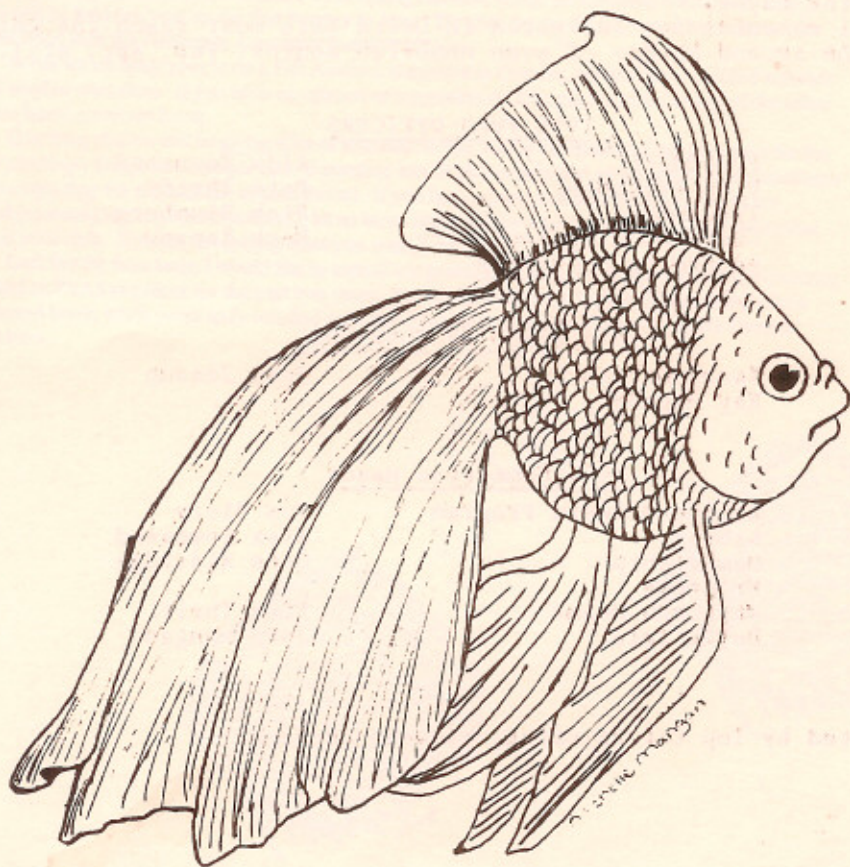


* DELTA TALE *

Vol. 25 #1
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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society



Delta Tale is published bimonthly for the benefit of the membership of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Inc., a non-profit educational and social organization. The society was founded in 1960 for the purpose of furthering the aquarium hobby by the dissemination of information and advice, and the promotion of good fellowship among the membership by organized activities and competitions.

All correspondence to the society, and to Delta Tale, should be directed to PO Box 664, Merrifield, VA 22206.

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All material for inclusion in Delta Tale must reach the editor by the second Monday of even numbered months(Feb, Apr, etc).

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President's Message:

Well, already it's 1994 and the start of a new year for PVAS. I think our first challenge will be to make this next year as enjoyable and successful as the last. We had three successful auctions and perhaps the best weekend workshop in the club's history. The workshop was not only enjoyable (a super line-up of speakers and a chance for the club membership to really get together) but we also attracted a number of new members as well.

The officers and board members will be meeting soon to decide where we go from here. One thing we've discussed, but not yet scheduled, is a club field trip to Baltimore—specifically to Peter Thode's discus hatchery (Gwynbrook Farms) and to The Aquarium Center. Hopefully we can get this on our schedule sometime this spring.

Of more immediate note, of course, is our next auction, which is scheduled for February 13 (details should be printed elsewhere in this issue of the Delta Tale). We've been very fortunate with our winter auctions thus far in escaping the wrath of the elements—let's hope Mother Nature gives us another window this year. Speaking of auctions, the annual PVAS Spring Auction, which we normally schedule in May, probably will be held this year on the first Sunday in June. The date we would otherwise have chosen (in May) coincided with the Pittsburgh Aquarium Society's auction.

While we certainly plan to do a Fall Auction, sometime in October, we've not yet decided whether to tackle another workshop. If you have an opinion or suggestion on this, please let me or any of the other officers or board members know.

One thing that we will be giving a lot of attention to this year is the quality of the programs for the monthly meetings. This is not a simple task—it involves lots of phone calls and coordination (and sometimes a decision regarding the expenditure of club funds). If you have a topic in mind that you'd like to see presented (or would like to present yourself), let us know and we'll see what we can do. Please remember that this is your club. If you're not getting what you want, ask!

Last, but far from least, I would like to extend my gratitude and that of the club to Beverie Sweitzer who served as PVAS president for the past two years. Beverie can now lean back and (hopefully) take a well-deserved break, while yours truly can find out what it means to be in the hot seat. Thanks Beverie! Till next time....

Alex



It's taken some scrambling but I am finally getting back on schedule. This issue is a little late but not too much. I'm planing on starting the next issue real soon so that you will have it before the March meeting. If I make it then hopefully we'll stay on schedule from now on. To do this I'm going to be very strict about my deadlines from now on. If it's not in my hands by the night of the monthly meeting in even numbered months; feb., april, june, etc. then it won't get printed until the following issue.

