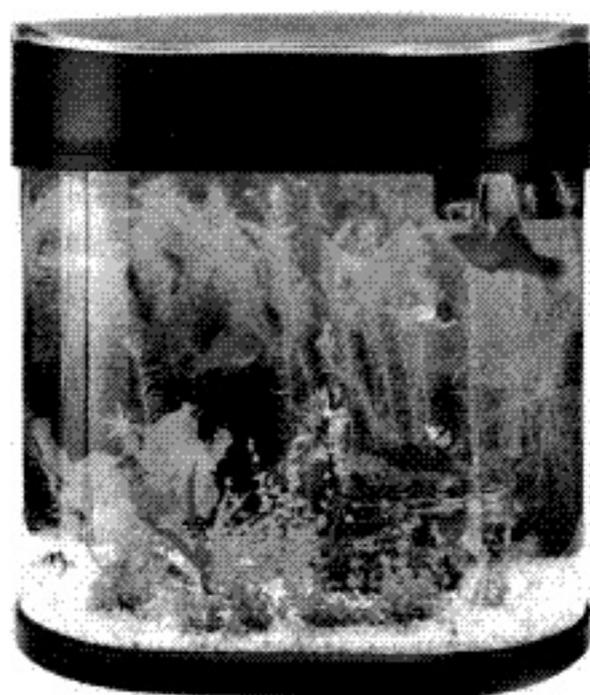




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The society meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM,  
except in July and August, at the Church of the Resurrection, 435  
Mohawk Rd. West near the corner of Garth. Visitors are welcome.

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*Our 61<sup>st</sup> Year of Publication*

*OCTOBER 2011*

# Carla's Comments

Carla MacDonald

Hi Everyone!!!

The HDAS Fall Auction and Show are over. Don't worry-spring will be coming again sooner than you know and I will make the chili again. The Show was amazing with 204 entries. The auction seemed to be a really big success as well- we had over 1000 items sold. Thank you Jessica and Margaret for manning the computer and cash table. The kitchen did a great job. Thanks to all the runners from our club, and other clubs as well. Thank you to Jerry D, Ed K, Brad S, Bob W, Robin P for helping with the auctioning. Thanks to Pet Paradise, Tropical Fish Room, Big Al's for their support with the Show and Auction. I'd like to thank Mario at Big Al's for his kind donation of a 26 gallon Bow Front Tank and Stand. I need to also thank Mike at "Eye Catchers" for his donation of an eye wear package from his store in the Dundurn Plaza. Bob, thank you for running the Fish Show and Udo and Ron B for judging. Overall, a really successful day.

The October presenter is Frank Aguire on Catfish. I hope you can all make it on the 14th. Larry J will be speaking on Lake Malawi in November. December is the month of cheer with Christmas. Let me know if you have any suggestions for the Christmas party. We will be having a Neighbour to Neighbour Food Drive. We will have a Fish Table Draw. If you have anything to add to the Fish Table, please let Sarah L know. We generally have pizza and wings that night but if anyone has another idea - please let me know. January is election month. If you are interested in a position helping out the club, please let me know. All nominations must be into Charlie Drew or myself by the Christmas meeting. A presentation will follow.

I hope I didn't miss anyone that helped us out at the Auction and Show. Everyone did a great job.

Thank you and Keep Fishing!!!

Carla

<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>	
Carla's Comments	2
Breeding The Crystal Red Shrimp	3
Feeding Zucchini to Aquarium Fish	6
On the Road to Detroit (or) Motown	
Scales	12
Gallery	15
Odds 'n' Ends	16
Submissions	16



# *Breeding The Crystal Red Shrimp*

*Charles Drew*

The Crystal Red Shrimp is a mutation of the Bee Shrimp, *Caridina* cf. *cantonensis*. The original wild Bee Shrimp is a native of South East Asia. They have been selectively bred by the Japanese to develop the beautiful red and white shrimp that you see today. Many people find them difficult to keep and breed as they have all come from the same gene pool. Other people have little or no difficulty and find them fairly easy and prolific.

I first saw them at an OCA convention in Strongsville Ohio in 2004. I bought 6 of the C grade at \$2.00 each just to give them a try. At that time I knew zero about any shrimp and placed them in a 3 gallon tank with a piece of driftwood and a bit of Java Moss. They were not very well cared for but in spite of things still produced a few shrimplets. Over the summer they all disappeared. That was the end of my shrimp for several years.

