

# \* DELTA TALE \* FEBRUARY 1982

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

VOL., XIII, Issue 2

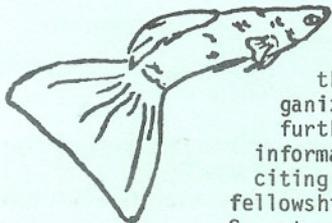
potomac valley aquarium society

50¢



MINI-  
AUCTION!

FEBRUARY MEETING; JEFFERSON FIRE STATION



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 dissemination of 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, VA 22206. Original articles and drawings may be reprinted if credit is given the author and Delta Tale. Two copies of the publication in which the reprint appears should be sent to Delta Tale, which will forward one copy to the author/artist. All material for inclusion in Delta Tale should reach the editor no later than the first Saturday after the monthly Monday meetings. The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society and the Delta Tale disclaim any responsibility for content or availability of advertised merchandise or service in these pages. Customer satisfaction is a matter to be worked out exclusively between the advertisers and buyers.

DELTA TALE STAFF: Editor, Wayne Hilburn  
Exchange Editor, Vince Edmondson  
BAP Editor, Gerald Wagner  
Editorial Assistant, Carol Kawecki

P.V.A.S. OFFICERS, 1982

President :	John E. Jessup	Corr. Sec. :	Wayne Hilburn
	534-1704		354-1463
Vice-Pres. :	Darrell Holman	Rec. Sec. :	Chris Guiler
	533-7750		864-1299
Treasurer :	Ruth Brewer		
	941-6692		

P.V.A.S. 1982 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Kenny Warren, Nancy Griffin, Pete Tietjen, Jim Hajdics

P.V.A.S. 1982 COMMITTEE HEADS

Auctions :	Woody Griffin	Bowl Show :	Gerry & Kay Wagner
BAP :	Gerry Hoffman	Programs :	Woody Griffin/ Darrell Holman
Library :	Darrell Holman	Ways/Means:	Jim Hajdics
Membership :	Jerry Stirman	Constitution:	Ruth Brewer
Spring Show:	Darrell Holman		
Ex-Officio Member of the Board :	Woody Griffin		

MEMBERS OR NON-MEMBERS HAVING QUESTIONS ABOUT FISH, AQUARIUM KEEPING, AND BREEDING CAN CALL ONE OF THE OFFICERS LISTED ABOVE, WHO WILL BE GLAD TO ASSIST YOU.

Printed by TOP CAT PRINTING, 164 Colburn Dr., Manassas Park, VA

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

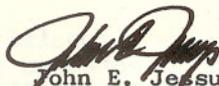
After more than 15 years of association with the PVAS, the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant has refused to renew our agreement that allowed us the use of their recreation room. This is a most unfortunate thing to have happen and is doubly so because of the arbitrary way in which the representatives of the Coke plant handled the affair. There was no discussion, just a few lame excuses and then an arbitrary no.

As a matter of fact, the Coke plant was completely within its rights in doing what it did. No one denies that. After all, we used the hall all of these years free-gratus, and there is, therefore, little basis for reclama of what is already a fait accompli.

I am sorry that our long, most fortuitous, friendship with the people at the Coke plant had to end like this. I am also sorry that the new management at the Coke plant did not have the time, or inclination, to get to know us and what we do and have to say. I am sorrier still that that same management apparently saw fit to leave the decision to underlings who have neither the community nor the image of the Coca Cola Company at heart.

We do thank those who have been good to us and we wish them the best of luck in the future. As for the PVAS, we are not homeless! Whereas the Coke plant no longer wanted us around, the stalwarts at the Loehmann's Plaza Fire Station have indicated their willingness to have us hold our meetings in their community facilities. We accept this offer, temporary as it may be, with heartfelt thanks. They have proven themselves to be our friends in the past, and I hope we are able to prove to them that we are indeed worthy of their friendship.

In the meantime, Pepsi anyone?

  
John E. Jessup PhD  
President

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING: JAN. 7, 1982.

The meeting was held at Darrell Holman's. Present were Darrell, John Jessup, Ruth Brewer, Jim Hajdics, Wayne Hilburn, Chryss Guiler, Vince Edmondson, Kenny Warren, Jerry Stirman, Gerry and Kay Wagner, and Woody and Nancy Griffin. John called the meeting to order at 8 p.m.

