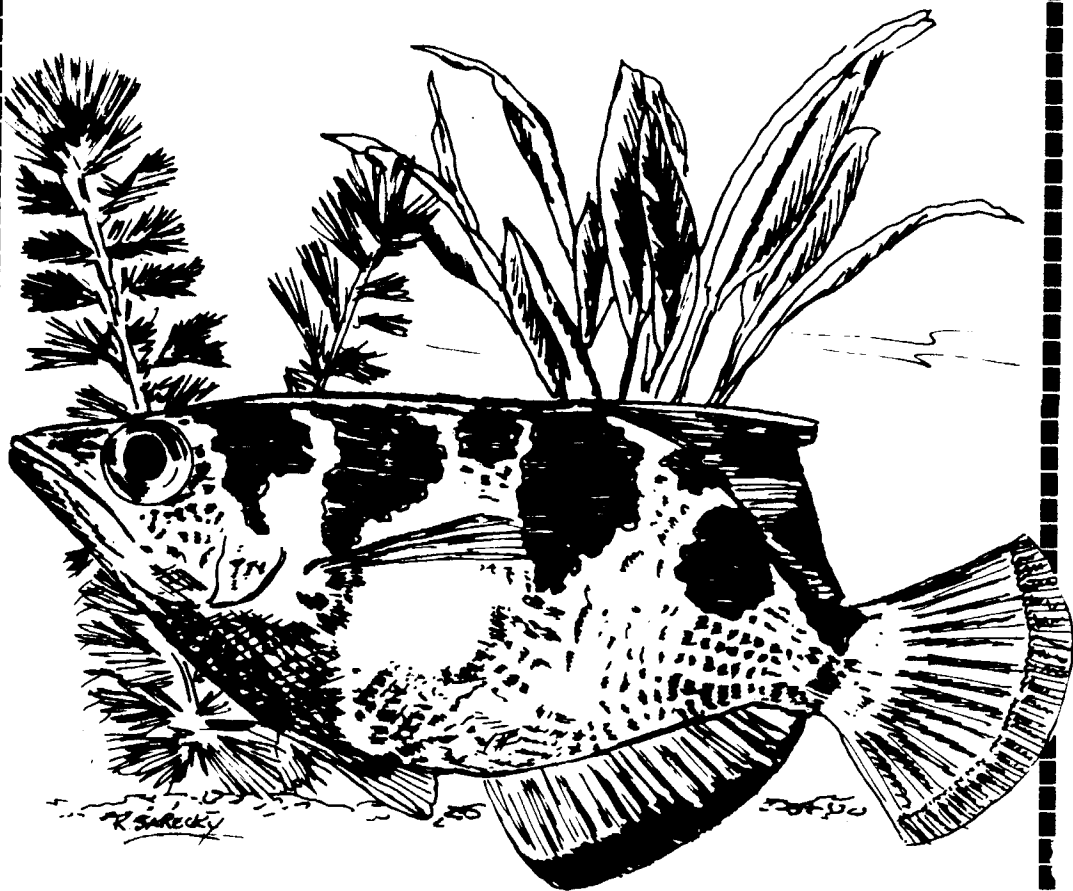


* DELTA TALE *

March 1984
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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society





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PVAS COMMITTEE HEADS, 1984

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BAP : Woody Griffin	Programs : John Jessup
HAP :	Ways/Means: Alex Cummins
Library ; Maggi Mahoney	PAAS : Woody Griffin
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Spring Show: Darrell Holman	

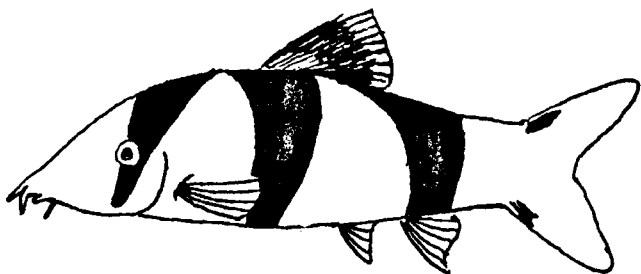
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THE PREZ. SEZ:

As I sit comfortably in front of the television set watching the '84 Olympics, my attention shifts occasionally to the 50 gallon tank only ten feet from the scenes of ice dancing and downhill skiing. The low water level reminds me that more time was needed to bring my aquarium to a presentable state. Then my thoughts wandered to all the other tanks downstairs and how much time I really needed to spend to get things back into proper shape. Talk about an Olympian effort! No excuses are acceptable, and we all let things slide from time to time. But some new enthusiasm and excitement has made me ready to tackle the task ahead of me.

That pick-me-up feeling always comes after our monthly meeting. It was like a shot in the arm this month. The socializing with others in the hobby, with everyone talking about their latest breeding accomplishments put some fun back into the game. It was great seeing such a large turnout. We may soon have to tell people to bring their own chairs if they want a seat. Once again, the Bowl Show was outstanding, and the Raffle had great stuff to give away. All right, the slide program was not a show-stopper but thanks to John Jessup and his commentary everyone had a chuckle and it was fun. February was the first of our monthly mini-auctions to cap off the evening, and it was a wonderful success. Financially, PVAS got some extra money for the treasury, but the beauty of the auction was in the quality of the fish offered for sale. It was a well rounded selection of fish and equipment featuring killifish, honey gouramis, tetras, plecostamus, cichlids and angelfish. PVAS supplied several bags of albino corydoras fry and they were eagerly bidded on. Pity the poor African cichlids that were up for sale, for there was little demand for them. Is this the trend in our area this year, moving back toward the wonderful fish that were so popular before the 'African revolution' of the past decade?

