

The Official Publication of the St.Catharines & Area Aquarium Society since 1958

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The

SCAT

In This Issue :
Annual Show Classes
Pterophyllum leopoldi
Scanning the Exchanges
Breeding Jack Dempsey Cichlids

scaas.info

Club Notes

Our Mission Statement: Meetings of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society are held on the first Monday of each month, 7.30 p.m., at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union Hall, 70 St. Davids Rd. E. Thorold, ON. 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) <http://www.caoac.ca> .SCAAS is also a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS) <http://www.faas.info/> .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 September 13 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 presented by Jerry Draper on Showing Fish**

2009 – 2010 Executive

President – Tom Hillier - - - (905) 227-5008 tom.hillier@hotmail.com
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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 Desjardini Tang
Photo © by DAVE Unruh

Next Month :
Product Review
Marineland's
new LED light strip



President's Address

Hope everyone had a great summer and are ready for fall and all it entails. There are lots of upcoming auctions scheduled including our own; these will be announced at each meeting and in the newsletter.

I would like to officially thank Ken for filling the position of President for the last few years. Not sure if all of you know this, but Ken stepped in when no one else was willing to take on that position when it was vacated a few years back. Thanks to Ken our club was able to continue and grow. On behalf of the club we thank you Ken!!

We are starting off the year with a program on showing fish by Jerry Draper, who will be one of the judges at our upcoming auction.

Our annual auction is on October 31 of this year. Every year we have lots of volunteers from other clubs but not so much from ours. The funds raised here help us pay for the speakers we have for our meetings and other costs the club incurs. We would like to continue to bring in speakers as much as possible, but we need more of our own members volunteering to help this fund raiser be a success and continue to be successful in future years. In this newsletter you will see a list of the volunteer positions still available. This list will be posted at our September meeting for you to sign up.

We are also holding a show which the club has not done in a few years. The show needs sponsors from within the club as well as from other outside sources. This list is also in the newsletter, online and will be posted at September's meeting. Cost of a class is \$30 for regular classes. Best in show \$100 and the 5 other specialty classes are \$75 for each.

Executive meetings are open to all members, so please come out and share any ideas you have for the club. If you can not make a meeting then contact one of the executive and they can bring it up at the next meeting.

As president I would like to see more involvement not only in the annual auction and show, but in regular club activities such as the jar show each month, the Breeding and Horticultural Award programs. It is easy to do! Do you need help keeping or breeding a certain fish or growing plants? Are you new to keeping fish, and need help? We have lots of experienced members that would be willing to give advice to help you. Looking for a certain fish? We may have a member who breeds the kind of fish you are looking for. Just let us know and we can point you in the right direction.

Let's have a good productive year.

Tom Hillier

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Jack Dempsey - Rocio octofasciata

(formerly *Nandopsis octofasciatum*
or *Cichlasoma octofasciatum*)

by Dave Furness

Earlier this year I purchased six Jack Dempsey's, an old hobby favourite, and placed them in a 100 gallon cichlid community tank. These cichlids are native to Mexico and Honduras and found in slow moving waters.

The Jack Dempsey's, that can grow to about ten inches , prefer waters with a PH of between 7-8, and a water hardness of 9-20dgh , with a temperature range between 72-86 degrees F.



photo by Dave Furness

I have been feeding these fish small trout worms, insects, flake food, grindal worms, and frozen foods.

Despite the over crowded tank, the largest and more dominate male Jack Dempsey and the most dominate female paired off and selected an area to breed. They chose a cave with a couple of large artificial plants in front of it. You could tell that something was

going on, for the male didn't wonder too far away from the cave, and the female with it's darkened colours would dash in and out of the cave to grab some of the food that was offered. My Jack Dempsey's were still quite young, so their fry only numbered around 100.



photo by Dave Furness

Being in a heavily populated tank, I decided to remove most of the fry and placed them in a small tank along with the water from the spawning tank. For the first four days I fed them some liquid fry or some very fine dried food, then moved them on to micro worms. I then started moving them to a larger tank as they grew, and continued to feed them micro worms and flake foods. They started to grow more quickly when I introduced some mosquito larva from an outside pond. It seems like a short period of time since they were born and had grown to half the size of the adults. They are now in new homes, and I am now taking care of a couple from another spawn.



