

B.R.A.S.S.

Barrie Region Aquarium Society of Simcoe

Bulletin

NEXT MEETING
APRIL 10, 2012
7:00PM - 9:00PM
MAPLE GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL

The Mail Bag

From the Desk of the President

Hi All. It is good to be getting the BRASS Bulletin out again. Thanks Kara. Due to technical difficulties it hasn't gone out. Last month's meeting was enlightening. We the executive have been trying very hard to find good information, guest speakers, videos, etc.... Then most of you indicated that you were just as happy just talking fish and discussing aquarium problems you may be having trouble with. Well that is easy to schedule for a meeting. We will still be getting info and guest speakers for our meetings but the pressure is off for filling every minute of every meeting.

Shirts that have been ordered have been promised to be in for this meeting. So if you ordered a shirt or 2, please bring your money to the meeting. I have seen a sample of our logo screened on the grey fabric it is good.

We need to nail down what we are doing at the reptile show and fish auction in May to display our club. Please be thinking about it and bring your ideas to this meeting. Must run, see everyone at the meeting on the tenth.

Doug Smith



Blurb from the Editor

I would like to start by apologizing for the lack of Bulletins over the past couple of months, my computer has been misbehaving and I think I finally have it sorted out.

As we only have a few meetings left please make sure you go through your fish things and if they are collecting dust at your home, please bring them to our meeting and we will find them a new one.

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter weekend, and were able to enjoy some time with your loved ones.

Kara Fleming

Secretary's Report

The March 6/12 meeting had 10 members present. Bonnie read the minutes from the last meeting. There is an auction Sat. March 17 in Hamilton, March 25 with Brant Club and April 15 Durham Club. Doug informed us that our T shirts have been ordered, we ordered twelve, it was suggested that we email everyone who ordered to bring in their money to next meeting, especially those not here tonight.

Doug told us about an opportunity we have to get our name and Club out there and noticed. CAOAC has invited all clubs to set up displays etc. at a Reptile Show May 27. They would like us to offer the remainder of the season membership for \$10.00 to anyone who signs up that day. This is a good opportunity to be with other clubs and for them to get to know us. Doug informed CAOAC we would be participating as we had a deadline we had to let them know by. Now we need to know what we want to do with our "area"/ table. So put on your thinking caps and dream creatively, we don't want all those older, more established, larger clubs to outdo us, let's put them to shame, and show them what our small, young "whippersnapper" club can do!!!

Our Open Discussion tonight was how to get rid of snails. Doug Fleming led the group in a discussion on what we wanted as a club, why we came to the fish club and what we expected to get from the club. Tammy likes to hear others ideas and experiences. She likes to talk and share with others. Phil jumps into new ventures with both feet so he is always seeking knowledge, new ideas, info on auctions and where to buy stuff. Randy says there is a lot of knowledge out there he wants to tap into and likes to see others with like interests. Sherry likes talking to people and hearing what is going on. She likes our group, we are interested in new things and do not act like we know it all. Doug Fleming wanted to learn new stuff, meet people; it's a social outing each month. Matt is like Phil, jumping in with both feet, he's here to get info. He says we have vast amount of knowledge in our group - go figure! Bryan says it is a night to get away from his wife-kidding! He's been in many clubs for many years, used to go into the shows. An interesting tidbit he told us was that in the 70s-80s there were so many clubs they had to fight to find dates for actions and shows. Just shows us how different the interest is now.

Everyone agreed that if we have guest speakers fine if not we like the Open Discussions, we learn more. It was suggested we have a buy, trade and sell at our meetings. You can put ads in our newsletter too.

We should pick out our favorite Web Sites and send the URL to Kara to put in our newsletter. Matt has offered to help with our Web Site if we need any help. We are still having computer problems so we apologize again for the lack of this month's newsletter. Hopefully we'll be up and running again in time for next month. See you all next month.