Some of the comments at the meeting are worthy of putting in print. Overheard was: "This program stinks", "We ought to send them our BAP slides and show them how to do it", "That guppy will take first place in any show", "Some nice fish in the auction", and finally "Now I have to wait 30 days until the next meeting." Maybe so, but look forward to it I will, as I work on making my tanks better for their inhabitants. Who knows, you might take home all the gold like Mike Rininger did in February, winning 8 Oz. of Tetramin for his superb black guppy in the bowl show and then taking home the 10 gallon tank in the raffle. Go forit!



Darrell Holman

Berry

FRUM T H E EDITORS DESK

The first thing I'd like to do this month is to welcome Mike Rininger to the Delta Tale staff. Mike will be helping me keep up with the typing.

Speaking of help- I still need some. Just like last month I was only able to come up with two original articles for publication. The rest are all reprints. As mentioned before I have no backlog of articles to draw on. If you don't send in articles there will be none to print.

Another thing that is badly needed is some good art work. I need both cover art (to fill up an approx. 7x7" space) and smaller items for the inside.

If you didn't make it to the open fishroom at Garlands last month you really missed something. Garlands fishroom should actually be refered to as a fish house as it is a seperate building from his house, although fish seemed to find their way into the main house too. There is somewhere around a hundred tanks (I guess once you get past ninety you stop counting) and some of the largest fish you're ever likely to see in a home aquarium. Garland really knows how to grow them.

This months open fishroom should also be fascinating. I'm really looking forward to going, you should too. Details elsewhere in this issue.

The mini-auctions got off to a pretty good start last month, although I thought it was just a tiny bit too long. There was a very good variety of items offered, something to interest nearly everyone. Lets try to keep it this way- don't bring three bags of the same thing unless it's something really fantastic, also don't bring "junk". Take a good look at what you are bringing and ask yourself " would I buy this?" or better yet " would I be mad if someone stuck me with this?" Everyone that brought stuff last month did a good job of bringing mostly top quality stuff. Lets keep it up. one more thing on this subject then I'll move on- please use descent plastic bags, any pet shop will sell, or maybe even give, you a few, and learn how to tie them properly, the old wire tie from the bread wrapper won't do.

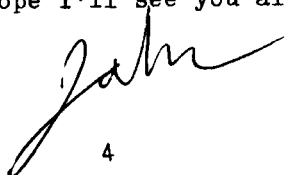
Bowl shows and BAP seem to be off to a good start. Let's keep up the momentum. They need your support to keep going. Let's keep Frank and Woody real busy.

Response to the trading post column was pretty good, as you can see elsewhere. The question and answer column, on the other hand , got very poor response. Does everyone out there know everything?

I'm using a new, updated, mailing list starting with this issue. Hopefully everyone that is supposed to get a Delta Tale will. If you haven't been getting a magazine the last few months let me know and I will try to get the issues you missed to you.

Check the march issue of TFH for a nice write up on PVAS. Pat will probably give more details in next months mirror column so I won't say anything more on this now.

Well I guess I've rambled on enough for this month, I'm running out of page. I hope I'll see you all at the meeting and at Linda Brensikes.



IT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH

The program: The Synodontis species of the Lower Zaire (Congo) Basin. A slide and narrative program from the American Catfish and Loach Association.

The raffle: PVAS just purchased a giant box of supplies to add to the selection.

The bowl show: Who will take home the 8 oz. of Tetramin this month for the best overall fish?

The mini-auction: Following the program. 3 bag/member limit. Rules as usual. PVAS will again provide some quality items for bidding.

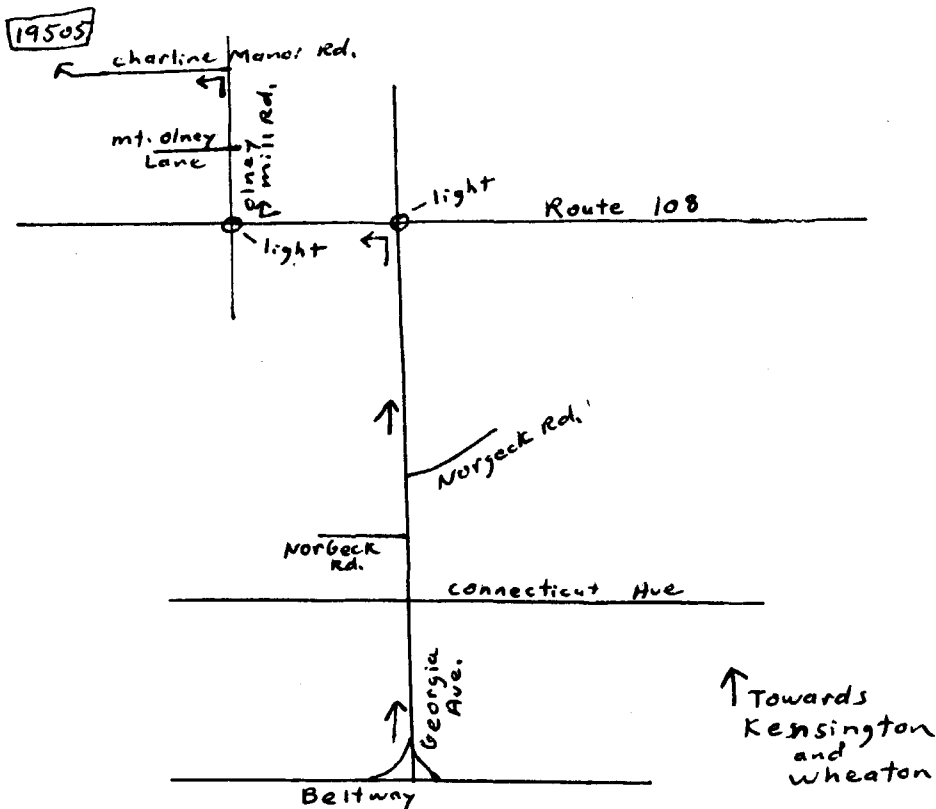
The open fishroom: Sunday, March 18 1:00 - 3:30

