

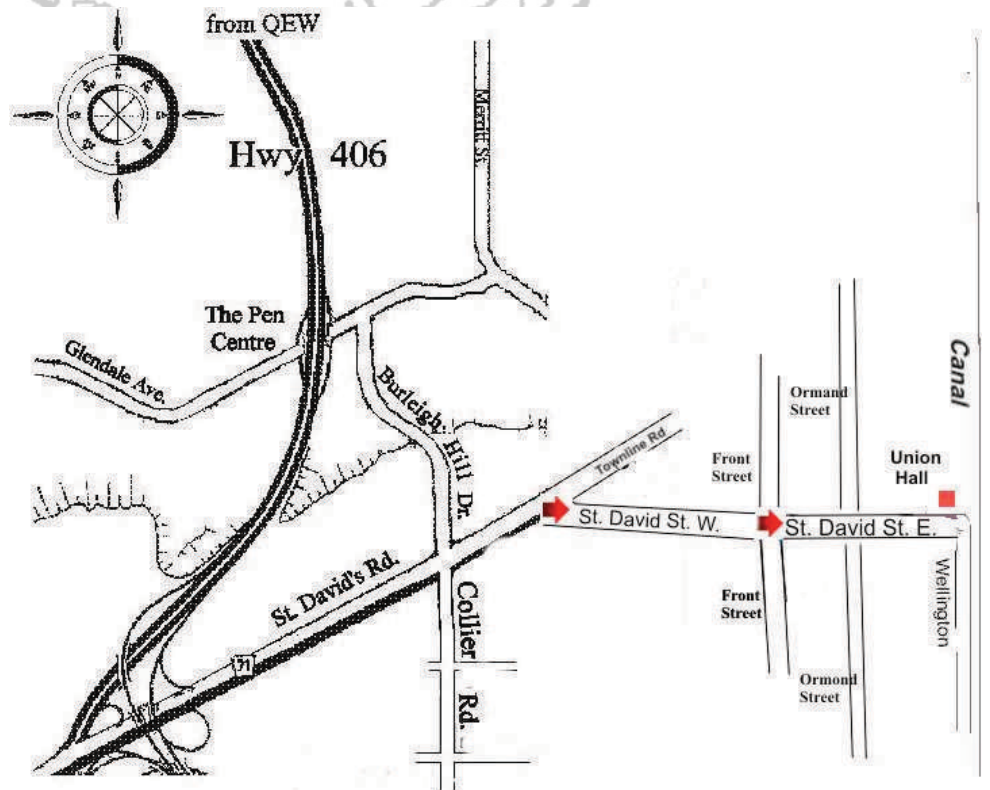
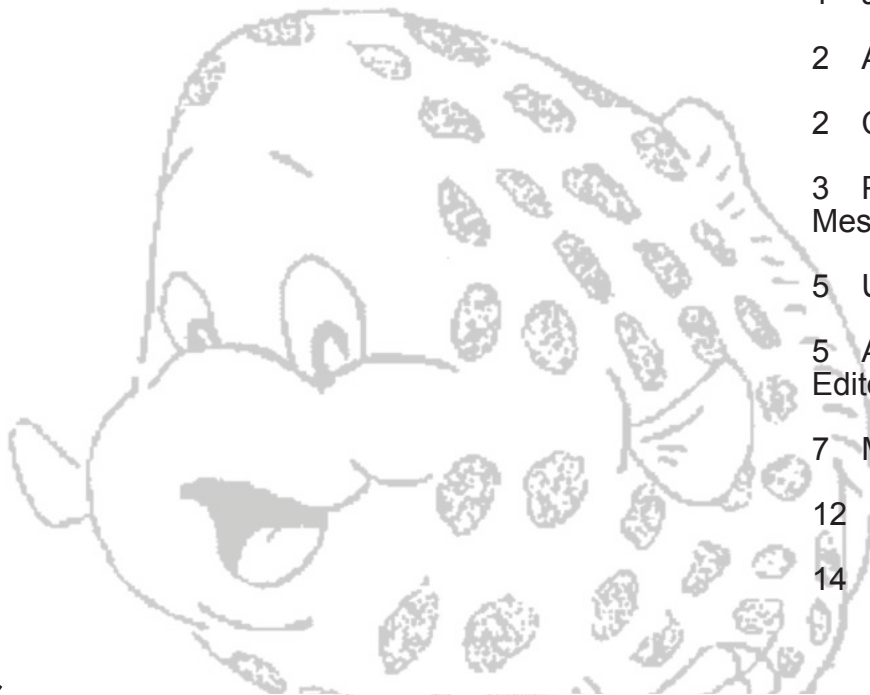
The Scat



