

The SCAT

The Official Publication Of The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society
Since 1958

Volume 25 Number 4

January, 2012



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Water, Water Everywhere!

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). The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society is also a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS – www.faas.info). More news and information about the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society can be found at – www.scaas.info.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, January 7th, 2013 at the Seafarers & Teamster's Union Hall, 70 St. David's 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!

January's program is a workshop that many members will be participating in.

2012-2013 Executive

President	Tom Hillier	(905) 227-5008	tom.hillier@hotmail.com
1 st Vice President	John Verhage	(905) 735-7776	jverhage@seawayfluidpowergroup.com
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Breeder Awards	Tom Bridges	(905) 735-3352	tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
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Auction Coordinator	Tom Bridges	(905) 735-3352	tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
CAOAC Representative	Tom Hillier	(905) 227-5008	tom.hillier@hotmail.com
SCAT Editor	Heather Krawchuk	(905) 680-0867	hkrawchuk@yahoo.com
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	Heather Krawchuk	(905) 680-0867	hkrawchuk@yahoo.com
Web Master	Lindsey Marin		lindseymarin@hotmail.com

In This Issue:

Meeting Minutes

Coldwater Corner
by Dave Easingwood

Angels Angels Angels
by Gerald Carter

New Member Profiles

Water, Water Everywhere!

Trivia



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 Goldfish

Courtesy Of FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Jar Shows

January

Anabantids

February

Loaches & Sharks

Editor's Note

Happy 2013 to all! Just a friendly reminder that all articles/anything that you would like to appear in the SCAT are due by the 20th of each month in order for them to be in the following month's publication. Pictures to accompany articles are always great too! Many thanks to those who have been submitting articles – they've been fantastic and much appreciated!

Thanks!

Heather Krawchuk

BAP Achievement Award

Presented At December's Meeting

Bob Hayslip

Ancistrus cirrhosus

(Bristle nosed plecostomus)...10 pts.

Congratulations!

Tom Bridges, BAP Chair

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Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 4th, 2012 – 7:50 p.m. to 9:50 p.m.

New Members and Visitors

One visitor attended this meeting.

Announcements

By Tom Hillier

Instructions were given on our new way of doing the Christmas Raffle. Instead of everyone getting many tickets, we each received one ticket. When our number was called, we chose our gift from the table.

Treasure's Report

Was given by Roman Haljkevic. Funds to date approximately \$3085.

BAP

Presented by Tom Bridges to: Bob Hayslip for the Bristlenose Pleco.

PROGRAM

- ~We all enjoyed many dishes and treats brought in by our members to share.
- ~We had a short Trivia program presented by Pam Danyluck.
- ~We also had a visitor from the North Pole stop by to give the children a Christmas envelope.

DOOR PRIZE

JAR SHOW AWARD

Was presented by Pat Shriner to:
Joe Krawchuk 1st and 2nd.
Bob Hayslip 3rd.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

EVENING AUCTION

EVENING RAFFLE

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.

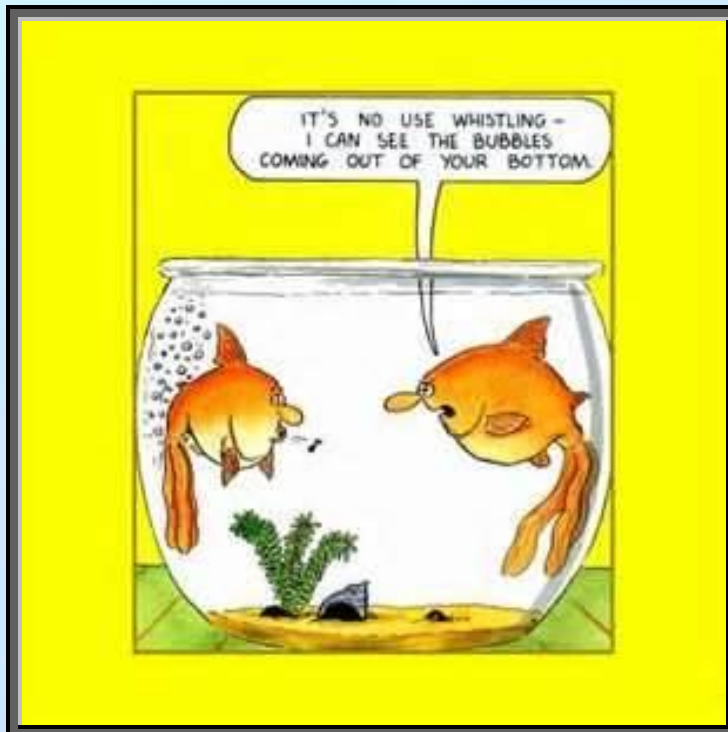
Executive Meeting Minutes

December 4th, 2012 – 9:50 p.m. – 10:10 p.m.

