



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 sixth meeting of the season is scheduled for February 25th 2008.

- Guest Lecturer Rusty Wessel
- Mini-Auction
- Door Prizes



Membership Rates

Adult \$15

Family \$20

Junior \$5

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

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OVAS February Speaker: Rusty Wessel

Rusty maintains over 3000 gallons of freshwater aquariums where he successfully raises and breeds predominantly Cichlids and livebearers.

Rusty's specialty is Central American fishes. He has taken his hobby to a point where he successfully collected fish from the countries of Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, from 1983 to the present, he has taken over 30 collecting/exploration trips.

Considered by many to be the ultimate collector, he has introduced many new species of fish to the aquarium hobby. If it lives in the water, chances are that Rusty has either caught it or been bit or stung by it. A beautiful and elusive Cichlid discovered during one of his expeditions to Honduras was named after him by Dr. Robert Rush Miller, emeritus professor of the University of Michigan, in the June 1996 edition of Tropical Fish Hobbyist magazine, Theraps Wesseli.

Additionally, Rusty is a prolific author and photographer. His writings and photographs have appeared in a wide distribution of specialized publications, like Aquarium Fish Magazine,

Aquarist & Pondkeeper, Buntbarsche Bulletin, Cichlid News, Ad Konings' Cichlids yearbooks, Freshwater and Marine Aquarium and Tropical Fish Hobbyist.

In the organized hobby, Rusty is currently the "Convention liaison" and "Back issue Sales Person" for the American Cichlid Association and a speaker participant for the ACA/Marineland Speaker's Program. Additional posts held include chair of the ACA board of trustees (1990) and convention chair (1992). The philanthropist in Rusty has guided him as an active solicitor for the "Guy Jordan Endowment Fund" (A fund set up under the ACA to grant endowments for Cichlid research). Rusty has been awarded with the greatest honor the American Cichlid Association gives to its distinguished members, the ACA fellowship in 1997. On the local level, he is currently the treasurer for the Louisville Tropical Fish Fanciers.

Rusty has lectured and judged numerous fish shows throughout the United States, including the annual "Florida Tropical Fish Farmers" show and several ACA conventions.



Auction Tips

By: Matt Seguin

Hi there, if anyone doesn't know me, I'm Matt, and this is my third season on the exec, and 4th in OVAS. For much of that time I've been participating in the auctions as an auctioneer, for both mini auctions and the Giant Auctions. I just thought I'd pass along some of my observations from being at the center of the auctions ~8 times a year. If you feel referenced by any of my comments or tips, please don't be offended. These are meant as constructive criticism, not to be insulting.

Labels on the bags: A little information can help a lot to sell your item. For plants, lighting requirements, planting area (fore/mid/background), and growth rate are valuable information. For fish, max size, pH and temp requirements, and temperament are also great info. The flip side of that is, keep it concise. Having the front of your bag of hornwort covered with info makes it seem much more daunting than it should be. And calling your guppies by their scientific name may just confuse someone who otherwise might be very interested in their bright colours. If you have a rare fish that few people will have seen before, including a picture of the animal in full colour never hurts either.

Minimum bids: This could be a long one. Minimum bids definitely serve a purpose. If you bought a 200\$ filter 3 months ago but now have to sell it, you'd like to know you're not going to get 5\$ for your filter. On the other hand, if you bought a heater for 20\$ 3 years ago,

well sorry to say, you got your money's worth for it. Asking for a \$7 minimum bid on it might be just a tad bit ridiculous.

Also, keep in mind that a minimum bid often dissuades people from even starting to bid on an item, even if they quite possibly would have gone higher than the minimum bid. Unless you really don't want to part with an object for less than a certain amount, minimums can be more counterproductive than useful.

Item quantities: Again there's a few aspects to this. Realistic numbers per item are important. If a fish does better in pairs, don't sell them in large groups. And conversely, 1 or 2 fish of a schooling species isn't nearly as attractive to bid on as 4 or 5 together. To use an example from the latest auction: one of the cooler items was a group of 14 tank bred dwarf puffers. Very cool and rare item, and the minimum bid price was very fair. Only problem is, not that many people have room for that many puffers. Perhaps splitting it into 3 or 4 items would have helped?

