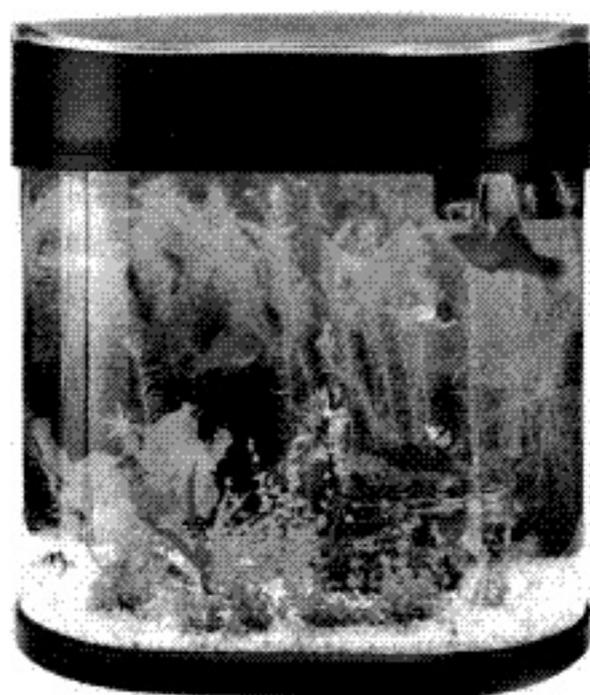


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The society meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM,
except in July and August, at the Church of the Resurrection, 435
Mohawk Rd. West near the corner of Garth. Visitors are welcome.

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Our 61st Year of Publication

JANUARY 2011

Carla's Comments

Carla MacDonald

Hi Everyone and Happy New Year

Wow, 2011 already. That sure came quickly. I hope everyone had a really nice Christmas and New Year Holiday Season. I'd like to thank Noel N for his great Fish Rendition of Millionaire for our annual Christmas Party. We had lots of success with raising funds and groceries for Neighbour to Neighbour. Thank you all for your support and helping others during the holiday season. I'd like to thank the HDAS executive with their help in preparation for the party. I think a good time was had by all.

January's meeting on Thursday the 13th is the HDAS executive election night. If you are interested in running for a position, please let me know. The program for January will be presented by Bob Wright.

Our Spring Auction is on Sunday, March 6th at the Waterdown Legion. Please mark this date on your calendar and give the HDAS auction team a hand. We are always looking for more help. Try selling some new or gently used items or maybe purchasing some items. If you haven't been to an auction, this is a good time to start.

The Brantford Tropical Fish Club is hosting the 2011 CAOAC Convention starting on Friday May 20 thru the long weekend Monday May 23. If you have never been to a tropical fish convention this is an ideal opportunity for you to go. Save your loose change or make a plan to attend. There are many great speakers coming to the convention to keep us all educated in our hobby. Stay posted for more information.

There are many ideas in motion for the 2011 year. A new twist on the Home Show? Programs? 3rd Annual Pond Tour? How about a trip to the Toronto Zoo? Let me know your ideas.

See you at the meeting.

Carla

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Sturisomatichthys sp. Columbia 1

Charles Drew

The whiptail catfish are of a group of the Loricariidae family many of which are undescribed and some even undiscovered. In the spring of 2010 I found a tank of a new whiptail that the local fish store was calling the Black Sided Whiptail Catfish. I knew it was different than any that I had seen before so I made a deal for two pair and went on my way. A few weeks later they had one female left so I bought that one as well. I did some searches on the net but did not have much luck as to the species. Finally I got around to looking in my book Atlas Catfish 1 by Ingo Seidel and Hans-Georg Evers both authors that I have met and spoken to personally. There it was the very fish that I have *Sturisomatichthys sp. Columbia 1*. It is an undescribed species and has been imported from Columbia since the early 90's



My fish are housed in a fifteen gallon aquarium as they are a smaller species and are only four and a half inches in length. Their preferred temperature is said to be 24-28C which is about the range of the temperature in my fish room. The book says to feed them a mixed diet of animal and vegetable. Mine did not read the book and prefer Ken's Earthworm Sticks and meat wafers. They do eat a bit of blood worm at times. They are kept in our local tap water and are quite

happy. Their tank has a sand bottom and some driftwood as well as a few radican plants.

