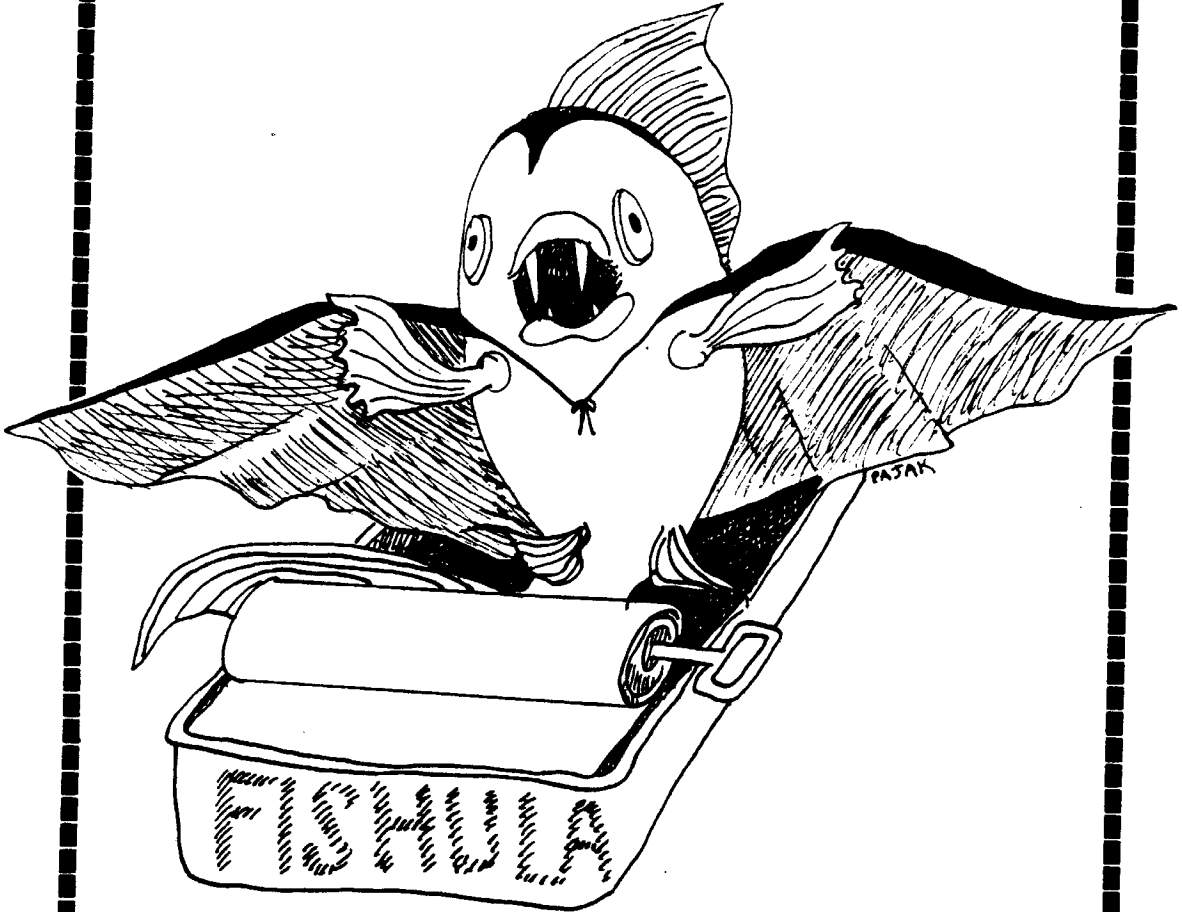


* DELTA TALE *

Oct. 1995
vol. 16 #10
50¢

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society



Fall Auction- Oct. 20th- Details Inside

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

Delta Tale is published for the benefit of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society inc., a non-profit organization, established in 1960 for the purpose of furthering the aquarium hobby by dissemination of information, encouraging friendly competition, soliciting participation in its shows, and promoting good fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to; PVAS, P.O. Box 6219, Shirlington Station, Arlington, VA 22206. Original articles and drawings may be reprinted by non-profit organizations if credit is given to the author, Delta Tale, and PVAS. Two copies of the publication in which the reprint appears must be sent to Delta Tale c/o PVAS. Please place the authors name on one copy to insure that it gets to him/her. Anyone else wishing to reprint items from Delta Tale should contact the author or Delta Tale for permission. PVAS and Delta Tale disclaim any responsibility for content or availability of advertised merchandise or services in these pages. Customer satisfaction is a matter to be worked out exclusively between the advertiser and the buyer. All material for inclusion in Delta Tale must reach the editor by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

PVAS OFFICERS 1985

President: Gerry Hoffman Corr. Sec.: Amy Stirman
 (703) 347-7486 Rec. Sec. : Pat Gore
Vice Pres.: John Jessup
 (703) 534-1704
Treasurer: Ray Hughes

PVAS BOARD OF GOVERNORS 1985

John Mangan, Kenny Warren, Jerry Stirman, Alex Cummins
ex- officio member- Pat Mahoney

PVAS COMMITTEE HEADS 1985

Auctions:	Bowl Shows: Nathan Manwaring
BAP : Pat Mahoney	Programs : Doug Mann
HAP : Alex Cummins	Ways & Means: Bob Roser
Library : Maggi Mahoney	FAAS: Gerry Hoffman
Membership: Pat Gore	Delta Tale: John Mangan
Spring Show: John Jessup	

