

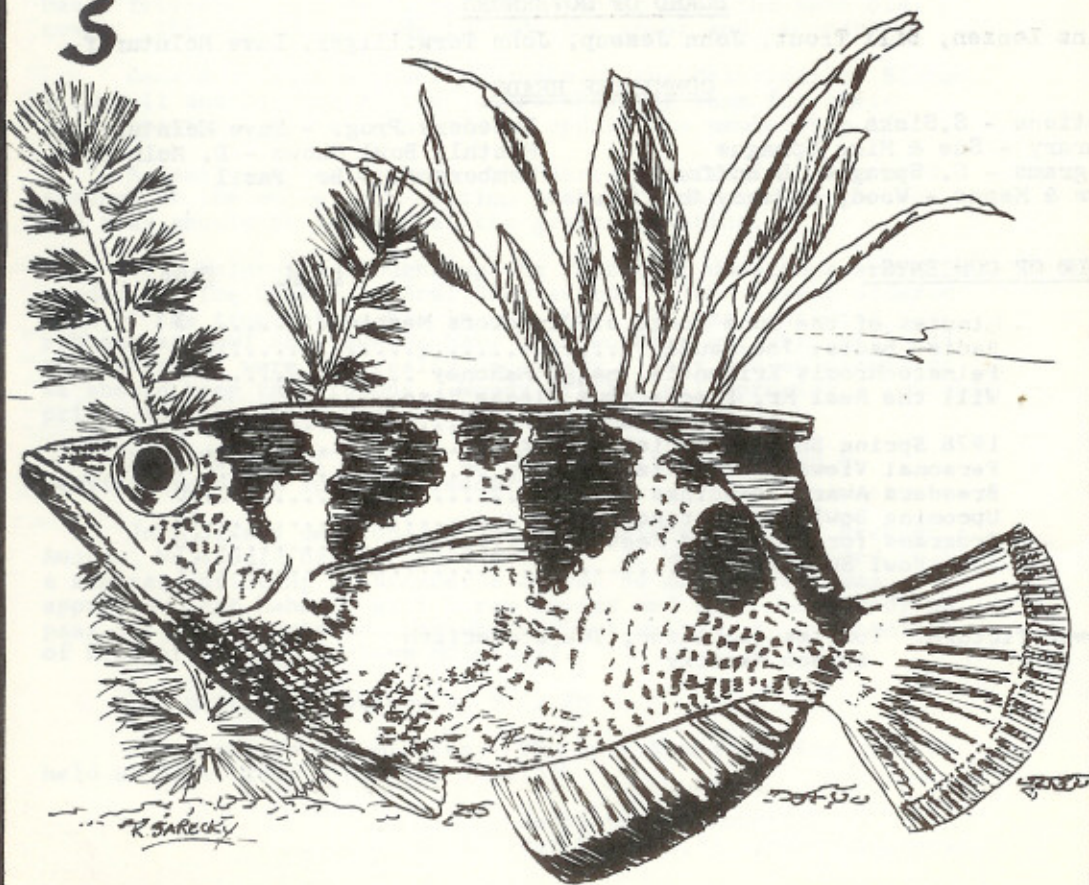
# DELTA TALE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF P.V.A.S.

JULY, 1978

Volume 9, Issue 6

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DELTA TALE is published for the benefit of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society (formerly the Potomac Valley Guppy Club,) a non-profit organization, established in 1960 for the purpose of furthering the aquarium hobby by disseminating information, encouraging friendly competition, soliciting participation in its shows, promoting good fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to: Secretary, P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6219, Shirlington Station, Arlington, VA.22206. Original articles and drawings may be reprinted if credit is given the author and DELTA TALE. Two copies of the publication in which the reprint appears should be sent to DELTA TALE, which will forward one copy to the author/artist. All materials for inclusion in the DELTA TALE must reach the editor no later than the first Saturday after the monthly Monday meeting.

