
B.R.A.S.S.

Barrie Region Aquarium Society of Simcoe



Bulletin

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

The Mail Bag

From the Desk of the President

Well here we are October again. I guess I need to think about taking my fish and turtles out of the pond and bringing them in for the year. Need to decorate my tanks for Halloween. You know the skeleton that sits up powered by air. The skull sitting on the orange and black gravel.

The October meeting is to be filled with guests. We were out and about handing out invitations to come to this meeting. It will be interesting as to how many people will show up. As we are trying to get more people to come out to the meetings, I think it would be a good idea to make sure we have stuff for the auction this meeting. So I would encourage you to look around to find aquarium things to bring in for the auction. Fish, plants, filters etc... you know the usual. Also don't forget to bring something that you can show us and talk about. This could be just a fish or anything else we might find interesting (aquarium related).

Once again we were told by the Barrie Big Al's (Mark) we couldn't hand out our flyers to their customers as they walk out the door. Once again we granted their wishes and did not hand anything out there. I don't know about you but I for one am tired of supporting the local store that refuses to support our club. From now on I will be driving to Newmarket. Bonnie and I went down to the Big Al's in Newmarket to hand out flyers and were welcomed by Chuck and we get a club discount dealing with them. They support our club, I see them worthy of my support. Thanks Chuck.

Look forward to seeing everyone at Tuesday's meeting.

Doug



Blurb from the Editor

My sincere apologies for a tardy BRASS Bulletin this month.

Apparently, life got in the way and I neglected to get this out in time.

Kara Fleming



Secretary's Report

The BRASS meeting of Sept. 11 had 1 guest, Tim and 10 members present. Doug F. read last month's minutes. The two events, one in Penetang the other Midland that Randy & Sheri were going to participate in over the summer to bring awareness to our club were canceled.

Randy checked with his Union Hall about our using it for a Fish Auction. They want to know when we would want it. We decided April or May to give us time to get insured. We have decided to pay for insurance from CAOAC this year. If we want to hold an Auction we need to be properly insured.

Randy has made arrangements with MOPS to order once a month and our club members receive 10% off. Thanks Randy! For those who don't use MOPS, you will find the prices much cheaper than any of the pet stores you use now. The first of every month Randy will place the order so have your order to Randy before the first of the month and he will have it for that month's meeting. Be sure you have the cash ready for him so he's not out of pocket for your order. MOPS also donated a box of Start Smart Complete to our club. We need to send them a thank you.

Doug Smith explained how to put sand into a tank without clouding the water. He also gave a good idea for an Algae scrubber using plastic canvas sheets.

We planned our Membership Drive to be held on Saturday Sept. 29. Doug S. has approval from Newmarket Big Als and has approached Mark at Barrie's Big Als. He seems receptive, has asked to see the flyer we'll be passing out to show the owner. Doug F. will do Barrie Big Als, Jeff will do Stayner and Wasaga Beach, Randy & Sheri will do Midland & Penetang whenever their time permits with Mike opening new store and Doug & Bonnie will do Newmarket Big Als. We are going to have a Betta Tank to give away, people must fill out name, e-mail & phone number for a chance to win, one from each location with grand prize of 10 gallon starter kit.

Our meeting in October will be our Membership Night with everyone asked to bring in something for the Auction. As well as something interesting from your collection of fish, supplies or equipment. It could be just something you think everyone will find interesting. It will be a glorified jar show - we are having trouble coming up with a name for it. So think of something catchy for next meeting! Bring a friend - bring all your friends!

We finished off our meeting with discussion on our Fish Store Tour on July 14. Doug Fleming to take the list of stores we want to see and make up a route for us to follow. There are nine members interested in going. Last but not least we had an auction. See you in the Fall!

Executives

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Don't trust the staff in the fish store!