at Linda Brensike

19505 Charline Manor Rd.

Olney, MD 20832 924-4624

Linda has 150 tanks on a central filtration system and breeds Discus, Gold Severum, and Albino Corydoras.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1984 MEETING OF THE POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY *Board of Governors*

The meeting was held at the home of Amy and Jerry Stirman on February 5, 1984. Attending were: John Mangan, John Jessup, Pat Mahoney, Woody Griffith, Ruth Brewer, Kurt Schnepf, Kenny Warren, Darryl Holman, Peter Tietjen, and Jerry and Amy Stirman. Susan Ogilbey attended the meeting as a guest. I am pleased to announce that the Stirman's are currently in the lead for the best brunch of 1984. Competition for this coveted title will continue for the balance of the year.

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m. by Gerry Hoffman who was also present. Upon motion, the reading of the January minutes were waived. Due to the absence of the Treasurer because of illness, the financial report was also not read. However, the Society is currently solvent.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The editor of the Delta Tale reported that there is no longer a back-log of articles to be published. All articles should be submitted to John Mangan by the 20th of each month.
2. The gross receipts for the January raffle was \$40.00. It was decided that John Jessup would purchase an additional \$50.00 worth of items to be added to the donations from manufacturers in the raffles for the next several months. This is above and beyond the items which are already going to be in the raffles. Pat Mahoney donated a 2 1/2 gallon tank to be used as the door prize at the February meeting. During the course of the above discussions, Dr. Jessup stated that "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." He was thanked for this observation by all in attendance.
3. The revised membership lists should be available in March if all goes well and the computer cooperates. A discussion of the procedures used to notify members that their memberships were expiring was held.
4. A meeting of the BAP Committee will be held on March 14th at Woody's house.
5. The Federation of American Aquarium Societies will sanction our Spring Show for \$5.00. A check will be sent at once. Pat Mahoney will handle the sanctioning of our Show by the American

Cichlid Association.

6. Over twenty (20) people showed up at Jim Long's house for the January open-house. The February one will be at Garland Neese's on February 19. It is emphasized that these open-houses do not include food or refreshment.

7. Gerry Hoffman will handle the administrative chores relative to the HAP. Jim Long will serve as chief genius and consultant.

8. We are ordering a total of twenty (20) copies of Sterba's book. This will give us two (2) free copies for prizes or awards. Darrell will donate a 50 ft extension cord to the Club. Pat had the Club's projection screen.

NEW BUSINESS

1. I spoke to an insurance agent about liability coverage for the monthly meetings and the Show. I have received a quote of \$150.00 per year for three years for coverage of up to \$1 million. No action was taken at this time but will at the March meeting.

2. The Show Committee met recently at Darrell's. A report of their meeting was given. Several potential judges for the Show were discussed and a list to be asked was selected. Letters to the lucky individuals will be sent shortly. The Committee has decided to have an informal dinner at the ever popular Mr. T's Restaurant on the night of the Show. Ed Taylor will be asked to give a talk on Australian fishes. As things got rather heated during the course of this discussion discretion was used from reporting on it further. Suffice it to say that donations from local merchants will be handled by a smaller team than last year.

3. The following expenditures of money must be approved by the membership at large: (i) purchase of a 55 gallon tank and set up to be used as the major raffle prize, (ii) printing of flyers and posters advertising the Show, (iii) purchase of trophies and a two-year supply of ribbons.

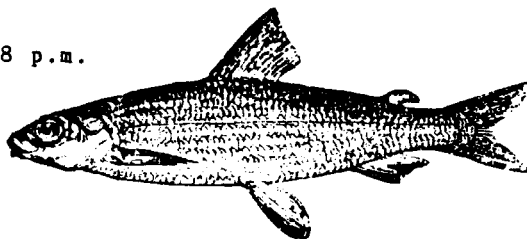
4. Susan Ogilbey reported on the progress of incorporation. She will have the revised by-laws and a charter written by February 8, and will distribute copies to the Board at the March meeting.

She was officially thanked by the Board for her work on this project. It is expected that we will be incorporated by April.