EDITOR: M.E. Mahoney

OFFICERS FOR 1978

President:	Pat Mahoney 534-0006	Corresponding Sec.	Dana S. Best 960-1686
Vice President:	Steve Siska 621-7923	Recording Sec.	Pat Tietjen unlisted
Treasurer:	Gene Aldridge 931-7426		

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Heinz Lenzen, Bill Trout, John Jessup, John Terwilliger, Dave McInturff

COMMITTEE HEADS

Auctions - S.Siska	Breeders Prog. - Dave McInturff
Library - Sue & Mike Sprague	Monthly Bowl Shows - D. McInturff
Programs - S. Sprague, G.Hoffman	Membership - Be Fazil
Ways & Means - Woody & Nancy Griffin	

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Cover Picture: Toxotes jaculator, The archerfish  
by Bob Sarecky



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING

The Board of Governor's meeting was held at the home of Dana Best on June 6, 1978. The meeting began at 8:25 PM with 12 members present.

The big topic of discussion tonight is, of course, the June 3 - 4th Show-Auction weekend.

Gene Aldridge gave the Treasurer's report, a cash balance of \$791.14 after all checks written. We netted approximately \$526.00 on the show. \$60.00 was allocated for the judges who traveled from the Virginia Beach area - Ed Taylor and Bud Hampshire. This covered motel accommodations and transportation. With 283 entries for the auction, the take was \$938.75, roughly we averaged \$3.31 a bag. 19 bags were not sold.

Maggi Mahoney bought the judge's lunches instead of making them. She will be reimbursed by PVAS. Maggi also brought up the issue of redesigning the Delta Tale cover - she has a friend who can do it for \$15 - or to keep the same old cover. The motion was made to redo the cover and seconded.

Dana Best sent a thank you note to the Principal of Bishop O'Connell and letters to the judges thanking them for their participation. There is a need to update the membership list.

A family of new members, the Herrall's, worked very hard throughout the whole show-auction weekend - out did themselves and they should be thanked at the general meeting.

Dave McInturff brought up the fact that donations are needed for the Quarterly Bowl Show awards. John Jessup offered some of the trophies he has in his shop. It was mentioned that ribbons as Bowl Show awards have been working out very well and that trophies were not really necessary. They are so expensive. We should keep the ribbons. Woody Griffin will provide 3 suitable prizes for the First Quarter Bowl Show awards.

Dave McInturff brought up the point that we need a certificate blank for the Breeder's Award.

John Jessup mentioned a need for orientation for Breeder's Award. We should have a meeting soon. It was recommended that a separate printing of Breeder's Awards be made. This was approved. Pat Mahoney will xerox copies and have them ready to pass out at the July meeting where there will be an orientation of Breeder's Award by Dave McInturff.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Amendment to the minutes: The next Board meeting will be held at Bill Trout's home on July 5th.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Tietjen, Recording Secretary



BAP REPORT: BADIS BADIS

Joe Paul  
P.V.A.S.

Badis badis, the chameleon fish, is a handsome dwarf belonging to the Nandid family. In actions and appearance, however, this species resembles the dwarf cichlids of South America. Like the Apistogrammas, Badis badis should be given a tank with enough caves and plants for shelter and spawning sites. In a properly set up tank these fish will show themselves more often and put on their best colors. The only drawback to their care is that the Badis' insist on live foods; some individuals may accept frozen products, but none will touch prepared food. However, the chameleon fish is worth the effort to keep live food cultures going and your other fish will benefit from occasional surpluses from your cultures. Besides, how much can a two inch fish eat, anyway?

Badis badis thrives best in its own tank as this species is a slow eater. In a typical community tank of greedy pigs, very little food is left for the badis by the time it decides the stuff you offer is fit to eat. Also, why waste all that live food on something that likes flake just as well? However, if you stuff the other inhabitants with prepared food before offering live, the badis might get enough to eat.

