

* DELTA TALE *

FEBRUARY 1983

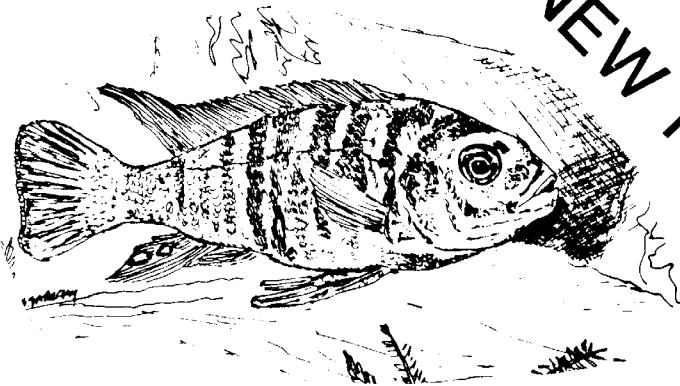
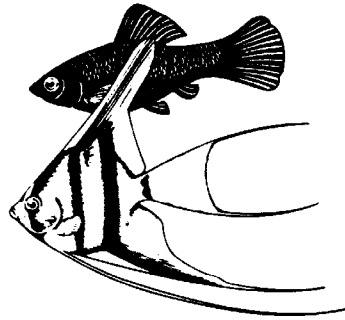
VolXIV: No.2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society

SUPPORT BOWL SHOWS

BOARD APPROVES NEW PRIZES



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



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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 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; One will be forwarded to the author/artist. All material for inclusion in Delta Tale should reach the editor 10 working days prior to the monthly meeting date. P.V.A.S. disclaim and 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.

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Exofficio, John E. Jessup

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Auctions	:	Pete Tietjen	Bowl Show	:	John Mangan
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Spring Show	:	Woody Griffin	Delta Tale	:	Ron Thompson

Members or non-members having questions about fish, aquarium keeping or breeding can call one of the officers listed for assistance.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the past fifteen or sixteen years of the monthly Bowl Shows, PVAS members have entered thirty to fifty entries per show and, on at least one monthly show, nearly a hundred entries, but over the past several years our interest has diminished to the point where only a few members have participated. This of course takes away all the fun of competition and drastically reduces the value of Bowl Show competition as a PVAS activity.

True, catching fish after working all day, gulping down dinner and then rushing to the meeting, rates right up there with breaking your leg. However, we (and I mean all of us) must take action if the MBS is to become a viable activity of the Society. The alternative is to drop the monthly shows altogether; I think you will agree the alternative leaves much to be desired.

In an effort to shore up our monthly shows, I appeal to all of you to bring at least one fish to each meeting. A listing of the Bowl Show categories for the balance of this year is being printed in this issue of the Delta Tale and will be printed monthly for the balance of the year. If all of us pitch in, we can make the quarterly and annual competition really mean something again.

At the January Board Meeting, official support for this effort resulted in the decision to award a twenty-gallon tank to each of the winners of the Cichlid and Egglayer/Livebearer categories -- this is in addition to the annual trophies awarded to these winners.

The success or failure of the Bowl Show competition is entirely up to the membership. If we all pitch in we can have a meaningful competition once again.

UPDATE

News about some good friends of the Club:

Ed Taylor is now Assistant Editor of TROPICAL FISH HOBBYIST. Our most hearty congratulations not only to Ed but to TFH.

Also, Ginny and Charlie Eckstein are the subject of a nice writeup in "The Lineup" in February's TFH.

1983 BOWL SHOW SCHEDULE

<u>Cichlids</u>	<u>Months</u>	<u>Egglayer/Livebearers</u>
New World Large Riftlake Mbuna/excl. Ps. Open	January June	Anabantoids Catfish, Corydoras Open
New World Medium Haplochromis Open	February July	Guppies Barbs Open
New World Dwarf Riftlake, non-Mbuna excl. Haps Open	March August	Killifish Catfish, non-Corydoras Open
Angelfish and Discus Non-Riftlake African Open	April September	Livebearers, non-Guppy Sharks and Loaches Open
New World Mouthbrooder Pseudotropheus Open	May October	Goldfish and Koi Characins and Tetras Open
Angels and Discus New World, all other Mbuna Haplochromis Riftlake, non-mouthbrooder Open	November Expanded Show	Livebearers Characins and Tetras Catfish Sharks and Loaches Anabantoids Open
	December	
	No Bowl Show -- Christmas Party	

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 to keep this schedule handy for reference throughout the year.

