

The Official publication of The St. Catharines Aquarium Society since 1958
Volume 23 No.5 January 2010

The

SCAT



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Christmas Party photos

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, and 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 January 04 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 !

2009 – 2010 Executive

President – Ken Brady - - - (905) 935-4716 kbradv2@cogeco.ca
1st Vice President – John Verhage – (905) 735-7776 jverhage@on.aibn.com
2nd Vice President – Bruce Hallett - (905) 934-7138
Secretary – Claudia Carthew - (905) 684-0394 crarthew@yahoo.com
Treasurer – Wally Ebert - (905) 687-6907 leberty@cogeco.ca
Past President & Editor DAve Unruh (905) 684-9860 dunruh@cogeco.ca

2009 – 2010 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 – Pam Danyluck - danyluck@sympatico.ca &
- Tom Hillier - tom.hillier@hotmail.com
Press/publicity – Ken Brady - - (905) 935-4716 - kbradv2@cogeco.ca
Raffle & Draws – Priscilla Heus - (905) 988-9741
Refreshments –
Web Master - Ken Brady

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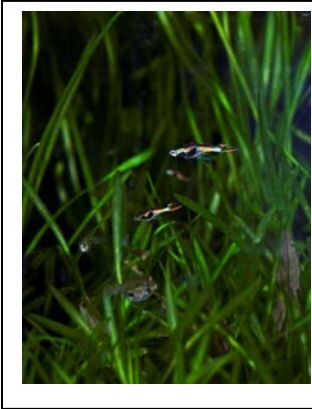
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Membership Dues:

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

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Cover photo of wild-caught Poecilia wingei (Endlers livebeares)
Photo © by DAve Unruh

The way I See It

President's message January 2010

Happy New Year!

Thanks for all the great food items at our December party. It was great. From meatballs to rum balls and everything in between *deeeelicious!*

Thanks for a very nice picture show from Mike Nielson.

Well it was a pretty busy fall season but now we are into the New Year and planning an even busier fall in 2010. SCAAS is back in the show business. Keep tuned in to the newsletters and the web and also pass on all your ideas. We need them. More importantly start fattening up the fish now so they will be ready to show and defeat the competition from our friendly competitors from other clubs. **YOU CAN DO IT!**

On a more serious note I wish to express my sympathy and sadness at the passing of Ron Wormald just prior to our December meeting. Ron and his wife Les have been very gracious and rewarding people to know. We will miss Ron's dry wit and genuine smiles.

Please Note: IN MEMORY OF RON WORMALD
Les Wormald and Family invite all the members of SCAAS to attend a Memorial Gathering at Heritage Hall, Beamsville Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd at Ontario St, Beamsville on January 23, 2010, between 1 and 5PM

This month's program is presented by Jerry Draper from Brantford on breeding fish. This will be a program appealing to both advanced and beginner hobbyists. Jerry is a lifelong hobbyist with an amazing amount of experience and commitment to the hobby. He will cover all aspects from tank prep to feeding and growing the little ones to be superstars of the show circuit. Or just so you can say you raised them yourself and enjoy watching them grow in your own tanks.

Fish of the month Jar show is Anabantids. Gouramis are the most common but Betta's and paradise fish are also in this class.

See you all there and be prepared to get involved and ask questions.

Ken



Santa Claus was there too!!



Trip to The Tropical Fish Room

Jerry Draper will bring in special fish from Singapore. If you want to go contact Tom at tom.hillier@hotmail.com. We will be going in Feb. It is in Brantford. Date to be announced.

Girardinus falcatus

The Goldbelly topminnow –

A BAP Report by Dave Furness

This peaceful little livebearer is found in central and western Cuba, as well as the Isle of Pine. They live in slow flowing and rapid flowing waters in areas with a lot of vegetation. The temperature in these streams can vary, from below 75 degrees to above 86 degrees F. between 75 and 86 degrees is probably the norm. The PH of the waters where they are found was about 7.7.

The fish are long and slender with a brown-yellow colour. The belly is light. The fins are transparent, and the caudal fin has a light black pattern.



Photo by Dave Furness

When I got my fish home, I placed them in a 15 gallon tank with some Java moss and some floating artificial plants for protection. I filtered the tank with a box filter and set the temperature to 76 degrees F. The PH is 7.4 .With higher temperatures I made sure that the water was well agitated, to keep the oxygen level higher.