And keep in mind, bringing 3 or more of the same item tends to swamp the market and lower the overall price. Some items are in high enough demand that this isn't the case, and it also varies by month, but for example, splitting ur java moss into 5 smaller bunches tends to cause each of them to go for 1 or 2 dollars.

Useless items: Every auction, one or two items (or unfortunately sometimes more) will show up that go unsold, not because they've got a minimum bid too high, or everyone is too cheap, but rather, because the items probably should just have been thrown out. (Continued page 13)

2008 Giant Auction

By: Peter Garneau

Our annual Giant Auction will be held at the Jack Purcell Centre on Sunday the 2nd of March starting at 12:30 pm. Item setup and viewing starts at 10:00 am. All items being auctioned off must be registered and present at the auction by 12:00. No new items will be accepted after 12:00.

General information

All items being auctioned are placed on tables in the viewing area. During the auction the tables will be auctioned off in a random order.

If you wish to have your item(s) sold at the start of the auction, we will have a priority table this year.

The cost is \$1 per item and this fee must be paid before your item is placed on the priority table.

For the Giant Auction the starting bid is \$2. If necessary, please group your items to ensure that your lots have a \$2 value.

Raffle tickets

We will be selling raffle tickets during the auction. \$1 for 1, \$2 for 3 and \$5 for 10. Prizes include a brand new 75 gallon aquarium and various other items donated by our forum sponsors.

Item registration

The following methods are available to register your items:

- On-line registration of your items - see the forum for the link.

- PM me with your list – including the description and minimum bid.
- If you do not pre-register your items, please fill out one of the preprinted forms available on the auction day

Identifying your items

Pre-printed labels are provided for all auction items and will be handed out when you arrive at the registration desk.

For all items the starting bid is \$2.00. If you would like to start the bidding for your item at a higher amount please indicate the minimum bid on your registration form.

Packaging your items

Please package your items carefully! Bags can leak, light bulbs can break, and fish can jump out of pails - just to mention a few possibilities.

All fish placed for auction must be in an appropriate container:

- Proper fish bags (preferred method)
- Glass jars of an appropriate size (Acceptable, but should be avoided if possible for safety reasons)
- Plastic buckets

Any fish placed for auction in an unacceptable container will have to be bagged at our Bagging station. OVAS will supply thick, heavy duty fish bags and will do the bagging. Cost is \$1 per bag, regardless of the number of fish bagged. Anyone wishing to bring fish to the auction without proper bags are encouraged to bring their fish in a bucket, and we will happily bag them for you for the auction table. (Continued on page 13)

Giant Acuton (Continued)

Payment for bagging must happen BEFORE the auction commences.

Bidding

For those who are new to the club the auction works as follows:

- The auctioneer will read the lot number, description and starting bid amount.
- Anyone who wishes to bid on the item is asked to raise their hand at the start of the bidding.
- The auctioneer will increase the price and the last person with their hand raised wins the item.

All items must be paid for immediately after the bidding has ended for that item. Payment and item pickup is done at the Treasurers location on the right hand side of the meeting room.

Auction fees

Any items preregistered before 8:00pm on Saturday the 1st of March will be charged a 25% commission. Any items registered after this time will be charged a 35% commission fee for OVAS members, and 40% for non-OVAS members, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Donations

If you wish to donate the proceeds from any of your auction item please indicate this to me before the auction. Any unsold donated items must be picked up after the mini-auction is over – OVAS will not be responsible for any items left at the meeting.

Vendor payment

Please see me after the auction to be cashed out. I will provide you with a receipt which will be taken to the Treasurer for payment. If you are unable to stay to the end of the auction please contact me and alternate arrangement will be made for you to receive your funds.

Note

Please respect your fellow club members - excessive talking during the auction is distracting to both the auctioneers and the people wishing to purchase items.