Breeding this fish is no problem; place a male and a female together, give them a dark cave with a small entrance and feed the pair worms until the female bulges. After the male discovers and claims the spawning site he changes from his normal red zig-zag color pattern to a solid bluish black and vigorously defends his territory. If two males claim adjacent caves there will be constant fighting whenever they sight each other, similar to a Betta combat. (Males not defending a territory are peaceful. The spawning colors are a signal to battle.) The ready female picks her prospective mate and attempts to enter the cave. After several tries she is no longer ejected with ripped fins and the pair spawns, scattering eggs about the cave which stick to everything they touch. The fry hatch in two days and are free swimming in five more. The male assumes care of the brood and will kill the female if she can not stay out of his way. However, I have been a better parent than any of my males, who often eat their brood.

The fry are very tiny and require infusoria for at least one week before accepting normal fry foods. Rather than raise infusoria, I threw a handful of rotting lettuce into a ten gallon tank, added snails and let the mess age for a week, by which time I had a batch of fry. After being moved to this tank, they were ignored while they found their own food for a week before I started feeding micro worms. At that point the only difficulty was in providing enough small, live food for the 90 or so fry. By two months of age they were almost sexable as well as always hungry.

I heartily recommend this fish to anyone willing to take the extra trouble to maintain it. They are attractive at their dullest (reddish brown zig-zag stripes on a grey body) and spectacular at their best (Bluish black with a green sheen to the fins.) Besides, I have to unload some of these somewhere.



PELMATOCHROMIS KRIBENSIS  
A BREEDERS REPORT OF SORTS by Maggi Mahoney, PVAS

It was a h--- of a winter in Northern Virginia, no one who lives here will argue that with me. But January and February were an ordeal and a half for me. First, with Pat in Iran the entire month of January, I had fish and cat, snow and ice to cope with on my own -- as well as a full time job becoming more pressure-full every day. As if that weren't bad enough, the first two weeks in February I also had a sick-a-bed husband to care for (he sneezed on an air plane in Iran and slipped a disc.) The second two weeks it was a trip or two daily to the hospital with clean pajamas, assorted goodies, books and an attempt at a cheerful face for a husband in traction -- as well as, of course, the fish and the cat and the snow and the ice. My main aim for the fish was maintenance, full stop. Hold the status quo, let the killies mope at their mops, the tetras dart among the danios -- but keep 'em all alive. (I didn't lose a fish.)

Not much live food got given -- lots of Tetra-min; the Ryukins enjoyed handfuls of a bumper crop of water sprite; an occasional helping of brine shrimp, thanks mainly to Ruth who shopped for 200 instead of 50 (fish that is) when weather permitted.

The main point to all this seeming crying in my beer -- on one of my occasional inspection forays I was delighted to find that our newest acquisitions -- a pair of kribensis -- had a pot full of eggs. Thrill! I watched and waited. By the time Pat was home and about again, all the eggs had disappeared, Mom and Dad were back circling the tank, but were there fry or not? Not as far as I could see. Then we had the PVAS board meeting -- with the inevitable tank inspection by all. Woody - flat on his tummy at the lower bank 10 where the kribis were housed, hollered "Look at all the babies". Sure enough, amongst the rocks and water sprite were a bevy of babies. By the time we removed Mom and Dad we had only 10 growing to teenage, but a handsome 10 they are. (And, 10 kribis = 15 points.) As far as day-by-day pH and etc breeding information goes -- you'll have to settle for by guess and by gosh. I can't tell you exactly what Pat's doctor's prognosis was for him while the kribis were spawning, but only guess that the water they were in was our usual neutral to slightly alkaline -- water temperature around 76°. Food, what ever Mom and Dad left and infusoria from decaying water sprite in profusion. (The water sprite, not the decay was in profusion.) Since then the same pair has presented us with another large spawn -- were removed almost immediately and look ready to go again momentarily, while spawn #2 is still in the 1/4" stage. So -- let nature take its course and even in a ten with minimal and amateur care, breeding for points is possible.