The first order of business was the announcement that the Coke Plant is cutting 80% of the activities for which the meeting room is used. We have submitted an application to be considered for the remaining 20%; we should be notified of the results by March. A discussion followed concerning a place to hold the general meetings for January and February, the January meeting being in the nature of an emergency. As a result of the discussion, two options were presented: (1) the general meeting for January will be at the Coke plant, and (2) the January general meeting will be cancelled. Woody Griffin volunteered to approach the Coke Plant administration to see if we may use the meeting room this Monday. If the room is not available, the board members will notify the general membership of the cancellation of the January meeting.

The Board then paused to thank Ruth Brewer for agreeing to fill the vacant Treasurer's office in 1982.

Delta Tale Editor Wayne Hilburn presented for discussion the idea of local advertising, such as business cards, to be placed in the Delta Tale. A sample advertising Rate Schedule was also presented. The board voted approval on the advertising and also on the Rate Schedule with some minor changes.

There was some discussion of mailing the Delta Tale by bulk rate as opposed to the first class mail we currently use. The board approved the use of bulk rate as only the corresponding members should be affected by the increased mailing time.

John Jessup then inquired about the transfer of materials between old and new officers. Everything is proceeding smoothly.

A discussion followed about the acquisition of a new air system for the Spring Show. Action was tabled pending further study of available systems.

Ruth Brewer presented the year-end Treasurer's Report for acceptance by the Board; the report was accepted. A discussion of an annual audit followed; it was decided that no annual audit is necessary.

The BAP chairman is authorized to expend up to \$50 for slide reproductions for BAP orientation program.

The next Show Committee meeting will be at Woody Griffin's on February 21 at 11:00 a.m. Woody made a motion that the Board authorize the Show Committee to take necessary action as provided by experience to make necessary arrangements for the Spring Show. The motion was accepted.

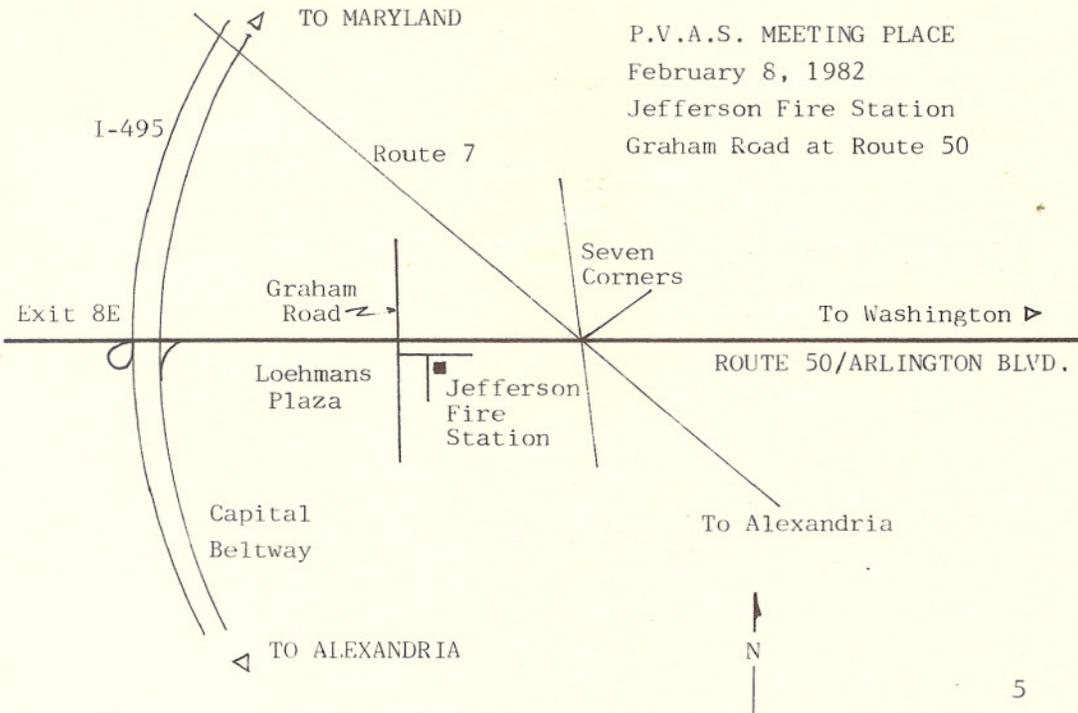
The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

