Central Committee Ontario: Native Concerns would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences at [www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca](http://www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca) 11961188

The September meeting just didn't seem the same without Dave there. Missing were his bags of beautiful fish and blue water. Missing was his friendly smile and willingness to give pointers about breeding a certain fish or propagating a certain plant. We were all very hopeful to see him at our October meeting, but tragically, this was not to be.

The loss to our club is immense. Dave's contributions went above and beyond most others. His tireless work on this publication produced editions of the SCAT that can be enjoyed for generations. His dedication to editing and incredible photography leaves a beautiful legacy. The amount of time and pride that Dave spent with the hobby was vast and his successes in breeding were the envy of many.

While not everyone in the club was fortunate enough to know Dave on a personal level, many were. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dave's family as well as our aquarium family as they grieve the loss of a wonderful man.



**This edition of the SCAT is  
dedicated to the memory of  
Dave Unruh. Dave and his  
contributions to the club  
will not be forgotten.**

## A TRIBUTE TO DAVE UNRUH

I asked Pat and Tom Bridges if they could please provide me with a list of Dave's breeding accomplishments in addition to the awards that he won. Being the wonderful, organized people that they are, I had a response in a matter of hours.

I knew that the list would be extensive, but it has me in awe.

The following is a representation of the commitment and dedication that Dave had for the hobby and will hopefully serve to inspire us all.

1986 - Labatt's Award - Best in Show

1987 - CAOAC Author's Award

1990 - General Basic Merit Breeders Award

1991 - Hobbyist of the Year

1992 - Hobbyist of the Year

1995 - Aquatic Horticulturist Award & Expert Aquatic Horticulturist Award

1996 - Hobbyist of the Year

1997 - Hobbyist of the Year

2001 - African Rift Lake Cichlid Basic Merit Award

2002 - Advanced Authors' Award

2002 - General Intermediate Breeders Award

2003 - Advanced Authors' Award

~Dave held practically every position as a member of the Kitchener-Waterloo club and held the positions as President of the St. Catharines club and Chairman of the St. Catharines Aquatic Horticultural Awards program.

~He was in demand as a speaker, presenting programs on photography and other subjects in the hobby.

~He was involved in the set up and running of the fish rooms at the St. Catharines shows.

~His many excellent articles on fish photography and fish breedings appeared frequently in the newsletters of the St. Catharines and Kitchener-Waterloo clubs.

~Dave was always available to answer questions and to share his experiences.

~He spent years as the remarkable editor and photographer of the SCAT for the S.C.A.A.S.

# BREEDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<i>Pseudotropheus zebra</i> "red x red"	cichlid	feb.89
<i>Steatocranus casuarius</i>	cichlid	mar.90
<i>Steatocranus tinanti</i>	cichlid	apr.95
<i>Telmatochromis burgeoni</i>	cichlid	feb.89
<i>Trematocranus jacobfreibergi</i>	cichlid	86
<i>Uaru amphiacanthoides</i>	cichlid	mar.88
Gold Mystery Snail	invertebrate	86
<i>Heteractis</i> sp. (Sand Anemone - marine)	invertebrate	mar.91
<i>Ameca splendens</i>	livebearer	86
<i>Poecilia</i> ( <i>Acanthophaecelus</i> ) <i>wingei</i> "Endler's"	livebearer	apr.95
<i>Girardinus metallicus</i>	livebearer	apr.95
<i>Limia nigrofasciata</i>	livebearer	apr.95
<i>Poecilia latipinna</i>	livebearer	87
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	livebearer	87
<i>Skiffia multipunctata</i>	livebearer	apr.95
<i>Corydoras nanus</i>	catfish	feb.96
<i>Poecilia picta</i>	livebearer	feb.96
<i>Pelvicachromis taeniatus</i> Nyong River	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Pelvicachromis taeniatus</i> "Nigerian red"	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Cichlasoma salvini</i>	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Haplochromis nigricans</i>	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Haplochromis</i> sp. "fire red"	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Pelvicachromis subocellatus</i> Cavally	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Nanochromis transvestitus</i>	cichlid	feb.96
<i>Nannacara anomala</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Pelvicachromis</i> sp. aff. <i>subocellatus</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Pelvicachromis taeniatus</i> "Cherry cheek"	cichlid	mar97
<i>Haplochromis nyererei</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Haplochromis</i> sp. 44	cichlid	mar97
<i>Haplochromis obliquidens</i> "zebra"	cichlid	mar97
<i>Apistogramma steindachneri</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Apistogramma cacatuoides</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Apistogramma viejita</i>	cichlid	mar97
<i>Bedotia geayi</i>	all other	mar97
<i>Chlamydogobius eremius</i>	all other	mar97
<i>Hemigrammopetersius caudalis</i>	tetra	dec98
<i>Pseudocrenilabrus nicholsi</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Apistogramma cactei</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Pseudotropheus saulosi</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Barbus tetrazona</i>	barbs etc.	dec98
<i>Apistogramma viejita</i> II	cichlid	dec98
<i>Sciaenochromis fryeri</i>	cichlid	dec98
<i>Pseudotropheus</i> sp. "elongatus chewere"	cichlid	dec98
<i>Pseudotropheus</i> sp. "elongatus ruarwe"	cichlid	dec98

