

The B.R.A.S.S. Bulletin

Barrie Region Aquarium Society of Simcoe

From the Office of the President

Hi Everyone,

Hope all is well and you are ready for winter and soon Christmas. (Don't you just hate it when one of your Christmas presents under the tree starts to leak and you realize it is that fish you have been wanting sent to you from a dear friend who knows nothing about fish and it's been under the tree for a week?)

Just a reminder to get in touch with Doug Fleming about what you would like to bring for the potluck for the **December meeting on the 14th**, you can contact him at (705)719-0038 or doug.fleming@hdsupply.com

The November meeting was held in the staff room at the school. This was because of the smell of tar in the class room we usually use. I liked it (the room not the smell) and asked if we use it for the remainder of the year. I was told by George the janitor he would look into it. 3 days later I get an e-mail from the board office letting me know that the staff room is booked on all the evenings we meet by the school council, but if there is anything else they can do...

This months meeting will be a little more laid back. We will hopefully get caught up on what is happening with past topics, the web page, the logo, and the newsletter (which you are now reading. Thanks Kara). I would like to have a quick discussion on the name for our newsletter. Other clubs have names like the Fish Fanatic, Hi Fin News, E news, etc... So you might think of something catchy.

I have a concern that was brought to our attention at the Peel Fish Auction. There is a piece of legislature going through our provincial government right now and has already passed first reading, a private member's bill, The Exotic Wildlife in Captivity Act. The main concern with this is the way they are not nailing down what is considered exotic. We'll talk. In the mean while look for the article entitled "**MAP Dave Leave Introduces Exotic Wildlife Legislation**" and have a read.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you the merriest of Christmases and a Happy New Year.

Doug



Our logo would normally go here but since we don't have one yet, we will just use a Christmas stocking.

Message from the Editor

As I sit and put the first issue of our Newsletter together, I am watching the snow softly fall from the sky. I guess it is time to face the fact that winter is upon us.

I want to let you know I welcome your comments and suggestions for our Newsletter and can be reached at dkfleming@rogers.com. This is NOT my publication, it belongs to the club and I am simply the Editor. If there is something you would like to see in an issue, speak up.

Please let me take a moment and extend from my family to yours, a very Happy Holidays and a Wonderful New Year.

Kara



DECEMBER 2010

Official Business

MPP Dave Levac Introduces Exotic Wildlife Legislation Proposed law aims to keep animals and the public safe

Today, November 1st, MPP Dave Levac (Brant) introduced a new Private Member's Bill, The Exotic Wildlife in Captivity Act, in the Ontario Legislature. The Bill will give the Minister of Natural Resources the ability to regulate the ownership and acquisition of exotic wildlife by private citizens. Anyone wishing to own exotic wildlife will be required to apply for a license, provide the animals with proper care and accommodation, keep the public safe from danger and surrender the animals to the Minister should they fail in any of these duties.

"This legislation is a long time coming," Mr. Levac said, "Some 'independent zoo operators' and individuals bring exotic animals into Ontario and treat them inhumanely. They receive little to no veterinary care, and are often exploited for profit. As well, these wild animals pose a safety threat, both to their owners, as we see from a rash of attacks in recent years, and to the general public if they escape from what are often limited and poorly constructed containment spaces."

Mr. Levac also addressed concerns that this would cause problems for those who own pets that are not native to Ontario.

"This Bill is not aimed at responsible pet owners who have a snake, for example," said Levac, "It is aimed at those who abuse and exploit their animals, and at animals that pose a threat to public safety should they escape. The Bill gives the Ministry the power to make a list of animals that would be subject to these provisions, and I am sure the Ministry will engage in wide public consultations when determining which animals should be included."

Animal advocacy groups have been pressing to address this issue for sometime, as an increase in unregulated "roadside zoos" and independent owners have led to concern that the exotic wildlife being both imported into and bred in the province are not being properly cared for.

"Ontario is the only province that allows anyone to keep exotic animals like tigers in their backyard without a license," says Melissa Matlow of the World Society for the Protection of Animals. "This is a serious animal welfare and public safety problem and Ontarians overwhelmingly support action to address it. The bill will restrict ownership of dangerous exotic wildlife to professional zoos and set limits on exactly who can keep exotic wild animals in captivity and under what conditions."

The Bill passed first reading this afternoon, and Mr. Levac hopes to have it enshrined in law before the next provincial election.

(From <http://www.davelevac.on.ca/pressreleases.aspx?id=125>)



Secretary's Report

Meeting Date: Nov 9th, 2010

The Meeting took place at the Maple Grove Public School on the 9th day of November 2010. The Meeting commenced at approximately 7:00 PM EST.

The Meeting commenced with the Secretary of the Club reading the minutes from the October meeting. And an addition was made that there would not be a newsletter for Nov. After which a few announcements were made by the President. The main announcement was the Peel Region Auction was to take place on Sunday the 14th of Nov. The president asked if there were any people who would like to represent the Barrie Club and attend the auction. There were a few who said that they might make it.

Then the President gave us a brief introduction to a fish auction and what happens in them. The club holding the auction would welcome sellers and buyer from all over. The sellers would have to register with the club. Different clubs take different gratuities for their services. Usually the set price would be 1/3 of the sale price would go to the club for allowing the seller to put his or her items in the auction. The buyer's have to in most cases register with the club to purchase items at the auction. The items are usually stored on large tables; each table usually represents a lot. After this process is completed, the buyers would peruse through the lots and take down the description and lot numbers of items they would like to bid on. The auction commences and each item is usually opened with a minimum bid and then the lucky winner gets to take the item home.

All the fish which were selected for the logo was selected and the idea consisted of having a banner above and then all those fish below in different positions to show the diversity of the club.

