

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

Volume 22 No.3

**The**

# **SCAT**



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Xiphophorus variatus

Pseudotropheus crabro

TMA - Aquarium at the End of the World

[scaas.info](http://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](http://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 November 02 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 Bob Wright on Native Fish.**

## 2008 – 2009 Executive

President – Ken Brady - - - (905) 935-4716 [kbrady2@cogeco.ca](mailto:kbrady2@cogeco.ca)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – John Verhage – (905) 735-7776 [jverhage@on.aibn.com](mailto:jverhage@on.aibn.com)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Bruce Hallett - (905) 934-7138  
Secretary – Claudia Carthew - (905) 684-0394 [rcarthew@yahoo.com](mailto:rcarthew@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer – Wally Ebert - (905) 687-6907 [lebert@cogeco.ca](mailto:lebert@cogeco.ca)  
Past President & Editor DAve Unruh (905) 684-9860 [dunruh@cogeco.ca](mailto:dunruh@cogeco.ca)

## 2007 – 2008 Committees

Aquatic Horticulture Awards DAve Unruh (905)684-9860  
Archives Tom & Pat Bridges - - (905) 735-3352 [tp.bridges@sympatico.ca](mailto: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 [gpshriner@sympatico.ca](mailto:gpshriner@sympatico.ca)  
Library – Gary Phelps - - - (905) 563-6523  
Library - Jeff Phelps – - - (905) 892-0248 [jphelps@vaxxine.com](mailto:jphelps@vaxxine.com)  
Membership & Exchanges – Pat Bridges (905) 735-3352  
Programs – Pam Danyluck - [danyluck@sympatico.ca](mailto:danyluck@sympatico.ca) &  
- Tom Hillier - [tom.hillier@hotmail.com](mailto:tom.hillier@hotmail.com)  
Press/publicity – Ken Brady - - (905) 935-4716 - [kbrady2@cogeco.ca](mailto:kbrady2@cogeco.ca)  
Raffle & Draws – Priscilla Heus - (905) 988-9741  
Refreshments – Bruce Hallett - - (905) 934-7138  
Web Master - Ken Brady

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## Membership Dues:

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

## Inside This Issue

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Cover photo of a Wild-caught Neolamprologus olivaceus  
Photo © by DAve Unruh

The way I see it

## Presidents Message November 2009

It's confirmed we will have a show and auction October 31, 2010. Having a show is probably the second most rewarding activity a club can do. The first most rewarding activity is seeing everyone at monthly meetings. A show brings out the best fish and gives club members and public alike a chance to see top quality and sometimes rare fish. It sounds like a lot of work but we have a lot of experienced members and with enough hands it's quickly over leaving you eager for the next one. We will have regular updates on these plans on the web site and at meeting.

Our program was fantastic. Rein "the Minimalist Aquarist" himself showed us fantastic photos from his tour through exotic places with his ability to dig out stories about fish even in the desert!

Our speaker this month is Bob Wright on Native fish. You will be surprised at the variety and attractiveness of these fish and Bob is a great presenter with tons of knowledge and enthusiasm.

Many thanks to our impromptu auctioneers Rein and Brian. We had a real good selection of fish that went for pretty decent prices.

See you all on November 2

**Ken**

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### Variegated Platy *Xiphophorus variatus*

By Dave Furness

This peaceful little livebearer comes from Central and Southern Mexico. There it lives in shallow, slow moving rivers. I kept my pair in a 15 gallon tank with a lot of Java moss and some floating artificial plants. The tank was well lit, and the temperature was about 76 d F. I did not remove the fry, but let them live in the Java moss and floating plants where they ate the bacteria living there and any foods small enough for them that was floating by. I fed all of the occupants crushed flakes and micro worms.

In the wild they can tolerate a PH of 7-8.3 and a temperature between 68- 79 degrees F. , and a hardness of 12 DH- 30 dh. The male can grow to around 2 inches and the female 2.7 inches. The gestation period is from 4 to 7 weeks, and they can give birth to 20 - 150 live born fry.

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### *Anagram for November*

*Example:*

*An anagram for this creature is: alpine alps*

*The creature is: applesnail*

**An anagram for this fish is: Oval Basin Rim**

**This Fish is: \_\_\_\_\_**

Answer will be in the next newsletter.

**September's answer: Cryptocorne wendtii**

Fishy Anagrams provided courtesy of



1 week old Banghai cardinal fry





## Member Profile

*By Pam Danyluck*

This month's profile is on Wally Ebert.

**Wally** was born in Berlin, Germany and lived there for the first 18 years of his life. He resides in St. Catharines with his wife Lilo and has a daughter Monica and a son Tomas. Wally used to have a couple of donut stores called the "Bakers Dozen" in St. Catharines before he retired.