<http://www.aquaticcommunity.com/aquarium/donttrust.php>

This may sound like a provocative suggestion but it still remains true. You shouldn't automatically trust the store keeper when you visit a fish store. Only trust those who have proven themselves worthy of your trust and there are a lot of trust worthy persons working in and running fish stores. Unfortunately however there are also large amounts of less than trust worthy people who work in fish stores. The reason that they shouldn't be trusted can sometimes be that they want to sell something to you but might more frequently be a lack of knowledge about the fish species they sell. The fact is however the same regardless of the reason behind the often less than value advice, that many store keepers can't trust: evidence of this is the fact that I get emails on an almost daily basis telling me about that advice that people have gotten from fish store personal and are starting to doubt after reading more info online. Examples on such advices that been mailed to me include:

- Yes, You can keep an alligator gar (a fish that grows 6 ft long) in your 40 gallon tank.
- Yes of course you can keep a N. managuense (a 1 ft long very predatory cichlid) with your zebra Danios.
- Yes you can keep a Malawi cichlid in your Amazon aquarium. The fish want very different water values.
- Yes. You can keep discus fish and Frontosa cichlids in the same aquarium.

All of these advices are extremely poor and shows n extreme lack of commitment to the fish welfare or an extreme lack of knowledge. So what does this mean for you the consumer?

It means that you can't depend on the judgment of the store keeper unless you for some reason know that they are knowledgeable and trust worthy and that you have to make some research before buying a fish. If you se a fish in the so store, remember the name and search for information about it on the internet or in a book and se if it suits your aquariums. Make sure that you find out which water values the fish needs, how large it grows, (never buy fish that will outgrow your aquarium in a matter of months), how aggressive the fish species is, what it like to eat and what kind of decoration it needs.

If a fish want the same water condition you have in your aquarium, have about the same temperament as the fish you have now, can be feed the same food, does well in your setup and don't grow to big for your aquarium you can consider buying the fish. And only then should you consider this.

Millions of fish dies each year because people don't make research before they buy them and we should do what we can to make those numbers shrink The fact that people due to bad research and bad advice purchase fish that isn't suitable for there aquariums also leads to that fish gets released in native waters (which is illegal) and that new population of tropical fish species gets established. This problem is especially large in Florida and other southern states.

In conclusion! Don't implicitly trust your store keeper and make your own research before buying a fish.

Quarantine Aquarium

<http://www.aquaticcommunity.com/disease/quarantine.php>

It is very advisable to have a simple quarantine aquarium. This is the aquarium in which you will first keep your new fish. You can use this aquarium to isolate and cure diseased fish too. In such a case, it is called a hospital aquarium. This is the aquarium in which the fish will recuperate. A small aquarium is all that you need. There is no need to put in any substrate. This will make the aquarium easy to manage. The quarantine aquarium also does not need any plants. A planted aquarium is more difficult to look after. Since there are not plants, you do not need to use a lighting system. The fish will feel more secure in a subdued and dimly lit aquarium.

Filtration can also be kept simple. Chemical filtration, especially if it uses carbon, can deprive your aquarium of any medications that you put inside the aquarium and should therefore not be used. Using a power filter may disturb the ailing fish due to the water disturbance it can cause. A single sponge filter that was kept running in the main aquarium can be used in this aquarium. This will also transport the beneficial bacteria into the new aquarium. It is advisable to put some kind of scenery at the back of the aquarium as this makes the fish feel more secure and protected.

Keep all decorations to the barest minimum, though providing some simple hiding places is advisable. A 50-100W heater will suffice for a small aquarium. Provide an air stone that will maintain high oxygen levels in the water since some medications deplete the oxygen content in water.

Once the fish are out of the hospital aquarium, the aquarium must be cleaned thoroughly before it can be used again. Disinfect the aquarium using Potassium Permanganate or Diluted Hydrochloric Acid. Leave the chemical in the aquarium for a couple of days, and then clean and rinse the aquarium thoroughly. The aquarium is then ready to be setup again when needed.



Newsworthy Notes

Upcoming Programs: submitted by Jeff Mountjoy

October 9th Speaker: Jeff Mountjoy-Martin Mills, Feeding Fish-Some Food for Thought

November 13th Speaker: Catherine Salmon, Betta Breeders Canada

December 11th Christmas Pot Luck & Bring a Fish to Show

January 8th Speaker: Frank Aguirre, Freshwater Stingrays

Tentative Speakers for February, March & April of 2013 include:

-Klaus Steinhaus of Durham Region Aquarium Society (DRAS)-Cares Program

-Jim Robinson, Experienced Tropical Fish Hobbyist since 1970

-Andrew Bridgemohan, The Fish Sempai, Importer and Breeder of fancy goldfish, koi & angelfish

Since we are now a member club of CAOAC (Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs), we have available to us many DVD/video programs that will be of interest to our members. The Fish Health Management series of videos looks particularly interesting and we will be seriously considering signing out such programs in the near future. If we cannot secure a guest speaker at our monthly meeting, we will strive to include an interactive program that is of interest to our members. Even each of you may have knowledge, experience or skills related to fish keeping that you may want to share with everyone-don't be shy!

