

DELTA TALK

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February 1974

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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, and promoting good fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to Secretary, P.V.A.S., P. O. Box 6219, Shirlington Station, Arlington, Virginia, 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.

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1974 MEETING DATES

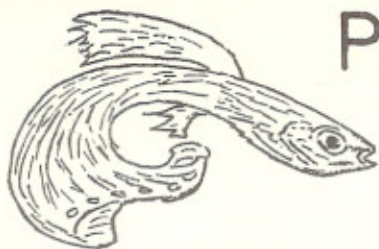
January 14	May 13	September 9
February 11	June 10	October 14
March 11	July 8	November 4
April 8	August 12	December 9

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COVER

This month's cover was drawn by one of our new members George Turner.



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members:

The Department of Interior published their proposed importation requirements for injurious wildlife in the December 20, 1973 Federal Register; Vol. 38, No. 244, Part IV. In relation to freshwater fish, this implementation of the Lacey Act (18 USC 42) results in a safe list. Fish not listed as "low risk" are considered to be injurious and cannot be imported.

Since these requirements are proposed, the public may still make its feelings known and public comments are solicited. Written comments should be submitted in triplicate to the Director (FSF/LE), Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C. 20240. Relevant comments received up to 60 days after the publication of a pending Environmental Impact Statement will be considered.

Several Society members have copies of the proposed requirements. If you are interested in reviewing these requirements but have not been able to obtain a copy, you may contact a member of the Board.

This is your chance to participate in the rule-making that will affect your hobby. If you do not participate, you have no complaint with the finalized requirements.

Michael T. Sprague
President

SECRETARY'S LETTER

On Monday, January 14, 1974, the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society held its regular monthly meeting. The meeting was called to order by the new President Michael Sprague at 8:10 pm. The minutes of the last regular and Board of Governors meeting were not available, so were not read. (See last month's Delta Tale for report.) There was no Treasurer's Report given; also no committee reports. Visitors and new members were introduced.

The main topic of business was printing of the Delta Tale. As the printing method used last year is no longer available, a new method must be found. Much discussion of various alternatives ensued. A motion was made and seconded and passed that the President and Board of Governors appoint a committee to study the matter in detail, to report their findings in two months time for a decision by the club. Use of the commercial was authorized through April. The President asked for volunteers for this committee: those volunteering were Genny Story, Gene Aldridge and Susan Sprague.

Under old business a number of items came up. A protest concerning the recent club elections was read into the record by J. Goodman. (H. Lenzen was appointed E.E.O. Rep. to prevent discrimination.) The Dept. of Interior's list of "low-risk wild-life" was mentioned. Some copies were circulated. This "clean list" gives us the fishes allowed to be imported. Some Rift Lake cichlid material was circulated to those interested. Thanks to H. Lenzen and to G. Aldridge for making these copies available to us. Our editors asked that members write and submit original articles for the Delta Tale. (Every one of us has had some experiences in the hobby, so get something down on paper and share it with the rest of us.) "WINTER WEEKEND WORKSHOP" is being held in Atlanta on Feb 8, 9, 10, 1974 by the Advanced Aquarists of Atlanta. People from all over the country will be attending. Seminar leaders will be experts in many aspects of this hobby. For further info. contact Sue O'Meara at 522-5282. The last item of business discussed was that as our meeting room will no longer be available on weekends, we need another place to hold our show. Anyone who can help find a place, please contact Bob Smith, Show Comm. Chairman.

An announcement of the meeting date and place for the Cichlid Club was made. The Guppy Club is not meeting at present due to low attendance. The bowl show was judged during the break for refreshments. After which the program on Rift Lake cichlids was shown. Awards were given to bowl show winners; door prizes were given out, and the raffle was held.

The meeting was adjourned by the president.

