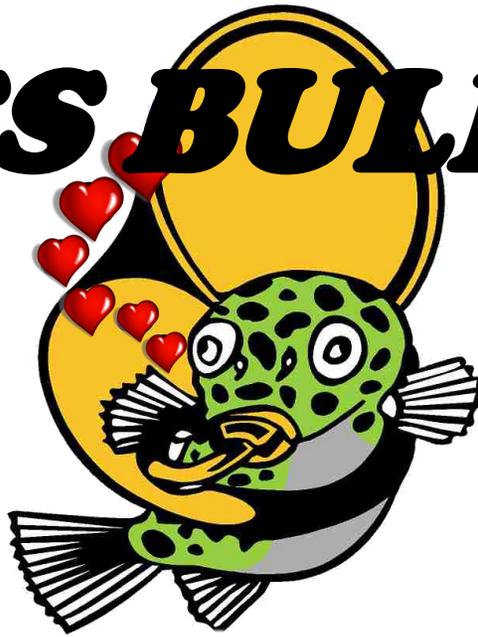
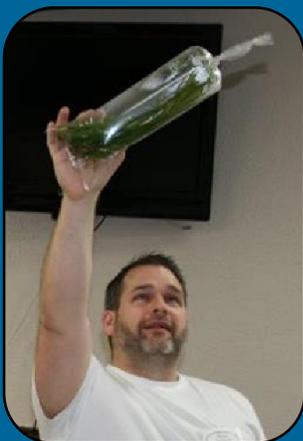


BRASS BULLETIN

February 2017



Next meeting Tuesday February 14th



AQUARIUM AUCTION



2017

START GETTING READY



Barrie Region Aquarium Society of Simcoe

www.1brass.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As many of you know, this month's general meeting is falling on you guessed it...Valentines Day. Our meeting room is booked well in advance and I have to admit that it did not occur to me at the time that club members or guests may be planning something other than attending an aquarium club meeting on that evening. But you know what, I'm gonna put in a few tongue-in-cheek plugs here and some ideas. Restaurants are open generally pretty late for those of you thinking that a romantic dinner might be in the works and there should be shorter line ups and an easier time too for making a reservation for an earlier dinner or late night dessert. Yeah, I'm shamelessly plugging our club's 7-9pm time slot here for sure. And look at it this way...we can provide the movie this evening. You may even see some romance in it (well ok, maybe some fish courting behaviour and such). We will just have to wait and see. One thing's for certain and that is that LOVE is a part of our hobby and this theme jives nice with Valentines Day.

I would like to mention my special Valentine here (Hey it can't hurt right?). My wife and sweetheart Leanne has been so supportive in my journey with this hobby and also my career which has had a big fish connection. She

knew what she was getting into when we got married! Over 22 years ago, each one of our wedding reception tables had a Betta in a fancy bowl with a lighted floating candle...sure helps when you have a friend who owned a pet store at the time! And today, despite having an aquarium in almost every room in the house, and having our club meeting fall on the 14th of February this year, I am still pretty sure that we will still find time on this day to make time for each other. Ok enough of the mushy stuff (Leanne stop reading lol)... I want to plug the upcoming presentations coming up in March and April. Udo has arranged for Derek Tustin of DRAS to speak to us about Planted Aquariums and Frank Aguirre will see us in April and share his talk on Saltwater Aquariums that had to be rescheduled. BRASS' 2nd Annual Auction is coming up on April 2nd. Don't miss it! Its a great time to celebrate our club, meet some new people and even perhaps some new potential members!

Now where do I find some fish shaped chocolates? I've got some nice Geophagus winemilleri that would go well with them...

Jeff

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www.petsandponds.com

From The Editor

With another frigid winter month comes more hibernation. Unless you're a winter warrior, this really is the time of year to spend quality time with our fish friends. That's why this month we have provided you with content that points you to... more content!