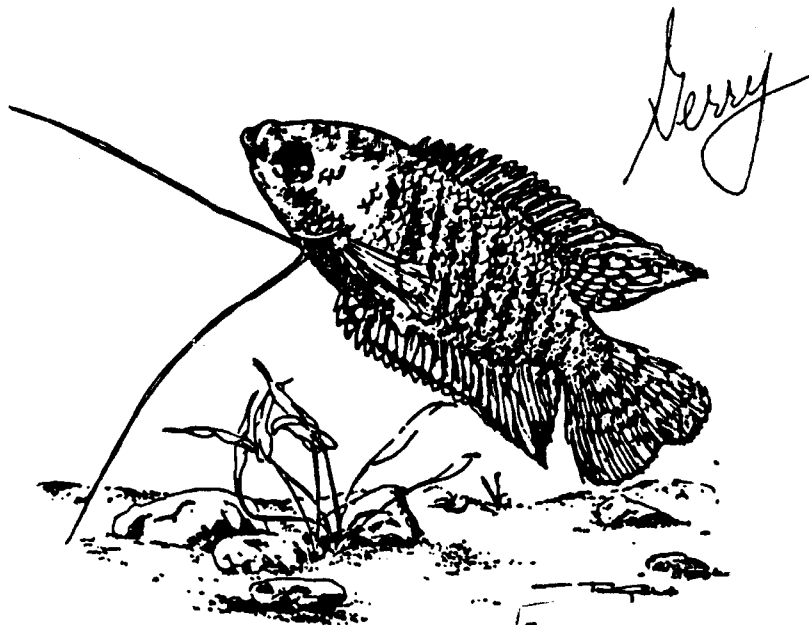
Printed by Top Cat Printing, 164 Colburn Dr. Manassas Park, VA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another Fall Banquet and Auction is upon us again this month. Excellent accommodations for the weekend of October 19-20 will be provided by the Falls Church Inn on Rt. 50, Falls Church. The dinner Saturday night follows a social hour, and then we turn our attention to the speaker afterwards. The topic; not Cichlids, not catfish, not even Goodies, but an All-American selection of fishes found in the USA. Nowhere will you be able to see better slides of our own East Coast native fishes. I think you will be amazed at what is available right here in our own area. John Brill is nationally known for his photographic excellence and hobby expertise, so come out and enjoy and learn something in the process.

If you managed to read last month's Delta Tale you probably are well aware of our own Goodied King's ability to travel with fish only to have them meet their maker prematurely. How can this be? I mean, we have a true superstar as our editor. Just think of all the many things either named after him or by him: The Mangan Carta, the movie Mangan Force, a few TV shows like Mangan, P.I., Goodied Morning America, and the ever popular phrase, Goodied Grief. Thank Goodiedness that sentence is all over. Hey John, did a Goody-whatever win Best -of-Show in Kalamazoo? Everyone knows that we had to set up a special category for Goodies in our own Spring Show for John because if he had to travel any more than the five miles from his house to the Show the fish would never make it.

November will be the time for PVAS'S elections for next year's officers. Already some exciting ideas are in the making for things to do and ways to make the club more exciting. If you have any input as to what you would like to do next year let somebody know. Remember, no mini-auction in October. Save all those fish and other goodies (not Goodies) for the Giant Auction on Sunday. See the flyer for all of the necessary information. And I'll see you at the next meeting.



FRUM THE EDITORZ DESK

Lots of stuff will be happening in the next couple of months. This month we have our fall banquet and auction. The banquet will be a REAL dinner this year- with tables, plates, ... the works. Our speaker will be John Brill and his topic will be native fishes. I've never heard John speak but I hear that he is very good. Get your reservations in to Ray early. A reservation form can be found in this issue in the colored pages. The auction is being held in a new place this time- the Falls Church Inn located in Falls Church, VA (where else?). Again- see the colored pages for details and a map. As usual there should be LOTS of good stuff offered for sale and raffled. Plan to come you'll be glad you did.

Next month is election month. The nominating committee has met and sent me their list of proposed candidates, located elsewhere in this issue. I emphasize proposed because it is still not too late for anyone who wants to run to do so. Nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to the election (at the Nov. meeting).

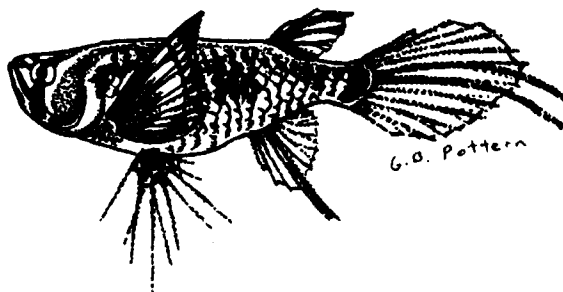
In Dec. we have the Christmas party and annual awards. It's a little early to be thinking about this but I thought I'd throw it in just to show you that PVAS has a lot happening for you now that the summer slump is over.

I can't think of any other business for now so I'll just fill up some space with a little trivia-

did you know that it is common practice for goodeid owners to voluntarily exclude themselves from best in show competition? The reason we do this is because if we didn't goodeids would win every time and all of the people with plain fish, like Malpolluted whateversi, would get jealous and resent us. Since goodeid keepers are so noble and selfless this sacrifice is made to keep harmony in our hobby.

That's it for this month so until next month- goodeid bye.

John



G.B. Potter

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Below is the slate of officers proposed by the nominating committee. Elections for the 1986 PVAS officers will take place at the November meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at that time. Anyone wishing to run for any office should get someone to nominate them from the floor AND be present to accept the nomination. If you don't feel that you know anyone well enough to ask them to nominate you then contact me or any other current officer. We will be glad to help you.

John Mangan

Proposed Candidates for 1986

President- Bob Roser
Vice President- Bob Pallansch
Treasurer- Gerry Hoffman
Recording Sec.- Pat Gore
Corresponding Sec.- Mark Westling
Board of Governors- 2 positions open
 John Jessup
 Ray Hughes

Q & A

Anyone having questions on fishes or related topics may send them to Delta Tale c/o John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna, VA 22180.

Trading Post

All ads for the trading post should be sent to Delta Tale c/o John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna, VA 22180 by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

Want: Allotoca dugesi, Zoogoneticus quitzeoensis, old aquarium magazines and books.
Have: Goodeids, several species; Egyptian Mouthbrooder;
Contact John Mangan, address above.

THE PANAMANIAN ACARA

Pat Mahoney

Aequidens caerulopunctatus is the only known species of the Genus *Aequidens* found in the Republic of Panama. American hobbyists were introduced to this animal through the efforts of Dan Fromm and Dale Weber during a collecting trip to Panama in 1983.

A shy and peaceful cichlid, *Ae. caerulopunctatus* will reach seven inches in length in the wild. My adults are easily five inches in length but I doubt they will grow any longer in an aquarium. The coloration of my adults are basically two-tone. Yellowish brown on top, divided by a black lateral band from eye to caudal peduncle and neutral to off-white below. A gold filigree pattern sets off the caudal fin. The pectoral fins are bright yellowish gold.

