

The SCAT



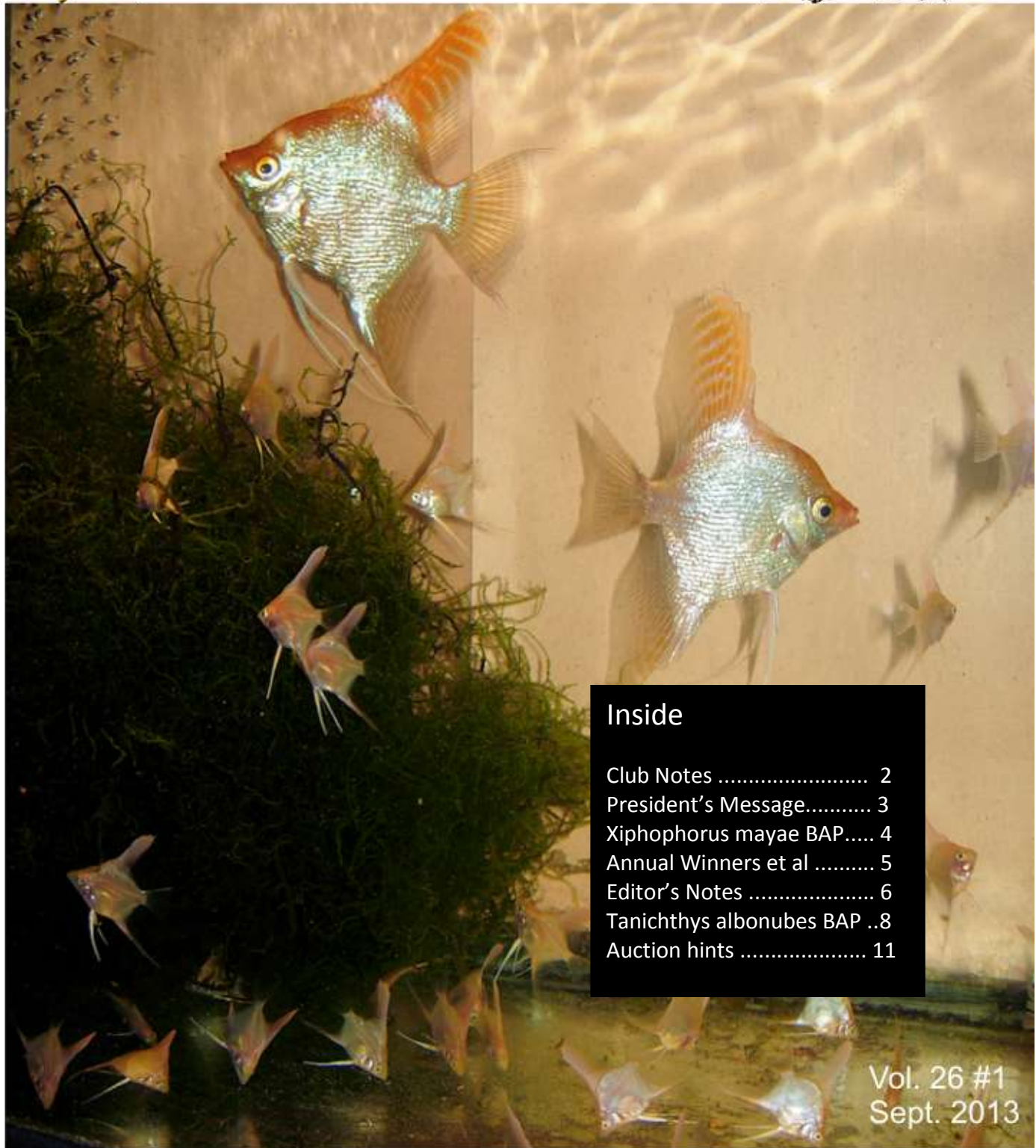
The official publication of

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



Member of the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs (C.A.O.A.C.)