Susan O'Meara
Recording Secretary

Membership

£

Things

Membership Committee involves more than persuading people to fork over the cash. So far this year I have been busy with mechanics of receiving and renewing memberships, but we need energetic committee members to help us invite, greet and inform new members and guests. But once we attain members we must keep them, help them feel at home, recognize their achievements and efforts and keep them actively involved. This means knowing each member and helping him find his place in PVAS. Ours is the only committee charged to promote sociability in the society. To accomplish this we need you. Please volunteer.

I'm sorry to report that nine memberships have not been renewed: Joe Pursley, David Platt, Jim and Toni Jenkins, Michael Harper, Joseph Hall, Bob Kelly, Brian Kolling, Bill Bloomberg, Nancy Haufman. I urge club members to contact these persons and invite them to participate in PVAS this year.

The following memberships expire in February:

Linda Dua
Ronald Fisher
Dave Grossman
Tom Jones
Bob Wakefield

Kenneth Fisher
Joel Goodman
Ed and Al Hirshman
Bill and Vicki Long
Loren Wilson.

Please fill out the application form in the Delta Tale and mail with your payment to the PVAS, P.O. Box 6219, or contact me at the February meeting. Since purchases at Aquarium Supply at the club discount require an up-to-date membership card, be sure to bring it so I can renew it.

Chuck Story
Corresponding Secretary

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

The Cichlid Club will meet at the following time and location:

8:00 pm, Feb. 20, 1974
Dave & Marge Grossman
11636 Lockwood Drive #101
593-9070

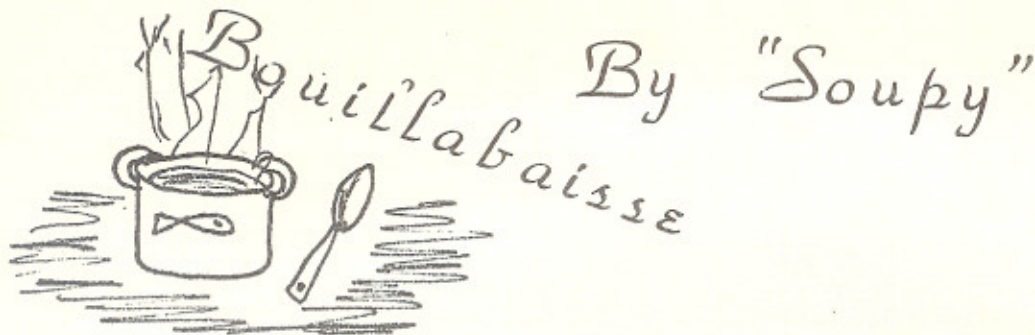
TABLE SHOW RESULTS AND STANDINGS
JANUARY 1974

<u>GUPPY</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
a. Green	Sargent	Sargent	Sargent
b. H/B Red	Wolcott	Wolcott	----
c. AOC	Wolcott	Wolcott	Wolcott
 <u>CICHLID</u>			
a. Angels	C. Hardy	C. Hardy	----
b. Africans	C. Hardy	Story	Jessup
c. Open	Jessup	Story	Sprague
 <u>OTHER</u>			
a. Betta	Hirschman, A.	Hirschman, A.	Smith, D.
b. Corydoras	Hirschman, A.	Hirschman, A.	Tuttle
c. Open	Hardy, B.	Hardy, B.	Smith, D.

POINT COUNT

<u>GUPPY</u>	<u>JAN.</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>JAN.</u>
Wolcott	16	Hirschman, A.	15
Sargent	9	Hardy, B.	10
		Smith, D.	7
		Tuttle	5
<u>CICHLID</u>	<u>JAN.</u>	Pettingill	4
Hardy, C.	13	Story	1
Jessup	9	Kelly	1
Story	7		
Sprague	6		
Goodman	5		
Brunelle	1		
Kelly	1		

* * * February 11, 1974 * * *
 Guppy: H/B AOC, Female, AOC
 Cichlid: Cent. & S. Am.(med.)--breeding
 pairs, Congo River, Open
 Other: Barbs, Anabantids, Open



It has been nice to hear requests for more of these columns. I'm pleased people are enjoying it...that's what it's for. I've been talking about what other clubs are doing interesting, new products or literature on the market, especially nice or hard to get species of fish available in our area, and people or developments in our hobby, or in our club.