According to Dan Fromm (from whom I begged a bag full of fry) the parents were collected from two different locations, both on the Pacific drainage. The first location was on the Burica Peninsula near the Western extremity of Panama, not far from Costa Rica. The second location was as far East as you can go and still be on the Pacific side of the country at a place called Canclon (or Ganclon). Though identical species, those collected at the former location (Burica peninsula) were basically darker in normal coloration.

In November, 1983 I stopped to visit Dan enroute home from the North Jersey Aquarium Society All Cichlid Face-Off. His wild specimens had spawned and of course the Virginia Fish Bandit struck again. Once home, 14 inch-long fry were placed in the only clean tank I had available, 40 gallons no less. I had meant to divide them (the light and dark varieties) into separate tanks, but being long on intent and short on action, their entire lives have been spent in the original 40 gallon setup.

At feeding time all fry disappeared among the rock work - really skittish. They still disappear today and they are all five inches in length. At this size I began to think that I had a tank full of mules. I saw no lip-locking, no male chasing female. None of the outward signs that the reproduction cycle was about to begin. On the evening of 16 August, 1985 I turned on the tank lights to be greeted by an unusual sight. 12 adult *Ae. caerulopunctatus* were crowded into the upper left hand corner of the tank and two VERY black adults were occupying the lower right hand corner of the tank. Their spawning coloration was so black they looked as if they had been Simonized. In a small pit near the intersection of two large stones lay a dollop of squirming wrigglers with one or two wee ones actually free swimming an inch or so above the sand.

Since they need four to five days to become free-swimming, I had obviously noticed them for the first time on the fourth day after hatching. Sure enough, the next day saw 40 to 50 free-swimming fry guarded by momma with poppa patrolling overhead.

A week later the patrol area of the male was reduced to approximately a quarter of the tank on the right hand side. The other dozen adults can now occupy the remaining three quarters of the tank without vicious attacks from the proud poppa. A second pair has begun showing signs of pairing off in the left side of the tank.

By the time the PVAS Fall auction occurs in October there should be quite a few bags of *Aequidens caerulopunctatus* available to the hobbyist that would like to try something new.

THE WATER CHANGE
by Ken Drost, WNYAS

TUESDAY:

- 6:45 Yawn at TV Guide listings.
6:47 Open lid on tank to feed fish.
6:48 Back away to wipe eyes and clear nose.
6:49 Convince wife to go out for evening so you can work undisturbed.
7:00 Wave bye-bye and open beer.
7:10 Gather hoses, buckets, hand towel; clear area around first tank.
7:11 Look for time-saving "Quick Coupler" sink attachment for instant drain/fill.

7:45 Decide to buy new "Quick Coupler" at pet store Wednesday.
7:46 Open beer.
7:50 Grasp hose and insert right arm in 55 gallon tank and aim left arm to bucket.

7:51 Dry off right arm and roll up sleeves.
7:52 Repeat grasp hose, insert, and draw with mouth to start suction.
7:53 Cleanse mouth with Listermint and try to stop coughing.
8:00 Open beer.
8:05 Repeat grasp, insert, draw.
8:06 Mop floor around 55 gallon and set up fan to dry woodwork and wallpaper.

8:20 Open beer.
8:25 Repeat grasp, etc.
8:30 Bang end of hose against bucket rim to loosen gravel in hose.
8:40 Gravel loose, water flows ...
8:41 Mop floor; put fan on high; put on dry shoes; open beer.
9:00 Empty first bucket down toilet.
9:01 Mop floor around toilet. Hang throw rug over tub to dry.
9:10 Open beer.
9:12 Get sick from combination of beer, Listermint, and tank water; clear head outside.

9:40 Empty second bucket of water.
9:45 Empty third.
9:55 Empty fifth.
10:00 Search for grinding noise and source of static.
10:02 Unplug heater and power filter. Add up cost of new coupler, heater, and repair of filter motor.
10:15 Look for Roloids.
10:20 Fill bucket. Test water. Burn hand.
10:30 Explain to wife that tank is half full and fan is running to treat minor disease with air-cure.
10:40 Look through TV Guide and wonder why you gave up stamp collecting.

(reprinted from Neptune's Notes, Western New York Aquarium Society)



AUTOMATIC ACCLIMATIZER
by Gene Savoy, TFSRI

I had a great time at the Chinese Auction held at the November meeting of TFSRI. And, judging from the laughter of the crowd, a lot of other people enjoyed the evening too. There were many fine items in the auction. Some of the items were fish. I brought home a fish.

It was after eleven o'clock when I got home, and at that time of night I didn't want to spend a lot of time taking care of a fish. But I didn't want to just dump it in a tank and take a chance that it would survive the shock of being put into different water. It is highly unlikely that my water is the same pH and dH as the water that the fish has been in, so I want to gradually mix my water with the water the fish is in.

This used to be a real chore for me. I used to put the fish in a bowl and add a little of my water every five minutes or so, and after a half-hour or forty five minutes I would release the fish into the tank. It's not a chore anymore. Instead of staying up until midnight to take care of the fish, I only spend two minutes two minutes to do the whole job. I used a homemade fish acclimatizer and releaser.

An automatic fish acclimatizer and releaser sounds like a fancy piece of equipment, but it isn't. It's made out of a two liter plastic soda bottle and a coat hanger. Simply cut the bottle in two at the shoulder, and remove the base. Drill a sixteenth inch hole in the center of the bottom of the bottle. Bend the coat hanger loosely around the bottle so that it holds the bottle upright in the tank, but allow the bottle to slide freely. Bend the hook of the coat hanger to fit on the edge of the aquarium.

Put the fish in the bottle, filling the bottle no more than half full to allow for at least a fifty-fifty water mix before the fish is released. Make sure the bottle is over the tank when filling, so that the water will not run out of the hole onto the floor. As the bottle floats in the tank, water will come in through the hole in the bottom, and it will slowly sink. It takes about a half hour to fill completely and drop to the bottom of the tank. The fish swims out of the bottle and you can remove the bottle at your convenience.

If a fish is too large for a soda bottle, a one gallon plastic jar can be used in the same way, as long as your tank is deep enough to allow the jar to sink completely.

