

C.A.O.A.C.

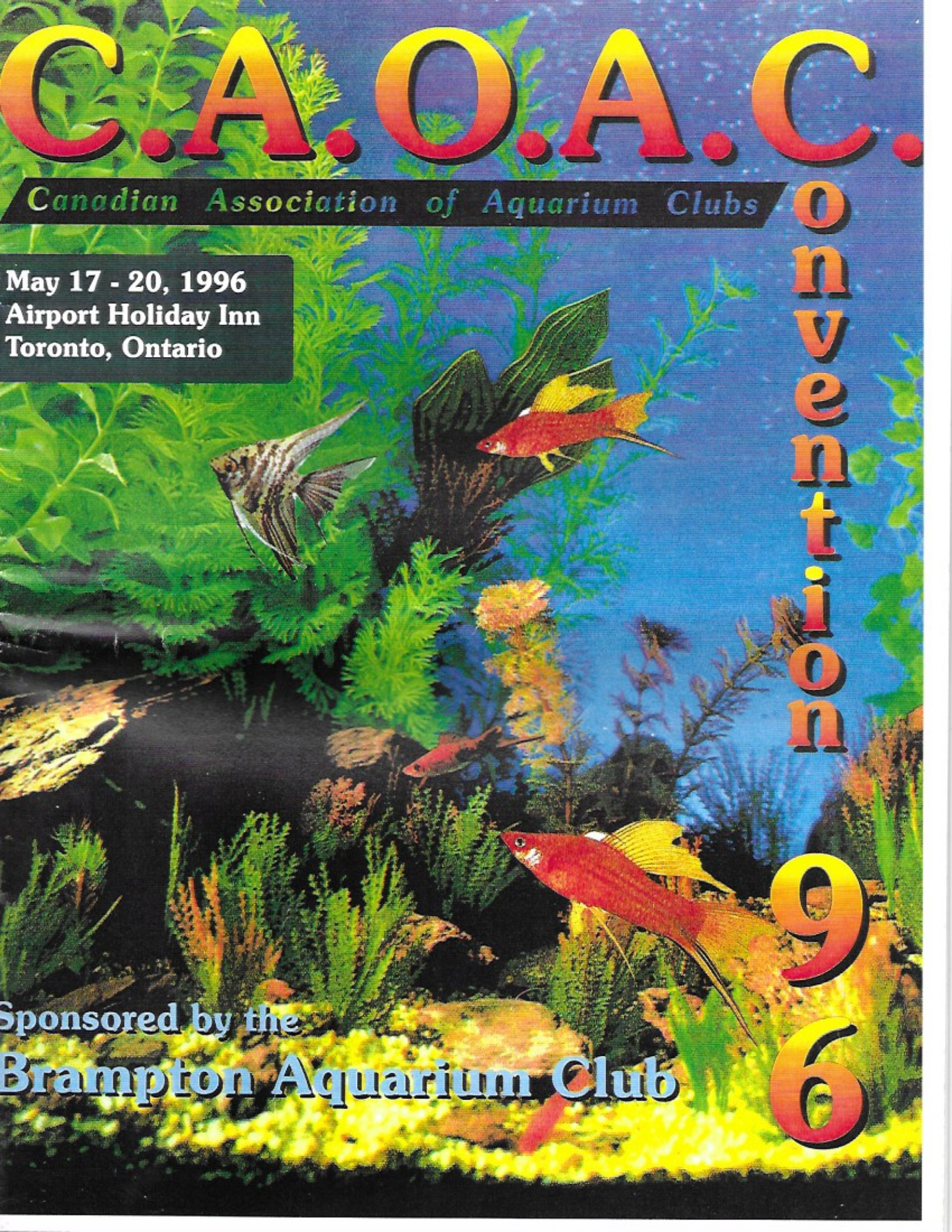
Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs

May 17 - 20, 1996
Airport Holiday Inn
Toronto, Ontario

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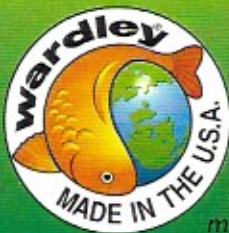
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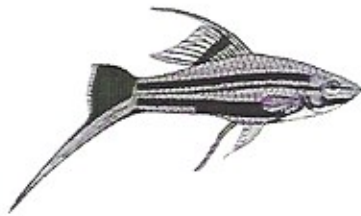
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BRAMPTON AQUARIUM CLUB PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Brampton Aquarium Club was founded in September of 1970, as a non-profit organization, dedicated to the study of all forms of aquatic life. We promote and encourage interest in aquarium life, exchange ideas and distribute information about the hobby. Over the past three years our club has grown by leaps and bounds. With the club flourishing, we decided that it was time to meet a new challenge.

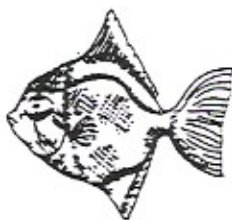
It is with great honour that we welcome the opportunity to host the 37th Annual CAOAC. convention in 1996. People from the club have joined together to form an exceptional team. Over the previous months, a lot of planning and organization has taken place. The results of which will be the best convention ever. The last time the club hosted the convention was 1982. This time we will be working towards a more upscaled event that is sure to be unsurpassed.

Convention '96 will be one that you will not want to miss. It will be a time to get together with many old friends and make new ones along the way. Excellent speakers will inspire you with their knowledge and experience in the tropical fish hobby. Valuable insight will be gained by attending any or all speaker presentations.

- Daily raffles and door prizes will only add to the excitement.
- Show entries of tropical fish will be competing for prestigious awards in the 'Fish Room' as bidders purchase the best buys on hobby related items at the 'Giant Auction'.
- Nightly dinner banquets will complement a great range of things to do in the evening.
- The Holiday Inn - Airport with its negotiated, reasonably priced guest room rate, along with exceptional facilities and proximity to a major highway and international airport, makes it ideal.

The weekend is sure to be a fun time for all who attend. We hope to see you here!