During the summer they started to spawn. The pair will choose a spot on the glass and lay usually about 50 eggs. The male guards and fans the eggs for about 7 days or more until they all hatch. The eggs are fairly large and the quarter inch long fry that hatch are jet black. It is almost another week before the fry are ready to feed. By this time they have grown another one eighth of an inch in just absorbing their yolk sack. Unfortunately raising them is not all that simple. I have successfully raised several species of whiptails and they all had problems to be resolved and these proved to be a challenge also.



The first attempt I removed the eggs and hatched them in a bowl. There was no problem and I got a 100% hatch. When the fry were ready to feed I moved them to a bare tank with a small power filter providing them with current and fed some newly hatched brine shrimp. This they refused to eat. I tried pellets wafers and zucchini but they refused all food. Slowly they all died. The next time I left them in the breeding tank and they seem to last about a week after they hatch and then disappear probably eaten by a female. This went on most of the summer and into the early fall. Being busy with visits to the cottage and conventions in the states I had little or no time



to experiment. In October I came home with Super Red and Green Dragon Ancistrus fry to grow up into breeders I placed them in a fifteen gallon aquarium along with a few Cory fry. Soon along came another spawn of the whiptails. Since I had nothing to lose I caught the fry in a baster and moved them into the tank with the plecos. Some times monkey see monkey do can be the answer. The fry spent there usual week on the glass and then some came down and started to rummage around on the coarse lakeshore sand that was on the bottom. In time they changed their colour from black to the adult colour which is brown with a black area on the sides. At this stage they started to take an interest in an occasional taste of Ken's meat wafers with spirulina. It is a stable wafer that holds its shape all day. As they grew they also ate a bit of flake and other pellets and refused to be push away by a much larger pleco. As Ingo Seidel says they are not easy to raise and raising a whole hatch may be nearly impossible but I am now drawing my own conclusions on how to improve my end results.

I feel that the first food of the fry is biomass. In a bare tank biomass can be mixed with bacteria that can be deadly. When they start to feed the bottom is their natural place to feed and they scour the sand and gravel for biomass in all forms. One suggestion is to gather surface gravel and pebbles from a clean stream for them to feed on. That is a great idea that will have to wait until next summer. In the meantime I am looking at what I would call favorable results. Having the fry with other bottom feeders that are getting a mixed diet appears to work. Some of the first 20 surviving fry are as big as an inch long and a second tank set up the same way shows some promise. This hatch of fry stayed on the tank sides for about 2 weeks and doubled their size and you think you have it made when they start to die. Some manage to stay alive which shows me that their preferred food is limited. There is no such word as can't. So never give up as there has to be an answer. I may find it if I don't get side tracked with some other interesting fish.



