

Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society

Fins and Tales

April 2022 - Volume 63 Issue 4



www.kwas.ca



Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society

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KWAS Mission Statement

The Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society is a non-profit organization established in 1960 whose primary goals are to:

- Further the hobby and study of tropical fish and related endeavours.
- Inspire the preservation of aquatic life.
- Maintain a meeting place for its members.
- Promote fellowship among its members.
- Seek out and establish a kinship with other clubs with similar objectives

KWAS is a charter member of CAOAC: The Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs

Fins & Tales is published 10 times each year between the months of September and June for KWAS members (alternating between a newsletter & bulletin). Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Fins & Tales editors or KWAS. The mention of any product does not constitute an endorsement by Fins & Tales or KWAS members. Reprint Policy — Articles from this publication may be printed in a not-for-profit publication provided credit is given to both the author and KWAS. Copies of the reprint must be sent to both the author and KWAS. Any other use is prohibited without the written consent of KWAS. Exchange Program — KWAS exchanges newsletters with other clubs across North America. If your club is interested in becoming a part of this program, please contact our exchange editor by mail or e-mail zenins1982@hotmail.com
Correspondence — please send all correspondence to the Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society, PO Box 38013, Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 4T9.

Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society

Welcome

KWAS Officials: kwasexecutive@gmail.com

President: Kathleen Breau – kathleen.breau@outlook.com

Vice President: Zenin Skomorowski- zenins1982@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Chris Kloetstra - chris.kloetstra@gmail.com

Secretary: Felicia Pollard - felly2244@gmail.com

Past President Glenn Roberts - contact@glennroberts.com

KWAS Board of Directors:

Editor/Publisher: Zenin Skomorowski- zenins1982@hotmail.com

Exchange Editor: Zenin Skomorowski zenins1982@hotmail.com

Membership Chair: Al Ridley pyrofishtoo@gmail.com

Auction Chair: Alvin Leder

Oktoberfish Chair: Al Ridley pyrofishtoo@gmail.com

Librarian: On Hold

Lunch Counter: Alvin Leder / Zenin Skomorowski

Programs: Al Ridley pyrofishtoo@gmail.com

Raffle Chair: Jay & Jenny Oliver info@allaboutgrooming.ca

B.A.P Chair: Terry Clements tropicalfever@hotmail.com

H.A.P Chair: Glenn Roberts contact@glennroberts.com

CAOAC Rep: Jay & Jenny Oliver info@allaboutgrooming.ca

C.A.R.E.S Chair: David De Leeuw deleeuw4@live.com

Name That Fish/Plant: BOD/Executive

Mini Show: Jenny Oliver

Web Team: Al Ridley, Zenin Skomorowski, Chris Kloetstra



Website: www.kwas.ca

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/KitchenerWaterlooAquariumSociety>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KitchenerWaterlooAquariumSociety>

Monthly meeting is the first Tuesday of September to June at 7:30

Location is the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex, Community Pavilion, 101 Father David Bauer Drive, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

We are currently doing virtual Zoom meetings until the city of Waterloo allows us to meet in person again. Send an email to kwasexecutive@gmail.com if you have not received the link by meeting day.

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President's Notes:



<https://animalscene.ph/2018/07/19/a-small-fish-with-flair-the-guppy>

Your President,
Kathleen Breau

Editor's Notes:

I wish to thank Al Ridley for the challenging quiz given during the March club meeting. How did you do ?

I also want to thank Al Ridley for his article on The Corydoras Corridor! *Corydoras panda* and the caudal fin photo. Glenn Roberts provided the cover photo and Joanna Lau and Janet Tam provided photos from their aquariums, thanks.

I want to encourage everyone to consider writing an article for the newsletter. Photos are also appreciated. Do not worry about formatting or spelling or grammar, that responsibility will be taken up by me, the editor, and any volunteer proof readers. Perhaps the recent pandemic has given you more time to spend on your aquariums ? Please write about your experiences and share some photos, we all would like to see them. If you are not getting good photo results, let me know, and I can come and coach you or I can take some photos of your fish, aquariums, outdoor tubs, ponds, or what ever you need for your article 😊

As the Exchange editor for Kwas receiving the newsletters of other clubs, I have noticed a marked decline in the number of original articles as well as some newsletters no longer being published. I consider the newsletter an important part of the club and the hobby in general. It is a more permanent record of the club than what is shared on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok and others.

Your Newsletter Editor
Zenin zenins1982@hotmail.com

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Minutes of the March 1, 2022 General Meeting

Executive present: Zenin Skomorowski, Felicia Pollard, Glenn Roberts

BOD Present: Al Ridley

Regrets: Chris Kloetstra, Alvin Leder, Jay and Jenny Oliver, David De Leeuw, Kathleen Breau, Terry Clements

Called meeting to order at 7:40 PM

People present – 15

Guests – Fred O, Derek, Jonathan Reid

Meeting notes:

- Discussed Oktoberfish – attempting to go ahead this year, pending COVID restrictions
- Discussed various meetings, Pet Paradise's Jonathan Reid attended the meeting and executive team will reach out for sponsorship/donations.