Frank Urbaniak, President
Brampton Aquarium Club



CAOAC President's Message

In 1959 a group of dedicated hobbyists got together to form an organization called CAOAC (The Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs). The primary goal was to advance the hobby by assisting aquarium clubs and by co-operating with other like-minded organizations and individuals. The original family of clubs was centered around the Golden Horseshoe. Since then, it has expanded into the US and more recently to our own Canadian West. Recently, CAOAC has added herptile clubs to its family. (For those of you who aren't sure, herptile means reptiles & amphibians.)

Every club in CAOAC is different from the others. They all have different needs based on type, size, geography, etc. While it is not easy to meet the various needs of all these clubs, CAOAC has done an excellent job of promoting the hobby and maintaining inter club dialog and support. With new ideas and technology, I believe CAOAC is stronger than ever and will remain so into the 21st century.

CAOAC strongly urges anyone interested in fish, reptiles, aquatic plants, and amphibians to join a local society. The rewards will be well worth it, both in terms of what you may get and what you may give. If there is not a society in your local area, think about starting one. CAOAC can help. I can be reached at 519-746-6316 if you need any information about local clubs or assistance in starting one.


This year we are proud to have the members of The Brampton Aquarium Club as hosts for our Annual Convention. This is a weekend looked forward to by many each year and I am sure this year will be no exception. Whether you are looking for information about various aspects of the hobby, looking for a good deal at the giant auction, or looking for a good time with good people, you will find it at the CAOAC Convention. We thank the Brampton Aquarium Club for all the work involved in organizing this event.

I look forward to meeting you at Convention.

David Boehm
President

Speakers


WOLFGANG AMELUNG



Wolfgang Amelung has been involved in the creation of self-sustaining ecosystems for the past twenty years. A Biology graduate from York University, Amelung's expertise and knowledge is well recognized. He owns Genetron Systems Inc., a Canadian ecological engineering firm incorporated in 1985.


Genetron Systems is involved in the environmentally friendly technology of creating self-sustaining ecosystem applications, which due to their interconnected nature have multi-directional, beneficial spin-offs while supporting and maintaining the greatest harmony and balance during their action.

DALE JORAN




Dale Jordan has been intimately involved with the Discus (Symphysodon) community for over fifteen years. He has lived in Africa, traveled to Asia and has, on more than one occasion, traveled to the Amazon to collect Discus. He is credited with the finding of the Jordan Brown Heckel Discus

JOHN ACORN




John Acorn is a scientist and freelance science writer. With a B.Sc. in zoology, an M.Sc. in entomology, work experience in both paleontology and insect ecology, and an insatiable interest in every single living creature on earth, he brings a fresh, engaging approach to science exploration. His ability to cut through webs of jargon and rarefied theory to present accounts which are both interesting and accurate has landed him work as a public speaker and writer for films, television, exhibits and children's books.

JOE GARGAS



Joe Gargas has lectures throughout the world to various hobbyist groups as well as the John G. Shedd Aquarium. He has operated his own discus breeding program, and was the U.S. representative for *Discus Brief*, the aquatic scientific journal. He is the director of research for Wardley Corporation in Tampa, Florida. Joe is an expert on water quality and composition. He has excellent knowledge of water test results and their implications on fish of all varieties. He is also versed on the interdependence of biosystems in water and their importance in a balanced aquarium ecosystem.

JOANNE YOUNG EVANS



Joanne has extensive experience in internal and external communications, public relations, and marketing for businesses of all types and sizes. From developing and implementing workshops to creating marketing strategies, her enthusiasm and creative ideas will create that spark in your organization that might just light a fire!

Prior to joining Beyond Words, Joanne has been a consultant to the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association, The Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario and many other organizations, writing manuals and teaching courses on effective communications. Joanne has also designed communication and marketing strategies and media campaigns for a number of municipalities.



MARK CURTIS

Mark graduated from the University of Bombay with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. He has been a long time advanced hobbyist, specializing in goldfish and koi. His expertise as a breeder has earned him a position as fisheries manager at Picov's in Whitby, Ontario. Mark also has extensive experience as an international buyer of goldfish and koi. In his pursuit of quality fish, he has traveled to Japan, Hong Kong, China, Singapore and Israel. His slide presentation will touch upon proper maintenance of goldfish and koi, selecting for quality, secrets for showing and proper handling. He will elaborate on filtration and offer his expertise on bubble bead filtration systems with which he has had great success at Picov's. He will advise us on the optimal environment for excellent health and growth.



TOM HUFF

Originally intent on becoming a veterinarian, Tom changed his major to zoology and when an opportunity arose, he accepted a position with the San Francisco Zoological Gardens. He and his wife Caren also kept a house full of animals including: slow lorises, otters, phalangers, and other exotic creatures including snakes, turtles, lizards, and spiders.

Tom and Caren came to Canada in 1973 to help establish the Reptile Breeding Foundation in Toronto. In 1976 the Foundation relocated to Prince Edward County where Tom served as the Executive Director until 1991.

Upon the demise of the Reptile Breeding Foundation, Tom, Caren and their three children: Jeremy, Leah and Jessica opened The Exotarium in Cherry Valley, Ontario. Here they display both native and exotic amphibians, reptiles, spiders, scorpions and other bizarre and unusual animals. As well as a public display, The Exotarium also offers a variety of educational programs to local school children and groups.

Tom is back doing the things that he loves most - working with a large collection of live reptiles and amphibians, giving educational presentations, and encouraging people to be more aware of the environment and the need for conservation of our natural resources.

Tom has published over 50 scientific and popular articles on reptiles, has appeared on numerous television and radio programs. Tom Huff's presentation will examine that progression, offer suggestions and look at some of the species which are suitably kept and bred in captivity.