--Chris Guiler

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report - 12/31/81

12/7/81	BANK BALANCE		\$3,459.69
	Plus Revenues:		
	Memberships	\$ 46.00	
	Cash in lieu of presents at Christmas party	12.00	
	Makeup check - Fall auction	<u>96.50</u>	+ 154.50
	Less Expenses:		
	Supplies - Christmas party	\$ 41.58	
	Supplies - BAP	12.85	
	Cokes for Fall Auction	99.23	
	Errors in 12/7/81 statement:		
	2d entry of auction proceeds	71.30	
	2d entry of FAAS deposit	<u>20.00</u>	- 244.96
12/31/81	BANK BALANCE		\$3,369.23



# P.V.A.S activities

---

## REVIEWS

Tropiquarium, Motor City Aquarium Society, June 1981,  
"The Octopus" by Susan P. Sprague in April 1981.

## REPRINTS

Cichlid Chatter, Journal of the Greater Chicago Cichlid Association reprinted Pat Mahoney's article, "Apistogramma Steindachneri", Mar/April 1981.

Catalyst, Bulletin of the American Catfish and Loach Association. Reprinted "History of the National Aquarium" sent by Wayne Hilburn. Vol VI No 2.

## CITATIONS

The Nekton April 81 mentions two articles by Woody Griffin and Garland Neese on Lamprologous brichardi.

Paradise Press June 1981 cite articles by Woody Griffin and Darrell Holman on Geophagus steindachneri.

Reporter North Jersey Aquarium Society Vol 2 No 5. Review of PVAS activities by Mike Sheridan.

## NEW MEMBER

Deanna Mosquera, 6718 Westlawn Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042, 533-0060, Three months in the hobby and only three tanks so far!

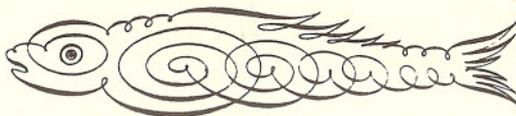
## NEW MEETING PLACE!!!

The February meeting will be held at the Jefferson Fire Station Community Room which is located just a few minutes from the Capital Beltway (Exit 8E), Seven Corners, or where you might live or work. It's at Graham Road and Route 50, Falls Church, Virginia.

## TRADE/SWAP/SELL

More people have said they would like a trade/swap/sell column in here but so far, no one has listed anything. Maybe they meant that it would be great if the other guy did it?

## MINI-AUCTION



The February meeting will include a mini-auction -- if there is any other program it will be a very short one.

This twice yearly small auction allows members to dispose of fry or fish and equipment they no longer want -- and to pick up some that they do, while helping the club treasury.

Every member may bring up to five (5) bags of fish or fish related items. Family membership, therefore, may bring 5 per family member.

Registration will be from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. The auction itself will begin as soon as the short business meeting and bowl show is over.

General procedure is the same as at our big auctions. Bids will go up in increments of 50¢ until -- when we will switch to \$1 per raise -- at the discretion of the auctioneer. Minimum bids for beginning are \$1 -- unless the seller sets a higher minimum.

As at the big auction, you will not be paid on the spot, but your 2/3 portion will be mailed to you within two weeks. The club will keep 1/3 of the selling price.

If you are selling, please hang around long enough to be sure your item does sell. The club cannot be responsible for unsold bags or items.

COME AND BRING FRIENDS -- selling and buying is not limited to P.V.A.S. members only.

Apistogramma rammirezi: Dealing with an Accidental Spawning

by The Wagners

The beautiful and shy wild-type Ram, Apistogramma rammirezi, is one of the most popular varieties of South American dwarf cichlids. Although not usually difficult to find in local aquarium shops, this little fish commands a price that the casual hobbyist is usually hesitant to pay. The fish rarely exceeds 7.5 cm (approx. 3 in.) in length and then only by a few millimeters. It also tends to hide among plants and rocks a great deal and this characteristic often leads to a lack of appreciation of the full beauty and coloration of this species.