(reprinted from Tankquillizer, Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island)

PACKING FISH FOR AN AUCTION

John Mangan, PVAS

If you go to enough auctions you will eventually see fishes packed in just about anything that will hold water (and some things that won't). While large and/or spiny fish, such as large cichlids or catfish, are best in a bucket or tank, most fish should be placed in clear plastic bags. When I say plastic bags I don't mean ziploc bags. What I'm referring to are plastic fish bags. "Well where do I get these bags?" you may ask. Simple-- go into any pet store that sells fish and ask. They will usually have several different sizes and will gladly sell, or if you are a regular customer maybe even give, you as many as you need. They aren't very expensive, the small ones are only a few cents each.

Having your fish in a decent looking bag will increase the price you get for them at the auction. If your fish is in a nice, clean, new, bag it will give people the impression that you care about your fish and that the fish in the nice bag is probably of a higher quality than the one in the used ziploc bag. The higher price you will get for your fish will more than offset the small investment in plastic bags. REMEMBER the fish will be in the bag all day so make sure that you get enough and the right size bags so they aren't crowded. If you need to use more than one bag for a group of fish the bags can be fastened together with strong tape. Also when figuring out how many bags you will need keep in mind that the fish should all be double bagged. There are several reasons for this: catfish and other spiny fishes will often poke holes in a single bag; if the inner bag leaks you will still have the outer one; there will be no corners for the fish to get stuck in (this will be made clearer on the next page); and finally- if you've ever been to an auction you most likely have seen at least a few bags of fish tumble off of the table and crash onto the floor, a double bag will give your fish more protection.

The next thing to do is to label your bags properly. There are several methods that can be used. A piece of paper can be placed in between the two bags or you can write on the outside of the bag with a WATERPROOF marker. The label should contain the common and/or scientific name of the fish, the number of fish in the bag, and the minimum bid if there is one. Also include any other information that could be helpful- are the fish a pair, do they need any special care, is there something special about them ie are they a new strain or rare. Little bits of information like this will often increase the value of your fish to a potential buyer, or catch the interest of someone who would have otherwise passed them by.

Packing fish... cont.

Bags should contain a minimum amount of water and as much air as possible. DO NOT seal them with wire ties. Use tight rubber bands or best of all a good knot.(see below).

Tying a bag properly is not difficult, yet there are a lot of people who have been keeping fishes for many years that still can't do it. There are even many people in the fish business that don't do it right. Below are step by step instructions that, with a little practice, will allow you to tie good firm, non-leaky bags.

Before reading any further go get an empty fish bag . The following will be much easier to follow if you have a bag in front of you to try it on.

Step 1- open the bag and place your thumbs at opposite corners inside of the opening. Now place several fingers on the outside of the bag and against your thumbs. Press your fingers in and up. You should now have turned the top 2-3" of the bag inside-out forming a collar. This will make it easier to hold the bag and to pour the water in.

Step 2- hold the top of the bag firmly with one hand and then spread the opening wide with the other. Now, still holding tight, pour in the water (make sure you take your hand out of the bag first though).

Step 3- unfold the top of the bag.

Step 4- hold the top of the bag firmly with one hand and with the other spread the entire bag open. Resting the bottom of the bag on a table will make this easier if you are having a problem.

Step 5- now grasp the bag firmly very near the top. This should trap a lot of air in the bag if you did the last step right. DO NOT blow into the bag to fill it with air. "Used air" is no good for the fish.

Step 6- With your free hand grasp the tip of the bag that should be sticking through your other hand. Pull up until the bag is very firm like a balloon.

Step 7- now twist the top of the bag until it resembles a rope. Wrap this around your index finger, making a loop. Push the tip of the bag through the loop and pull to make a knot. Hold the top of the bag and push down hard on the knot to make it tight.

All of this isn't as complicated as it sounds. Practice a few times with an empty bag and you should quickly get the hang of it. Once you have your single bag sealed up it should be placed inside of a second bag. Start with the second bag flat (ie. no air in it). Turn the full bag upside down. Place it into the opening of the empty bag knot side first. Slide it all the way in then tie a knot as in step 7 above. Notice that both ends of the bag are rounded, there are no corners for the fish to get stuck in.

Last, but not least, read the auction rules carefully and make sure you follow all of them.

Reprinted from May 1985 Delta Tale

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY ANNUAL FALL BANQUET & AUCTION - 1985

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, October 19 — Banquet

TIME: 6:30 to 8:00 pm cocktails (Cash Bar)

8:00 pm Dinner

9:00 pm Banquet Speaker - John Brill

Sunday, October 20 - Auction

TIME: 9 am to 12:00 noon — Registration of Items for Auction.

11:00 am - Auction Begins, (Ends when finished.)

LOCATION BOTH EVENTS

Falls Church Inn, 6633 Arlington Blvd. (Rt. 50), Falls Church, Virginia 22042

Phone (703) 237-0530

See Details Inside, Map on Page 4

★ EXCITING RAFFLE PRIZES ★ WIN A 55 GAL. SET UP ★



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

1985 FALL BANQUET

Saturday, October 19, 1985

The Falls Church Inn, 6633 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, Virginia.

COCKTAILS: 6:30 to 8:00 pm (Cash bar)

DINNER: Approximately 8 pm - Sit down affair

MENU: Boneless Stuffed Chicken Breast with Sauce Hawaiian or London Broil with Sherry Mushroom Sauce. Dinner includes Salad, potatoe, rolls, beverage etc.

PRICE: \$12.50 Per Person

SPEAKER: John Brill

SUBJECT: Native Fishes of the East Coast with slides and talk on fish collection in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, Streams of the North East, The Okefenokee Swamp and lots more.

BIOGRAPHY: John Brill is 34 years old, the father of a 7 year old daughter. He is a truck driver, artist, writer, aquarist, fish collector, photographer.

John is a member of AKA, NANFA, LIKA, MAKKA, Desert Fishes Council, Associate Editor, Journal of the American Killifish Association, and American Currents. He has a BS in physiological psychology from Colgate Unversity (1973)

We would appreciate it VERY much if you would observe the reservation receive date of Oct. 14 - we MUST tell the chef how many are coming!

.....

— RESERVATION BLANK —

All reservations must be received by Monday, October 14. Please forward the reservation blank below to:
P.V.A.S. Banquet, c/o Ray Hughes, Treasurer
8 Dorothy Lane
Rockville, MD 20851

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Number in Party: _____ Phone No. _____

Choice of Entree (Please specify number of each): _____ Chicken _____ London Broil

Please Enclose your check, payable to PVAS, for \$12.50 per person, including children.)