Location

All events listed below to be held at:

Holiday Inn - Toronto Airport

970 Dixon Road,
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9W 1J9
(416) 675-7611



Schedule of Events

Friday - May 17

Convention Registration
Fish Show Registration
Speaker: Joanne Young Evans
Casino Night

Noon - 7:00pm
5:00pm - 9:00pm
7:00pm - 8:00pm
8:00pm - 1:00am

Hotel Lobby
Festival 'A' Room
Festival 'C' Room
Festival 'B' Room

Saturday - May 18

Fish Exhibit
Convention Registration
Speaker: Mark Curtis
Speaker: Herps
Speaker: Wolfgang Amelong
Lunch Break
Speaker: Joe Gargas
Speaker: Dale Jordan
Hospitality Suite Open
Cocktails
Dinner and Speaker: John Acorn
Dance

9:00am - 4:00pm
9:00am - Noon
9:00am - 10:15am
9:00am - 10:15am
10:30am - 11:45am
Noon - 1:00pm
1:15 am - 2:30pm
2:45pm - 4:00pm
4:00pm - 7:00pm
6:00pm - 7:00pm
7:00pm - 9:30pm
9:30pm - 1:00am

Festival 'A' Room
Hotel Lobby
Festival 'C' Room
Festival 'B' Room
Festival 'C' Room

Festival 'C' Room
Festival 'C' Room
Room 1111
Festival 'B & C' Rooms
Festival 'B & C' Rooms
Festival 'B & C' Rooms

Sunday - May 19

C.A.O.A.C. Meeting
Auction Registration
Auction
Fish Exhibit Judging
Cocktails
Dinner and Awards Banquet
Hospitality Suite Open

9:00am - Noon
8:00am - 9:30am
9:30am - 6:00pm
9:30am - 12:30pm
6:00pm - 7:00pm
7:00pm - 1:00am
10:00pm - 1:00am

Oakwood 'A & B' Room
Festival 'C' Room
Festival 'C' Room
Festival 'A' Room
Festival 'B & C' Rooms
Festival 'B & C' Rooms
Room 1111

Monday - May 20

Fish Exhibit Teardown
Fish Store Tours

7:00am - Noon
9:00am - Noon

Festival 'A' Room

FISH SHOW RULES

GENERAL RULES GOVERNING THE 1996 ANNUAL C.A.O.A.C. CONVENTION SHOW

1. SANCTIONING

This show is sanctioned by the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs.

2. REGISTRATION AND ENTRY FEES

- (a) This show is open to all persons whether or not they belong to an aquarium society, or whether or not they attend other convention events.
- (b) \$2.00 per entry will be charged for all classes. \$10.00 for an unlimited amount of entries.
- (c) Entries will be received in the Fish Room (Festival Ballroom 'A'), between the hours of:

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Friday, May 17th. 1996
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Saturday, May 18th. 1996
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - Sunday, May 19th. 1996

Note: No new entry forms or changes will be accepted after 9:00 a.m., Sunday, May 19th. 1996.

- (e) All entries must be entered and shown under their proper classification. No entry or fish may be shown in more than one class. Classification and / or identification help will be provided, if required and is at the discretion of the Show Chairperson.
- (f) Entries that are to be auctioned will be bagged and removed from the fish room at 3:30 p.m. Sunday for entry into the auction.
- (g) Entries may be removed from the Fish Room after 5:00 p.m. Sunday.

3. SHOW CONTAINERS

- (a) Fish must be shown in suitable aquariums. Flat sided preferred. Where entry requires a tank of 20 gallons or more, entrant must provide own stand. Let our Show Chairperson know if you are bringing a large tank.

4. SHOW EQUIPMENT

- (a) Air will be available for all live fish classes except anabantoids and bettas. Entrants must supply own three-way valve, air hose and airstones. Open air lines are not allowed. Show supplies will be available, and normal charges will apply.
- (b) Gravel, plants, ornaments, etc. will not be permitted in classes 1 to 42. A solid colour background (one colour) may be used in all classes.
- (c) No individual tank lighting except for classes 42 to 51 will be permitted.

5. THE FISH AND SPECIAL CLASS RULES

- (a) All classes are single specimen entry unless noted otherwise.
- (b) Super Fish Pair - is considered to be a male and a female of the variety/species; in cases where sex cannot be distinguished, two fish of the same species will be considered a pair.

- (c) Super Fish Trio - is considered to be three fish of the same species that are exactly alike in all respects.
- (d) Fish displaying any form of disease or deformity will be disqualified.
- (e) Bowl Beautiful - Minimum one live fish to be included with tank entry. Maximum 2 1/2 gallon tank. Judged on colour and condition of fish, beauty of the general planting arrangement and overall appearance.
- (c) Tank Beautiful - Minimum one live fish to be included with tank entry. Minimum 5 gallon tank. Judged on the colour and condition of the fish, beauty of the general planting arrangement and overall appearance.
- (d) Family classes - Fish will include one spawning pair and at least 10 fry under the age of 3 months from this pair. Tank dividers may be used.
- (e) Photography class - photos must pertain to the hobby.

6. JUDGING

- (a) Judging will take place between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, 1996. Fish room will be closed during this time.
- (b) The decision of the judges is final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- (c) All complaints regarding a C.A.O.A.C. judge, judging, or any matters pertaining to the show must be submitted in writing to the Show Chairperson no later than May 23, 1996, with a copy of the complaint to the C.A.O.A.C. Judging Committee and the President of C.A.O.A.C.

7. SPECIAL AWARDS

- (a) BEST EGGLAYER - Winner of this award must have won first in its own class.
- (b) BEST LIVEBEARER - Winner of this award must have won first in its own class.
- (c) HIGH AGGREGATE AWARD - Based on highest accumulative points attained by class entries. Point system is as follows:
 - 5 points for First
 - 3 points for Second
 - 1 point for Third
- (d) BEST IN SHOW - Based on the consensus of all judges.
- (e) BEST IN SHOW JUNIOR - Based on consensus of all judges.
- (f) PUBLIC CHOICE AWARD - Based on highest accumulated votes by the general public, by secret ballot.