In attendance: Ken Brady, Tom & Pat Bridges, John Verhage, Roman Haljkevic, Heather Krawchuk and Pam Danyluck.

Heather told us that Cogeco originally turned us down for any publicity or coverage aside from posting on their website. However, they recently contacted her as they have changed their minds and would like to interview some of our members and would also like to see some of their tanks. They are now filming and broadcasting in HD and think that the club would benefit.

We agreed that we would go forward with this and will discuss a date. We also thought that the senior members should speak about the history of the club. Heather will reply to her contact at Cogeco and begin making arrangements.



Comic Courtesy of funniespet.com

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ATTENTION MEMBERS!

There was a large blue bowl left behind at the Christmas club meeting. I'll have it with me at the **Monday, January 7, 2013** meeting. Pat Bridges
tp.bridges@sympatico.ca (905)735-3352

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COLDWATER CORNER #1

By Dave Easingwood

This is a new feature in our SCAAS newsletter and I hope it will be a regular feature on tips, advice, and discussion on the coldwater side of our hobby. I know many members have ponds and keep/breed goldfish, koi and other varieties of coldwater fish. I think there are members who keep native fish, caught from local rivers and ponds and lakes in and around Niagara. There are also members who regularly bring pond plants to our auctions.

My own passion is the Bristol Blue Shubunkin, a single tail variety of goldfish that was developed in the Bristol area of England between the two Great Wars. For the serious fish keeper, Bristols are kept and bred and raised and shown to conform to a 'Nationwide Standard' that gives the ideal shape, colouring, finnage and deportment of the fish. Bristols are best kept in ponds, large aquariums, fish houses, etc where they make a lovely show fish with their red, blue, yellow, brown and black calico colours.

The following picture is of a four year old male Bristol Blue Shubunkin:



I kept Bristols in England from 1972 to 1981. When I emigrated to Canada with my family I couldn't bring any fish so it was not until 2006 that I had the opportunity of obtaining five adult breeding Shubs from a friend in Los Angeles. They were sent through an aquarist friend of mine to Calgary, where we lived at the time, and I kept and bred the fish in 36" aquariums in six tanks in my garage. I have line bred from those original five each year

since 2006. When I retired and moved to St. Catharines four years ago, my aquarist friend Donnie in Calgary helped me bring the best fish to Niagara. I now keep my fish in half a garage with fifteen large aquariums and I have two ponds in my lovely garden.

I have had my ups and downs keeping Bristols; I have one, two and three year old adults that are better than the originals but I also lose good fish. I give them lots of space but I think I didn't do enough water changes, as some fish have had ammonia burn, etc. This year I introduced live plants to each aquarium, I only use 'primed', aged tap water for water changes and I feed less and I am wary of feeding my Shubs when the temperature drops below 50F.

Feeding coldwater fish is a bit of an art here in Canada. We have a wide temperature range from summer to winter, +40c to -25c. When my fish water goes below 10c (50F) I feed sparingly, watching for uneaten food and as the winter temperature drops, I do not feed below 7c (45F).

One food I like is TetraFin Goldfish Crisps, a favourite of Dave Unruh. The tub the food comes in claims 35% less waste with concentrated nutrition. The crisps are thin discs about 5mm diameter (see photo). The feeding guide is one crisp per inch of fish, per feed. Therefore, an adult 4" Shub would get 4 crisps per feed. Now that is a lot less than I used to feed! Since trying this in my autumn feeding I have not lost a fish and the 2012 baby Shubs are still growing at 10c.



Well, that's a lot of writing for me; I hope you learned something about feeding. Future items for Coldwater Corner may include; the Nitrogen cycle, Show Standards for Fancy Goldfish, repairing pond leaks and breeding fancy coldwater varieties.