The parents were fed a variety of foods, such as frozen foods, flakes and micro worms as well. The gestation period is about 25 days, and they give birth from about 10 to 40 fry. The fry are fed crushed flakes, powered shrimp, and micro worms. The fry become sexually mature in about four months.

Anagram for January

Example:

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

*The creature is: **applesnail*** **An anagram for this critter is: Please I Nix Liasons**

This Fish is: _____ Answer will be in the next newsletter.

December's answer: White clouds



Fishy Anagrams provided courtesy of

Member Profile

By Pam Danyluck

This months profile is on Brian and Sue Glazier.

Brian was born and raised in London, Ontario and Susan in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Susan was an army brat and lived all over Canada as she was growing up. They now reside in Burlington. Brian is a retired Controller for Western Star Truck Dealership and Susan is still working as a Union Payroll Specialist for a trucking company.



Susan & Brian

Brian was six when he became interested in fish and Susan when she married Brian. They have approximately sixty tanks running at the moment in a dedicated fish room, plus a couple in the family room.

They keep Livebearers, Killies, Rainbows and Angels. The Xiphophorus species of Livebearers is one of Brian's favourites and has been since he was a young boy.

For filtration you will find mainly sponge filters in their tanks with a few hang on the back power filters.

All of Brian and Susan's children are grown and have children of their own. When their children were young they were also into fish, but now their time is devoted to their own children. The Glazier's are proud grandparents of four boys and two girls.

They also own and breed some beautiful Maine Coon Cats.

Thanks Brian and Susan for letting us get to know you a little better.

Wanted

Club members for newsletter profiles! I am still fairly new, okay not so new anymore but I still don't know all of you yet. It would be a big help if anyone willing to have his or her profile done would contact me. You do not need to be an expert fish keeper, just interested in fish. 😊 Please contact me at: pjdanyluck@sympatico.ca or 905-562-3290.

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Xiphophorus alvarezii

The Upland Sword –

A BAP Report by Dave Furness

This species was named in honour of Professor Jose Alvarez del Villar. This species, for which he is named, is found in the highland drainage basin of the Estado Chiapas, Mexico, as well as in Huehuetenango, El Quiche, and Alta Veracruz, Guatemala.

X. alvarezii is very similar to *X. helleri*. *Xiphophorus alvarezii*'s dorsal fin has 11 to 12 rays, and the lateral line has 26 to 29 scales, and has 28 vertebrae. *Xiphophorus helleri*'s dorsal fin has 12 to 15 rays, the lateral line has 26 to 28 scales, and has 27 to 30 vertebrae.



Photo by Dave Furness

The *alvarezii* males attain a body length of 5 to 6 cm, plus the sword of 3 to 4 cm. The females attain a length of 6 to 7.5 cm. Both male and female have at least two, or even more longitudinal stripes on the middle of their flanks. Below these stripes the body is bright turquoise. The dorsal fin has broad red spots. The yellow sword is edged with black, top and bottom.

I set my pair up in a 15 gallon tank with dense vegetation for the female, and the fry to hide in. The aquarium was filtered with a box filter, and the temperature of the tank was around 77 degrees F. I kept the water well agitated, and made water changes once or twice a week. They prefer live foods, but will accept frozen foods and flake foods, particularly those containing vegetable matter. After the fish have successfully spawned, fry will be born after a 24 to 30 day gestation period. Normally 20 to 80 young are born. Of course this depends on the age and the size, and how well conditioned the female is. They usually reach sexual maturity after about eight to twelve months.

After the fry are born, I usually start them off with some crushed flakes. After a week or two, I add some micro worms to their diet.

SCANNING THE EXCHANGES & etc.

... with Pat and Tom ...



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

▶ ... in the Hamilton & District Aquarium Society's monthly bulletin

December, 2009

- *Breeding Corydoras schultzei & Veil Tail Cherry Barbs by Charles Drew
- *Discus Made Simple Part IV by Joe Bastianpillai
- *Blast From the Past – Sternarchus albifrons – The Black Ghost by Ken Kirkwood

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

December, 2009

- *Kuhli Loach (Pangio kuhlii) by unknown
- *Tips on Recycling Used Aquarium Water & Species Profile = Synodontis petricola by Tom Heisler

▶ ... in the Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society's newsletter – 'Fins & Tales' --

December, 2009

- *Our Oscar by Geoff and Sue Money
- *The Minimalist Aquarist by Rein Breitmaier
- *PlantED: Wishing for a Red Christmas by Ed Koerner
- *Tank Cycling Tips: good bugs by Terry Clements

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



BAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS presented at the November meeting



Pamela Danyluck – Livebearer award for 6 distinct species

Mike Nelson

Nimbochromis venustus 10 pts.