Ps. (Metriaclima) sp. "zebra gold"	cichlid	dec98
Cyprichromis leptosoma	cichlid	dec98
Cyprichromis sp. "leptosoma jumbo"	cichlid	dec98
Pterapogon kauderni	marine	dec98
Labidochromis sp. "perlmutter" Mbamba Bay	cichlid	dec98
Macropodus concolor	anabantid	dec98
Gymnogeophagus sp. "Rosario I"	cichlid	mar02
Chromidotilapia guentheri guentheri	cichlid	nov01
Haplochromis sp. "rockkribensis"	cichlid	nov01
Ps. (Metriaclima) barlowi	cichlid	nov01
Apistogramma moae	cichlid	feb02
Melanotaenia parkinsoni	all other	
Tanichthys albonubes	barbs etc.	
Apistogramma sp. aff. Ortmanni	cichlid	
Aulonocara hansbaenschi nyassae	cichlid	
Cichlasoma temporalis	cichlid	
Pelvicachromis roloffi	cichlid	
Limia perugiae	livebearer	
Neolamprologus pulcher "daffodil"	cichlid	feb02
Geophagus iporangensis	cichlid	mar02
Aphyocharax rathbuni	tetra	oct02
Pseudotropheus demasoni	cichlid	dec02
Barbus titteya	barbs etc.	apr03
Neolamprologus falcicula	cichlid	apr03
Betta picta	anabantid	apr03
Ancistrus dolichopterus(Albino)	catfish	apr03
Pseudosphromenus cupanus	anabantid	jan03
Pseudosphromenus dayi	anabantid	may03
Pelvicachromis sacrimontis	cichlid	jan04
Betta imbellis	anabantid	mar04
Apistogramma panduro	cichlid	apr04
Neolamprologus brevis "sunspot"	cichlid	oct04
Trichopsis pumilus	anabantid	oct04
Brachydanio rerio	barbs etc.	dec04
Crenicichla compressiceps	cichlid	jan05
Xiphophorus montezumae	livebearer	apr05
Apistogramma macmasteri	cichlid	mar05
Lepidolamprologus hecqui	cichlid	mar05
Teleocichla centrarchus	cichlid	mar05
Synodontis petricola	catfish	jun05
Crenicichla notophthalmus	cichlid	sep05
Heterandria formosa	livebearer	jan06
Cichlasoma (Archocentrus) nanoluteus	cichlid	mar06
Crenicichla regani	cichlid	jan06
Ptychochromis oligacanthus	cichlid	apr06
Neolamprologus marunguensis	cichlid	oct08
Gephyrochromis lawsi	cichlid	jan07
Moenkhausia pittieri	tetra	oct06
Aplocheilus lineatus	killie	jan06

Cich. (Heros) appendiculatus	cichlid	dec06
Neolamprologus similis	cichlid	jan08
Archocentrus (Cryptoheros) myrnae	cichlid	feb08
Farlowella acus	catfish	apr08
Xiphophorus alvarezii	livebearer	apr09
Pterophyllum leopoldi	cichlid	sep10
Corydoras napoensis	catfish	jan11
Barbus semifasciatus	barbs etc.	jan11
Neolamprologus multifasciatus	cichlid	nov07
Apistogrammoides pucallpaensis	cichlid	jan02
Apistogramma biteniatum	cichlid	apr05
Tateurndina ocellicauda	all other	apr11
Cichlasoma (Cryptoheros) cutteri	cichlid	apr11
Neocaridina heteropoda	crustacean	mar11
Macrobrachium dayanum	crustacean	mar11
Crenicichla lepidota	cichlid	sep11
Chromidotilapia finleyi	cichlid	apr11
Neolamprologus helianthus "Zambia"	cichlid	apr11
Telmatochromis dhonti	cichlid	oct11
Eretmodus cyanostictus	cichlid	oct11
Rineloricaria eigenmanni	catfish	feb12
Betta pugnax	anabantid	may12
Tropheus sp. "Ikola"	cichlid	apr12

