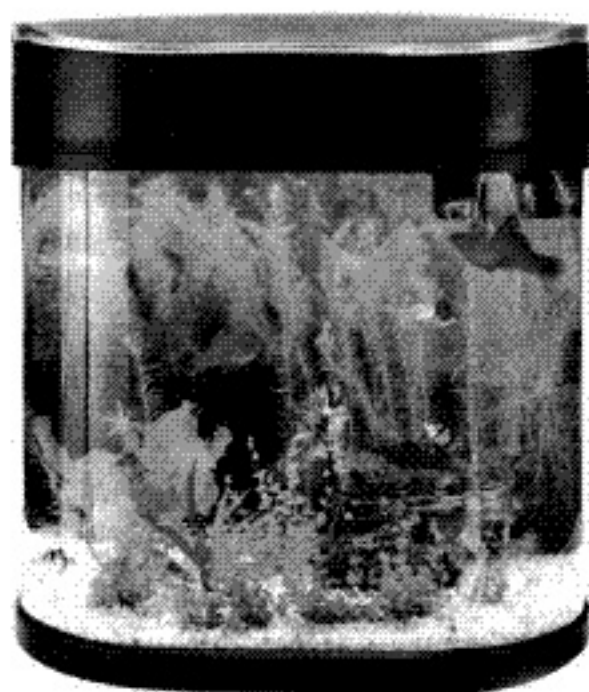




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The society meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM,
except in July and August, at the Church of the Resurrection, 435
Mohawk Rd. West near the corner of Garth. Visitors are welcome.

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Our 61st Year of Publication

APRIL 2011

Carla's Comments

Carla MacDonald

Hello Everyone!

So they say that April Showers bring May flowers. I say, "Bring it On". I can't wait to get my yard cleaned up and my pond up and running. I'm going to put my pond on our 4th Annual Pond Tour so perhaps you can come and see how it all ends up. I'm working on the finishing touches. I think everyone likes to make a few changes each year. If you have a pond and would like to have it on the tour, please let me know. The date is Sunday, July 10th. We will follow the day up with a BBQ. Everyone is welcome.

We are also planning a bus trip to the trip to the Toronto Zoo for Sunday, June 10. It's not too late to sign up. The sign up sheet will be available at the meeting.

Have you looked into going to the CAOAC Convention? It's being held in Brantford at the Best Western hotel on the long weekend in May (20, 21, 22, 23). For more information, please check out the Brantford website.

The program this month is the yearly "Home Show". Who will win the "Peoples Choice Award"? We also have Klaus Steinhaus helping out our new C.A.R.E.S. representative Karen making a presentation. We all have many fish that are represented on the C.A.R.E.S. program. Come and get the information so you can help make a difference.

I was asked to represent the HDAS club at the 2nd Annual Hospice Pond Tour the weekend of July 9 and 10. The tour will be show casing ponds in Grimsby, Hamilton, Burlington and Brantford. I will get more information up on our website about this tour shortly. The cost of a weekend passport to this Pond Tour is \$25.

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I hope to see you all at the meeting,

Carla



*The Return to *Badis badis**

Charles Drew

The *Badis badis* is an interesting and unusual fish. It is found in standing water in India. When you first see one you would think it was a cichlid but due to some of its traits it is in a class of its own. The male is a beautiful fish with large fins and loaded with red and blue colours that it can turn on and off. Often it is referred to as the Chameleon. The female has shorter fins and is a drab green. There are several species of *Badis* but this is the most colourful. They claim that they grow to 3 inches but any I have had were always a bit smaller. The females are usually a half inch smaller than the males.

They are peaceful in a community tank where they have room to roam but in too small of a tank they can get territorial. What some people might call a drawback is the fact they refuse to eat flake and granular foods. They do eat all frozen foods or live foods without a problem.

To spawn *Badis badis*, set them up in a well planted tank or one with lots of Java Moss. A flower pot with a hole in the side should be provided as they are a cave spawner. The male entices the female into the cave where they embrace in a Betta like spawning fashion. The small eggs are cared for by the male and hatch three days later. A few more days and the fry are free swimming and move out into the moss to look for food.

Micro worms and Baby Brine Shrimp should now be fed into the tank for the fry. As soon as they leave the cave dad is ready to spawn again. The parents do not usually eat the fry at least not all of them. The first time I had *Badis badis* many years ago they spawned in a flower pot and the tank was always swarming with fry and young adults of all ages. This time it may have been the gravel, the moss, or the dull light over the tank, as I could see no fry after they left the nest. After the next spawn I emptied the cave into a five gallon tank just before they were ready to leave the cave. The tank has over a hundred fry and now much larger ones are swimming around with

the parents. They must have all hid in the moss until they grew a bit bigger.

It's a shame that more people are not familiar with this beautiful, colourful and easy to spawn fish.

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Heterandria formosa

Jeff Fisher

Heterandria formosa is most often known as the Lesser Killie or mosquito fish. The males are about one centimetre in length, with females about 50% longer. Both sexes are a greenish mottled gray.

