



Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society Newsletter

ovas.ca

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society (OVAS) is a non-profit, educational, and recreational organization. It has four main objectives:

- to further the study of all forms of aquatic life,
- to promote interest, exchange ideas, and distribute information concerning the hobby,
- to encourage breeding and displaying of aquatic life,
- to work toward the conservation of endangered species.

Our second meeting of the season is scheduled for October **22nd**.

·By-elections for open positions

- Mini-Auction
- Door Prizes
- Colouring Contest
- Hallowe'en Fun and Games



Membership Rates

Adult \$20

Family \$30

Junior \$7

Available at the monthly meetings or online at ovas.ca

When are the meetings?

OVAS meets on the fourth Monday of every month, with the exception of December, July and August. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and usually run about two hours.

Where are the meetings held?

The OVAS meets at the Jack Purcell Community Centre at 320 Jack Purcell Lane in downtown Ottawa (near the intersection of Gilmour and Elgin).

What happens at the meetings?

We try to present a program that meets the needs and interests of the members. In the past, we have had slide presentations, video presentations and speakers from academic institutions. We also try to arrange tours of aquatic facilities, both here in the National Capital area and in other places. At the end of most meetings, there is a mini-auction where members may buy and sell livestock, plants and used equipment.

Are there any special events?

There are three main special events that happen through the year. In lieu of a December meeting, there is a Christmas party. In March, as well as our regular meeting, we have a major auction. This auction provides an opportunity for members and non-members to buy and sell livestock and used equipment. In June, we wrap things up with a summer picnic.

Do you have to be a member to attend the meetings?

Non-members can attend the society meetings. You don't even need to own an aquarium. All you need is interest in the hobby.

Why should you consider joining the OVAS?

OVAS offers a stimulating and friendly environment for those who are fascinated by aquariums. It is a great place to get help from others who may be more experienced in the hobby. There are opportunities to sell surplus equipment and fish, and to buy them at great prices. There is a library of fish books available for members to borrow. Members also get discounts at many local aquarium stores.

How do I join OVAS?

The best way to join OVAS is to attend one of the meetings. The exchange of knowledge and meeting like-minded people is what the club is all about.

2007-2008 OVAS Executive

Executive

President Sean Kettle

president@ovas.ca

Vice-President - vacant -

vice-president@ovas.ca

Secretary Matthew Séguin

secretary@ovas.ca

Treasurer - vacant -

treasurer@ovas.ca

Chairpersons

Membership - vacant -

membership@ovas.ca

Program Director Kevin Bisson

program-director@ovas.ca

Breeder Awards Program

Jody Snider bap@ovas.ca

Librarian Peter Rochon

librarian@ovas.ca

Corporate and Public Relations

Jody Willoughby

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Social Convenor Patrick Foster

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Newsletter Trina Parsons

newsletter@ovas.ca

Auctions Peter Garneau

auctions@ovas.ca

Webmaster Chris Murray

webteam@ovas.ca

Spotlight on *Hippocampus Kuda*

By Jodie Snider

As the Executive Chair for the Breeder's Award Program, I was recently contacted by one of our fellow members, who had successfully bred his *Hippocampus Kuda* (H. Kuda, seahorses). Unfortunately, I had to advise him that there is no marine breeders program currently in place that is recognized by CAOAC (Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs). So, in light of this, I have decided to write an article for the newsletter on these captivating creatures.

Hippocampus Kuda is strictly a marine species found in the Indo-Pacific region. Because, H. Kuda is such a popular, ornamental aquarium species, they are found in captivity worldwide.

Generally, H. Kuda inhabit shallow inshore areas, with a depth of up to 8 metres. They can be found in mangroves, coastal seagrass beds, coastal bays and lagoons, harbours, and rivers with brackish waters.

H. Kuda can be distinguished from other seahorses by the presence of low, rounded bumps in place of the typical spines found on seahorses. These spotted seahorses characteristically have a thick snout and a deep head. An adult H. Kuda male can be distinguished from the female by the presence of a brooding pouch on his belly. Adult lengths of the H. Kuda range from 7 to 17 centimetres.

Spotted seahorses maintain a faithful association with only one partner, a new mate being sought only when a partner dies. Like other seahorses, H. Kuda has an unusual mode of reproduction where the female provides the eggs but the male carries and cares for the embryos in his brooding pouch. The male carries the brood for 20 to 28 days. The brooding pouch can contain anywhere from 20 to 1000 fertilized eggs. Usually, only 100 to 200 juvenile seahorses are produced each pregnancy.

H. Kuda are poor swimmers and can usually be found anchored to substrates using their tails. Due to this poor swimming ability, they usually have small home ranges.

Spotted seahorses thrive on live, moving food, like zooplankton, small crustaceans and larval fish. Because of their poor swimming ability, H. Kuda use their thick snouts and specialized jaws to suck in their prey.

These beautiful creatures would make an interesting addition to any marine aquarium.

The Breeders Award Program's purpose is to encourage and recognize achievement in breeding aquarium fish.



What the heck is Brackish Water Anyway?