Guest speaker: None – Quiz Night, by Al

Grand prize – bragging rights

Answers emailed in and to be announced on Facebook page

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.



March 8, 2022 Executive meeting Minutes

CAOAC: Not discussed

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Membership: (Al)

Nothing to report

Auction: Not discussed

Raffle: Not discussed

HAP: (Glenn)

Not discussed

BAP: (Terry) Not discussed

Name That Fish/Plant: Not discussed

Lunch Counter: Not discussed

Mini Show: Not discussed

Pet Store Liaison: (Zenin and Al):

Johnathan joined meeting last week from Pet Paradise in London, Al to follow up for Oktoberfish. Zenin will head over and try to leave flyers and follow up.

Zenin confirmed with Jonathan that Pet Paradise Express Cambridge will give 10% discount on fish and dry goods, including aquariums.

You must show your membership card and this offer is also good at their London location.

Oktoberfish 2022:

Glenn is auction chairman

Zenin is fishroom chairman

Can begin when ready, Al usually starts in May

Contact person for Aqueon for support. Al will reach out.

Still has donation list – 154 emails to different companies. Usually receive a 15% response.

Booked for date, no deposit has been requested yet

Rates have gone up – was emailed – approx. \$300 for upstairs room, \$75 for downstairs, up from \$250 and \$50

Date confirmed for Oct 23rd.

New Business:

Nothing to report

Old Business:**Annual Awards:**

Missed this back in November of 2021.

Authors Award: Kathleen to review – still reviewing, will complete this weekend

HAP - Glenn to review

BAP – ask Terry to review - still reviewing, asked Terry about it, does not want to do this until we meet.

Requested name regardless.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 pm



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Upcoming Events:

KWAS meeting **Tuesday 5 April 2022** at 7:30pm

Our guest presenter will be Michi Tobler.

He will provide an overview of the different groups of livebearers, their reproduction, and the ways they have adapted to all kinds of weird habitats. He will be able to show pictures and tell stories from over 30 collection trips throughout Latin America and share experiences from 25 years of keeping livebearers.

KWAS Executive meeting **Tuesday 12 April 2022** at 7:30pm



DRAS is holding their annual giant auction - Aquariama - on **Sunday 10 April 2022**

See the details in the pdf file on their Facebook Group and here:

<https://www.dras.ca/aquariama>

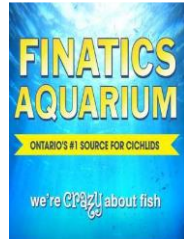
Check nearby club's Facebook Pages or websites for updates on events:



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Businesses that support us, please support them:

- BIG AL's Kitchener 509 Wilson Ave, Kitchener, ON N2C 2M4 519-894-1810
www.bigalscanada.com
- FINATICS AQUARIUM 6200 Dixie Rd units 105/106 Mississauga, ON L5T 2E1
mike@finaticsaquarium.ca 905-565-1232



- Karen Murray Interiors www.karenmurray.ca karen@karenmurray.ca
- Fantescapes Escape Rooms Guelph 121 Wyndham St. N. Guelph, ON N1H4E9
www.fantescapes.com
- Tropical Fish Room 177 Blossom Ave, Brantford, ON N3T 4X6 (519) 756-6225
<https://www.facebook.com/jerrythefishguy>



- Tropical Fever Terry Clements Fergus Ontario tropicalfever@hotmail.ca
- iTRENDesign Chris Kloetstra www.itrendesign.com chris@itrendesign.com 226- 791-3846
- ANGELFINS 230 Hanlon Creek Boulevard unit 107, Guelph, ON N1C 1C1 519-546-6911 - Jarmila 519-362-1557 - Brian info@angelfins.ca www.angelfins.ca



- Moonflower Craft Boutique Owned by Kathleen Breau moonflowercraftboutique@outlook.com
<https://www.facebook.com/moonflowercraftboutique>
- All About Grooming Owned / operated by Jay & Jenny Oliver 727 Speedvale Ave W Guelph, ON, N1K 1E6 Tel 519 824 2724 Cell 519 835 7248 info@allaboutgrooming.ca
- Pet Paradise Cambridge 124 Bishop St N #2 Cambridge, ON N3H 2K1 519-653-0777
<http://www.mypetparadise.ca> <https://www.facebook.com/petparadisecambridge>



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The Corydoras Corridor! *Corydoras panda*

By Al Ridley KWAS

Pandamonium (see where is says panda?) broke out last summer as we moved to a new home fifteen minutes across town!