These fish are not very demanding. I've kept them several times over the years, and found that sometimes they are hard to locate. They make a nice colony in a 5 gallon or smaller species tank.

My current colony came from The Fish Place in North Tonawanda, New York, and one of the last spring auctions. I housed them in a 5 gallon tank full of java moss, with five pygmy corydoras as tankmates.

The 5 gallon does not have a lot of free swimming space, as the java moss is slowly growing up the sides of the glass. I started with four pairs, and now have 30 or so after selling a few at each of the local auctions.

The fry are small replicas of their parents, born a few at a time over the course of several days. They can be spotted grazing on detritus and infusoria in the java moss. I also feed them basic flake food that is crumbled to a small size.

These fish make a nice occupant for the planted nano tank.



Fun with Silicone

Nischint Sohal, Bombay, India

I use a sheet of thermacole (or styrofoam, as I think it's known in the US) and apply a thin layer of silicone on it. Thin, mind you, not too thick and not too thin. Then sprinkle some sand/gravel on it and let it set. After a while, shake all free sand/gravel away, and inspect the thermacole sheet. If there are some empty spots, then apply a bit of silicone and attach single bits of sand/gravel. Once it's all set and done, let it dry/cure for 24 hours.

After that, you break the thermacole/styrofoam gently, making sure not to tear the silicone. Then peel off the thin silicone sheet with the sand/gravel attached to it. You can reuse the thermacole/styrofoam if you wish, but be very careful and gentle with the silicone sheet.

The end result? You can put this little sheet in your tank. Attach it to the back of your tank (as long as it's not too high), or the bed of the tank, and you have a sheet of gravel, which looks absolutely real and fantastic.

Applications?? Many, if you want a contrasting gravel look. Most of the times, if you use two types of gravel, to create layers or to create different gravel zones, you end up mixing the two types of gravel during cleaning. Which later might be a mess to clean. With this method, you just siphon off whatever waste you want, and you can even pick up the sheet and brush off waste from it.

You can arrange it however you want, but the main advantage of this method, over the traditional method of sticking the gravel on an acrylic/glass/plastic sheet, is its flexibility. You can cut corners, or shape it in whatever form you choose.

Cichlids digging into it?? No problem, just shove a rock on it, and they won't be able to move it. You can even attach plants using this method. It's also a great way to cover up any of your equipment.

The biggest USP of this method is that it's really cheap, fast and looks really good. I just did it to my tetra tank and it looks fantastic.



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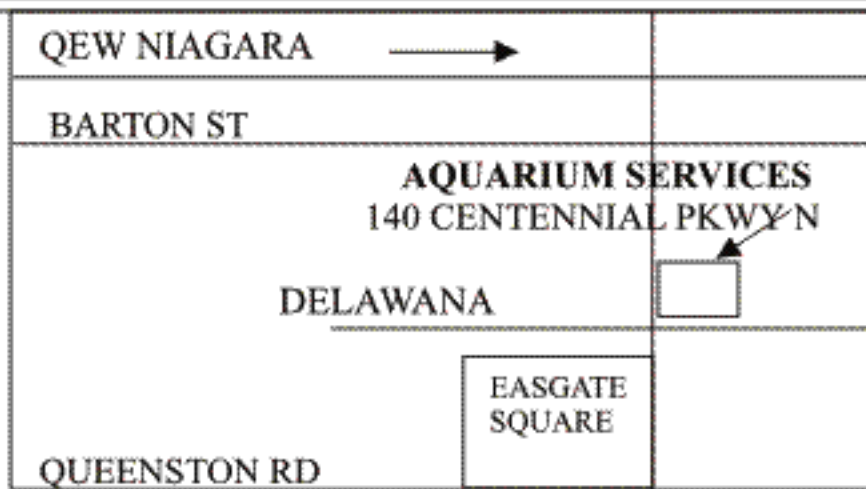
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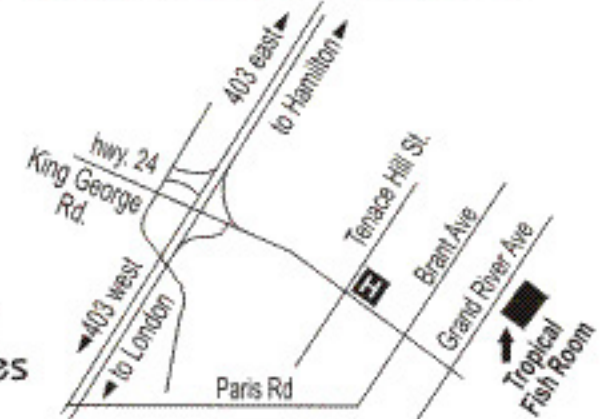
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I used reddish gravel, which contrasted beautifully with the golden sand that I have in the tank. Along with some bright and dark green plants, it looks absolutely beautiful.

Another thing that I did was take some marbles, and create a cone, like a pyramid, by siliconing the edges of the marbles that touched each other. Not only does it look beautiful while reflecting and refracting the light, but it also works as a sort of mini filter. Thanks to the water movement in the tank, waste gets into the marbled cone through the gaps in the marbles. All I do is lift up the cone, and shove the siphon in there to suck up all that gunk.