Placidochromis phenochilus 10

Geosesarma sp.- Vampire crab

Metriaclima estherea – redxblue 10

Tom Hillier

Xiphophorus evelynae 5

Congratulations! *Tom Bridges*



JAR SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

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



UPCOMING EVENTS\ in 2010

March 14th, 2010 [Hamilton & District Aquarium Society](#). AUCTION ONLY. Waterdown Legion. Waterdown, ON

March 28th, 2010 [Brant Aquarium Society](#), SHOW & AUCTION. Special Events Bldg., Paris Fairgrounds, Paris, ON

April 11th, 2010 [Durham Region Aquarium Society](#). SHOW & AUCTION. Aquatic Centre, Ajax, ON

May 21st – 24th, 2010 **Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs -- 51st ANNUAL CONVENTION** At Sheridan College Oakville. More details at www.caoac.ca click on 2010 convention.

Xiphophorus Montezuma

Montezuma sword –

A BAP Report by Dave Furness

This attractive swordtail's name is based on the last leader of the Aztecs, Montezuma the second. The range of the species include rivers in the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi, of the Rio Panuco drainage area. The water is furnished with aquatic plant growth and has a water temperature of 22 to 24 degrees C.. The water in your aquarium should be well agitated and should have weekly water changes.

This fish reaches a body length of 4 to 6 cm. The sword on the males vary in size, but are a great deal longer on this species, compared to other sword varieties. The sword of the male is longer than the body and can reach 8 to 10 cm. The colour of the sword is turquoise, and edged in black. The lower border is broader than the upper one. There are black spots, and spot patterns below the middle body line, which is different from one individual to another. The dorsal fin of the male has a dark border along the upper edge, and spotted in the middle. Most males possess a black caudal peduncle and a caudal fin that is black in the lower third.



Photo © by DAve Unruh

The females of this species can reach a length of 5 to 6 cm. The body colour is brown with a medium brown middle line. The belly is light. The side of the body has a turquoise tinge to it. This colour is stronger in the males than the females.

When I brought these fish home with me, I put them in a 15 gallon tank, planted with Java moss on the bottom and duct weed as my floating plant. The water temperature of the tank is 76 degrees F, and the PH is 7.4 .The aquarium is filtered by a box filter. The fish were fed flakes daily along with micro worms. When the fry had arrived, I added a few artificial floating plants for extra protection, and fed the fry the same as the adults. They also fed on bacteria in the tank.

THE ST. CATHARINES & AREA AQUARIUM SOCIETY

JAR SHOW RULES

1. The monthly jar show will consist of three separate classes:
 - (a) Fish of the Month (found in the SCAT each month)
 - (b) Open Class
 - (c) Junior Class (16 yrs. of age and under]
2. All members entering FISH OF THE MONTH may be Senior or Junior with no distinction. If a Junior is awarded points, these points go to his/her Junior total points.
 - (a) Standard C.A.O.A.C. approved 1 gallon show tanks should be used, but square-faced jars will be accepted.
 - (b) Drum bowls are permitted for Bettas and Guppies. No round jars are permitted. If fish is too large, an aquarium of up to 20 gallons may be used.
3. The Jar Show Chairperson will have complete control of all entries, disqualifying sick or injured fish, etc..
4. No plants, gravel, ornamentation, artificial colouring or medication of any kind will be allowed. Solid coloured paper backing outside of tanks is permissible.
5.
 - (a) Members may enter a total of three (3) entries each month. Visitors may show fish on their first and/or second visit but must take membership in order to make any subsequent showings.
 - (b) A family membership consists of a couple (and their children if any). A family entering monthly jar shows is only allowed to enter a total of three (3) fish as a family holding a family membership. These entries must come under individual point scoring as a Junior or Senior.
6. All entries for the Jar Show must be single fish only.
7. The decision of the judge/s is final. Judge/s will be available for comment at the close of the meeting.