Auction Tips (Continued)

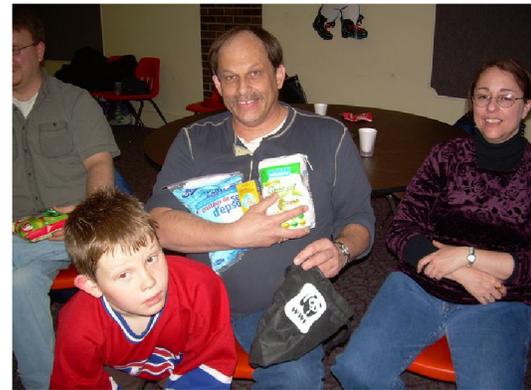
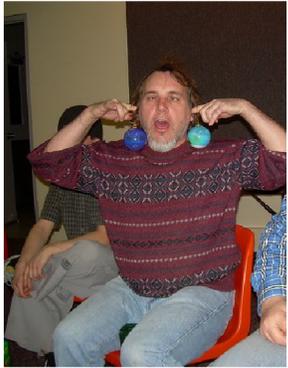
...It can be 75% empty chemicals, old hardened air tubing, or any other number of items its extremely anyone will need or want to give a loonie or two for. It may seem like a minor inconvenience, but as an example, at last season's Giant Auction, roughly 140 items went unsold. Conservatively assuming 10-15 seconds allocated to trying to auction the item, running it back and forth, etc, that figures to about 30 mniutes of extra time. If some of that can be cut down by getting rid of items that aren't likely to sell, it will even help sell the rest of your items. If you wouldn't buy it, then probably someone else wouldnt either.

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

Christmas Party

Photo Opts.



Antennarians – Frogfish

By: *Anthony Calfo*

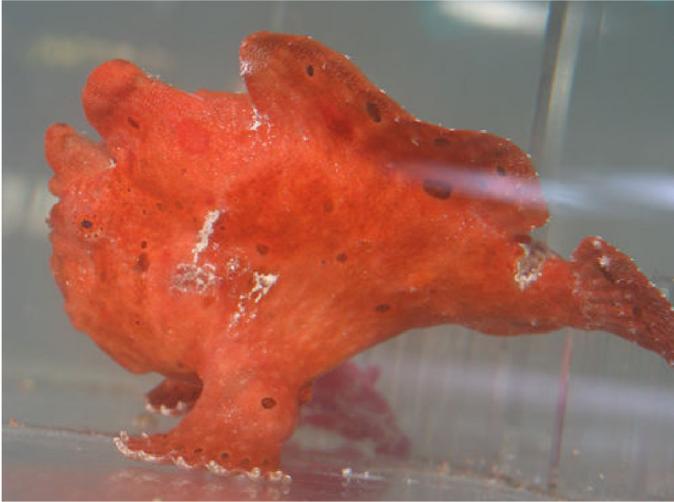


Photo by Anthony Calfo

Frogfishes and Anglers are found circumtropically, but are commonly imported from the tropical Atlantic, Hawaii and the Indo-Pacific for the aquarium trade. Most are collected small and have modest adult sizes ranging from 3-6" (7.5-15 cm), although a few popular species can approach or exceed 12" (30 cm). Live fishes and shrimp are the standard fare offered and accepted. Better candidates will accept frozen meaty foods in time (teasingly offered with forceps or a skewer). Few common names are needed for this group when the earliest ones are so befitting; Antennarian's are called Anglerfish for their specialized "fishing apparatus" used for luring unsuspecting fishes, and Frogfishes for their large mouths and squat amphibian-like appearance. In popular literature, the Antennarians imported for the aquarium trade are perhaps best called "frogfishes". The name "anglerfishes" is generally ascribed to the deepwater denizens of the family with truly exaggerated lures. With little consequence or meaning, I'll favor the term "frogfishes" here

and rest in the knowledge that its always best to cite species by scientific name whenever possible instead of or in addition to common names.

Selection

The first step to finding a healthy frogfish is just like preparing for the acquisition of any other aquarium specimen: know and understand their natural habitat and behavior first. Most frogfishes are benthic creatures that spend their entire lives on hard substrates (excluding the adult surface-dwelling *Sargassum Histrio*). By any measure, they are remarkably inactive creatures. As such, we must pay close attention to other aspects of behavior and carriage when evaluating new imports for purchase. Healthy lophiiform fishes are "bright" in appearance and behavior. Their eyes should be clear and aware, shifting to follow you and other stimuli that come near them. Respiration should be slow and deliberate. You'll notice that their gill slits are very discreet in an effort to conceal their presence as living aspects and ambush predators on the reef. Closing one gill while pumping the other, in contrast, is a possible sign of gill parasites.