By : Ken Tweddle

Brackish conditions primarily occur where bodies of Freshwater water are influenced by bodies of Seawater. The seas, as we all know are salty, and this is due to the concentration of many elements such as Chlorine, Sodium, Magnesium, Sulfur, Calcium and Potassium (Adey/Loveland:1998). These elements combine into compounds. And if a negatively charged Ion and positively charged ion combine in a compound we call the resulting compound a salt.

When fresh water flows into a body of saltwater, or when tides push saltwater up a river into a body of freshwater the two mix. These areas where mixing occurs are brackish water. As you can imagine the mixing is not constant. There are variables such as tide, current, freshwater run off, proximity to source and temperature that influence how much fresh vs salt water is present. We can however generalize brackish conditions into three zones based on salinity. These are the Oligohaline, Mesohaline and Polyhaline zones(Adey/Lovland:1998) There are a few different way to measure how salty water is but the simplest method is to compare how dense the water is. This is done by floating a device in the water and measuring how buoyant it is. These devices are called Hydrometers. They compare the density of the test water to that of pure water and the value assigned to this test is called the Specific gravity. Note that Specific Gravity readings are subject to the temperature of water being tested.

A generally accepted range of SG (Specific Gravity) at room temperature for the three zones are as follows:

Oligohaline: .0025 - .009

Mesohaline: .010 - .015

Polyhaline: .015 - .020

So how does this effect my fish?

Some fish have adapted to take advantage of Brackish ecosystems. This required them to develop strategies for managing internal salinity vs external salinity(Adey/Lovland:1998) "For a fish's body to work efficiently it is essential that it maintains its internal salt/water balance at a constant level, in spite of the salt concentration of the water in which it lives".

(Dakin:2003)Brackish water fish tend to have the ability to quickly adapt to changing salinity and are often referred to as Eurohaline. Meaning they are from varying salinity. Some of the adaptations involve specialized organs such as the kidneys, bladder and gills to help regulate internal salinity and this process is known as Osmoregulation (Dakin:2003)

What does this all this mean to the aquarium hobbyist?

There is much more to water in our aquariums than H₂O and we need to keep in mind that the fish we keep have evolved over countless thousands of years to adapt to environmental conditions. Even though many of the fish we keep are hybridized versions of naturally occurring species they still have needs associated with their natural parentage.

September Meeting

Photo Opts.



Fish Follies

by Chelsea Smith

We all make mistakes. In our hobby, trial and error can be the most effective way to learn about proper fishkeeping. Unfortunately, the ‘error’ part can often be disastrous! Case in point: a real-life lesson from yours truly on proper fish disposal. It certainly wasn’t one of my finer moments, but in the hopes that I can prevent this from happening to you, I would like to share my story.

Our aquarium had recently acquired some far-from-healthy adult wild-caught discus. We were attempting to improve their health, but it was only a matter of time before we lost one. Unfortunately, this occurred just as I was heading out the door one Sunday morning. My roommate had worked the Saturday night shift and wasn’t expected to wake up until much later that afternoon, so I couldn’t in good conscience leave the dead discus in the tank for him to dispose of. I didn’t want to throw it outside in the garbage because, after living in Ottawa, I was worried that raccoons would knock over the can. After about 5 seconds of ‘careful’ deliberation, I chose the only other option that came to mind – flush it!

Though this happened quite recently, looking back I can’t fathom what was going on in my brain. I thought that since it was such a flat fish, maybe it would fold up and slide nicely down the pipe. Sure! I dropped it in the bowl, snapped Mr. Discus a quick salute and flushed. The discus disappeared. I breathed a sigh of relief and got ready for my day. I knew I hadn’t made the wisest choice, but everything seemed to have worked

Before I left, I happened to walk past the bathroom again. I did a double-take when I noticed a discus head peeping into the bowl from the depths of the pipes. Instead of reaching in to pull the fish out, which would have been the smart thing to do, I just gave the toilet one more flush. The fish disappeared and then so did I.

Later that evening, I told my roommate about the dead discus and how I disposed of it. He had recently flushed a 6 inch *Oxydoras niger* catfish (we are experiencing some difficulties with the tank, obviously) and didn’t have much to say about my method of disposal. The next day after work, I went out for dinner. During dinner, my roommate called to say he had a plunger at home waiting for me. He’d tried to use the toilet (number 2!) but Mr. Discus wasn’t allowing it to flush. Oh. Apparently he had quite the time unclogging the pipes and there was a terrible mess. Oh. Oh my. Obviously, discus do not possess a body shape appropriate for flushing and, no, they don’t ‘fold up’ and slip down the pipe like I was fervently hoping they would.

What will I do next time a discus dies? Leave it in the tank for my roommate to find. Just kidding – I have learned my lesson. We lost two more discus after this one. They were triple-bagged and thrown outside in the trash (I’ve since learned that raccoons aren’t a big problem in Winnipeg). The best option in this scenario, I’ve been told, is to bag the fish in plastic and place it in your freezer until garbage day. If your family members allow this alternative, make sure you remember to take it out and dispose of it, or your deepfreeze will start to resemble a morgue.