**He** became a member of our club in 2006 and is presently the treasurer and has been since September 2006.



Wally Ebert (Photo by Pam Danyluck)

**Wally** became interested in fish in 1970 and keeps one tank at the moment and uses an aqua clear filter on it. His current fish are angels, plecos and clownfish. He also keeps

Julidochromis and has been very successful in breeding these African cichlids. The two large bags at our mini auction in October came from him. His family does not take an active part in his hobby, but we have seen his son join him at our meeting occasionally.

**Thank you** Wally, 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](mailto:pjdanyluck@sympatico.ca) or 905-562-3290.

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# 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 -

October, 2009

- \*Breeding the White Seam Fighter by Charles Drew
- \*Discus made Simple ... or Discus for Dummies by Joe Bastianpillai

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

October, 2009

- \*The Emperor Tetra by Kelli Barton
- \*The Minimalist Aquarist by Rein Breitmaier
- \*Planted Tank: Pen is Mightier than Sword By Ed Koerner
- \*Malaysian Trumpet Madness by Phil Maznyk

### ▶ ... in The Greater Akron Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Tank Topics' -

October/November, 2009

- \*Keeping & Spawning Phalichthys amates amates & Trying To Get The Lowdown on The Upland Swordtail by Wayne Toven

### ▶ ... in The Long Island Aquarium Society's Newsletter 'Paradise Press' -

September, 2009

- \*The View...From the Other Side of the Tank by Margaret Peterson

October, 2009

- \*A View From the Other Side of the Tank By Margaret Peterson
- \*Aquatic Paste Food by Sal Silvestri

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



## BAP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS presented at the October meeting

Dave Unruh  
Peacock Gudgeons  
Tateurndina ocellicauda.....20 pts.

Congratulations!

Tom Bridges



## JAR SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Oct 25, 2009 All Day Auction Peel Region Aquarium Society

Auction location is at the  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #609  
1133 Queen Street East  
Bramalea Ontario  
Just east of highway 410, south side  
Go to [www.peelaquariumclub.org](http://www.peelaquariumclub.org) for more information.

### Nov 1, 2009 All Day Show & Auction Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society

Contact [pyrofish@rogers.com](mailto:pyrofish@rogers.com) for details



# The Crypt Emersion – Part Four (of Ten)

Derek P.S. Tustin

As I concluded last month, this tank has really reached the point of equilibrium. In the past month I made no new additions of plants or fish, and there were no deaths. I did have an opportunity to buy some galaxy rasboras / celestial pearl danios (*Danio margaritatus*), but foolishly didn't take it. I went back the following week and they were all gone...

This equilibrium has really forced me to stop looking at the major changes in the tank from week-to-week and start looking at the minor changes...

The tank is doing very well. As mentioned last month, some of the other plants in the tank have really taken over, at least for the first visual impression. Instead of listing the changes that have occurred week-to-week, I would like to present the four pictures from the past month, and have you look at the changes.



Week Twenty-Four



Week Twenty-Five



Week Twenty-Three



Week Twenty-Six

The *Sagittaria sagittifolia* has surprised me. When I first added the *Sagittaria lorata*, it didn't do all that well (at least when compared to the *Anubias hastifolia*), and I expected the same from the *S. sagittifolia*. Surprisingly, it not only continues to grow taller, but, aside from some



browning around the margins, the leaves are very beautiful. If you look at the four pictures in the above series, you can see the rapid growth of the leaves. Another thing that surprises me about this plant, both in this tank and two of my other tanks, is the tendency for the leaves to grow curved or bent to allow the arrow-head leave to stay as close as possible to the light source.



***S. Sagittifolia* – Week Twenty-Three\***

The other plant that has surprised me in the last four weeks is the *A. hastifolia*. While it has been doing exceedingly well, the growth over the last month has amazed me, with two leaves being above the lights as of week 26.



***A. Hastifolia* Week 25\***

Along with the height of the leaves, the size of the leaves is also impressive.



***A. Hastifolia* Week 23 Close-up 1\***

Finally, over a week period there was an impressive growth spurt of *Salvinia rotundifolia*. If you look at the following picture and compare it with the background of the *S. sagittifolia* above, you can see that in the period of one week, it multiplied rapidly. If anyone has any suggestions on why I had such rapid growth in such a small period of time, I would be grateful to listen.



***Sagittifolia* – Week 24\***

So, that is where I stand at week 26, half-way into my year long experiment. Only another six months to go...