Seasons Greetings from "The Pond Man", Dave 'Shubie'
Easingwood!

December's Jar Show Results

Courtesy of Pat Shriner

- 1st – Joe Krawchuk – 6 points.
- 2nd – Joe Krawchuk – 5 points.
- 3rd – Bob Hayslip – 4 points.

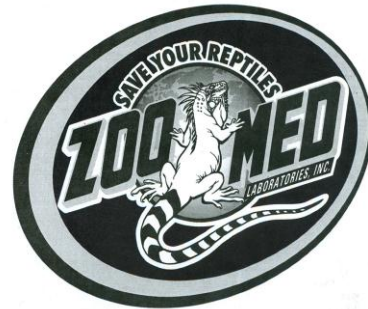
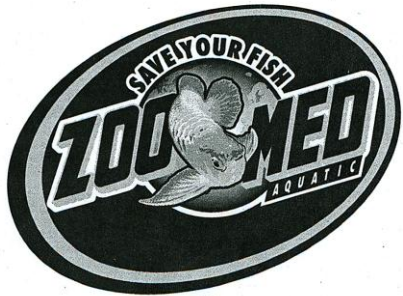
Others (1 point each):

Joe Krawchuk, Bob Hayslip, Mark Lane, Megan Baltey, Paul Pardis

Best In Show – Joe Krawchuk



Courtesy of www.classics.org



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ANGELS ANGELS ANGELS

By Gerald Carter



Photo by Gerald Carter

I have heard it said and read that guppies are the rabbits of tropical fish. From my experience in the last year, I saw that with a little TLC, angel fish breed like rabbits and make guppies look like turtles.

Half a century ago, I had a couple of black angel fish as a kid and with the limited resources of the time, as well as a couple hundred guppies amongst other various fish I had, only managed to get a couple angel fry.

Fifty years later, I decided to get back out my aquariums after they had several years of rest while I was raising a family. I joined the St. Catharines Aquarium Society in December 2011 for the fellowship and looking to gain from others' experience, as I consider myself an amateur. My plan was to acquire some guppies and look for some double black angel fish.

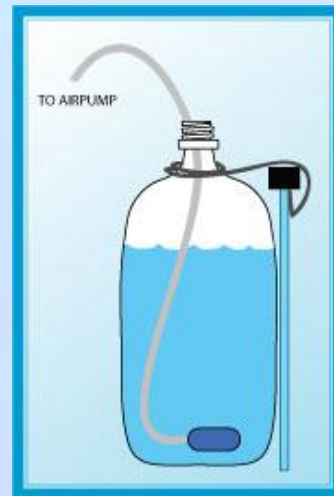
After some searching I got some black moscow guppies from Toronto. I then came the January meeting, and what should appear but four beautiful young double black angels at the auction. Luck was on my side that night and I got them. By June, two paired off and laid a small batch of eggs on a flower pot.

I took the pot out and put it in a hang on hatchery tank. I placed an

air stone close to the pot to keep the water circulating around the eggs in order to ward off fungus growth, however, within about 24 hours there were signs of fungus. After a quick search, I was off to the stores looking for a fungus infection control for eggs. Due to new regulations in Canada the only thing I could find was Maroxy. It did slow down the fungus growth and after a couple days I had wigglers (eggs with the tail sticking out and wiggling). Over the next five days there was the appearance of the eyes, and the egg yolks took the shape of fry still attached by a thin thread to the pot. At this time they were still living from food provided by the egg sack.

I decided that it was time to start some brine shrimp. I did this by taking a 750ml pop bottle and filling it about half way with warm water and a couple tablespoons of aquarium salt, shaking it up to dissolve the salt. I filled the bottle most of the rest of the way, put in some brine shrimp eggs, added an air stone and allowed the air to flow. To maintain the temperature in the bottle I floated it in an aquarium, using the aquarium heat. With the air keeping the water circulating, after about 24 hours shrimp started to show.

By day seven the angel fry were starting to swim and it was time to start feeding them. To feed them the brine shrimp, I turned off the air temporarily, and shone a small flashlight into a bottom corner of the bottle. This attracted this shrimp to the area. Next, I took a piece of air line, put a finger over the end, and placed the other end into the bottle where the flashlight was shining. I took the finger off of the end of tube temporarily while water with shrimp filled the tube.