8. RESPONSIBILITY

- (a) While the show committee will do its utmost to insure proper care and security of the entries, the Holiday Inn, the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs, the Brampton Aquarium Club and their members will not be responsible for loss or damage to fish, equipment, etc.
- (b) All entries will be under the jurisdiction of the Show committee until tear-down, unless otherwise authorized by the Chairperson.
- (c) Owners are responsible for the care and maintenance of their entries.

FISH SHOW CLASSES '96

#	NAME	SPONSOR
1	CHARACINS - (under 3")	PAT & TOM BRIDGES
2	CHARACINS - (3" and over)	ST. CATHERINES AQUARIUM SOCIETY
3	BARBS - (under 3")	LONDON AQUARIUM SOCIETY
4	BARBS - (3" and over)	TOM TOTA
5	DISCUS	NORTH AMERICAN DISCUS SOCIETY
6	ANGELS	WORLD WIDE EXOTICS
7	DWARF CICHLIDS	HAYDEN POUNDER
8	OLD WORLD CICHLIDS - (Mouth Brooder)	BRIAN GILL
9	OLD WORLD CICHLIDS - (Substrate)	RIFT VALLEY FISH BREEDERS
10	OLD WORLD CICHLIDS - A.O.V.	AFRICAN AQUATICS
11	CENTRAL / SOUTH AMERICAN CICHLIDS	TOM MASON/CARL McCLEARY
12	CICHLIDS A.O.V.	MR. AFRICAN
13	KILLIFISH - (New World)	CANADIAN KILLIFISH ASSOCIATION
14	KILLIFISH - (Old World) APHYOSEMION	JERRY WASKALIK
15	KILLIFISH A.O.V.	EMC SERVICES
16	GOLFISH - (Common)	CHARLEY DREW
17	GOLFISH - (Fancy)	WILLOWDALE AQUARIUM SOCIETY
18	KOI	WORLD WIDE EXOTICS
19	RAINBOWFISH	TROPICAL FISH EXCHANGE
20	ANABANTOIDS - (except bettas)	PET PARADISE - SQUARE ONE
21	BETTAS - MALE	KITCHENER-WATERLOO AQUARIUM SOCIETY
22	BETTAS - FEMALE	GARY PEACOCK
23	EGGLAYER A.O.V.	AFRO-TROPICAL (TOM HERMAN)
24	GUPPIES - MALE	DURHAM REGION AQUARIUM SOCIETY
25	GUPPIES - FEMALE	KS TROPICALS
26	PLATIES	IMAGINE OCEAN (OTTAWA)
27	SWORDTAILS	HAMILTON AQUARIUM SERVICES
28	MOLLIES	REID FAMILY
29	A.O.V. LIVEBEARERS	SUPERIOR SUNROOF INC.
30	NATIVE CANADIAN FISH	DAVE BOEHM
31	MINNOWS - (danios, rasboras, white clouds)	SUPERIOR SUNROOF INC.
32	CATFISH - SUCKERMOUTH	VITA LUCAS
33	CATFISH A.O.V.	HAMILTON DISTRICT AQUARIUM SOCIETY
34	CORYDORAS, BROCHIS, ASPIDORAS	TROPICAL FISH ROOM
35	SHARKS	MICHAEL BRYCE
36	LOACHES & EELS	NEAL GOULBORN - FISH AND BIRD EMPORIUM
37	MARINE FISH	MARINE AQUARIUM SOCIETY OF TORONTO
38	FAMILY EGGLAYER - Parents + 10 or more fry (under 3 months of age)	BRANT AQUARIUM SOCIETY
39	FAMILY LIVEBEARER - Parents + 10 or more fry (under 3 months of age)	PETS AND GARDENS
40	SUPER FISH TRIO	METRIC SHIPPING SUPPLIES
41	SUPER FISH PAIRS	PUMP TECH INCORPORATED
42	AQUATIC ANIMALS	TERRY LITTLE
43	TURTLES AND TORTOISES	SUE FRIND
44	NON-VENOMOUS SNAKES	PORT CREDIT PET CENTRE
45	LIZARDS	PORT CREDIT PET CENTRE
46	AMPHIBIANS	OTTAWA AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE ASSOCIATION
47	TANK BEAUTIFUL	PJ'S SHERWAY
48	BOWL BEAUTIFUL	HERITAGE PET CENTRE
49	AQUATIC PLANTS - (rooted substrate, fully aquatic)	MIKE BUCKLE/JIM FAIRHEAD
50	AQUATIC PLANTS A.O.V.	AQUATIC GARDENER
51	PHOTOGRAPHY	FURN ELLIOTT

SPECIAL CLASSES

A	BEST EGGLAYER	SUPER PETS
B	BEST LIVEBEARER	FISH & BIRD EMPORIUM
C	HIGH AGGREGATE	RAY'S AQUARIUM
D	BEST IN SHOW	PJ'S
E	BEST IN SHOW JUNIOR	ACTION TROPHY
F	PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD	D.A.P.

Show Time

Author unknown
The Youngstown Aquarist
June 1992

It's the time of year for fish nuts and other aquarists to start planning for the show(s) that they hope to enter. Look at the upcoming events section of your magazine and you will find numerous societies within your general area, probably including your own, with annual shows scheduled for this summer. Why not enter one or more of them?

It's natural for a new society member to think that their fish are not good enough or that they have no chance to win against the more experienced aquarists. However, winning certainly is not everything at fish shows, in fact, it probably is not the most important thing at the shows. Friendship and fellowship certainly count as one of the primary reasons veteran hobbyists attend shows. You will meet many hobbyists from various other clubs, some not local by a long shot, that are friendly and enthusiastic toward the hobby. Conversation with such hobbyists develop into long lasting friendships and annual reunions at each summer's shows.

Judges are humans! They have preferences just like anybody else, though they certainly restrain them better than most hobbyists. They may, in fact, like your fish, and you may win a ribbon, trophy or some other token of excellence. Or, you may not. But, you will have the opportunity to talk with the judge (and please be calm and fair in your conversation) and find out why your entries are not quite up to winning. This is the fastest way to learn how to judge the quality of your own fish. Remember, each judge has his own standards to judge against; a loser at one show with one judge may be a winner at the next show with another judge. Judges are not well-paid so appreciate them and respect them, don't condemn them.

