



Hi – Fin

February 2010



Madagascar Lace Plant

Aquatic Plant of the month

Photograph by: Udo Rohmann

Presidents Message

This is our last meeting before the spring auction; I hope that everybody will make a great effort to turn out to help us make this a success. As for help I mean both, in physically help us as a runner, moving items.....etc to purchasing that item that you need or even think that you might need, and that fish that you wanted. The executive team has everything in place for the auction on what we need to do; now we just need you for this to be the success that we need. Again Frank will have his sales table set up so if there is something that you need and don't see at the auction ask Frank, he will more than likely be able to get it for you, he will also have his debit machine on site. John has asked for and received my permission to be a co-COAC rep for us, thanks John. Now we will have three voices at CAOC, John, Udo, and Frank. Our guest speakers are all lined up for the remainder of the year, please check the web site or the forums for the complete list, Gary has done a excellent job in organizing this for us and keeping everybody up to date. John has been adding valuable information to the web site; I'd like to see all the members of the club members of the site.

Thanks for everybody's help,

Ed Czuchnicki

Editor's Message

It's February, it's cold and in my neck of the woods it's actually white!

The first long weekend of the year is near on February 15th with Family Day

The moment many of you have been anticipating, the beginning of the spring auction season starts on February 28th with our own Peel Aquarium Club Auction

In this February's issue we have 1 article on last month's cover, Cambarellus Patzcuarensis sp. Orange which is a fabulous dwarf crayfish

I'm still looking for original articles and or information and photographs which can be used to write an original article.

Please remember that this is your Club and your newsletter, the greater the level of participation the better the club and the newsletter!

Enjoy!

Udo Rohmann

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Peel Regional Aquarium Club Executive

President	Ed Czuchnicki
Vice President	Tim Antler
Treasurer	Lloyd Cockburn
Secretary	Denise Antler
CAOAC Rep	Frank Aguirre
Auction Chair	Ed Czuchnicki
Program Chair	Gary Peacock
HiFin Editor	Udo Rohmann
Membership	Bob Wilson
Web Master	John van Rompu



CAOAC Calendar

February 14, 2010

Tropical Fish Club of Erie County Auction

February 28, 2010

Peel Regional Aquarium Club Auction

March 14, 2010

Hamilton & District Aquarium Society Auction

March 28, 2010

Brant Aquarium Society Auction

April 11, 2010

Durham Region Aquarium Society Show and Auction

April 17, 2010

Sarnia Aquarium Society Auction



May 21-23, 2010

CAOAC Convention

Executive Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the PRAC Executive meeting dated February 10/2010

Present:

Absent:

Ed Czuchnicki
Bob Wilson
John Van Rompu
Udo Rohmann
Gary Peacock
Tim Antler
Denise Antler
Lloyd Cockburn

Meeting held at Ed Czuchnicki's office at the courthouse off of Main St south of Steeles.

Meeting started at 7:30pm.

First item for discussion was an outstanding \$200 owed to us from the last auction, in November, 2009. It was not clear whether the amount was paid in cash or a cheque.

This prompted Lloyd to give out a financial report.

John reported that, as per the latest CAOAC bulletin, PRAC was paid up for the insurance.

John also reported that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency wants to put a list of fish on a restricted (List 3) list which would mean that to bring fish into Canada, even if they belong to you in the first place when you left the country, you would need a permit. John said he would place more information about it on website. In the meantime, Tim made mention that a friend of his and Denise's is a lawyer who specializes in pet law.

It was suggested that they should bring this situation to his attention and they were asked to see if he'd be available to come to our club to speak on behalf of Canadian Law and our pets.

The conversation then turned to the auction which will be held on February 28, 2010. Everyone reported that 95% of everything is ready. We just need to buy some more labels and print them up. Denise had already prepared 50 foam plates with huge numbers on them for the buyers so that she can have them ready for the buyers at the time of registration.

The executive had received an email in regards to donating an aquarium to a school in Acton that had been recently vandalized. Their aquarium was apparently damaged in the situation. Ed reported that he had tried to contact the school to offer our services but had been told by Lloyd that he read something in

the local paper stating that they had a 350 gallon tank donated to them and that they were going to fish stores to see if they could supply them with fish. The issue was then formally closed with the club.

