

BRASS BULLETIN

December 2015



Fish club president being investigated

Fish club president being investigated for keeping an endangered species, once thought extinct, in his private home aquarium. Not much is known about this species but it is believed they were at one time responsible for luring sailors to

their death. When asked where he got it, all the BRASS president would say was he brought her home from the Hospital. The hospital is being questioned as to whether or not they have a sustainable source for this species.



Don't forget;

**Finger food for pot luck,
(No Nuts)**

Jar show

Fish for exchange

Fish & Things for mini auction



**This month's
Meeting is
December 8.
Next month
January 12.**

Barrie Region Aquarium Society of Simcoe

President's Message

November 2015



This month I have a very exciting announcement to share with all of our members and the broader fish keeping community here in Ontario. On Sunday April 3rd, 2016, BRASS will be presenting our inaugural large scale auction which will include fish, plants and aquarium related dry goods and equipment. We have secured the Royal Canadian Legion in Barrie which has a fantastic facility for our event. This is a great opportunity for our club to bring awareness to the community about our group, and allow us to generate funds to offer expanded club features such as awards programs, talented and experienced guest speakers and more.

Our last meeting was well attended and fun. We had a mini auction and there was excellent discussion that was generated by fish related questions that were raised. For December we are having a potluck. Please bring a tasty food item or festive treat to share and an appetite! We also are going to have an informal jar show. Bring a favourite fish or plant and enjoy the opportunity of "showing" your entry to a larger group of hobbyists like yourself (good practice for next years' shows!) We will have 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes and a People's choice award.

A "fish swap" for the December 8th meeting had interest as well so if you would like to trade or venture to try a new species to raise or propagate bring a fish or plant or ??? to the meeting. Guidelines and more details for the fish swap will be posted to our Facebook page shortly.

2016 is going to be an exciting year for BRASS. I look forward to working with everyone as we prepare for our April Auction. There will be an opportunity for everyone to help and we will have a fun and successful event if we all work together.

The snow has melted while I write this so this gives me a second chance to put up Christmas lights. I am also looking forward to filling up our 300 gallon tank this month and moving the monsters into their new home. My wife Leanne and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Enjoy your favourite holiday beverage with family and friends beside your favourite aquarium(s)! Hey, maybe Santa will surprise you with some Christmas Fulus. (Yes Doug Fleming they are cichlids...sorry ;)

Profishly yours,
Jeff Mountjoy

Secretary's Report

Our November 10th meeting had 18 members present. We began the meeting by filling out Who's That? for our BRASS Bulletin. Each month will featured one member. Jeff welcomed everyone and the October Minutes were read by Bonnie.

It was decided that our December meeting we would have a Jar Show and a Fish Exchange/Swap. So bring out your best specimens to show off, this will our first attempt at this as a club. If you have a fish or two that you would like to swap then bag them up and bring them along. This is our Christmas Party as well so it should be a busy and fun night - DON'T MISS IT! We are having Pot Luck as well, so bring along your favourite finger food. The school has many children who are allergic so they have a strict peanut free policy, so please remember this when deciding what to bring.

Jeff discussed the club hosting an Auction in the Spring. We picked a couple of dates in April and he was to get feedback from some of the other club Presidents. He received overwhelming positive feedback from them. It was suggested that he ask Peel to share their seller list with us, we could contact them and encourage them to bring something to ours. After further discussion we tabled the Topic with everyone to call in contacts etc. to find us a suitable venue.

Jeff gave updates on various Pet Stores. Doogan's will give the Club 10% off. Critter Cove in Orillia is now very supportive of us and J&K Pets' owner passed away suddenly. Our 50/50 draw was won by Udo, he goes home \$16.00 richer.

Frank and Jeff went to October fish and gave a report on their activities. Both entered the show; Frank won 2nd with a Betta and 3rd with a Minnow. Jeff won 1st with a Malawi Cichlid and 3rd with a Loach.

We had a lively discussion on Hang on the back filters vs Canister filters. Canister was used for 4 months with no problems but the Hang on the back was loud and smelled bad in 1 and half weeks. Udo uses the Hamburg, likes it the best and it lasts 6 or 7 years. He will bring in a presentation on it. We ended the evening with a lively auction.

See you all at December 8 meeting. Remember it is our Christmas Party and to bring fish to Exchange or Swap and our Jar Show!



Find us on
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/1Brass>



No longer just a Feeder fish.

Jeff Loney

Member contribution

The first thing people think about when you bring up convicts is “ohhh not those again, I use those to feed to my other fish.” I would like to say that this is a very common misconception. Why do I think this? These are one of the most underrated fish in the hobby.



I will admit that when I first started keeping fish I turned my nose up at the concept of keeping convicts, to me they seemed like everyone’s cast off fish. This turned out to be one of the best things about them. They were very easy to find. I purchased a bag of 6 of these fish at the Peel region auction in November, 2010 for the extraordinary price of 1 dollar. I know that often people are giving them away and if you are really picky you can purchase them at my many fish stores for only 99 cents. For that price you really can’t find a nicer fish.

