

CAOAC



**Canadian Association
Of Aquarium Clubs**

Celebrating **50** Years Service

May 15-17, 2009

50th Anniversary Convention

Commemorative Brochure

Past Conventions



From The President



It has been a great honour to be President of the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs. I have, since I was a little boy staring into my fish tank tracking where my fish have been, wanted to be a part of something fishy. In my hometown of Trenton Ontario there was no local fish club and I would read my Tropical Fish Magazine and dream of a time I could be involved. Well here I am a part of the big one. CAOAC in its 50 years has diligently been providing a great array of services to its member clubs from the Breeders Directory to the more recent Fish Rescue Program. Looking into CAOAC's past 50 years you will find great visionaries and amazing conventions. One will find old B&W pictures of a group of people who drank mug after mug of beer during beer

drinking contests, the same ones who dressed in wonderful suits and would enjoy each other on a dance floor as they gracefully carried themselves around and around. The great culture we have with the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs is part of the reason it has been around as long as it has.

Good focus and direction are CAOAC's strong suits.

The future of CAOAC as it turns to the next 50 years of its existence? Hmmm. I see a truly Canadian experience at meetings with all our members being in attendance. I see fish that are smart enough to read the books we have so at least we can be on the same page. Our young people have the desire to get involved with fish and aquaria—we just have to let them. The children are our future leaders and only they will be able to tell us where we will go. I look forward to seeing how CAOAC has grown when that time comes. It is completely possible that I will be able to attend the 100th Annual CAOAC Convention and I look forward to looking back over our next 50 years.

Tony Bernard

From the Chairman



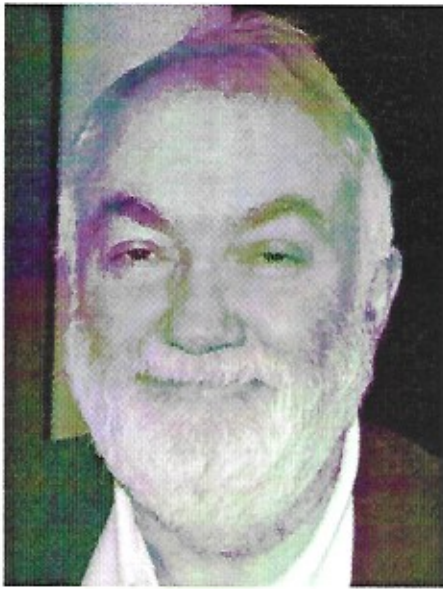
Since I had never been to a CAOAC convention before, this was a whole new ball game for me. It certainly has been a learning experience. Without the committee and their knowledge of previous conventions, this would have floundered. I had no idea what the different facets of the convention were. From organizing speakers, to getting donors and sponsors to finding a cake decorated with the CAOAC logo to feed over a hundred participants.

My hat is off to my fellow co-chair, Dave Boehm who has done an outstanding job with our website and printing, Tony Bernard and Terry Little for putting the auction and show together, Ken Boorman and Frank Aquirre, for getting a forte of speakers and sponsors, and Sarah Langthorne and Paul McIntosh for our mini auctions and years of the past displays. The writers that added to the brochure—Tom & Pat Bridges, Paul McIntosh, Terry Little, Bob Wright, Jim Clark, Dorothy Reimer, and Jim Robinson.

I thank all the photographers that sent in terrific photos—Zenin Skomorowski, Klaus Steinhaus, Dave Unruh, Tom Bridges, Tom Mason, and George Devries. A special thanks to Tom Mason, Grant Crossman, and my wife Mari-Anne for their input regarding sponsors, donors, and prizes. And last but not least, for keeping me sane and on a straight course, Miccia Burdern whom I phoned or e-mailed every time the convention got off track.

Carl McCleary

From the Co-chairman



It was with some trepidation that I volunteered to help Carl put on this convention. We wanted it to be special because it was CAOAC's 50th anniversary. As it turns out, it appears to have been just that thanks in great part to Carl's tireless pursuit of perfection and his seemingly endless energy. We owe him a very big THANK YOU for all the work he did. He is now at home recovering and I hope it won't be too long until he his back in the thick of things.

Our sponsors were really something this year and enabled us to have our best speaker line up ever. I heard nothing but praise for the speakers and their topics and we thank them as well. The back cover contains a list of the sponsors who helped us out. If you have the opportunity to patronize any of them, please thank them for their support of the 2009 convention.

We tried something new this year in having on-line registration. It seemed to work reasonably well as we had a great turnout. We may adapt this to other CAOAC needs such as membership renewals. Thanks to everyone who attended and made the event a success.

We thank Fanshawe College for the rooms, the facilities and the meals. The college venue enables us to keep the costs down so that more people can attend. I believe this was the third time the convention was held there and each time it gets smoother and more efficient.