This month we feature an article from another aquarium society's newsletter, KWAS. Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society provides a newsletter to their membership that, simply put, is fantastic! They take a lot of pride in their newsletter. It is laid out very well and the content they feature is really second to none. We included an article written by ???????? that reminds us our journey in this hobby, though our own, is something we all can share, because we are all learning as we go.

What's on the Web this month take a look at www.GTAAquaria.com. This site is likely known by most of BRASS and other local hobbyists, but we wanted to share some of the great content they're members have posted. Some stuff that you might not have seen. There is great info, like store reviews and locations. There is even a post about local rocks for your aquarium! It's kind of nice, that in the great big sea that is the internet, there is a local pond too.

I also wanted to thank Spenser for sharing photos of just some of the great books available to borrow from the BRASS Library. It's nice to have a sample of what we have.

We are always looking for input from YOU our members. If you want to share pictures of your fish, interesting articles you have found, or have any ideas on what you would like to see in your newsletter please let us know. You could even write an article for us!

Thanks for reading!

Ken
BRASS Bulletin Editor



Photos of Crypts and Sword from Ken Parkes



Coming Events

- Feb 9 - BRASS Club Meeting
- Feb 12 - CAOAC Executive Meeting & General Meeting, Waterdown ON
- Feb 25 - Durham Region Guest Speaker Dinner - Jim Cumming
- Feb 25-26 - Michianna Killifish Karnaval (Convention)
- Mar 10-11 - North East Council of Aquarium Society - Convention
- Mar 14 - BRASS Club Meeting
- Mar 19 - CAOAC Executive Meeting & General Meeting, Waterdown ON
- Mar 25 - Hamilton & District Aquarium Society - Auction, details to follow
- Apr 2 - Barrie Region Aquarium Society Auction, Barrie details to follow
- Apr 9 - Durham & Region Aquarium Society Aquariana, details to follow
- Apr 11 - BRASS Club Meeting
- Apr 14-16 - Pet Expo
- Apr 22- Sarnia Aquarium Society Auction details to follow
- Apr 23- CAOAC Executive Meeting & General Meeting, Waterdown ON
- Apr 30 - Société d'Aquariophilie de Montréal Auction details [here](#)
- May 4-7 - ALA Convention
- May 7 - London Aquaria Society auction
- May 9 - BRASS Club Meeting
- May 21- 23 Aquatic Expo & AGM
- Jun 13 - BRASS Club Meeting
- Jun 25 - CAOAC Executive Meeting & General Meeting and President's Lunch, Waterdown ON
- Sep 9 - Sarnia Aquarium Society Auction - details to follow
- Sep 12 - BRASS Club Meeting
- Sep 24 - London Aquaria Society auction
- Sep 30 - Hamilton & District Aquarium Society - Auction, details to follow

March's Guest Speaker:

Derek Tustin

From: **Durham Region Aquarium Society
(DRAS)**

Speaking on: **Planted Aquariums**

April's Guest Speaker:

Frank Aguirre

Speaking on

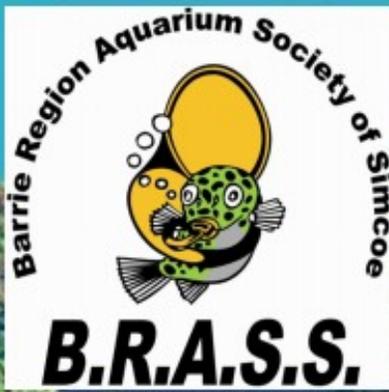
**Salt water Basic Elements and
Marine Angels Part 1**



This presentation deals with the indispensable elements necessary to build a marine ecosystem. Breaking away from the common mistakes and mythology surrounding the hobby Frank explains with particular clarity for the audience how easy is to keep and maintain saltwater fish and invertebrates following simple steps. As well this presentation includes the first part of our series "Marine fishes" Angel fish Part 1 which deals with one group of Marine Angelfish. There is a discussion on husbandry and requirements to keep marine angel fish healthy and perky for many years.