Serving the Hobby in the Niagara Peninsula since 1958



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Vol. 26 #1
Sept. 2013

Club Notes



- ▶ Meetings of The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, (S.C.A.A.S.), are held on the first Monday of each month at the Seafarers' and Teamsters' Union Hall, 70 St. David St. E., Thorold, ON. If the first Monday falls on a holiday, the meetings are held on the second Monday.
- ▶ There are no meetings in July and August.
- ▶ The society, established in 1958, is a non-profit educational organization, dedicated to the task of promoting interest in the breeding, raising, maintenance and study of tropical fish, both at the beginner and more advanced levels.
- ▶ S.C.A.A.S. is a charter member of the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs Inc., (C.A.O.A.C.), www.caoac.ca and a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies, (F.A.A.S.), www.faas.info
- ▶ More news and information about S.C.A.A.S. can be found at our web site www.scaas.info and check us out on the new S.C.A.A.S. page at Facebook.com, thanks to Paul Paradis.

The next meeting is September 9th. The guest speaker will be Jeff Mountjoy from Martin Mills. His presentation is "Fish Food for Thought". It covers fish food ingredients, formulation, and things to think about when feeding fish. At the break, and after the auction, Jeff will be available to answer questions about Martin Mills fish food products.

Committees

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

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

Auction Coordinator
Tom Bridges – see above

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

Newsletter
Position open

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

Membership
Pat Bridges – see Tom above

Refreshments
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srogers33@cogeco.ca

Library
G.O.

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Treasurer: Roman Haljkevic
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(905) 227-7968

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

Membership Fees

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

Upcoming Events

- September 14** Sarnia Auction
- September 15** CAOAC meetings
- September 21** Hamilton Auction
- September 29** London Show & Auction
- October 20** CAOAC meetings
- October 27** Kitchener Show & Auction
- November 2** Tropical Fish club of Erie County Auction
- November 3** Peel Region Auction
- November 10** St Catharines Auction

☆
...for more dates go to www.caoac.ca
and click on 'Calendar'.

Fish of the Month

- September** Corys & Catfish
- October** Barbs & Tetras
- November** Rift Lake Cichlids
- December** Swords, Platies, Mollies
- January** Anabantids
- February** Loaches & Sharks
- March** Plants
- April** Angels & Discus
- May** Dwarf Cichlids
- June** Goldfish & Koi

ADVERTISING in 'The SCAT'

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

**S.C.A.A.S. ANNUAL AUCTION
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2013 . . .**

WORDS from Paul . . .

I would like to introduce myself. I am Paul Paradis and I am the new president of the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society. I would first like to say that I hope everybody had a wonderful and safe summer. Welcome everyone to the 2013-2014 season of the club. I hope to make this year enjoyable for everyone.

The Jar Show is a very fun part of our meetings. So bring out your prize fish and show them off. Hopefully everybody's fish have been breeding, so that we have a lot of items for the monthly auctions.

Please buy some raffle tickets this year to help support the club. 1 dollar each ticket or you can get 6 tickets for 5 dollars, for your chance to win some great prizes.

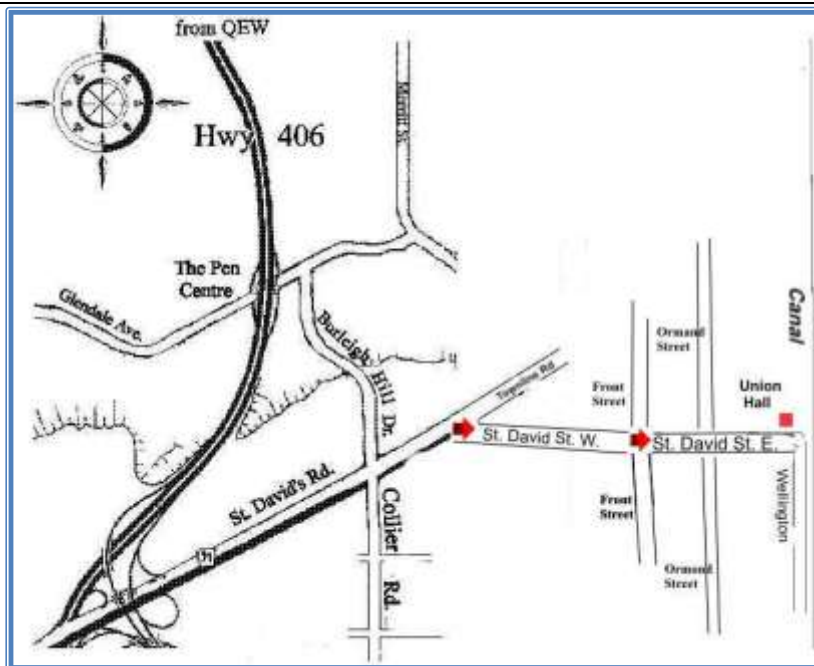
We will have some great speakers coming in this year. This month's speaker is Jeff Mountjoy. His presentation is "Fish Food for Thought". He will talk about fish food ingredients, formulation and things to think about when feeding fish.