Finally, I want to thank the other members of CAOAC who pitched in to help put this event on. Ken and Lisa Boorman, Terry Little, Tony Bernard, Paul McIntosh and others were also helped by many who volunteered their services at the convention such as Sharon on the auction computer, Charlene and Lisa at the auction desk and all the runners who worked very hard. We appreciate the assistance of Carl's wife Mari-Anne who made the centre-pieces for the banquet and Mary Finley who made the anniversary cake and cupcakes.

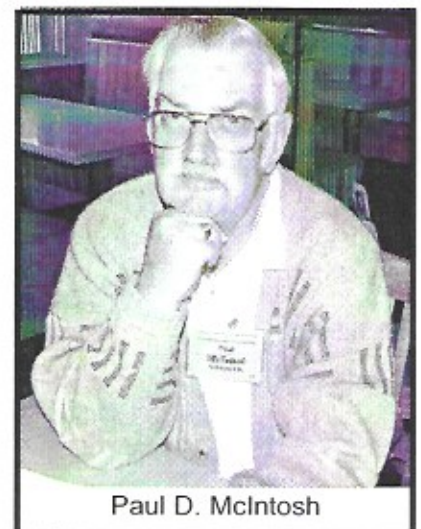
This brochure had been initially thought of as something that could be put into each attendee's goody bag but due to unforeseen circumstance it could not be made ready in time. So we thought we would take the time to make it bigger and better and include elements of this convention of which you were a part. I hope you enjoy it.

David Boehm

Historic Overview of Some Aspects of CAOAC

I have been asked to give a brief synopsis of some of the happenings in CAOAC. They do not include all and are not intended to single out any individuals, although many people will be mentioned. They will be factual as well as adding some humour and behind the scenes shenanigans. They are not in any order of occurrence.

One of the ongoing attendance issues was that Frank Buhagier had attended every Convention and Dorothy Reimer was a close second. Now that Frank has passed away, Dorothy has taken over with Bill Irwin a close second. I have also included where each Convention was held and who was the President at that time.



Paul D. McIntosh

continued page 4

History of Conventions & Presidents

YEAR	PRESIDENT	CONVENTION HOST/LOCATION
1959-60	Doug Martin	CAOAC/Niagara Falls, ON
1960-61	Doug Martin	CAOAC/Niagara Falls, ON
1961-62	Ernie Straight	Hamilton, ON
1962-63	Rex Merritt	Kitchener-Waterloo, ON
1963-64	Rex Merritt	London, ON
1964-65	Rex Merritt	Kitchener-Waterloo, ON
1965-66	Norm Usherwood	Western New York
1966-67	Norm Usherwood	Peterborough, ON
1967-68	Harold Benn	Hamilton, ON
1968-69	Harold Benn	Swansea
1969-70	Harold Benn	Barrie, ON
1970-71	Ron Walker	Peterborough, ON
1971-72	Harold Collis	Preston - Galt
1972-73	Harold Collis	Ottawa, ON
1973-74	Bill Thompson	Downriver
1974-75	Bill Thompson	Hamilton, ON
1975-76	Bill Thompson/ Dorothy Reimer	London, ON
1976-77	Dorothy Reimer	Rochester, NY
1977-78	Dorothy Reimer	Durham, ON
1978-79	Terry Little	Brant/Brantford, ON
1979-80	Bob Ross	Willowdale
1980-81	Dorothy Reimer	Kitchener-Waterloo, ON
1981-82	Wayne Rakestrow	Brampton, ON
1982-83	Wayne Rakestrow	Guelph, ON
1983-84	Wayne Rakestrow	Willowdale
1984-85	Wayne Rakestrow	Erie, PA
1985-86	Wayne Rakestrow	Southtowns/Hamburg, NY
1986-87	Miccia Burden	Durham/Toronto, ON
1987-88	Miccia Burden	Hamilton, ON
1988-89	Rein Breitmaier	Kitchener-Waterloo, ON
1989-90	Rein Breitmaier	Calgary, AB
1990-91	Ray Lucas	Greater Akron, OH
1991-92	Ray Lucas	Edmonton, AB
1992-93	Dave Boehm	Brant/Brantford, ON
1993-94	Dave Boehm	Pittsburgh, OH
1994-95	Dave Boehm	Regina, SK
1995-96	Dave Boehm	Brampton, ON
1996-97	Dave Boehm	St. Catharines, ON
1997-98	Dave Boehm	Erie, PA
1998-99	Matt Jackson	Brant/Brantford, ON
1999-2000	Matt Jackson	Hamilton, ON
2000-2001	Dave Boehm	Kitchener-Waterloo, ON
2001-2002	Dave Boehm	CAOAC in Brantford, ON
2002-2003	Paul McIntosh	Eric County, NY
2003-2004	Paul McIntosh	CAOAC in London, ON
2004-2005	Paul McIntosh	Durham/Oshawa, ON
2005-2006	Paul McIntosh	London, ON
2006-2007	Paul McIntosh	CAOAC in London, ON
2007-2008	Tony Bernard	Edmonton, AB
2008-2009	Tony Bernard	CAOAC in London, ON

Historic Overview cont.