5. The March Board meeting will be held at John Mangan's rather than Darrell's.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter D. Tietjen
Recording Secretary

ed. note - for those of you that didn't make it to the February meeting here is a summary of what took place. J.M.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. PISCES

By K. Benson, ACK

And it came to pass that on the second Monday of the month fell the day known as the Day Of The Aquarist, and along the paths and tracks leading to the Temple known as Jefferson Fire House came all sorts and conditions of men and women, yea even along the main thoroughfares in their chariots each according to his station, some clutching jars and sundry vessels as a man might clutch his first born to his breast.

And lo, a great multitude of people gathered at the Temple called Jefferson Fire House and their voices rose up in such cries as " I'm damned if I will put out the chairs again this month !" and even " why cannot the High Priests who are men even as we are, be on the Hour appointed?"

But one or two among them whose joy it was to help their fellow men said, "Truly this is mutinous talk. Let us all therefore divide this labour among us for, verily, we shall not get this BLASTED SHOW ON THE ROAD if we tarry."

And thus it came to pass that only a little past the appointed hour did the High Priest and the lesser souls known as Deputy, and Scribe and He Who Guards Our Treasure arrive.

And they that had brought Offerings in Jars and Pots and the vessel known as Plastic laid each his offering with reverence upon the Alter provided and retired with such light banter as "That scruffy thing will not win our Lord's approval!" and even "Good grief, I've chucked away better things than that!" There were even those among the throng that laid their offerings on a separate alter saying "These we wish to sell to our Brothers that Joy may fill their hearts and Gold may line our pockets."

And when the High Priest saw all was prepared he rose up saying wise things that those who heard and understood, nodded their heads, whilst those who were new to the Faith tried to fathom such profundities as Subsoil Filter and Labyrinth and even High PH.

And the more knowledgable of the assembled host knew that the High Priest and Heirarchy had done many miracles in the practice of the Faith. He had said, "To the Tetra come forth and multiply" and lo! they had. And another had begot The Gouramie and the Angel and the more difficult creatures of the Flood and they had all given up their young at the Command of the High Priest and his Heirarchy, and also some of them in the Host that knew even the secret thereof.

Feb. meeting cont.-

Then were all throats parched by reason of so much talk before the arrival of the High Priest and also by reason of much mutterings during His address, and there were those among them whose eyes strayed towards the Handmaiden of the Urn and their souls yearned mightily for a cup of her refreshing brew, and when at last the High Priest said, "Let each of us partake of the Handmaidens elixer" there were many among the throng whose women-folk were dispatched to get it.

And the women returned bearing small cups of the Elixer saying" Lord fortify yourself for the ordeal yet to come, with this Elixer."

And then it came to pass that whilst the lesser men fortified themselves with the elixer called Tea, there were those few Wise Men and Sages who foregathered around the lesser Alter called Competition Entry and wrote on parchment any strange Cabalistic Signs each according to his Judgement that in due course was to be the measure of a man's Offering and endeavor to win that which is called Trophy.

Then did the multitude seat themselves again facing the High Priest and many trembled to hear the Pronouncement of the Sages and Wise Men, with much muttering on "Mine looked fine when I caught it this morning now look at it!" and" I've thrown better ones than that down the Loo!" and yea, even such blasphemies as, "If I don't get a place I will leave this faith and seek other Gods!"

But even so did Justice prevail and he that had brought the finest offerings in the Jars and Pots and the Vessel called Plastic was called to approach the High Alter to receive his Just Reward and many were the Glances of Envy as He who had brought an Offering Without Blemish returned to his place bearing the thing called Trophy.

And bitter was the anguish of those whose offerings looked as orange peel in a jar, for to them would no Honour be Accorded and many was the sets of Teeth both real and false that were gnashed that day. And many the breasts that were beaten to cries of "I should have entered Mine!"

Then was it the time of He called Deputy to hold up each of the lesser Offerings on the side Alter and in a loud voice he beseeched his brethern to cast more gold than his neighbor for each vessel, and great waxed the effort amongst the throng to win each prize offered for his own.

And at last each and every vessel held on high was taken and some lifted up their voices and cried, "Is there none for us?" to which the one known as Deputy replied, "That's your hard luck for not bidding when I offered the Vessels"- and now let each man stand before him called Guardian of the Treasure to pay according to his purchase.

Feb. meeting cont.-

And those whose joy it is to protest cried "We will not give our gold for Gravid Guppies nor will we pay our dues!" And the Faithful waxed wrathful saying, "If you don't like the Commandment: then depart hence to the Fountain called Bar and drown your sorrows, but rest assured we the Faithful will be here next waxing of the month !!"

Reprinted, with slight changes, from The Bulletin of The Aquarist Club of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya, Africa (ed. note-cops! this wasn't our meeting. It's so similar to ours that I got my notes mixed up. J.M.)

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

I am finally beginning to get some of the old exchanges logged into an index.

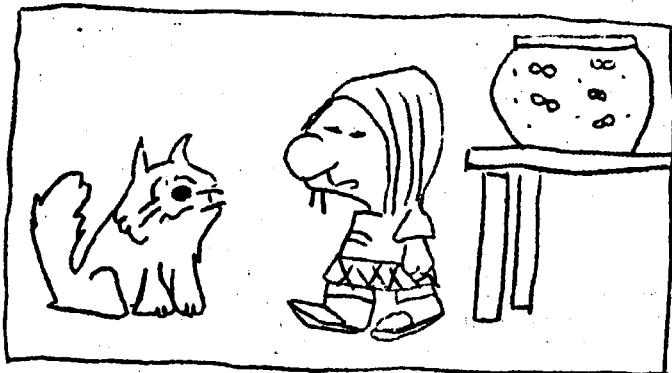
If you are particularly interested in a certain fish give me a call. I'll tell you how many articles we have on him - or bring you those articles at the next meeting.