***This series was first published in the Durham Region Aquarium Society's publication "Tank Talk"***



# The Minimalist Aquarist

## The Aquarium at the End of the World

By Rein Breitmaier

Photos by Rein & Char Breitmaier

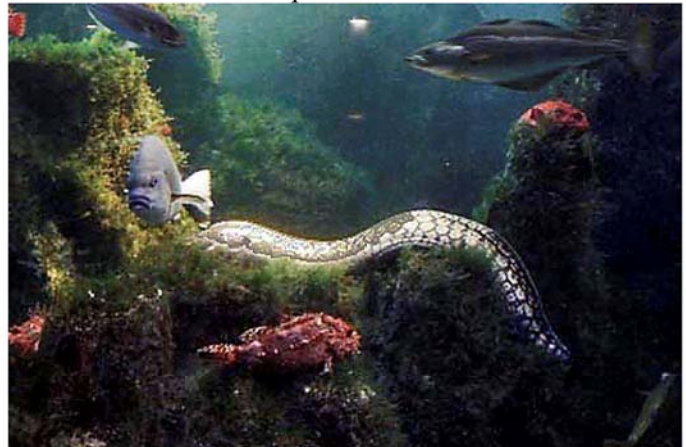
Out of desperation for fishes, we head for the City of La Coruña in the far north western corner of Spain. Aquarium Finisterrae beckoned. As we dissected the name we discovered it meant the aquarium at the end of the World. I guess that's fitting as this Province of Galicia was where Christopher Columbus was reputed to have landed one of his ships with news of finding the New World.



The aquarium is part of a publicly funded scientific education project that includes two other interactive museums in the city. This complex was built literally where the land ends albeit with the plainest dullest building and signage imaginable. The giveaway should you look down and over the sea shore promenade is the outdoor marine lagoon where a pod of seals are just beginning their show training. It's a good thing they have a shiny brochure to help promote this place.



Mid November is clearly outside of the tourist season and we had the place largely to ourselves having only to manoeuvre around one school class that had been bussed in. Aside from the significant number of 'how do they do that' displays about marine biology, most of the display tanks were relegated to fishes from the Galician Coast, which is what this part of the North Atlantic Ocean touches. Cool-water fishes aren't typically featured in public aquaria as they are neither the most colourful nor best known. There are thankfully some notable exceptions including some Mediterranean species that travel this far.



The placards throughout the displays were clearly aimed at the domestic audience as they were in Spanish only. TMA found this a little odd as this area draws a large European as well as International tourist crowd and I expected at least



German, French and English. Only the fish identification signs treated us to better information, which always included the Latin names.

We have been treated to marine displays before and all included Moray Eels, sure fire crowd pleasers. A small twist was provided here in the Mediterranean Moray. This most interesting fish swims like all eels with a snake-like undulating of the body, and does so freely. Usually morays snarl menacingly from their chosen rock but these creatures kept a too-and-fro action happening in mid-water in the tank that was quite a sight to enjoy. They still have that fierce face, not that it bothered the tank-mates here much.



**I guess** everyone has to learn a little something when spending time in a public aquarium so I pondered the swimming speed chart posted on the wall. It had never occurred to me that a Tuna was faster than an Orca, so long as the Tuna ends up in the can at the grocery store, I'm good. Then on the very bottom it said the lowly Goby was capable of one kilometre per hour. Now hold the presses; who funded that research and who could imagine a Goby actually swimming a whole kilometre in one stretch? I'm thinking that should take them at least a week. They usually end up in little tide pools of about 15 gallons of water on the rocks at the shore waiting for the next lunar cycle.

**What** I want to know is: how fast is the Goby when the Tuna is looking for a snack? Nuff said.



I'm thinking that most Large Aquaria have to go much further to get their marine environment right. At Finisterrae they simply pumped the sea water directly into their system, filtered it, distributed it throughout the various display tanks, and ultimately returned it to the sea. I guess that works until an oil tanker pulls up onto the rocks somewhere along the coast, something that has happened in parts of Europe and around the world more than once. Let's just hope they have a back up plan in place.



So what was the most significant or unusual thing about this Public Aquarium? Two things actually come to mind. Underneath the large outdoor patio was a separate marine world they dubbed "Nautilus". It was a little gimmicky with the Captain Nemo theme and the faux submarine illusions in walking down into this environment but the display had wow factor. Picture an oval office with a central staircase providing access from above. The walls are glass panels each 30 inches wide and 9 feet tall and there are 48 of



them separated by pillars that completely encircle the 'office'. Three hundred and sixty degrees of glass! Of course we were supposed to be in Nemo's submarine but I likened it better to 'The Oval Office' on any serious aquarist's dream list. Shoals of larger fish kept up an endless swim around the room including a few sand sharks and smaller bottom dwellers for interest. They even had classical music piped in and the best part was that the busload of kiddies hadn't found it yet. TMA sat in that comfy leather chair at that desk a long, long time I can tell you.

Now to top that would be nigh impossible so let's just call it a draw. As we ventured through a display that purported to teach of the pearl industry, one was led to the back wall of the building where a window opened onto the ocean beyond. I was oblivious to the information printed



onto the window glass itself; it was the unobstructed view of the sea and the pounding surf that mesmerized. Home is out there and Chris came here to report finding it in 1492.