A couple of very important things to take note of: there will be no Feb. meeting. Since this takes place the day following the winter auction it was decided to cancel it. In the

past, whenever we've had a meeting the day after an auction weekend almost no one has shown up. Besides, it's valentines day. Stay home and eat chocolate until you puke (is it o.k. for me to say puke in a family magazine? Oh well, what the [REDACTED] I'm the editor I'll say anything I want. What's anybody going to do about it?). Please note our new mailing adress- PVAS, PO Box 664, Merrifield, VA 22116. This will help get all of Delta Tales mail to me much more smoothly. I can now easily pick it up myself rather than Gene, or someone, storing it for a month and hauling it into the meeting for me. So from now on, anything that needs to be sent to me or Delta Tale should be sent to the new PO Box.

Our winter auction will be taking place on Sunday Feb. 13. We began having a winter auction a couple of years ago as an experiment and it has been so popular and succesful that it is now a perminent feature. While I'm on the subject of auctions I'm going to have to get back up on my soapbox and do some ranting and raving. You were all doing real good for awhile and I was able to stop, but after some of the stuff I saw at the last auction it looks like I'll have to start again. Here goes... Use Proper Fish Bags, ziploc bags are NOT acceptable. If you don't have any go to your local pet store. Most of them would be glad to sell you a few- they are very cheap. Use the right size bag. Don't stuff a great big fish into a little tiny bag. Remember the fish is going to be in that bag all day. Don't put too many fish in a bag, split a big group into several bags. USE A LITTLE COMMON SENSE!!! Don't bring junk. If it's trash throw it away, don't make us try to sell it. AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!! There, I feel much better now.

Until next time...



EDITORZ DESK!



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Alex



What's Happening!

For up-to-the-minute info on what's happening call the free PVAS Hotline 24 hrs. a day. 703- 352-3365.

- Jan. 10: PVAS Monthly Meeting. Mark Kaprow will speak on Carbon Dioxide injection in planted aquariums. Door prize, raffles, mini-auction, refreshments, etc. Doors open at 7:30, meeting starts at 8:00. Everyone is welcome.
- Feb. 13: PVAS Winter Auction. See the following pages for complete information. Our auctions are always great. If you've never been to one plan to attend. The auction is open to the public, everyone is invited.
- Feb. 14: NOTE!!!! The Feb. PVAS Monthly Meeting originally scheduled for this date has been CANCELED. In the past every time we've had a meeting the day after an auction turnout has been extremely small. Therefore it was decided at the Jan. meeting to cancel this meeting. Since this also happens to be Valentines Day you can tell your valentine that's why your staying home, they don't have to know the real reason- I won't tell.
- Mar. 14: PVAS Monthly Meeting. Speaker (topic not known at press time), door prize, raffles, mini-auction, refreshments, free admission to the first 712 people. Doors open at 7:30 meeting starts at 8:00. Everyone is welcome.
- Apr. 1: International Kiss Your Cat on the Lips Day. Give your kitty a big smooch. If your dog feels left out explain to him that he'll just have to wait until Oct. for his.

PVAS members may place ads in Trading Post at no charge. Deadline for the next issue is March 1. Send ads to Delta Tale PO Box 664, Merrifield, VA 22116.



For Sale: Lake Tanganyika Cichlids. Lamprologus leleupi. Beautiful yellow-orange cave spawners. Grow to three or four inches. Hatched late Oct. 1993, aprox. 3/4 to 1 inch. Raised in Rockville tap water, (pH adjusted to 8.3, 1 tblspn salt/5 gal). When available in fish stores, juveniles sell for \$20 or more each. Available now for \$5 each, 3/\$12 or 10/ \$30. Call Mark 202-501-2886 (d) or 301-942-2135(e).

For Sale or Trade: Backissues of many different aquarium magazines from 1917 to present. Send SASE for catalog.

John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave., Vienna, VA 22181.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

THE POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



AUCTION!

Tropical Fish and Equipment



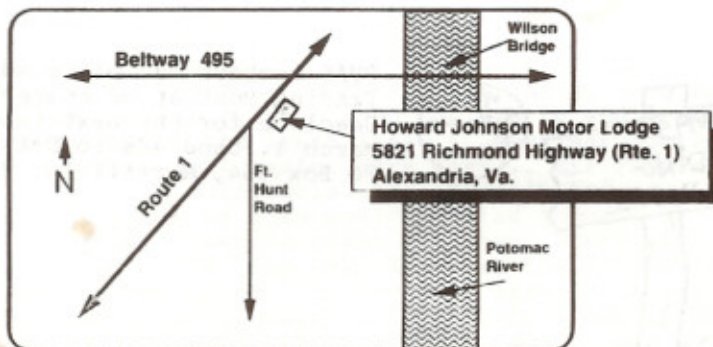
at the HOWARD JOHNSON HOTEL, 5821 Richmond Highway,
Alexandria, Va. (Route 1 at the Beltway).

A great opportunity to buy-sell fish, plants, aquariums, books, equipment and supplies!

WE WILL ALSO HOLD A RAFFLE FOR NEW EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES!

Registration 9 am - 12 noon

The auction will begin at 11 am!