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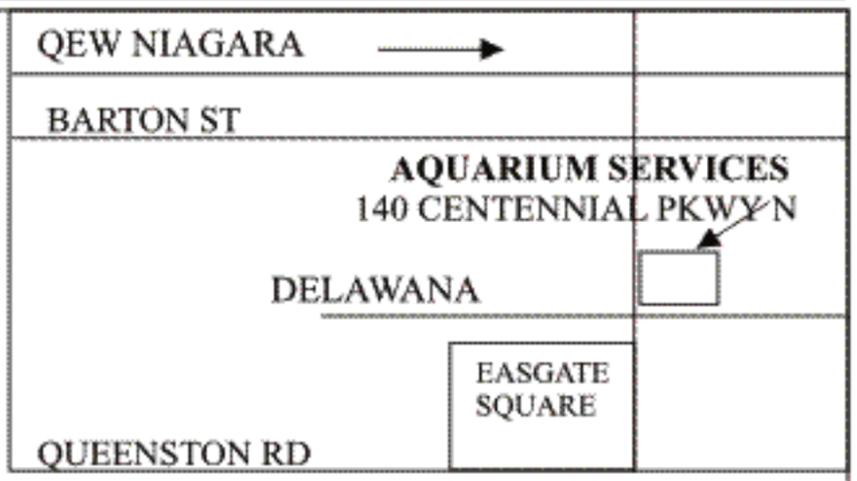
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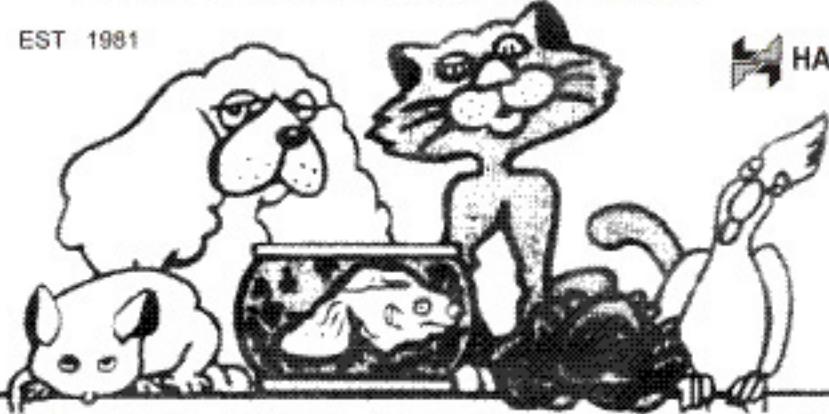
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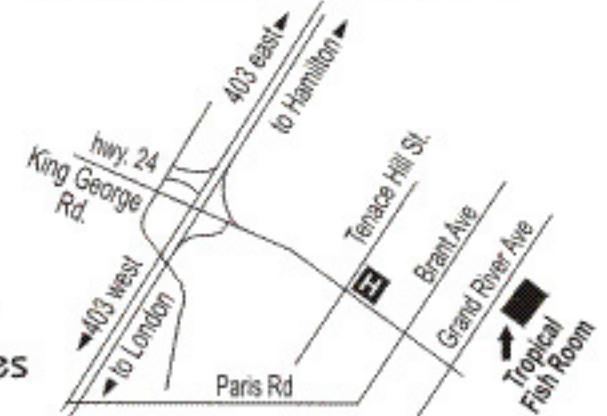
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January 1991 – President Tom Tota discussed the upcoming club elections in his President’s message and outlined how you could go about running for one of the executive positions. He also thanked the outgoing executive for the hard work they put in over the year and the challenges they were able to overcome. Articles featured included “Pterolebias longipinnis” by Gary Smith, “Pink Momyrids on Parade” by Norm McEvoy, and another article by Norm entitled:

On the Road to the John Shedd Aquarium

Norm McEvoy

Al Capone and Elliot Ness, the Roaring Twenties, Wrigley Field and Comiskey Park, and legendary Jazz and Blues men come to mind when you hear the name Chicago. For a city that was founded on the railway and beef trade, and aquarium is the last thing that comes to mind about the Windy City; but in fact Chicago is home to the world’s largest indoor aquarium, on the shores of Lake Michigan and in operation since 1930. Being in town and having a free Sunday, I took a walk over there to check it out.

A few facts first: there are more than 6000 critters, not counting the staff, representing more than 700 species from around the world. There are 200 exhibits and 175 reserve tanks holding 450,000 gallons of water. Reservoirs hold two million gallons divided between fresh and salt water with synthetic seawater being pumped into the appropriate tanks. There are six galleries, divided equally between fresh and salt water, with a smaller gallery in a separate exhibit devoted to creatures from tributary waters. At the centre of all this is a Caribbean Coral Reef in a 90,000 gallon tank which houses among other things: sharks, turtles, and eels. There are public feedings as well. It’s safe to say these people take fish seriously.

For the hobbyist, this place makes you feel like a hyperactive five year old let loose in Toys R Us, only to find your father is Scrooge McDuck. All this neat stuff you want to take home but can’t! They have fish there that most aquarists only dream of, bigger, more

colourful and exotic looking with the kind of finnage and showing we wished our fish would have. It's like putting Jessica Rabbit and Marge Simpson side by side; get the picture Homer? But then again, this place is a world class affair so of course they'll look great. The whole point is to come and look at things you wouldn't normally see, forget your troubles for an afternoon and provide some cheap entertainment for the rugrats. In that, it succeeds totally.

What have they got there that's so great? Well for one, a rare specimen of Australian lungfish, the aquarium's oldest inhabitant, having resided there since 1933. A large, heavily scaled fish who must rise to the surface to breathe, he is an imposing and dignified animal as befits a patriarch. Another rare creature is the Mississippi Paddle Fish, so called because of the long paddlelike appendage on the snout that acts as a direction finder in the murky waters in which they live. Feeding time is wild for these guys because they eat plankton and swim around holding their enormous mouths open like whales to catch it. I don't know which was more fun: watching the fish feed, or the viewing public freaking out over it.

