

The background of the cover is a photograph of an aquarium. A large, brightly colored betta fish with a yellow and orange body and a dark, fan-like tail is the central focus. It is surrounded by lush green artificial plants. In the background, several smaller, colorful fish, possibly neon tetras, are visible swimming.

# The SCAT

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

Since 1958

Volume 25 Number 6

March, 2013

## In This Issue:

Coldwater Corner

The Great Betta Breed-Off Continues

Breeding Tiger Barbs

# 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 & Teamsters Union Hall, 70 St. David's 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. No meetings are 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, March 4th, 2013 at the Seafarers & Teamsters 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!  
 March's Speaker is Larry Johnson Who Will Be Speaking About Cichlids.

## Upcoming Events

- March 17, 2013 CAOAC Meeting
- March 23, 2013 Hamilton & District Aquarium Society Auction
- April 6, 2013 Brant Aquarium Society Show and Auction
- April 7, 2013 Durham Regional Aquarium Society - Auction, Vendor EXPO and a Nano Tank Show/Display

## 2012-2013 Executive

President	Tom Hillier	(905) 227-5008	tom.hillier@hotmail.com
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Continues
- ~Breeding Tiger Barbs
- ~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 Discus  
Courtesy Of [www.morguefiles.com](http://www.morguefiles.com)

## Jar Shows

**March  
Plants**

**April  
Angels & Discus**

## Advertising Costs

The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society  
welcomes advertisers to place ads in the SCAT.  
Below is a list of advertising costs:

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

## BAP Achievement Award

Presented At February's Meeting

**Dave Furness**

Chalinochromis brichardi.....15 pts.

**Tom Hillier**

Stenochromis polli.....5pts.

Astatotilapia aeneocolor..... 5pts.

Congratulations!

*Tom Bridges, BAP Chair*

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# Editor's Message

By Heather Krawchuk

At last month's meeting, we were fortunate enough to have Anes Hotic as our presenter. Anes is the Canadian representative for Zoo Med. He brought a plethora of products with him and took the time to explain the exciting new items that Zoo Med has in the works.

Anes answered many questions and was kind enough to leave a great deal of products behind to be used as future raffle prizes. Tom Hillier will be storing those items until they are needed for the club and they include all of the items that are pictured in the photos below.



Folks, as much as I love writing and am glad to be helping the club out, I can't do it alone. This month, only two articles were submitted, and one was from my brother. While it is nice to look back at past articles, those are all available in past editions of the SCAT, which can be found on the club's website.

New, fresh articles make a huge difference to this newsletter. I ask all of you to please consider writing and submitting an article for next month's edition. Please make sure to make all submissions prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, as I do need a week to put everything together and have it ready for Pat and Tom Bridges to print it.

In addition, pictures of any kind related to aquatics are much appreciated – they can be turned into the SCAT cover, used with articles or just shown for their own sake.

## 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.

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

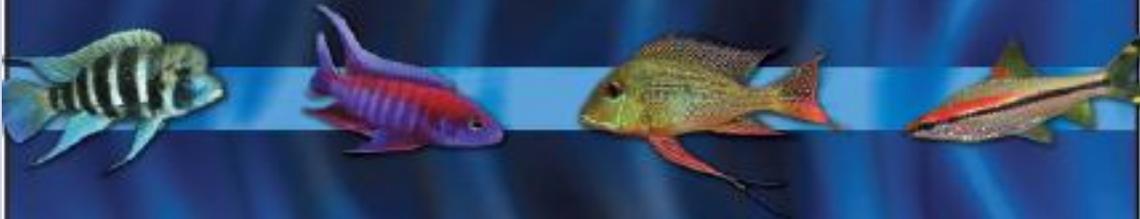
Minutes were not provided for last month's meeting.

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## Coldwater Corner #3

By Dave Easingwood



Photo Courtesy of [www.morquefile.com](http://www.morquefile.com)

So what does a keen coldwater goldfish keeper do in the middle of a cold Canadian Winter?