Unless recently fed, these fishes should respond positively to the introduction of food or prey by stalking or "angling" for them. If irritated by imposed stimuli, you can expect them to "walk" away... crawling across the seafloor with modified pelvic fins that resemble feet in form and function. Although it is their nature and habit to be inconspicuous... indeed cryptic... they will break formation and evade your exploratory net handle, gentle stick, or hand in the tank at some point. Complete inactivity may indicate a stressed or sick

Care

Habitat is one of the first things a keeper needs to address with new fishes. As mentioned before, most frogfishes inhabit rocky environments, but many do indeed occur on soft sandy substrates and flats.

There is of course the pelagic *Sargassum* species too (provide natural *Sargassum* seaweed or a like substitute both floating and anchored for display).

From all niches, though, the lophiiforms tend to favor slower water flow and quiet environments.

They can regularly be spotted in the wild near piers and seagrass beds. Where modern reef aquariums need at least 10-20X water flow per hour in the aquarium, keepers of these fishes need not exceed the range. Larger specimens producing larger amounts (volume and particle size) of waste will benefit from high water flow to process solid matter more efficiently. Naturally, heavy bio-filtration will be needed as with any predaceous fishes for the copious amounts of nitrogenous matter generated by large, heavy or messy feedings. Employ over-sized trickle/wet-dry filters and/or fluidized bed filters here.

The decor of the aquarium is a subject of many possibilities and great fun with frogfishes. Their proclivity to change color dramatically and rapidly is legendary. Their talents at mimicry challenge a keeper to provide ever-more interesting colors and textures to the artifacts in the aquarium with hope of seeing even more impressive displays of camouflage. Colored sponges in the wild are some of the very best backdrops for which to view frogfishes against. For their challenging nature in aquariums, however, live sponges are not recommended for most aquarists; they can be quite noxious and even toxic! Artificial ornaments are

taken as perches just as readily as natural substrates in the aquarium. Some aquarists like to have great fun with swapping out various colored rocks and ornaments to see the evolving show of color that unfurls with each change of venue as the fish moves around the tank. Provide some significant measure of hard substrate in the aquarium for essentially all in this group. Live seagrass displays (*Thalassia* or *Syringodium*) make outstanding habitats for most all species in this group overall.

Foods/Feeding/Nutrition and Compatibility

Interestingly perhaps, I lump "compatibility" in with "feeding" coverage here. This is done for some very practical if not obvious reasons with this predatory family. The rules that apply to both are very simple: if it can be eaten whole, it will... and if it can't be eaten whole, it might be attempted anyway! Ahhh... right. These are simple rules to follow. And forgiving the slight exaggeration, you will do well to heed this warning, and your fishes will live longer for it. Antennarians will eat fish and most any motile invertebrate. Shrimps and small bony fishes are favored prey. Even members of their own species are fair game! The stories and legends of what some frogfish have eaten is amazing: with seabirds, lionfish and inflated spiny puffers, and more. And while tankmates clearly too large to swallow whole generally will be ignored, it's best instead to keep only one frogfish per tank and perhaps in isolation as a species-tank. As mentioned previously, numerous active community fishes if not predated may in turn nip or harass lophiiforms. We should not avoid the toothy predators alone here, but even the smaller

animal.

Newly arrived specimens should be permitted to settle in for some days (a week or more ideally) before taking them home for quarantine. It may be necessary or appropriate to offer your merchant a deposit to hold such fishes during that time.

Patience in moving recently airshipped or otherwise transported specimens will go a long way towards lower rates of morbidity and mortality. Care should be taken to transfer all lophiiform animals in slow, deliberate motions, and not exposing them to the air where they may gulp in the atmosphere, or suffer under the unnatural weight of their gelatinous, scaleless bodies above water. Rest assured that they are slow and predictable enough to easily catch by coaxing them to walk along ("pushing" them) into a submerged plastic bag or specimen container. Wrangling and moving frogfishes with nets can cause serious and unnecessary damage to delicate tissues.