You will see some very fine specimens and some of them will be offered for sale at the auction following the show. This is your opportunity to upgrade your aquariums. Even if the fish you desire most are not auctioned, you can take the opportunity to talk with the breeder and perhaps even make an arrangement to acquire some of his fish for your own purposes. He may have plenty more at home and be eager to dispense with some of them.

Talk with some of the long time members of your club to gain insight into the art of fish showing. They will give you tips on the equipment needed for showing and set-up techniques. Shows often restrict the equipment you can use (bowls or 10 gallon or less tanks) and require you to supply the necessary gadgets for tapping into the air supply. Being prepared is far better than being inconvenienced or embarrassed at the event. The rules are simple and do not require a genius to understand them, but you do need to take the time to understand them. There is a time period in which you must make your set-ups and after which you can tear them down. This is to eliminate complete turmoil while visitors are viewing the show or while an auctioneer is attempting to carry out his duties.

You will meet many others who have an interest in the same species that you prefer. Come eager to have a good time and make new friends, as well as to enjoy the fellowship of your old ones. An evening get-together with plenty of food is usually held at the shows and this is really a low-keyed enjoyable occasion. Attend it!

Use your show committee to answer any questions or to help with any problems you might incur. That's what they are there for. Contact Al McBurnie at (905) 826-7737.

BRAMPTON AQUARIUM CLUB CONVENTION '96 AUCTION RULES

9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(1:00p.m. to 2:30p.m. for Ray "Kingfish" Lucas and his Auction)

AUCTION CHAIRPERSON **Mike Buckle (905) 846-4034**

SPLIT 2/3 TO THE SELLER **1/3 TO BRAMPTON AQUARIUM**
CLUB

SELLER INFORMATION:

- Registration is from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
- Any person may bring tropical fish and related goods to be auctioned, whether a member of a club or not.
- The auction will be set up with 10 tables numbered 1-10.
- Each person will put one item from their lot on each table starting at table #1. (note: the table number must agree with the item number within your lot).
- There is a 1 lot - 10 item maximum - NO EXCEPTIONS. This encourages you to bring out your ten best items.
- When the auction begins, all items on table #1 will be auctioned before proceeding to the #2 table. When table #2 is finished, table #3 will be auctioned and so on until all the tables have been auctioned.
- All fish and plants should be properly bagged (no ziplock bags) and double bagging is strongly recommended. A charge of 50 cents will be incurred if rebagging is necessary.
- All fish and plants should be properly labeled with species, ID, number of fish and sex(es) if possible.
- All dry goods should be properly labeled as to their condition.
- Any item not sold will be re-auctioned after all other items are auctioned off. There will be no exceptions.
- Any items not sold may be claimed within 30 minutes of the end of the auction or they will become the property of the Brampton Aquarium Club.
- Any minimum bids must be clearly labeled.
- Payment to Sellers will be available one hour after the last table has been auctioned (time permitting). Preference will be given to people that are both a buyer and a seller.
- Cheques mailed will be charged \$1.00 for postage and handling.
- Bidders must have a buyers number.
- US money is at par.



THE CITY OF ETOBICOKE, HOLIDAY INN, BRAMPTON AQUARIUM CLUB & WORKERS OF THE AUCTION CANNOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE INCURRED DURING OR AS A RESULT OF THE AUCTION.

The Auction - A Great Opportunity

by Dave Unruh

The auction at CAOAC's Annual Convention is an opportunity you cannot pass up. This is usually a good place to purchase species of fish that you would not find in stores as well as plants that are hard to obtain from stores. There is also a lot of used equipment (some good, some not so good) that can be had at very cheap prices. Manufacturers and stores usually donate new products to the host club and these are auctioned off at prices well below the normal retail price. Whether you are a buyer or seller there are some things you should be aware of before and during the auction.

Before the Auction: There are a few things that will make an auction more enjoyable and successful if you have them with you. The first is extra bags - a necessity since invariably you will buy a fish that is in a leaking bag. Take a small bottle of some sort of water conditioner - Arnquel is a good one, I also use Sera Aquatan. If you have to do a water change or the fish is stressed, this may help to take the edge off the shock (to the fish). Take a pen and paper (or a small note pad) to record the lot and item numbers of the items you want to bid on. This is also good to take down the name and phone number of hobbyists who may have more fish at home that you would like to buy. Bring at least one styro box with you - it doesn't take long to fill one with bags of plants and fish, and I am sure that you want to protect your purchases.

A couple of days before the auction it is a good idea to set up another tank or two to serve as quarantine tanks for fish that you may buy at the auction. I always have a couple of extra sponge filters running in my aquariums and I simply transfer these to a new tank to have instant biological filtration. It is worth a bit of effort to quarantine new fish for a week or so. There's nothing worse than bringing home new fish and infecting a whole tank full of beautiful fish with some disease or parasite. Most of the time the fish you purchase in an auction will be fine - but is it a chance you want to take?

Fish Buying: When you do spot a bag of fish that you are interested in you should examine it closely. Start with the bag has it been properly bagged for the best chance of survival? There should be about 1/3 water to 2/3 air by volume - if there is little air space in the bag the fish will quite likely run out of oxygen and die. The bag should also be large enough for the same reason. A 6" fish would not have much of a chance to survive in a 6" bag. But a 2" fish would be OK in that same bag. If you do purchase a large fish in a small bag, then use your extra bags and re-bag the fish. There is no point in taking home a dead fish.

Next examine the fish - does it appear in good health - is it breathing normal or is it gasping for air? How about the fins - are they all there - check the fins for deformities and disease - ick can usually be easily seen on the fins if it is present. Check the eyes - are they clouded or clear as they should be. Sometimes a fish may be blind in one eye and not the other so make sure that you examine both eyes. Have a good look at the gills. Sometimes with young fish the gill covers are not properly formed. Be careful of fish with very red gills - this can be an inflammation caused by gill worms (or flukes) among other things. Fish that exhibit this symptom are ones that I stay away from.