FOOTNOTE: At press time there was another flower pot full of eggs.





WILL THE REAL MR. PLECOSTOMUS  
PLEASE RISE?

Kerry Teats  
Plecostomus, April, 1978  
Blackhawk Aquarium Soc, Inc.

MORE THAN SCAVENGERS

This may sound like a ridiculous title but many of the so-called "plecostomos" sold in aquarium shops aren't really of the plecostomus genus.. A good example is the "bristle nose plecostomus", there is no know bristle nosed fish in the plecostomus genus, the bristle nose belongs to either the ancistrus of the xenocara genus. The general name plecostomus is applied to the fish of seven of the genera of the Loricariidae family. These seven genera are: Ancistrus; Hemianciatrus; Hypostomus; Panaque; Plecostomus; Stoniella; and Xenocara.. In many cases the fish in each of of these genera are so nearly identical that the average hobbyist finds it impossible to tell them apart. There are some that are easily identified once you become familiar with them, while others can only be identified as to genus by close scrutiny and ichthyological means. This article by no means plans to make you an expert on "plecostomus", only to inform you of some of the various types and possibly help you identify one or two of the more common ones.

The basic food and water requirements are generally the same for all 7 genera. They can stand a temperature range of from 65-90° F with the best around 75°. The water should be of medium hardness and slightly alkaline. Most of these fish seem to react to salt, so it is best kept out of their aquarium. As to food requirements, they are quite simple but very particular. An ample supply of algae or greens is essential. In addition to this they will eat most all of the commercially prepared tropical fish foods.

Many of these catfish are of a nocturnal nature and so the aquarium must afford them a place to hide during the day. A well planted tank suits them fine and for the most part they won't uproot plants. Care should be taken to avoid sharp edges and coarse gravel as these could harm their delicate mouth parts.

There are some physical characteristics of these fish that apply to all fish of the Loricariidae family. First of all, they are all armored catfish. Unlike callichthys there are generally three or four rows of bony scutes instead of the two that follow the armored head. In some genera the underside may be armored but in the 7 genera we are discussing the bellies are naked. These genera have an adipose fin while others of the Loricariidae family do not. The first ray of all fins except the caudal have a hard spine or ray. The mouth of these fish forms a sucking disk which enables them to scrape algae off rocks and other hard surfaces and to pull themselves along. Another peculiarity is the iris lobe over the eye. This serves as a means of restricting or increasing the light to the eye. When you are looking at him, it appears that the fish is winking at you. All of these traits are found in the 7 genera we are discussing and other more individualized characteristics will be discussed as we examine the different genera.

Where possible, ray and scale counts from Sterba's Freshwater Fishes of the World will be given. Abbreviations are used as follows: D=dorsal; A=anal; P=pectoral; V=ventral; C=caudal; Roman numbers after the letter indicated hard rays, arabic numbers indicate soft rays.



Example: DI/7 = Dorsal/ 1 hard ray/ 7 soft rays.

FAMILY: Loricariidae

GENUS - Ancistrus - located from Columbia south the the Amazon basin.

SPECIE - Ancistrus cirrhosus

Description - DI/7 - AI/4 - VI/5 - 23-24 bony scutes in lateral series rows. This fish is olive brown to brown black bodied with lighter spotting. Fins are light and spotted with a large black spot between first and second rays of dorsal.. Nose is covered with bristles. Adult size-5"

SPECIE - Ancistrus triadiatus

Description - No count available. This species colored similarly to A. cirrhosus but light areas of body form network pattern similar to C. reticulatus. Very large branched bristles on snout. Adult size-5"

GENUS - Hemiancistrus - located from Columbia to upper Amazon and Paraguay

SPECIE-Hemiancistrus nicefordi

Description - No count available. This fish hasn't been imported as a separate shipment, but occasional specimens show up in shipments of other fish. It has a brick red base color with dark spotting. Adult size-10"

SPECIE - Hemiancistrus vittatus

Description - No count available. Another fish that, while not directly imported, sometimes shows up in shipments of other "plecostomus" type fish. It has a light body with dark bands and a spotted face. Adult size - 9"

GENUS - Hypostomus - found in LaPlata region, Rio Grande de Sol and Trinidad.