The specific coloration of individuals in this most cryptic family of reef creatures means little to nothing for identifying their health or even species. Their visage is ever-changing and adaptable, particularly with regard for coloration. The substrate upon which they rest or migrate to naturally is highly influential on the colors they show. Some species are especially variable and will match the shades of numerous benthic reef growths in colors of red, yellow, black, orange and much more. They may even appear to mimic textures like pores and exhalant openings in sponges. And we can find examples of species with physical extensions that resemble seaweed! All of this magnificent evolution testifies to their

lifestyle as an ambush predator.

You will also notice that frogfishes have strategically upturned mouths – a clear indication of their lifestyle. They sit on the seafloor camouflaged, braced or wedged with their frog-like feet... and wait. When potential prey draws close enough to be of interest, the famous fleshy lure-tip (the **esca**) is utilized to draw them nearer. Where body coloration alone is useless to differentiate between like resembling species of frogfish, the esca can often be distinguishing. Some species have esca that have evolved to be wormlike, while others may remarkably resemble a small fish. If bitten off, then fleshy esca can indeed be regenerated after some months. The lure-pole of an anglerfish is, in fact, a modified dorsal fin spine (called the **illicium**). Much like a fishing pole, some lophiiform fishes angle with the extended tip of this spine like a fisherman angles for sport. Unlike a fisherman, however (well... a sober fisherman, assuming such a creature exists), anglerfish keep their lure very near to the mouth. When prey finally makes it to within striking distance, they draw them in with a sudden and convulsive suction produced by a rapid expansion of their mouth. Anglerfishes can expand their mouths into remarkable caverns by a ten-fold increase in size. The action takes mere milliseconds and is one of the fastest recorded movements in the animal kingdom (lagging just behind the lightning speed of the opening of a beer can by the aforementioned thirsty fisherman). This strategy can be described as **aggressive mimicry** (the use of a lure by frogfishes, that is... not the beer drinking by a fisherman).

opportunities.

Whether you opt for live or thawed frozen foods for your frogfishes, be very mindful of prey size: items that are too large may still be accepted but nonetheless are dangerous. Proffer no items larger than 20-30% of the animals total body size; smaller is always better. Oversized prey can harm or kill greedy lophiiforms by taking too long to digest. It will hinder respiration and, less commonly, may build up gasses in the digestive system from decay that causes the animal to struggle with buoyancy issues. Much like anemones, which also get commonly overfed with food chunks that are too large, the animal will often regurgitate the meal later – perhaps after the lights go out and causing attrition if repeated habitually, despite the keepers best intentions. Most marine fishes fare better with small frequent feedings. Frogfishes will tolerate only a few hearty feedings weekly with extra offerings to the smaller and younger specimens.



Photo by Anthony Calfo

Reproduction

Spawning and reproductive activity in frogfishes is fairly well documented and frequently observed. In fact, they appear to be one of the earliest species observed to reproduce in modern aquaria.

Frogfishes are even commented upon in classical history by none other than Aristotle, 344 B.C.!

Like so many other marine fishes, it is the rearing of their larvae that has been so elusive to aquarists.

Oftentimes, these events in aquaria occur soon after the import of a gravid female. Unfortunately, fertilization of the eggs is external, and fruitless without a male of course! Dimorphism is not apparent in most species – the girls and boys generally look alike... to us humans at least.