Courtesy of: http://caoac.ca/speakers/frank_aguirre.html

petvalu™
your pet • your store

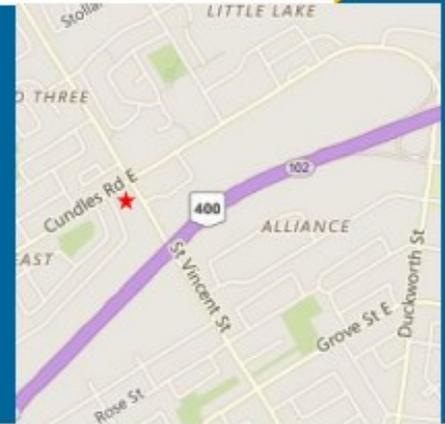


Presents: **Barrie's**
2nd Annual
Aquarium
Auction



Photos are from last years Barrie auction (thanks Zenin) where 595 successful bids won fish and other new and used aquarium items from over 40 sellers.

Fresh
Fish!



Location

Barrie Legion
410 St. Vincent St
Barrie, ON L4M 4A6

Sunday
April 2
2017

Hours

Registration:
Starts at 8:30
Auction:
Starts at 10:00

For rules, seller forms and more information

www.1brass.com



www.facebook.com/1brass



[@brassbarrie](https://twitter.com/brassbarrie)

AN EVENT THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU

Durham Guest Speaker Dinner

Durham Region Aquarium Society

Proudly Presents



2017 DRAS Annual Dinner

Featuring special guest speaker

Jim Cumming

***“The Cichlids of Madagascar,
A Land in Crisis”***

Jim, from Winnipeg, Manitoba, is a lifelong fish hobbyist, having kept fish for over 50 years. Jim presently keeps mostly Central and South American cichlids and currently devotes about one-quarter of his 40-aquarium fish room to Madagascan cichlids and the *Etoplus* genus from India..

Jim's talk is entitled "The Cichlids of Madagascar-A Land in Crisis". In it, he will discuss the geography, natural history and current ecological state of the island. There will also be information on the cichlids that populate the waterways, as they are in the wild and in his tanks. Environmental threats and conservation efforts will also be discussed.

Jim has also had extensive collecting experience in Mexico, Belize, Cuba, and Brazil.

Jim has an active YouTube channel with around 400 videos at last count, highlighting the fish he keeps, with an emphasis on maintenance and breeding. Jim is also a moderator for several Facebook forums, contributes regularly to other on-line forums as well (CRC, ACA, MFK, and the Winnipeg Fish Forum) and has had articles published in *Amazonas* and *Cichlid News* magazines. He looks forward to avidly spreading the word on this magnificent group of fishes.

Jim's photography and videography are as good as you'll find among aquarium hobbyists.

Cost:

\$35.00 per person

(buffet dinner & presentation)

When:

Saturday, February 25th, 2017

6:30 PM – Cocktails

7:00 PM – Dinner followed by presentation

Where:

Toronto Zoo - Atrium
361a Old Finch Ave.
Scarborough

Menu:

Buffet dinner includes;

- Salad
- Main Course
(Roast Beef, Chicken or Pasta Alfredo [vegetarian])
- Dessert

To order your ticket and confirm your attendance
(or if you have questions) please send an e-mail to:

barry.mckee@rogers.com

Please include your name and your club affiliation.

