

The



SCAT

The official publication of the **St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society**
since 1958

Vol. 21, No 1 September 2008



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Meeting date - Sept. 08.08

- Scanning the Exchanges

- *Azolla caroliniana*

<http://www.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, 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 September 8 at the Seafarers & Teamsters Union hall,
70 St. Davids Rd.E. Thorold. Start time is 7.30 pm ALL ARE WELCOME
This months program will be on Barbs**

2007 – 2008 Executive

President – Ken Brady - - - (905) 935-4716 kbrady2@cogeco.ca
1st Vice President – John Verhage – (905) 735-7776 jverhage@on.aibn.com
2nd Vice President – Bruce Hallet - (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

2007 – 2008 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 – open
Press/publicity – Ken Brady - - (905) 935-4716 - kbrady2@cogeco.ca
Raffle & Draws – Priscilla Heus - (905) 988-9741
Refreshments – Bruce Hallet - - (905) 934-7138
Web Master - Ken Brady

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Any not-for-profit organization may reprint articles from “The Scat” provided credit is given both to the author of the article and to the St.Catharines & Area Aquarium Society (SCAAS) and that two copies of the reprinting publication are sent to : Exchange Editor, Pat Bridges 4 Crescent Dr. Welland, Ont. Canada L3B 2W5. Opinions or endorsements expressed in any article do not necessarily reflect the views of the

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 Azolla caroliniana
& water hyacinth by DAve Unruh



President's Message

September 2008

Welcome aboard Claudia as our new secretary. I am looking forward to working with her and I know she will put her own touch on this vital position. Also, 3 cheers for the returning executive and the committee members.

This year's goals:

Build on last year's good success in attendance and participation, our web site and take advantage of our own members' knowledge and enthusiasm.

Continue to grow our jar show. Let's see some of the more unusual stuff you are hiding.

Start a club photo album, real printed photos, including tanks, fish room and members. This may aquarium related photos from members' trips and vacations.

Pick a list of short topics to discuss each month as simple as trends and observations in city water. Articles on topics like a new bread or new gadget.

Hold a major auction fund raiser.

News from the summer:

Thanks to Dave and his wife for holding our annual St. Catharines and Area Aquarium Society Picnic. The weather was perfect! Attendance was great.



SCAAS picnic Photo © by DAve Unruh

Our Society, like usual, supplied the burgers, hotdogs, pop and surprise RIBS! Bruce was his usual galloping gourmet self, well prepared with everything we needed.

As usual the Unruh's adorable dog Rudy was a hit. **Roman** is on his way to school in the United States so



SCAAS Picnic photo © by DAve Unruh



SCAAS Picnic photo © by DAve Unruh



I am now the web guru. I hope I can keep up the good work he started. Enough about summer - we are just about to start the new meeting season and need ideas for programs and anything else you want to talk about.

Our first meeting is Monday September 8th, 2008. We will start off continuing where we left off, great attendance, fun and lots of stories to tell of summer success and surprise breeding.

SCANNING THE EXCHANGES

& etc.

... with Pat and Tom ...



S.C.A.A.S.

Memberships are due for renewal

at the September meeting...

pick up your 2008-2009 membership card

See you there!

Pat B.

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

- ▶ ... in The Central New York Aquarium Society's newsletter 'Reflector' -

April, 2008

- *Breeding Corydoras Aeneus
by Eric Le Calvez, PhD

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

April/May, 2008

- *Spawning Archocentrus cutteri or Whatever
& Allodontichthys hubbsi by Wayne Toven

June/July, 2008

- *An Economical Trickle Filter System
by Rich Serva
- *Sailing Along With the Black Sailfin Goodeid –
Girardinichthys viviparous by Wayne Toven

August/September, 2008

- *Observations on spawning Ctenopoma kingsleyae
by Bud and Cathy White
- *Another Trip to the Candy Store, Searching for
Chocolates by Wayne Toven
- *Xiphophorus nezahualcoyotl, the Northern
Swordtail of Tamulipas Mexico
by Rich Serva

The newsletters listed above will be at the sign-in desk at the start of the next meeting, then in the club library.

Azolla Caroliniana

By DAve Unruh

This plant was one that I bought at an auction last year. It was labelled as frogbit and so I bid on it as I wanted some frogbit for my small barrel ponds. I did not see this bag earlier so I hoped that the seller was actually selling what was written on the bag. My bid was the winning one and so after signing for the bag I took a close look inside the bag. I was disappointed as it definitely was not frogbit. There was a lot of common duckweed in the bag and a small floating plant that I could not identify. I kept the bag with the mystery plant anyway.



Green Azolla caroliniana photo © by DAve Unruh

When I got home I threw the contents of the bag into a tank that did not have any floating plant. It seemed that it was mostly duckweed (which I hate to have in my tanks). Duckweed spreads very quickly & ends up blocking most of the light. So I threw out as much of the duckweed as I could and kept the mystery plants.



Red Azolla caroliniana photo © by DAve Unruh

I had a very busy few months & I sort of forgot about the small floating plants. When spring came I netted up as much of the plant as I could and took it outside to spread around in the half-barrel ponds.



The plants started out green in color. After a few weeks I noticed that the plants that received full sun for most of the day had turned a very attractive shade of red while the ones that got only partial sunlight stayed green. However, by the time August was over the green Azolla had begun to turn red, although not completely.

I did a bit of research to find a name for this plant and I have tentatively identified it as *Azolla caroliniana*. It is very attractive floating plant, but it spreads quickly.



Close-up of a single plant photo © by DAve Unruh

Like ordinary duckweed it can take over the surface of your pond or aquarium. It needs to be regularly thinned out as it will greatly reduce the amount of light getting to submersed plants

Tiger Barbs

This article below is from the very first issue of The Scat. It was published in October 1960, in a 6 x 9" format. According to the newsletter the club met on the first Monday of the month. They met in the "Blue Flame Room" at the Pen Centre. There were six store ads in the newsletter, one of which was Petland, on Geneva St. From the ads it would appear that there were more Aquarium stores back then than there are now. Some things never change though – the editor pleads for articles from the members" to make the newsletter interesting and informative", just as your editor of this newsletter pleads for articles from the current membership. Since the club is in its 50th year I intend on printing one article each month from old SCAT newsletters (as long as I have room in the newsletter). (ed)

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 placed 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).

Jar Show - For now we will use last years list since there has not yet been an updated list given to me

September – Corydoras, Brochis & Aspidoras species

October - Angels

November – Dwarf Cichlids (under 4”) Old world

December – No Jar Show this month

January – AOV Catfish

February – Swords/ Platys / Mollies

March – New World Cichlids over 4”

April – Old World Cichlids over 4”

May – Plants

June – Dwarf Cichlids(under 4”)New World

Notice – Bruce Hallet is looking for the following issues of THE SCAT: 1973 to 1978, 1985 to 1998. All or any issues will be appreciated. Bruce would like to borrow them, make copies & then return the originals to you!

Editors Notes

Unfortunately this is a rather small newsletter. I encourage all members to try and write something about our hobby at least once this year. It is not that hard, & I am happy to help anyone who makes an attempt. One easy article would be to simply describe the aquarium(s) that you own. Take a few pictures of your tanks and fish and there you go – you have an article. It does not have to be long – a page or even half a page would make a nice addition to this newsletter. I am sure that Pam Danyluck will be looking for a victim (I mean volunteer) to write about in Member Bio, interesting since it is about the members who make up the club.

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