

B.R.A.S.S.



Bulletin

NEXT MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2011
7:00PM - 9:00PM
MAPLE GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL

The Mail Bag

From the Office of the President

Hi Everyone,

Here we are coming into February, (Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day, Family Day) Days are slowly getting longer and the nights are still cold. Snow is still an everyday possibility. At least we are past Blue Monday and things should start looking up soon.

Another month or so, the major auctions will be under way.

I haven't been getting too much in the way of ideas for newsletter names or logo suggestions. We don't want to spend too much time on these, as people will start getting board with it. Nice to see young people out to the last meeting and others that came to check us out. We brought in a couple of membership as well in January. We continue to grow. I'm thinking we should do something this spring to let people know we are here. Maybe we could pass out pamphlets in front of pet shops or Big Al's, etc....

We didn't have an auction last month as no one brought anything to sell. Auctions can be a great way of keeping people coming back. We need to be more active in bringing stuff to sell. Even if it doesn't bring a great return, it helps the club and generates interest.

There is a possibility of getting a larger place to meet in Barrie. Jan. meeting was getting pretty full and people were missing. Lots of stuff happening.

Keep safe and I hope to see all out for Feb. 8th meeting.

Doug Smith



Message from the Editor

I really want to let you know just how much I enjoy creating these Newsletters. That being said it is very much a guessing game as to what you want to see in them.

Is there a particular DIY project you would like information on or a specific fish you would like profiled?

I am willing to do the research if you give me a topic to run with. You can reach me anytime through email.

Kara
dkfleming@rogers.com



Secretary's Report

As submitted by Gary Johnson

Meeting Date: Jan 11th 2011

The Meeting took place at Maple Grove P.S. in the same room that we have been in for a few months. The meeting commenced at around 7:00 PM and it was good to see a few new faces in. I hope that this report will be one of many to come in the new year... and I do wish all our beloved members and guests days filled with fish loving happiness and may you battle the flu like every brave person (make sure you whine a lot) and drink lots of chicken soup.

The President started off the meeting by wishing everyone a very Happy New Year. After which there was a dilemma to whether the minutes of the last meeting needed to be read, since we did not have a meeting in December due to our wonderful Canadian weather. So it was agreed that the minutes were to be read. And was it a good read.

The Next point was the new legislation that was to be passed by the Ontario government and it was stipulated that pets not originating from the country or region where they are kept as pets would be subject to being banned or prohibited. And it is also speculated that the people who decide this would be someone who would not be an expert in the field. Or it would be someone who is just appointed by a commission. Is this Fair?

We should have a vote and also have the major Aquarium clubs of the province involved with this decision. Maybe the Barrie Club can start a petition and pass it along to other clubs just so that everyone has a say in this decision. After all we are in a democratic country.

The next item of business was to pick a name for our Clubs News Letter.... Great work Kara... the newsletters were awesome. A few of the members came up with a few names. The Aquanuts... The Crimson Tails... (another nice one)... the fish hatchery was another good one. The baked fish was another suggestion. (I do like the name.. but we are trying to keep the fish alive over here people... and the last suggestion was Play Fish...

The next item was the LOGO... there were a few ideas... nothing in concrete... Michael has put together a few slides that we took a look at but nothing has been decided yet... we await for the next meeting where there will be more deciding.:

Our treasurer had the details of our financials. The Barrie Club has a Balance of **beep**... and we have to make sure our bills of **BEEP**. Are paid... notice the balance is smaller than our bills... what does that remind you off..... That's right... that's why I don't open my mail... :)

We have heard that Michael has been gaining huge strides in getting our website completed for viewing. We will leave it in our capable web designer's hands to brief us next month on the progress.

The next item of business... is to bring some young blood into our club... we have to create something that would bring the youth to our club... (no I'm not that old). A few games would be great... some new prizes for the best fish picture would be another idea. We could also have different level or certificates for kids breeding different fish, different species of fish and much more.

I would like to add that one of our members. Miriam. (I hope I got the spelling right) has a fish named Jelly Bean... and Jelly bean has babies... and now there are beans all over the place. Good job Miriam. We soon switched over to Arowana's... I don't know how... but it was the flow of the conversation.

The next idea we had was to bring in a fish and see if people can identify it. It would be a great way to learn something new about the fish that was brought in an article could be written about the fish in the next newsletter.