Volume 31

Issue 8

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► Meetings of The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, (S.C.A.A.S.), are held on the First Monday of each month at the Seafarers' and Teamsters' Union Hall, 70 St. David St. E., Thorold, ON. If the First Monday falls on a holiday, the meetings are held on the second Monday. **Meetings begin at 7:30. There are no meetings in July and August.** ► **Our Mission Statement:** The society, established in 1958, is a non-profit educational organization, dedicated to the task of promoting interest in the breeding, raising, maintenance and study of tropical Fish, both at the beginner and more advanced levels. ► S.C.A.A.S. is a charter member of the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs Inc., (C.A.O.A.C.), www.caoac.ca and a member of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies, (F.A.A.S.), www.faas.info ► More news and information about S.C.A.A.S. can be found at our web site www.scaas.info

Executive

President: Pat Shriner
pshriner17@gmail.com
 (905) 321-0527

1st Vice President: Tom Hillier
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2nd Vice President: Trish Fruck
tfruck1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Roman Haljkevic
romanhajkevic@gmail.com
 (905) 227-7968

Secretary: Andrew Fruck
afruck77@gmail.com
 (905) 650-0557

Past President: Paul Paradis

Advertising in 'The SCAT'

Full Page	\$150
Half Page	\$100
Quarter Page	\$ 80
Business Card	\$50

Membership Fees

Family	\$25
Single Adult	\$20
Junior (under 16)	\$10
Student with card	\$10
Senior over 65	\$10
Senior Couple over 65	\$15

Committees

Breeder/OAA Awards: Tom Bridges
tp.bridgese@sympatico.ca
 (905) 735-3352 BAP/OAA Awards
 Asst.: Dave Furness
dmfish1@sympatico.ca (905) 935-3220

Horticulture Awards Andrew Fruck
afruck77@gmail.com

Auction Coordinator Tom Bridges – see above

CAOAC representative
 Phil Barrett (905) 931-2044
pbarrett1970.pb@gmail.com

Jar Show Coordinator & Judge
 Pat Shriner
pshriner17@gmail.com

Membership
 Trish Fruck
tfruck1@gmail.com

Refreshments Wendy & Wayne Wallington

Library G.O.

Press/Publicity
 Ken Brady (905) 935-4716
kbrady2@cogeco.ca

Webmasters
 Roman Haljkevic

Programs – Ernest Biktimirov
ebiktimirov@brocku.ca

Ways & Means
 Tom Hillier see 1st Vice Pres

SCAT Editor
 Les Brady
scateditor2018@gmail.com

Jar Show F.O.M.

- September Goldfish
- October Danios, Barbs & Tetras
- November Cichlids (Any Type)
- December. No Specific Fish of the Month – Open to All Types
- January Plants
- February Loaches & Sharks
- March Swords, Platies, Mollies
- April Anabantids including Gouramis and Bettas
- May Guppies
- June Corys & Catfish (Including Plecos)
- OPEN CLASS EVERY MONTH

April Program

Haydn Pounder from Peel Regional Aquarium club will deliver "Collecting and Culturing Live Foods" presentation on Monday, April 1. In his presentation, Haydn will discuss different aspects of collecting live food for aquarium fish, such as types of live foods that can be collected, needed equipment, types of pests that can be inadvertently collected with live foods, and where to find live food. Haydn will also talk about live foods that can be easily cultured at home, such as Daphnia, Grindal Worms, Micro-worms, and Vinegar eels.

Of course this will be followed up by our door prize, raffles, and mini auction

CAOAC Elections

It is election time again. CAOAC Executive positions are one year terms that are announced at our May Long Weekend Convention.

If you are interested in an Executive position with CAOAC, please submit your request or nomination to Peter [DeSouza,pdesouza1@msn.com](mailto:pdesouza1@msn.com).