- 1.) I make sure all my breeders, which are kept in the fish house at 50F, are fit and healthy; some will feed, others are semi-hibernating. Mature adults in the outside ponds are left alone. There is 3" of ice on top, so the fish are not fed. We have had a lot of snow in February (well enough for me) so the night time temperature of -10C and days of zero just allow the fish to rest.
- 2.) Take a break! After 30 years of Canadian winters we recently went to Las Vegas for a four day holiday. I walked out in shorts; that was great. We saw the Beatles show LOVE, which was amazing with Cirque Du Soleil. We saw goldfish cutouts at McDonalds and wondered why? (It turns out they were promoting Fish McNuggets, a new alternative to Chicken McNuggets). At Caesar's Palace we saw an amazing saltwater aquarium behind the reception desk that was over 60 ft long with lots of mature fish that apparently breed in the aquarium. The babies are put in a holding tank. At night time, scuba divers go into the tank and clean the corals! It was an amazing display.
- 3.) Look forward to March, maybe we will have an early spring. Breeding tanks are set up, males and females are separated, checks are made when the full moon cycle will be, usually at the end of the month. I truly believe that my bristol shubunkins will breed best during a full moon.
- 4.) Have another winter pastime! I play chess on the internet and against the computer. The trouble is, I'm not very good!

Here's hoping for an early Spring!!!

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# The Great Betta Breed-Off Continues

By Joe Krawchuk



Photo courtesy of [www.morguefiles.com](http://www.morguefiles.com)

I liked the idea of a betta breed-off because even though I knew there wasn't going to be much competition (sorry, sister), it was still a good opportunity for me to try my hand at bettas again.

Heather and I go to a lot of different pet stores on a regular basis and whenever I see a male or female betta that really catches my eye, I'll pick it up. For that reason, it was a tough call deciding which male to use. In the end, I went with one that I've had the longest, hoping that his age would be an asset.

Even though we didn't discuss it in advance, my setup was very similar to my sister's. I had a ten gallon tank with a corner filter, although mine was a sponge filter. Instead of using a styrofoam cup, I used an almond leaf. I secured this at the water line using a piece of clear tape and in no time, the male had made a massive bubble nest underneath of it.

I introduced the female over the course of a couple of days. By the time I released her from the hurricane glass into the tank, she was incredibly excited and breeding took place within twenty-four hours. I was really excited because there were eggs everywhere.

Two days later, the eggs hatched and I had little wigglers everywhere. I couldn't have asked for a better result. Unfortunately, for reasons still

unknown to me, a few days later, I lost all but about a half a dozen babies. There was a cover on the tank to prevent temperature fluctuations at the surface, they had a variety of food and the water quality was great, so I really don't know what happened.

I tried to get over the loss and to appreciate that I still had several babies to raise. As of right now, they're about two months old. The funny thing is that a couple of them are twice the size of the others. I think that this is because some choose to stay in one area of the tank right near the live plants that I have, while others do a lot of exploring and likely find the live food all around.

About a month after my babies hatched, my seven year old nephew decided that he really wanted his male betta to "have a wife and make babies". So, I set up another breeding tank and used his very stunning male with one of my females. I had a feeling about this pairing, so I introduced the female right away, without placing her in a different container within the tank first. They spawned in record time and my nephew now has about ten times the amount of babies that I managed.

This breed-off not only gave me a nice challenge, but it meant the world to my nephew. Any time anyone comes over, he drags them into the room where his babies are and proudly shows them off. He's shaping up to be quite the fish expert and I think that it's great that he's so enthusiastic at such a young age.

I'm looking forward to seeing what the results are like by May. With any luck, I'll have five nice specimens to bring in to be judged!



Photo courtesy of [www.morqufile.com](http://www.morqufile.com)

## Tiger Barbs

The article below is from the very first issue of The SCAT. It was published in October of 1960. According to the newsletter, the club met on the first Monday of the month in the “Blue Flame Room” at the Pen Centre.

### BARBUS TETRAZONA

By Bert Steenhuis

These colourful little fellows make a good showing in any tank; the Tetrazona or Tiger Barb is bright orange and black. It is never necessary to worry about water conditions for the Barbs. Any clean water which is not too hard or too soft will suit them fine; being assured, of course, that the water has been aged sufficiently.

Feeding the Barbs presents no problem either. They have excellent appetites and are usually the first to arrive at the “dinner table” and the last to leave. The presence of a few Barbs in a tank is good assurance that most of the food given to your fish will be eaten – in this way they lend assistance to the catfish who are always expected to do a clean-up job. They are eager eaters and swiftly dart after good food. They have been known to chew the “feelers” of your angels and gouramis!