As time went on the interest in shrimp started to grow and soon I picked up a dozen CRS from a Big Al's Store. They went into a 15 gallon tank with a spawn of young bushynose plecos. The water was straight tap and changed about a third every few days. No berried females were ever seen and in time the number dropped to seven large shrimp. It was then my wife Janet came to their rescue and had me set them up with a 10 gallon tank of their own outside the fish room where it was a little cooler. Under her care they did well but still failed to produce eggs. After a while we came to the conclusion that they may be all males.

Late last winter I picked her up another six shrimp and before too long two of them were carrying eggs. It was thrilling to say the least when a few tiny shrimplets crawled out from under a mat of Christmas moss. Since then the little shrimp keep showing up and many of the older ones are now starting to breed making the population starting to soar. Many are showing fairly high quality.



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Our tank is nothing fancy just a 10 gallon with a Dollarama soft white compact fluorescent bulb. The bottom has a black substrate of the black glass blast that we used 40 years or more ago that was sitting around in a bucket. There is a piece of driftwood with a Java Fern on it and a large clump of Christmas Moss and a moss ball. A bit of Riccia floats on the surface. I take little notice of the water conditions which is mainly tap water straight from the hose with about 20% RO water added. An oak leaf helps keep the tank neutral but it is seldom checked. The shrimp are fed the same varied diet as many of my fish. blood worms, flake, pellets, wafers and snow peas. A small bushynose pleco and 6 spixi snails keep up with any over feeding. I do not use the expensive shrimp supplements as a good balanced diet gives them everything that they need.

The tank has no heater and the temperature can drop to 70 or slightly below on a cold winter's night. A slightly cooler night temperature can benefit the shrimp. The tank does receive a short period of late afternoon sunshine.

The web is full of the experts that claim to know all about CRS but have yet to raise one! Take your information from someone that is having success. That is where I start when I try something that is new to me. CRS are not hard to keep as long as they are well fed and kept clean. Many people keep them too warm. Good luck with an easy shrimp.



# *Feeding Zucchini to Aquarium Fish*

*Joe D'Amore*

It seems that everyone in the hobby is aware of the fact that Zucchini is a favourite food for many species of fish. Being new to the hobby, I had no idea. I remember being at the pet store, just wandering around when I first noticed that Zucchini had been left out as food for various types of sucker fish or Loricariidae. This was done using a stone and a rubber band.

By the time I had gotten back home two new items had usurped the top spots of my "honey do" list.

First, why is the pet store feeding their fish this common Italian vegetable, it certainly isn't part of their natural habitat.

Secondly, I've got to see how my fish like it.

Well, the short answer to item one was simply that eating veggies is an important part of most fishy diets. Since most aquarists believe that their fish are more likely to thrive on fresh foods, it makes sense to follow this policy for all the food groups and not just the meats.

The execution of my second to-do item was actually a little more involved than I had at first anticipated. The refrigerator was completely devoid of Zucchini. Off to the the grocery store! Has anyone noticed that Zucchini are much smaller now than they were a couple decades ago?

Having arrived back at the abode I quickly rinsed off the Zucchini, Mom would be so proud. I sliced off a few pieces and tossed them into a tank. The slices just sat there floating on the surface of the tank. The fish ignored the vegetable completely. Hmmmm must be because it is floating on the surface. I hunted down the necessary items, rock and rubber band, and presto sinking vegetable dinner was served.