Library Update: submitted by Jeff Mountjoy

Our library continues to grow with the contribution of magazines from members. Thanks Bryan! At the HDAS auction recently I picked up a beautiful book on Tropical Fish with hand painted pictures of various different species and information on each. It was a great buy and addition to our library. Cataloguing the library is going to take some time.....If any one wants to help, please let me know.

Other News:

Many pet stores have kindly allowed us to distribute flyers outside, within their stores or even welcomed us into their stores to set up tabletop displays to promote our club. We would like to acknowledge these businesses for their support below. Not all retail stores out there are supportive so we encourage you to visit the following pet shops and consider purchasing fish and/or supplies from them. Many will provide a discount if you show them your BRASS membership card.

Paulmac's Pets Barrie (Bayfield Street)

Pet Valu Barrie (4 stores-Wellington, Bayfield, Yonge and Essa)

PJ's Pets Barrie (Bayfield Street)

Global Pet Foods Midland

Pet Valu Midland

Big Al's Newmarket (Davis Drive)

The Pet Shoppe Penetanguishene

Pet Valu Wasaga Beach

Global Pet Foods Wasaga Beach

Stayner Pet Centre Stayner

Hydrosphere Water Gardens Bradford

Revisiting an old Friend

Submitted by Jeff Mountjoy

Recently I was in the fish room of my local pet shop (Global Pet Foods, Midland) and saw some fish that brought back memories from my childhood. In the tank were some Paradise gouramis, Macropodus opercularis. If my memory serves me correct, the paradise gourami was one of the first fish I kept as a kid. At the time I shared a room with my brother and he made the mistake of putting his finger in the gourami's tank. The male fish I had proceeded to bite his finger, and then didn't let go! My brother flipped the fish back into the tank and didn't look too impressed by my "new pet". So fast forward 30 plus years later and I am staring at these fish again. There was 2 males and a female. They looked pretty healthy and I remembered how fantastic the males would look when they spread their finnage in an attempt to attract a female or send an aggressive message to a competing male. I bought all 3 fish (got 1 for free) and the store was thrilled as now they could bring some more in they said. The paradise gourami is one of the oldest fish introduced into the aquarium hobby and has quite an interesting history if you want to look them up. I brought the fishes home and quickly set up a small 3 gallon aquarium for them with a sponge filter, glass lid, canopy, black 3M colour quartz sand, a bonsai tree, some anubias, and a piece of bogwood and a few stones. Oh and I added a nice floating plant I bought at the HDAS auction as well (Riccia fluitans). The gouramis settled into their new cozy environment fairly quickly. I fed them some frozen blood worms and some various dry foods and they fed very aggressively. The 2 males were both seeking the attention of the female. Within days their colour was impressive and they were looking fantastic. On the day of our membership drive Miriam and I took one of the males out and brought him along with us to the 2 stores we were going to be at. He would make a good conversation piece we thought as we talked with pet store customers. Paradise gouramis do not need a heater and so the fish was very easy to transport and I found the fish to be very adaptable to its surroundings. What I wasn't expecting was that this poor male would ultimately get chased down brutally by the other male and female when I had returned him to the 3 gallon aquarium later that day. The Paradise Gourami "newlyweds" had exchanged vows in his absence and he was now a most unwelcome visitor to their honeymoon quarters! Thankfully we have a few aquariums around the house and we found a home for this poor boy in my daughter, Meredith's 15 gallon. The paired fish are now living happily in their private aquarium and they have been a fantastic addition to our collection of fish. Currently the male is building quite a bubble nest and I'm wondering if I'm going to see some wrigglers soon.....



Coming Events

October 21, 2012 St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society Fall auction.

October 28, 2012 Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society
Oktoberfish show & auction.

November 4, 2012 Peel Regional Aquarium Society
Fall auction.