I shall have to have some sort of system for signing them out, ala a public library, so that we can keep track of who has which and get them back eventually.

I am logging them, whenever possible, by their scientific name ... so be prepared to give it.

These articles can be useful for keeping and breeding a fish you have never had before ... and for writing an article once you have bred them. It's your library ... please feel free to use it.

Maggi



"Three guppies are missing. Let me smell your breath!"

Reprinted from Wet Pet Gazette, White Rose Aquarium Society.

GEOPHAGUS BRASILIENSIS

By Frank Angilletta, PVAS

Geophagus means earth-eater, and brasiliensis means from Brazil. Geophagus brasiliensis is a South-American cichlid native to the country of Brazil. It is found in various regions of this country such as stagnant waters and coastal streams, in some instances in slightly salty water. In nature G. brasiliensis reaches a length of ten inches, but when kept in the aquarium it reaches six inches and this is considered a good size.

Sexing mature adults remains difficult. I did notice that a pair of G. brasiliensis will pair off from the rest in the aquarium. This should give you a good indication that the two that pair off are a possible spawning pair.

I received my pair of G. brasiliensis in November. I then placed the two specimens into a 55 gallon aquarium that I had set up with black gravel, approximately 1½ inches thick, on the bottom. I then placed two large pieces of Virginia blue shale, that I had acquired from a nearby stream, into the aquarium. These rocks were scrubbed and cleaned spotless before being placed into the aquarium. Some large artificial plants were also placed into the aquarium. These plants were not planted, they were just left to float on the surface of the aquarium. This was done so that the female could hide from the male until she was ready to spawn. All of the preparations were done only eight hours before I introduced the two fish into the aquarium. The pH was set at 7.0 and the temperature was 80°F.

The adult G. brasiliensis were fed a diet of Tetra Min Special Mix staple food, some live night crawlers cut into small chunks, and some live brine shrimp. This was done to condition the adults for breeding by giving them a very good, varied diet.

I placed my two specimens into the aquarium on November 29. Five days later the spawning took place at 7:00 a.m. Five days after this the eggs began to hatch and the fry began to wiggle on the bottom of the aquarium. While this was happening they were heavily guarded by the parents. Three days later the fry began free swimming. Thirteen days later the fry began to look like small Geophagus brasiliensis, but without the colorful markings that are on the adults.

Starting the day of free swimming, I began feeding the fry frozen Daphnia three times a day for thirteen days. The fry began to look like small G. brasiliensis at about ½ inch in

Geophagus brasiliensis cont.

length. At this point I began feeding the fry Tetra Min Special Mix staple food. I feed the parents frozen brine shrimp which the young also dined on.

The fry and the parents were never separated, they were kept together in the 55 gallon aquarium. Twenty days after spawning I made my first water change on the fry and their parents. I took about ten gallons of water out and then replaced it with new water from the tap and I added Genisis chlorine remover to the newly added tap water. At this time I also turned on the power filter to help keep the aquarium clean. Before this I only had a sponge filter operating in the aquarium, which seemed to do the job very well.

From then on the fry and the parents were fed the Tetra Min, and on occasion they were given some live black worms, and some frozen brine shrimp as an added supplement to the growing fry's diet.

THE NEW GUINEA PEACOCK GUDGEON

GERRY HOFFMAN , PVAS

Red, yellow, and blue. Gorgeous colors aren't they? Imagine them covering the whole body of a fish that can live in a 10 gallon aquarium or smaller. No, it is not a killifish, but killifish fanciers would sure love this one for its markings. Nor is it a dwarf cichlid, but it acts almost like a cichlid when it spawns. Believe it or not, its a goby!

Colorful it is; in fact its common name Peacock Gudgeon (gudgeon = goby) emphasizes the sparkling array of colors that this fish displays. Here is a very recent import from Papua, New Guinea that will be very popular as it becomes available, since it is peaceful, easy to spawn and beautiful with a capital B.

Tateurndina ocellicauda is well suited for the smaller aquarium, growing no larger than 2½ inches. It does like to have hiding places, so rock caves, flowerpots or plants tend to make it feel at ease. Just this year, two articles describing the fish and its spawning behavior appeared in the April issue of T.F.H. The photos show an overall blue body with red striations and yellow-edged fins. Males tend to have a larger, squarer head and females have a black edge to the dorsal and anal fins. Females in spawning condition have a large yellow belly.

Peacock Gudgeon cont.

The conditions in its habitat had a pH of 7.6, so I used dolomite as a gravel to harden and keep the water alkline. Feeding may be a problem, since live foods seem to be about all these fish like. But the live foods keep the females ready to spawn every 10-12 days.