AN EVENT THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU

CAOAC 2017 Convention



Hamilton & District

Aquarium Society Presents

Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs

Aquatic Expo 2017

May 19-21, Holiday Inn Burlington Hotel & Conference
Centre

Full weekend Show with specialty classes (Guppies and Killifish)

3rd Annual *Betta Breeders Canada* Betta Show

Saturday Betta Auction, Sunday General Auction

Vendors Room

Saturday Banquet Dinner

Guest Speakers:

Ian Fuller **Regina Spotti**

Lawrence Kent **Gerald Griffin**

Eric Bodrock

Early Bird Ticket Price: \$85

Vendors Room, fish shows and auctions open to the public

Visit hdas.ca/convention or contact president@hdas.ca for more details

A LOOK IN THE C.A.O.A.C. POND

Last month we shared an article that CAOAC featured in one of their newsletters. This month we would like to share a little more about who CAOAC is and what they do to help us as a member. There is no better way to explain that than getting information directly from their newsletter. Here is what they published in answer to the question: "What is CAOAC?" from their February 2017 Newsletter

What is CAOAC?

We are often asked this question. CAOAC stands for The Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs. We are a non-profit corporation and are composed of member aquarium, reptile & amphibian, pond & water garden, and similar clubs or societies from across Canada and the Northeast United States. CAOAC was founded in 1959 (incorporated in 1963) to allow the clubs to work together for their common good and the good of the hobby. Legislative issues, promotion of events, a judging system, national awards, assistance for new clubs, & liability Insurance are just a few of the things on which clubs can work and benefit together. Recently, a Fish Rescue Program has begun. This has been developed with outside partners who also have an interest in our hobby and environmental issues.

What are the benefits of being a member?

- National awards program to honour those in member clubs who have achieved success in breeding, plant propagation, or other endeavours related to the hobby.
- Third-party liability insurance program to protect club members in case of an unfortunate accident at one of their functions.
- National forum to express views and opinions.
- National voice to deal with legislation which may impact negatively on our hobby and to put forward constructive ideas to politicians and bureaucrats.
- A chance to become involved with people who share similar interests with yourselves.
- If you are interested in joining CAOAC as a club or as a private (non-voting) member, please contact our Membership Chair, see under committees for email address.
- In person meetings are held monthly (except July & August) in Waterdown, Ontario (unless otherwise posted) at the Optimist Hall where clubs which are within driving distance send their representative (s) to discuss issues of the day as well as the future.



WHAT'S ON THE WEB?

Over the past few months, *What's on the Web?* has looked at aquarium related material that appeals to aquarists around the world. Planted aquarium.com or the King of DIY can interest any hobbyist living anywhere. The internet really does bring the world to the palm of your hand. One of the most interesting things about this is that everything feels so much closer. What was once so far away, now feels like just down the street.

That's why, this month, we wanted to choose something more "local". A website that brings the Southern Ontario Aquarium Community together. A place that shows us the answer to our fishkeeping questions could be in our own backyard. From what's the best cichlid store around? To what can I use to aquascape my aquarium from the park? This month we are featuring www.gtaaquaria.com. GTA, of course stands for *Greater Toronto Area*. This is a place where aquarists form around the GTA and Ontario go to share their hobby

This website is a forum and as such, has a ton of information that has been shared in a discussion format. It does not feature a lot of videos or even many pictures. But for what it lacks in flash it makes up for in content. you're not going to find this information anywhere else. You'll see what we mean...

Info - Like So Many Forums

As with many aquarium forums you can find info on some common questions, like "What species of fish is this?" or "How much light does this coral need?" This site has articles and discussions on an array of topics. Here are some interesting and helpful ones:

Moss ID pics for reference

This is a simple post, with pictures of various common species of moss found in the planted aquarium hobby. Very handy when trying to identify a moss you may have received attached to a new plant or won at an auction.

<http://www.gtaaquaria.com/forum/showthread.php?t=3593>

Can you guess this moss?



Moss. Submitted by: Ken Parkes 2017/01/30

Fishless Cycle - An Idiot's Guide

Ever want to know how to do a fishless cycle of your new aquarium? With prior knowledge or not, this conversation is interesting as discusses multiple ways to cycle your aquarium without harming its soon to be inhabitants. Also, it might prove useful to provide this link for somebody less experienced...