At this time, the following is the current status of the Executive positions:

<i>President: Nancy Egelton</i>	<i>Status: Standing for re-election</i>
<i>1st Vice President: Peter DeSouza</i>	<i>Status: Standing for re-election</i>
<i>2nd Vice President: Ann Marie Towell</i>	<i>Status: Standing for re-election</i>
<i>Recording Secretary: Ann Stevens</i>	<i>Status: Stepping down</i>
<i>Treasurer: Ed Bosker</i>	<i>Status: Stepping down</i>
<i>Corresponding Secretary: Murray Brown</i>	<i>Status: Standing for re-election</i>

There are two open positions for the next term currently. However, a submission for any position will be accepted.

We ask that you don't delay with your submission as time is short to assemble the nominations and conclude the election for announcement at the Convention.

Please remember as per the ByLaw:

Nominations for the Executive will close at the end of the break at the regularly scheduled April meeting. If there is only one nomination to any position, the person so nominated will be acclaimed to the position for the following year. If there are no nominations, nominations will be requested at the Election at the Annual meeting.

Please consider helping the Canadian Aquarium Hobby by running for an Executive position or indicate your interest in any of the committee positions.

Best Regards,

Peter DeSouza

Steering Committee

pdesouza1@msn.com

289 396-8988



Pat's Presidential Message



Welcome to you all, it was unfortunate that Tommy Lam could not make it to our March meeting. I know a lot of you were looking forward to his talk on shrimp keeping. I was really grateful that our own Ernest Biktimirov stepped in and provided a wonderful presentation on aquarium-related hobbies. There were 50 people in attendance which was great to see and a bunch of new members as well. Keep getting the word out about our club.

Our April meeting will feature Haydn Pounder from Peel Regional Aquarium Club. His topic will be "Culturing and Collecting Live Foods". We will begin the meeting at 7:30 PM sharp so please try to make it to the hall a few minutes early. We will have our usual member door prize draws, raffle draws and our auction.

Yesterday, Saturday March 23, 2019, many of our club members attended the Hamilton & District Aquarium Society Spring Show & Auction in Waterdown. They had a large show with many wonderful fish that were entered. Their auction was huge, went from 10:00 AM till at least 5:30 PM when I had left.

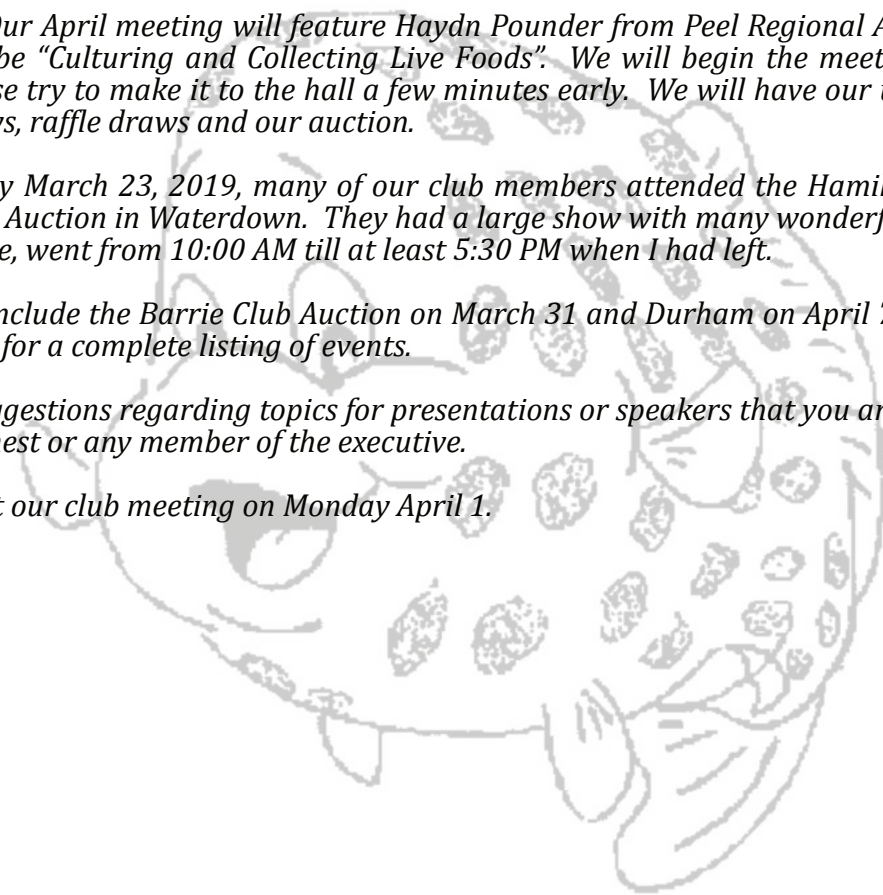
Upcoming events include the Barrie Club Auction on March 31 and Durham on April 7, 2019. Please check the CAOAC event calendar for a complete listing of events.