DIRECTIONS:

The Howard Johnson's is located on the east side of Route 1 just south of the Capital Beltway (495) and north of Fort Hunt Road. Exit the Beltway onto Route 1 south. Since the HoJo's is located on the other side of the divided highway, follow the signs for Fort Hunt Road, then turn back onto Route 1 heading north. This will put you in front of the Hotel.

AUCTION RULES

1. You do not have to be a PVAS member to buy or sell hobby related items in the auction. The auction is open to the general public. All prior auction accounts must be settled before registering for the current auction.

2. Registration of items for sale will begin at 8:00 am and will end promptly at noon. If you are not in line at noon you may not register.

3. The auction will begin at 11:00 am and will continue, with periodic breaks, until all items have been sold.

4. All items must be labeled as to contents. Include: number, sex (if possible), and other pertinent data. Use waterproof marker and labels.

Fish: Pair means one of each sex. Mated Pair means a pair that has spawned WITH EACH OTHER. Trio means one male, two females. Reverse Trio means two males, one female. Mixed Sexes means at least one of each sex. If uncertain label the bag Unsexed.

Supplies: All equipment must be labeled as to working condition or missing parts.

5. PROPER FISH BAGS MUST BE USED!! Live items must be bagged with ample air and water. Fish packed in "ziploc" or similar type bags will not be registered. If a fish is registered in a bucket, tank, or bowl, the container will be considered part of the item. PVAS reserves the right to rebag any item it deems necessary.

6. A maximum of five bags per species or color variety is allowed unless approval is obtained from the auction chairman. More than one bag may be bound together if necessary.

7. A series of colored stickers will be provided to each seller. These will determine the order in which the items will be sold. Every effort will be made by the auction staff to auction all items of a particular color during one designated period of the auction.

8. Bags will be offered "as is". Once registered the contents of a bag may not be split.

9. Each item carries a \$1.00 minimum unless the seller assigns a higher minimum bid. The seller may lower the minimum if the item does not sell.

10. PVAS reserves the right to refuse registration of any items which it determines to be not suitable for this auction.

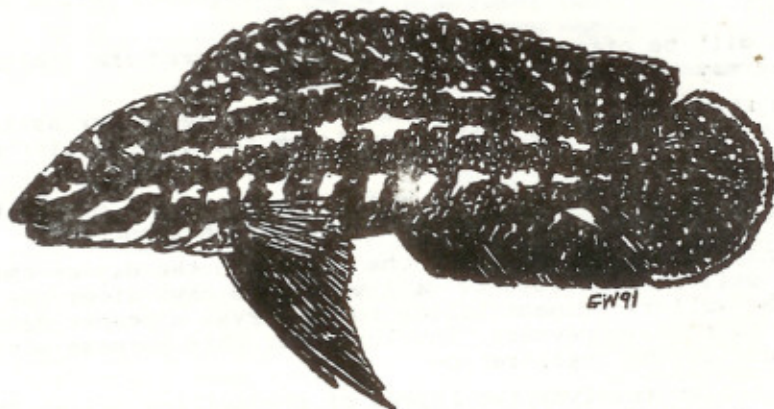
11. No payment will be made to the seller on the day of the auction. Payment will be forwarded by mail within 10 days after the auction. It is the sellers responsibility to give PVAS a proper name and address to receive payment. Envelopes for this purpose will be filled out during registration.

12. The seller receives two-thirds of the selling price. PVAS retains one-third, with a maximum of \$33 commission per item.

13. All items not sold must be claimed at the close of the auction or they will be disposed of at the discretion of PVAS.
14. The auctioneer retains the right to set aside any improperly bagged or marked items, or any sick or otherwise unsaleable item.
15. Fishes that are restricted by either federal or state statues will not be accepted.

Rules for the Bidder

1. All items are purchased in AS IS condition. PVAS assumes no responsibility for health or working condition of auctioned items. Bidders may examine items before the auction and during the periodic breaks. The auctioneer will describe any defect in the item that is known.
2. All persons wishing to bid are required to register and receive a bidding number. All prior auction accounts must be settled prior to receiving a bidding number.
3. Items may be inspected only before the auction and during breaks.
4. Bidding raises will generally be in \$1.00 increments. The auctioneer has the right to alter this procedure.
5. Successful bidders will have their items brought to them, at which time payment is expected unless the bidder has been authorized to run a tab (see the treasurer before the auction, proper identification will be required).
6. The decision of the auctioneer as to the highest bidder and price is final.



BELONESOX BELIZANUS

THE PIKE LIVEBEARER

by John Mangan, PVAS

Belonesox belizanus is the only member of its genus and is a relatively large, for a livebearer, predatory fish. They can be found from southern Mexico through much of Central America and have also become established in the U.S. in some parts of Florida and Texas. They prefer shallow, slow moving waters where they hide in plant thickets and wait for their prey.

One look at an adult Belonesox is all that is needed to recognize it as a predator. The fish is torpedo shaped and has a small dorsal fin set well back on the body- for speed, and large sharp teeth- for grasping prey. They also have a perpetual "snarl". This is due to the somewhat unique shape of their mouth which aids in holding onto their prey.

Belonesox is a Poeciliid and; like the related guppies, platies, swordtails, etc., is very easy to sex since the male has a modified anal fin (gonopodium). They also spawn, and give birth to live young in generally the same way as the more common livebearers.