<http://www.gtaaquaria.com/forum/showthread.php?t=8458&page=9>

Local Makes All the Difference

There is something that really makes this site stand out amongst all of the others on the web; It's local! Here is where you're going to have the opportunity

to chat with local aquarium enthusiasts. You're going to find things such as where to buy DIY hardware or people willing to share corals or used equipment for sale within driving distance. Local is where the real appeal is. Here are just a few posts in the forum you might find useful:



Live Food Pool—GTA Bug Buddy System

Ever wonder where you can find a microworm culture because yours bit the dust? Ever have too many vinegar eels, but have nobody who wants them? Well here is the place to find them. Some of the members of GTAaquaria.com have put together a *Live Food Pool*. If there is a live food you would like to feed your fish, chance are you'll find it here. Except black worms...nobody ever has black worms.

<http://www.gtaaquaria.com/forum/showthread.php?t=6103&page=40>

A Guide to Rocks in the Aquarium

User: Jamblor put together a guide to help you learn whether the rocks around you are able to be used in your aquarium aquascape. This is a post that goes over different types of rocks in some detail. Unfortunately, it was made in 2011 and as such, some of the pictures are not present. But the content is still quite useful.

If you're patient enough to read along or you just skip ahead enough, you will come to a post on [Rocks](#)

[in the GTA](#). Here is a post to give you an idea of the basic rocks that can be found in the GTA and north.

<http://gtaaquaria.com/forum/showthread.php?t=21742>

Fury's Map of the Salt World in the GTA

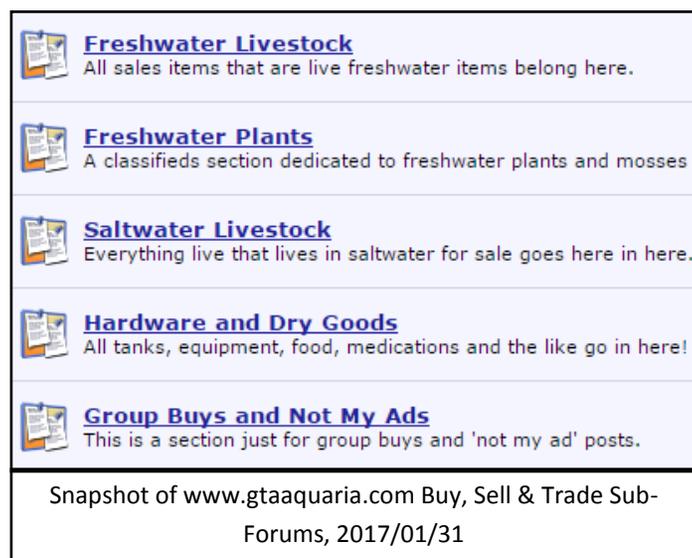
Ever wonder where to buy coral, or saltwater fish and supplies? Well the answer to that question is on GTAaquaria.com. This post was made in late 2014 and has lots of store for the saltwater enthusiast to check out. Take a look:

<http://gtaaquaria.com/forum/showthread.php?t=130618>

Great Marketplace

Forget Kijiji! If you're looking to buy, sell or trade; this should be your first stop. From livestock to dry goods. If you're looking for a good deal, there is no better place to go. The best part is that you're likely going to be able to drive to pickup whatever you find. They even have a section for local clubs, just like BRASS.

<http://www.gtaaquaria.com/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=7>



If you're curious about a store and would like to do some research on the place before you go or just want to see what stores are around, you can always check out their *Store Profiles and Reviews*.

<http://www.gtaaquaria.com/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=60&order=desc&page=3>

Unfortunately, they are not alphabetized or sorted out by geographic location. But thankfully There is a "Sticky" on this page, made by used Ciddian that alphabetizes them and lists their address and contact information; complete with web address and a link to their GTA Aquaria review.