John asked why we give a financial report at the beginning of each meeting. He was told that due to sketchy practices performed by some presidents in the past caused the membership to be leery about what was happening to our expenses, the membership asked the executive to become more transparent in the field of the financial portfolio and to have a report given by the treasurer every month which is what Lloyd has been doing ever since he had taken up the position.

The discussion then came back to our auction and it was reported by a former member that our minimum bid should be upped from \$1.00 to \$2.00. The executive were split on the decision but all agreed that it would be too late to consider doing this for the February 28th auction. It will have to be considered for the fall 2010 auction.

Discussed was also the option of possibly increasing our membership fees from \$25 to \$30. This discussion is to continue at a later date, closer to the September renewals.

Gary announced that Brian Glaser will be our speaker for the month of February.

Denise reported that she had asked the president and treasurer of hers and Tim's bird club, the Budgerigar and Foreign Bird Society (BFBS) were invited to attend the executive meeting but each had prior engagements and could not attend tonight. Ed was then invited to attend the next BFBS meeting where Denise & Tim could pick him up and drive him over and back. Ed accepted.

The discussion to ensue will be in regards to the invitation the BFBS offered PRAC in attending their Annual Bird Show in October 2010. We

would have a space dedicated to the club. Details will be provided as to what role PRAC would have in attending the show. It's already appearing to have the potential to have new members join PRAC as people from all around including Peel Region attend these bird shows.

The last item discussed at the meeting was to confirm that Frank Aguirre's sales table will be placed near the check out table that Tim and Lloyd will be manning so that it will be easier to send buyers to Frank if they need to use his debit/credit card machine.

The meeting ended at 8:30pm.

Cambarellus Patzcuarensis sp. Orange



Photo by: Udo Rohmann

Cambarellus Patzcuarensis is a species of dwarf freshwater crayfish native to Mexico. It originates from the Lago de Patzcuaro in Michoacán Mexico which is a shallow lake located over 1900 meters above sea level. The

water parameters are as follows: temperatures range from 15 to 25 degrees centigrade, a ph of 7.5-8.5 with a total hardness range of 12.5 to 18.

The Lago provides an ideal habitat for these tiny crayfish with its muddy bottom heavy with aquatic vegetation and fallen branches from overhanging bushes and trees.

The species found in the Lago is brown in colour like its larger Canadian cousins; however a few of them exhibit a brighter colouration which was said to have been fixed by Juan Carlos Merinho giving us the beautiful orange variety. Species orange is available in 2 versions, straight orange and in a striped form.

Cambarellus Patzcuarensis is suitable for smaller sized aquarium (attaining a maximum length of 1.5"), even of the planted variety as these crayfish will leave your plants unscathed! A good set up will consist of a 15 gallon aquarium complete with a sand or gravel substrate, ideally heavily planted, 2 handfuls of oak and beach leaves complete with driftwood and caves of 3/8" to 1/2" diameter 2" in length with one closed end. It is vital to provide enough hiding places for the crayfish during the molt. The crayfish exhibit some aggression towards each other, particularly amongst males.

I currently house 12 in a 30 gallon tank set up as described including a group of Cherry shrimp. I would not trust them with any expensive shrimp since they will not pass up a tasty morsel if they get lucky enough to catch one!

The crayfish are fed a diet of crayfish and shrimp pellets from Sera, oak and beach leaves, dried stinging nettle, broccoli, algae and filter mulm! This diet should result in molting

taking place every 4-6 weeks for 6-12 month old specimens. The crayfish have a life expectancy of only 24 months and can produce 2 to 3 batches of offspring during this time. Females can only be 'inseminated' shortly after molting, when the male will pin the female on its back and deposit a sperm packet at the genital pore of the female.

The first time that I observed this I must admit that I thought that the male had killed the female! The female will expel its eggs 4-30 days after 'insemination' (20-60 in number) and then attach the eggs to its swimmeret's. The eggs will develop into small crayfish over the next 30 days. The growing crayfish will need many small hiding places in which they can hide during molting. I have found that fast food straws can be converted into crayfish condos by cutting them into 2" sections and then tying several sections together with fishing line (tightly) the resultant structure looks something like a star. In the alternative the berried female can be moved to a small holding tank with some leaves for hiding places and food for the babies.



Photo by: Udo Rohmann

Cambarellus patzcuarensis sp. Orange is a great little crayfish, colourful and full of

spunk, every time one approaches the tank the crayfish will turn towards you and run to the front of the tank with pincers at the ready!