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SCANNING THE EXCHANGES & etc.

with Pat and Tom



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

► ... in the Tropical Fish Club of Erie County's newsletter 'Some Things Fishy'

June 2010

*Top 20 Suspects in Mysterious Fish Deaths

*BAP report – Rasbora borapatensis

*Cherry Barb

August 2010

*BAP report – Blue Lobster

BAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS presented at the June meeting

Tom Hillier was awarded the Bernie Blondin Memorial Breeding award

Congratulations!

Tom Bridges

BAP Chair

JAR SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

will be on display at the jar show table at each meeting

Members!

Fish bags (10x20, 8x16 and 8x10) are available for sale at the library in packages of 25 for \$3.75 per pkg.



S.C.A.A.S. MEMBERS!

Membership fees are due at this (September) meeting



UPCOMING EVENTS in 2010

September 18 Sarnia Aquarium Society Show & Auction

September 19, CAOAC meetings as above

September 26, London Aquaria Society Show & Auction

October 3, Hamilton & District Aquarium Society Show & Auction

October 17, CAOAC meetings as above

October 24, Kitchener/Waterloo Aquarium Society Show & Auction

October 31, St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society Show & Auction

November 7, Peel Regional Aquarium Society Auction only

November 21, CAOAC meetings as above

December 12, CAOAC meetings as above with a Christmas pot luck lunch following the executive meeting. Membership and insurance applications are due, as well as Author and Advanced Author applications.

The Exchange newsletters will be in the club library at the meeting.

Show Classes and Sponsors

for Annual show & Auction Oct 312010

Best in Show \$100

5 Other speciality classes \$75

Classes 1 - 34 \$30 sponsorship

1. Angels & Discus - **Tom & Pat Bridges**
2. Dwarf Cichlids (Not Rift Lake) Less than 4" S.L.
- Hydraserv Limited Owner - **John Verhage**
3. Larger Cichlids - (Not Rift Lake)
4. Rift Lake Cichlids - mouthbrooders
5. Rift Lake Cichlids - substrate
- **Tom, Brenda and Jennifer Hillier**

6. Corydoras type Catfish -
- 7 Suckermouth Catfish -
8. Catfish - - Any Other Variety (AOV)
9. Sharks & Loaches -
10. Betta Splendens - (Male)
11. Betta Splendens - (Female)

12. Anabantid -
- Any Other Variety (AOV)13. Swordtails -
(any Xiphophorus)

14. Platies -

15. Mollies -

16. Guppies -
(Male)

17. Guppies -
(Female)

18. Livebearer – Any Other Variety (AOV)
Critter Crumbs by Pamela(jo) Danyluck

19. Barbs -

20. Minnows, Danios & Rasboras

- 21. Tetras - **Ken Brady**
(Characins)

22. Killifish -

23. Rainbowfish -

24. Goldfish & Koi -

25. Marine & Brackish Fish -

26. Livebearers – Family Class - **Bruce Hallet**

27. Egglayers -
Family Class parents + 10 or more fry less than 2 months old

28. Aquatic Plants

39. Aquatic & Amphibious animals

30. Tank or Bowl Beautiful

31. Junior Livebearer - **Bob and Noel Wright**

32. Junior Egglayer

33. Novelty

34. Photographs – Prints only- **DAve Unruh**

Best Cichlid -

If we have our show sanctioned by the ACA they will provide a best

Cichlid award. We are contacting them to see if they will sanction our show

Best of Show - **Jerry Draper Tropical Fish Room**

Best Egglayer - **Big Als**

**140 Centennial Parkway North
Hamilton**

Best Livebearer - **Big Als**

**140 Centennial Parkway North
Hamilton**

Best Catfish -

Individual High Aggregate -

Club High Aggregate -

If you would like to help our club by sponsoring a class please contact Tom Hillier at (905) 227-5008 or tom.hillier@hotmail.com