<http://gtaaquaria.com/forum/showthread.php?t=45961>

Social

Lastly, if you're looking for fellow hobbyists to share your experiences with, there's no better place. These people have the same obsession that we do, they shop at the same places we do and order from the same websites too. They understand the harsh weather conditions we endure every winter and understand that sometimes you can't just "go to the local fish store". They love to share their photos and laugh in the social sections. Who knows, if you see a fish or coral in a picture somebody posted, they might be able to share or at least tell you where they got it. The site is even optimized for mobile devices, so casual surfing from your couch or

on the go is a breeze.

GTA Aquaria.com is one of the best places on the web for members of BRASS and other local clubs to mingle with like minded aquarists. They can share their knowledge, experience and love of all things fishy. Thanks for creating a great community.

Written by: Ken Parkes

BRASS Executive	
President	Jeff Mountjoy
Vice President	Doug Fleming
Past President	Doug Smith
Secretary	Kara Fleming
Treasurer	Bonnie Smith
Programs Co-ordinator	Udo Rohmann
BRASS Editor	Ken Parkes

Committee Chairs & Representatives	
Librarian	Spenser Gervan
Breeders Award Program Chair	Doug Best
CAOAC Representative	Jeff Mountjoy
Auction Committee Chair	Udo Rohmann



Evolution of a Fish Keeper

By Karen Murray

From Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society (KWAS) Newsletter, Fins & Tales - September 2016 (Volume 55, Issue 7)



It is a typical scenario when you first start out keeping fish. You see a photo of a fish, its beautiful (they pretty much all are) so you go in search of it, only to find out that you need a bigger tank for it. Or if you are unlucky you take it home and put it in your tank under the assumption it will work. You wake up the next day to find all your cute little fish gone and a big smile on that oversized eating machine. That is your first wake up call in fish keeping.

The second one comes when you come home from work and half of your fish are belly up. *What the...?! "Why are my fish dying?"* That's when you get introduced to the wonderful world of biological bacteria. As a newbie it can make your head spin. You spend the next week doing water changes until your slippers are sloshing in water. This is that crucial point where many fish keepers just don't make it. While some may have done extensive research before diving in, the vast majority are action oriented and just want to bring that pretty fish home and enjoy. (Isn't it ironic that not doing the former leads to not being able to do the latter?) So at this stage one of two things happen. All the effort and research you have done to-date instills a sense of challenge in you and awakens your inner aquatic-biologist or, you throw in the towel and put your 10 gallon tank, resin decor and multi coloured gravel on kijiji for \$300 figuring you will at least get your money out of it. Ouch...

Are you still hanging in there? Good for you! As you continue to intrench yourself in the hobby you inevitably run across planted tanks! Who knew you could put live plants in aquariums!? So out comes the wallet and you march happily home with your greenery. You bury your anubias and ferns in the multi coloured gravel and step back to enjoy. But of course over time the plants turn yellow, gets holes in them and generally looks like a dogs breakfast. So you start asking around and, ohh, you find out the rhizome needs to be exposed. Lesson #1 in planted aquariums.



While the exploratory nature of this hobby is part of the enjoyment, sometimes you just have to stop and look at the wonder of what you have (re)created. It is quite beautiful!



But it doesn't stop there. A little more research leads you to believe you need specific lighting. Now that's a mind blower for sure! So you are going to DIY it or drop a load of cash on a good light? A trip to the fish store produces a double T5HO light. *Whee! We are gonna grow some plants now!*

Maybe not... What is up with all that green and black stuff? Algae explodes all over your tank. You scrub and clean and head back to your new and valuable fish community to see what the heck is going on. Lesson #2 in planted aquariums... not all growth is created equal. *Balance is key.*

You worked past the algae plant growing phase, continue to delve into all the ins and outs of fish and plant keeping. You got through the ich outbreak and the diatoms have come and gone. You are now thoroughly obsessed with all the wonders of your aquarium(s) - you spend hours, days and weeks tweaking, modifying and cleaning. The inspiration you got from your research has led to dissatisfaction with the final result or prompts a new direction - so another tank is added, and another. As aquarists we are never satisfied are we? Its ok, it is part of the process.