OFF THE RECORD: BOWL SHOW TIPS AND GUIDELINES

If you think the fish looks good and healthy, the judges will probably agree...A clean bowl with clean water will help...Remove old stickers from previous shows, (the night of the show is best as time seems to cement them on more firmly)..Use a container big enough for your fish. A drum bowl is ideal for most-- but go to a 2 1/2 gallon or a 5 gallon if you are showing a big fish... A two-flat-sided container is the conventional drum bowl in an appropriate size, preferably of glass...

PVAS BOWL SHOW STANDINGS

	Cichlids		Year
	Month	Quarter	
John Mangan	7	7	7
Amy Stirman	5	5	5
Frank Angilletta	4	4	4
Pat Mahoney	4	4	4

Egglayers/Livebearers

John Mangan	10	10	10
Garland Neese	9	9	9
Frank Angilletti	7	7	7
Amy Stirman	4	4	4
Michelle Mangan	4	4	4
Jim Long	1	1	1

This year's competition is off to a good start. I'd like to thank everyone who brought fish and I hope even more of you will enter the February show. Some changes have been made that I hope will make the competition more interesting for everyone. Anyone having any questions should contact me.

Special thanks to John and Woody for their services as judges.

John Mangan,
Bowl Show Chairman

February Categories

Cichlids

New World Medium
Haplochromis
Open

Egglayers/Livebearers

Barbs
Delta Tail Guppies
Open

FROM THE LIBRARIAN

From the Library starts next month... It will recap what's on hand from our various exchange and publication sources....

MONTHLY BOWL SHOW AWARDS

January, 1983

JUDGES; John Jessup ,Woody Griffin

CICHLIDS

New World Large: First: Pat Mahoney, *Geophagus surinamensis*
2nd:
3rd.

Riftlake Mbuna: First: John Mangan, *O.B. Zebra*
2nd: John Mangan, *Cynotilapia afra*
3rd: Amy Stirman, *Pseudotropheus sp.*

Open: First: Frank Angilletta, Angelfish
2nd: Amy Stirman, Mozambique Mouthbrooder

EGGLAYER/LIVEBEARER

Anabantoids: First: *Betta taeniata*, John Mangan
2nd: Climbing perch, John Mangan
3rd: *Betta splendens*, Amy Stirman

Catfish,
Corydoras: First: Garland Neese
2nd: Michelle Mangan
3rd: Frank Angilletta

Open: First: Garland Neese, Swordtail
2nd: Frank Angilletta, *Plecostomus*
3rd: Frank Angilletta, *Ameca splendens*

MEMBERS CHOICE;

Angelfish, Frank Angilletta

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members who joined at our January Meeting...

Richard and Barbara E. Blumberg, Fairfax City joined along with their children, Ricky, 13; David, 10, and Katy, 6, noting that the entire family plans participation in PVAS. They have spawned cichlids and killies. The Blumbergs have been in the hobby for more than 30 years. They have just been transferred to this area where Dick is with the U.S. Navy. At this point they have set up one tank and have 15 more to go.

Ray and Lisa Krause, Alexandria, have been in the hobby for 13 years keeping a variety of cichlids (including severums), plecos and corys. They have spawned gouramis and convicts and are interested in learning more about African cichlids.

Jack Coffman and Sue Hahn of Arlington are new to the hobby but have already spawned convicts. They are currently keeping tetras, cats and gouramis in a 55-gal. tank.

PVAS COOKBOOK

This the first of what we hope to make a monthly feature of the DELTA TALE. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for articles or suggestions about feeding, culturing, storing or buying foods for fish -- or special foods for lots of people (remember, the Christmas party and other Club functions) please pass them on to us. We'll handle the typing -- just give us the information.

* * * * *

Here's a tip picked up from the January issue of CICHLID CHATTER published by the Greater Chicago Cichlid Assn., Chicago, IL:

"Another good food for adult oscars is chicken hearts. Cut away any excess fat from the outside of the heart, though. These are "bite-size" morsels which cost around 70 cents a pound. My fish really love them, and there are quite a few hearts in a pound. Also, don't forget some vegetable matter in your oscar's diet. Add a little spinach or aquarium algae to the ground up beefheart you normally feed."