There were varying types of entertainment such as dancing at earlier conventions, karaoke, casino game nights, bowling, hospitality rooms, fun auctions etc.

In earlier conventions the collection and trading of club crests and club pins was very popular. Since they are no longer popular, the crests and some pins have been mounted on a banner (see colour picture) by Char Breitmaier and Paul McIntosh.

A Beer Drinking Contest was held at some of the 70's and 80's Conventions. The contestants were to drink a Yard Arm full of beer or so many bottles, in later years in the shortest time. Two contestants who won were Jack Gale in 1978 and Mike Messmer (Rochester) in 1981.

The Convention weekend was a place to renew friendships, make new friends as well as show your fish and plants for awards.

Besides the show we had delicious banquet, a giant auction and the presentation of trophies, plaques, ribbons etc. to reward the participants in the show for fish and plants. Also the CAOAC Awards were given to recognize and honour the clubs and people in the clubs who excelled in the hobby.

At earlier Conventions, there was a competition among clubs to see who was going to put on the next year's Convention. In some years CAOAC had to take over and the executive planned the Convention. This has taken place 5 times including this 50th year.

Ray Lucas was a corporate sponsor who helped some clubs as well as CAOAC when he brought his displays of fish products. These were sold and the money raised went to the host club and CAOAC when they held the Convention.



Jim & Linda Brown were married at the convention in St. Catharines in 1997.

Some Noteworthy Members of CAOAC

- Frank Buhagier was a member of many clubs including Toronto, Durham etc. He was a CAOAC judge, the only member who had attended every CAOAC Convention until his death in 2008 and a sponsor of the Junior Hobbyist of the Year for CAOAC Conventions.
- Paul McFarlane was a member of Hamilton Aquarium Society. He showed fish and gave presentation talks on characins etc. He was a member of the CAOAC Executive as Treasurer. He was honoured by CAOAC in 2007 for his contributions to the hobby.
- Jim Brown was a member of DRAS as well as other clubs. He was an avid breeder of fish with his partner, Linda, as well as a speaker on various fish topics. Linda Richards also bred and showed a variety of fishes. They were married at the CAOAC Convention in St. Catharines.



Miecia Burden and Frank Buhagier on the dance floor in times gone by. Let the good times roll!

Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs

Paul McIntosh



Richard Carthew receives a set of 4 autographed Nutrafin posters from Heiko Bleher.

Some Well-known Speakers At CAOAC Conventions

John Acorn	Danny Dicoco	Rudy Kern	David Schlessner
Tim Allen	Beverly Dixon	Albert Klee	Otmar Schoeneberger
Wolfgang Amelung	Gary Elson	Ad Konings	Stan Schubel
Larry Arnold	Joanne Young Evans	Rosario La Corte	Harold Schultz
James Atz	Bob Fenner	Anton Lamboj	Ingo Seidel
Dick Au	Lee Finley	Gary Lange	Ross Socolof
Herbert Axelrod	Neil Foster	James Langhammer	David Speare
Juan Azas	Dave Franco	Cindy Lee Toronto Zoo	Paul Speice
John Barbowski	Ian Fuller	Wayne Leibel	Norm Stacey
Helen Battle	Joe Gargas	Al & Sue Liebetau	Arthur Strange
Harold Benn	Lou Garibaldi	Peter Lewis	Stephan M Tanner
Wally Billingham	Jody Ghianni	Don Lindo	Ed Taylor
Heiko Bleher	Robert Goldstein	Paul Loiselle	Kurt Taylor
Emily Cain	John Gratzek	Ray Lucas	Anthony Terceira
Jeff Cardwell	Dixie Greenwood	Carol Marks	Mike Trzonkowski
Mitch Carl	Dave Griem	Glenn Marshall	Paul Turley
Bob Cashin	Jim Griffiths	Richard Moccia	Tom Ulrich
Al Castro	Charlie Grimes	Ald Mount	Peter Unmack
Ed Champigny	Charles Gruchy	Bob Musso	Hans Van't Jagt
Tom Collins	Bill Harsell	Lee Newman	William Vorderwinkler
Harold Collis	Gary Hater	Joanne Norton	Brian Waters
Bill Crook	Robert Hellmann	Dave & Marcia Palmater	Jack Wattley
Mark Curtis	Tom Herman	Patrick Parent	Stan & Marilyn Weitzman
Paul Curtis	Professor Hilton	Bob Quinn	Rusty Wessel
Jaap Jan DeGreef	Erling Holm ROM	Karen Randall	Ron Wheeler
Charles Delbeck	John Hopp	Lew Regelman	Stu Wheeler
Mark Denaro	Jim Horan	Robert Rofen	Nancy & Jim White
Larry Desiano	Tom Huff	David Sands	Joe Yaiullo
Al Dextrase MNR	Dale Jordan	Mike Schadle	Kurt Zadnik
Robert Di Marco	Juergen Kasprick	Dewey & Delores Schehr	Joe Zahl

