



Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society

Something Fishy May 2018

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

SPECIAL THANKS TO



**For all their support
this year!**

Vice President's Message

Almost time to close out another season, and I have to say this was one of the best. From great talks, an amazingly attended holiday dinner party and one of our largest auctions ever, this year was one to remember.

I want to give a special thanks everyone that made this year possible.

All of the executive and committee members who have spent their time and put a lot of work into making this year a success.

All of our volunteers, at the meetings and especially everyone who worked so hard at the auction. The speed which Rob and Errol ran through the items was amazing, I averaged it at about 1 item every 20 seconds! Amazing work!

I would like to thank all the local sponsors, Critter Jungle, Big Al's, La Niche and Aquavalley, who have all been very generous in the donations and support for the season.

This year we spoke to many suppliers, all of whom sent us loads of goodies for our auction, Aqueon, Zoo Med, Aquasense, Lizzy's Fish, Northfin, ABC plants, Cobalt Aquatics and Rainforest Media. The prizes seemed undending, and I think a lot of people won some great stuff.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you, the club members, who make OVAS the great organization that it is. I can speak for all of the exec in saying thank you! There was a memorable moment at the auction, when a young lady had lost her money, and Errol asked if some of the members could chip in to help her out, and in seconds, we had more that double the amount she lost, and we had to tell people to stop. To me, that was one of the best moments of the year, and it really shows how fantastic our membership and the aquatic community in Ottawa is.

Jody

CAOAC 2018 Adventure

After a fantastic time at the 2017 convention, I knew that 2018 had to be booked. So, this years adventure starts in April, when I booked my ticket and hotel, making sure to get the early booking rate for the convention and room. This also gave me an entry into the early bird draw. A couple of weeks later, I received an email that I had won, a \$600 painting of some killifish.

Knowing the dates that Peter and I were going down, I put out a few feelers to get some fish and tour some fishrooms.

Friday morning at 5 am, the weekend started, first bagging up the fish I was bringing down for the shows, and the auction. Then a quick stop to pick up Peter and we hit the road. By noon, we were making our first stop at Big Al's Scarborough, a needed break to get the buggy out of my eyes. After a quick visit of the two floors of fishy goodness, we continued on to Finatics. We spent a bit longer there, and selected a few fish to make sure we picked up on our way home. Saying bye to Mike, we headed to the convention hall, arriving there around 4 pm, where we met up with Clay (CC-Slider) and Larry Johnson.

Once we checked in, the next thing was to get our registration for the convention and get the show fish set up. I had items in 13 classes, 3 cichlid classes, livebearers, plants, photos, arts, anabantids, catfish, barbs, tetras and botia, so lots of work to do, getting each tank set up, everything hooked up to the air supply, and put in their proper locations. I brought a couple buckets of water, so the set up went quickly, and it reduced the shock on the fishes.

A bit of socializing with other guests of the convention, some of the vendors, and friends I have made, followed by a quick dinner, led us to our first round of talks. Judging show tips, Lake Victoria Haps and Guppy Breeding. I ended up missing about half the show tips talk and a few minutes of the guppy breeding while I was doing the finishing touches on the show tank set ups. And of course, chatting with other fellow hobbyists. The dedication that Bryan Chin has for creating his guppy lines is amazing, over 2 years spent just playing with a line, starting off with a store bought male, and ending up after a dozen generations at something outstanding. Being a huge Victorian cichlid fan, I was thrilled to get into a talk by Greg Steeves about them. Though I missed a lot of it, I was still able to pick up some great tips on showing fish from Udo Rohmann, Zenin and Brian.

One of my favorite parts of every convention evening is the hospitality suite, a couple hours of just hanging around, having a few drinks and just shooting the breeze with anyone who shows up, very often including the speakers and vendors. Tons of great stories and adventures to be shared, sometimes even secret hints at new products, gossip and all kind of other craziness, which can run into the wee hours.

After a late night, Saturday morning comes quick. A check in on the fish, along with a breakfast at the hotel, and it was time for the speakers to start up again. Today's agenda includes 60 tips in 60 minutes and Collecting Goodeids (Rick Borstein); Joy of Goldfish and Cyprinids (Mike Hellweg); and Brazil adventures and Altum Angelfish (Jeff Cardwell). Clay and I decided to skip the goldfish talk, a panel which Peter really enjoyed, and go visit Big Al's Hamilton. Both of us found a few goodies there, including some rare fish and great deals on plants.

During the early afternoon the show room was closed for judging the main CAOAC show,

Canadian Betta Breeders show, Southern Ontario Killifish Society and Trans Canada International Guppy show. Several hours were needed, and lot of decisions needed to be made. 32 Classes in the CAOAC show, with least 2 dozen betta classes and a dozen guppy ones. The betta auction soon followed, which gave everyone an opportunity to pick up some of the amazing show fish.

A bit of socializing and downtime, then it was time for the banquet, a great meal, with great company. Our table included the Ottawa contingent, Ken and Lisa Boorman, plus the speakers Greg and Mike. Lots of fantastic dinner talk, along with announcements, prizes and awards. Greg Steeves did a fun banquet talk about Creatures of the Comal. Due to a little time overlap, the guppy auction started during the talk, and we missed most of it. I did arrive just in time to see a trio of guppies sell for \$115!! Talking to people afterwards I found out the highest bag went for \$165 for a pair. Now there was quite a selection of amazing fish brought from the UK and Germany, lines which aren't available here, so the prices were expected to be high. I paid \$20 for my pair, which I was happy with.