You work hard on your tanks and while the rest of the world is thinking you are cuckoo your new fish friends get you. They really do. You've formed bonds with other aquarists and shop keepers. Now, instead of *feeling like a fish out of water* you feel a sense of calm in your daily rigours while in your fully stocked fish room.

You have one more challenge ahead of you. Put down the tweezers and the magnifying glass and sit back. You did it, now take a moment and enjoy the fruits of your labour.

*Spend some time
just gazing at that pretty fish.*

KWAS produces an outstanding newsletter called *Fins & Tales*. If you're interested in more extraordinary content like this, please visit their website and sign up to receive their monthly newsletter

<http://www.kwas.ca/forum/content.php?127-publications-Newsletter>

BRASS Bulletin Board (Buy and Sell)

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

If you have something you want on the BRASS Bulletin Board, send your information to:

BRASSBulletin@gmail.com

FLEMING COLLEGE IS LOOKING FOR AQUARIUM EQUIPMENT!

Facebook post to Durham Region Aquarium Society below



Ron Hill ▸ Durham Region Aquarium Society

Hello all, my name is Ron Hill, I work at Fleming College in Lindsay Ontario as a fish hatchery technician attached to the salmon hatchery and the aquaculture program here at the college. As part of our expansion this year we are beginning an aquarium program where students will learn the basics of ornamental fish, invertebrate and plant culture. We are unfortunately starting bare bones. We have a good amount of tanks and a good racking system but not much else. I am on the hunt for unwanted equipment- filters, heaters, light hoods and lights, tools and gravel or ornaments that are unwanted or too ugly for your setup. If anyone would like to donate to our cause



it would be greatly appreciated. We can also entertain some great deals on equipment. Once the program is up and running we will be actively trading off our organisms as we run out of space... really exciting time here at the college. Please let me know if anyone can help us get kick started. Thanks

To view post and to help by donating, visit:

[https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10158166465065372&set=gm.1017907468314070&type=3&theater)

[fbid=10158166465065372&set=gm.1017907468314070&type=3&theater](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10158166465065372&set=gm.1017907468314070&type=3&theater)