Beware of bags that are labeled as "pairs" or "trios". There are some unscrupulous sellers who will write "pair", or even worse "breeding pair" on just about everything they sell. Fortunately this is rare, but it does occur. I suppose a pair could imply that there are two - two males for instance. Try and verify that there is a male and female in the bag if they are called a "pair". In most cases if the bag says there will be one of each sex in the bag. Check to see that the fish in the bag are properly identified and are the same species. (I have seen two different species being sold as a pair on more than one occasion) If you are buying fry to breed make sure that you get more than four unless the fry are sexable.

Fish Selling: I have always maintained that it is best to bag your fish right before you leave for the auction, rather than the night before. This may mean you will have to get up early in the morning, but it gives your fish the best

chance for survival. So many times during an auction we see fish that appear to be healthy, were bagged correctly and treated properly through the auction but die part way through the day. Investigation frequently reveals that the fish was bagged the day before. There are other factors that may enter in, but the bottom line is that the less time a fish spends in a bag the better the fishes health.

My favourite size of bag is 10 x 20" - this gives most fish enough room and a large bag is easier and faster to tie than a small one. For smaller fish I may use a 7 x 14" bag. If the fish is spiny - such as a catfish or some cichlids I will double bag it. Tie the bag normally, then pull a second bag over the top of the first bag and tie the second bag. This may be difficult at first, but just like tying a bag, it gets easier with practice. Remember to use 1/3 water to 2/3 air. I will usually separate the fish I am going to auction the day before the auction. If they are in their own tank the amount of time you spend in the morning will be shortened considerably. When I do this, I fill the "auction tank" with 2/3 aquarium water and 1/3 new water. Then in the morning I prepare a bucket of new water (treated with water conditioner) and use 1/2 auction tank water 1/2 "new" water from the bucket. Of course the pH and temperature should be the same to avoid shocking the fish.

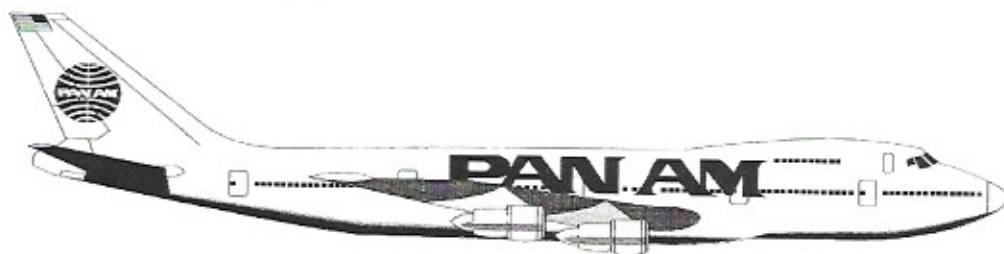
Make legible labels that at the very least identify the fish and number of fish in the bag. I try and type as much information as I can fit on the label - I believe that in many cases it increases the selling price by making more people aware of the merits of my fish. Since I am not ashamed of my fish, plants or equipment I will usually include my name and phone number as well. Many times this has led to additional sales after the auction.

Auctions are a great place to meet old friends and meet new ones. It's a good place to obtain fish, plants and equipment you would not find anywhere else. Although it can be tiring you can have an enjoyable and sometimes profitable day at an auction. Remember to relax and have some fun!

See one of our club CAOAC reps for more information on these events. For further information, call Mike Buckle at (905) 846-4034

Reprinted from March 1994 Fins 'n Tails, the publication of the Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society.

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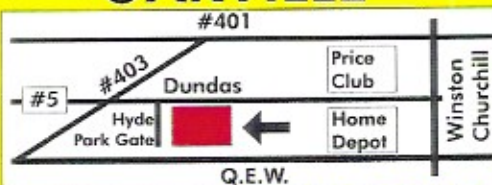
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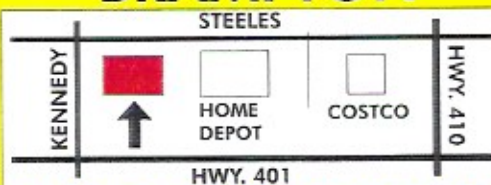
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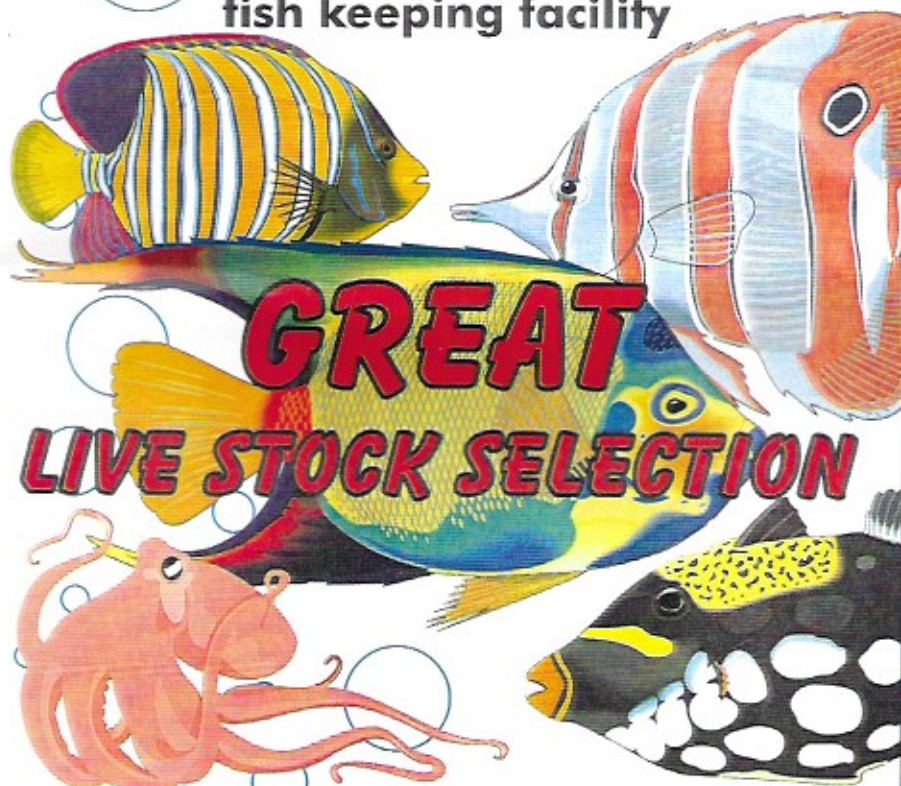
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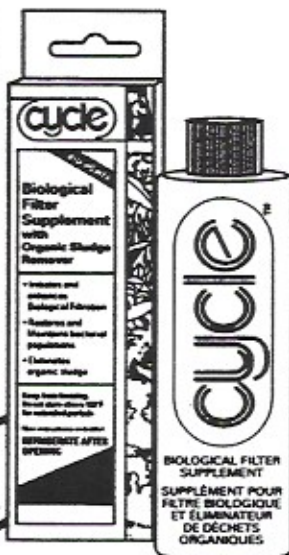
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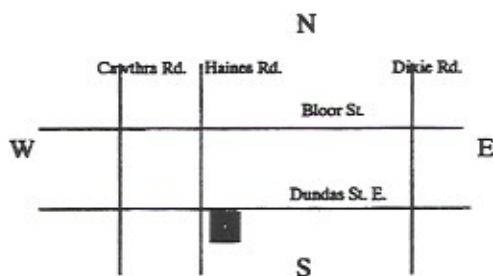