The next point in the meeting was the selecting of people for writing different articles on various things that would be helpful to the club as well as it can be used for other newsletters or magazines. (Pending permission from the author) The Idea in this case is to have someone not copy from another article already published but elaborate on their experiences on the different subjects, something along the lines of a personal experience and to share that with the club. It could be a help tip or a suggestion on how to do a text book operation different and obtain the same results.

The Web Page was allotted to Michael and Jesse, and it was suggested that it would be opened for members as well as non members. It was suggested that an open forum with slight restrictions would be a good way to approach the web page and give the Club more exposure.

The next item on the List was the organization of a **Jar Show**. What this means is that club members would bring in their prized fish, snail, plants etc for the club and display them in a jar. The contest would be for the Best Breeder award as well as the Best Horticultural Award. Prizes have not yet been decided however Gary our Secretary has volunteered to plan the show and would announce his findings for the next meeting.

We had a few more new members to join our club. Good job on spreading the word. The club seems to be growing slowly but steadily.

The next item on the list was the report by our treasurer Bonnie Smith and she announced that we had a balance of \$205.05. Great job everyone. Now it's too bad we had to pay our bills if not we could have had a great party... small but great.

Jeff brought in a film about fish from Nicaragua; the film documented some the finest species and their behavior. Great job Jeff!

Our beloved president Doug Smith suggested that we should have a potluck and Kara and Doug volunteered to plan and make sure the pot luck ran smoothly. After this the auction was headed by our esteemed web designer Jesse where he did give us a good show. Jeff won the 50/50 draw that we had for that night. The meeting died down slowly and everyone was excited about the progress made and for next month's pot luck. I know I am excited.

Gary

Buying a Used Aquarium

It happens to everyone at one time or another. Your neighbor has an aquarium for sale at a yard sale, or your mother in law gives you that aquarium collecting dust in her attic. Now what? Do you buy all new equipment or use the old out dated stuff? How do you get rid of all that crusted salt buildup on the hood and aquarium? Why doesn't the light strip work? Hopefully I can help you out with some of these questions. Believe me; you don't have 40+ aquariums without learning a trick or two on how to save some money!

When you get a "new" used aquarium, the most important thing to remember is what not to do. Do not clean the aquarium out with soapy water or with Windex! You should simply clean the aquarium out with hot water. If you like, you can mix in some non-iodized salt to the water which you are cleaning with. I have always found plain hot water to work fine. You may want to use a razor blade to scrape off any algae or calcium clusters which you can't remove from the glass with water alone.

You will also need to clean the aquarium hood and possibly light strip. This is an area which frustrates most people. The solution is simple. Just use vinegar. Vinegar is an excellent cleaner and can make an old aquarium hood shine like new. Just be sure not to use the vinegar on the actual glass. If you don't have vinegar, you could also use lemon juice, although vinegar works best. The light strip will need to be tested. If the bulb is black on both ends you will need to replace it. You can buy a plant / daylight bulb from Home Depot for just a few dollars, which is much cheaper than the bulbs at your pet shop. If your bulb is new but the light still doesn't turn on, you will want to replace the starter. The starter is very cheap to replace and only takes a quick minute to do. I'd take the light strip to the pet shop with you and let them show you how.

Another concern will be the equipment. Most air pumps can be salvaged with a little work. If you have a name brand air pump then you simply need to test it. If it is not working, you can buy a repair kit for less than 1/2 the price of a new pump. The repairs can be frustrating, so if the pump is small you may just buy a new pump. If the air pump is an outdated variety and it doesn't work, you may try using superglue to repair a torn diaphragm. This sometimes will add up to 6 months to a worn out pump. But, in the end, you will need to replace the pump anyhow. If your used aquarium comes with a power filter, you will want to remove the impeller for cleaning. The impeller is a small magnet which spins inside the filter unit, creating the water suction. You can rinse the slime and gunk off of the impeller magnet, improving the efficiency of the unit. If the impeller is especially dirty, you may try soaking it in vinegar or lemon juice. This same technique works for cleaning power heads, which come with some under gravel filter units.

Your last concern will be cleaning the gravel. If the aquarium has been successful and comes from a trusted source, I would not clean the gravel at all. It harbors many beneficial bacteria which will help your tank mature quickly. If the aquarium comes from a stranger or from a yard sale, you will want to rinse the gravel out in hot water.

That is it! You should now know enough to set up a used tank successfully!

Written by: Mark Lehr

Borrowed from www.aquahobby.com/articles/e_usedtanks.php

Important Information

Just a quick word about our mini auctions, these are not only a great way to obtain new products and fish, but they bring money into the club.

If you have fish that are not getting along with their tank mates, or are just getting too big for their homes, bring them in, we will find new homes for them.

Most people have aquarium products and materials sitting around their homes that they know they will never use. Remember, that there maybe someone in the club looking for that very item!



UPCOMING JAR SHOW!

Watch for details at this month's meeting in regards to the upcoming Jar Show! Start thinking about which fish, plant or invertebrate you will enter.

Remember, the Editor needs your submissions for the Newsletter!
Please submit any ideas no later than the 20th of the month, to dkfleming@rogers.com

Thanks.

Dates to Remember

December 14, 2010 (7:00 – 9:00 pm)	Next meeting! Christmas Potluck at Maple Grove P.S.
January 11, 2011 (7:00 – 9:00 pm)	First meeting of the New Year at Maple Grove P.S.
March 20, 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

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 cycling
 daphnia

electrolytes
 filtration
 fry
 hybrid
 ich
 kelvin
 live-bearer

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 nitrate
 nitrite
 plankton
 quarantine
 spawn
 substrate