.....

P.V.A.S. AUCTION - SUNDAY. OCTOBER 20

RULES FOR THE SELLER:

1. You do not have to be a member of PVAS to buy or sell hobby-related items, including fish, plants, equipment etc.
2. Registration of items for the auction will begin at 9 am and will end promptly at 12:00 noon on Sunday, October 20.
3. Auction will start at 11 am while registration is still in progress.
4. All items **MUST** be labeled with identity of contents, number in bag, sex (if possible) and other pertinent data Use a permanent ink marker or adhesive label. Labeling equipment will be available at the auction, but labeling must be accomplished before the items will be registered.
 - a. Fish: "Pair" means one of each sex. "Mated Pair" means a pair that have spawned WITH EACH OTHER. "Trio" means one male and two females. "Reverse Trio" means two males and one female. "Mixed sexes" means at least one specimen of each sex. If uncertain, the bag should be marked "Unsexed".
 - b. Supplies: All aquarium equipment **MUST** be labeled as to working condition. (i.e. it must be stated if a tank leaks or is broken).
5. Proper fish bags **MUST** be used. Live items must be bagged with ample air and water. Fish packed in "Baggies" or similar bags will **NOT** be registered. If a fish is registered in a tank or bowl, the container will be considered part of the item and it will be auctioned as a unit. After registration, the Auction Committee reserve the right to re-bag any live item as is necessary.
6. Registration is limited to fifteen (15) items per person. **There will be no exceptions.**
7. A limit of five (5) bags per species or color form/variety is allowed unless prior approval is given by the Auction Chairman.
8. For every five (5) items placed in the auction, one (1) colored sticker will be given to the seller to attach to the item of his choice. These items will be sold first at the auction.
9. Bags will be offered "as is" and will be sold as an item. Once registered, the contents of the bag may not be split.
10. Each item carries a \$1.00 minimum, unless the seller assigns a higher minimum. The seller may lower the minimum on an item that does not move during the auction.
11. No payment will be made to seller on the day of the auction. Payment will be forwarded by mail within ten (10) days after the auction date. It is the responsibility of the SELLER to be sure P.V.A.S. has their proper name and address to receive payment. Envelopes for this purpose will be filled out at the registration desk.
12. The seller receive 2/3 of the selling price, PVAS retains 1/3.
13. All items not sold must be claimed at the end of the auction or they will be disposed of at the Auction Chairman's discretion.
14. Auctioneer retains the right to set aside improperly bagged or marked item, or any sick fish or otherwise unsaleable item.
15. Fish species that are restricted by either Federal or State statute will not be accepted. These include, but are not limited to: Piranhas, Texas Cichlids and Walking Catfish.

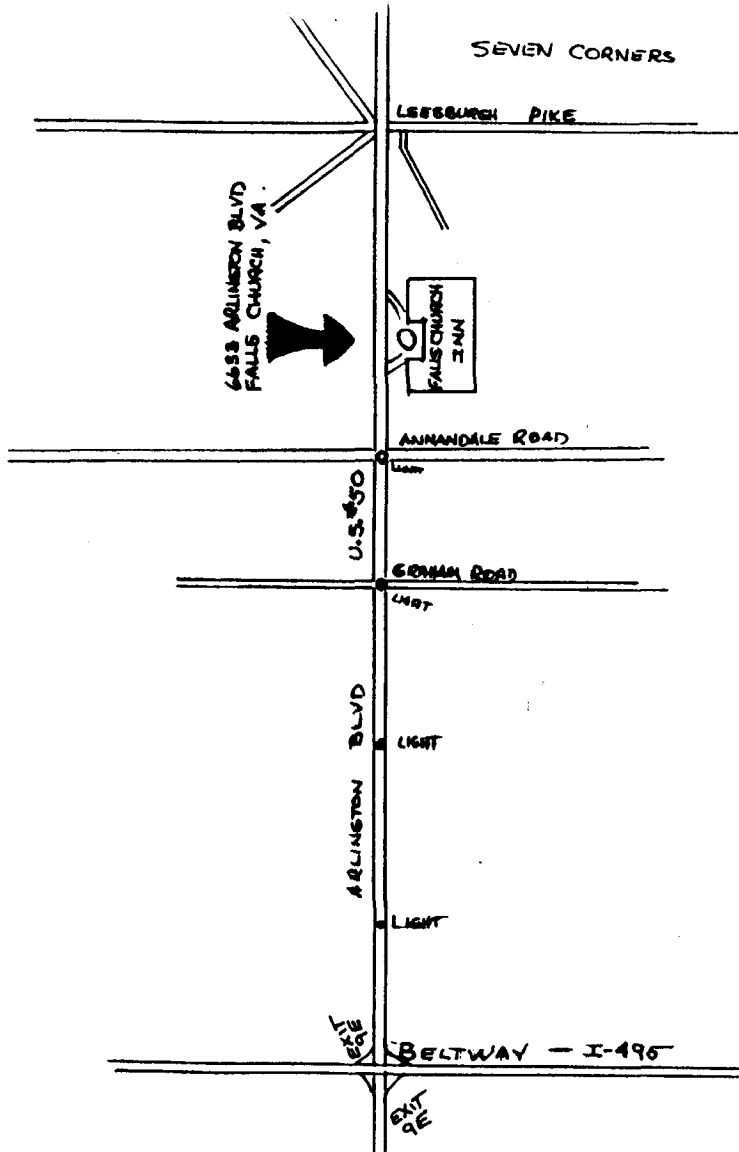
RULES FOR THE BIDDER:

1. All persons wishing to participate will be required to sign in with their full name and address. Bidding numbers will be assigned to all buyers.
2. Items may be inspected before the auction begins and during intermissions only.
3. All bidding raises will be in fifty (50) cent increments up to \$5.00. At that point, \$1.00 bidding raises will be used. The Auctioneer has the right to alter this procedure at his discretion.
4. Successful bidders will have their items brought to them, at which time payment is expected. If a bidder wishes to "run a tab" and pay by cash or check at the end of the auction, please see the Treasurer before the auction. Proper identification will be required for payment by check.
5. In all instances the decision of the auctioneer is final.