## PHOTOGRAPHY

We have all greatly enjoyed and appreciated Dave's photography over the years. Here are some of his images from past editions of the SCAT.







## Second Vice-President's Message

By Joe Krawchuk

With September's meeting behind us it looks as though we are in for a great year! There were many new people out at last month's meeting. This is due to a number of factors including the recent makeover of our website and advertising on Kijiji by Heather Krawchuk. Heather has been working hard as our new community liaison and we thank her very much for her hard work.

September's meeting featured a very informative talk given to us by Jim Robinson. Jim taught us about one of his favourite aspects of the hobby, plant propagation. His entertaining slide show entitled "Sex with Scissors" was very well received. Hopefully his presentation will spark more interest in plant propagation and we will see an increased number of horticultural awards this year!

Preparations for our fall auction are well under way. Please remember that our auction will take place on Sunday, October 21, 2012. This will be a busy day and will require the help from as many club members as possible. There will be lots to do that day and volunteers will be greatly appreciated!

Please remember that membership fees are now due. A single-person membership is \$20.00, a family membership is \$25.00, persons 10-16 years of age or students (with proper student I.D) is \$10.00 per year, seniors pay \$10.00 & couples over the age of 65 pay \$15.00 per year. Without these membership fees our club would not be able to provide the many great benefits such as our monthly guest speakers and barbeques. Please pay up!

Lastly, we lost someone very important to our club in September. The untimely passing of Dave Unruh has impacted our whole fish family. My sister and I had the privilege of seeing his tanks and ponds in the summer and it was a memorable experience. The pride and care that went into Dave's tank is almost unrivalled. Since joining the club two years ago, I have learned so much valuable information about the hobby from Dave. His loss as a club member and as a friend to so many, is great. Our best wishes go out to his family. Dave is gone, but he will not be forgotten.

### SCAT Re-Print Policy

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



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# Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 10th, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:37 pm.

## New Members and Visitors

Four visitors joined us this evening.

## Announcements

By Tom Hillier

- ~Hamilton Auction September 22nd in Waterdown.
- ~Our Auction is on October 21st, the show has been cancelled.
- ~Reptile Show September 15 & 16.
- ~Dave Unruh is in the hospital, we need volunteers to help with his tanks.
- ~There was no SCAT sent this month due to Dave's hospitalization. Heather will do the SCAT for October and is helping with the site. She has done a great job giving the site a new look.
- ~This year's CAOAC Convention will be in Edmonton.
- ~The tank at the Children's Centre is doing great!

## Treasure's Report

Was given by Roman Haljkevic

Float \$135.95

Bank \$1744.80

Total Funds \$1880.70

## BAP

Was presented by Tom Bridges to:  
Dave Furness for the Red Shoulder Severum.

## HAP

None were presented at this meeting.



## PROGRAM

Our program for this evening was "Sex with Scissors" with Jim Robinson. Jim has been in the hobby for 42 years and has been speaking for 41 years. At one time he had 650 tanks running and has down-sized to 50. His main interest in the hobby is spawning fish and propagating plants.

The program was very entertaining and educational. Jim is also available for any other questions or advice. His contact info can be found on the CAOAC site under speakers.