"So", you may be asking, "what's the big deal about raising Belonesox? They're just big guppies." In some ways this is true, but can you imagine an 8" female guppy swallowing a 6" male? I don't mean killing him and eating him bite by bite, I mean swallowing whole. With Belonesox this is very possible, and not at all uncommon. I've lost four full grown males this way. The first two were victims of one large female who was then banished to solitary confinement. I then obtained two more pairs which were set up in a well planted 30 gallon tank. The tank had an air operated outside filter and temperature was kept in the mid 70's. Most of the literature on this fish recommends the addition of some salt to the water, some even go as far as to say that the fish will not breed, and in some cases even live, without this. However, I have found salt to be totally unnecessary.

Everything went well for quite some time. The males and females seemed to get along, fry were produced about once a month (more on this below) and the only aggression was between the two males. One became dominant and developed a lot of golden coloration in the throat and abdominal areas. The subdominant male could be identified by a broad black stripe down his sides, similar to juvenile coloration. I was able to tell that this coloration is due to dominance by removing the dominant male and having the other one "color up". When the dominant male returned the other one went back to the submissive coloration.

During this time the fish were kept well fed with small feeder goldfish. About once a week aprox. 20 goldfish would be dumped into the tank. Unlike oscars or other cichlids, which would eat (or kill) all 20 within five minutes then lay around with a stomach ache for 3 days, the Belonesox would eat one or two apiece and then slowly eat the others one or two at a time over

the rest of the week. Everything seemed to be going along very smoothly until I ran out of feeder fish for a few days. Since everything had been going so well I didn't worry much about it. I brought home a bag of goldfish when my new shipment came in and dumped them into the tank as usual. The two females rushed out of the plants and each grabbed a goldfish, but there was no sign of the two males. I didn't think much of it since it was quite common for any number of the fish to be back in the plants and not visible. The next day I glanced into the tank, saw the two females but not the males, still didn't worry. Next day glanced in again, still no males in plain sight. Now I begin to worry a little bit, but just a little. I still thought they must be back behind a plant leaf. I decided to take a closer look. After much searching there was no sign of the males. The lesson here: If you want to keep Belonesox don't run out of feeder fish.

While I'm on the subject of feeder fish - every article I've read about Belonesox talks about feeding them guppies. Don't waste your time and money trying. I can't imagine trying to keep my adults full on guppies, even being able to get them wholesale. I have several 2" juveniles I've kept to raise as my next generation of breeders which can each eat 2 or 3 average size feeder guppies per day. I'll let you try to figure out how many it would take to satisfy an 8" female.

After all of this, if you're still crazy enough to want to raise Belonesox, you need to be told, or should I say warned, about raising the fry. The female Belonesox can give birth about every 4-6 weeks, and can easily have well over 100 fry per brood. Pregnant females do not have to be isolated from the others. Well fed Belonesox will not eat their fry. The fry are about $\frac{1}{2}$ " at birth and have a dark stripe down their sides. The fry will hang motionless in the plants and will resemble small sticks or pieces of debris. The first time I saw one was while making a water change. I tried to suck up a piece of dead plant and to my surprise the "plant" was trying to swim away from the siphon. There is no big hurry to remove the fry from the parents tank (if, as I said above, the adults are well fed). As an experiment I've left a number of fry in with the adults for about a week before they finally got eaten, and that was because I ran out of goldfish.

Sounds easy so far, doesn't it? Well here comes the hard part, feeding the fry. The fry are born hungry. The best food I've found for the fry is brine shrimp. By this I don't mean baby brine like you feed to those wimpy little cichlid fry, I mean adult brine shrimp. *Daphnia* is the next best, if you can raise enough, and you need LOTS. The fry eat enormous amounts of food and if they don't get it they eat each other, actually even when they do get it they often eat each other. I've seen a baby Belonesox eat another one the same size. The cannibal then seems to double his size overnight (this isn't much of an exaggeration), which makes it easier for him to eat his next victim, and so on until all of a sudden you've gone from over 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ " fry to 2 or 3 2" fry in

an amazingly short time. You can slow this process by seperating the fry by size often. You need very sharp eyes though. It's very common to have one large canibal find a dark corner or other hiding place where it sits very still so you don't notice it until there are no other fish in the tank.

The only time I've managed to raise most of a spawn up to over an inch was when I fed them lots and lots of adult brine shrimp. I then sold them to a local wholesaler (don't count on doing this though as there is a very limited market for Belonesox). They will also eat Daphnia, as mentioned above, mosquito larvae, newborn guppies (an entire brood of guppies from a large female is just an appetizer though for a brood of Belonesox) and some will even eat flake food. Growth on flake food is extremely slow though. As the fry grow they graduate to larger and larger guppies, then finally goldfish.

Belonesox aren't for everyone, but they are possible to spawn and raise if you are willing to make the commitment to give them what they need. Which means, in other words, that if you want to raise Belonesox you should be committed.

I have to go now. There's two guys here that keep insisting I try on this funny looking jacket, even though I keep telling them that the sleeves look way too long...

AUTHOR'S NOTE: the above is a slightly revised version of an article originally published in April 1988. Being the type of person that doesn't let the fact that I should know better stop me from doing something I am now keeping Belonesox again after several years of not having any. Below are my new experiences with them.