NEWS OF OTHER CLUBS:

WWW in Atlanta is being hosted by AAA; speakers from ACA, AKA, IBC and many other hobby specialties, including marine collecting and aquarium photography, for examples. Also, a banquet, auction, etc. It should be a most worthwhile weekend.

NEW PRODUCTS OR LITERATURE:

MALAWI SALTS by MESCO is an artificial salt mixture which provides an environment like that found in Lake Malawi; should make keeping and spawning mbuna easier. I've used it and like it.

BROOD TONIC by MESCO is a multi-purpose disease preventative for use on all baby fish, both livebearers and egglayers. (No more unexplained losses due to undiagnosed diseases.) Start as soon as possible after fish are free-swimming---ich, velvet, bacterial and fungal infections can be prevented. Use can be discontinued when fish are large enough to withstand encounters with disease and the use of usual remedies. It worked very well for me. Try it if you have a problem raising up fry. It'll help.

ECO-LYTE by MESCO is a chemical filtration needed in the aquarium to remove organic pollutants which include detergent components, greases, oils, antibiotics, dyes, organic acids (such as uric acid), suspended and dissolved foods, all organic pollutants...organic fish, bacteria and plant wastes; the aquarium remains crystal clear. ECO-LYTE is fully regenerable, and can be used to filter both freshwater and marine aquariums. I use it in my 100 gallon and I get great results; the tank is really clear.

TETRA-TEST KITS by Tetra Sales (USA) Corp. are a whole line of test kits for measuring levels of pH, DH, and nitrites in both freshwater and marine aquariums. Use of color wheels

for "low" and "high" ranges of pH and for nitrites makes determination easy and quick. The tests are accurate and not difficult to understand; these new kits make routine testing more enjoyable. Try them. I think they are very good and I recommend them highly to others.

INTERESTING SPECIES SEEN:

Cichlasoma managuense, C. trimaculatum, C. salvini, and C. synspilum (juveniles) at Oakton Pet in Oakton, Va.

A tetra species I've never seen before, labeled as "Catalisus tet", (Looks like a "penguin jumping off an ice flow"), at Wally's Aquarium, Arlington, Va.

Freshwater stingray, Pseudotropheus johanni (gold auratus), flagtail cats and shovelnose cats at Aquarium Supply, Arlington, Va.

Pelmatochromis thomasi, Aequidens geayi, Cichlasoma cyano-guttatum (Texas-large pair), mottled Ps. zebra (juveniles), at Foodies'n Pals, Baileys Crossroads, Va.

INFO. OR PEOPLE IN THE HOBBY:

The Dept. of Interior published on Dec. 20, 1973, in the Federal Register, its proposed regulations on importation of low-risk wildlife including tropical fishes. Only those genera on their "clean list" may be imported. Many species of African cichlids, for example, are conspicuously absent, perhaps merely because not much is known about many of them, not because they might be harmful to our environment. I find the list of cichlids unnecessarily restrictive.

INFO. OR PEOPLE IN OUR CLUB:

Did you know we have a qualified IFGA judge in our midst? Gene Sergent is now the third IFGA judge on the East Coast. Congratulations! There aren't many who pass the strict testing; it takes much studying and a keen eye to qualify.

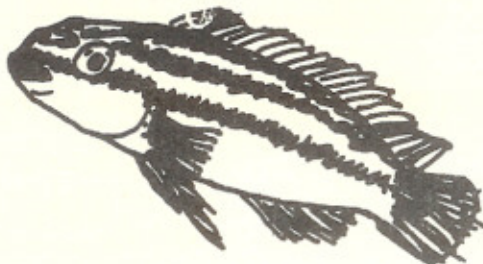
Did you know that another guppy expert in our midst was invited by the Jersey clubs to put on a guppy judging seminar for them recently? John Wolcott should be congratulated, too, for sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience. Our guppy people are really getting somewhere in the hobby. Again, congratulations.