I became interested in acquiring a few Rams because they require much the same tank conditions as angelfish and I thought they would add some contrasting variety to my 55 gallon tank containing several large angels. Following a relatively lengthy adjustment period, during which they remained almost constantly hidden, I began to appreciate the subtle variations in coloration of this fish. My aquarium is located so that it receives a broad shaft of sunlight early in the morning. The Rams revel in this environment, slowly "grazing" along the bottom and showing off their glimmering blues, yellows and red in the sunlight. Once the sunlight had dispersed, the Rams would generally disappear into the plants and only occasionally show themselves during the remainder of the day.

The spawning of my Rams was purely accidental. I simply noted them guarding a portion of gravel in one end of the 55 gallon tank. Upon closer inspection, numerous clear round eggs were noted. The parents were waging a valiant battle as they were greatly out-sized and out-numbered by the angelfish who were avidly seeking some tasty tidbits. I might add that the Rams were doing a relatively effective job at keeping their opponents at bay. I removed 110 eggs with a dip tube and placed them in a two and a half gallon tank with a few drops of methylene blue and very heavy aeration.

Approximately 72 hours later, the fry began to hatch out, but only in small numbers. Another three days and the fry were free-swimming. Much to my dismay, only about 25 fry could be counted. I suspect that the constant attack by the angelfish on the spawning pair may have prevented fertilization of many of the eggs. The fry were very small and feeding posed somewhat of a problem. After a week of trying many different small foods and the loss of about half the fry, I began feeding small amounts of microworm culture, oatmeal, yeast and all. This food seemed popular and it may have been a combination of the many types of microorganisms in this mixture that provided the necessary nutrients. I made partial water changes with 1:3 tap to distilled water about once a week, maintain it at a pH of 6.8 and a temperature of 27° C (80° F). The fry were transferred to a 10 gallon tank when they were about one month old and at 60 days the 12 remaining fry were about an inch to an inch and a half in length.

My Debt to Pierre

:or

Some of My Experiences With Fishkeeping

"Deceased, August, 1980, Pierre,  
kissing gourami, age at least  
13 years, almost certainly of  
Natural causes.

by Janice Ross,  
Saskatoon Aquarium Society

I acquired my first aquarium in 1967, a 25 gallon built into a mahogany room divider. The idea had been mine, to provide a nominal dividing line between my study area and the rumpus room. A creative friend suggested a glass top and side lighting. He had seen such a tank and said it was very effective. Subsequently, the divider was built, the tank installed, and I set out on an unsuccessful search for an appropriate light fixture. The tank sat there, empty and waiting. It was just as well, since one of my recently adopted daughters putting up decorations for a Halloween party climbed on the glass top and crashed through it.

Soon after this we acquired a conventional metal canopy and the carpenter was commissioned to construct a wooden cover. Happily we washed the gravel, filled the tank, put in place the rocks and plants, installed the fish, and sat on the floor to admire the graceful angelfish, the colorful neon tetras and swordtails, and the jet black mollies, which darted about as happy as we were.

The following summer we still had graceful angels and colorful neons, swords, and mollies - not all the original acquisitions, mind you, but still an attractive tank. The greatest problems were the plants, which kept fading away, and the angels which seemed to thrive to a certain size and then die.

That August the social worker who had shepherded the adoption proceedings for my first two daughters brought the girls a gift - a kissing gourami some four inches in length - a young whale to join the other occupants of the tank.

There was no where else to put him; we had only the one  
(continued next page)

tank. So in he had to go and there he remained for several years. I named him Pierre because of his kissing habits, not because he possessed any particular charisma. But he was durable. Epidemics and other disasters left him unharmed. More than once he jumped out of the pail in which he was placed while the tank was being cleaned. He was very tame and right up to a couple of hours before his demise would come to the top to be hand fed.

All during these years we remained a one tank family. The only reason we did not drop out from the hobby was Pierre. No matter what happened, he remained.

Our lowest point came in 1970 when the girls went to camp and I took advantage of their absence to take a two week vacation. A graduate student was installed in the house to sit the dogs, cats, and fish. Was it the heat? A stuck heater? An inexperienced caretaker? In any case I came home to a tank of dead fish, that is, dead except for Pierre, who upon being removed to a pail of fresh water apparently decided the floor was preferable to the conditions under which he had been living and was discovered flopping about under my desk.

For several months he occupied the tank alone. There were no plants. There was no desire to replant or restock. Some days he was fed; some days he was forgotten.