## BREAK

Refreshments provided by Shaun and Shirley

## DOOR PRIZE

## EVENING RAFFLE

## JAR SHOW AWARD

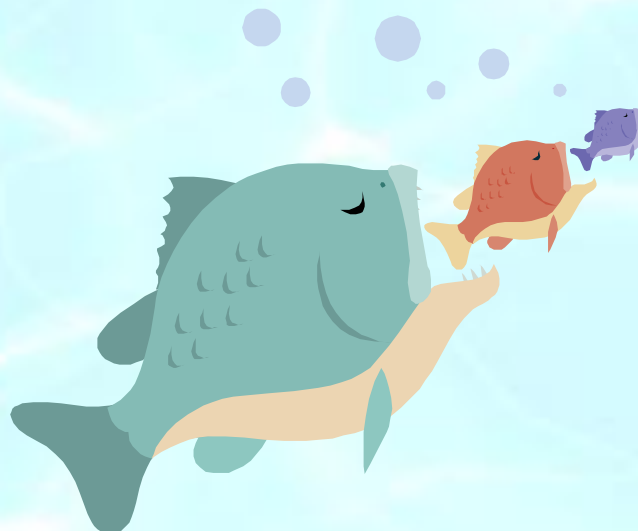
Was presented by Pat Shriner to:

Clyde Beam

Joe Krawchuk

## EVENING AUCTION

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.



# Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 4th, 2012

## BBQ

We started off the June meeting with a BBQ and potluck. Thanks to everyone for bringing in a dish to share. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and company.

## New Members and Visitors

Brad joined us as a new member.

## Awards

- ~The "Bernie Blondin Award" (a founding member) was given to Tom Hillier.
- ~The "Wally Ebert Award" was given to Tom and Pat Bridges for all their help with club duties over the years.
- ~The first "Any Other Aquatic Animal" certificate was presented to Tom Hillier.

## Announcements

- ~Reptile & Aquatic Expo was attended by some of our members this past Sunday. They will be holding another in September and it is worthwhile to attend.
- ~Another letter from Community Care was read to the membership. One of our members has been making outstanding donations.
- ~A Toronto Trip is in the planning for the end of June if anyone is interested. There will be two new stores opening.
- ~We are looking for new librarians if anyone is interested.
- ~Charlie Drew and Ron Bishop will be our judges this year for the show.
- ~This year's CAOAC Convention will be in Edmonton.
- ~The tank at the Children's Centre is doing great!

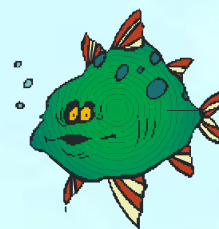
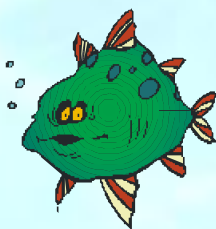
## Treasure's Report

Was given by Bob Hayslip as Roman was absent.

Float \$135.95

Bank \$1744.80

Total Funds \$1880.70



## BAP

Was presented by Tom Bridges to Dave Furness for the Mayan Swordtail.

## HAP

None were presented at this meeting.

## JAR SHOW AWARD

Was presented by Pat Shriner to Joe Krawchuk.

## ELECTION

~Tom Bridges was the steering committee, a job he has done for many years.

~We actually had a vote for Present this year. The nominees were Tom Hillier and Pam Danyluck. Voting was very close, and Tom Hillier will remain in the president's position for another year.

~There were no other nominations for the other positions and the current members agreed to stand again for another term.

~Vice President John Verhage

~2nd Vice President Joseph Krawchuk

~Secretary Pam Danyluck

~Treasurer Roman Haljkevic

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# Executive Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Tom Hillier, Ken Brady, Tom Bridges, Bob Hayslip, John Verhage, Roman Haljkevic, and Pam Danyluck

## Signing of Cheques

Due to Dave Unruh's illness and the unknown length of his recovery the executive has decided to give Tom Hillier signing authority. The transfer of signing authority from Bob Hayslip, past Treasurer, to Roman, new Treasurer, still needs to be done at the bank.

~Bob Hayslip removed and replaced with Roman Haljkevic.

~Dave Unruh removed and replaced with Tom Hillier.

## Show and Auction

~Show has been cancelled as not enough volunteers to help or step in to replace Terry Little.

~John will contact Hagen about donation.

~Tom H. will get a donation from Aquatic Kingdom, Mario and Anes (Zoomed rep).

~Jim Chalmers will probably be available to be our auctioneer.

~We do not need to rent tables this year as John and Ken have enough they can bring in to use with the ones from the hall.

~Canteen for the auction should purchase food with money from the Treasurer not from their float. Any perishable foods left over will be sold at the end of the auction for cost.

~Those who will be picking up donations for the auction will be reimbursed for their gas when they hand in receipts to the treasurer.

~Roman and Pam will be handling the registration and then the cash when auction starts.

~Heather will be doing chits; we still need someone to work with her.