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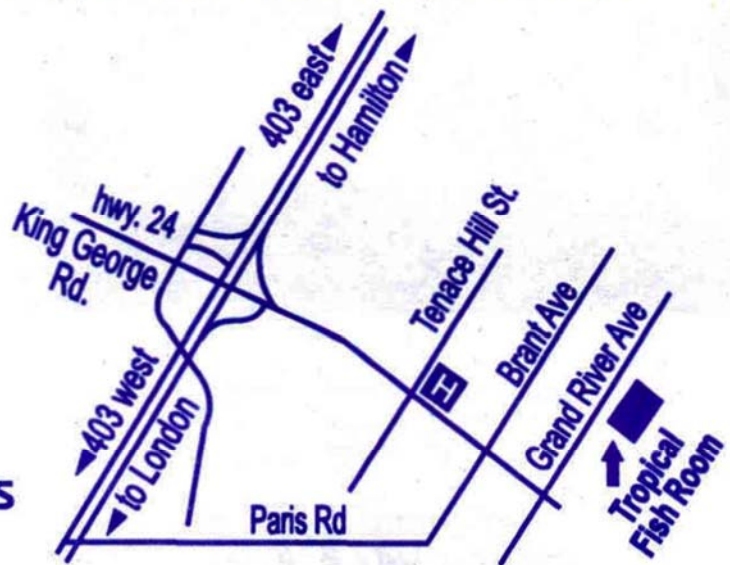
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Pterophyllum Leopoldi

by DAVE UNRUH

I had been looking for this fish for some time so when a good friend offered me 4 wild caught fish. I jumped at the offer. If you are not familiar with this fish it is quite difficult to find and very expensive, especially wild caught fish. Wild ones often have parasites, so getting ones that were in captivity for over a year was a definite bonus.

According to Axelrod (Lexicon of Cichlids) this fish is found throughout the Amazon River system. He states that “this fish is found in every river system in which other angelfishes are found” Axelrod goes on to claim that it is the most common angelfish found in the wild, but it is rarely imported because wild type angelfishes are not in fashion. This may be true, but in my eyes the wild types are much more appealing than the colors that are bred by the thousands.



The four fish were placed by themselves in a 40 gallon tank (30 x 17 x 16h) The tank was planted with lots of java fern, Italian vallisneria, a few Cryptocoryne nurii and some water sprite (*Ceratopteris thalictroides*), both planted &

floating forms. The angels seemed to appreciate the cover from the floating plants. The tank is lit by fluorescent tubes, but is fairly dark from the floating water sprite and some of the water is filtered through peat to help soften the water. I also placed in the tank an upside down clay flower pot and a piece of tile.



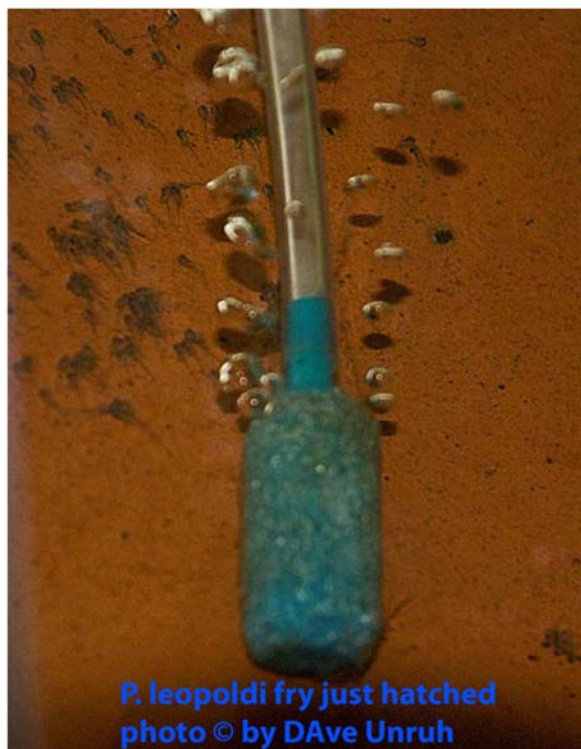
The leopoldi were fairly shy, something I did not expect from fish that had been in captivity for over a year. Perhaps some dither fish would have helped, but I did not want any complications from other fish, and I hoped to allow the fish to raise their spawns in the tank.

They were fed Tetra color bits as the main food – they eagerly went after this food. I also fed them a good quality flake food as well as frozen bloodworms & brine shrimp.

The water temperature was kept at 28°C. and pH at 6.8. I used 50% tap water & reverse osmosis water filtered with peat. TDS (total dissolved solids) were at 80ppm. The fish got along well for the most part, but one of the four died, possibly from fighting, although I never saw any real aggression.