Corydoras pandas are small black and white cories with a scientific name that is simple to say and a species simple to keep. They have black over their eyes (like panda bears), on their lower dorsal (back) fin, and in a splotch right before their caudal (tail) fin. Panda cories come from the Rio Pachitea in Peru. They grow to about 1 ½". Panda Cory catfish originate from Peru as they were first found and collected from the Rio Ucayali River System by marine biologist and veterinarian, Randolph Richards. More so, this fish species is particularly found in abundance within the fast-moving waters of South and Central America. They thrive in well-planted aquatic habitats.



Panda cories require clean, oxygen-rich water. They live best between 68 and 75 degrees F. They do not tolerate high temperatures for long periods. Some people manage to keep them in the high 70's degrees F and even low 80's without problems (they say). Panda cories like water that is slightly acidic (pH 6.5 to 7) but mine do fine in hard water. Because they are small, they can be kept in tanks as small as 5 gallons for a small colony. About six in a 20 gallon with a few other peaceful fish would be a good sized group. Individual cories, without companions, will not do well. They are most active at feeding time and dusk. Provide small pots, plants, etc. in which they can hide. Also, feed sinking tablets. There are many types made specifically for cories. They are omnivorous, eating whatever appeals to them in the substrate. Favorite live foods include black worms, tubifex worms, brine shrimp, and microworms. These little vacuum cleaners are known for their cleaning abilities. They will eat leftover foods. Panda cories do not eat fish feces and other waste like some people believe. They never ate any plants in my tanks and so are great for planted tanks. Panda Cory catfish can live for up to 3 – 5 years within the aquarium. Their lifespan could even be higher in the instance whereby you give them utmost care, ensuring that the right tank conditions are regularly maintained. As per the behavioral pattern; the very first thing you may notice upon watching Panda corydoras closely is that they love to swim in a group. This species

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does not do very well as a solitary creature. Nonetheless, they are largely peaceful, cherishing to dwell at the bottom of their aquatic habitat. However, in the instance where a Panda Cory feels threatened or attacked, it could use its spines to try to bail itself out of danger. Summarily, the Panda Cory catfish is a sociable, easy-going fish.



My colony of six pandas were living in a 15 gallon aquarium. When we moved, I found three small fry in the aquarium but unfortunately, they did not survive the transport. I drained the aquarium down and left them in the tank but I think the jostling during the drive may have stressed them badly. At this time, the adults are residing in my 40 gallon community tank in my home office and while the aquarium is moderately planted with vals and swords, I am sure any eggs would be gobbled up the other fish. They will soon be moved back downstairs to the 15 gallon where I will try again to breed these corys. The set up will remain the same as previous. I used play sand as the substrate and had vals and mosses planted generously. I also had some small caves and some small pieces of wood to provide cover when the pandas needed. I feed them live white worm, micro worm, sinking algae pellets and flake food. I have also picked up a small bag of Hikari Sinking Wafers recently and as I remembered, they go crazy for them. Another trigger is water changes using cooler water. As I am a lazy hobbyist, I don't actually do a lot of water changes however I can get motivated if a good thunderstorm or snowfall warning is in the forecast.

When these corys were introduced into the hobby, they created quite the stir. They were in high demand and prices were extravagant. Today, they are readily available and quite reasonable in price.