~Pam will prepare flyers to be handed out at the upcoming auctions and for our members to hand out.

~This will be a pay as you buy auction, the rules on our site need to be updated to reflect this.

~Buyers will need to sign in for their number instead of a full registration.

## Canteen

After a few discussions about the amount of money that the float needs and money earned by the canteen the executive has decided that a \$150 float should be sufficient. After each meeting anything over \$150 will be handed in to the Treasurer as part of his job is being accountable for all the club finances. Restocking of canteen items should be purchased by the persons responsible for the canteen in one of two ways:

~Purchase items out of pocket and then hand in receipts to treasurer to be reimbursed.

~Ask treasurer in advance for funds to purchase items needed, and then return unused money and receipts to the treasurer.

### Gas Expenses

The executive agreed to pay for the cost of gas for members traveling for official club business. Gas receipts must be handed in to the treasurer for reimbursement.

### In Honour of Terry Little

Terry has been a big part of the aquarium society clubs for many years and we would like to make a donation to CAOAC to be used for an award in memory of Terry. Pam will prepare a letter for CAOAC to accompany donation.

### Ad Renewals

Roman to prepare a list of stores whose renewal fees are due so Tom H can contact them.

### Ad Fees

The executive revisited the cost of ad fees. Most of our newsletters are now sent via email so there is no inside back page etc... so we adjusted of fees to the following:

Business Card - \$50      1/4 Page - \$65      1/2 Page - \$75      Full Page - \$150

### CAOC Representative

We are in need of a need CAOAC representative for our club. Will ask for volunteers at the next meeting.

### September Speaker

Pam will contact Jim Robinson about bringing his own equipment as Ken will be away.

Email sent to Jim on September 8, waiting to hear back.

### Advertising

Heather is now our Community Liaison and doing some advertising already for the club. Pam will contact Heather and ask if she is willing to do it officially.

### Food Bank

After a short discussion about putting a box out at meetings for monetary food bank donations, it was agreed upon by the executive. Roman will make up a tin box for this.





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## Breeding Red Shouldered Severum - Heros " Rotkeid" Severum Article and Photographs By Dave Furness



The Red Shouldered Severum is one of the more attractive severum species. It has a bright red colour on the shoulder, and on some on the face and fins. The males are a little larger and have extended dorsal and anal fins. If you are unsure by their external appearance, you can always vent them. Females will have a larger genital papilla than their male counterparts. They are smaller than the Green Severum, growing to 8 inches. You will find that the severums are mildly aggressive, except when spawning.

I have had my pair in a 55 gallon tank with four or five large artificial plants, plus several pieces of slate laying on the aquarium floor behind the plants. There are also a couple of large pieces of slate propped up against the glass. The aquarium was also filtered by an outside filter with a sponge over the intake. These South American cichlids are comfy with a temperature between 72 and 84 degrees fahrenheit. I had set my temperature to 78 degrees fahrenheit for spawning. The PH range is between 6 and 7.5.

While I was conditioning the fish, I gave them a large variety of live and frozen foods, such as: blood worms, red worms, meal worms, krill, brine shrimp and flake. They also love lettuce and peas.

When the pair decided to spawn, they chose the site behind the plants, and laid their eggs on the slate at the base of the plants. The fry hatched in about three to four days, and they were first fed liquid fry for a few days once they were free-swimming. They were then fed brine shrimp and crushed flake after that.



## Auction Etiquette

By Heather Krawchuk

With our October 21<sup>st</sup> Auction fast approaching, I thought it would be helpful to review the rules and regulations of the auction, as well as some helpful hints for buyers and sellers.



It is not necessary to be a member of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society in order to buy and/or sell items at this auction.



Since this is a cash auction, items must be paid for as they are won – if you are the winning bidder on a \$2 bag of fish, please have a toonie ready to give to the person delivering your fish, etc...



Any fish or fish-related items may be auctioned, provided that living aquatics and plants are healthy and equipment is in good working order. Please note that the S.C.A.A.S reserves the right to refuse items if they are not appropriate for the auction.



Any aquatics being sold need to be in bags or containers that are leak-proof. In case of accidents, please bring extra bags. Bags should not be zip-locked or twist-tied and should provide an unobstructed view of the fish (i.e – no bags with writing from a pet store).