Some Local Club Members Who Spoke At Conventions

Tom Mason	Many aspects of the hobby	Dave Boehm	Native Fish
Dorothy Reimer	Plants	Rein Breitmaier	Travelogues
Jim Brown	Many aspects of the hobby	Jim Robinson	All aspects of fish-keeping
Charlie Drew	Livebearers	Tom Bridges	Angels, Discus & Anableps
Bob Cashin	Livebearers	Larry Johnson	Rift Lakes
		Paul McFarlane	Characins

Some Notable CAOAC Events

- One of the outstanding events that took place at the St. Catharines Convention in 1997 was the marriage of Jim Brown and Linda Richards. This was a first for CAOAC.
- The convention in Port Dover was a very interesting convention. The highlight of this Convention was the Murder Mystery put together by Jennifer Miller and the actors and actresses she used. This went on during the banquet evening and climaxed at the tour of the Marine Museum. We also enjoyed a wonderful boat trip out past Turkey Point and other points of interest on Lake Erie.
- One of the highlights of the 1981 Convention was the introduction of Gloria. The next year, Leroy was introduced. They had a hilarious effect on the people who attended the conventions until they met a deflating demise.

continued next page

A Glance at Tropical Fish Breeding Over CAOAC's 50 Years

There are many aspects of this hobby but, for some of us anyway, the possibilities involved in breeding and especially breeding difficult species, are what keep us focused and interested. (To succeed in breeding a species that, after years of trying, has rarely or never been done is a challenge that stirs the blood.) I believe it was ever thus. There have been so many splendid fish breeders in CAOAC clubs over the years that I definitely can't do them justice on this page so I hope to be forgiven by the many who richly deserve mention but are omitted.

Charlie Drew tells me, (more about him later), that 50 years ago **Bert Steinhaus** of Niagara Falls, a founding member of CAOAC, was his idol. He seemed to be able to breed just about anything. When I got to know Bert, 20 or so years later, he still had a wonderful fishroom specializing in Killifish. I remember he was particularly proud of his colourful strain of Blue Gularis. Niagara Falls also had another founding member in **Jim Beasley** who not only bred many splendid fish species but also established a fine tropical fish pet store and inspired numerous young hobbyists to try their hands at the hobby.

In the early 60's, **Bud Peart** became the first to breed pure black Angelfish, (seldom seen in the hobby today). A little later on, **Harold Benn** made a name for himself by successfully breeding Discus. (No mean feat in the early 70's.) Another stalwart of CAOAC, **Peter Naef**, had remarkable success in the early years of Discus breeding and has gone on to continue his breeding achievements to the present. **Helli Kaza** of Kitchener, in addition to many other fish breeding achievements, (she bred Blue Rams by the hundreds), became the first hobbyist in Canada to have and raise *Melanochromis auratus* in the early 70's. **Bill Zappora** and **Ken Kirkwood** are other names that deserve mention for their early achievements with African cichlids as these beauties began to be imported during the 80's. No mention of breeding achievements with African Rift lake cichlids would be complete without mentioning **Jim Robinson** who went on to import and breed so many, many species. Of course, Jim also bred great numbers of livebearers and killifish in his 300 plus tank fishroom. **Don Kember** and **Earl Wellwood** should not be forgotten. They bred a great many fish and became know for the 'thousands' of angels they provided to wholesalers in the Toronto area.

Hamilton has had many fine fish breeders over the years but two of them really stand out. One was **Paul McFarlane**. He was involved with CAOAC from its earliest beginnings and, over the years developed great skill in breeding Characins, (for example - Silver Dollars), and catfish. When **David Sands**, the catfish guru from England, arrived for the 1988 CAOAC Convention in Hamilton you can imagine his surprise to find that *Corydoras davidsandsi*, recently named for him, had already been successfully bred by Paul. The other fish breeder extraordinaire is **Charlie Drew**, (the man who is responsible for the names of those early CAOAC fish breeding achievers mentioned above). To put his achievements in perspective, since the inception of the "First in CAOAC breeding award program" Charlie has been credited with 28 entries so far. That's nearly twice as many as anyone else. Charlie has been breeding all kinds of tropical fish over the years and he just gets better and more prolific as time goes by.