When selecting a pair for spawning, of course, these two should be given a preference in feeding. They will be conditioned quickly with good feedings of worms, mosquito larvae, glass worms, daphnia and brine shrimp. We find that the fry will thrive on baby brine shrimp as well as infusoria for the first few days; then they too are after the small daphnia and other fine foods. The best spawning temperature is from 78 to 80 degrees.

Spawning usually is not too difficult and every hobbyist should have success if he follows a few simple rules. We feel that the male and female should be separated while being conditioned in order to prevent them from spawning before you are ready for them. Some aquarists feel that they achieve success even with leaving the sexes together while conditioning. When ready to spawn them, the aquarist will pick out a well loaded female and a likely-looking mate for her. The only difficulty you might find in this way is that the male might have emptied himself of sperm about a half-hour ago with another female. It is not unusual for a well conditioned pair of Barbs to begin to spawn within a very short time after being put into the breeding tank. If not immediately, they usually oblige the next morning.

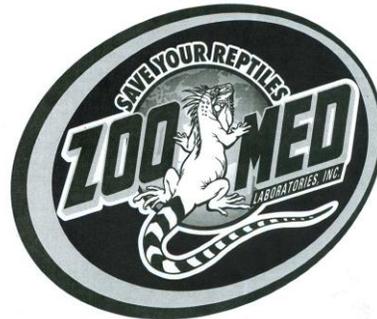
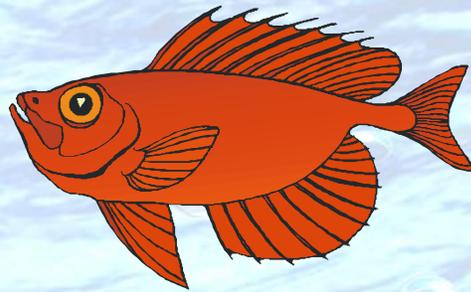
There are at least two spawning mediums that can be used successfully. One is a clump of fine-leaved plants which should be planted (or weighted down) at one end of the tank; the other is Spanish Moss (that has been soaked overnight and washed well). It is not necessary that the plants be planted in gravel.

The spawning act begins with the male making a wild chase all over the tank in pursuit of his mate. The female, occasionally, comes to a stop; the male will then gently push the female into the nearest thicket where he quivers beside her. This act will continue for a few times and then the female will begin to drop her eggs - 4 or 5 at a time. The male immediately fertilizes them. It is felt that the parents must be removed immediately after the spawning since they immediately start to look for eggs to satisfy their great hunger. Hatching takes place from 24 to 48 hours, depending again on the species. The fry take readily to infusoria, baby brine shrimp or finely powdered commercially prepared food. The powdered food should be mixed in water to ensure that it will fall to the bottom where the fry will seek it out.

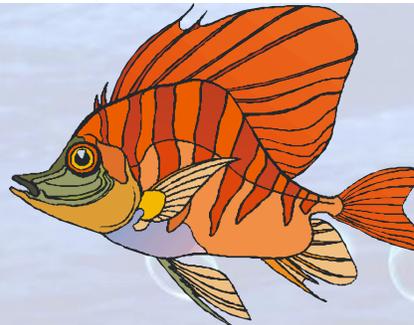
The fish grow rapidly and their food should be increased accordingly. Once your Barbs begin to grow, it is important that they not be overcrowded. The spawnings are sometimes quite large and it is important that each tiny fish have enough space in which to grow.

Remember - they love to eat - so keep a well balanced diet handy for your colourful little pets and they will reward you with vivid colour and lots of activity in your tank (especially when two males feel in the mood for fun).





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# Let's Have A Little Fun!