I didn't follow the advice in the T.F.H. articles, which said to provide the spawning pair with a flowerpot or open, flat rock to use. Since my fish were tank raised, I decided to try the method of the person who had spawned them and passed on the fry to me. He felt the fish preferred tight quarters since the initial spawning took place in a small hollow in a driftwood log. Subsequent spawnings followed regularly if the fish are given about a 3 inch length of PVC pipe lying in the gravel with one end open. It is easy to observe the pair and also remove the PVC pipe should you want to artificially incubate the eggs.

Much pre-spawning display goes on between the sexes, and the male flutters around the ripe female showing her more colors than an avian peacock. Both fish finally squeeze into the pipe, which has been meticulously cleaned by the male. Clear, round eggs are deposited mostly on the upper surface, meaning that they spawn upside down like alot of dwarf cichlids. Soon the female is chased out and the eggs are guarded by the male.

At this point you must decide either to leave the eggs under his care or to pull them. An easy decision for me to make. Here was a brand new fish to the hobby with lots of potential and I was not going to give the male a chance to have a snack. The pipe was removed, eggs still attached, and put in a small drum bowl with acriflavine added to control any fungus. Ten days seems to take forever, but soon tiny clear fry were lying on the bottom and then swimming around. Small live foods on hand (rotifers, babybrine, and microworms) are eagerly taken. Growth may be slow, but they are healthy and progressing nicely now.

In later spawns, any eggs that were left with the male were indeed eaten, so I did the proper thing to insure that the species would not be lost in our area before many more could enjoy it. Losing this fish won't happen. They are too easy to spawn and too beautiful to forget.



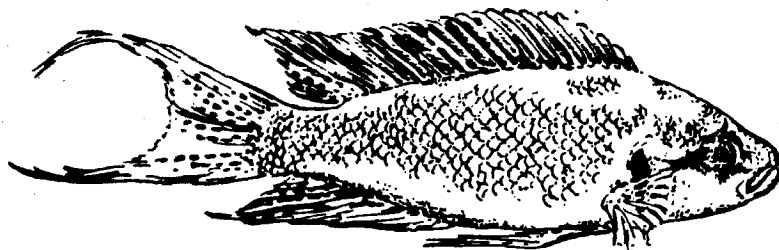
THE MIRROR

REPRINTS

IT'S A HONEY OF A FISH, John Jessup, FISH TALES, Central Alberta Aquarium Society, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, JAN 84.

A TIGER IN MY TANK, Pat Mahoney, RIVER BEND REPORT, River Bend Tropical Fish Association, East Moline, IL, JAN 84.

SPAWNING CRENICARA FILAMENTOSA, Darrell Holman, ALL CICHLIDS, Michigan Cichlid Association, FEB 84.



REVIEWS

ANCISTRUS LINEOLATUS, Pat Mahoney, TANKQUILIZER, Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island, FEB 84.

LAMPROLOGUS MAGARAE; A SNAIL DWELLING CICHLID, Gerry Hoffman, ALL CICHLIDS, Michigan Cichlid Association, FEB 84.

A TIGER IN MY TANK, Pat Mahoney, TANKQUILIZER, Tropical Fish Society of Rhode Island, JAN 84.

COMMUNITY KILLIES, Susan Oglebay, published in the CAROLINA AQUARIST and reviewed in FISH TALES, Aqua Land Aquatic Society, Bristol, CT, JAN 84.

WHAT A WEEKEND, Pat Mahoney, PARADISE PRESS, Long Island Aquarium Society, JAN 84.

SPAWNING CRENICARA FILAMENTOSA, Darrell Holman, PARADISE PRESS, Long Island Aquarium Society, JAN 84.

A TIGER IN MY TANK, Pat Mahoney, PARADISE PRESS, Long Island Aquarium Society, JAN 84.

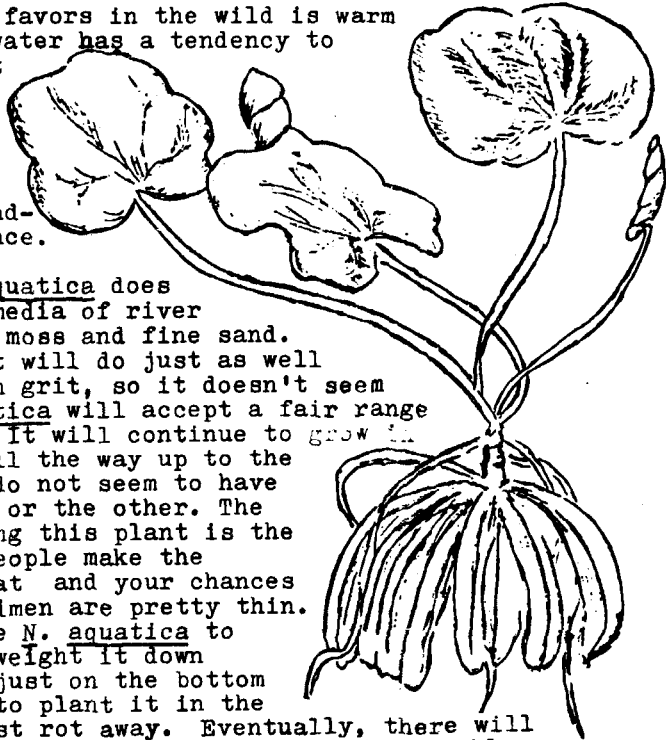
NYMPHOIDES AQUATICA (BANANA PLANT)

By Eugene Kling, CAS

Nymphoides aquatica, or more commonly known as the banana plant, is another plant that will be a pretty sight in your aquarium. Although it is not an underwater plant in the true sense, it can and will adapt to aquarium conditions with a little care. N. aquatica is really a swamp plant and can be found in the Atlantic regions of some parts of Canada and the USA.