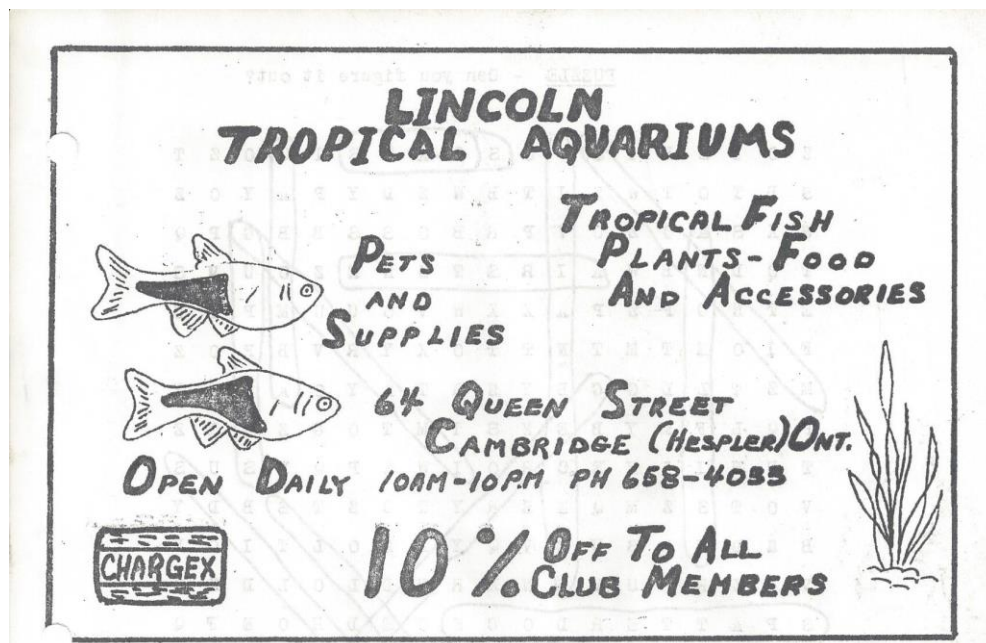
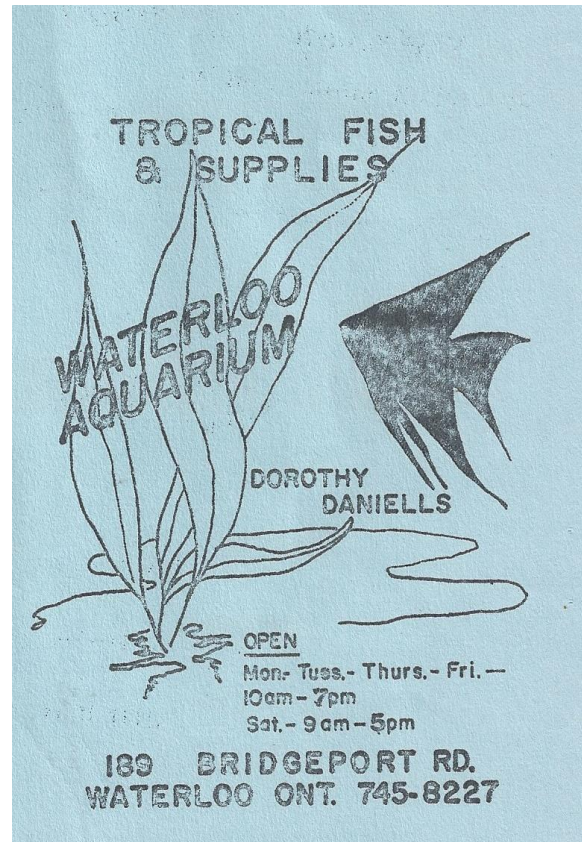
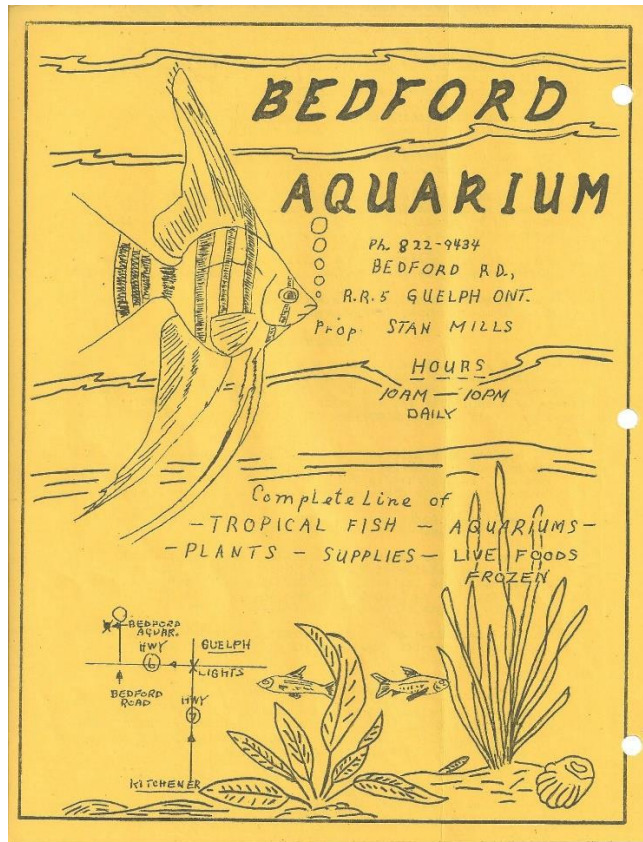
Al Ridley has been a member of the Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society since 1979. He has written many articles and has received numerous awards for his writing, both from KWA and the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs. Find him on Facebook as The Fickle Canadian Aquarist. Reprints are allowed provided an electronic copy of the newsletter is sent to Al and the KWA Exchange Editor.

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Blast from the Past

Did anyone reading this newsletter shop at these places ?

I frequented Waterloo Aquarium in the early 1970s



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KWAS member photos

Joanna Lau – Kribensis family and Pygmy Corydoras



Janet Tam – Red Bristlenose Pleco and Ramshorn Snails



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The Caudal Fin