Reproductive females become quite swollen and egg-laden just prior to copulation (mere hours/days prior). Some frogfishes move to deeper waters to spawn, but overall they are regarded as relatively shallow water denizens of the reef. At

least *Histrio*, the Sargassumfish, has been observed to spawn year around with no apparent season or reproductive cycle. Courtship occurs by day, although the spawning event itself may occur day or night. Males chase the gravid and clumsy females by "nudging" them along and above the seafloor just prior to a brisk dash by the pair to the

surface for egg release and subsequent fertilization. Spawns are comprised of gelatinous rafts or ribbons that usually float. Both *Antennarius* and *Histrio* have been observed to spawn in aquariums. We have good reason to ultimately be hopeful of rearing frogfishes successfully in aquaria as the eggs are large and the planktonic stage for larvae in some can be fairly short (21 days, Thresher 1984), although the

range in this family extends as far as 2 months or more. Although broadcast spawns are the rule in this group, some demersal strategies have been observed with the parental care of egg clusters upon the flanks of the adult frogfish. Its best to separate frogfishes in aquaria after a spawning

or less predatory fishes that naturally graze upon the reef are a calculated risk; they can mistake the lophiiform animal for part of the living substrate and rasp dangerous wounds into its flesh as if it were encrusted benthic fauna! Without traditional scales, venom, spines or other exaggerated means of defense, the soft-bodied Antennarians are fairly vulnerable at large. One means of defense employed is to quickly inflate their stomachs with water to foil attempts by some predators to inhale them. Unfortunately, the strategy is useless against predators with large enough mouths or those with larger teeth like puffers and triggers. There is also the concern of territoriality between frogfishes. Although some will tolerate each other, often times they demonstrate intolerance except briefly during breeding season. You can expect the same intolerance of other fishes in aquaria in most cases. Keeping frogfishes in species tanks also makes feeding time much easier with these very slow predators. As one can imagine, active feeding fishes will simply steal small live feeder shrimp or fishes away before the lumbering frogfishes can get to them. Some individuals after acclimation will take prepared foods while others are rather slow to wear off of preferences for live prey. Most however, can be trained in time to take dead meaty foods from a feeding stick. And much like other commonly "stick-fed" predators (eels, octopuses, mantis stomatopods, etc.), lophiiforms will demonstrate individual preferences for how they "like" to be fed. Some will respond to a moderate to vigorous tease of killed prey dancing by the movement of your hand on the stick, while others show irritation to excess stimulation and may even require repetitive drops of food chunks through the water column *sans* stick. Experimentation with the

delivery of dead or prepared foods is required on a specimen-by-specimen basis. Try to always offer saltwater aquarium inhabitants foods of marine origin. Few freshwater or terrestrial foodstuffs are adequately nutritious to constitute any significant part of a marine animal's diet. Even prepared meats of marine origin are deficient in some ways if cleaned, gutted or otherwise rendered incomplete. Whole prey are best (head, guts, legs, fins, wristwatches, whatever... intact). Shrimp, krill, and silversides are common fare for frogfishes. HUFA rich supplements are recommended here too to soak thawing foods in. For live foods, be sure to maintain a proper holding tank of prey as if in quarantine, and never feed live prey that has been only freshly acquired for fear of transmitting an infectious disease. Keep feeders for a minimum of 2 weeks to reduce the chance of a pathogenic transmission. It would be better still to maintain your own breeding colony of live-bearing mollies, for example, that are brackish or saltwater tolerant and can be gut-loaded with nutritious foods before being offered as prey. Avoid freshwater goldfishes as a staple food item (nutritive concerns) or un-quarantined saltwater baitfishes (disease risk), but rely on killed prey (frozen meats) to exclusion instead if you must. Small live ghost/grass shrimp (*Palaemonetes*) are also quite good food items. And true to form with all of this hype about frogfishes being voracious predators, they can be observed angling with their **lure day or night!** Some have suggested that nocturnal prey can sense the feel or vibration of the lure at night, but at least one species of frogfish has been documented to contain bioluminescent bacteria in its lure - lending the frogfish full-time feeding

event as males can become aggressive or belligerent. Frogfishes by nature are solitary animals.