I would like to thank Tom and Pat Bridges for filling in this month for 'The SCAT' newsletter. We are still looking for someone that is interested in doing this each month for the club.

Last but not least let's make this year great and have lots of fun.



Thanks, Paul Paradis – President



Above is a revised map of our meeting place.



The photo on the right, is the 30 gallon hexagonal aquarium in the children's section of The St. Catharines Public Library. It's quite popular with the children and we're often asked questions when we're doing the cleaning and water changes. Several gold and black angel fish, two bristle-nosed plecostomus, (they spawn once in a while), and a small school of cherry barbs occupy the space, along with Java and Windelov ferns and Anubius plants.

The Bridges



THE AUCTIONS ARE COMING! ...

6 Mother May I^{9*}

Breeding a Wild Swordtail

By Tom & Pat Bridges



Xiphophorus mayae, (xiphos = dagger and phoros = bearer *in Greek*), is a large attractive Swordtail species native to the Central American countries of Guatemala and Honduras. These fish have only been in our hobby



for about 10 years and, not surprisingly, they have generated great enthusiasm among livebearer specialists, especially those who collect and breed wild Swordtails. (There are actually a lot of species that almost never appear in local fish store tanks.)

Although you couldn't prove it by our specimens, given the right conditions and proper feeding, X. mayae have been reported to grow to over 5 inches, 13 cm (SL). Their bodies are sturdy and deep, with multiple horizontal red stripes and longer than average 'sword' extensions. If they weren't rather shy, (perhaps why they were overlooked for so long), they would be just about perfect.

Those tail extensions found in Swordtail type fish are a bit of a mystery as to their purpose. The males don't actually duel with them and they don't seem to be good for cutting stuff. Some evidence suggests that they may impress the females of the species. Apparently, female Swordtails will more readily mate with males that appear to be larger because of longer swords – a case where size does matter, I guess.

Our bag of mayae came from an attempt to get the bid up to something reasonable at one of our club auctions. (This has happened more than once.) When we got them back to our fish room I noticed that we had a smallish tank with a couple of box filters and some Java Moss available, (empty). I placed them in it 'temporarily'. Being shy they effectively disappeared and 'temporary' became more or less 'permanent'.

What caught my attention, eventually, was some fry swimming near the surface when I lifted the lid to feed the tank. Obviously, maturity had happened and nature had taken its course, albeit at much less than optimum size. Our adults were only about 2.5 inches, (6 cm) in length.

They don't seem to be rabid baby eaters but serious breeders do take gravid females out of the breeder tank and put them in traps or, at least, tanks with lots of leafy hiding places for the fry.



In spite of my poor efforts we now have sufficient young mayae to claim our 5 breeder points but not nearly enough to brag about. If not allowed to dine on them, large females can produce 30 or more young at a pop. To be sure, ***a large, well planted tank of these, 'largest of all Swordtails so far discovered', would be an impressive sight.***

Just in case you're interested, the following is a list of some of the wild Swordtails bred by hobbyists in CAOAC clubs over the years: Xiphophorus birchmanni, clemenciae, cortezi, couchianus, evelynae, gordonii, helleri, horus, malinche, mayae, meyeri, milleri, montezumae, multilineatus, nezahualcoyotl, nigrensis, pygmaeus, signum. I've left out the Platies – swordless Xiphophorus, (bit strange), but without them we probably never would have had the beautiful Red helleri hybrid.

THE AUCTIONS ARE COMING!



The annual club auctions are about to begin...
check out the inside of the cover to see the list of 'Upcomings'.

As well as annual auctions, each month's club auction provides another opportunity to buy and/or sell your fish, aquatic plants and other aquarium related needs and/or accessories.

Bag your fish with care – correct bags, with 1/3 CLEAN water, 2/3 air. Identify your items clearly, (either with a label or permanent marker), and take along a spare bag or two in case of leaks. Hey, that sounds like a *great* idea!



**MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE AT
THE SEPTEMBER MEETING!!**



SEE YOU THERE!

**S.C.A.A.S. MEETING DATES
FROM SEPTEMBER 2013 to JUNE 2014**

2013 – September 9, October 7, November 4, December 2

2014 – January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2

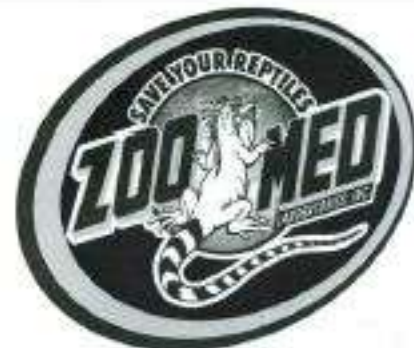
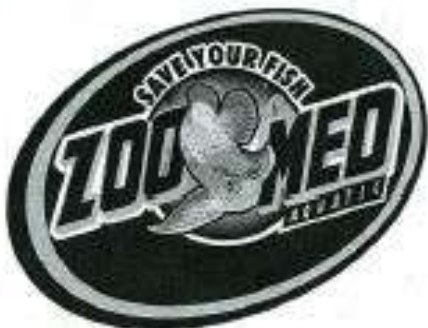
S.C.A.A.S.!
YES!

**S.C.A.A.S. WINNERS
FOR THE CLUB
YEAR 2012-2013**

JAR SHOW CHAMPION
Joe Krawchuk

**BERNIE BLONDIN
MEMORIAL
BREEDERS AWARD**
Dave Furness

**DAVE UNRUH
MEMORIAL AQUATIC
HORTICULTURAL
AWARD**
Tom Hillier
Congratulations!



Notes from a very temporary editor . . .

I'd be remiss if I didn't hand out a few verbal bouquets when I have the chance. First I'd like to welcome Paul Paradis to the position of club president. Mr President, you have stepped up when needed and that makes you one of the most valuable members a club can have. The rest of us must now support and encourage you throughout the coming club year. Good luck and don't be shy about asking for help and/or guidance when needed. I believe that the greatest enjoyment and satisfaction from club membership comes from being actively involved in it, so get as many members involved as you can.

Secondly, I want to thank Tom Hillier, our past president, for all his work on behalf of the club over the past 4 years. He has seen us through successful fish shows and auctions with an infectious, irrepressible enthusiasm. With Tom it was "Damn the torpedoes .." and it made for an interesting ride. His promotion of our club to other fish societies and hobby related businesses has certainly helped our finances. Tom isn't going anywhere, (except occasionally to his beloved Maritimes), and he plans to continue to be our main 'Ways and Means' guy as well as helping with programs and speakers for our meetings. (Hey Tom, how about you doing a program about how to feed fish for maximum size?)

Lastly, I want to congratulate Claudia Carthew on becoming president of C.A.O.A.C., (Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs). If memory serves she is only the third member of SCAAS to hold that position. I wish her well and hope that C.A.O.A.C. will remain strong and vital for the future. It has served our hobby well in the past.

New year, new opportunities to have fun with our beautiful hobby. See you at the meeting.

Tom B.

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S.C.A.A.S. BREEDER'S REPORT

Tanichthys Albonubes
The White Cloud Mountain Minnow
by Dave Furness

This attractive 1.5 inch fish hails from China, within the streams draining the Bai Yun Shan. There are only three species of Tanichthys, the thacbaensis, micagemmae, and the albonubes. This fish is mostly dark brown on top. It has a greenish sheen on the side and white colouring on the belly. A dark line runs from the gill opening along the body.



The White cloud can stand a pH range of 6.0 to 8.0, and hardness values up to 14 degrees dH. The temperature range can be from 41 to 78 degrees F. These fish can live up to 3 years in an unheated aquarium, but only one year if kept at a temperature of 75 degrees F.

White clouds show their best colours if kept comfortable in a well planted tank and fed a variety of foods, such as small live foods, frozen, or any prepared foods.

You will find that these fish are continuous spawners. The females produce a small number of eggs every few days. They spawn first thing in the morning, and they are not avid egg eaters. When well fed, they will not eat their fry.