Gerald's brine shrimp hatchery setup
Photo from www.aquariumlife.net

I then plugged it again and took the tube out and released the water with shrimp into the hatchery to feed the fry. This was done several times a day. At the same time, I started a second bottle of brine shrimp. You need to start a new container of shrimp every couple of days, otherwise the shrimp get too big for the baby angels. I have read that after a shrimp is more than twelve hours old they are too big to feed to fry. I have seen after about four days they are bigger than the angel fry.

After two weeks I moved the fry from the hatchery to a ten gallon tank I had cycling for at least a week. I continued to feed them shrimp as I started a brine shrimp hatchery in their aquarium (sort of an auto feeder of shrimp). At this time I started to feed them dry brine shrimp flakes pressed into a fine powder. By the end of a month I started feeding regular ground up flakes.

From this small batch of eggs I ended up with at least seventy young angel fish. My mistake was that after they started swimming I placed the clean pot back in with the parents and the next day the male was dead! Of the three adults left, two started to lay eggs on a regular basis, but no fertilization. I watched for a possible male to come up in the auctions while waiting for the young ones to get older and start pairing.



Photo by Gerald Carter

At our fall auction I noticed three beautiful golden veil-tail angels and, from my limited experience, was fairly certain two of them were a mating pair. My wife encouraged me to try for them while waiting for my blacks. I went home that day with them and I was right, two were a mating pair.

Three weeks later they laid their first eggs but 'Murphy' visited. They laid them on the pump for the HOB filter and when I dismantled it to separate the eggs, the water cycle was lost and from there everything went

wrong. I have seven nice fish left from that batch. Less than two weeks later they laid another batch of eggs, this time on slate. Conditions all stayed good three weeks later and I had at least 150 to 200 more angel fry from the batch and they seem to be doing fine.

Within ten days they laid another batch of eggs but I knew my hands were already full so I left the eggs with them. The eggs disappeared within 48 hours; otherwise, I would probably have another 150. I am already getting two more 15 gallons ready for the 150 as they grow.

I am trying to save tank space, figuring my blacks are coming of age and could start again any time. Where do you get rid of them all? I have taken some to an auction here and in Hamilton, gave some away to members and of the first 70 still have about 30 left from which I hope to keep a couple mating pairs to get back to my double black angels. The golden angels are beautiful too, when you see their giant fins flowing around as they swim. I will probably keep both types going if I can muster up the resources.

To me, angels easily out-number guppies with TLC and angel fish grow much bigger; they are the rabbits of fish amongst tropical fish I have raised.

Attention Members:

Gerald's article gave me an idea. If there is sufficient interest, I think that it might be nice to feature a monthly column where people can look for a specific type of fish or accessory. For example, since Gerald is looking for a black male angel, he would be able to post an ad with his contact information and if a member had one, or knew where he could get one, they could contact Gerald. Let me know what you think and we'll try to make it happen!

New Member Profile – Paul Pardis

By Heather Krawchuk

I'm happy to introduce a new member, Paul Pardis, this month. Paul lives in St. Catharines and has had fish since he was eighteen. Many of us had the opportunity to see pictures of his stunning backyard ponds at the December meeting. The amount of time, care and dedication that Paul put into the ponds is obvious. Amongst his fish, Paul has golden orfes, koi, angel fish and a wide variety of others. He claims that he has too many tanks/fish right now and has no plans to add others, but I think we've all said that at one point or another!

It's clear that Paul loves his ponds and has created his own oasis in his backyard to enjoy for years to come. The following pictures were given to me by Paul. Hopefully he'll have more to share in the summer so that we're all able to appreciate the dedication that he has to his ponds. Welcome, Paul!