Of course, building caves with small rocks using silicone is easy. But if you have a big tank, then you can even create a small teepee out of the rocks and the silicone. Or make a huge bridge, using the ends as caves.

My next project? To make a small replica of a wrecked ship using rocks and silicone!!



April 1991 –President Tom Tota used his monthly message to share some preparatory tips with club members who were planning on participating in the show season. Tom stated that he usually caught and jarred his fish the night prior to the show, and highlighted the benefits of Stress Coat and bringing a supply of your home water with you. More importantly, Tom reminded the club members that Lee Finley would be the featured speaker at the next month’s meeting. Articles featured included “Infusoria the Easy Way” by Charlie Drew), “The A-Nile-Ator (Nile Perch)” by Norm McEvoy, and the following exchange reprint:

*The Peaceful Betta, *Betta imbellis**

Scott Buckel

Reprinted from the GPASI Journal 1990 #2

This January, a friend in Terre Haute asked me if I wanted to spawn *Betta imbellis*. Then he asked if I wanted his trio. How could anyone turn down such an offer? He had spawned them once or twice, but had lost the fry from both spawns. All he wanted in return for these fish was a few fry after I was successful.

When I got home I had to decide where to put them. Well, I have this long thin betta tank, so I filled it with water from the tap and added a heater to the tank along with an aged small sponge filter. I set the heater to 82°F; and I added a few floating plants to give the fish some cover. I had been told that baby brine shrimp was a good food to condition them and to give variety I also fed frozen brine shrimp, frozen blood worms, frozen daphnia and even some flake food.

I had been told that the bubblenest for this species is rather small, but I didn’t realize that it would be that small! The first bubblenest was smaller than a dime. I didn’t see the eggs from the first spawn, but I saw the almost free swimming fry as they were being eaten by one of the two females. Since I did not have another tank that was above 80°F, I tried to exclude the females from the nest with a piece of glass. Unfortunately the glass shifted and eventually fell down, allowing the females access to the fry. The good part of this event is



that the male spawned with the other female.

The second spawn, which occurred 8 days later, was much larger and was in the front of the tank under a couple of floating plants. There were about 30 to 40 eggs in the bubble nest. The eggs hatched after about three days, and the fry became free-swimming in about four more days. During this time, the male very aggressively guarded the nest with the newly hatched fry. He must have done a much better job the second time, since almost all the fry became free-swimming. Once they were free-swimming, I was finally able to successfully block the females' access to the fry. I raised probably 75% of the second spawn, and maybe two or three fry from the first spawn.

The fry were about one quarter inch long and silvery in colour. For the first few days after becoming free-swimming the fry stayed together in a nice, confined school. Whenever one would stray from the school the male would herd it back into the group. After about a week the male could not keep up with the fry and then allowed them to swim freely throughout the tank.

The fry grew very rapidly. I had killie fry that were a month older, and the baby Bettas are now several times bigger even though they are a month younger. The fry were fed 1 or 2 times daily on baby brine shrimp. I continued to keep the growing fry with the adults until the fry were ready to distribute. As would be expected, the fry grew at very different rates, but I have never seen such extreme differences in growth rate.

I recommend this beautiful fish that is relatively easy to care for and breed.

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Cherry Barbs, Badis badis



Odds 'n' Ends

EVENTS

<i>April 10</i>	Durham Region Aquarium Society Show and Auction
<i>April 17</i>	CAOAC General Meeting, Waterdown
<i>May 1</i>	London Aquarium Society Auction
<i>May 20-23</i>	CAOAC Convention - Brantford, Ontario

MEETINGS

<i>April 14</i>	April Meeting, "Home Show", C.A.R.E.S. Program
<i>May 12</i>	May Meeting, Workshops
<i>June 9</i>	June Meeting, Pond Program
<i>July 10</i>	HDAS Pond Tour

Submissions

Articles are needed for every month's bulletin. Topics can include breeding, nutrition, water quality, do-it-yourself techniques, and amusing anecdotes. We have kicked off a new practice of using a hobbyist's photo for the cover of the e-bulletin. Hobbyist photos are needed for future months' bulletins. They do not need to be show quality fish or professional quality photos. Please send submissions to bulletin@hdas.ca



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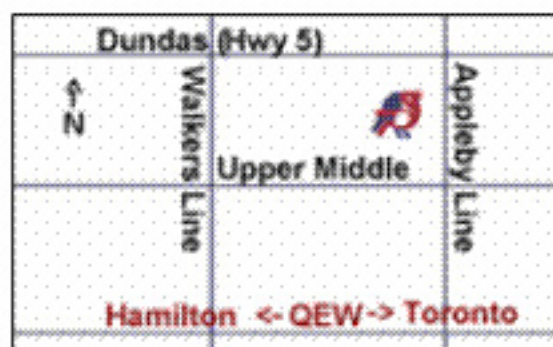
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