This was taken from an article called "The Bigger They Are" by Bill Kuhlman (N.A.A.) describing his experiences in keeping and spawning the Oscar.

Vince Edmondson is sold on a product called "Artemia Revolution" which is a solution of brine shrimp eggs pickled in brine. But instead of using the usual solution of Kosher salt and water for hatching, Vince uses water from his salt tank. He says it greatly increases the hatch. Even if you don't have a salt tank, you can still use Instant Ocean (or a comparable product) to make your salt solution. The Thompson household uses this not only for hatching brine shrimp, but for medication.

These are two suggestions that fit the category we're looking for in PVAS COOKBOOK. Send on your own -- the more information we share, the better off we are as a publication and as a Club.

FISHROOM VISIT

Fishroom Visit will crank up next month... so if you would like to contribute give Delta Tale a shout... Its intended to give guided tours through members fishrooms... The Mahoney's are first up!

INFORMATION

by Steve Fink, Treasurer, Michigan Cichlid Association, Inc.

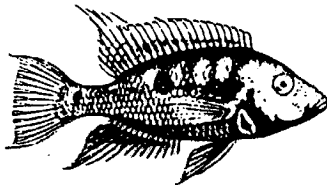
When first entering the facinating world of fish keeping, most people start out with a community tank and try to keep as many different types of fish as possible. When keeping cichlids, however, these fish are usually not suited for the community aquarium due to their large size, aggressive temperament or special requirements. The solution to the problem is to set up aquariums for specific group of cichlids.

Each of your cichlid tanks should be set up according to the specific needs and habits of that particular fish. The hobbyist may choose their fish from the following groups:

- 1-- Small South American Cichlids. (called Dwarf Cichlids).
- 2-- Medium-sized Central and South American Cichlids.
- 3-- African Rift Lake Cichlids.
- 4-- African Riverine Cichlids.
- 5-- Asian Cichlids.

After you have decided on which group you would like to start with, you have to go out and purchase the fish. Don't forget that after you set up the tank you must "season" before putting the fish in it. There have been a great number of articles dealing with this subject. You can find these articles in the library of your local aquarium club, You can find out by talking to experienced hobbyists, or there are books for sale at your local pet supply shop. I would recommend obtaining at least six fry at about an inch long. By buying fry you can let them grow up together and pair off when they are ready.

Cichlids of the genera Apistogramma, Crenicara, and Nanacara are usually known as Dwarf Cichlids. Many of these species only obtain a maximum length of 2 inches and some getting up to four inches long. The smaller of these fish can be maintained well in a ten-gallon tank. The Apistogrammas prefer ten gallon tanks with dark gravel and flower pots in which to spawn. These small cichlids usually will not dig and uproot plants.



FOR BEGINNERS

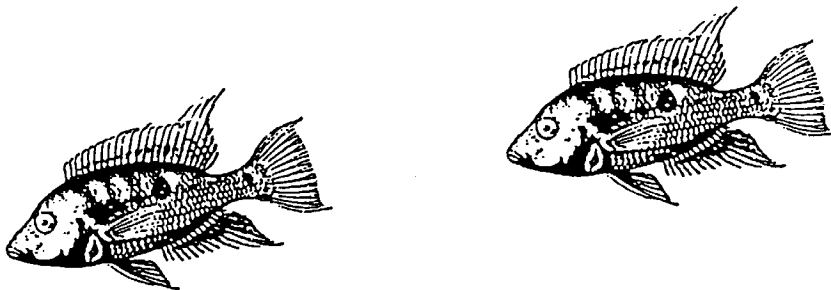
Cichlids in the genera *Cichlasoma*, *Aequidens*, and *Geophagus* may reach a maximum size of eight inches. Aquariums of 30 to 50 gallons should be used (depending on the number of fish to be put in the tank). There is no use putting plants into these tanks because they will be uprooted and eaten or destroyed. There should be plenty of rockwork in the form of caves that the fish can use in which to both hide and spawn in.

When feeding any of these fish you should always vary their diet. Feeding should consist of a good dry staple food, a vegetable matter dry flake food, and some frozen or live food such as brine shrimp, bloodworms, or any type of food of this nature that your fish will eat. The food should be high in proteins and low in fats and carbohydrates. You will have to experiment to find out what foods your fish prefer.