SPECIE- Hypostomus plecostomus

Description - Grayish to dark brown with some spotting. Fins may be spotted in rows. Rather large dorsal. Adult size, wild - 24"+, aquarium,12"+.

GENUS - Panaque - from British Guiana and Brazil.

SPECIE-Panaque

Description - This fish is the popular and expensive royal plecostomus. The information on this genus is scarce and while there are several fish in the genus the information is about all I could find.

SPECIE - Panaque nigrolineatus

Description - This fish seems to be all head and upper body. Aquarium specimens are usually 7" or less, but it is said to reach well over 12" in the wild. The color varies from brown to gray with distinct black lines running the length of the body from head to tail. This fish doesn't like bright lights and should be definitely given a hiding place.

DI/7 - PI/6 - VI/5 - C/16 - 24-26 bony scutes per row.

GENUS - Plecostomus - Amazon and it's tributaries

SPECIE - Plecostomus bolivianus

Description - DI/12 - AI/4 - PI/6 - VI/5 - 28-30 bony scutes per row. Very dark green body with lighter fins and dark spots on the fins. Very large dorsal fin. Adult size-6" in aquarium, large in wild. There are three other common Plecostomus species, but they are similar to P. bolivianus in color and size. The major difference in these three fish is the dorsal count which is DI/7 instead of the DI/12. The three fish are: Plecostomus commersoni; Plecostomus punctatus; Plecostomus rachowi

GENUS - Soneiella - from British Guiana

SPECIE - Stoneiella leopardus

Description - DI/8 - AI/5 - PI/6 - VI/5 - 24 bony scutes per row. Another fish with a relatively large dorsal fin. It has a blue-black body with semi-translucent spots on all fins and the top edge of the dorsal and the top and bottom edges of caudal are edged in orange. A very attractive fish

GENUS - Xenocara - Northeastern South America.

SPECIE - Xenocara dolichoptera

Description - DI/8-9 - AI/4 - PI/5 - VI/5 - 23-24 bony scutes

This species has a structure on its gill cover that is covered with hooked spines. The coloring is dark brown to grey with dark blotches. The fins may be blue black with dirty white spots. Males have long bristles on snouth and fore area of face. Females have a single row of short bristles on edge of snout. Bristles on male may be forked.

This article was written with the idea of being a guide to show you the many varieties of fish that are sold as "plecostomus". Since none of these fish are bred with any amount of regularity\* I have omitted this from the article. Some of them are being bred with greater frequency and for more information on breeding check the books listed in the reference list below.

References:

Freshwater Fishes of the World, Gunter Sterba

Exotic Tropical Fishes, T.F.H. Publications

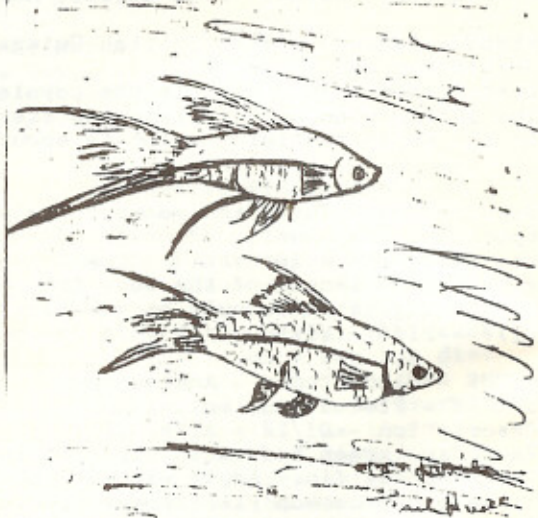
Complete Aquarists Guide to Freshwater Tropical Fish, John Gilbert, Ed.