"But I didn't come here to see a bunch of ugly prehistoric freaks" you say? Well you would if you went along with me because I like that sort of thing! But don't worry, for you cichlid fans there are lots of tanks full of your favorites as well as your hard to find fish. A lot of Rift Lake cichlids of every colour, size and temperament. Keep an eye out for the Harlequin Cichlids; you'll almost swear this fish was spray painted buy a local graffiti artist.

Along with the cichlids are many other outstanding specimens such as the Red Arowana or Chinese Paradise Fish. Whatever its real name is, this fish looks like it's been hand painted, literally. Of course you also learn everything you wanted to know about Illinois fish and were afraid to ask as they have an interesting display that highlights everything from the pond's surface to the bottom of Lake Michigan, including things like Burbot and Sturgeon.

One tank that really caught my fancy was filled with Synodontis Catfish and huge, black and yellow Bichirs, a really colourful tank with some unbelievable specimens.



At the end of each gallery are extra-big tanks for extra-big fish. In the freshwater section these included Asian foodfish that are also favorites in the hobby, Amazonian river fish, and North American fish including Sturgeon, Salmon, and the aforementioned Paddlefish. In the marine section they had such things as Sharks, Eels, and Reefish. A favorite with the kids are the turtles (are you surprised dudes?). Besides a good collection of pond turtles they have a huge Alligator Snapping Turtle that squats all day like a Mandarin. Needless to say, all the kids are convinced he's the Ninja Turtle's Grandfather.

Into Marine Fish? Well they've got a great collection including a coral reef and a special Sea Anemone display. While they haven't got an octopus, they do have Nautilus and Cuttlefish that are really neat. Another impressive invertebrate is their lobster, a huge monster of a crustacean who looks like he's just had a Benihana chef for dinner. Then there's the Electric Eel, the freshwater rays, Piranhas, Groupers and things with the usual Latin names cause all the good English ones were used up.

The aquarium is open most every day from 9 or 10 am to 5pm. Soon they will be opening a new wing for marine mammals, including whales, dolphins, seals and other sorts of stuff, so there'll be even more to do and see.

I have to admit that I almost never got into the Aquarium because next door was the Field Museum of Natural History and I barely got out of there. It's a huge place with lots of neat stuff such as an Egyptian Tomb, West Coast Indian displays with Totem Poles and such, a Pawnee earth lodge with an old Indian curator who's a really cool dude, lots of stuffed animals including Bushman the Gorilla, at one time the most famous zoo animal in the world, and of course dinosaurs which are the greatest things ever. You can see both in one day, but if you have a family along, plan the day carefully.

I also want to put a word in for the Lincoln Park Zoo. At free admission, the price is right and it's easy to find. Lots of things to see, especially the Reptile House. On a fine fall day, it's a great place to be.

And so as the sun sinks slowly in the west, we board the train to head back home and bid a fond farewell to the John Shedd Aquarium and Chicago. All aboard!



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Photos: Jessica Bullock and Brad Smith

JANUARY 2011





Odds 'n' Ends

EVENTS

<i>January 16</i>	CAOAC Meeting, Waterdown
<i>March 6</i>	H&DAS Spring Auction, Waterdown
<i>March 27</i>	Brant Aquarium Society Show and Auction
<i>April 10</i>	Durham Region Aquarium Society Show and Auction
<i>May 20-23</i>	CAOAC Convention - Brantford, Ontario

MEETINGS

<i>January 13</i>	Election Meeting, Speaker Bob Wright
<i>February 10</i>	February Meeting
<i>March 10</i>	March Meeting

Submissions

Articles are needed for every month's bulletin. Topics can include breeding, nutrition, water quality, do-it-yourself techniques, and amusing anecdotes. We have kicked off a new practice of using a hobbyist's photo for the cover of the e-bulletin. Hobbyist photos are needed for future months' bulletins. They do not need to be show quality fish or professional quality photos. Please send submissions to bulletin@hdas.ca



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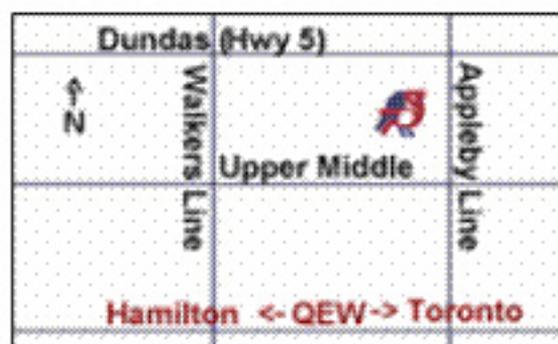
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