I decided I wanted to try something different this time by seeing if I could avoid using live food. I placed a pair of Belonesox in a 70 gallon tank which was already occupied by a very large true gourami (Osphronemus) and a very large eel. The tank was unplanted and the pair stayed mostly at the surface of the water and mostly together. Since they were by far the smallest fish in the tank they probably stayed together for a feeling of security.

This pair of fish were full grown, wild caught adults. They, therefore had probably eaten nothing but live foods their whole lives. I had very little trouble getting them to start eating freeze dried plankton (the large size zooplankton). At first I had to make it appear to be moving a little by throwing it across the surface a little bit. This probably made it resemble a large insect landing on the water. After a relatively short time though they learned to go after the plankton even if it was laying still on the surface.

Now I knew that I could keep them alive on a non-live diet, but the big question was - will this keep them healthy enough to breed. The answer is yes. Since they were in an essentially bare tank which contained, in addition to the two fish mentioned above, several large Callichthys cats and a very large raphael cat,

most of the fry were eaten in spite of their camouflage. I was able to find six of them and moved them into a 2½ gallon tank. I started out feeding them Daphnia for about the first week or so. Since there were only six of the little monsters I didn't have much trouble giving them enough to keep them full. I also put several gravid female guppies in the tank with them. As soon as they were big enough I began trying to wean them to dry foods. I would give them a meal of Daphnia in the morning, to be sure they didn't get hungry enough to eat each other, and in the evening I would give them some freeze-dried bloodworms. Like they're parents at first they would only eat it if I dropped it into the bubbles from their filter so it looked like it was moving. Also like their parents they learned very fast not to care if it was moving. I then stopped all live foods and now feed only the bloodworms.

The fry are now about 2" long and living in a 5½ gallon tank. I still have all six. Nobody ate anybody else, which really surprised me in the small tanks they've been kept in so far. The fry would probably have grown much faster on a diet of live foods but I believe they have become better "pets" this way. When the little Belonesox see me coming towards their tank with the bloodworm can they get "excited" and come rushing to the front of the tank to be fed. The next question I want to find an answer to is can I raise these six to adulthood and get them to breed on a dry food diet. Maybe in another five years I'll reprint this article again with another addition tacked on and give you the answer.



OUR FIRST AQUARIUM



Many people tend to get carried away when putting fish into their very first aquarium. There's so many fish to choose from and, well, there's always room for just one more isn't there?

The fishbowl above is about as jam packed with different kinds of fishes as you can get. How many do you see? I put in 39 different types. Anyone who can find them all, and send me a list, by March 1 will be given a prize. Since the prize fund is limited what the actual prize is will be determined by how many people win. I can't promise a big prize and have 50 people win it, even though I think this is a tough enough puzzle that that won't happen. Even if you don't find them all send me your list. I will print the names of the winners, if any, and others who came closest, in the next Delta Tale. Send your list to Delta Tale, PO Box 664, Merrifield, VA 22116; or hand it to me at the Feb. auction or March meeting.

J.M.

COLLECTING TROPICAL FISH

John R. Fisher

Tropical Fish Club of Burlington

This is not an article about how you can trudge off to the Amazon collecting both fish and assorted strains of malaria to keep in your tanks and body respectively. This is about a lazy man's type of collecting that requires only some reading and picture gazing of some aquarium literature and enough gas to visit as many pet stores as you have the time for/desire to see.

There are many different aspects to this hobby. Wherever you started, chances are that you have made numerous lateral moves within the hobby. (Commentary time: Often I hear the term "moving up" used in this hobby when people are actually moving across. You don't "move up" from livebearers to cichlids or from cichlids to salt water, etc. To suggest to someone (me?) that they (I) should move up is certainly an insult to something important to us (me). Every time I hear that term, I hear fingernail-on-the-blackboard type sounds and if given a choice I'd rather be chewing broken glass than listening to such diatribe. Anyway, I'll shut up now. Thanks. Back to the article.)

Perhaps you specialize in livebearers, cichlids, or salt water. In any area, there are many paths to follow to further concentrate your efforts and become more specialized. Perhaps you've branched out into many different areas of the hobby, expanding your horizons instead of narrowing them as many of us tend to do. Whatever direction you've chosen, you can still participate in the 'collecting' aspect of the hobby.

By collecting I mean developing the knowledge and the 'eye' to spot fish in the pet stores that are a little different from their peers. With many types of wild collected fish there are some "contaminants" mixed in with them. A contaminant is defined as any fish, usually somewhat resembling the majority of fish in the tank, that wasn't intended to be there.

Fish such as tetras, loaches, or catfishes are excellent places to hunt for rare specimens. I myself spend a lot of time peering into tanks of catfish looking for something different. From time to time I find some very rare fish that most likely would have otherwise spent its captive life unidentified and unappreciated.

Another similar source of unusual fish would be groups of fish that get an incorrect name assigned to them at the collectors/importers/wholesalers level. Often this is one way of getting a large group of an unusual fish. This also creates a great opportunity for you as a hobbyist to breed some rare fish without laying out mounds of cash to do so.