TMA

### **Bumble Bee Cichlid**

*Pseudotropheus crabro*

By Dave Furness

This aggressive little cichlid from Lake Malawi live in and about the rocky areas of the lake. They are said to grow to lengths of 4 to 6 inches, but I had a single male many years ago, which was raised in a 200 gallon tank which exceeded 10 inches in total length . Dominant males have a black body and fins. The males also have two to four egg spots on the anal fin, while the female has only one or two. The female has a yellowish body with four or five black cross bands on the body. Dominant females can also turn a light black. There is a variety of geographical variants of this fish

I kept six of these fish in a cichlid community tank. The tank was a 100 gallon tank which was well lit. The interior had some dark fine gravel with some lava rocks and some artificial plants. The temperature of the tank was around 76 degrees F. The Ph Range for this fish is 7.5 - 8.2. The PH in mine was 7.4 .

Bumble Bee cichlids are mouth brooders, and prefer to spawn in caves or around rock work, but

would pick a flat surface near some cover. The females incubate the eggs for about 18 to 21 days. I fed the fry some very fine flake food and some micro worms. After a few weeks I have been feeding them crushed flakes, some other dried foods and micro worms.

In the wild, *Pseudotropheus crabro* have a pseudo-symbiotic relationship with large catfish which share and spawn in the caves where they live. While the male and females are wearing their yellow and black banded colours will pick off parasites off the bodies of the catfish which tolerate this action. They use their ability to change colour when the catfish spawn. Both male and female turn black and sneak in and eat their eggs. They then return home and revert to their normal colouration.





## “What SCAAS Members are keeping?”

By Pam Danyluck

This is an up to date list of what our members keep and specialize in, including contact information.  
To be added to this list, please see Pam to fill out a form or email her at [danyluck@sympatico.ca](mailto:danyluck@sympatico.ca)

DAve Unruh	(905) 648-9860 dunruh@cogeco.ca
Specialty:	Cichlids
Others:	Plants, Marines, Some Catfish
Some of the Fish I am keeping as of October 2008	Pseudotropheus demasoni - wild caught (wc) Neolamprologus marunguensis – (wc) Heros appendiculatus – (wc) Julidochromis marlieri “Gombie” - (wc) Pterophyllum scalare – Angel fish – (wc) Pseudomugil gertrudae –(wc) Hoplosternum pectoral (Hoplo Catfish) Pseudosphromenus dayi – (wc) Synodontis petricola Callopleysiops altivelis(Marine Comet) Snowflake morray eel Amphiprion clarkia (clownfish) Puntis denisonii (wc) Pterophyllum leopoldi (wc) Neolamprologus falcicula (wc) Neolamprologus olivaceus (wc) Pterapogon kauderni (wc)

Tom & Pat Bridges	tp.bridges@sympatico.ca
Specialty:	Angels Anableps
Others: The fish we are keeping as of October 2008	Plecostomus, Endlers, Livebearers, Limia perugiae Celestial Pearl Danios and Columbian tetras
For more information see our website:	<a href="http://www3.sympatico.ca/tp.bridges/home.html">http://www3.sympatico.ca/tp.bridges/home.html</a>

Pam Danyluck	danyluck@sympatico.ca
Specialty: Apple snails Pomacea diffusa, Pomacea canaliculata and Asolene spixi Platies, Swords & Mollies Wild Types Ameca Splendens(endangered) Limia vittata Xiphophorus montezumae Xiphophorus alvarezii Celestial Pearl Danios	BNS Albino Long finned, Calicos and Long Finned Red Marble calicos Fundulopanchax oeseri (endangered) Fundulopanchax gardneri Aphyosemion poliaki Aphyosemion striatum Cories: Pygmy (hastatus) Black Phantom aspidoras Red Cherry Shrimp & Green Shrimp Assassin Snails

Kevin Bonnar	905-680-0473/fishmongers@hotmail.com
Specialty:	Salt Water
LPS - Large Polyp Stony	Acros regular & deep water
Softies – Zoas & Leathers	Clowns
Breeding Banghii Cardinals	Almost any high end coral

Bohdan Nebesny	bnebesny@hotmail.com
Specialty:	Red Belly Piranhas (10 years)

Shawn & Shirley Markowski	<a href="mailto:rsrogers33@cogeco.ca">rsrogers33@cogeco.ca</a> (905) 714 - 0014
Specialty:	Swordtails Amano Shrimp
Others:	Plants
Some fish they are keeping as of January 2009	Dojo Loaches (Weather) Yoyo Loaches Bettas Various Cories Silvertip Tetras Plecostomus Dwarf Rainbow Fish
For pictures see: Website:	Shirley Roger’s Facebook <a href="http://home.cogeco.ca/~rogers33/">http://home.cogeco.ca/~rogers33/</a>

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