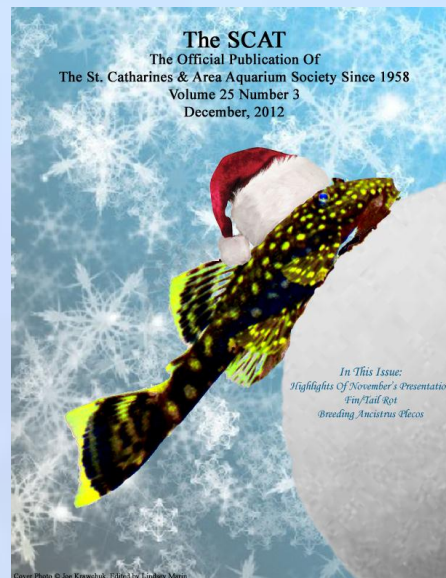


New Member Profile – Lindsey Marin

By Heather Krawchuk

When I became friends with Lindsey Marin over a year ago, she seemed to like my aquariums, but expressed no interest in having any of her own. However, after she became friends with my brother, Joe, and saw his tanks, suddenly she had the fish bug (but as you can tell, I hold no bitterness about that). Less than twelve months later, she has over six tanks with plans to add many more. At the moment she is breeding a variety of live-bearing fish, has many aquatic snails, bumblebee gobies, countless bettas, some peacock and yellow lab cichlids and two newts. In the future, Lindsey would like to have a huge cichlid show-tank, a plant-only tank and to work on breeding cichlids and gobies. She is also participating in a betta breed-off competition with Joe – results and details to follow!

Lindsey has been a tremendous help to me in terms of the club's website and this newsletter. Our website is a rather touchy, temperamental one, but she has been helping me through the glitches to keep the site updated. She also formats and converts the SCAT and does a lot of the graphic work. For example, she took the following, already stunning photo of Joe's, and turned it into the amazing cover of December's SCAT.



The time and dedication Lindsey has already invested in the club is greatly appreciated and I know that she will continue to put her expertise to use. Welcome to the club!

Water, Water Everywhere!

Editor's Note: Dave Easingwood approached me at the December meeting with an idea for an article. He later stated, "I was at the dentist's in December awaiting an inspection. I had a toothache and was not feeling great. While waiting, I noticed a National Geographic magazine, a special issue on...WATER! It was fascinating!"

Dave asked me to type out several sections of the feature as he wanted to share them with club members. He added, "As aquarists, I'm sure we all realize the importance of water in our lives and hobby. We take it for granted, but this special issue of National Geographic made me realize that we should not waste this precious item in our daily lives." The following are the sections that Dave wanted me to share, all copyright of National Geographic.

"As a chemical compound, nothing could be simpler than water: two atoms of hydrogen joined to one of oxygen. From a human point of view, simplicity fades. Though water covers our world, more than 97 percent is salty. Two percent is fresh water locked in snow and ice, leaving less than one percent for us. This "precarious molecular edge on which we survive"...will only grow more precarious. By 2025, 1.8 billion people will live where water is scarce."

– Chris Johns

"So-called "free goods" such as sunshine and fresh air may be of more real worth than most economic goods."

–Walter Kohler

"The Thames and other rivers supply more than 85 percent of London's water. Some 1,300 miles of Victorian water mains have recently been replaced. Montreal draws water from Canada's St. Lawrence River. Aging infrastructure causes about 40 percent to be lost to leakage before reaching consumers."

– Margaret Zackowitz

"2 billion [is the] average number of gallons of water used each day for golf course irrigation in the U.S."

– Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

"97.5% of the water on Earth is salty. Around one percent of that is brackish groundwater."

–Karen Lange

"Lakes, swamps and rivers make up less than .3 percent of fresh water and less than .01 percent of all the water on Earth. Yet these waters are home to as many as 126,000 of the world's animal species, including snails, mussels, crocodiles, turtles, amphibians, and fish. Almost half of the 30,000 known species of fish live in lakes and rivers, and many aren't doing well; in North America, for instance, 39 percent of freshwater fish are imperilled, up from 20 percent only a few decades ago. Freshwater animals in general are disappearing at a rate four to six times as fast as animals on land or at sea."

–Douglas Chadwick

“2.5% of the Earth’s water is fresh. About two-thirds of that is frozen. The rest is liquid surface water and groundwater.”

–Karen Lange

“Human babies...are three-quarters water.”

–Barbara Kingslover

“U.S Vacationers rank going to the beach or a lake as their favourite outdoor activity. More Americans fish than play golf or tennis. The U.S. recreational boating industry generated \$33.6 billion in 2008. In Florida, 3,000 gallons are used to water the grass for each golf game played. U.S. swimming pools lose 150 billion gallons to evaporation every year.”

–Wilbur Garret

“The world’s fresh water is 9.25 trillion gallons. We live on a planet covered by water, but more than 97 percent is salty, and nearly 2 percent is locked up in snow and ice. That leaves less than one percent to grow our crops, cool our power plants, and supply drinking and bathing water for households.”