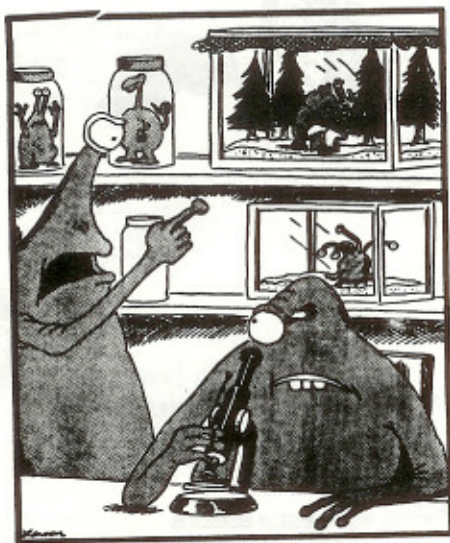
Speaking of cash, I'd like to propose a code of ethics for this manner of collecting. While the devious parts of our brains may conspire to buy the fish and not let the pet store owner know that it is unusual, allowing you to go home and gloat over your pulling a 'Donald Trump' on them, you shouldn't do that. It actually will be to your advantage not to do such slimy things.

I always tell the store owner all I know about the fish. My usual line is something like "That's different! I want it! Bag it! How much?" Now this may seem like I'm setting myself up for a price gouging, but I have always been charged only the price marked on the tank for all the other fish the contaminant was mixed in with. Never have I had someone try to charge me more. By doing this, you can leave with not only a rare fish but with a clear conscience.

The other benefit to this is that more often than not the store will learn that you are looking for the unusual and will start pointing contaminants out to you during future visits, perhaps something that you might have missed.

How do you get started? Decide what types of contaminants you would like to collect, and start looking at the books. Study the pictures. Learn to see fish differently. Learn to see beyond general body shape and color. Pay attention to fin size and shape, eye position and color, jaw shape, etc. With a little practice, you'll soon be able to spot contaminants from across the room. You'll have branched out, expanded your horizons, and found yet another way to enjoy this magnificent hobby of ours.

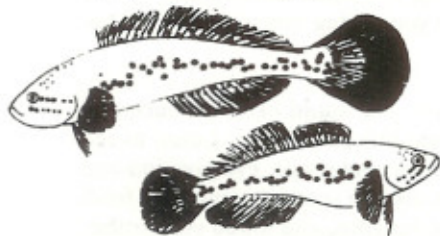
(reprinted from In Depth, newsletter of TFCB)



"Zorak, you idiot! You've mixed incompatible species in the earth terrarium!"

Mogurnda! Mogurnda!
 By Carr & Carr (Rob & Nancy)
 with a little help from Englehardt &
 Englehardt and Schmidt & Schmidt

Here is a drawing of a pair of purple gobies. Their scientific name is Mogurnda mogurnda. Test your knowledge of these fish by taking the following quiz.



1. Mogurnda mogurnda is so called because:

- "Mogurnda" is a native name from Australia, where the fish originates.
- There are two of them; a single one would simply be called a "Mogurnda".
- "Mogurnda!" "Mogurnda!" is what you say when you finally outbid everyone else for them at the fish auction.
- It's what your spouse says when (s)he finds out what you paid for them at the auction.



2. The common name for this fish is:

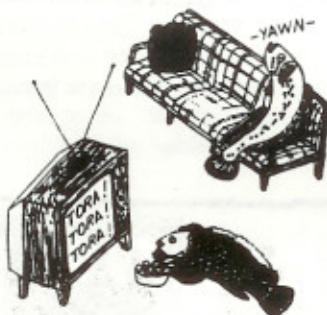
- Purple-Striped Gudgeon.
- Darned purple fish that ate all my tetras.
- Little crispy thing on the carpet by the aquarium.
- Melvin (obviously incorrect. Mogurnda mogurnda have names like DeeDee, Fifi, Gigi, Lulu, etc.)

3. Mogurnda mogurnda is native to:

- Eastern and northern coastal and central Australia.
- New York, New York.
- Pago Pago
- Walla Walla.

4. Mogurnda mogurnda get enjoyment from:

- Nipping fins and spawning on rocks or aquarium glass.
- Watching reruns of "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman" and "Rin Tin Tin."
- Viewing the film "Tora, Tora, Tora!" (Obviously incorrect. While Badis badis enjoy this movie, Mogurnda mogurnda get bored about 2/3 of the way through it.)
- Listening to music by Duran Duran and Mister Mister.



5. Mogurnda mogurnda can safely be kept with:

- Fish its own size or larger; it will nip the fins of smaller fish.
- Anostomus anostomus
- Butis butis
- Callichthys callichthys
- All of the above.

Greater P. H.burgh Ag. sec.

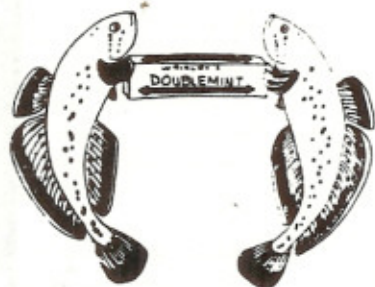
6. Be careful when spawning Mogurnda mogurnda because:

- The male attending the eggs may attack you.
- Nutritional deficits during this time lead to Ben-ben.
- This is a trick question. They don't spawn. I've never seen it and you've never seen it and let's face it, THE THINGS WON'T SPAWN...!!! AARRGG!!!!
- Frustration, panic, and paranoid delusions brought on by unsuccessful spawning can result in the aquarist taking a short "vacation" in a mental institution.