Over the years some clubs have developed a fish breeding culture. The members inspire each other and a friendly competition develops. Often the leadership sets the tone. An example from earlier times was the Akron Ohio Aquarium Society a former CAOAC club. Today, the Aquarium Society of Winnipeg stands out with 72 active breeders listed with an average of approximately 18 entries each in the CAOAC Breeders Directory. Names like **Chris Biggs**, **Allan Bridges**, **Richard Engstrom**, **Spencer Jack**, **Fred Olynyk**, and **John Sabo** make up the bulk of those numbers but you get the idea. We salute this club and all the breeders in all the clubs who have achieved so much. May the future be as bright!

Tom & Pat Bridges

50 Years of CAOAC Sanctioned Shows

There has been large change in fish shows during CAOAC's 50 years. Back in the 60's most of the clubs held a fish show and had a small auction as well. Also at those shows most of the fish had to be shown in pairs rather than single fish. Also the shows were much larger in those days. The 1976 CAOAC Convention show in London had 848 entries. There were also lots of club shows with 500 or more entries.

In the 70's & 80's most of the shows changed to single fish entries rather than pairs. Also because of the rising cost of holding fish shows there were fewer clubs holding them and just holding auctions instead. That trend has continued in recent years and there have been fewer shows. There have been only 6 to 8 CAOAC Sanctioned shows each year recently and those shows have a maximum of 300 entries. The number of entrants at each show has also decreased each year to the point that we are getting less than 30 people showing in most shows. The only exceptions recently were at the 2008 CAOAC Convention in Edmonton with 34 entrants and the 2008 Kwas show with 30 entrants.

Maybe that is a sign that things are changing for the better. Let us all bring some entries to all the upcoming shows.

Terry Little

C.A.O.A.C. Conventions, Shows And Auctions of the Past

Hello everyone and welcome to the C.A.O.A.C. Convention. Carl has asked several old - time judges to render their thoughts and memories of conventions and convention shows from the past. Of course we've asked Dorothy "Ma" Reimer, Jim "Not Me" Clark, Ray "Kingfish" Lucas as well as myself to contribute to the remembrance. To me, the single biggest thought that sticks in my memory, is all of the folks that I have met. These amazing conventioners have become friends for life. I have become close to so many both living and passed. This is the first reason why I go to conventions.

The second is the speakers. Over the years, the assemblage of speakers reads like a "Who's who" of the aquarium hobby. Personally, I have learned so much and during the day lectures and laughed so hard at the banquet speakers ... Charley Grimes with "Another Blue Fish" & "Dead Fishy" that I've almost peed myself.

Number three has to be all of the memorable crazy stunts that get pulled every year which usually occurred after both the hospitality room and the open room parties ended about 5:00 AM. I won't mention these incidents because so many of my friends are involved and I really don't want to give anyone fodder for future blackmail.

Number four "It's the Fish, Man" as you have heard many people say. The quality of the fish and the sheer size of the older shows was fantastic! It is amazing to see how well conventioners grow and maintain their fish. The auctions are always amazing. I have personally purchased fish at the convention auctions that I didn't know existed in North America. Fantastic!

Although the number of entries has declined over the years, most of the exhibits still retain the quality of past shows. The shows are still a "Must See" for everyone. We all see fish that we haven't seen before. It's also great fun to question and debate the judges' decisions as to why one fish placed in front of another and why they hire blind judges.

Dorothy "Ma" Reimer remembers past conventions CAOAC shows over the years.

"My first CAOAC convention was in Barrie. It was a good convention at the Holiday Inn but the show was held in a hall down the street. If you wanted to see the show you took a walk. Often you want to take a second look at a certain class. The largest CAOAC show I can remember was at London in 1976. It was well over a thousand entries and tanks were all over the place. The Peterborough Convention was different with no show. This was a real loss and the convention itself did not turn out well.

I have been to the convention shows in Calgary and 2 in Edmonton. They are unique in that the tanks are on stands and the fish entered. All the tanks are well lit then they drop a sheet of black plastic over the whole display and the tanks are then cut out so they shine through. The room is darkened and is quite an impressive display."

Jim "Not Me" Clark remembers. "I think one of the funniest moments at a C.A.O.A.C. convention happened at the Brantford convention in the 70's. There happened to be a slide outside and the late Mike Mesmer decided to slide down it in a white suit. The only problem was there was a mud puddle at the bottom and lo and behold Mike ended up right on his butt in the puddle. Then there was the convention in Buffalo at the Red Roof Inn where, on the Sunday evening, the people staying over had a beer and popcorn fight. Women's shoes could be seen up in the chandeliers. The people at the party chipped in to clean the room up but the person from the hotel still got fired because of it. I believe Ray Lucas managed to find the person a new job at a better place. (editors note: the Red Roof Inn shut down shortly after this convention. We had nothing to do with that though, I'm sure!) There are many more stories to be told but I'm sure you will hear a lot of them from other people at this year's convention. I don't want to incriminate myself "Not Me" and ruin my image. Ha! Ha! Ha!"