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

Well, of course there is no guarantee that the fish you see, you are interested in (and you are going to buy) is totally healthy. A fish can appear as healthy as it could be but in fact it has invisible inner problems. There are many ways, many things you should seek out to determine if a fish is healthy.

And here is a list of some:

Firstly, look for physical characteristics of good health. A healthy fish should have bright body color, not pale or dull. However darker or patchy coloration may be an indicator of stress and not of bad health. Before you buy a fish, find out how it should look under normal conditions. No open sores, boils, ulcers, peeling scales or blemishes. No visible parasites, such as tiny white crystals that look like salt or tiny black nodules that look like blackheads. There are also viruses, like the Lymphocystis (cauliflower-like growths on the edge of fins). Be sure to examine the fish before buying it.

Eyes should be clear, not cloudy or popping out of the sockets. Fins are erect, especially the top fin (dorsal). Buckled fins can mean trouble. No ragged, torn or ripped fins. All of them should be intact.

Scales are flat and smooth, stomach is well rounded, and girth of the entire body is of normal size, not bloated or sunken. Visible fish waste should be dark in color, not pale.

You should also examine their behavior! Healthy fish should breathe normally, not guzzling for air or hanging around the top of the tank where its mouth kissing the top of the water. Compare the gill movement of a fish with other fish in the tank. Extremely rapid gill movement may be a sign of stress.

The fish should interact well with another fish, as they pass each other, moving out, etc. Healthy fish should swim in a horizontal motion (not with its head up or down with a few exceptions) throughout the aquarium---not just creeping around the corners or hiding all the time. Don't pick a fish that allows itself to be bullied or likes to bully others! Spend some time watching the fish you are interested in buying maybe a good advice. Sometimes you will see things you did not notice right away. Watch how it behaves for a while.

Only buy fish that eat well! If possible watch them being fed, as this is very important. You won't have a wonderfully beautiful fish that only lasts a day, right?

It would be wise too to check fish prices. Unusually cheap price should be questioned, as there are some dangerous yet awfully cheap methods to caught fish today, like using cyanide and drugs. Cheap prices don't have to mean poor quality.

And make sure that the fish be caught with two nets. That's the best, since using one net will usually only result in a crazy chase around the tank, making the fish extremely stressed.



Important Dates to Remember

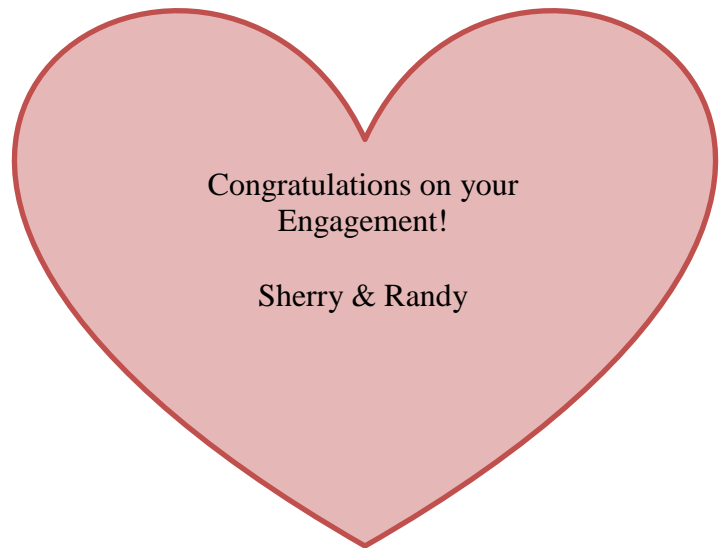
April 15 - Durham Regional Aquarium Society Aquariama

April 21 - Sarnia Aquarium Society Spring Auction

May 6 - London Aquaria Society Spring Auction

May 27 - Toronto Reptile & Tropical Fish Expo

Details can be found at <http://www.caoac.ca/calendar.html>



Congratulations on your
Engagement!

Sherry & Randy

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