



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 second meeting of the season is scheduled for October **22nd**.

·By-elections for open positions

- Mini-Auction
- Door Prizes
- Hallowe'en Fun and Games

President's Message

I am proud to have been a part of one of the most successful seasons OVAS has had in recent history. Our club doubled its membership numbers last season; with over 250 card-carrying members OVAS is now one of the largest aquarium societies in Canada. That substantial increase in growth means great things for this season. Expect to see a dramatically different set of programs bringing in some of the most recognized authorities in the industry to compliment our local speakers.

A trend that we will continue to expand on is our growing interest in saltwater aquaria. Many long-time freshwater members are taking the leap into marine and OVAS intends to support that with speakers, web content and news articles to encourage and promote our growing number of “salties” and “reefers”.

Finally, www.ovas.ca is becoming the online place to be to get great information, share experiences and interact with people in and around the Ottawa Valley. The site has some additional new features coming online this year, so check us out and visit often!

Enjoy everything the club has to offer this year.

Sean Kettle – President - Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society

Membership Rates

Adult \$20

Family \$30

Junior \$7

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

President Sean Kettle

president@ovas.ca

Vice-President - vacant -

vice-president@ovas.ca

Secretary Matthew Séguin

secretary@ovas.ca

Treasurer Jackie Slinn

treasurer@ovas.ca

Chairpersons

Membership Sue MacLean

membership@ovas.ca

Program Director Kevin Bisson

program-director@ovas.ca

Breeder Awards Program

Jody Snider bap@ovas.ca

Librarian Peter Rochon

librarian@ovas.ca

Corporate and Public Relations

Jody Willoughby

public-relations@ovas.ca

Social Convenor Patrick Foster

social-convenor@ovas.ca

Newsletter Trina Parsons

newsletter@ovas.ca

Auctions Peter Garneau

auctions@ovas.ca

Webmaster Chris Murray

webteam@ovas.ca

November's Guest Speaker:



Karen Randall grew up with aquariums as a child. While experienced in many facets of the aquarium hobby, as an adult her focus turned to a concentration in planted display aquariums and the propagation of aquatic plants. Her articles and photography have been published in six languages in 9 countries. For many years she authored the monthly column, "Sunken Gardens" in Aquarium Fish Magazine. She is an internationally known speaker on aquarium subjects.

Karen is past president of the Boston Aquarium Society, and serves on the board of the Aquatic Gardeners Association. She was editor of the AGA magazine, *The Aquatic Gardener* for 5

years and is now Technical Editor of the magazine. She has served as a judge for both the AGA Aquascaping Contest and the Aqua Design Amano International Aquatic Plants Layout Contest since their inception. She has also served as a consultant on several major projects at public aquaria.

She has traveled to South and Central America to study aquatic plants and biotopes in the wild and to assist with Project Piaba, a conservation program in the Brazilian Amazon centered on the aquarium fish trade. She regularly does programs on this topic for groups ranging from school children to garden clubs and church organizations.

Karen started a program a number of years ago to put aquariums in many classrooms in the local public elementary school. Now, with elementary school well behind her own children, this program is still going strong. In 2003 she was awarded the Northeast Council of Aquarium Society's Betty Mueller Award for her outreach work and other contributions to the aquarium hobby.

**Come listen to Karen Randall speak
Saturday, October 27th 2:00pm
@ National Archives**

What the heck is Brackish Water Anyway?

By : Ken Tweddle

Brackish conditions primarily occur where bodies of Freshwater water are influenced by bodies of Seawater. The seas, as we all know are salty, and this is due to the concentration of many elements such as Chlorine, Sodium, Magnesium, Sulfur, Calcium and Potassium (Adey/Loveland:1998). These elements combine into compounds. And if a negatively charged Ion and positively charged ion combine in a compound we call the resulting compound a salt.

When fresh water flows into a body of saltwater, or when tides push saltwater up a river into a body of freshwater the two mix. These areas where mixing occurs are brackish water. As you can imagine the mixing is not constant. There are variables such as tide, current, freshwater run off, proximity to source and temperature that influence how much fresh vs salt water is present. We can however generalize brackish conditions into three zones based on salinity. These are the Oligohaline, Mesohaline and Polyhaline zones(Adey/Lovland:1998) There are a few different way to measure how salty water is but the simplest method is to compare how dense the water is. This is done by floating a device in the water and measuring how buoyant it is. These devices are called Hydrometers. They compare the density of the test water to that of pure water and the value assigned to this test is called the Specific gravity. Note that Specific Gravity readings are subject to the temperature of water being tested.

A generally accepted range of SG (Specific Gravity) at room temperature for the three zones are as follows:

Oligohaline: .0025 - .009

Mesohaline: .010 - .015

Polyhaline: .015 - .020

So how does this effect my fish?

Some fish have adapted to take advantage of Brackish ecosystems. This required them to develop strategies for managing internal salinity vs external salinity(Adey/Lovland:1998) "For a fish's body to work efficiently it is essential that it maintains its internal salt/water balance at a constant level, in spite of the salt concentration of the water in which it lives". (Dakin:2003)Brackish water fish tend to have the ability to quickly adapt to changing salinity and are often referred to as Eurohaline. Meaning they are from varying salinity. Some of the adaptations involve specialized organs such as the kidneys, bladder and gills to help regulate internal salinity and this process is known as Osmoregulation (Dakin:2003)

What does this all this mean to the aquarium hobbyist?

There is much more to water in our aquariums than H₂O and we need to keep in mind that the fish we keep have evolved over countless thousands of years to adapt to environmental conditions. Even though many of the fish we keep are hybridized versions of naturally occurring species they still have needs associated with their natural parentage.

June BBQ



Photo Opts.

June Meeting



Membership Drive - September



September Exec. Meeting



What the heck is Brackish Water Anyway? (Continued)

By :Ken Tweddle

There is much more to this story than what is mentioned in this short article. The variation of elements found in freshwater and how they are measured comes to mind. Total Dissolved Solids, General vs Carbonate Hardness and the true relationship between acids and alkalides that we all associate with Potentially Free Hydrogen (PH)

Photos from the July Tank Re-Sealing Workshop



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.



Photo Contest Winner from September isfishkopp.
Congratulations!!

Upcoming Events

Guest Speaker Karen Randall
Saturday October 27th @ 2:00pm
@ National Archives

November Meeting: Monday
November 26th @ 7:00pm

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

Thank you to those whose pictures were used:

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

Thanks to busdriver for his pictures from last month.