Catfish, Drs. Emmens and Axelrod

\*Editor's note - Kerry Teats should get in touch with Ted Walsh of P.V.A.S if he/she thinks they are not being bred with "any regularity."

SUMMARY OF SHOW MONIES

Income	
Entries, show	\$249.00
Raffle	180.50
Auction: \$938.75	
Theirs: 697.28	
Ours	241.47
Cakes etc.	10.05
Total	<u>\$681.02</u>
Expenditures	
Judges	\$ 60.00
Ribbons	75.03
Engraving trophies	9.57
Judges Luncheon	20.00
Postage, fliers	<u>26.50</u>
Profit	\$489.92



Helleri by Herrell  
(Carl that is)



PERSONAL VIEWS AND SALLIES:

The Delta Tale editor would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to Ruth Brewer, who has "loaned" the publication her portable electric typewriter. It is so much more pleasant to type at home, after dinner, than stay late at work while Pat starves at home -- or pecking along on my old manuel portable. Thanks, Ruth --you're a life saver.

JOE PAULL RECOGNIZED:

Bits & Pisces, the Mid-South Aquarium Society's publication, mentioned Joe Paull's Delta Tale articles -- the December "Aapistogramma cacatoides" and May's "Spisto agassizi"-in their own April-May issue as to be recommended for reading. Congratulations, Joe -- and to all you other non-writers, keep in mind that you can't be mentioned if you don't submit an article. WRITE!!!

TIPS FROM TACOMA:

Got these from The Aquarian, the Tacoma Aquarium Society Publication in May: Put a nylon stocking over a box filter and you don't have to worry about fry being trapped. You can also put a stocking over the end of your Dynaflo tubes -- fixed with rubber band -- so fry aren't sucked into the filter. When you move large fish, avoid a round bucket (use a plastic bag first) because the fish have a tendency to swim in circles, which can cause eye fungus or even damage an eye.

Anyone have a paragraph or comment -- if I can't get you to write an article, how about a sentence? Comments on meetings or programs gratefully accepted -- just let me know it's for the record.

RECOMMENDED READING FROM OUR EXCHANGES

"Kelly Green Eggs" - a breeding report on the Loricara filamentosa, the whiptail cat, by Shirley Brisson, Tacoma Aq. Soc - republished in The Plecostomus, April, 1978.

"The Bloat" - discussion of a disease found chiefly among African Cichlids. by Stu Herman, reprinted in the Kitsap Aquarium, March, 1978 - from The Cichlidophile, Denver, Colo - Jan.-Feb., 1978.

"Discus, Dilemma or Delight?", Herb & Carrol Kress, Tank Topics, Greater Akron Aquarium Society, April, 1978.

There's some good reading in most of our Exchange publications - which for the uninitiated are other local aquarium clubs "Delta Tale" equivalent. For any of the above-- or for just a handful of good reading sometime, ask Mike or Susan Sprague. It would be a good idea to call them before the regular meeting, so they could bring you your requested issues when they come and give them to you there. Phone: 841-0857



# bap REPORT

NAME	POINTS
Jan & Dave McInturff	405***
Ruth Brewer	270**
Susan & Mike Sprague	165**
Joe Paull	135**
Gerry Hoffman	115*
Bev Fazil	100*
Gene Aldridge	80
Diane Noxon	70*
John Jessup	55*
Pat Mahoney	25
Pat Tietjen	15
Jerry Donnelly	10

Recent spawnings: Fazil - Rainbow cichlid

- \* Breeder Award
- \*\* Intermediate Breeder Award
- \*\*\* Advanced Breeder Award