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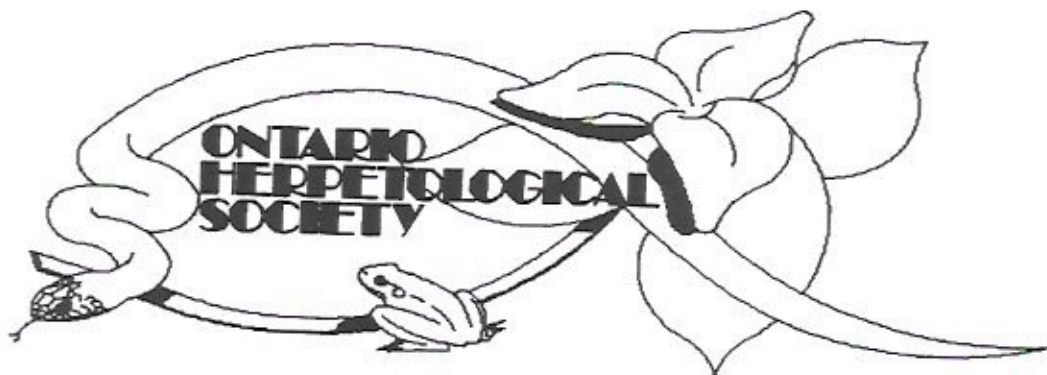
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The Ontario Herpetological Society

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The Ontario Herpetological Society was of amateur herpetologists. Although there were regular meetings and some field trips the Society floundered about 1973 due to growing pains and politics. Then in 1985 several of the original founders revived the Society. They were very dedicated and persevered. The first meeting was in September and the first newsletter came out in November of that year.

The founders enlisted an advisory group of some of the best professional herpetologists in Canada. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and are still in force today with minor amendments.

Since that time, the Ontario Herpetological Society has flourished. There are approximately 275 members. The 20-30 page Ontario Herpetological Society News which is published six times a year contains articles on captive breeding and conservation of reptiles and amphibians. There are three regular columns one dealing with the keeping and handling of venomous reptiles, one for junior members and a gossip column. The back page is for Marketplace, a trading page for members.

We meet at the W.A. Porter Collegiate Institute, an environmental school in Scarborough. This has worked well for both us. We are able to provide the school with information and cage designs for reptiles and amphibians and they let us use the school for meetings, seminars and workshops.

These meetings are held on the last Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November and are open to anyone who wishes to attend. There is no fee to get in. Presentations usually consist of a speaker and slide show. The school will allow live animals to be brought to the meetings and the Executive Board is developing guidelines to ensure the health and safety of both animals and participants. We will have our first "Show and Tell" meeting on May 28 of this year.

This society has some very good programs in effect. The Red-eared Slider Relocation Project has been running smoothly for three years now. We collect unwanted turtles and ship them to the United States where they go back into the pet trade instead of being released in Ontario's waterways. To date, we have exported over three thousand.

We maintain an adoption program that finds homes for unwanted reptiles and amphibians. Any animal that is sent to the O.H.S. is given to a member who can provide a good home for it.

We have assisted at most major symposiums held in Canada. We set up displays for many educational shows including All About Pets Trade Show, Responsible Pet Ownership Day for local Animal Control Units and Riverdale Farm's Fall Festival.

Since its inception, the Ontario Herpetological Society has offered input to the Ministry of Natural Resources for the Game and Fish Act, to Ottawa for federal rulings and to several municipalities for local by-laws. We work hand in hand with many city animal control units by providing information or the collecting of unwanted or confiscated reptiles or amphibians.

Besides the newsletter, this society has thirteen care sheets which provide basic husbandry for certain species. We also provide a Teacher's Resource Kit that has many puzzles, colouring pieces, poems, stories and other information for children.

The Ontario Herpetological Society has been a member in good standing with C.A.O.A.C. (Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs) since the fall of 1993. We have held two shows and auctions in conjunction with the Durham Region Aquarium Society and are currently working on this year's show. We have also set up a committee to provide C.A.O.A.C. with a list of reptile and amphibian judges who can be certified for judging of other C.A.O.A.C. shows.

We have found that reptile and fish enthusiasts have much in common and we look forward to a continuing partnership.