SEE MAP ON BACK

LOCATION BOTH EVENTS

Falls Church Inn, 6633 Arlington Blvd. (Rt. 50), Falls Church, Virginia 22042



MISTREATED MOLLIES
by Sue Altland, WRAS

When this club was first formed, I was keeping mainly livebearers. A certain color variety of mollies was my favorite and whenever they were brought in for bowl shows, they received many ribbons, many compliments, and many questions.

The color variety I preferred was the common Poecilia sphenops with a rich, velvety black body that carried a broad bright orange vertical stripe on the edge of the tail. They also frequently carried a bright golden spot in the center of the eye.

The questions they drew were always the same. What were my mystical secrets for maintaining the richness of the velvety black? What were the secrets to obtaining robust bodies and sizes of 3 1/4 inches in males and larger in females, when their males seldom reached more than two inches? What were the secrets of entering the same male in three years of bowl shows, when theirs' usually lasted six to eight months? And what were the secrets to spawns of 150 or more?

The answer to all these questions is the same. You MUST treat mollies as mollies!! Just because they are livebearers does not mean they are a beginners' fish. Just because they are livebearers does not mean their needs are the same as guppies, platys, or swordtails.

Somehow, over the years of aquarium keeping, mollies have obtained the reputation as an easy beginners' fish and good candidate for a community tank. This is a great disservice to a wonderful breed.

Mollies have also gained the reputation of being weak, relatively short-lived, susceptible to the shimmies, thin bodied, and very prone to ick. Although the accusations are true, they are not to be blamed on the breed, but rather on the hobbyist for not meeting the needs of the fish.

I find that the amount of individualized attention a hobbyist gives a fish is in direct proportion to the dollar value of the fish. If the fish costs \$6.00 or \$8.00, we'll locate it in our books and cater to what the literature says it requires. But we're willing to virtually destroy a 79 cent variety dozens of times over, rather than take that trouble.

When searching the literature, you'll find several reasons why mollies won't do well in a community tank, but probably the most outstanding is the need for salt in their water. If properly acclimated, they can be placed in any degree of salinity up to and including a full marine tank. This is not to say you must become a saltwater aquarist to raise good mollies. They will show a marked improvement with as little as two tablespoons of salt per gallon of water. I preferred to raise mine in a brackish water tank. I simply used commercial sea salt and mixed it with twice the amount of salt the package called for. The addition of salt is the only difference from a regular freshwater set-up.

The next item we must pay attention to is their dietary needs. While most community tanks are fed once a day with a basic flake, this will hardly cause your mollies to thrive. They require large amounts of greens in their diet. There are many brands of vegetable flakes on the market, as well as several brands of frozen fish foods that make a frozen spinach and a frozen vegetable diet. Raising duckweed is a no-cost, easy method to provide greens. In general, live plants did not tolerate the high concentration of salt in my mollie tanks, so I found it necessary to grow the duckweed in freshwater tanks and move small portions to the mollies for feeding. Also, if mollies are kept at an appropriate temperature, they will have high appetites and require two or three feedings a day.

I'm way ahead of you. You're saying "What does water temperature have to do with how often mollies need a feeding?" Fish, being cold-blooded animals, depend for their existence upon the surrounding temperature. High temperatures (mollies do great at 80 degrees F.) mean increased metabolic rates and more food is required to maintain the higher metabolic rates. This is no problem since mollies are not finicky eaters, accepting anything offered, whether it be flakes, freeze dried, frozen, or live, with live, of course, much preferred. I found three feedings do best - one feeding entirely of green matter, one feeding of a basic flake that includes green matter, and one feeding of something meaty.

To compensate for any deficiencies overlooked in three varied meals a day, I suggest the inclusion of a multi-vitamin. Since my mollies were kept in a brackish tank, I used a liquid called "Marine Vitamin Complex", following package directions.

This increased metabolic rate caused by the higher temperature also causes an increased growth rate.

One caution about maintaining mollies, or any other fish, at this higher temperature: as the temperature increases the oxygen content of the water drops rapidly. So to avoid acute oxygen deficiency, in addition to the circulation from the filter, you may want to add an airstone.

I do not recommend the use of an undergravel filter in a mollie tank. The very reactions that cause a biological filter to work causes the pH to drop, and testing has proven acidic water to retard fish growth. And mollies prefer alkaline water.

So, if you would like to raise mollies with qualities touted in the older aquarium literature, the solution is simple. Don't make these fish hang in there as best they can, given the condition of the usual community tank.

For GREAT mollies, all you have to do is treat your mollies like mollies!!!

(reprinted from Wet Pet Gazette, White Rose Aquarium Society)

LAMPROLOGUS BUESCHERI

By: Peter Durkin, M.C.A.

Lamprologus buescheri is the latest of the latest among the new Lamp-
rologine introductions from Lake Tanganika. Originally imported from Zambia
in 1983 and carefully sequestered in Europe for a year and it was first intro-
duced to North America in the fall of 1984. The basic body color can range
from blue white to deep purple depending on the fishes mood and on the type
of lighting it is being subjected to. There are two dark longitudinal stripes
running the length of the body and one which transverses the dorsal fin. This
fin is tipped with bright electric blue and there is an electric blue crescent
under the fishes eye. Add a sharply forked tail to the picture and one can
readily realize that this is a rather special animal! The body is rather
elongate though it broadens noticeably with age. The head is triangular, much
like that of L. leleupi. The fishes head shape and dentition suggests micro-
preditation, most probably on crustaceans. This is borne out by the obser-
vation that in the aquarium it does not sift the gravel but instead picks the
food particles daintily off the surface individually. It is not particularly
quick so whatever food it may manage to garner in the wild cannot be too
elusive.

The fish is very secretive both in nature and in the aquarium, preferring
a secluded location and indirect lighting. (The hobbyist would be well advised
to provide suffused light anyway as the fishes basic body color is purple under
dim light and a washed out white in a brightly lit tank.)

No special water conditions are required. (I get as tired of writing this
as you do of reading it.) A bed of crushed limestone to maintain a pH of
7.6 to 7.8 is more than adequate.

Feeding, likewise, is no problem. The fish eats anything, but, a high
protein diet is essential if spawning condition is to be attained.