– World Wildlife Fund

“Americans use about 100 gallons of water at home each day. Millions of the world’s poorest subsist on fewer than five gallons. 46 percent of people on earth do not have water piped to their homes. Women in developing countries walk an average of 3.7 miles to get to water. In fifteen years, 1.8 billion people will live in regions of severe water scarcity.”

–Thomas Havisham

“The weight of China’s three gorges reservoir will tilt the earth’s axis by nearly an inch. The longest water tunnel, supplying New York City, is 85 miles and leaks up to 35 million gallons a day. The Itaipu Dam in South America cost \$18 billion and took 17 years to build. Dam projects have displaced up to 80 million people worldwide.”

–Tim Hetherington

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Let's Have A Little Fun!

December Answers

- 1.) These fish are found in both fresh and saltwater. They have tooth-plates that are used to grind up one of their favorite meals - snails. They are also found as food items in some Japanese restaurants, and can be extremely toxic if not prepared properly. Pufferfish
- 2.) This fish has an electric organ that allows it to transmit microvoltages. Its brain is exceptionally large in proportion to other fish and it is believed to be very intelligent. Elephant fish
- 3.) One of the most colorful South American dwarf cichlids. The females get pink bellies when gravid and they usually spawn on a flat rock or a pit in the gravel. They prefer acidic water. German Blue Ram
- 4.) The male of this species is beautifully colored, while the female is bland. They are bubble-nest builders and have no qualms about small enclosures. The males do not get along, and are known to kill females that are unwilling to mate. Siamese Fighting Fish
- 5.) Another popular fish which loves its swimming space. They are shoaling fish, very fast swimmers, and they are extremely peaceful. They will nip at algae, and are known for sifting through bottom-debris. Bala Sharks

January Questions

Questions & Answers Courtesy of www.funtrivia.com

1.) This fish is one of the big guys of the hobby. Many aquarist buy this cute little fishy without knowing that it can turn into a monster at 12 inches (30 cm). They are known for their personality and love rearranging aquarium decor.

- Angel fish
- Kribensis
- Oscar fish
- Pink kisser gouramis

2.) The male gender of this fish has a large pointed fin-extension on its tail. They are livebearers and come in a multitude of colors.

- Iridescent shark
- Serpae tetra
- Swordtail
- Platy

3.) This shoaling fish can live with little oxygen in the water and feeds on invertebrates and algae. The pigment of this fish is derived from the colors, black, yellow, and orange.

- Dwarf Rainbow
- Whiptailed catfish
- Minnow
- Goldfish

4.) This fish has a labyrinth organ which allows it to breathe from the surface when subjected to an environment low in oxygen. Loves fruit.

- Needlefish
- Diver
- Puffer
- Giant Gourami

5.) This nocturnal fish stays at the surface, usually under leaves or wood, and waits for insects. They are fantastic jumpers, so you need a well-enclosed aquarium. They have a number of 'spikes' that act as feelers for their pelvic region.

- African Butterfly fish
- Golden Ram
- Moray eel
- Hatchet fish

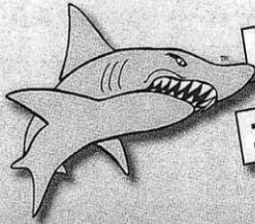


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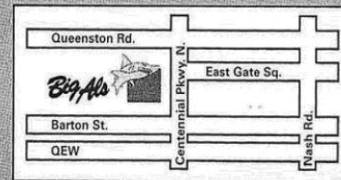
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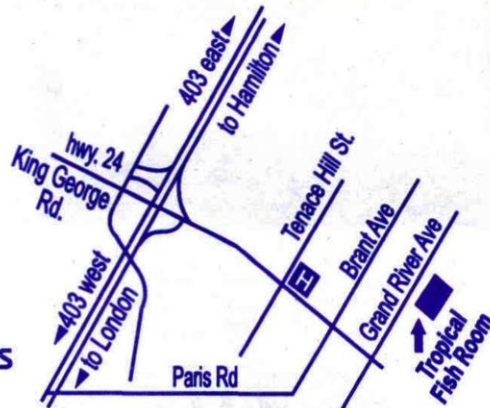
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