In order to avoid confusion and to get top dollar for your items, please clearly label bags with the name of the aquatic being sold, the quantity in the bag, the sex (if possible) and the condition of the item. If you are selling baby fish, a good idea is to find and attach a picture of the adult specimen so that bidders know what to expect of the mature fish.



Some people choose to attach a “minimum bid” to their items. Please keep in mind that this can sometimes deter bidders and if nobody is interested in the item for the price you have chosen, it will not be sold.



If you are selling items, please arrive at the auction between 8:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. to receive your seller and lot numbers. Bag labels will be provided for you that contain your information and you will need time to fill them in and place them on your items. You must be present in order to register items.



The seller of an item retains 70% of the selling price, while The S.C.A.A.S retains 30%. Payment to the seller is made after the auction, or, if pre-arranged, by mail. Payment will only be given to the registered seller. All items must be sold and processed before a seller can receive their payment. Checkouts are not possible during the auctioning of the last two tables due to volume.

**\*\*For a complete list of rules and to pre-print forms for convenience and to save time, please visit our website – [www.scaas.info](http://www.scaas.info) – and look under the “Forms & Guidelines” section.**

## Breeding the Ancistrus sp. Plecostomus

Article and Photos By Joe Krawchuk



The Ancistrus species of pleco is more commonly known as the bristlenose or bushynose pleco. These plecocs have become extremely popular in the fish world due to their relatively small size and their ability to live ten or more years in the home aquarium.

The bristlenose pleco originated in South America with most coming from Guiana and Suriname. I have found that these plecocs are not very demanding in terms of water conditions and can tolerate a wide array of water parameters. I have had the most success with my plecocs in soft acidic water with a temperature ranging from 76-80 degrees.

The bristlenose pleco is mainly an herbivore and is an excellent algae eater. While most of my aquariums contain some form of algae, it is not enough to keep these plecocs satiated and therefore I must supplement their diet. I use a combination of parboiled zucchini and cucumber as well as French-cut green beans. For some reason my plecocs will only eat the latter from a can; any other type of bean offered is not consumed. They also are fed using algae wafers made by Hikari and, of course, Critter Crumbs© made by our very own Pam Danyluck. Despite what many believe, bristlenose plecocs need a small amount of meat protein in their diet. Once a week I offer all of my plecocs frozen bloodworms or beef heart. I find that using frozen bloodworms really helps to condition them for breeding.

I have my plecocs in tanks ranging from ten gallons all the way up to my seventy-five gallon planted tank. I am most successful breeding plecocs in ten gallon tanks. A ten gallon tank can house a single pair of these plecocs comfortably. As with most plecocs, the bristlenose pleco is a cave spawner and therefore needs some sort of cave to spawn in. I have used everything from PVC pipes, coconut shells, sea shells, slate caves, and clay pots as caves, but have been most successful with the slate caves that can be made out of slate tiles. I have recently been using pieces of driftwood that I have drilled a 1 1/8" hole into. I usually make this hole around 6 inches deep. For some reason plecocs really like using these as caves and I have been very successful with them. Just remember that the cave can only have one entrance.



It should be very easy to get plecos to spawn provided they are fed on a varied diet including vegetables, Hikari wafers, Critter Crumbs©, and frozen bloodworms. Feeding them these high quality foods is what is known as conditioning. After around 2-3 weeks of this feeding regime, both the male and female pleco will be in breeding condition. I can always tell when my pair is ready to spawn because the male will be in the cave fanning his tail trying to attract a female. I also find it helpful to do a 25% water change using water that comes strictly from the cold water tap. This cooler water simulates the rainy season and acts as a trigger for spawning plecos.

I haven't actually seen a pair of my plecos spawning, but a good indication that a spawn has taken place is when the male can be seen fanning rapidly in the cave. A typical spawn results in anywhere from fifty to one hundred eggs. The male guards the cave and fans fresh water over the eggs for around ten days. At this point the eggs hatch and the newly hatched plecos are nothing more than an egg with a tail. It takes another five to ten days for the baby plecos to absorb their egg sac. At this time, the baby plecos will need to be fed. Although the bristlenose pleco is mainly an herbivore, the baby plecos will greedily devour newly hatched brine shrimp for up to a month after absorbing their yolk sac. Most of my male plecos let the fry out of the cave around fifteen days after their yolk sacs have been absorbed. I have one male who keeps them in the cave for nearly a month!