But Pierre was tough and eventually the tank was restocked, this time with other varieties of gouramis and a hypostomus plecostomus.

One day I received an urgent call at my office. "The tank is full of babies and Pierre is hiding in the corner. The father is chasing all the other fish." I hurried home and found the tank was indeed full of babies. Father, a handsome gould gourami, had the other occupants cowering in corners and behind rocks.

It was suddenly necessary to have another tank. I found a nice 20 gallon unit through an ad in the paper, acquired a couple more at an auction, and bought several tanks from an aquarist who was moving away. Pierre was moved to another 25 gallon tank where he remained for the rest of his life. My hobby has now expanded to a total of 14 tanks, with number 15 waiting set-up.

And I owe it all to Pierre, who wouldn't let me give up!

Gymnogeophagus australis

by Darrell Holman

If someone had asked me a year ago, "What kinds of fish are being predominantly kept by our club members?", I would have answered: "Riftlake Cichlids". However, if that same question was asked of me today, my answer would be, "I don't know". It seems the members have really made an abrupt change from the Riftlake Cichlids to fish that a year ago they would have turned their noses up at when mentioned. There seems to have been an explosive interest in keeping tetra, killifish, catfish, native Americans, and New World Cichlids. This has been brought about mostly by the growing participation of members in the Breeder's Award Program. Also of importance is the fact that myself and a few other members have been able to obtain some relatively rare fish like Cichlasoma septemfasciatum, Cichlasoma festae, Crenuchus spilurus (sailfin tetra), and Crenicara filamentosa. We have been able to obtain species like these in such quantity that we are able to share our wealth with other members of the club. One such fish which was brought into our area by Gene Aldrige and Woody Griffin is Gymnogeophagus australis. This fish, so far, is the only one which has almost disappeared as fast as it originally appeared on the hobby scene.

G. australis is found in the southern parts of Brazil and in parts of Uruguay. It reaches a length of about 12 to 15 cm, with the female being slightly smaller than the male. One of its outstanding features is its vast array of iridescent colors, which are displayed by both sexes. If observed under proper conditions, the rainbow of colors which seem to change as the light strikes at different angles can be observed. In Paul Loiselle's article in the May, 1981 issue of FAMA, he proposes the common name of Rainbow Eartheater, which anyone who has owned or seen this fish would undoubtedly have to agree. When the male reaches a length of about 8 cm, he develops a lyrate type caudal fin, which is not characteristic of the female, so sexing is not really a problem.

Maintaining this fish presents no problem; it can tolerate a wide range of pH (6.5 to 8.5), but is more likely to spawn at the higher value. This fish has quite a docile disposition, making it highly desirable for the community aquarium. It can be housed with some of the smallest varieties of fish, such as tetra, dwarf cichlids and small catfish, without fearing that they may become a meal or be molested. The only time this species may become aggressive and protective is when caring for eggs or young.

I was fortunate enough to obtain a pair of G. australis from Woody Griffin in September, 1980. The pair was placed in a large community tank containing tetras, catfish, and cichlids. They seemed to adapt quickly and coexisted with the other fish with few problems. Feeding presented no problem as they would eat any of the commercially prepared foods and avidly devoured any live food that was offered. After a couple of weeks, the female began to appear gravid, but I was forced to delay spawning the pair since all of my tanks were occupied. It was March, 1981 before I was

(continued next page)

able to set up a spawning tank for the pair.

The clean, freshly filled spawning tank consisted of a five and one half gallon tank containing a box filter and heater, and a substrate of #3 gravel. The tank was allowed to age for a few days. The water had a pH of 8.2 and a DH of about 6; a few teaspoons of salt were added (I didn't know whether or not it was necessary).

I first placed the female into the tank and fed her live foods for several days. The male was placed in the tank along with a flat piece of shale which they had used as a spawning site in the community tank. About three days later, I noticed them cleaning the shale. That same afternoon I noted they were guarding a fairly large spawn. The pair was very interested in protecting the eggs and would try chasing me away when I looked into the tank.