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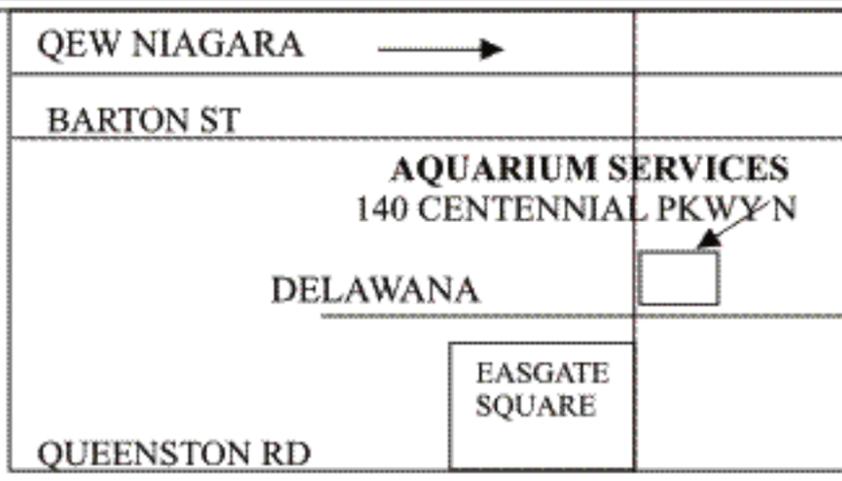
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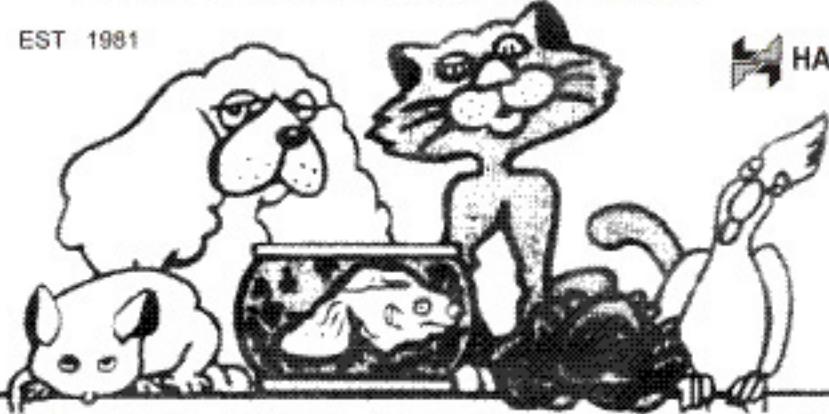
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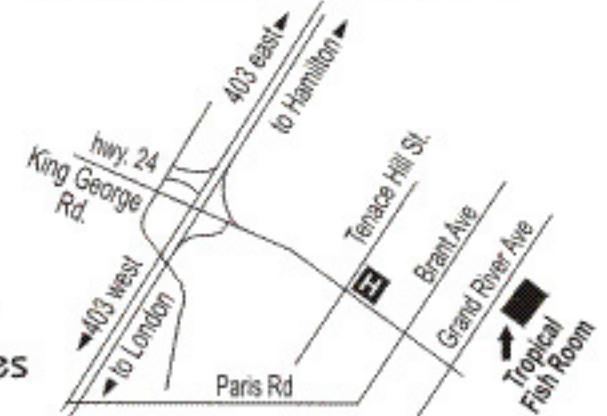
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I had both *Plecostomus* and *Gyrinocheilus aymonieri* in the tank and both attacked the vegetable with gusto. This worked very well until the fish had eaten a portion of the food, then the Zucchini slipped its rubber bonds and escaped to the surface.

I asked around a bit, and discovered that some people were boiling their vegetables in order to saturate the food with water. I gave this a try, and it worked perfectly. I did notice that the Zucchini had leeched some nutrients into the water, but I let that concern go and continued in this manner for the next year or so. In the meantime I had purchased a Vacuum Sealer in order to keep foods purchased and grown fresher longer. This particular Vacuum Sealer came with a "free" marinading accessory, at the time I remember thinking that I'd never use the ridiculous thing. Then the other day my wife had a craving for barbecued pork chops, today! Where was that marinade tool again? While it was doing its thing I noticed that the air was being sucked right out of the pork chops. You see where this is going right?

Later that night I threw a few slices of Zucchini into the marinade tool. Worked like a charm! The Zucchini sunk like little stones to the bottom of the aquarium after just a few minutes marinading. If you happen to have one of these tools, you may want to give it a try.



October 1991 – In his message this month, President Tom Tota promoted the upcoming H&DAS Show and Auction, as well the benefits of belonging to an Aquarium club. One of the positives that he mentioned was access to knowledgeable speakers, which the club would be featuring later that month when Jim Robinson was to come in to speak on culturing live foods at the general meeting. Articles featured this month included “Fish Saigon” by Norm McEvoy, “Mudskippers” by Pat Brown (exchange), as well as the following:

## *On the Road to Detroit (or) Motown Scales*

*Norm McEvoy, H&DAS*

It was the year 1904. Edward VII found being the King Emperor had a lot of perks but it meant he couldn't party with can-can dancers in Paris anymore. Wilfred Laurier was the smooth-as-silk PM, which was fortunate because the President of the USA was Teddy Roosevelt, a crazy cowboy who treated foreign policy as if he were still charging up San Juan Hill. Kaiser Wilhelm was planning WWI, something he was too scared to do while his granny, Queen Victoria, was still alive. And in Detroit, as popular legend has it, Ed Farhat the Sheik, had his first match. And the Belle Isle Aquarium opened to the public.

The rest have gone on to the history books except for Ed. He's still out there somewhere, up to his old tricks. But I'm glad to say the Aquarium is doing fine. Situated on Belle Isle park on the Detroit river front, the Aquarium is the oldest on the continent. Its architecture is reminiscent of another era; lots of brickwork and flourishes that give it an elegant touch. It's a complete contrast to the steel and glass towers and urban decay that affects the rest of the city. The tanks are huge affairs of concrete and glass, built to last. This place is exactly what it says it is, a public aquarium, there for the enjoyment of the citizens of (and visitors to) Detroit. It's informative, interesting, a haven from the noise and bustle of the city and best of all you can't beat the price of admission – it's free.