A photo contest for everyone in the club was the next suggestion. You would have to take a picture of the fish you own and submit it for viewing and the best picture would win... we then took a short break, which was followed by the draws of the evening.. (we need better prizes.. where is that secretary he seems to be slacking off.)

We then watched the conclusion to the Nicaraguan crater fish. (Jeff I do apologize I did write the name down... I just don't remember where I did). We would like to thank Jeff from bringing in the movie for us to watch... it was great.. Thanks Jeff.

So concludes our meeting for January... I hope that everyone has had a great fishy month and we hope to see everyone on Feb 8th 2011. Damn its February already... time sure does fly... see all of you next month.

Dates to Remember

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| February 8, 2011 (7:00 – 9:00 pm) | Next Meeting at Maple Grove P.S. |
| March 6, 2011 | Hamilton & District Aquarium Society Auction |
| March 27, 2011 | Brant Aquarium Society Show & Auction |
| April 10, 2011 | Durham Regional Aquarium Show and Auction |

Details to follow about all shows and auctions.
www.caoac.ca



Conrad eventually realized cichlids can become a little ~~too~~ territorial.



Classifieds

I would like to start a section of Classifieds in our Newsletter. If you are looking to sell a large item that can't be auctioned or you are in need of an item that doesn't seem to show up at our auctions, please email me your ad.

Kara

dkfleming@rogers.com

Going once, going twice, SOLD!

Please take a few moments to look through your aquarium stashes and see what you are no longer using, things that are just collecting dust at your house, or fish and plants that need new homes.

We want to be able to hold an auction every month and without your participation that is not possible.

Non-Fish Species

Borrowed from - <http://fish.mongabay.com/nonfish.htm>

There are several animals that are kept in aquaria that are not fish. Some of the common non-fish aquarium species are included here.

Invertebrates

There are several invertebrates kept in aquaria, snails being the most common. When keeping invertebrates remember that the pH should be kept above 7.0, and the water should be copper free. Always aerate the water well.

Apple snails (*Ampullaria*, *Pomacea*): Apple snails can reach the size of an apple and come in a variety of colors. These snails breathe at the water surface through a proboscis, and may move above the water and right out of the tank if there is not a tight-fitting cover. This snail eating decaying matter and flake foods. If the Apple snail is not fed sufficiently, it will eat plants. The eggs are laid above the water.

Ramshorn snails (*Helisoma*): There are a wide variety of ramshorn snails which have a shell shaped like a ram's horn. Ramshorn snails reach a size of 0.8" (2 cm). Ramshorn snails may eat plants and multiply rapidly with overfeeding. Ramshorn snails will eat algae.

Malaysian or Trumpet snails (*Melanooides*): These snails, having a spiraled shell, bear live young. They move through the substrate loosening it up and consuming debris. These snails do not harm plants.

Mystery snails (*Viviparus*): These snails reach a size of 0.8" (2 cm) and feeds on algae, plant matter, and excess food. The young are born live. Do not allow the water temperature to exceed 75°F (24°C).

Penguin Shrimp (*Atyopsis*): The shrimp in this genus range in size, though those that do not exceed 4" (10 cm) are recommended for aquaria. This shrimp can be combined with peaceful fish of the upper swimming levels. The Penguin Shrimp feeds on most foods. In a tank with several specimens, young will likely produced as long as there is plenty of cover and algae. The young drop of the underside of the female and try to escape without being eaten.

Red-clawed Crab: The Red-Clawed crab is a species that must be allowed access to the surface. Thus this species is better suited to brackish water, half-filled aquarium. The Red-clawed crab feeds on any dry food or plant matter. Use a tight-fitting cover. The Red-clawed crab reaches 2.7" (7 cm) and can be combined with other brackish water species. This crab can be kept in hard, alkaline freshwater.

Fiddler Crab (*Uca*): The Fiddler crab reaches 2.4" (6 cm). This species must have access to dry land, and is best kept in a tank filled only half way with water. Brackish water is preferred, and a sandy beach is suggested. This crab constructs burrows in the sand. The tank should be furnished with a tight-fitting cover. Combine the Fiddler crab with medium sized brackish water species. This species will eat almost any foods.

