



Hi – Fin

2010 June



Pelvicachromis pulcher

Fish of the month

Photograph by: Udo Rohmann

Presidents Message

Tim Antler, will be acting President for the balance of the term.

Editor's Message

The CAOAC Convention has come and gone. For those of you who missed it, you missed a fantastic event. As you all know the club season is coming to a close. I hope all of you will consider running for one of the club positions in the upcoming election this month! In this June's issue we have 2 reprint articles which I hope you will find of interest!

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

Index

| | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| P 2 | President's message |
| P2 | Editor's message |
| P3 | Aquarium Events |
| P3 | the Emperor Tetra |
| P3 | Executive meeting minutes |
| P4 | Rhinogobius wui |

Peel Regional Aquarium Club Executive

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Vacant |
| 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



June 26, 2010

Sarnia Aquarium Society

Guest speaker Gary Lange

September 26, 2010

Sarnia Aquarium Society Auction

September 26, 2010

London Aquarium Society Show and Auction

October 3, 2010

Hamilton Aquarium Society Auction

October 24, 2010

Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society Show and Auction

October 31, 2010

St. Catharine Aquarium Society Show and Auction

November 7, 2010

Peel Regional Aquarium Club Auction

Executive Meeting Minutes

PRAC Executive Meeting

May 13, 2010

Present: Absent:
John Van Rompu Udo Rohmann
Bob Wilson Lloyd Cockburn
Gary Peacock
Denise Antler
Tim Antler
Meeting started at 7:15pm.

Tim announced that he would not be running for president for the 2010-2011 year. It is undecided whether Denise would continue as secretary as she needs Tim to drive her. This, however, does not mean that they wish to leave the club. Bob suggested that committee, if no president is elected at the June meeting, should run the club.

John received formal confirmation that he is to contact CAOAC in order to secure a section to sponsor at the convention, which is coming up in a couple of weeks. Denise suggested that he first try for the angel fish as that is, now, our current logo. If the angelfish section already has a sponsor, then he is to try for the swordtail, as that was our logo when

the club was formally known as the Brampton Aquarium Club. If the two sections have been taken, John is to make a selection as long as our name is there as a sponsor.

Gary said that Jim Taylor would be the speaker in May. He'll be speaking about his recent fish-collecting trip to Uruguay. In June, our John Van Rompu will be speaking about his fish-collecting trip to Peru.

Gary said that he'd seen former member, Jeff Young, at the various clubs around the GTA speaking about seahorses. It was suggested that we should try to get him to speak at one of our meetings in the new fiscal year.

John announced that he received some "goodies" from a sample sale that include betta tanks, heaters, etc., that we can use as either a door prize or a raffle.

He also mentioned that he believes Ed Czuchnicki has gone to former member, Blair Beemer's house to pick up some items that belong to the club including the library cart.

Tim asked Denise to contact a friend of hers who is a bird club president

and ask him how much his club pays for renting the Brampton Fairgrounds. His and two other bird clubs rent the facility on a weekend, in the fall, for an annual bird show.

The discussion then turned to the fact that we no longer have shirts.

Stitched shirts can be expensive.

Denise suggested that Michael's has a silk screening machine kit where someone can take an inexpensive t-shirt and can put their own logos on the shirt. Tim was hoping we could do something so that we can give t-shirts to volunteers at the auctions.

We need members to step up and help us plan activities.

It was decided that some of the members of the executive bring in fish of their own to give John who would use them for the "Guess the Fish" contest, which is always fun. They are to hide the bags of fish that they bring and only let John know what they are. If members want to bring the same kind of fish for the auction, they are to keep them hidden until the game is over so that people don't accidentally guess them.

The meeting ended at 8:30pm.

The Emperor Tetra (*Nematobrycon palmeri*)

By Pete Turner



Nematobrycon palmeri is the rightful contender for the name Emperor Tetra. First introduced to the hobby in 1959 *Nematobrycon palmeri* has maintained its popularity because it is colourful and peaceful, making it an ideal community tank fish. It's also easy to breed if given the right conditions.

Original reports about *N. palmeri* suggested that they were kept in very soft water with an acid pH. These fish were from wild stock. Now the fish we see in dealer's tanks are from captive stock and accustomed to some variations in water quality - but still not a hard water fish. They look their best if kept in small groups or shoals.

Sexing

The male with fairly long extensions to the middle rays of their caudal fins is easiest to spot. When the fish are young, just look into their eyes the males have a bright blue iris. Females tend to be a bit smaller than the males when fully grown.