If you have any suggestions regarding topics for presentations or speakers that you are aware of, please do not hesitate to contact Ernest or any member of the executive.

I hope to see you at our club meeting on Monday April 1.

Thank you

Pat



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Upcoming Events

April

7 - Durham Region Aquarium Society Aquariana, details here

13 - Sarnia Aquarium Society Auction, details to follow

14 - Aquarium Club of Edmonton Workshop Weekend with Gary Lange on Saturday, auction on Sunday

14 - 11:00 - CAOAC Executive Meeting, Waterdown Note date change from 28th

14 - 12:00 - CAOAC General Meeting, Waterdown

15 - Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society General Meeting worship, check our Facebook page or website for more details

19 - 21 - Canadian Pet Expo, International Centre, Mississauga, details here

27 - Windsor Aquarium Society Swap Meet, details to follow

28 - Calgary Spring Auction, details to follow

28 - Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society Giant Worship, check our Facebook page or website for more details

A Few Words from the Editor

Spring is upon us! Soon it will be time to spend more time outside with our ponds, gardens, pools, and family.

Hockey season is almost over and my boy is down to his last tournament! Hopefully I can take a moment to sit down and map out my back yard soon.

As much as I was looking forward to the presentation by Tommy Lam on freshwater shrimp, I have to say hats off to Ernest for his presentation. I was rather surprised at all of the different places you can collect portraits of fish, and was equally amazed at how well done the art was. The colour and detail on some of those samples left me in awe.

With me stepping down as the editor, we are once again looking to fill the position. It's not a terribly difficult gig, and can be quite enjoyable. There is even some creative freedom within reason. All you need is a computer and some free time. When I took this on a relatively up to date version of Microsoft word was strongly encouraged. But to be honest I only processed one newsletter in Word. I can point you towards superior software that is much more affordable (still in the Beta Stages) if you preferred.. I would also be willing to help with the transition if required. If you were interested in becoming the new editor starting next September, feel free to see me or any member of the executive.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting

Cheers,

Les

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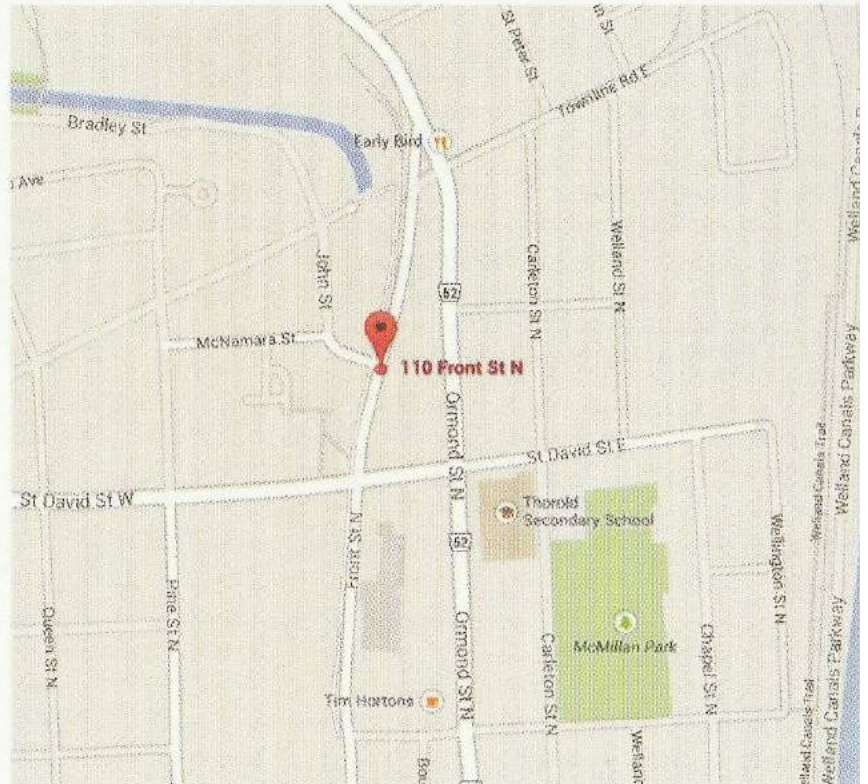
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Mystery Snails