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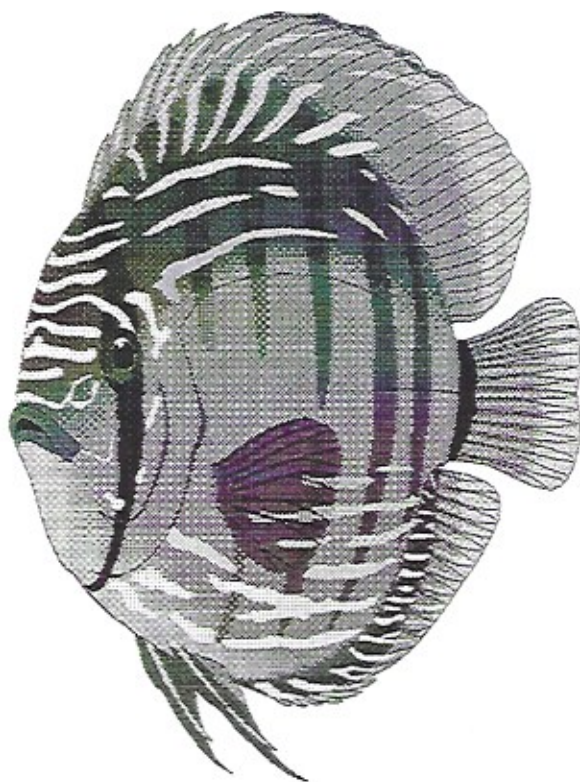
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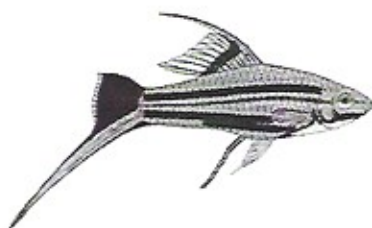
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If you have any troubles reaching any of our member clubs please contact the C.A.O.A.C. Membership Chairman,

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BRAMPTON AQUARIUM CLUB

Thanks a Million!

The 37th Annual CAOAC Convention would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our committee members. Literally hundreds of hours of work went into making this a world class convention. It was a daunting task that was achieved with commitment and determination. It was a great team effort by the following core committee listed in alphabetical order:

**Dave Boehm
Tom Herman
Mitchell Kennedy
Terry Little
Peter Orphanos
Frank Urbaniak**

**Mike Buckle
Steve Kristmann
Al McBurnie
Barb Reid
Jerry Waskalik**

Also, special thanks to individuals who gave their time just before and during the Convention. Their names were not available at time of printing, but they will be recognized at an appropriate time.

In addition, we are grateful to our sponsors, advertisers, speakers, judges, auctioneers, contributors and to anyone that we may have inadvertently missed.

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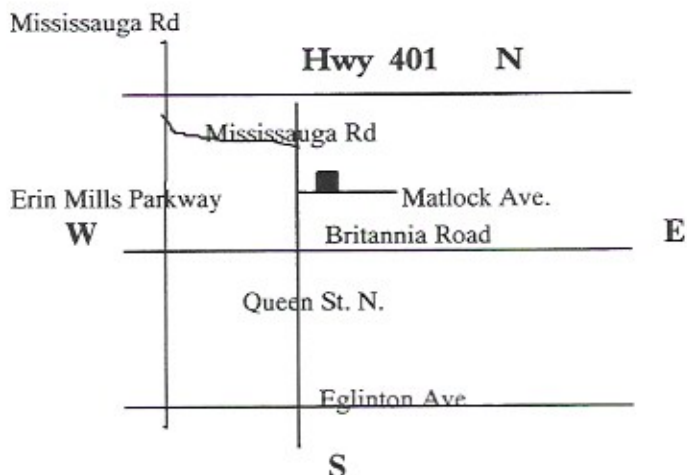
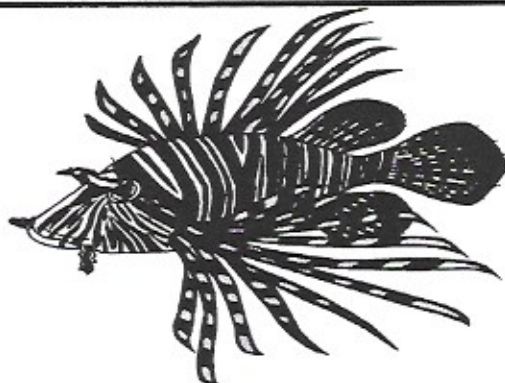


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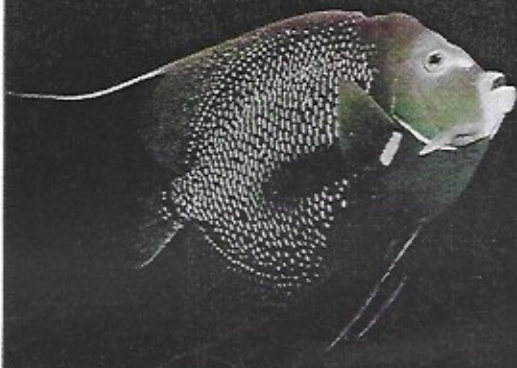
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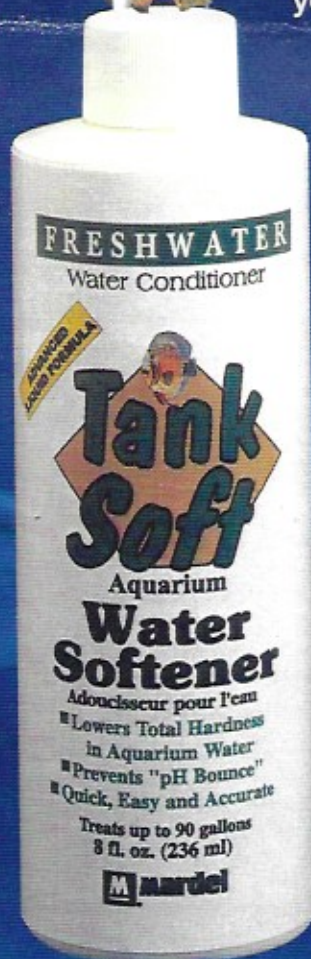
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