Disease and Health Issues

On a scale of susceptibility to disease, frogfishes rank on the weak side; they are rather prone to **external parasites**, even beyond the common *Cryptocaryon* and *Amyloodinium* infestation. For the treatment of external parasites, use copper strictly and with close supervision on these scaleless fishes. Maintain therapeutic levels diligently with small daily doses, and be sure to monitor its use with a copper test kit. Formalin based medications have also been shown to be helpful here. With good water quality and regular feeding, **bacterial infections** are uncommon in this group. Yet, new imports may show such symptoms or receptive wounds from the stress of capture and repetitive, abrasive contact with the walls of the shipping vessel. Treatment in quarantine with broad-spectrum antibiotics is effective on such fishes. And lastly, issues of **gas accumulation** that lead to swimming difficulties are observed in frogfishes. Although not immediately perilous, they are a source of great duress for the clumsy swimming or struggling victim (difficulty feeding, avoiding features of set-up and hardware like intakes and overflows, etc.). The two most common causes are gulping air from being inappropriately removed from water, or from being fed food that's too large. The former cause can often be remedied with a (latex) gloved hand in the water grasping the fish and gently massaging it or harnessing a wriggling attempt at escape; orient the mouth of the afflicted upwards with the intent that stimulation will burp

then air free. Overall, issues of disease and health among frogfishes and walking batfishes are relatively uncomplicated and can easily be tempered by good selection, proper quarantine and dutiful husbandry of specimens in species tanks.

Summary

This group at large can make very interesting and worthwhile aquarium guests. Their needs are somewhat specific if not challenging (hand or live feeding, large bio-filters, exclusion from community tanks), but their merits abound. They are fascinating physically and behaviorally, and occur in seemingly countless and changeable colors and textures. The potential for captive reproduction in Antennarians is very plausible for aquarists too. Seek specimens from the nearest points of collection (Florida and Hawaii for American aquarists) to reduce the stress of import on captive specimens.

This Article was provided by the author Anthony Calfo.

"Things You Thought You Knew"
Better Ways of Reef-keeping.



Anthony Calfo

Photo Opts.



OVAS Helps Put Tanks in Schools

By: The Ottawa Technical Learning Centre
Physical Support Program

We are the students of the Physical Support Unit.

We have dedicated Teachers and Educational Assistants who offer us a program to develop our abilities in the areas of personal growth, academics, physical education and work skills. We have such classes as English, Math, Computer Media, Art, Vocational Skills, Social Skills and Science. We develop our employability and volunteer potential by doing contract work, volunteer work, both in in-school and out-of-school work experience, and co-op placements.

Like all of the students at OTLC, we are encouraged to follow and persist in our own interests but, we must face the challenge of independence with even more determination, due to our multiple exceptionalities, such as Cerebral Palsy, Spina-bifida, Visual Impairment, and Hearing Impairment.

We have been able to set up 2 tanks, one 29 gal and a 50 gal. We really appreciate everything the club members have done for these kids, if you can only see their smiles when they look at the tanks you would see how it was all worth it.

Here is the list of donations

1) Bob Macfarlane (plecoguy) Pet Circus 50 Gallon tank, complete with stand, accessories, plastic plants and gravel.

2) Scott (Angelfreak)

29 Gallon tank complete with gravel, accessories, plastic plants.

3) Laura Ormos & Uwe Stoffel (Soft1)

Fish.

4) Dan Burdon (dan2x38)

Celestial pearl danios, Plastic plants, accessories.

5) Karen or Eric (petfisheric)

Fish, plastic plants, accessories.

6) Keith (dsylvak)

Plastic plants, accessories.

7) Matt Séguin (mseguin)

Cherry barbs, flakes, accessories

8) Errol Choo (Charlie)

Placo, accessories

9) Jenn (RoxyDog)

Heater for 50 gallon tank.

10) (fishycanuck)

plastic plants, dechlorinator, platys

If you are interested in helping with this program please contact "Gilles" on the forum.

Upcoming Events

Dinner with Rusty Wessel
Tuesday February 26th @6:00pm
@ Johnny Farina's on Elgin St.
All membership welcomed

March Meeting: Monday March 24th
@ 7:00pm

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

Thank you to those whose pictures
were used:

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.

The club is please to announce , that we will be having Klaus Stienhaus as our March speaker. He will be giving a presentation on the keeping of Tropheus cichlids (**Tropheus - Are they really that scary?**). Klaus is a avid hobbyist & President of the Durham Region Aquarium Society as well as being a member of the CAOAC speakers program.



**Congratulations to January's Photo of the
month contest winner "Zoe"**