By Ernest Biktimirov

If you are looking for a beautiful snail that will not eat healthy plants, will consume algae, and will not multiply like crazy, Mystery snail (*Pomacea bridgesii*) can be your best bet. Mystery snails come in a variety of colours, including ivory, golden, brown striped, and different shades of purple striped and can reach the size of a golf ball. They live from 1.5 to 3 years depending on the water temperature. A higher temperature speeds up the snail's metabolism and shortens their life span.

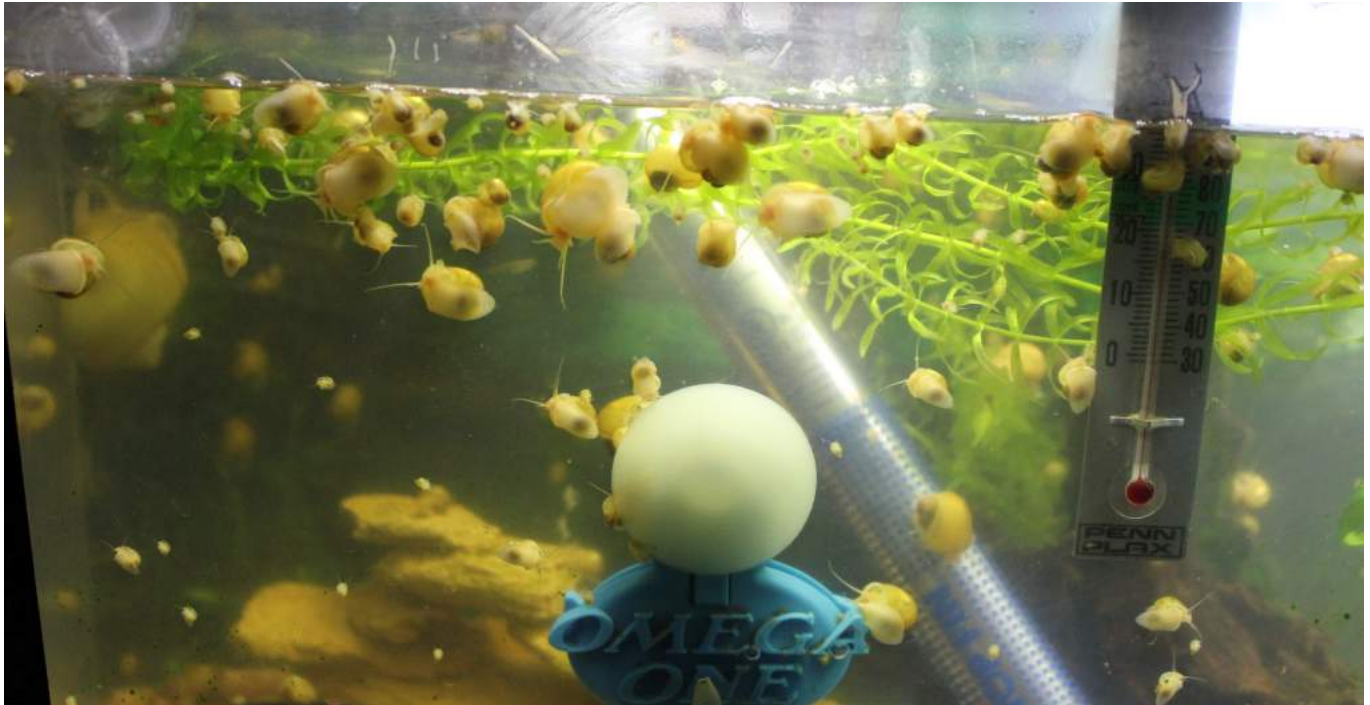
I bought 3 Mystery snails at the Hamilton & District Aquarium Society auction in Waterdown in March 2018 and put them in a 25 litre tank at home. Trying to be a good host, in addition to algae and Nutrafin staple food tablets, I fed them slices of zucchini as a treat. About three months later I was rewarded for my hospitality, when I found a clutch of pale pink coloured eggs in the upper corner of the tank. After several days another clutch appeared. This time it was attached directly to the plastic lid of the tank.