The Crypt Emersion – Part Seven (of Ten)

Derek P.S. Tustin

With no major problems, I'll start with pictures of each week that has passed. (Please note that due to camera problems, I do not have pictures from Week Thirty-Eight.)



Week Thirty-Five



Week Thirty-Six



Week Thirty-Seven

Alas, the celestial pearl danios (aka galaxy rasboras) (*Celestichthys margaritatus*) still didn't arrive. But other than that... well, everything is pretty much the same. A new leaf formed on the *Anubias hastifolia*, and another flower stalk emerged from the *Sagittaria sagitifolia*. I thinned the duckweed (*Lemna minor*) during Week 36. So all-in-all, the plants continue to do well.

However, I have been experiencing problems with the suction cups that keep the rainmaker suspended. While the rainmaker continues to work, I find that once every couple of days the suction cups let go on one end or the other, resulting in the tubes sagging a bit. I haven't figured out a solution, and may end up replacing the suction cups.

More in a month!



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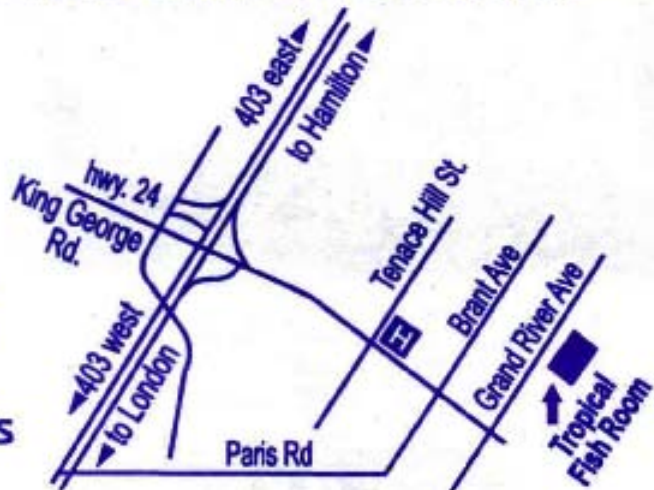
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Minutes of the December 2009 Meeting

The December 7, 2009 General Meeting of SCAAS was called to order by 1stVP JohnVerhage at 7:30 PM. He welcomed the members and three guests from Welland.

The Secretary's November minutes were approved as printed in the Scat.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

BAP: Three awards were presented; Pam Danyluck, Mike Nelson, and Tom Hillier.

CAOAC Report: The 2010 Convention will be at Sheridan College in Oakville on May 21 to 23.

Beverage Committee: Les Wormald requested replacement as Chairman. Show and Auction 2010 Chairman, Tom Hillier, requested a meeting of the Executive as soon as possible. He would like to begin the raising of funds for the event by selling advertising space in the Scat beginning with the January issue. A review and revision of our ad prices is necessary to proceed.

The Executive agreed to meet and address this issue immediately after the General Meeting adjourns.

The club auction was held, followed by a break for refreshments. The Christmas fingerfood pot-luck was a great success, and enjoyed by all. Santa arrived for the children; and, the adults were glad to see him again too... looking great and 'Ho-Ho'ing so well.



The program for the evening was a slide show presentation by member Mike Nelson. He shared pictures of some of the fish (and other critters) he is keeping.





Also, a special thank you to all those that donated to the gift table.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25PM



Dave Unruh presided over the traditional Member Christmas-gift auction. It was an amazing array of fish-keepers 'wish-fish', and the gourmet foods to keep them happy. Thank you, Dave, for all your time and efforts.

Executive Meeting of December 7, 2009.

The Executive Meeting was called to order by President Ken Brady at 9:45PM. Tom Hillier requested that Scat advertising rates be adjusted to those of HDAS for full and half-page ads. Business card size might remain at \$50. He emphasized the fact that we are in the same advertising market as the Hamilton club, but our rates are higher.

Scat Editor, Dave Unruh, expressed concern that the newsletter might become over-run with ads and

lower the amount of space available for hobby-related articles. There was also an issue with postage, due to the probable weight increase.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that the Scat advertising rates for full and half-page ads will be comparable to those of HDAS rates. The business-card rate will remain at \$50. It may become necessary to limit the number of ads in the future, but this will be addressed when we see the response to the ad efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42PM.







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