Gene Aldridge is now Chairman of the Board of the Advanced Aquarists of the National Capital Area, as well as being a hard-working officer in our club. These men really give their all to advance the hobby and to help the rest of us.

A last note to readers of this column, not a farewell, but an explanation: I have become acting editor of B-AANCA, bulletin of the Advanced club in our area, for an indefinite period. I may not be able to write this column every month, but will write it as often as I can find time. Keep your helpful comments coming. Thank you all for the encouragement in the past.

JULIDOCHROMIS

ORNATUS



By Daisy Berletchick,
(Reprinted from the Youngs-
town Aquarist, Nov. 1973)

My experience with this Lake Tanganyika cichlid began when I saw a tankful of these beautiful, torpedo-like black and yellow fish in a local pet shop. The dealer, knowing the fish were all from the same spawn, picked out two. One was a little larger than the other. (A mixture of different spawns could account for a size difference.) This method is the only way of having a fairly good chance at getting a male and female because there is no outward physical difference. Of the two, the female is the larger.

The 'pair' was set up in a well-aged 10-gallon tank with a heavy growth of algae, undergravel filter, live and plastic plants, rock caves, and a ceramic boat with several holes in the sides. An airstone was placed so as to flow up from the center of the ornament. Other tank occupants included two Corydoras catfish, one Grenicara maculata (Checkerboard), and later on, finding one orphan ornatus in a pet shop, he was also added to the tank. The water was 7.4 pH with about 3 tablespoons salt per 10 gallons water. The temperature was maintained at 78°.

These so-called quarrelsome cichlids got along quite well together, each minding his own business. They lived happily, sharing their meals of frozen brine shrimp, beefheart, and green flake food. Then one evening I noticed a change had taken place and these fish were no longer buddies. The two original ornatus had begun chasing the other fish away from the ceramic boat and were not satisfied unless they were all crowded into one of the front corners of the tank. Their aggressive manner got worse and soon their attention was centered on the other ornatus. They kept him up in the floating plants and picked away at him. Their breeding tubes were beginning to show. So they could devote all their time to spawning and to save the lives of the other fish, everyone else was moved to another tank.

The 'pair' soon got down to business. They took up occupancy in the boat and proceeded with their housecleaning activities. The female seemed to boss the whole operation. She would chase the male into the boat. He would peck around and clean for a few seconds then come out and she would go into the boat and take a look around. Evidently, not being satisfied, she would chase and bite the male until he returned and completed the

cleaning to her satisfaction. This was accompanied with very energetic gravel moving by the male.

Two days later the breeding tubes were fully extended and one or the other fish was always in the boat. Taking a closer look by tipping the boat back--there they were, from these tiny, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch fish--40 green-brown eggs! Good luck ran out, this and the next spawn fungused and the parents destroyed them. The third time they spawned, I tried to hatch the eggs artificially and again they fungused. Now, a little tired of trying to guess at what might be wrong, I decided that just maybe the fish might know a little more about this sort of thing than I did. The next spawn of 15 eggs was left intact after having removed the heater (lowering the temperature to 74°) and leaving the bright tank light turned off. A floor lamp was placed at one end of the tank to keep the plants and algae going, but the spot where the eggs were always placed was shaded.