The natural habitat it favors in the wild is warm shallow ponds where the water has a tendency to go a bit stagnant, but it also will be found from time to time in streams that have a mild or slow current. This goes to prove that it can adapt to many different surroundings if given half a chance.

I have found that N. aquatica does very well with a bottom media of river mud with a layer of peat moss and fine sand. I have also found that it will do just as well in fine gravel or chicken grit, so it doesn't seem to be too fussy. N. aquatica will accept a fair range of temperature extremes. It will continue to grow in the middle sixties and all the way up to the mid eighties. pH and DH do not seem to have any effect on it one way or the other. The trick, I think, in keeping this plant is the initial planting. Most people make the mistake of doing just that and your chances of having a growing specimen are pretty thin. The best way to introduce N. aquatica to the home aquarium is to weight it down enough so that it rests just on the bottom and no more. If you try to plant it in the bottom the plant will just rot away. Eventually, there will appear white roots from a cluster of tubers which resemble green bananas. Hence its common name, banana plant. These white roots will grow into the sand and eventually root the plant. The green tubers I mentioned are the reserve food supply for the plant and if all of the leaves disappear, which happens very often when transplanting them from the store to your home, do not be alarmed as long as the tubers (bananas) don't go soft. Then, chances are, your plant will soon be growing again.



banana plant cont.

Many fish keepers have thrown a perfectly good plant away because they have failed to realize this very important point.

It can easily be propagated from cuttings and will spread from seeds produced by a small white flower. In planting this type of plant it should be remembered that it does favor shallow areas and if your aqua design permits this, then that is where it should be placed.

N. aquatica likes bright light and will even tolerate a bit of sunlight. All in all it is not overly fussy as to where it is planted and what the water conditions may be. The only thing to bear in mind is that it will not continue to grow if it is buried into the sand. Remember, just weight it down and it will do the rest. Of the many lilies available I do not hesitate to recommend Nyphoides aquatica. It is a good beginners plant and conducive to Calgary conditions and one that is often seen in the stores.

Reprinted from Calquarium, Calgary Aquarium Society, Canada

ed. note- many individuals of this species will sink by themselves and therefore will not need to be weighted. When using plant weights on this, or any plant, be careful not to wrap them too tightly or they will cause the area under them to rot. J.M.

TRADING POST

Ads for the Trading Post should be sent to Delta Tale c/o John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna, VA 22180 by the 15th of the month prior to publication. They can also be handed to me at the monthly meetings.

Wanted: Male Nothobranchius sp Kayuni State Farm.
Rich Blumberg, 12404 Alexander Cornell Dr. Fairfax, VA 22033

For Sale: Large Tri-color Shark, kept in 225 gal. tank. good 8", excellent cond. \$100.00. Jeanette French, Fairfax, VA (703) 631-0514 eve. and weekends.

Trade/ Sale: 5½ gallon incandescent lighthood, unused, still in original box with original tape. Will trade for 2 gallon tank or sell for \$10. Michael Rininger, (703) 860-1734. Please do not call before 11:00 am or after 9:00 pm, thank you.

Wanted: Backissues of Delta Tale (all before 1980), also other magazines and old books. Female Characodon lateralis.
Trade/ Sale: backissues of TFH, FAMA, other magazines.
John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna, VA 22180.

EXPERIENCES WITH VELVET
John Mangan, PVAS

Velvet (*Oodinium limneticum*) is a dinoflagellate which is parasitic on fishes during certain stages of its life. Its life cycle consists of several stages, one of which attaches to a fish by means of a flagellum. Pseudopodia then grow into the fishes skin and the flagellum disappears. Reproduction occurs inside of a cyst, a series of divisions can give rise to several hundred young parasites within a few days. Unlike ich (*Ichthyophthirius multifiliis*) velvet is capable of reproducing while still on the skin of the fish host. Both the free swimming and parasitic stages contain some chlorophyll. This enables them to obtain some nourishment by photosynthesis. (Axelrod and Schultz, 1978).

Velvet has the appearance of a fine yellow powder covering a fish. It is rather difficult to see on most fish until there is quite a bit of it present and/or the fish start acting ill and you then look at them closely.

Now that I've given a little of the technical information I'd like to share some of my experiences with this disease.

It is my opinion that this disease is brought about mainly by stress caused by less than ideal environmental conditions. A good way to prevent the disease is to keep up with your regular water changes. Be especially sure to siphon the old water, dirt, etc. from the bottom of the tank. This is where the *Oodinium* is most likely to be "hanging around" waiting for a chance to attack your fish. Also, by doing this you will be removing things that could cause the environmental conditions in your tank to deteriorate. Addition of salt is also said to discourage the disease.

Killies are supposed to be very susceptible to velvet but I've never had any trouble with them and I hadn't taken any extra precautions.

Although any type of fish is capable of coming down with velvet, I have found that Cyprinids seem to be especially susceptible. Of the commonly kept barbs I've had the most trouble with Rosy Barbs. I don't know if they are really more susceptible than the others or this is just coincidence. Zebra and Giant Danios seem to get velvet very easily, especially the Giants. This is the one species that I have had the most trouble with.