At present this species is rather healthily priced (\$50.00 an inch is
reasonable!) and unfortunately may remain that way for some time. (At least
until I get a sucessful spawn when by universal divine law the price invar-
iably drops dramatically.) Spawns that have been reported are small (15-50
eggs or fry?) and the species is unlikely to overpopulate the country in the
near future. However, for those of adventurous spirit and solid finances,
a timely purchase of a few specimens could be quite rewarding. As alluded
to earlier, the fish spawns at a relatively early age which to a degree would
mitigate against the high purchase price, and after all, we are in the middle
of an economic recovery, aren't we?

Reprinted from All Cichlids, Michigan Cichlid Association

BOWL SHOW REPORT FOR

September

CICHLIDS

Angelfish/Discus

- 1st Black Angel-A. Hill
- 2nd Marble Veil-J. Bennet
- 3rd Silver-J. Kooken

Non-Riftlake African

- 1st Lampi congolensis-J. Long
- 2nd Kribensis-D. Sun
- 3rd

Open

- 1st Ps. zebra-A. Hill
- 2nd Keyhole-D. Sun
- 3rd Apisto. pertense-J. Kooken

EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

Livebearers, Non-Guppy

- 1st N
- 2nd o
- 3rd Entries

Sharks & Loaches

- 1st Weather Loach-B. Pallansch
- 2nd Albino shark-B. Pallansch
- 3rd Horse face Loach-B. Pallansch

Open

- 1st Guppy-Ju Lamberth
- 2nd Kissing Gourami-J. Bennet
- 3rd Goldfish-Ju Lamberth

Judges-John Jessup, John Mangan Judges choice-Weather loach-B. Pallansch

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
D. Sun	9	45	103
J. Lamberth	0	10	30
J. Kooken	5	15	28
J. Long	6	6	19
A. Stirman	0	0	16
A. Hill	12	12	16
J. Bennet	4	4	4

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
J. Metzger	0	44	102
B. Pallansch	12	32	61
J. Lamberth	10	17	74
G. Hoffman	0	0	25
N. Manwaring	0	0	16
J. Mangan	0	6	6
B. Roser	0	0	12
D. Sun	1	1	9
J. Kooken	0	0	7
A. Hill	0	0	6
D. Mann	0	0	5
J. Long	0	0	4
A. Stirman	0	0	3

N E X T M O N T H

(oct.)

Cichlids
New World Mouthbrooder
Pseudotropheus
Open

Egglayer/Livebearer
Goldfish, Koi
Characins
Open

BREEDER'S AWARD PROGRAM

Garland Neese	1,105 ★★★★★
Gerry Hoffman	895 ★★★★★
Pat and Maggi Mahoney	785 ★★★★★
Darrell Holman	640 ★★★★★
Woody Griffin	610 ★★★★★
John Jessup	585 ★★★★★
Ruth Brewer	305 ★★★
Roser Family	210 ★★
Wagner Family	165 ★★
Frank Angilletta	140 ★
Alex Cummins	125 ★
Nathan Manwaring	100 ★
Amy Stirman	50 ★

RECENT SPAWNINGS

Garland Neese	Cichlasoma oblongum Aequidens itanyi Aequidens portalegrensis
Pat and Maggi Mahoney	Aequidens caeruleopunctatus

CHECKERS

Alex Cummins.....656-6355	Ray Hughes.....424-3531
Pat Gore.....522-3883	Jerry Stirman.....941-6729
Frank Angilletta.....670-8980	Kenny Warren.....378-8838
Jim Long.....280-1743	

KEY

Grand Master Breeder	★★★★★
Master Breeder	★★★★
Advanced Breeder	★★★
Intermediate Breeder	★★
Breeder	★

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Pat Mahoney

In case you haven't noticed, there are some darn nice people in this aquarium hobby. To meet more of them, you ought to join a few of us in visiting other Societies shows, workshops and auctions. This is a sure-fire way of expanding your fish keeping horizons and you get to meet more nice people along the way.

On September 6th I drove to North Bergen, N.J. to pick up Mike Sheridan, long time friend of PVAS and a frequent judge at our annual Spring show. After some iced tea, the two of us drove on to Providence to attend the Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island's (TFSRI) annual show and auction. Included in the show was the Second Annual New England Cichlid Championship competition. The judges included Mike, Ginny Eckstein, Chuck Davis, Wayne Leibel and Bruce Smith - all good ACA members.

My hosts in Rhode Island were two of the nicest people that you will meet in the hobby - Dave and Faith Quinn. Make that Faith and Dave Quinn - she is definitely prettier. Maggi and I worked with the two of them as members of the Atlantic Coast Cichlid Association when we put on this year's ACA Convention.

After our hotel reservations fell through (they gave us the Bethlehem treatment - no room at the Inn), the Quinns took pity on us and took Mike and I into their home lest we get picked up for vagrancy. I now have an unusual spelling for the word HOSPITALITY. I spell it QUINN. Thanks again you two.

The show and auction were held in a large shopping mall in nearby Lincoln and believe me, the week end was well worth the ten hour drive it took to get there. That TFSRI is one solid organization. Everyone pitched in to make the event a roaring success. I don't know how many entries there were, but there were scores in the Goldfish category alone. I do know that there were sixty Cichlid entries, many of which would be show winners anywhere.

Each judge was assigned a "Scribe" to take down his numbers and a "Gofer". I was assigned to Mike Sheridan in the very important latter position. In fact, I was probably the busiest Gofer at the show, since Mike drinks as much coffee as I do. I did learn some of the finer points of judging from Mike for which I am most grateful.

After the judging was completed, half of the State of Rhode Island was invited to the Brousseau's for a feast. And what a feast! Even after feeding that mob there was still a ton of food left over. I'll bet the Brousseau's will be eating party goodies for a month. It must have taken Aline days to get all that food together. If PVAS ever needs the services of a first class caterer, I nominate Aline Brousseau.

Toward the end of this evening of gluttony, twenty or so members of the ACCA met in the Brousseau's living room for the purpose of dissolving the organization and the dispersment of our profits from the recent ACA Convention. The ACCA was created solely for the purpose of bidding for the Convention in the East and, if successful, to put it on this year. It was and we did. About thirty volunteers from Boston to Washington were responsible for this year's convention. Our "dissolvment" meeting lasted until three o'clock Sunday morning. When we dissolve, we dissolve!