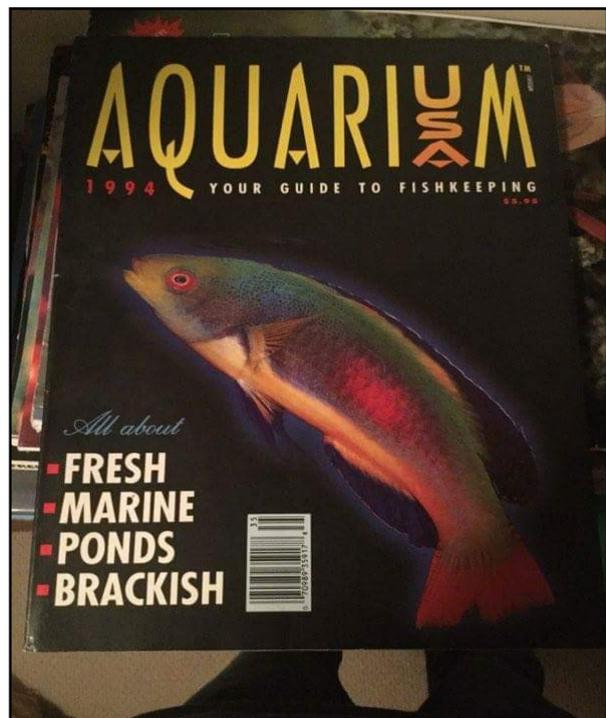
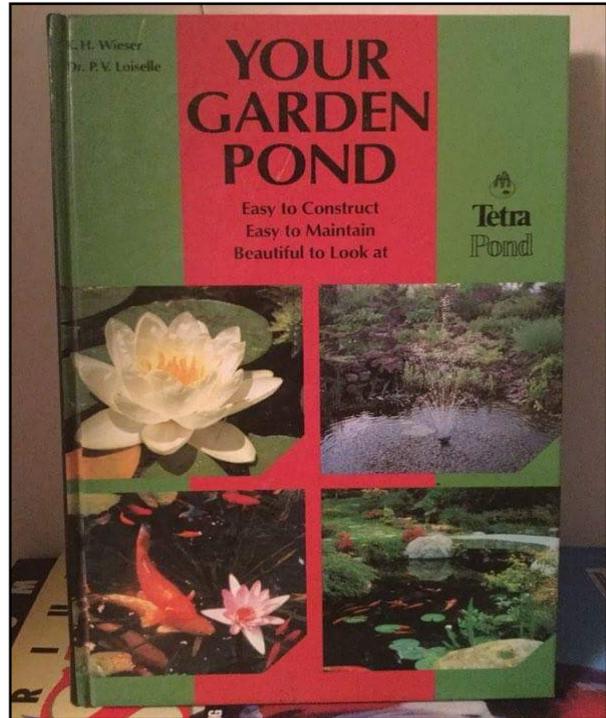
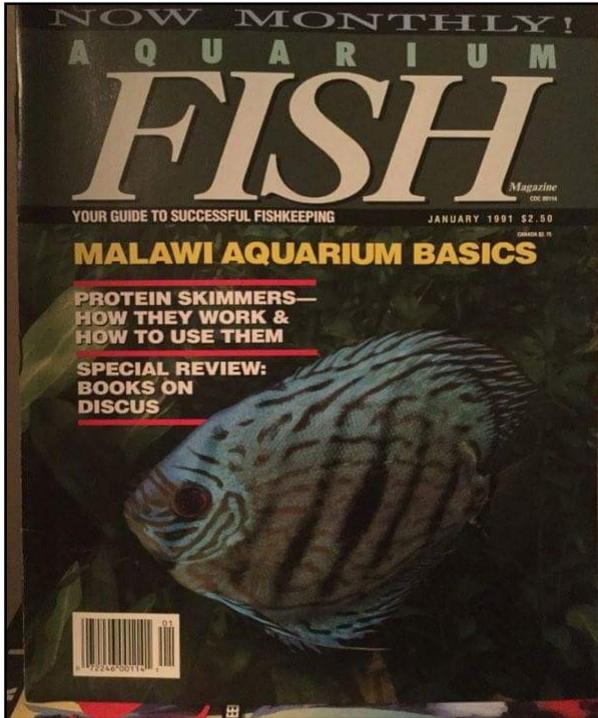
BRASS IS LOOKING FOR A WEBMASTER

If you're interested, please get in touch with Jeff Mountjoy, BRASS President.

The Tropical Fishroom Ltd. Brantford

From The BRASS Library

See something that interests you? Borrow these books from the BRASS Library. See Spenser if you're interested



Photos of BRASS Library books provided by BRASS Librarian Spenser Gervan



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/1Brass

Who's Tank is That?

We would like to start featuring you, our member in the Bulletin. So in that vein, we would like to start a series called "Who's Tank is that?" We would like you to send us pictures of your aquarium(s). You could send us pics of the setup or the décor or perhaps just the inhabitant themselves. But whatever you provide, needs to be of one aquarium.

With those pictures, we would like to know some additional info. This could include:

- Tank size
- Salt or freshwater?
- Plants or corals?
- filtration
- Lighting
- Substrate
- Who's in it? (fish it houses)
- Where is it located in your home?
- Other interesting facts about your tank

The idea is to feature one particular member's aquarium and have the rest of BRASS guess who it belongs to.

Maybe Spenser can provide a book as a giveaway for first one to guess?



We hope you enjoyed this month's BRASS Bulletin. Please send feedback to BRASSBulletin@gmail.com

Also, if you have any articles you have written or would like to share, please feel free to send them too! We are always looking for more input from our membership.

Thanks for reading!