Breeding

The Emperor Tetra is an easy fish to breed if young adults are chosen. It spawns readily when in condition and will supply between 50 to 100 eggs. The fry should not be a problem to feed and raise.

The Breeding Setup

Emperors don't require a large tank to spawn in. An 18"x10"x10" tank, filled to a depth of 8" is quite large enough. The tank is filled with tapwater at a pH around 7 and a very low dH. The tank is left bare with nylon wool mops and an airline for a slow flow of bubbles. Do not fit a filter at this stage. Maintain a temperature of between 24°C (76°F) to 28°C (82°F). Allow 24 hours to pass before placing the selected pair of fish into the tank. Select a pair of young adults. Emperor females do not have to be all that plump to breed - we are dealing with fish that will only supply a maximum of 100 eggs.

Spawning

Place the fish in the tank in the evening. This gives the fish chance to become acclimatized to the breeding tank. The majority of pairs will spawn on the second morning. The male drives the female into the mops and here she lays the tiny eggs. Not many eggs will be scattered outside the mop area. Spawning can be a lengthy affair, up to 5 hours. This is the time to remove the parents, as they'll soon eat the eggs if left in the tank. If you're not sure if they've spawned remove them from the tank after two days.

Raising the Fry

At this stage fit a small sponge type filter. At 28°C (82°F) the eggs will hatch within 30 hours. The fry stay hidden in the confines of the mops and if you lift one, you should see the very tiny fry fall to the tank floor. This stage lasts for about five days, until you notice the fry free-swimming. Now they need food and even at this point, somewhere to hide, like one suspended spawning mop.

Feeding the fry

First food should be infusoria. Brood numbers are small, but they can get through copious amounts of infusoria, feeding on it for about 10 days. Now and then drop a few brine shrimp nauplii into the tank. If the fry take it, move onto brine shrimp in the morning and microworm in the evening.

Once on this food, the growth rate is accelerated. When the fry are about 3mm move them to a larger growing on tank. At the end of 12 weeks you should have young fish of 20mm to 25mm in length.

Rhinogobius wui

By Ian Pitts

I first came across this species as an accidental import amongst batches of "Hong Kong Plecs" (*Gastromyzon sp.*). Since these fish have been available from time to time under various common names, such as "Red Cheek Gobies", "Red Neck Gobies", and "Hong Kong Gobies".

They are small fish; about two inches long when fully grown, and hail from southern China and Hong Kong. Males can be recognized by the presence of red stripes and spots in the throat area, below the operculum and the larger appearance of the head. These stripes are particularly visible when the males display to each other or to the passing females. The display involves the males tipping his head up and back, flaring the membranes to expose the full extent of his red stripes. Males also have brighter markings on the dorsal fins, notably the first dorsal, which has a 'metallic' patch on the upper half.

Females are usually grey/brown, with darker stripes and blotches on the back and sides.

Both sexes have a cream band that runs around the head, from operculum to operculum, just under the level of the eyes.

In the wild they inhabit fresh water streams, and seem to appreciate a good current in the tank. I keep these fish in trios, a male and two females, in small tanks (18x12x12 inches), with a sand substrate and flat rocks as cover. Temperature is maintained around 23°C. pH 7.1 and hardness 15 dGH. The sand I use is swimming pool filter sand, which is fairly coarse.

Filtration is by a small internal power filter, which also provides a suitable degree of water movement in the small tank.

Males are territorial, defending a cave which they dig under the rockwork. Females ignore the male posing and posturing until they are ready to breed, when they will join the male in his cave. I have not yet witnessed the actual spawning as the cave roof is rarely higher than 1/4" and the excavated sand is piled up around the entrance, restricting access and vision. The absence of adult fish is a good indicator of spawning activity, especially if the female has joined the male in his cave. The female will be out and about again next morning noticeably thinner, if spawning has occurred. The male stays in hiding, guarding and fanning the eggs, and does not come out even when food is introduced.

Twenty to thirty well developed 1/4" fry hatch after about two weeks, and are capable of eating brine shrimp nauplii and microworm a couple of days later, when the yolk sac has been absorbed. At this point the adult fish should be removed, to prevent them from eating the fry, which will grow steadily on a diet of small live foods showing a preference for worms (grindal, white and tubifex).

Reprint Policy for Articles in the Hi-Fin as follows: All articles may be reprinted by any Non-profit organization provided that credit is given to the author and to Peel Regional Aquarium Club and 2 copies of the publication are sent to Peel Regional Aquarium Club's mailing address. All other duplication of articles is strictly prohibited unless prior written approval is obtained from the original author and Peel Regional Aquarium Club.

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