To me, although the shows have changed over the years, the conventions are still as vibrant as ever. We have had pies in the face, mice in the rooms (with the room occupant screaming from the top of the toilet), cans stacked to the top of the door frames and even a wedding! Who can forget Judge Bill Valere parading around the convention with his pet cougar!!! Now that was one judge with whom you really didn't want to argue! C.A.O.A.C. Conventions are a thing you truly don't want to miss!

Jim Robinson

Convention Biotope Displays

The 2009 Canadian Association Of Aquarium Clubs Convention was very successful, partly in fact to the biotope displays set up by our main speaker, **Heiko Bleher**. His sponsor **Rolf C. Hagen Inc.** sent three seventy-seven gallon complete aquariums kits to be used for his biotopes.

Mr. Bleher brought over six Alenquer discus from his personal collection for the Amazonia tank. Jeff Burch from the London Aquarium Society loaned the convention an extremely colourful colony of his Rainbow fish for the New Guinea tank. In the third biotope, with the blessing of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Royal Ontario Museum, we were able to display some native species of fish.

Heiko arrived several days before the convention and picked up rocks and waterlogged branches locally, as well as some nice aquatic plants from club members' aquaria. He did all the washing of sand, preparation of aquariums and filling with water late into each evening.

These were impressive displays and we thank Heiko for his efforts on these exhibits.



Discus Tank

Native Tank

Rainbow Tank

When I was asked to help out with the CAOAC 50th Anniversary Convention by helping to organize the Speaker Programme, I was under the misapprehension that this was going to be a huge job with many, many, stumbling blocks on the way. I was only partly right. There were a few small hiccups along the way but on the whole, I enjoyed this challenging job. I will briefly review the speakers and their programmes below.

First off was Heiko Bleher on the Friday night and his talk was on South American Cichlids. It was basically a summation of several collecting trips Heiko took to the Amazon. In true Heiko style, the talk was educational and entertaining as Heiko digressed from time to time with anecdotes concerning people and places portrayed in his stunning photographs. Of particular interest was the real reason he and his wife Natasha spent time in a Brazilian job – not something recommended at all!

The really nice thing about this talk was that it was held in the Fanshawe College pub – The Outback Shack – and afterwards there was a meet and greet with all the speakers. It's not often you can get a world-class presentation and afterwards have such a relaxing and convivial atmosphere to talk to all the speakers. I think opportunities like that are wonderful for aquarists to discuss matters with people they had previously only seen in print. We kept the speakers conversing long into the night with questions about fish, places, and personalities we had only previously read about.



Saturday dawned and we prepared ourselves for a 'learning' day. This was when all the rest of the presentations were to be held. Gary Lange started off the proceedings with his look at digital photography. If you wanted to learn how to take better photographs of your fish, or wondered which of the new cameras to purchase, this was the talk for you. I look forward to seeing better photos in all the local club magazines because of all the advice that Gary was presenting us.

Heiko followed Gary with his "Adventures In India" talk. This was the first time he showed this presentation to anyone and was still adding to it while he was at the convention. His trek through the Indian State of Nagaland was quite unique considering how hard it is to get permission to enter this 'closed state'. The mostly pristine conditions of this area in one of the most heavily populated countries on the planet were breathtaking! We were entranced with pictures of newly discovered (by Heiko) fish. Anabantids, Badis sp., barbs, and many kinds of loaches all were interspersed with habitat scenes and interesting shots of the local inhabitants.

We then broke for lunch and on returning to the auditorium, were once again off to the wilds – this time to New Guinea collecting rainbowfish and blue-eyes with Gary Lange. Collecting on the opposite side of the world – a still wild and uncivilised part of the world at that – requires lots of planning and fortitude. This was a really entertaining talk that focused on just one area of Gary's trip. You definitely have to be in shape to be able to undertake such arduous adventures that Gary, and Heiko who presented before him, showed us.

Following Gary was Bob Fenner who showed us that "Algae Can Be Your Friend". It started like a biology lecture at a university but the further Bob took us into the talk, the more interesting and pertinent it got. I think we all learned a lot about algae in this presentation and those who didn't attend because they thought the subject was boring, missed out on a great talk, interspersed with lots of humour.

The afternoon talks were concluded by another talk from Heiko. This time his topic was "Geophagus and Dwarf Cichlids". Those amongst us who enjoy talks with lots of fish pictures were certainly entertained with this. Heiko explained about the interrelationships within these South American cichlids and how close they are to each other in their respective phylogenetic trees. There were lots of Geophagus and Apistogramma pictures and those of us who love these fish had their ardour reinforced by this masterful presentation.