Filtration is a never ending cause for discussion as you can use undergravel filters, power outside filters, inside corner bubble-up filters or sponge filters. You can also use a combination of any of these. In all my tanks I use inside corner bubble-up with a sponge filter. Inside the bubble-up filters I put in some gravel from the tank and filter floss and it does a very good job. Don't forget that every once in a while stir the bottom and siphon off the debris.

Entering the world of cichlid keeping is exciting and will afford you many hours of pure enjoyment. Knowing some of the basics beforehand makes it more enjoyable because some of the beginners mistakes will hopefully be avoided. Also, by joining an aquarium club you can gain valuable knowledge from the members through their own experiences.

(Information For Beginners is reprinted from the January 1983 edition of ALL CICHLIDS, the publication of the Michigan Cichlid Association, Inc. The author, Steve Fink is treasurer of the association).



BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAM

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u> (through Jan 15, 1983)	
Garland Neese	865	++++
Gerry Hoffman	680	++++
Woody Griffin	555	++++
Pat & Maggi Mahoney	615	+++
Darrel Holman	550	+++
John Jessup	495	+++
Vince Edmondson	450	+++
Ruth Brewer	305	+++
Jim Hajdics	275	++
Art Lembke	165	++
The Wagners	165	++
Kenny Warren	90	+
Gene Aldridge	80	+
The Thompsons	55	+
Amy Stirman	50	+

++++ master
 +++ advanced
 ++ intermediate
 + breeder

RECENT BAP POINTS

B.A.P. Checkers

CHAIRMAN: Jim Hajdics

Alexandria: Jim Hajdics 435-4625	Fairfax County: Pat Mahoney 534-0006
Vienna & Ron Thompson McLean 938-3654	Arlington: Darrell Holman 533-7750
District of Vince Edmondson Columbia 234-5641	Montgomery Co.: Woody Griffin 949-3188
Prince William Co.: Gerry Hoffman	

A telephone call to any of the above will give assistance or information on the Breeders Award Program or spawning. Any member in good standing can sign in a 10-point fish.

DELTA'S TALE....

OPENERS----Okay Darrell Holman you can come back to meetings now with this official apology from the editor for typoing you in the January edition of Delta Tale (BAP checkers P-4); and to John Jessup for noting that editors sometimes get beat up at regular meetings for insipid errors in copy. I'll try to do better, but all please note that I'm not insulted by any comments about this little TALE.

VOLUNTEERS---- Ruth Brewer, Amy Stirman and Binkie Thompson have volunteered to assist in preparation of Delta Tale each month. Ruth and Binkie came on line this month Amy is in the wings for future editions. Everyone is welcome to join this group.

NEW DEPARTMENTS---- Leaf back through TALE this month and see if you have any ideas for additional departments... or if you would like to contribute to those on hand now... a call to DELTA TALE at 938-3654 will be in order; you can even arrange for a call back and dictate copy direct. We are reserving weekends for that function.

BACK ISSUES---- Back issues of Delta Tale are on file --MAYBE JUST THE ONE you lost... Again the above number works.

GUEST EDITORIALS---- Excerpted from EXCHANGES and/or members will begin in the MARCH edition of Delta Tale in this space.... here is an example taken from the Journal of the Downriver Aquarium Society, Taylor, Michigan....

Author Mike Barkley reviews dictionary and personal definitions of "Clique." Noting that Webster's terms Clique as a "narrow, exclusive circle or group of persons; especially one held together by a presumed identity of interest, views, or purposes..."

Barkley's definition..."a group of concerned people (the larger the better) who willingly devote a portion of their time and energy working toward a common goal..."

He condemns cliques used as a term to describe people to "justify their petty jealousies or reluctance to contribute, i.e. I'm not in the clique, so my opinion isn't worth anything..."

"There is enough manure in that statement to fertilize a good sized farm," Barkley notes adding that a call to any officer or board members is enough to join the good working clique...

Not bad Mr. Barkley... I'm framing your entire copy....

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society
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First Class Mail

1983 Meeting Dates:

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

Meeting will be held at the Jefferson Fire House Community Room,
Route 50 and and Graham Road, Falls Church, Va. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.;
Bowl Show registration 7:45 to 8p.m.; meeting starts at 8 p.m.