\*\*\*\*\*



## BOWL SHOW CATEGORIES:

	<u>CICHLIDS</u>	<u>OTHER EGGLAYER/LIVEBEARER</u>
July	Central & S.A. Large Mbuna, non-pseudotropheus Open	Anabantoids Corydoras Open
Aug:	Central & S.A. Medium Other fitlake Open	Livebearers Killifish Open

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## P.V.A.S. MEETING PROGRAMS TO BE OUTSTANDING

- JULY:** The Salt Water Aquarium, Slide and script.  
An introduction to the beauty and wonders that can be found when you bring the ocean into your home. NOT a "how to" on setting up a salt water tank. Over 100 slides from the Greater Akron Aquarium Society.
- AUGUST:** Photographing Fish, Speaker, Al Liebetrau  
Primarily a Betta photographer, Al will talk and demonstrate with his own slides his methods of achieving quality photos. He'll also include mistakes and helpful hints. Bring your own camera for advice from an expert.
- SEPTEMBER:** The Mbuna Group, American Cichlid Ass'n Slid and script program. 80 slides about this interesting Cichlid group.



BOWL SHOW WINNERS, JUNE, 1978

CICHLIDS

Central & S.A. Dwarf

1st - Fazil, Bev  
2nd - Fazil, Bev  
3rd - Fazil, Bev

Pseudotropheus

1st - Warren, K.  
2nd - Warren, K.  
3rd - Warren, K.

Open

1st - Warren, K.  
2nd - Warren, K.  
3rd - Whitesell, G.

EGGLAYERS, LIVEBEARERS

Tetras

1st - Prendergast, M.  
2nd - Fazil, Bev  
3rd - Whitesell, G.

Characins

no entries

Open

1st - Harrell, C.  
2nd - Fazil, B.  
3rd - Whitesell, G.

<u>MONTH QUARTER ANNUAL</u>				<u>MONTH QUARTER ANNUAL</u>			
Fazil, B.	12	22*	22	Fazil, B.	5	34*	47
Warren, K.	21	21	21	Garvey, J.	0	20	20
Garvey, J.	0	10	10	Prendergast	8	14	14
Griffin, W.	0	6	6	Hoffman, G.	0	0	13
Harrell, C.	0	4	4	Mahoney	0	0	13
Prendergast	1	3	3	Harrell, C.	6	12	12
Dickens, S.	0	3	3	Lenzen, M.	0	0	10
Whitesell, G.	2	2	2	Whitesell, A	0	6	6
				Whitesell, G	3	3	3
				Merrell, M.	0	2	2
				Elko, V.	0	1	1
				Griffin, W	0	0	10

\*Quarterly Award

Judges: Aldridge, G. & Sprague, S. Judges: Hoffman, G. & Best, Dana

In the open cichlid category for May J. Garvey should have been listed as first and C. Harrell as second. The point standings have been corrected and I regret the error. D. McInturff

\*\*\*\*\*

A WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Our own show and auction and some new arrivals in the area brought P.V.A.S some new names for the roster. (We loose some, too, so don't stop recruiting.) Let's all give a helping hand and hearty welcome to Bonne & Gill Baldwin of Alexandria, Va.; Kevin & Diane Barry of Arlington, Va.; Vincent Elko of Silver Spring, Md.; Garland Neese of Alexandria, Va. Jerry Fay from Fairfax, Va.; as well as Thomas Wright and Carol Kawecky of Greenbelt, Md.



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 6219  
SHIRLINGTON STATION  
ARLINGTON, VA. 22206

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

1978 MEETING DATES

JAN. 9  
FEB. 13  
MAR. 13

APRIL 10  
MAY 8  
JUNE 12

JULY 10  
AUG. 14  
SEPT. 11

OCT. 9  
NOV. 20  
DEC. 11

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE COCA-COLA BOTTLING PLANT, 5401 SEMINARY ROAD, BAILEYS CROSSROADS,  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA. MEETINGS START AT 8:00 P.M., BOWL SHOW REGISTRATION, 7:45 P.M.