What they have is about 50 tanks, all freshwater fish from around the world. You basically walk in, go down one side and up the other; how long it takes depends on you. If you're into taking pictures, that's no problem. Some of the fish, if they see you have a camera, will even pose for you. Others do the fishy equivalent of telling you to take a flying leap by hiding. Either way its a good place for photo buffs to hang out.

There are quite a few outstanding specimens here. One you can't miss is the Alligator Gar. This thing is so big you'll be looking for a periscope and the letters CCCP on it. Covered in armoured scales, a huge bony helmet for a skull and a massive set of jaws, this fish demands respect and exudes arrogance. Coming from the swamps and bayous of the Mississippi River, the Alligator Gar is the premiere member of the Gar family and a challenge to fishermen with a streak of masochism in them. The aquarium has a wide selection of other gars too, giving any students out there a way to judge the similarities and differences between the species.

For rare specimens, there is a pair of Australian Lungfish, another interesting prehistoric relic. Seeing as how it is a protected species, this is the only way you can see a unique fish like this. Another real find was a tank full of Elephant Nose fish, something from the same family called the Dolphin-Nosed Mormyrid. It is greyish-black, a foot and a half long and sort of homely (think of the Elephant Nose with a shortened trunk), and definitely different. But that's a good reason to go to a place like this, to see things you can't see at home.

For all of you into more mainstream fish there are lots of Cichlids from Africa and South America, including the Malawi Eyebiter (Hannibal Lector's favourite). Of course no aquarium would be complete without Piranhas, Electric Eels, and Turtles. Which brings us to the Snapping Turtle. He's a natural blonde – no peroxide. And lots of catfish, as big, mean, ugly, and nasty as they want to be. Not all the fish look like they belong to the Satan's Choice Aquarium Club. There are lots of pretty little fish like the Desert Pupfish, Lesser Killifish, Barbs, Angels and such – all outstanding specimens. There is even a species of snake from Southeast Asia who spends most of his time hunting fish underwater. Just lots of great stuff!

When you're done looking around the Aquarium you might want to take a walk next door to the Conservatory and look at some plants and flowers, or maybe stroll down to the Museum of the Great Lakes or the Island Park Zoo. Just relax and have a picnic. The price – free admission to all of these – can't be argued with.

How to get there? Take the 401 to Windsor, go through the Tunnel and turn right at Jefferson (if you come upon Cobo Hall and Joe Louis Arena, you're going the wrong way). Keep going until you come to the MacArthur Bridge, look out for the signs and turn right over the bridge and follow the yellow brick road.

So what are you waiting for partner? Put some Motown sounds on the tape deck (!), take that ticket to ride from sister Aretha and head on down the freeway to the Belle Isle Aquarium. And if you see a big guy with a scarred forehead wearing an Arab headdress, don't ask him for his autograph, at least not before feeding time.

(NOTE: The Belle Isle Aquarium closed on April 3, 2005)

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# Gallery



*Crystal Red Shrimp, photos by Charles Drew*

OCTOBER 2011



## *Odds 'n' Ends*

### EVENTS

<i>October 16</i>	CAOAC Meeting, Electronic Online Meeting
<i>October 23</i>	St. Catherines & Area Show and Auction
<i>October 23</i>	Aquarium Club of Edmonton Show and Auction
<i>October 30</i>	Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society Show and Auction
<i>November 13</i>	Tropical Fish Club of Erie County Auction
<i>November 13</i>	Peel Regional Aquarium Club Auction

### MEETINGS

<i>October 13</i>	October Meeting, Frank Aguire on Catfish
<i>November 10</i>	November Meeting
<i>December 8</i>	Holiday Meeting
<i>January 12</i>	January Meeting - Elections

## *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](mailto:bulletin@hdas.ca)

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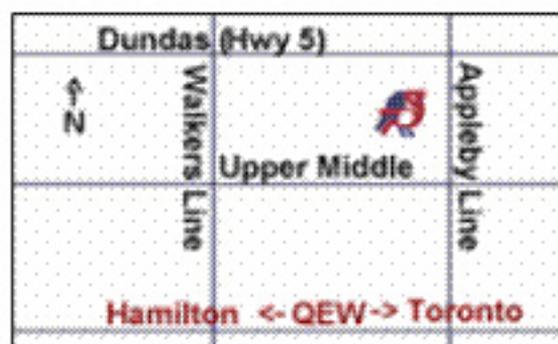
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