Once the fry are out of the cave they are just miniature versions of their parents. They are little eating machines and produce a lot of waste! Frequent small water changes are a must to keep waste levels down. When the fry have been out of the cave for approximately a month, I can safely transfer them to grow-out tanks or spread them out amongst my other aquariums. In four to five months they are big enough to sell at auctions and they are sexually mature at eleven to twelve months of age.

All in all, these plecos make great additions to almost any tank. They are very hearty and very peaceful, which makes them great for community tanks. They are herbivores, but are safe for planted tanks as they mainly eat algae and do not harm plants. Breeding them is not difficult once you have the right caves and the fish are given a proper diet. Next time you see these fish at an auction you may just be tempted to purchase them!

## A Message About C.A.R.E.S

By Pam Danyluck

Some of you may or may not know that our club is a member of C.A.R.E.S:

Conservation  
Awareness  
Conservation  
Recognition  
Encouragement  
Support

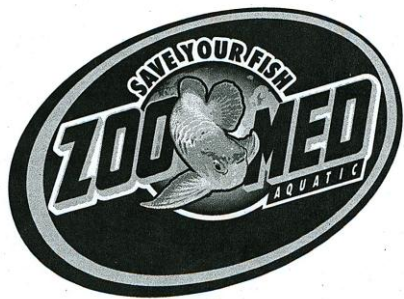
Members set aside one tank to house an at-risk species and hopefully breed more of these fish. You will receive a certificate and then as you progress through the program you will be awarded seals for:

- ~Dedicating a tank.
- ~Sharing fry with another club member who registers them in the program.
- ~Sharing fry with a member from another club who registers them in the program.

Anyone wishing to become a C.A.R.E.S. can contact:  
Heather Krawchuk, Bob Hayslip or Pam Danyluck

Watch our evening auctions as there are sometimes at-risk fish available for sale.

For more info, check out the official C.A.R.E.S website:  
<http://www.carespreservation.com/awards.html>



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## Breeding *Neolamprologus Pulcher* - The Daffodil Cichlid

Article and Photo By Joe Krawchuk



The Daffodil Cichlid caught my eye as a possible fish to keep due in part to its wonderful colors and long fins. Not only is it very attractive, but it is quite hardy and, in my opinion, this would make it an ideal candidate for almost any aquarist to keep. After reading an article about this fish online, I instantly knew that I wanted to try to keep and breed these fish. I quickly started calling all of the pet stores in my area trying to find them, but sadly I could not find them. I talked to Tom Hillier and asked him to keep his eye open for them and if he saw them anywhere to pick me up some juvenile fish or a pair of adult fish. About a month later while on one of his great fish adventures with Ken Brady, Tom found me a pair of adult daffodils! Sadly, both the male and female had some fin damage, but overall their health seemed to be good.

Before continuing with my story here is a little bit of background information on these fish: The Daffodil Cichlid was first described by Trewavas and Poll in 1952. These fish are common to Lake Tanganyika and are found most abundantly in the southern part of the lake. They populate the rocky coastlines and swim in large schools, but will form monogamous pairs to spawn in caves. They feed on swarms of plankton travelling in the lake water, along with microorganisms such as small crustaceans and invertebrates.

The Daffodil Cichlid is a beautiful fish and has a very pleasing coloration. They have a light-colored tan body, washed with hints of yellow and bluish purple spots. The yellow is stronger along the upper portion of the body and onto the dorsal fin, and around the base of the pectoral fin. There are two vertical crescent-shaped bars just behind the eye, highlighted with a bit of blue. The dorsal fin is lyre shaped and they develop long, flowing filaments on all unpaired fins. The fins are tipped with an icy blue. The feature that I find most fascinating is that they have brilliant blue eyes. I have also come to understand that the more brilliant the blue within the eye, the healthier the fish is. When I first obtained my pair, neither fish had the brilliant blue eyes I had read about and seen in pictures. Over time and with the proper care and diet, my fish developed the striking blue coloration within their eyes.

Daffodil Cichlids are omnivorous and will greedily eat all kinds of live, fresh, and flake foods. In the wild they will feed on swarms of plankton along with microorganisms such as small crustaceans and invertebrates. To keep a good balance I gave my fish a high quality flake food or pellet every day and supplement these flakes with frozen brine shrimp and bloodworms. I housed my Daffodils in a thirty gallon species-only tank. The tank was filtered by an aquaclear seventy hang

on the back filter and two large sponge filters. The substrate I used was fine sand and I evenly distributed a mixture of small shell along the bottom of the tank. This helped to increase the overall hardness of the water.