When spring came I began to feed them live daphnia every morning, and sometimes twice a day. This food appeared to be the stimulus they needed as two of the fish began chasing the third fish back to one corner of the tank. One morning, shortly after this behavior started, I found that the tile had been covered with eggs. There were not a lot of eggs, about a hundred. I was uncertain what was the best course, to leave the eggs or remove them. I prefer to leave the eggs with the parents and that was what I did in the end. It proved to be the wrong choice as the eggs disappeared before hatching.

A week later they spawned again and this time I was ready with a small tank to artificially hatch the eggs. They had laid their eggs on the tile so it was easy to take the eggs from them & put the slate in the two gallon tank I had prepared with water from the spawning tank. I propped the slate up in a almost vertical position and placed an airstone nearby to create water movement over the eggs. I also added acriflavine to the



tank as an antifungal agent. I found in the past that this works better than methylene blue to keep eggs from fungusing. After three days the eggs hatched with minimal loss. Another 4 days and the fry were free swimming. They were quite small so I decided to feed two kinds of food as

the first food. I used cultured phytoplankton as well as newly hatched baby brine shrimp. The fry grew slowly, but steadily. After a week of this shotgun approach I fed only newly hatched baby brine shrimp. It was important to use newly hatched brine shrimp as this is when they are the smallest and have the most nutrition. I also did daily 50% water changes while siphoning any detritus from the bottom of the tank.

Despite this there were loses. I estimated that I started out with about 110 eggs. A week after hatching there were probably 70 fry. Three weeks later there were only 50 fry. After 4 months there were 45 from the first successful hatching. When the fry were about three weeks old I removed them to a five gallon tank with a well used foam filter. They spent the next four weeks here and then were moved to a ten gallon tank to give more room for growing.



Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the parents had spawned steadily since I took away the second spawn. I tried leaving the spawn with them & they raised two spawns up to 2 weeks old. Then the fry would slowly disappear. I raised another two spawns by removing the eggs and hatching in a small tank.

The parents stopped spawning within three months, and have not spawned since then. They may have a short spawning cycle but that is not normal for angelfish. Perhaps this is normal for this species, or maybe it is just the pair I have.



P. leopoldi 4 months old
photo © by DAve Unruh



P. leopoldi at 5 months old
photo © by DAve Unruh

Maybe the first generation that is tank raised will behave different once they are old enough to spawn.

I was not able to sex the adults, although at times one seemed to be thicker than the other two. They all have beautiful long ventral fins and extensions on the top and bottom of the caudal

fin. Their offspring are not at all shy and are always looking for food. They are not fussy eaters and willing to eat just about any foods I give them.

I have kept some of the fry to see if this first generation are easier to spawn than the wild adults.

Please note that after Sept. meeting we will be having a Show and Auction meeting. Then on Monday September 20, @ 7:00 there will be an executive meeting.

Show & Auction Chairman - Tom Hillier

Judges

Charlie Drew
Jerry Draper

Apprentice Judges

Ron Bishop
Carl Baumgarten

Auctioneers

Bob Wright
Jim Chalmers
Brian Glazier

Treasurer

Wally Ebert

Show Coordinators

DAve Unruh
Tom Bridges

Auction Coordinator

John Verhage

Auction Registration

1. Pam Danyluck
2.

Computer Coordinator

Ken Brady

Chits

Pat Bridges
Pricilla Heus

Chit Entry

Ken Brady
Pam Danyluck

Food Committee

Shawn Markowski
Shirley Markowski

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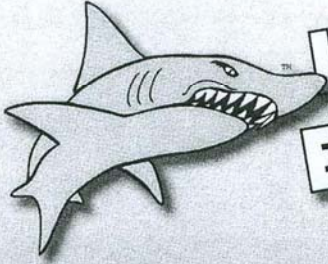
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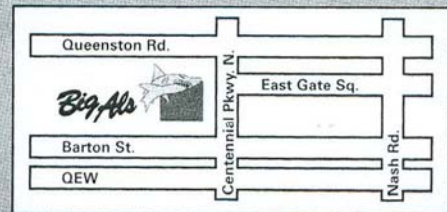
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