## February Answers

- 1.) These little guys never stop. Known as one of the most hyperactive of all freshwater fish, they are shoaling fish, and prefer to spawn on a gravelly bottom. Adult females will often choose to mate with the same male many times. [Zebra Danio](#)
- 2.) One of the best known saltwater fish in the world. It is famous for its symbiotic relationship with anemones in tropical reef systems. [Clownfish](#)
- 3.) Another African dwarf cichlid commonly found in the Niger delta. This fish loves to breed and can do so without almost any help from the aquarist. They are excellent parents, and will often spawn in caves. [Kribensis](#)
- 4.) These fish have a very depressed look to them. They are usually marine, but there are also freshwater inhabitants. They are known for their long tail and tendency to cover themselves in sand. [Stingray](#)
- 5.) This fish can't hide anything! [Glass Catfish](#)

## March Questions

Questions & Answers Courtesy of [www.funtrivia.com](http://www.funtrivia.com)

- 1.) "Epiphytic algae" grow on the leaves of our aquarium plants. Both in the aquarium and in natural waters, they are an essential part of:
  - organic detritus.
  - the microscopic plankton.
  - the biofilm community.
  - the nitrifying bacteria.
- 2.) Only three species of cichlids are native to India and Sri Lanka. They are all members of the genus *Etilapia* but more familiar to aquarists as:
  - "Chromides."
  - "Tilapia."
  - "Haplochromines."
  - "Geophagus."

3.) "Operculum" is an evocative anatomical label in describing fish, because in Latin it refers to the:

- "throat teeth."
- "working jawbone."
- "sawtooth edge."
- "little lid."

4.) The floating bubble nest of a gourami serves to:

- disguise the eggs as frog spawn.
- keep the eggs close to a source of oxygen.
- provide a floating raft for downstream dispersal of the fry.
- eliminate bacteria.

5.) Most fishes' eyes are all but immobile. One fish that can move its eyes almost as if it were winking, however, is a:

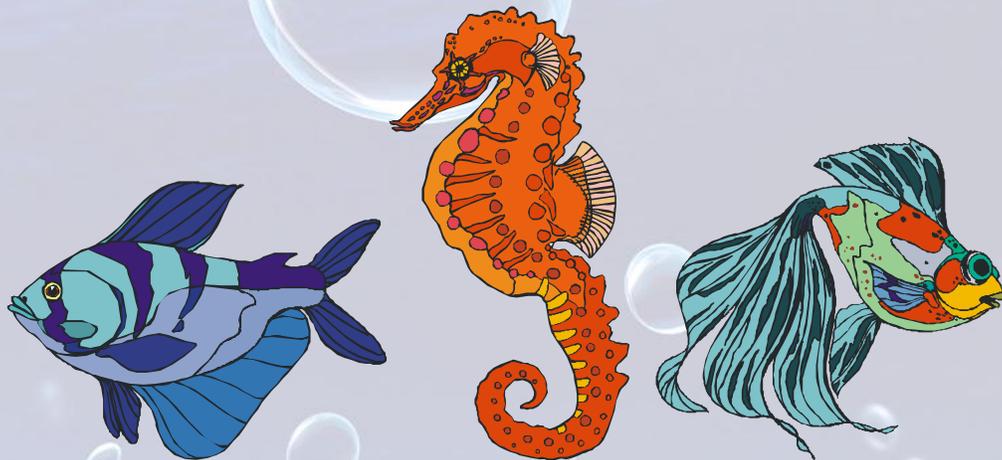
- Snakehead.
- Black Ruby Barb.
- Honey Gourami.
- Corydora.

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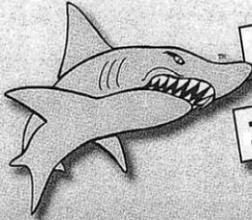
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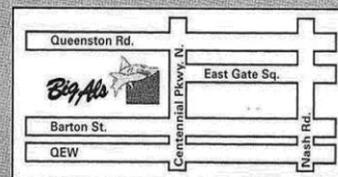
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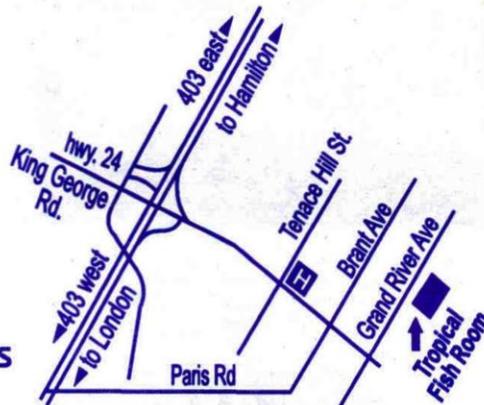
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