Mystery snails have separate sexes, and a female snail lays eggs at night above the water level to protect them from predators in the water. It is important to have a tight lid on a tank to prevent snails from escaping and to keep moisture around laid eggs. In addition, to provide enough space for a female to lay eggs, the water line should be at least 3 inches below the top of the tank.

Roughly three weeks after being laid, the eggs hatched, but I could barely see any baby snails due to their minuscule size. To feed them, I crushed algae and Nutrafin staple food tablets into powder and sprinkled it over the surface of the tank. Two months later I

was presented with an overwhelming picture of over a hundred baby snails of different sizes crawling throughout the tank.



Mystery snails are hardy creatures. However, to keep them happy, the water should be on the alkaline (pH above 7.0) and hard (hardness level above 150 ppm) sides. In addition, the snails need a sufficient level of calcium in the water for building shells. Different sources, such as crushed seashells, Tums and calcium supplement tablets, can be used to add calcium to a tank. I used the crushed pieces of cuttle bone, which is sold in pet stores as a calcium supplement for birds.



Besides being a beautiful addition to your tank that will scavenge algae and uneaten fish food, Mystery snails can provide additional benefits to a typical aquarium hobbyist. For example, Mystery snails can help cycle new tanks as these snails have a large amount of microorganisms in their intestine, which are expelled with the feces. Interestingly, Mystery snails can also serve as a live indicator of the oxygen level in a tank, as they will crawl to the water surface if the oxygen level decreases.



There are different explanations for why these snails are called Mystery snails. Some suggest that the snails got their name from their habit of laying eggs above the water level that leads to the sudden and mysterious appearance of hundreds of baby snails several weeks later. For me, they just look mysterious when they slowly crawl around my tanks like creatures from another planet.



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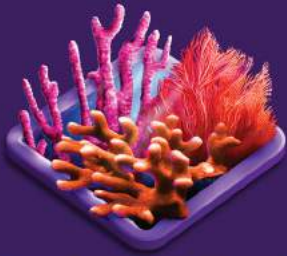
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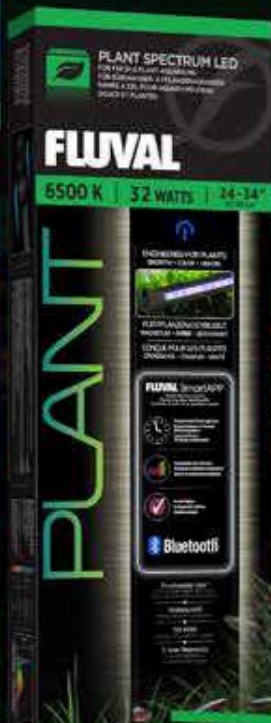


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FOOLED YOU...Who said we were too old ? BAP report by
Michael Daniels

It's been quite awhile since I've done a BAP report because the fish I am breeding I have already turned in for credit. Finally I have a spawning to turn in.

Probably 10 years or more ago I purchased some fish from a fellow hobbyist during one of the CAOAC Conventions when I was invited to his home to visit his fish room. Where I purchased the 6 fish that he had and added them to the two that I already had at home.

These are my second favourite catfish. The *Liosomadoras oncinus* also known as the Jaguar Catfish which are beautiful in pattern and colour.

I had kept this group of fish in a 125 gallon aquarium ever since, until a month ago when they moved to another tank. This tank was decorated with driftwood and lots of PVC pipe so everyone could have their own comfort zones. The filtration consisted of two Marineland 400 power filters. Bi-weekly water changes of approximately 30 gallons. A couple of air sticks were running to make sure the oxygen levels were up.

These fish were fed a variety of foods twice a day. The foods included frozen bloodworms, frozen brine, frozen krill, pellets and live night crawlers.

As I earlier stated, I moved these fish to another aquarium so I could use the bigger tank for some other fish. They accepted the move fine. A couple days later I noticed two or three fish battling to get inside the same ornament. Honestly I don't know how they managed to do it, but they were cramped in the ornament for days. I let them be because I figured if they got in there they'll get out if they want to. As I got ready to feed them I noticed eggs in the tank. I hadn't even given it a thought of them breeding. I thought they were "TOO OLD". The eggs were just there. Nobody was caring for them or guarding them. I siphoned the eggs out to try hatching them artificially. Within 36 hours the eggs were dissolved. I don't know if the Methylene Blue mixture I used was too strong or what really went wrong.

