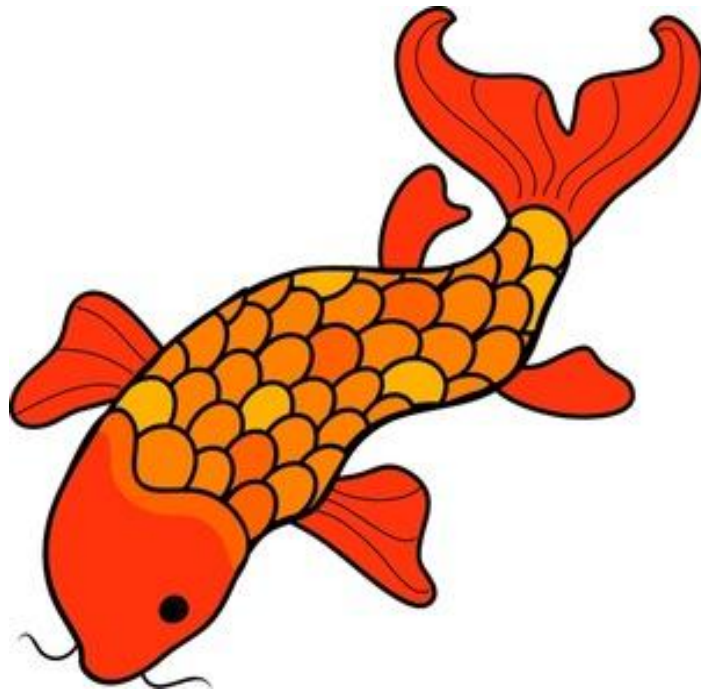


B.R.A.S.S.

Barrie Region Aquarium Society of Simcoe



Bulletin

NEXT MEETING
JUNE 12, 2012
7:00PM - 9:00PM
MAPLE GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL

The Mail Bag

From the Desk of the President

Hi all. As I write this I am 1 day home from the ONTARIO Reptile and Aquatic Auction. What a hoot. It was great. I have no idea how many people came through but there was a lot. Other clubs in attendance were Durham, Toronto Willowdale, London, St Catherine as well as CAOAC. The auction was good, many good prices. Some of us were not happy with the auctioneer that was hired for the show. Of course that didn't stop us from buying. Someone we know sold 4 fish and bought approximately 140. I myself came home with 21. (no idea where I was putting them, but they all found water to live in, all is good.) The three Sudan Plated lizards I bought at the auction are a different story seems I have run out of room in my den and they are presently in a reptile unit I bought at the show for \$25.00 though the price tag said \$179.00. This unit is presently on the floor in the middle of the living room. I took picture while we were there. Hopefully they will turn up in the newsletter.

Well we are coming up to the June meeting and we'll be winding down for the summer. We are planning a July tour of fish shops around the GTA. Sounds like fun. We already have one store that is offering a 20% discount on that day. It is also a good way to stay connected with other members during the summer. Hope to see you all out at the meeting.

Doug Smith



Blurb from the Editor

Oh, how time flies. It is hard to believe that another year is coming to end for our club. This month is a busy one for many as there are graduations, exams, and even babies being born! I hope you all find a few minutes to enjoy yourselves and your finned friends during the busy times.

As we wrap up for the year I would like to let you all know that I have a new goal for the upcoming club year, I am planning on learning at least 10 cichlid names in Latin, that way I will be able to know what you are all talking about.

I hope you will join us in July for our Fish Tour 2012! It sounds like it will be lots of fun with people who already know we are fish-fanatics.

See you in July!

Kara Fleming

Secretary's Report

The BRASS meeting of May 8 had 2 guests and 12 members present. Bonnie read last month's minutes. Doug S reported on answers to questions we had regarding the Reptile Show that we are putting a display in. The space we will have is 10' X 5' and they supply a table that is 8' X 3'. We have hydro and you need your membership card to get in. Doug will find something for a background behind us, a table cloth and skirt on front of the table. Jeff has a wrought iron stand he can bring and he'll bring a tank with a catfish. Doug S. is to send Sherri our logo and she'll try to enlarge it. We are to send pictures to Kara, she'll put them onto a digital picture frame to display on our table. Randy and Sherri will bring two tanks with fish. Doug has been in touch with our Web Master, Michael to see why we haven't seen him. He's fine, just can't make it out to the meetings. He will give Doug the password so we can make changes to the site and continue to improve it.

We are planning a Fish Store Road Trip. We will car pool and hit several fish stores in Toronto and go out for lunch. Jeff has suggested July 7 or July 14. Please come prepared next meeting to finalize the plans with date best for you and some suggestions on stores that are a must see.

We talked to our guests about their tanks and interests. Dave is starting a 60 gal plant tank and Jeremy is into Rainbows, we told them to talk to Doug F. he is into plants as well as Rainbows.

Randy and Sherri gave us a tip where to find T5 and T8 lights with 5000 minutes for planted tanks at .50 to 1.00 at Liquidation Place on St. Vincent. The Restore has 3500 T5 for 2.00.

Doug F gave an interesting talk on CO2 use in planted tanks. He gave us some DIY ideas on how to get started and what to use when you have larger tanks and need to move past the DIY stage. Thank you Doug for a very informative talk. If you have any questions on ratios etc. I'm sure Doug will be glad to help you out, just email. See everyone at the Reptile Show on the 27th and then at our last meeting June 12. Get out and enjoy the great weather we are having!