I had intended helping Dave bag his fish for the auction, but after getting to bed at about four am, I had a little trouble waking up. Hell, the Chinese 58th Route Army could have marched through that bedroom playing the cymbals and I wouldn't have heard them. I vaguely remember consuming coffee at the Quinns and another three cups at the Shopping Mall before my eyes were really open. Let's face it, Old Men need their sleep! And according to Chuck Davis, I am older than dirt.

The auction got under way about one o'clock and I was on the road by three after outbidding the locals on some cichlids that I wanted.

Stopping at Cherry Hills, N.J., I beat fellow PVAS'ers Pat and Dan Fromm out of dinner and a bed before resuming the trip home the next day. While the Virginia Fish Bandit was unsuccessful in reducing the population of Dan's Fish Room, I did manage to scrounge a galley of a paper Dan is preparing on Rivulus for the Journal of the American Killifish Association. Thanks, Daniel, my library appreciates your generosity.

In all, it was a great weekend and I am glad that I made the effort to visit the TSFRI. It won't be my last visit.

Should anyone be hesitant about going to a fish show where you don't know anyone, forget it. Among fish folks, Cichlidiots in particular, you are only permitted to be a stranger for five minutes. Try it - you'll like it.

✓

SHOWS, WORKSHOPS AND AUCTIONS

October 1985

Nassau County (NY) Aquarium Society - 5-6 October, Fish Show and Auction, Hicksville, Long Island, New York.

Norwalk Aquarium Society, 12-13 October, Twentieth Annual Aquarium Show and Exhibition featuring the 15th Annual International Catfish Championship, Westport, CT.

Ohio Cichlid Association Fall Auction, 26 October, Tri-City Senior Center, Middleburg Heights, OH.

Boston Aquarium Society and the Worcester Aquarium Club, Annual Fish Show, 25-27 October, Watertown Mall, Watertown, Massachusetts.

CICHLASOMA OBLONGUM

Garland Neese

Originally described in 1855 as *Chromys oblonga*, the animal was reclassified as *Heros oblongus* by Gunther in 1862 and the classification was reconfirmed by Pellegrin in 1903. C.T. Regan reclassified the animal yet again in his Fishes of the American Cichlid Genus Cichlasoma as *Cichlasoma oblongum* where it remains today. Before getting used to the nomenclature, however, bear in mind that with Kullander's recent revision of the genus *Cichlasoma*, the animal may very well revert to Gunther's 1862 classification and become *Heros oblongus* again.

The way I acquired this unique little cichlid is almost as interesting as getting them to spawn. I have been advised by the pro's that this particular *Cichlasoma* has never been commercially imported into the United States from their home in Southern Brazil and Argentina.

Clarence Ludlow, an aquarist living in Northern Virginia, had imported a box of Australian fishes from a friend in that country. Clarence received a letter from his friend indicating that the box of Aussie fishes was enroute and that a dozen or so little-known *Cichlasoma* were also included as a gift. It seems that when an Aussie aquarist brought the species into that country his Brazilian source indicated that *C. oblongum* had never been exported to the States. Knowing this and because he felt that he had spawned sufficient numbers of them he thought that Clarence might enjoy having the first *C. oblongum* in this country. In turn, I bought a half dozen of the young adults from Clarence.

Of the six adults the largest two proved to be a pair. These I set up in a twenty gallon tank which included a small ceramic cave and a breeders sponge filter.

It should be noted that *C. oblongum* is a true dwarf Cichlid. Regan's description indicates that in adulthood the *oblongum* never exceeds 100 mm - less than 4 inches in length. When my pair were set up for spawning the male was exactly three inches. His partner was a mere 2½ inches long.

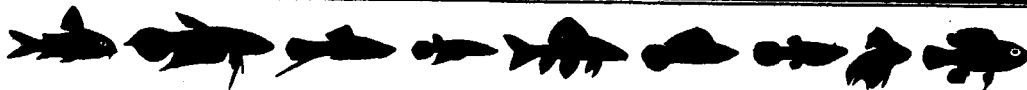
Unfortunately, the female took up residence in the ceramic cave and only came out at feeding time. Both were hardy eaters, taking anything offered. Mine got flake food, live brine shrimp and koi pellets. No foods was refused.

Thinking both needed to grow a bit more before spawning, I left them pretty much on their own. Observation came only at water changing and feeding time. The male is basically brown with seven vertical black bars and a slight reddish-brown pattern in the caudal fin. When under direct sunlight from my skylight, traces of light blue to light green are also visible in the rounded caudal fin.

Within a week or so I was quite surprised to find a half dozen or so babies swimming close to the cave opening. When I slowly raised the cave a frightened mother and approximately fifty one-eighth inch fry swam out into the open tank. There were another dozen or so fungussed eggs clustered on the inside of the cave. My final count at sixty days numbered forty-two babies, now averaging three-eighths of an inch in length.

The main thing going for *C. oblongum* is its rarity. Colorwise, it does not compare to many of its *Cichlasoma* (*Heros*) relatives. It is a peaceful and interesting little cichlid that may prove to be an asset to the Neotropical aquarist once more of them become available within the hobby. This then may be the first recorded spawning of the animal in this country.

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY, inc.



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DATE _____ 19__

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE CONTACTS H _____ B _____

Number of tanks _____ Time in hobby _____

Fish you have spawned _____

What can this club do for you _____

What do you want to do for the club _____

Which sub-groups of fish interest you _____

How long do you plan to be in this area? _____

Occupation _____

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

Family \$12.00

Corresponding \$7.00

Individual \$10.00

Junior (under 18) \$5.00

Please send application and check for dues to address above.

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society
P.O. Box 6219 Shirlington Station
Arlington, Virginia 22206

The Fish Culturalist
1823 Dudley St.
Philadelphia, PA 19145

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Meets on the Following Dates in 1985

Jan. 14	May 13	Sept. 9
Feb. 11	June 10	Oct. 14
March 11	July 8	Nov. 11
April 8	Aug. 12	Dec. 9

Meetings are held at the John C. Wood Facility, Rt. 237 (Old Lee Hwy.)
Fairfax City. Everyone is welcome.

*Meetings start at 8:00 a.m.
Doors open at 7:30*

Chesterfield Clark