50th Anniversary Convention

Saturday night we had the traditional banquet dinner and the catering students put on a fantastic prime rib and chicken meal! After dinner, Rein Breitmaier regaled us with his travels on his Mediterranean expedition. Leave it to Rein and Char (his wife) to discover all sorts of cool aquariums and pet stores on a trip that encircled most of the Mediterranean Sea. We learned for instance, that over there, freshwater aquariums are the expensive ones to upkeep and saltwater is as easy to replace as going to the beach and dipping your own to take home for your water changes.

After Rein finished Bob Fenner entertained us again with a light-hearted look at the "Candiru: The only Vertebrate Parasite of Man". There were a lot of men squirming in their seats for this one but on the whole, it was a great way to close out the weekend's educational, and entertaining roster of speakers.

I would like to thank all the speakers who were so generous with their time and knowledge during this convention. Every one of them went above and beyond what is generally asked of for a presenter at a convention and they all did it with grace and good humour. Special mention must also be made to the sponsors who allowed us to present such a varied and entertaining roster of speakers. Thank you Rolf C. Hagan, Rolf C. Hagan Inc., and Big Al's Aquarium Services, as well as everyone else mentioned elsewhere for their generous donations.



Heiko cuts a piece of anniversary cake for Carl.

Ken Boorman



The head table.

L-R Tony Bernard, Rein Breitmaier, Ken Boorman, Carl McCleary, Dave Boehm, Sarah Langthorne, Terry Little. The centre chair was left empty in remembrance of Miecia Burden.



Jesse and Terry work the registration table.



Meetin' & Greetin'

L-R Heiko Bleher, Rein & Char Breitmaier, moi



DUDES!!!

50th Anniversary Convention Convention Show Report

The show that was held at the 2009 CAOAC Convention had great participation and it was the largest show in recent Convention history. We had 302 entries from 31 entrants. I was very pleased that we had entries from most of the local CAOAC clubs including Sarnia Aquarium Society, London Aquaria Society, Brant Aquarium Society, Cambridge & District Aquarium Society, Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society, Hamilton & District Aquarium Society, St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, Tropical Fish Club of Erie County, Peel Regional Aquarium Club, Toronto Willowdale Aquarium Society, Durham Region Aquarium Society, as well as Calgary Aquarium Society and a non CAOAC club in Montreal, Quebec.

The top winners at the convention show were as follows:

Best of Show	Black Molly	owned by Shawn & William Austin, BAS.
Best Egglayer	Female Betta	owned by Karl Baumgarten, LAS.
Best Livebearer	Variatus Platy	owned by the Woods Family, DRAS.
Best Catfish	Orange Laser Corydoras	owned by Charlie Drew, H&DAS.
Best Cichlid	Red Shoulder Severum	owned by Anthony McAslin, CDAS.
High Aggregate	Most Points by an adult exhibitor	Anthony McAslin, CDAS.
Junior High Aggregate	Most Points by a junior exhibitor	Jonathan Samson, KWAS

I was very pleased that the five major awards were all presented to five different people from five different clubs. If anyone would like further details about the show please send me an e-mail with your request.

Terry Little

Auction Report

This years' convention held 3 different types of auctions. All were fun, entertaining and brought in some money for the convention.

Sarah Langthorne put together her great "Penny Sales". She had about 50 items donated to her over the previous months. Many were fish-related. This kind of auction is when you purchase tickets and place in the pots in front of each piece. Many had quite a few tickets when the auction was closed. Some better items were the Fish-eye Wine, the hand knit pullover sweater with angelfish adorned on the front and the lovely decorated pots filled with Violas. Sarah would like to thank all who helped including Mari-Anne McCleary for the many items she hand made. The Penny Sales raised about \$335.00. Well done Sarah!

This convention had a silent auction that really wasn't too silent. Many attendees participating became quite vocal at points for the 12 select items. We had a 77-gallon aquarium set up, a 5-gallon complete setup, 2 mid-size complete setups, a T5 light, an Eheim filter as well as a few smaller outside filters. This brought in over \$900.00.

The large auction started at about 1:00 pm and finished about 5:00 pm. Our auctioneers, past-president, Tony Bernard and incoming president, Bob Wright were able to raise some good prices for the 577 items of fish, plants, food and new products. Dave, Char Breitmaier, Lisa Boorman and Sharon McDonald were kept busy on the cash register from the runners bringing in the chits and cash. Bob and Tony had a quick paced auction going with no slowdowns.

At the end of the day, many left with smiles on their faces and some good products in hand. We hope to see everyone back to next year's convention for another good time.