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Tips to Maintain a Healthy Backyard Fish Pond

<http://www.abcponds.com/pond-maintenance/backyard-fish-ponds.htm>

Fishes in your garden pond are susceptible to a host of diseases if the pond is not maintained in the right manner. The basic reasons for this are outlined below:

1.) High levels of ammonia or nitrite in the pond water

Fishes are living beings and generate biological wastes like ammonia. This can happen in increased proportions if the fishes are over fed or the backyard fish pond is over stocked. In addition ammonia levels in the water can increase also because of uneaten fish food, water run-offs and decaying plants. Increased levels of ammonia or nitrite in the water can cause an increase in the stress levels of the fish eventually resulting in death.

Solution:

Keep the pond water free from ammonia by adequate biological filtration. In addition be sure to regularly monitor the ammonia and nitrite levels of the water using an ammonia kit. Never overstock your pond with fish and do not feed them more than necessary. Feeding should be reduced to half the normal proportions during winter seasons.

For immediate treatment of high ammonia levels in water, make use of ammonia neutralizer chemical and then retest the water with an ammonia testing kit after 48 hours.

2.) Low oxygen level in water

Oxygen dissolved in water is vital for the survival of pond fish. Low levels of oxygen can lead to suffocation and reduced disease resistance eventually leading to death. This happens especially during warm weathers when the fish become more active requiring more oxygen.

Oxygen concentration of the water can decrease because of improper aeration, high temperatures, decaying pond matter and heavy fish stocking.

Solution:

The solution here is to aerate the pond water to increase its oxygen content. Installing a water-fall or fountain is a good way to achieve this. Pond pumps should be checked for their GPH rates to ensure that they pump at-least half of the pond water in an hour. In addition to these the pond should be kept free of debris using mechanical filters

3.) Handling Fish in the Wrong Manner

Most pond owners do not realize this, but handling fish in the wrong manner can damage their outer slime lining which acts as a shield against pathogens. A damaged outer slime can take time to develop, during which the fish becomes susceptible to pathogens present in the pond. Improper handling can also damage fish scales and fins that can result in heavy salt loss from the fish's body leading to muscle spasms and heart failure. Removed fish scales tend to create an opening for infection.

Solution:

While handling the fish, make use of a damp cloth or wet your hands with water. Covering the fish's eye using a damp cloth is a good way to ensure that the fish does not move vigorously damaging itself. If you are transporting the fish to a temporary pond, make sure to net them separately to ensure they do not hurt each other.

4.) Overstocking the Pond

Overstocking your pond with fishes can result in lowering of oxygen levels of the pond water which can prove to be fatal. In addition more number of fish in the pond will lead to an increased level of fish wastes being produced, adding to the ammonia level of the water. This can lead to suffocation leading to death.

Solution:

Calculate the volume of water in your backyard fish pond and have only adequate number of fishes that the water quantity can support. Consider the adult size to which the fish can grow if you are introducing them young. Generally the ratio is 1 fish (approximately 1 - 1.5 inches) per 50 liters of water.

5.) Making the Pond Exposed to Toxic Chemicals

Almost all toxic chemicals right from fertilizers to algaecides can cause harm to the fish. Excess use of these chemicals in a pond that lacks proper filtration can increase the level of chlorine and other salts present in the pond water causing damage to fish as well as beneficial bacteria.

Solution:

Never make use of herbicides or algaecides in ponds that have fish. Locate your pond in an elevated area and build a solid pond wall to prevent run-off water from entering the pond. In addition test your tap water for chlorine and other salts and make use of proper means to remove chlorine before the water is poured into the pond. Locate your pond away from oak and pine trees as their shedding can pollute the pond water with poisonous chemicals.

6.) Exposing Fish to Extremely high temperatures

Most backyard pond fishes cannot survive under extremely hot climatic conditions especially if the pond is shallow. Hot temperatures can also lower the oxygen content of the pond increasing the stress level of the fish.

Solution:

Pond fish can be protected from direct sunlight by growing lots of shade providing aquatic floaters like water lilies. These plants cover the water surface and provide the fish with much needed shade. In addition the depth of the pond should be at-least three to four feet as water beneath tends to remain cooler.

7.) Exposing Fish to Extremely cold temperatures

Extremely cold temperatures can freeze the pond surface which can lead to fishes getting less oxygen. In addition there is a risk of water toxins increasing. Fish can also freeze to death in-case the pond is shallow.

Solution:

The pond should be made at-least three to four feet deep. This will prevent the entire pond from freezing. If the pond surface gets frozen, some areas can be melted using hot water to provide a means for exchange of gases between the pond water and the environment. You can also make use of pond heaters during the winter to keep the water from freezing.

8.) Improper Edging

Sharp features in the edges of the pond can cause injury to the fish. Fishes like Koi that have the habit of jumping out of the pond can get severely affected by sharp edges. Infection can develop easily in case the fishes are injured and can spread across the unattended pond.

Solution:

To keep the fishes from harming themselves, make sure that there are no sharp edges around the pond. In addition ensure that the pond does not have any thorny bushes that can grow above the pond surface.

So if you are planning to build a fish pond make sure that you pay special attention to all the above mentioned problems to have a trouble free pond all year long



Cichlids from Randy and Sheri



Bonnie and Randy looking busy



Jeff must be doing something very interesting



Dwarf African Petricola Catfish



Planted tank from Doug Fleming



Lots of people are crazy about fish



You may notice our fearless leader Doug Smith is not in any of these photos, I would assume that is because he played the role of Photographer.