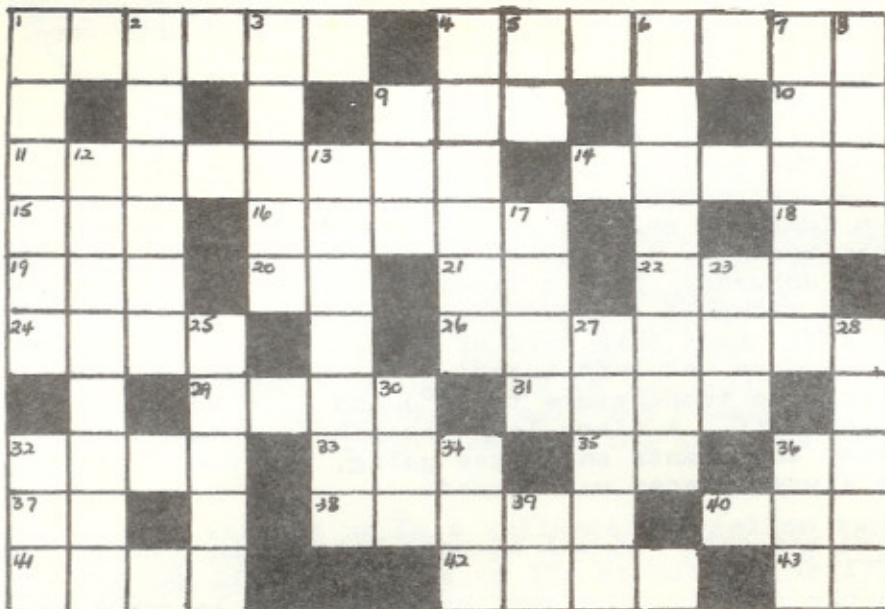
This spawn was good and all 15 eggs hatched in 3 days. The undergravel filter was turned off so as not to pull the wriggling fry down into the gravel. The poor over-worked male still is not finished. The majority of the fry care was his responsibility while the female was proudly swimming about the tank looking for food.

In five more days the fry had begun to sneak from under Papa's watchful eye and had attached themselves to plants and the back of the tank or any other place where there was a heavy growth of algae.

The fry were fed no special food and evidently lived on algae and tiny microscopic animal life. Their stomachs always had a full appearance. When the fry were very young they were shaped like the adults but their black markings ran up and down their bodies. As they aged a little their horizontal stripes began to appear. For a few days they retained all these markings thus producing a checkered pattern. They soon lost the vertical stripes and at the age of five weeks were about one inch long and capable of wrestling and swallowing adult brine shrimp.

FISHWORD # 106

By Lavinia Voss



Clues Across

1. Heavenly Fish !
4. Thayeria Obliqua
9. Coloration of lots of Fish
10. North East (abbrev.)
11. Family Name of Most Tetras
14. Suckermouth: Disney Character
15. She
16. Timepiece
18. Upon
19. Before (Poetic)
20. Exclamation of Surprise
21. Inside
22. Dorsal is one
24. See 9 Across (plural)
26. Restricted
29. Remain
31. Throw
32. Storage Place for Grain
33. Oxygen and other gasses
35. Exclamation of Pain
36. Los Angeles (Abbrev.)
37. There: Here
38. Egglayer Depositing Eggs
40. Through: By
41. Tinted
42. Person Causing Annoyance
43. On Condition That

Clues Down

1. Bow & Arrow Fish ?
2. Furnished with Clothes
3. Coolie ?
4. Given paper will this fish write ?
5. Editor (Abbrev.)
6. Most childrens first fish
7. Chant
8. Sign Fish !
9. Spanish for River
12. Characteristics Passed from Parent to offspring
13. Albino Type Catfish
17. Yarn worked with 2 needles
23. It is (abbrev.)
25. Can this fish Fence?
27. Wonder if the Astronauts bother this Fish !
28. Small : Fish Name
30. Gratitude
32. Unhappy
34. Knock Sharply
36. Garland of Flowers (Hawaii)
39. Us

Solution to Fishword #105.