I also used a lot of slate and various rocks to make caves and crevices where the fish could seek shelter and hopefully breed. I heard that these fish would not harm plants so I planted some Amazon sword plants and some Saggitaria. I also read that they do not like a lot of light and therefore I used duckweed as a floating plant to help cut down on the amount of light entering the tank.

These fish are difficult to sex. However, I knew I had a male and a female because the male had a larger body than the females. I also noticed that the male had a slightly larger forehead. Though it is hard to tell, I read that the male also has longer and more pointed dorsal and anal fins (both my male and female had these pointed dorsal and anal fins).

It wasn't long after having these fish that I noticed the male and female constantly guarding a cave made out of an upside down clay pot. I assumed she had laid some eggs under the pot and my assumption was right because several days later there were quite a few free-swimming fry. It is quite interesting how the parents guarded the fry even though there were no other fish in the tank. The fry were fed newly hatched brine shrimp and Hikari first bites and grew quite quickly. After four weeks the fry were swimming around the entire tank, foraging for their own food. It was at this point I noticed that the male and female had spawned again.

I was worried that the first batch of babies were going to be killed by the parents, but I read somewhere that these cichlids formed nuclear families and that multiple generations can be left in the same tank. This was in fact true and it was fascinating to watch the babies from the first spawn protecting the newly hatched fry. I did, however, notice that as the males in the first batch of fry started to develop, fighting for territories began to break out. At this time most of the larger fish were netted and sold at the larger auctions in Hamilton and Brantford.

If you are looking to try your luck with cichlids, I would strongly suggest trying to keep Daffodils. Not only are they easy to breed, but they have stunning colours and are active swimmers, which make them one of the more attractive cichlids, in my opinion. With a proper setup these fish are very prolific and will provide you with a lot of joy when raising them!

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# Let's Have A Little Fun!

Each month, I'll try to include some fun fish-related trivia.  
Record your guesses and see next month's edition of the SCAT for answers!  
This month's questions courtesy of [www.funtrivia.com](http://www.funtrivia.com).

1. "Shelldwellers", the "desktop cichlids", are miniature cichlids that defend a small territory based on an empty snail shell in Africa's:

- Lake Nyasa.
- Lake Victoria.
- Lake Tanganyika.
- Lake Malawi.

2. The phrase "balanced aquarium" is about a hundred and fifty years old. It refers to the balance:

- between carbon dioxide and oxygen production.
- of fish species in a harmonious community.
- of the nitrogen cycle.
- between carnivores and herbivores.

3. The world's first public aquarium opened in 1853, prominently located in:

- Paris.
- Hamburg.
- New York.
- London.

4. The sensitive "feelers" of Pearl Gouramis and Three-Spot or Blue Gouramis, and of Dwarf Gouramis too, are actually highly developed:

- pectoral fins.
- opercular fins.
- caudal fins.
- ventral fins.

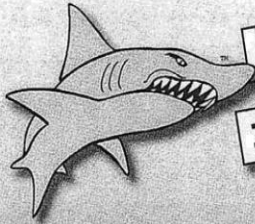
5. If you maintained separate "species" aquariums for each genuine species of fish scientifically described (freshwater and in seas), how many tanks would you need?

- Just over 12,000.
- About 26,000.
- About 7 or 8000.
- More than 90,000 aquariums



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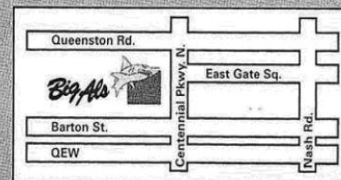
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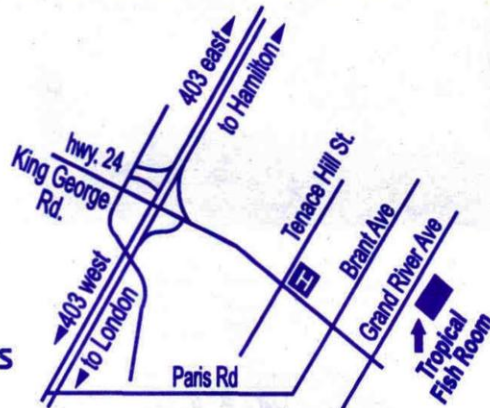
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