When I went to feed later there were more eggs. I siphoned them and used Acriflavine with these eggs. The eggs began to hatch in a couple days. As they hatched I moved them to a bowl with a turkey baster. As the yolk sac depleted I began feeding them live brine. They are eating well and growing pretty fast.

Years ago I did an article with reference to breeding fish. I don't remember it exactly but I said something like if you give them clean water and keep them fed and if there is a pair. "THEY WILL BREED"



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C.A.O.A.C Update

Phil Barrett

The March caoac meeting was held Sunday the 17th in Waterdown.

There where 15 people and 2 guests and 1 on Skype attending the meeting. There was a 50/50 draw and a raffle with 5 items to choose from.

There was a discussion clarifying the amount of oversight the caoac executive and president has over the individual committees .

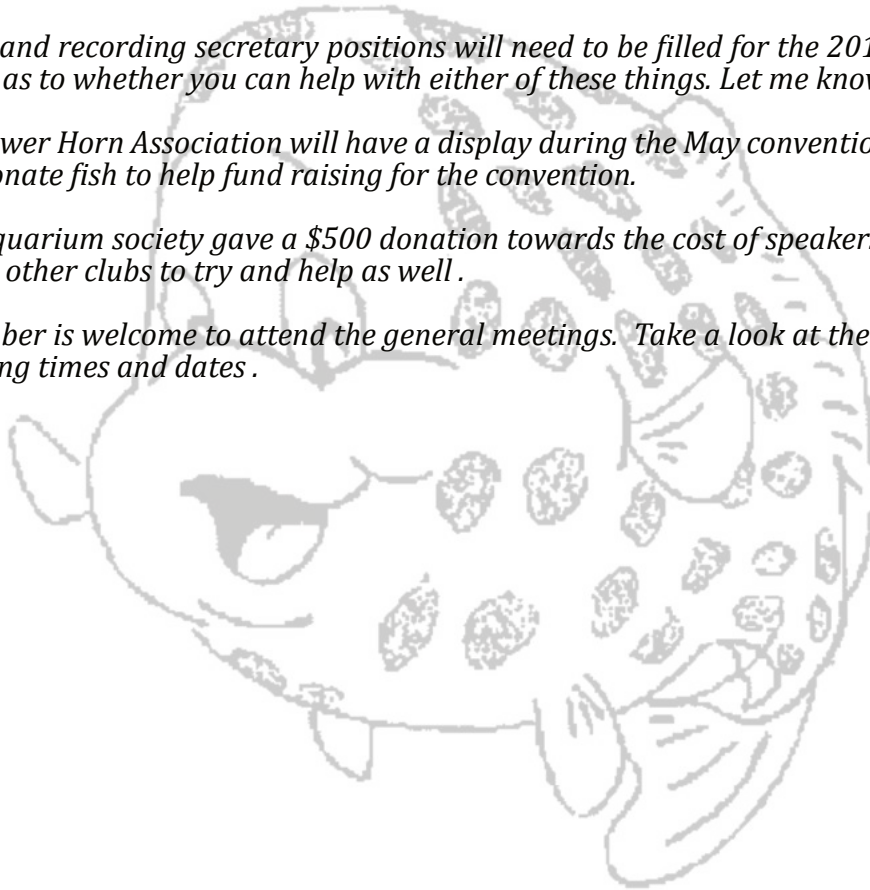
During the past 12 months, 2 or more times meetings where held without a quorum ,meaning that nothing could be voted on during executive meetings. Therefore a motion was put forth to lower the number of executive officers needed in attendance for a meeting to have a quorum. For this to pass a change to the caoac constitution is needed. During the convention in May, an annual general meeting is held. This motion will be voted on then.

The treasurer and recording secretary positions will need to be filled for the 2019/2020 term. Please give some thought as to whether you can help with either of these things. Let me know if you're interested.

The United Flower Horn Association will have a display during the May convention. They will have fish for sale and will donate fish to help fund raising for the convention.

The London aquarium society gave a \$500 donation towards the cost of speakers at convention. They also challenged all other clubs to try and help as well .

Any club member is welcome to attend the general meetings. Take a look at the caoac website under calendar for meeting times and dates .



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