1	B	U	M	B	L	E	B	E	E		6	G	O	U	R	A	M	I	E	S		24	S					
15	U	S		A			L		L		16	L	A	N		17	C	O	N	V	I	C	T					
18	T	E	19	T	R	A		E		20	O	P	E	R	A		22	H	O	N	O	R		O				
	T		23	A	B		24	S	E	R	P	A	E		26	B	E	E	N		28	K	E	E	N			
30	E	O	N		31	T	I	D	I	E	R		32	E	L	M		33	P	E	N	C	E					
	R		34	K	U	H	L	I		35	T	O	T	E	M	S		36	A					H				
37	F	T	38			39	E	O	N		40	F			41	C		42	A	C	T		43	B		44	O	R
46	L	O	47	C	H	S		49	G	L	O	W		50	H	A		52	A	I	M	E	D				E	
	Y		55	L	U	N	C	H			56	R		57	A		58	C	O	N	G	O		59	I	S	M	
		60	C	O	M	A		E		61	G	L	I	B		N		63	E	L	K	S				I		
64	L	A	W		65	C	L	A	R	I	A	S		67	P	E	A	R	L		69	C	A	T				
71	A	N	N		K		72	R	I	V	U	L	U	S		73	T			74	Y	O	U	R				
	D		S		75	S	E	T		76	E	D	E	N		77	E	E	L				78	S	E	A		

Solution to Fishword # 106

1	A	N	2	G	E	3	L	S		4	P	5	E	N	6	G	U	7	I	8	N	
	R		E				9	R	E	D							10	N	E			
11	C	12	H	A	R	A	13	C	I	N		14	P	L	U	T	O					
15	H	E	R			16	C	L	O	C	K		17	D			18	O	N			
19	E	R	E		20	H	A		21	I	N		22	F	23	I	N					
24	R	E	D		25				26	L	I	M	I	T	E	28	D					
	D			29	W	A	I	T		30		31	T	O	S	S						
32	S	I	L	O		33	A	I	R		34		35	O	H		36	L	A			
37	A	T		R		38	S	P	A	W	N		39			40	P	E	R			
41	D	Y	E	D					42	P	E	S	T			43	I	P				

kordon 

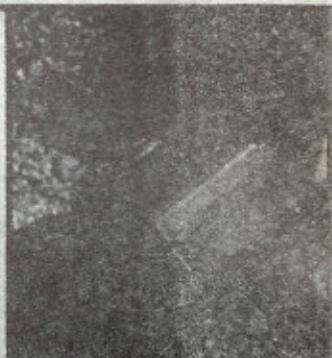
QUALITY AQUARIUM PRODUCTS FOR FRESH-WATER AND SALT-WATER AQUARIA



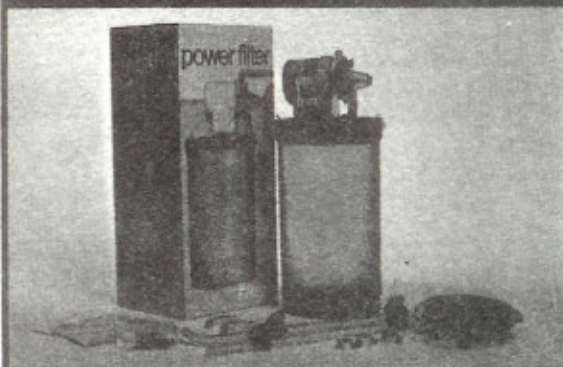
Decorative and authentic Animal **WONDER MAGNETS**.



New temperature indicator shows safe temperature zones. Digital C° and F° thermometers also available.



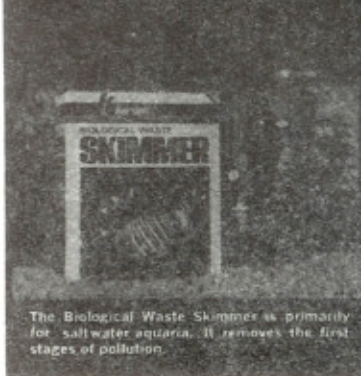
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Date _____ 19 _____

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

PHONE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Number of tanks _____

Type of fish _____

Time in hobby _____

Fish you have spawned _____

What you would like to do in this Club? _____

Which sub-group interests you? (guppy, cichlid, other) _____

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

Occupation _____

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

Family	\$7.50	Corresponding	\$3.00
Individual	\$5.00	Junior	\$2.50

Completed applications accompanied by your check or money order should be mailed to P.V.A.S., P. O. Box 6219, Arlington, Virginia 22206.

Please attend our meetings at the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, 5401 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia at 8:00 P.M.

1974 Meeting Dates

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