Carl McCleary
Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs

In Memoriam

This page is to honour those hobbyists who have made a significant contribution to CAOAC in their lifetime and are no longer with us.

Jack Reimer
Earl Wellwood
Mary Nelson
Ron Langthorne
Jack Gale
Dora Galloway
Don McPherson
Audrey Andrews
Ray Gauer
Casey Van Mourik
Bob Daniells

Ed Petrie
Ernie Straight
Harold Ben
John Kirkwood
Lou Kasza
Linda Brown
Jim Brown
Paul McFarlane
Francis Buhagiar
Miecia Burden



Miecia Burden
 1941-2009

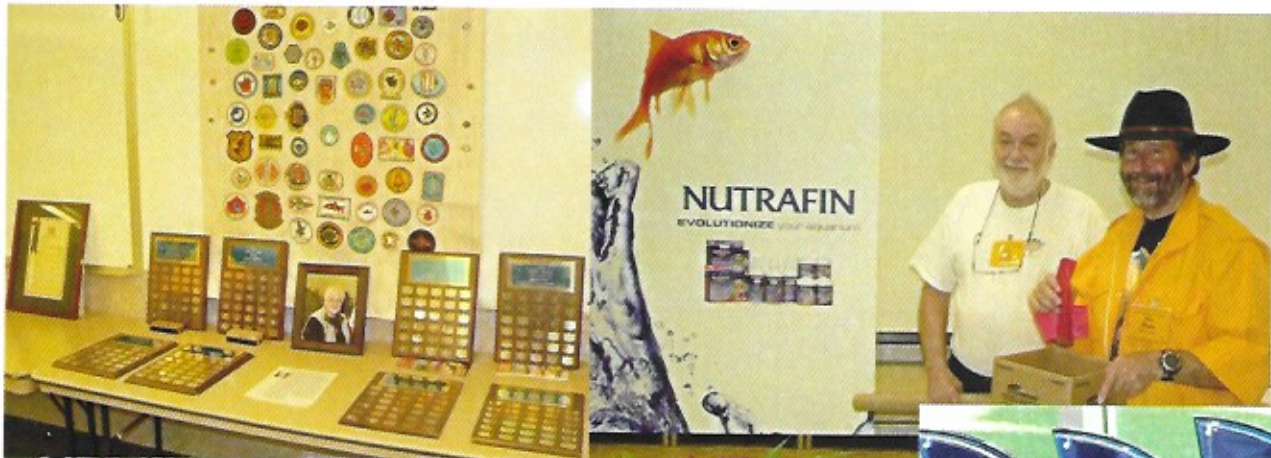
On March 25, 2009 CAOAC lost a dear friend in Miecia Burden after a brief struggle with pancreatic cancer. Miecia grew up in London, Ontario. She married her high school sweetheart, Brian and travelled extensively early in her married life to live in Ontario, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island before finding a permanent home in Kitchener, Ontario in 1970.

She was heavily involved in CAOAC serving in several positions including President. She received the CAOAC Service Award as well as being honoured with the CAOAC Newsletter Award for being editor of the Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Club's newsletter.

She will be greatly missed by CAOAC as well as the other clubs and charities to which she donated her time, energy and good nature such as The Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society, The Bits and Bytes Computer Club, The Downtown Community Centre and the program called "Kids on Horses" for handicapped children.

Miecia loved people and animals, especially her cats. She was an exemplary proponent of good will, common sense and generosity. Her life stands as model for us all to appreciate and emulate.

2
0
0
9



Brought to you by:

Carl McCleary, Dave Boehm, Ken Boorman, Terry Little, Tony Bernard & Sarah Langthorne



SPONSORS AND DONORS

GOLD

**M & T Printing Group
Volumes Publishing Ltd.
Rolf C. Hagen Inc.
Big Al's Aquarium Services**

SILVER

**Murphy and Herman Holdings
Ashgrove Welding
Catena Consulting Inc.
All Industrial Construction Services
Aquarium Services Outlet Warehouse, London
Tropical Fish Room
PJ'S Pets
reptilecanada.com**

BRONZE

**Garden City Reptilia and Aquaria
Port Credit Pet Centre
National Reptile Supply
Mari-Anne McCleary
In memory of Mike McCleary
Pet Paradise
Southwestern Pet Centre
Ontario Cutting and Coring
Moore Water Gardens
Brant Aquarium Society
Sarnia Aquarium Society
London Aquarium Society
St. Catharines Aquarium Society
Dorothy Reimer
Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society
Sierra Equipment
Kordon LLC
Margarita Tours
Pleco Caves
Mail Order Pet Supplies
Dragon Aquarium
San Francisco Bay Brand
Zoo Med
All Glass Aquariums
Aquatic Plants Unlimited
The Pet Shop
Toronto-Willowdale Aquarium Society**