I bought six of them, and put them into my backyard pond. The pond was furnished with floating plants and several bulrushes. In June the temperature of the water fluctuated from 60 to 90 degrees F. I was afraid that I might lose them when the temperature reached 90 degrees, so I added cold water daily to try to keep the temperature more bearable for them. There is a good chance of losing a few if the temperature remains over 78 degrees F.

One day in June, I noticed about 200 fry of various sizes scattered in the pond. After a couple of weeks, I noticed fewer fry. I feel that most of the losses were from the high temperatures that we were having.

After doing some research, I discovered that the fry of different sizes will pick each other off, and will do so until they reach the age for spawning. The remaining fry ate crushed flakes, plus what they could find in the pond.

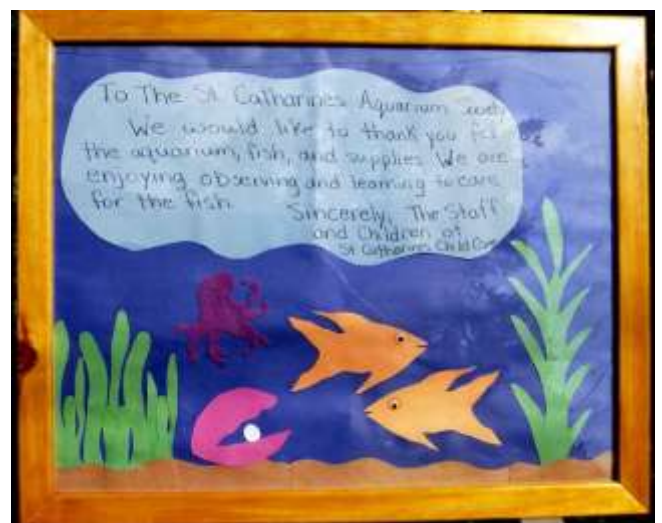


Here's a photo of the poster that the children and staff at St. Catharines Child Care made for the club in appreciation of members of the club helping them set up their aquarium.

Tom made and finished a frame for it and we hope to hang it in the club's meeting room.

Check it out on Monday.

Tom and Pat



“Wow!”



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AN AUCTION IS COMING !!! READ ON!



In order to get the most money for your items at any auction, check out the points below:



1. Make sure that the tanks that contain fish going to the auction have had a recent water change.
2. Don't feed the fish that are going to be auctioned for at least a day before the auction. The more they eat, the more they will poop ... messing up the water in the bag.
3. Don't wait until the last minute to bag your fish. Bag your fish early. Good bagging cannot be done in a rush. You need to make sure the water is clean and clear. You may need to pour the water through a net to get rid of some 'dirt', and it can't hurt to add a little aged or dechlorinated water to each bag.
4. Don't overcrowd your bags. Use your best judgement.
5. Some double bagging may be necessary for fish that might be vigorous enough to poke holes in the bag. Think about that first. You won't regret it.
6. Use only proper fish bags – **NO 'BAGGIES'; NO ZIP-LOCK BAGS; NO PET STORE BAGS WITH PRINTING ALREADY ON THEM.**
7. Make sure your bags are tight before securing them.
8. Use **ONLY** elastic bands or knots to secure your bags, **NO TWIST TIES, making sure that you follow the rule of 2/3 air and 1/3 water in each bag** (see illustration above). The fish should survive, and comfortably.
9. Keep the number of the same items to a limit of three bags. You'll likely get less money for any more bags of the same items.
10. Clearly mark your bags with permanent marker pen to include the correct name of the fish, the number of fish in the bag, and when possible, the sex of the fish.
11. Mark the bag clearly if there is a minimum bid.
12. Be prepared to take any unsold items home with you.
13. Once in a while, during the auction, check the remaining bags that you have on the tables to make sure the fish aren't in distress and that the bags aren't leaking.
14. Just in case of leaks, take a couple of extra fish bags with you.
15. Clearly mark the bag when items are donated.

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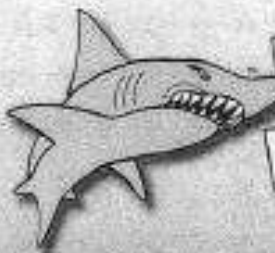
Cover Photo by Tom Bridges
Here's good evidence that Angelfish can be great parents when they take a mind to raise a family. Even the hand that feeds them may be ferociously attacked.



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