MELAFIX ANTIBACTERIAL REMEDY

borrowed from- www.bigalscanada.com/Features/Articles/data/melafix.html

Maintaining fish health is a vital concern to aquarists and pond enthusiasts. Bacterial and fungal infections in particular have challenged fish health professionals and hobbyists alike. Many of today's current medications have become less effective due to resistant strains of infecting bacteria. In response to this growing problem, Aquarium Pharmaceuticals investigated hundreds of botanical extracts for use against fish diseases. Over six years of research and development resulted in the formulation of MelaFix. MelaFix is an all-natural medication derived from the leaves of Melaleuca, the scientific name for the tea tree. The healing properties of tea tree extract has been known for centuries. University studies and extensive laboratory tests showed that MelaFix is an effective anti-bacterial remedy for freshwater and marine fish. MelaFix also caused rapid repair of damaged fish tissue and fins. New growth was seen in as little as four days of treatment. This evidence led to the granting of a United States patent. International patents are pending.

Bacterial and fungal infections in aquarium fish

Disease-causing organisms are present in all aquariums. Any time a physical abrasion damages fish tissue, bacterial and fungal pathogens seize the opportunity to infect the fish. Shipping, netting, and poor water quality also weaken the fish's immune system, permitting disease problems to occur. Skin and fin abrasions are an unavoidable part of fishkeeping. Therefore the potential for disease problems occurs with every new fish arrival, whether it is at the hatchery, fish wholesaler, aquarium shop, or in the hobbyist's aquarium.

External bacterial infections cause a variety of symptoms including split and ragged fins. In extreme cases the fins erode back to the body. Eyes may become coated with a whitish slime or protrude from the head. Bacterial infections cause hazy, slimy patches to develop on the body. These patches may develop into red ulcers. Mouth Fungus, caused by *Flavobacterium* (formerly *Flexibacter*), causes mouth tissue to deteriorate and may appear as tufts of cotton. In many cases fish do not rapidly respond to traditional medications.

Fungal infections usually occur as a secondary infection, invading tissue already damaged by bacterial and parasitic diseases. Fungus also attack fish that have been weakened by rough handling, shipping, exposure to ammonia and nitrite, improper netting, and malnutrition. Fungal pathogens use digestive enzymes to feed on the fish tissue. These enzymes damage nearby healthy tissue, allowing the disease to spread. Common symptoms include white cottony growth on fins, skin, and mouth of fish. Healing of the damaged tissue will speed the elimination of the fungal disease.

Aquarium Pharmaceuticals water-conditioning product including Stress Coat™, Big Al's Multi-Purpose Water Conditioner, Ammo-Lock™2, and Tap Water Conditioner. MelaFix does not interfere with water quality test kits. MelaFix can be used in conjunction with Aquarium Pharmaceuticals Super Ick Cure Fungus Cure, and General Cure.

MelaFix has powerful antibacterial properties that treat the wound and promotes rapid tissue healing. Healing and tissue regeneration can usually be seen in the first four days of treatment. MelaFix also promotes regrowth of damaged fin rays and tissue. In test cases where fish had lost all tail and dorsal fins, MelaFix completely restored both fins to their original condition. MelaFix heals the wound and restores damaged tissue.

MelaFix is safe for all aquariums

MelaFix is a safe and effective anti-bacterial medication for all freshwater and marine fish. Laboratory studies proved that MelaFix is safe for even the most delicate fish species including tetras, discus fry, and scaleless fish like the clown loach. MelaFix can be used with all marine fish. Repeated treatment of sensitive clownfish fry proved harmless. MelaFix has been tested and found to be safe in reef aquariums containing invertebrates such as live coral and anemones. Treating with MelaFix will not harm the biological filter in freshwater or saltwater aquariums or ponds. MelaFix will not color the water and will not stain ornaments or silicone sealer. MelaFix has no effect on pH. MelaFix is harmless to live aquarium plants.

DIRECTIONS:

Shake well before using. For best results, remove activated carbon during treatment.

As a Disease or Wound Treatment:

Add 1 teaspoonful (5 ml) for every 10 U.S. gallons (40 L) of aquarium water. Repeat dose daily for 7 days. After 7 days, make a 25% water change. Treatment can be continued if necessary.

When Adding New Fish to the Aquarium or when Netting and Handling Fish:

Add 1 teaspoonful (5 ml) for every 10 U.S. gallons (40 L) of aquarium water. Repeat dose daily for 3 days.

MelaFix works well in combination with Aquarium Pharmaceuticals Stress Coat, Big Al's Multi-Purpose Water Conditioner. Stress Coat, Big Al's Multi-Purpose Water Conditioner with Aloe Vera enhances the beneficial slime coating on fish and heals damaged tissue.