The eggs hatched in approximately 48 hours and the parents quickly moved the fry to a pit they had dug into the gravel. The next day I discovered the female had jumped out of the tank. The male acted as if nothing had changed and continued guarding the fry. In two days, the fry were free swimming and I placed the male back into the community tank. I immediately started feeding the fry baby brine shrimp which they readily devoured. At three weeks, I started having problems with the fry dying one after another. They apparently had been chilled and had developed ich. In a few days, the number had dropped from about 300 to only about 50 fry, but the survivors seemed to be doing better. I then moved them to another tank, hoping that the fresh water would aid recovery. The remaining fry were doing very well and were readily eating crushed flakes and baby brine shrimp. I ended up with a total of 46 fry at 60 days which were approximately one half to three fourths inch in length.

At this time, there are only four adult males and one female remaining in our area, along with 31 of the fry that I raised. I hope myself and a few other members will be able to get these few fish to start reproducing and replenish the supply in our area.

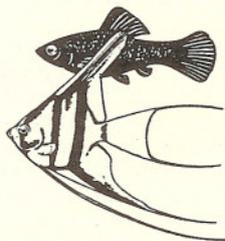


#### FISH LTD

SHOWPLACE OF TROPICALS  
7123 LITTLE RIVER TURNPIKE  
ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA 22003

(703) 256-7123

SPECIALIZING IN AFRICAN &  
SOUTH AMERICAN CICHLIDS,  
AQUATIC PLANTS AND  
JAPANESE GOLDFISH





BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAM REPORT

---

NAME	POINTS AWARDED Through January 13, 1982
Woody Griffin	525*****
Gerry Hoffman	520*****
Garland Neese	640****
Pat and Maggi Mahoney	535****
John Jessup	395****
Darrell Holman	365****
Vince Edmondson	330****
Ruth Brewer	305****
Jim Hajdics	190**
Art Lembke	135*
Kenny Warren	90*
Gene Aldridge	80*
Tom Wright	80*
Thompson Family	55*
Gerald & Karen Wagner	100*
Ken Fisher	30
Amy Stirman	40*

RECENT POINTS AWARDED

Darrell Holman - Cichlasoma sajica - 10 pts  
Wagner Family - Apistogramma ramirezi - "Ram" 15 pts  
- Colisa lalia - "Dwarf Gourami" 15 pts  
- Colisa fasciata - "Giant Gourami" 15 pts

BAP COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Gerry Hoffman, Chairman  
Ruth Brewer  
John Jessup  
Pat Mahoney  
Woody Griffin

# BOWL SHOW

RESULTS JANUARY 1982

---

## CICHLIDS

### New World Large

No entries

### Riftlake Mbumba/ex Pseudotropheus

1st - M. Auralis - Amy Stirman

2nd - 3rd No entries

### Open

1st - Ps. Zebra - Amy Stirman

2nd - Ps. kenni - Amy Stirman

3rd - No entry

## EGGLAYER/LIVEBEARERS

### Anabantoids

1st - C. Lasciata (Giant Gourami) Wagners

2nd - 3rd - No entries

### Catfish, Corydoras

1st - C. trileatus - Darrell Holman

2nd - C. hastatus - Darrell Holman

3rd - C. melanistius - Wagners

### Open

No entries

Members' Choice : John Wagner - Albino Corydoras

Judges: Woody Griffin and John Jessup

## FEBRUARY BOWL SHOW CATEGORIES

### Cichlids

New World Medium

Haplochromis

Open

### Egglayer/Livebearers

Guppies

Barbs

Open

In each issue of the Delta Tale the month's categories will be published. So will the current standings for the year as far as points are concerned. It would be a good idea, however, for anyone intending to show fish to keep the January issue handy for reference throughout the year.



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
PO BOX 6219, SHIRLINGTON STATION  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

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	\$10.00	Corresponding	\$5.00
Individual	\$ 7.00	Junior	\$3.00
		(under 18)	

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 Cocoa-Cola Bottling Plant, 5401 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia at 8:00 P.M.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL



1982 MEETING DATES:

JAN. 11	APRIL 12	JULY 12	OCT. 11
FEB. 8	MAY 10	AUG. 9	NOV. 15
MAR. 8	JUNE 14	SEPT. 13	DEC. 13

The February 8, 1982 meeting will be held at the Jefferson  
Fire House Community Room, Route 50 and Graham Rd. Falls Church, VA.

Meetings start at 8 p.m. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Bowl Show  
registration 7:45 p.m., to 8 p.m.