



Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society

Something Fishy Jan 2018

Vice President's Notes

Going into our the halfway point of our season, we have some great plans and lots of excitement within the executive committee.

Thanks to great work by both our online presence and webmaster (Matt Timms & Th3budd) we are doing some great upgrades to OVAS online.

No longer should you just be checking out the forum, but keep an eye on the main OVAS webpage. We are adding, and planning to add more content regularly. Our online presence is now bigger and more active than ever, and if you are not following us on Facebook and Instagram, you should be!

We would also like to announce that after several years, we would like to welcome Critter Jungle (1405 Carling ave) back as a club sponsor. They will be offering 10% discounts to all paid club members, just make sure you show them your card. They have great quality fish, plants and products, so let's show them the club support.

Coming up at next month's OVAS event, Az from Aquavalley will be coming in to do a workshop on marine aquariums.

With even our sponsors coming out, and returning, we are seeing a trend of great things growing for OVAS this season and the upcoming ones.

2017-18 Meeting Dates

Sept 16 Oct 23 Nov 27

Jan 22 Feb 26 Mar 22

Apr 23 May 28

Meet your 2017-18 Exec

President	Errol Choo
Vice President	Jody McManus
Secretary	Sid Arnold
Treasurer	Mike McCarthy
Program Chair	Mike Gilbert
Auction Chair	Robert Hemp
Membership	Liam Epp
Sponsorship	Andre Martin
Online Presence	Matthew Timms
Webmaster	Th3budd

2017 Membership

Valid until Sept 2018

Adult \$20

Youth \$7

Family \$30

Breeder's Corner

We have a little update on the BAP program. We will be allowing shrimp, crayfish, aquatic frogs and snails, excluding pond/trumpet. Other exclusions may apply.

A couple more additions

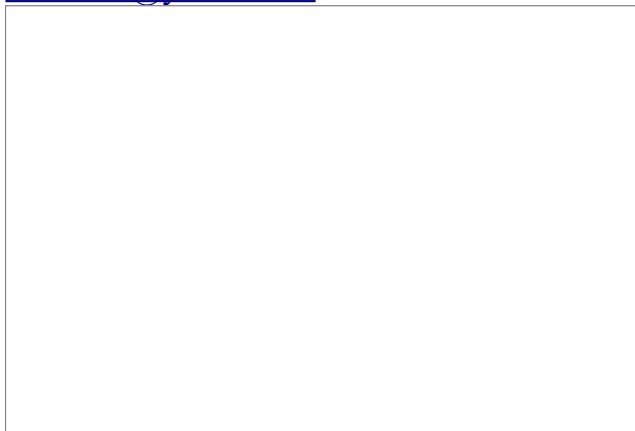
Keith – Added apple snails and marble crayfish to his list

Matthew – Points for his guppies and added swordtails to his list

Jody – Added boesmani rainbows, A. myrnae to his list

Errol – Added Apisto. Borellii to his list.

For more information on the Breeder's award program, or if you have fish you are breeding and you would like to register, contact Jody at ovasmal@yahoo.com



Tips for breeding quality fish

There are a few things to consider when breeding aquarium fish. Why do I want to breed these fish? What will I do with the fish that I raise? How do I maintain quality in the fish I am breeding?

The last question is the one I would like to focus on, how do I keep or improve the quality of the fish I am breeding?

The first thing is looking at the parents. Are they good quality? Take a look at the body shape, is it good for the type of fish? Often, with farm bred fish, you can find deformed spines, twisted fins and crooked mouths. These are not the fish you want to breed. Torn or damaged fins or other injuries are fine, but a bent body is a pass.

Okay, so we have good parents, now lets look at the fry. Once they are born, we have to keep an eye on them.

To maintain the quality of the fish, you must maintain the quality of the water, they go hand in hand. Lots of feeding and water changes will encourage fast growth. Avoid overfeeding high protein food, though they will provide quick growth, it can cause organ health problems as they take time to grow and develop properly, and won't keep up with body growth if being overfed.

Even if you do everything right, you can end up with fish who are not of good quality and/or have deformities. In this case, it is best to cull them. Normally, it is one or two fish, but at times it can be an entire batch. No one wants to do this, but it is better for the hobby. Removing those of low quality is an important step to maintaining high quality in your fish.

By adding in new stock to your breeding group you can improve the quality of your fish and reduce the chances of genetic deformities. Of course, at times line breeding and selective breeding are necessary to enhance or maintain traits in your fish.

Hopefully these tips will help you in your breeding endeavor.



Yasuhikotakia modesta
Redtail botia

Syncrossus helodes
Tiger Botia



Botia almorhae
Yoyo loach
Can you see why they
call me yoyo?

Yasuhikotakia morleti
Skunk botia



Eye spines



Jumbo mature clown loach. *C. macracanthus*

Botia kubotai
Burmese border
loach



Sinibotia robusta
Kansu loach

Ambastaia sidthimunki
Dwarf chain botia



Botia dario
Queen botia

Leptobotia elongata
Royal clown loach



Parabotia curtus
Kissing loach

Botia 101

"I have snails! Help!" It is something that I hear all the time. A plague of small pond snails filling another tank.

A common piece of advice is "Get a loach."

Wait, wait, wait! That isn't quite right. You need a botia, not a loach.

But what's the difference?

Botias are all loaches, but not all loaches are botia.

The Botiidae family is comprised of 8 genera Ambastaia, Botia, Chromobotia, Leptobotia, Parabotia, Sinibotia, Syncrossus and Yasuhikotakia, comprising about 56 individual species. They are a drop in the bucket in the 1100 plus species that make up the loaches.

It is fairly easy to differentiate botias from other loaches. Most have slightly higher, arched backs, and have pointed snouts with several barbels.

They range in size from the dwarf *A. sidthimunki* at 6 cm up to the giant *Leptobotia elongata* reaching 50 cm and 3 kg. The clown loach, *C. macracantha*, a close second reaching between 40-50 cm.

Bottom feeders, they relish live and frozen worms of all types. Vegetable matter, and brine shrimp also are eaten with gusto.

All botias will eat pond snails and are a great natural way to rid yourself of an infestation.

Though they come mostly from waters in Southern Asia that are soft and acidic, botias are very adaptable to different water conditions. Most make great community fish, but some like the tiger and skunk botia can be aggressive and nippy to others in the tank, and should be housed with fast moving or tougher fish.

And if their tank mates start to get a bit too rough or try to chase them out of their caves, they have a little switchblade of a spine under their eyes. Care should be taken when handling them, as they can cause a painful sting and could get caught in nets. Botia are very interactive fish, and should be kept in groups of at least 6 individuals. Single fish will hide most of the time, but in groups they will be out and their true fun behaviour will be shown. Swimming around, chasing each other, and even playing king of the hill (as per Gilbotron's observations).

Hardy fish overall, they can be prone to ich infection, clown loaches most notably, so quarantine for new individuals is recommended. As scaleless fish, extra care must be taken when giving any medication to their aquarium. Mild medications or half doses are often recommended for safe treatment for them. Once stabilized in your tank, they are long lived and easily cared for.

While not all 56 species are found in stores, there are often several varieties found in your local aquarium stores. Whichever one you choose, these fish are great additions to many types of tank.