7. Every Mogurnda mogurnda secretly desires to:

- Eat live foods. (Not much of a secret, but hey, what do you expect? They're just fish, for crying out loud!)
- Star in a Doublemint commercial.
- Learn the Cha-Cha and eat bonbons.
- Bring about world peace, write a Pulitzer prize-winning novel, gain fame and fortune, live a long and happy life, and be surrounded by adoring friends and family. (Correct, but trite. Everyone wants that.)

(Continued on Page 20)



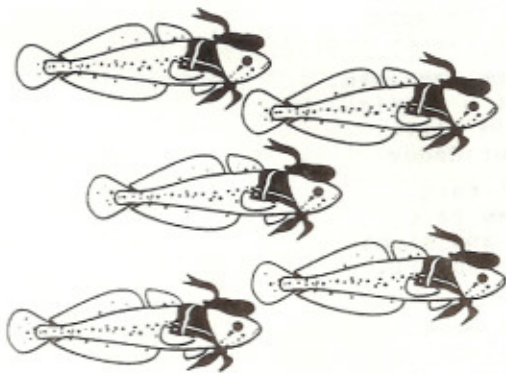
(Mogurnda Continued from Page 19)

8. When spawning *Mogurnda mogurnda* :

- a.) The female mates with several males, one of whom takes over the duties of tending the eggs.
- b.) Insert your own double name joke here.
- c.) Set up a spawning tank in Sallie Boggs' basement and leave town for a month, asking her to "just look in on them for me."
- d.) None of the above. This is just another trick question about the nonexistent *Mogurnda mogurnda* spawnings.

9.) After about a week, the fry hatch. They should be:

- a.) Provided with infusoria, and when they are free swimming, the male should be removed.
- b.) All dressed alike, because they look cute that way.
- c.) Given firm limits and liberal praise, to promote feelings of security & self-esteem.
- d.) Culled down to the best 6 fish and sold at BAP auction along with their parents.



***Mogurnda* fry look cute dressed alike.**

10. A common problem people have with these fish is:

- a.) They tend to jump out of the aquarium.
- b.) International *Mogurnda mogurnda* Congress folded due to duplication costs.
- c.) Getting "faced" by extremely protective male mogurndas during spawning. (It really happened.)
- d.) People looking them up in fish handbook index cannot decide whether they have the *Mogurnda mogurnda* or the *mogurnda Mogurnda*.

**Aquarium Critters in Science
Blue Whales**

By Sallie S. Boggs, PhD.

Blue Whales are hardly aquarium critters, but I thought you would like to hear some news about them. Off the California coast this endangered species seems to be showing signs of a comeback.

Scientists estimate that about 2,050 Blue Whales were feeding off the California coast in the summer and fall of 1991. This contrasts with the 1,600 estimated number of all remaining Blue Whales in the entire North Pacific in 1974. However, it does not begin to replace the estimated 340,000 killed before the ban on killing was imposed in 1973.

Still, all the amounts are only estimates. The whales may truly only be holding their own.

(Y. Baskin; Science 260; Page 287; 1993)



"Faced" by a *Mogurnda*.

SPAWNING THE PLATY, XIPHOPHORUS MACULATUS

by Steven J. Schiff

As I write this poem I find
A fact which I don't really mind
Although it sort of drives me batty
There's no good word to rhyme with "platy".

Despite this fact, it's true, you know---
The platy comes from Mexico
Guatemala, and Honduras
Or so the atlases assure us.

The platy likes its water hard
So dump your peat moss in the yard.
pH should be at seven-nine;
A little salt will do just fine.

The temperature will be just right
At seventy-seven Fahrenheit.
(For those of you whom metric's swayed
That's twenty-five in Centigrade.)

Feed them flake food and brine shrimp
Frozen bloodworms, do not skimp.
Nutritious food is what you need
To get these fish to thrive and breed.

Once a month will fry appear
Or maybe thirteen times a year.
(Actually, you'll see 'em more
Since days 'twixt broods are twenty-four.)

When they're born the young can swim.
A good thing, too, for it's a grim
Fact of life, if you're a platy:
You might be eaten by your daddy.

To help avoid this awful fate
And keep from ending up as bait
The babes can hide both day and night
Beneath some floating water sprite.

Another way to keep the loss
Of fry 'way down, is java moss
Or any other floating plant
Where young can swim, and parents can't.

This fish is kept with problems few
Maintenance, spawning--easy, too.
Its colors always captivate us:
Xiphophorus maculatus.



Reprinted from the Reporter, North Jersey Aquarium Society.

WHATS IN STORE FOR US ?

PRESIDENT OF F.A.A.S.
JOHN C. CLARK

It seems like we go through this cycle of bad Legislation every 2 or 3 years. It looks like we are in store for some really biased Legislation in the next few years. There are many Bills starting to pop up, not only in the States but on the National level.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently released a report to Congress. This report entitled "Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations of the Intentional Introductions Policy Review" outlines recommendations that if adopted would cripple the Aquarium Hobby and Industry. It contains recommendations to reduce the risk associated with the Importation, Interstate Movement, Sale, Possession, and handling of ALL fish and Aquatic Organisms. This means Fish, Invertebrates, and Plants anything that comes or lives in the water.