After the auction I rejoined everyone in the hospitality suite, and got to spend more time speaking to Greg, the Boormans and Frank Aguirre amongst others. Suddenly it was after 1:30 and time to get to bed so I could gear up for the auction on Sunday.

7 am arrived quickly, and it was time to start bagging fish and getting everything ready for the auction, as well as tearing down the show tanks. Breakfast followed and then I got everything labelled, and joined the Annual CAOAC general meeting. Some interesting club business came up, and the announcement of a new president.

The auction itself had about 400 items, with a bit of everything, including some fantastic swordtails, killies and many tanks.

Sneaking out during the auction, Peter and I went to visit Brian Glazier's fishroom and hopefully pick up some goodies. With about 40 tanks, he had great selection of wild livebearers, some killies and number of other odds and ends. It was tough to pick just a few, and in the end I left with 4 different varieties of fish and Peter picked up some plants. His walls were covered in awards won from various shows, very impressive.

Returning back to the convention centre, we finished packing up, said our goodbyes and hit the road to come home. A quick stop by Finatics to pick up the fish we had chosen on Friday, and we headed towards Ottawa.

I came home with 7 different species of fish, most of which are not regularly available in Ottawa, and 3 of which are C.A.R.E.S. species, so had a couple of hours of getting them acclimated and set up into new tanks after I arrived home.

My second CAOAC convention was a fantastic weekend, lots of fun, lots of laughs, great info from the speakers, and made some wonderful new friends and contacts. For anyone interested in the hobby, I highly recommend going. Next year is the 60th annual convention, so who knows what will be in store.

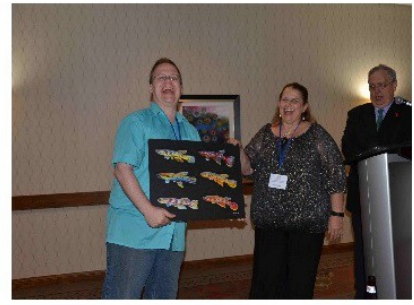
Jody



Arts and Crafts Category - Sponsored by OVAS



The cool kids table Jody, Clayton Canning, Greg Steeves, Lisa Boorman, Mike Hellweg



Jody receiving his door prize. With Ann Stevens and Ron Bishop



Visiting Brian Glazier's fishroom. This is one of the rows only.



Peter, Greg Steeves and Jody



Peter and Mike Hellweg



Brian Glazier's fishroom



The CAOAC show room. In the front is the CAOAC show tables, in the background the Trans Canada Guppy show



520 Buco botanicals table



Peter, Jeff Cardwell and Jody



Ken, the grand prize winning goldfish. Best in show and People's Choice winner



Canadian Betta Breeder's show



Clay and Peter enjoying the showroom



Southern Ontario Killifish Society Show



The Speakers - Udo, Greg, Mike, Rick and Bryan



Some of the show fish

Breeder's Corner

With the revitalization of the program, we had a good start to the year, and some great participation.

The participants include, Errol, Liam, Matthew, Keith and Jody.

Keith Simon has successfully completed his BASIC breeder's award for the following species

Zebra Danio, Apple Snail, Marble Crayfish, Yellow Labidochromis, Fancy Guppies and Blue Mickey Mouse Platies.

Jody McManus has successfully completed his BASIC breeder's award for the following species

Salvini Cichlids, OB Convict Cichlid, Geophagus Brasiliensis, Boesemani Rainbow, Amatitlania nanoleutus, Amatitlania myrnae

We are hoping next year brings more participation in the program, and look forward to more fish coming out of the hobbyists.

5 Reasons to breed your fish

1. It's fun!
2. It is another way to expand your hobby.
3. It allows you to trade and sell your fish to club members, and stores.
4. It helps you learn more about the fish you keep.
5. You get free fish!
6. You can win awards!

The Banjo Catfish – A quick look

A group of small catfish, with roundish flat bodies and an elongated caudal peduncle. Belonging to the Aspendinidae family, there are roughly 40 known species.

While they have a scaleless body, their skin is keratinized and covered by rows of tubercles, providing them a solid defense against predators. Banjo cats range from less than 2 cm up to 38cm, though most stay less than 15 cm, much of that being their long tails.

In the hobby, the two tone banjo catfish, *Bunocephalus coracoideus* is most commonly seen, though it is not unusual to see mixed species in the batch.

Found in South America, they prefer soft acidic water, though some subfamilies live in coast rivers and brackish estuaries. Wherever they are from a soft substrate is a must, as they will bury themselves during the day, and forage at night. Care must be taken not to use sharp gravel, as it can cause injury.

Banjo cats are natural omnivores, devouring anything that they can find, including worms, pellets and most other prepared foods. Given the opportunity, they will eat fish eggs or fry.

Looking for a new little twang in your tank? Maybe a banjo catfish is just what you need.

