



Something Fishy, March 2018

Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society

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

GIANT AUCTION UPDATE

Remember the date for our giant auction has been changed to

April 29th

The doors open for registration and viewing at 9:00 am, and the auction starts at 11:00 am

Message from the Program Chair

Is it just me or did this season just blow by? It feels like we just started yet here we are close to the end of the season with only 2 meetings and the giant auction left.

And what a season it's been! Membership is up, attendance is up, lots of new faces, finances are healthy, great community involvement, and yet there is still so much more we can and want to do!

Well maybe we'll just have to save some of it for next year...

The old adage is so true – a club is only as good as its members. We have a great club because we have great members. And that's not just me, an insider looking in that is saying that. I'm hearing that from members of other clubs I deal with and hearing about their club dynamics, as well as from the speaker I contact to come present. Their responses are "I would love to come to Ottawa to speak", "you guys are awesome!", "it's amazing dealing with a club that is so active and engaged".

Thank you everyone, for your efforts and involvement with OVAS. To the Executives who are doing a great job keeping things running and for all your hard work, and to each and every member that's engaged and gets involved – seeing all the faces and partaking in all the great discussions at our meetings really make it all worthwhile. And it's not just at meetings but also outside of meetings – informal get togethers with other members, helping each other, community involvement, and not to mention all the learning and sharing on the forum! Stay active and stay engaged and OVAS will keep being the great club it's always been.

And if ever there is something you would like to see with the club or at an event, please tell me!

**Mike Gilbert aka Gilbotron
Program Chair**

Livebearers for all levels

It is safe to say that nearly every aquarium keeper has kept them, livebearers, be they guppy, platy or molly. Walk into any aquarium store, and you will find tank after tank of these colourful fish.

Often considered beginners fishes, as we grow in the hobby, often we leave them behind, or even look at them as beneath your notice. But maybe it is time to take another look. A trend has been rising, and more unusual varieties are being seen.

Let's start with the basics, there are four primary families of livebearers, the Poeciliidae, Goodeidae, Aneblepidae are found throughout the tropical and subtropical Americas, and the Hemiramphidae are from Asia. With several hundred individual species, surprisingly few are found in pet stores. Ranging from 2 cm long Heterandria up to 32 cm Anableps, these fish come in all sizes, though most fall within the 5 cm to 15 cm range.

They are found in a wide variety of water conditions, most in hard alkaline freshwater, brackish and even saltwater. Due to their ease of care and breeding, some species have been introduced into waters around the world to help with mosquito control.

The most popular species by far is the guppy. Kept and breed in their millions, these fish have been changed drastically in the hobby. These are followed closely by platies, swordtails and mollies, who have also been linebred and crossbred for colours, finnage, and size. These are the big four found in shops, with the endler's livebearer coming in 5th.

Other species can be tougher to find, though occasionally Limia, Gambusia, Anableps and halfbeaks can be found, the best source is through aquarium clubs and the larger American Livebearer Association (ALA).



**Red Wagtail Lyretail
Swordtail**

**Wild type Swordtail
*Xiphophorus helleri***



Red Veil Guppy

**Wild Type Guppy
*Poecilia reticulata***



Sunset Sailfin Molly

**Wild Type Molly
*Poecilia latipinna***



**Red Tiger Mickey
Mouse Platy**

**Wild Type Platy
*Xiphophorus variatus***





Xiphophorus montezumae

**Xiphophorus
xiphidium**



**Poecilia wingei
el tigre Endler's**

**Nomorhamphus
liemi
Celebes Halfbeak**



Xenotoca eiseni

**Belonesox belizanus
Pike Livebearer**



**Anableps
anableps
4 eyed fish**

**Limia nigrofasciata
Humpbacked Limia**



**Gambusia affinis
Eastern**

**Heterandria formosa
Dwarf Livebearer**



So if guppies are great for everyone including beginners, what about some mid-level ones.

The Goodeidae and Gambusia would fall into that range, both can be somewhat nippy to aggressive, so can be problematic in keeping. Gambusia are also fairly cannibalistic and will eat their young. Halfbeaks are another group, a bit more sensitive to poor water quality, picky eaters, and often give birth to stillborn young (which is possibly linked to vitamin D deficiency).

For the advanced keeper, Anableps and Jenynsia prove a challenge as they have both left and right handed individuals. A left handed male can only breed with a right handed female, and vice versa.

Belonesox, the pike livebearers, are tricky as well. Being predators, the larger female may actually eat the male rather than breed with him. Then when they do breed, the males will happy chomp down on any fry born.

A note that care should be taken when housing livebearers, they will naturally hybridize. It is recommended that similar and closely related species be housed separately, especially when dealing with wild type strains. Guppies and endlers can cross with each other, as well as their close relatives the mollies. Swordtails and platies will often cross as well.

Though for the most part, the wild type livebearers don't have the same bright colours as the tank bred strains, there are certainly some stars with amazing highlights.

It may have been a while since you last kept a livebearer in your tank, but maybe it is time to take another look and see if there is a place for a species or two in your home.

QUICK BAGGING TIPS

Just a few quick tips for bagging your fish for auction.

Avoid feeding your fish for 36-48 hours prior to bagging.

Use proper fish bags not Ziplocks

Allow for a ratio of approximately 75% air / 25% clean tank water

Use fresh air in your bag – Do NOT 'blow' air into it. Open the bag as wide as possible and then quickly snap your hand around the top to seal in a good supply of fresh air. (An air pump could assist.)

Tie with an elastic or tie the bag directly

Double-bag your fish if they have sharp fins, teeth or bristles

Always bag medium-to-large fish in separate bags.

Bag aggressive fish separately to avoid loss.

For any unusually large fish, avoid using fish bags and instead choose a suitably-sized plastic container

Turn the bag upside-down to avoid fish getting caught in corners

Bring spare bags in case of leakage

For more detailed instructions check out

<http://ovas.ca/ovas/auctions/bagging-fish>

Executive Election Coming Soon

That time of year is coming around again, and before we know it, election time will arrive.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help run the club, fresh blood helps in bringing new energy, ideas and improvements.

The club has 9 positions, all of which are open to anyone. All it takes is a bit of time enthusiasm to better the club. If that sounds like you, you are encouraged to throw their hat in the ring.

The club executive positions are President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer. The club chairs are Program chair, Membership chair, Auction chair, Sponsorship chair and Online presence chair.

The 2017-18 season has brought us a new executive, with a lot of energy and ideas. This has translated to many positive events for the club, and still more to come. To all the current exec, I say thanks for the hard work and dedication. I think that next season will continue to bring good things for the club.

Members are encouraged to come out and volunteer and vote in the committee for the 2018-2019 season at the May event.

Jody