By Udo Rohmann

Filtration Part 1

What is filtration anyways? Well, filtration means many different things to different people. By definition filtration is the separation of an undesirable element or elements from a primary fluidized compound. This separation can be achieved in several different ways 1) mechanical filtration 2) biological filtration 3) chemical filtration 4) replacement filtration.

What is it in the aquarium that constitutes an undesirable element that we as hobbyists would want to or need to remove from the aquarium? This is something that to some degree depends on what we have in the aquarium. In aquarium we keep fish, invertebrates and or plants. All of these living things require food to live and consequently produce waste as a byproduct of absorbing the nutrients they require from the food consumed. These waste byproducts are Carbon Dioxide, Oxygen, Ammonia, physical detritus (non dissolved particles). In addition to these waste products we the hobbyists introduce excess food which remains uneaten for a variety of

reasons (over feeding, small particle size, physical entrapment of food etc.); this uneaten food spoils and also adds additional undesirable elements to the water.

So how do we get rid of this undesirable stuff out our aquariums? We filter the water right? But what can each type of filtration do for us?

- 1) Mechanical filtration – will remove all of the physical particles out of the water by trapping the undesirable particles in some sort of medium. This medium can be disposable or reusable. Examples of filter medium are filter floss, gravel, sand, sponge etc.
- 2) Biological filtration – will remove chemical compounds by breaking them down and changing them into other compounds which are less harmful to the aquarium inhabitants and useful for plants in the aquarium. These processes are carried out by bacteria (several different types), which require a medium on which they can live and feed. Examples of bacteria medium are bio balls, lava rock, sponge, sand and also all surfaces inside the aquarium
- 3) Chemical filtration – will remove chemical compounds by binding, exchanging or combining different components in order to remove undesirable compounds
- 4) Replacement filtration – will remove both physical particles and chemical compounds by replacing all or part of the water

So which type of filtration is best? There is no simple answer to that question and it depends on a number of factors, what do you want to achieve? What type of aquarium set up is involved? How much time do you want to spend? How much money do you want to spend?

Keep in mind that most filters today use more than one method of filtration

More in Part 2

By: Udo Rohmann

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Do you have unwanted aquarium in habitants?

Please do not release them into the wild. Contact Peel Regional Aquarium Club or any other CAOAC Club to assist you in finding a new home for your pet(s)



Questions? Comments? Concerns?

About the Hi-Fin or Peel Regional Aquarium Club? Please contact any of the Club Executive Members as listed above and share your thoughts. This is a club run by volunteers for the benefit of all members. That includes you! Strong member participation is what has allowed this Club to continue for over 39 years!

Come and join us and make a difference!

About us

The Peel Regional Aquarium Club (PRAC) is a progressive, non-profit organization whose purpose is to share with our members the many wonders of the best hobby in the world, fish keeping and to promote our hobby in the community.

PRAC started out as the Brampton Aquarium Club in 1971. Since that time it has increased in numbers to what is a well run and successful club today. Membership is only \$25 per year for adults and families, and \$10 for students.

Our members come not only from the Region of Peel, but also as far away as Collingwood and Huntsville. Anyone can become a member who wishes to share the excitement of fish keeping.

In early 2008, we changed our name from Brampton Aquarium Club to Peel Regional Aquarium Club to better reflect who we are and the community in which we operate.

If you want to find out the latest information on fish keeping or have a problem that needs a solution, come to our meeting and ask the experts. Our friendly environment has attracted many new and experienced hobbyists. We hope that you will be the next member.

Our Motto

Giving back to the community is a PRAC priority. We have set up many aquariums at schools and hospitals. Building enthusiasm about the hobby in youngsters is important to us. As well, we have participated in Pet Shows, promoting fish keeping in the greater community.

Monthly Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month except during July and August

Our meetings are held at Turner Fenton Secondary School, 7935 Kennedy Road, South building, located at Kennedy Rd. and Steeles Ave. in Brampton.

The meetings start at 7 P.M

Our meetings consist of an interesting presentation, door prizes, guess the fish contest, monthly auction of live fish, plants and related equipment and of course time to talk to other hobbyists.

Club members have access to our extensive Club Library

Visitors are always welcome!

Please contact any executive member for further information

For Advertising in our Bulletin, please contact any Executive member