The Report recommends greater Federal activity under the Lacey Act. (1) Expedite the Injurious species listing process. (2) "Foster Compliance" with the Interstate Commerce aspects of the Lacey Act by dissemination of information on State regulations, including State lists of regulated species. (3) Establish Federal clean and dirty lists. (4) Initiate "Review System" for every species not on the clean/dirty lists. (5) A "Federal Import Permitting System to provide a credible review of proposed introductions of nonindigenous aquatic organisms" As this report now recommends Import both into the U.S. as well as between two States could be subject to obtaining Permits prior to international or Interstate transport. (6) The report also recommends U.S. implementation of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea Protocol. This Protocol is designed for Marine Species protection not for Aquarium type species. If this Protocol were adopted all importations could be prohibited. (7) Also recommended are "Model State Codes" which call for "Comprehensive Legislation to deal with Nonindigenous species Issues".

There were one or two things that did make since (1) Developing of a "Code of Good Practices" by private Trade Associations (2) Promote a comprehensive Educational Program to educate the people on the problems and these Issues.

These Reports to Congress are used to form Legislation and carry a lot of weight. Especially when the only side heard is from a one sided report. Our Job, Yours and Mine is to see that they hear the other side so they can make the right choice.

Please get a copy of this report and tell your elected Officials the short comings of this Report. Write to your Representative in the House and your Senator in Washington. Let them know what you think. You can receive a copy of this Report by writing to MS. SHARON GROSS, ANS TASK FORCE COORDINATOR, U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, 1849 C STREET N. W., WASHINGTON DC 20240 or you can call directly to Ms. Sharon Gross at (703) 358-1718 and ask that a copy be sent to you. These copies are FREE of charge. Use The Name of your Club when asking for the Report. I feel this Report and the Bills now showing up is just the opening round of a wave of misguided Legislation.....

PVAS TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME 1993

AUCTION	11375.01	
NOV - - -	150.00	
FEB - - -	2870.98	
MAY - - -	4860.37	
OCT - - -	3493.66	
WORKSHOP/SHOWS	490.00	
MONTHLY AUCTION	14.00	
MEMBERSHIP	821.00	
MONTHLY RAFFLE	230.00	
RAFFLE	1139.77	
MISCELLANEOUS	5.43	
TOTAL	14075.21	

11879.01

EXPENSES 1993

AUCTION	7438.73	
AUCTION EXPENSE	996.33	
WORKSHOP/SHOWS	1128.50	
SPEAKERS	285.00	
INSURANCE	161.00	
MEMBERSHIP	30.00	
PHONE BILL	589.62	
POSTAGE	1342.32	
PRINTING	1361.47	
RAFFLE EXPENSE	403.08	
REFRESHMENTS	301.31	
SUPPLIES	31.51	
TAXES	25.00	
MISCELLANEOUS	8.00	
TOTAL	14101.87	

9848.56

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 664, MERRIFIELD, VA 22116

Application for Membership

Date: _____ 199_

Name: _____

Street: _____ Apartment: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Occupation: _____

Where did you hear about PVAS/get this application?

Number of aquariums: _____ Time in hobby? _____

Special interests (e.g., catfish, cichlids, etc..)?

Reason for joining: _____

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

Family/Individual: \$12/yr
Corresponding: \$ 9/yr
Junior (under 18): \$ 5/yr

Please send application and check for dues to the address shown above.

SUPPORTING VIRGINIA SHOPS

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Annandale, VA 22031
256-2400

AQUATIC ENHANCEMENTS, INC.

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Alexandria, VA 22304
(703) 765-4620

DISCOUNT PET CENTER

9028 Mathis Avenue
Manassas, VA 22110
361-7769

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35217 South Jefferson Street
Falls Church, VA 22041
931-1400

BEACON MALL PET CENTER

6776 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306
660-6100

NATIONAL PET AND AQUARIUM

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Falls Church, VA 22046
533-7828

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Alexandria, VA 22305
548-0557

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Oakton, VA 22124
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Vienna, VA 22180
281-8181

PETS, ETC - ALEXANDRIA

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Alexandria, VA 22306
768-2200

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13932 Lee-Jackson Highway
Chantilly, VA 22021
378-2777

PETS, ETC - HERNDON

462 Eiden Street
Herndon, VA 22171
437-0381

PETS, ETC - STERLING

243-C Harry Flood Byrd Hwy
Sterling, VA 22170
430-9667

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3081 Nutley Street
Fairfax, VA 22031
573-4400

SUNSHINE PETS

7395-H Lee Highway
Falls Church, VA 22042
573-6946

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Springfield, VA 22150
703-866-1057

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Randlestown, MD
301-521-4529

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13810 Georgia Avenue
Aspen Hill, MD 20906
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Gaithersburg, MD 20877
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Silver Spring, MD 20910
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POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
PO BOX 664
MERRIFIELD, VA 22116

Meetings are held at the John C. Wood Facility, 3730 Old Lee Hgwy.
(rte 237) Fairfax City, VA. Room 7 (in the rear of the building).
Doors open at 7:30, meetings start at 8:00. ALL ARE WELCOME.