I placed all 6 of these fish in a ten gallon tank since they were still small. These fish came to me at about 1.5 inches. It was not long

until they were breeding, within a month they had reached 2 inches and two pairs had formed. I gave away all of the fish with the exception of one pair. The first thing I noticed was that they were not shy in spawning. This was another great thing about them; even the most experienced aquarist loves to watch their fish spawn. I was able to watch my pair spawn on a regular basis (sometimes as often as once a week). I was not able to keep any of the fry past the wiggler stage until I moved my pair to a 20 gallon aquarium. Once they had this bigger tank they were able to keep fry for well over 2 months. Though often not recorded I noticed that my pair were starting to be generational breeders having the one month old fry and eggs at the same time.

Another great thing about convict are the personalities that they develop. Many people keep the big and ugly Oscar (well that may be an opinion, but hey we all have them right?) just because of their wonderful personalities. I would say that the convicts are able to hold their own on the personality front with these lovable giants, but instead of keeping a one hundred gallon tank you can often keep them in a 20 gallon. They would always come to the front of the glass when I walked into the room and almost seem happy to see me. Don't let this friendly attitude phase you too much, when you put your hand in when they are guarding eggs they will have no problem trying to take a chunk out of your finger.

Another complaint about Convicts is the lack of color that people say they exhibit. If you have seen a full colored female this would no longer have this complaint. Orange, Green and Blue Metallic colors show themselves throughout the body of even the drab-best females. Many people would come over and see the female convict swimming through my tanks and wonder what it was, of course they were shocked to hear that it was a lowly convict.

You will not find a heartier fish. They seem to be extremely hard to kill, not that I have actively tried. My big male was about 5 inches when he decided to jump/fall from the top row of tanks. I watched in horror as I watched him land directly on his head falling from just over 6 feet. I quickly grabbed him and threw him in the tank and almost immediately he resumed his perusing of the tank like nothing happened. You don't have to worry about losing part of a group because your water parameters shift slightly or your filtration stops for a few hours.



Coming Events



December

8—BRASS Christmas General meeting

13 - 11:00 AM - CAOAC Executive Meeting ,
Waterdown ON

13 - 12:00 PM - CAOAC General Meeting, Waterdown ON

April

3—BRASS Auction



Remember our BRASS Christmas Party

***Bring some food for a pot luck, finger food
(we will have small plates etc.)***

Remember the school is a nut free zone.

Bring fish for our jar show.

***Bring fish to gamble and win something
new to bring home.***

Bring stuff for our mini auction.

We'll have great time at this meeting.

Have a Very Merry Christmas.

Brass Buy and Sell

75 gallon aquarium. 48"x18"x20" Great shape. Black silicone. Leak free. \$75 firm. Can bring to next club meeting. Jeff 705-528-2601 Midland.

Want to buy, for sale, want to borrow etc...

Free advertising, fish, equipment, plants, need a ride (to shows etc...)

The Librarian

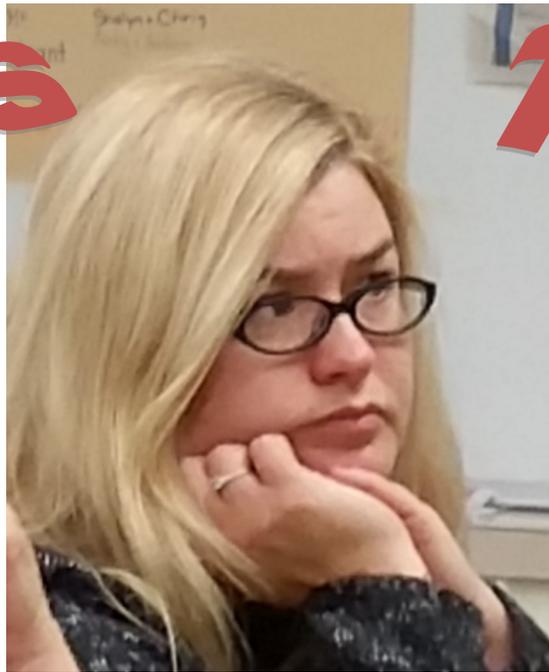
This page is reserved for comments and recommendations from our Librarian, presently Spencer. Spencer may use this space to promote different books or magazines, or may just let us know of new books in the library.

The BRASS Executive

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| President | Jeff Mountjoy |
| Vice President | Doug Flemming |
| Past President | Doug Smith |
| Secretary | Bonnie Smith |
| Web Master | Carolyn Duncan |
| Treasurer | Bonnie Smith |
| Public Relations | Lee Ann Catling |



Who's



That?

This is Melissa Boyko. She has been in our hobby for 30 years. We have been fortunate to have had her company here at the club for the past couple of years. Melissa is now running a 120 gallon show tank where she keeps a mix of cichlids from Africa and Madagascar, along with 4 clown loaches. She also has a 25 gallon tank where she keeps poison dart frogs. At one time she had 4 tanks set up breeding *Labidochromis caeruleus*. She has also had experience with different live bearers.

Melissa also likes to paint, garden, is involved with dog rescue and has a few antiques. She work with the ospca and is branch manager in Barrie.