As you may expect, I will never hear the end of this.

Executive Highlight -

Peter Rochon

By: Trina Parsons

In an effort to demistify the executive, I have decided to do a short article on one or two executives each month asking many relevant and irrelevant questions. Peter Rochon our club Librarian is our first focus. I was met with a marvelous spread of snacks provided by Jocelyn (Peter's wife) at their home in Russell.

Peter has been a fish enthusiast since a young age. He told me of his first tank when he was 9 which was 2 goldfish living in an Austrian Crystal fishbowl his mother had bought for him while they were living in Germany. The goldfish had an interesting relationship with the family budgy. Everyday, the budgy used to sit on the top of the fish bowl and stare at the fish, until one day the budgy fell in. The budgy then apparently flew around the house getting everyone wet and didn't sit on the fish bowl any more. The fishbowl broke during shipping on their return to Canada and Peter started a 10g with guppies shortly after returning. Peter and Jocelyn started up a 25g tank shortly after their marriage and it ran for 12 years before it got taken down and remained empty for some years. One of Peter's two sons Eric started to get into Salt water aquariums and asked to use the 25g. As Eric got more into the Salt side Peter often accompanied him on trips to purchase items for the tank. After buying numerous things for Eric's Tank, Peter decided to start his own salt system with his 90g with a 10 gallon quarantine

tank. For lighting Peter has 2 150W metal halides, 2 actinics and 1 moonlight. When asked what his biggest problem to date has been, Peter answered water problems and phosphates gallore all caused by bad Russell water. Peter and Jocelyn however, still enjoy looking at the tank and watching the behaviour of many of the tank's inhabitants.

Jocelyn's favourite fish to watch are the clownfish.

Outside of fish, Peter has one cat Chanelle who is a beautiful Himalayn. Peter's other interests besides the fish tank includes fitness. You will likely find Peter swimming or at the gym.

Peter takes his new position on the executive very seriously and has already started to re-catalogue the OVAS library to include the author, where and when it was written and illustrations for each item.

My favourite question from this interview I had both Peter and Jocelyn answer separately.

If Peter was a fish, what type of fish would he be?

Peter's answer : Dolphin because they are smart and they communicate.

Jocelyn's answer: A fish that is fashionable like a mandarin, but sociable like a yellow tang.

Look for next month's executive highlight.



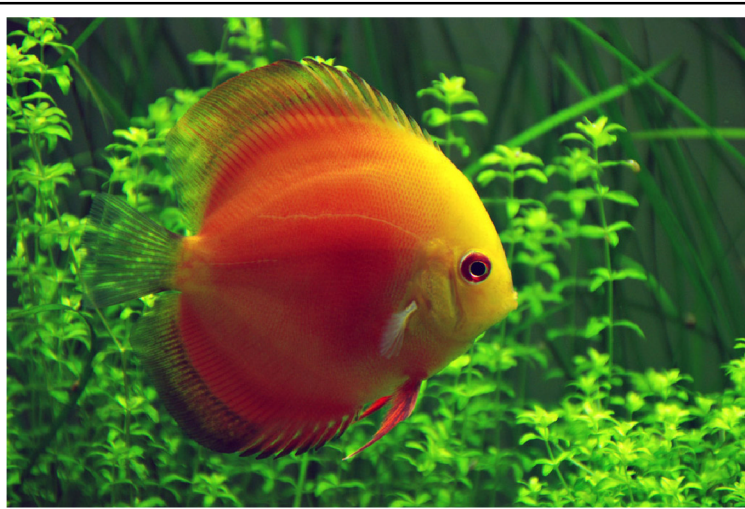


Photo Contest Winner from September is Leng. Congratulations!!

Upcoming Events

Guest Speaker Karen Randall
Saturday October 27th @ 2:00pm
@ National Archives

November Meeting: Monday
November 26th @ 7:00pm

All photos have been taken off the OVAS
web-site.

Thank you to those whose pictures were used:
Thanks to busdriver for his pictures from last
month, Babbelfish1960, SuperT and

Calling all writers

If you love fish and like to write and enjoy all
things fishy, send us an article on your
favourite fishy article and we will do our best
to publicsh it in our newsletter. Multiple
entries are welcome. Please send all entries to
newsletter@ovas.ca

What the Heck is Brackish Water Anyway?(continued)

By :Ken Tweddele

There is much more to this story than what is
mentioned in this short article. The variation of
elements found in freshwater and how they are
measured comes to mind. Total Dissolved Solids,
General vs Carbonate Hardness and the true
relationship between acids and alkalides that we all
associate with Potentially Free Hydrogen (PH)

Hallowe'en Colouring Contest

Our Hallowe'en colouring contest can be found on the
last page of the newsletter. Children aged 5-9 are
invited to drop off their completed page at the
refreshments table by the end of the October meeting.
Please print name and age on the back of the sheet. A
winner will be selected and a prize awarded at the
Novmeber meeting.

OVAS Library

Did you know that our club has over 80 books
available for members to borrow. Check out the
web-site or contact librarian@ovas.ca for more
information.