My theory about why the Cyprinids (and the danios in particular) are more susceptible is that these fish generally come from fast flowing, well aerated waters. They are also very active. When you confine large numbers of these fishes in a small space they are put under a great deal of stress. Stress causes fish to become much more vulnerable to attack by disease causing organisms.

Velvet cont.-

Curing velvet can be very frustrating. To start with the disease is hard to see, especially on fast moving species like danios, until it is fairly well advanced. I usually discover it by noticing that the fishes don't seem to be acting quite right. If you spend enough time observing your fishes you should be able to tell that something isn't quite right long before you can pinpoint exactly what is wrong.

I've had very mixed results with medications, what works fairly well one time won't work at all another time on a different tank. Luckily(?) the disease takes a long time to kill most adult fishes so you have time to experiment with different medications. It is a tough organism to kill and in many cases I've lost more fish to long exposure to high doses of medications than to the disease.

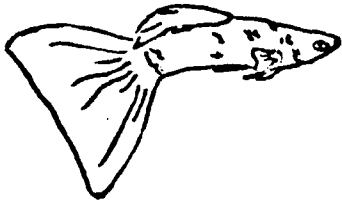
There are a variety of medications you can try. As I said above sometimes they'll work, sometimes they won't. Medications with copper in them show results sometimes. I've had fair results with a product called General Cure by Aquarium Pharmaceuticals, I've also used several products with mixtures of copper and formaldehyde or acriflavine. Several times I have had good results with methylene blue. Acriflavine alone is supposed to work but I've never had much luck with it.

Frequent water changes should also be helpful. This will help keep the medications from building up to levels toxic to the fish and also will reduce the number of free-swimming parasites in the water. Keep in mind however that the disease is contagious. Be careful not to use nets, siphons, etc. in another, healthy, tank or you will end up with two tanks of sick fish on your hands instead of just one.

If anyone out there has any other ideas about ways to cure velvet please let me know. I'd like to give them a try and report on my results.

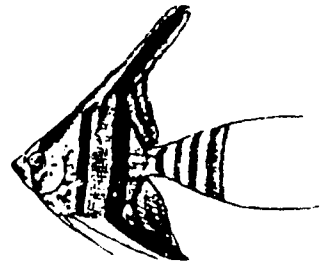
Trading Post cont.-

want; Any species (pairs) of Aequidens, female New Guinea Rainbowfish, 2-6 female Bristle-nose Plecostomus, FAMA magazine 1978- Feb., March, April, July, 1979- May 1983- May, Aug., Oct., Nov., Dec., TFH magazine 1967-all, 1968- jan.-sept. 1970- Jan.-Sept. Buntbarsche Bulletin all prior to 1974. Sale/Trade: Breeding pair of Banded Severums, Alfaro cultratus (knife livebearer) young pairs, TFH Aug. 1976 (2 copies), May 1979, May 1980, Jan., April, June, Sept., 1981, complete set 1983. Contact- Darrell Holman, 5134 N. 25th place, Arlington, VA 22207 (703) 538-4941.



BOWL SHOW REPORT FOR

February



CICHLIDS

New World Medium

- 1st Frank Angilletta, Angelfish
 2nd
 3rd

Haplochromis

- 1st
 2nd No Entries
 3rd

Open

- 1st Frank Angilletta, G. Brasilianis
 2nd Frank Angilletta, Butthoeri
 3rd Frank Angilletta, Black Chin

Judges Choice

Mike Rininger, Black Fan Tail Guppy

MONTH QUARTER ANNUAL

Frank Angilletta	17	27	27
Mark Steel	0	10	10
Nathan Manwaring	0	6	6
Ray Krouse	0	1	1

EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

Guppies

- 1st Mike Rininger, Black Fan Tail Guppy
 2nd Nathan Manwaring, Red Fan Tail Guppy
 3rd Nathan Manwaring, Red Fan Tail Guppy

Barbs

- 1st Gerry Hoffman, High Fin Rosey Barb
 2nd Frank Angilletta, Tiger Barb
 3rd Frank Angilletta, Albino Tiger Barb

Open

- 1st Gerry Hoffman, Pigmy Rasbora
 2nd John Mangan, Charocodon
 3rd Frank Angilletta, Royal Farwellla

Members Choice

Gerry Hoffman, Pigmy Rasbora

MONTH QUARTER ANNUAL

Frank Angilletta	9	30	30
Nathen Manwaring	8	21	21
Gerry Hoffman	13	19	19
Mike Rininger	5	7	7
John Mangan	4	4	4
Robert Roser & Son	1	3	3
Pete Thrift	2	2	2
Alex Cummins	0	2	2
Jim Long	1	1	1

I'd like to take this time to thank the judges for the excelent job they did. Kenny Warren for the judging of the Cichlids, Darrell Holman for the judging of the Egglayers. Livebearer.

I'd like to also thank everyone who brought thier fish to the bowl show. This was another good month for the bowl show. Let's keep those fish coming so the competition will be very exciting next month. Competitors we need some of you to bring in your cichlids so tha can make this a competitive category next month.

Next Months Bowl Show Category

Cichlids

New World Dwarf
 Riftlake, Non-Mbuna Excl. Haps.
 Open

Egglayers/Livebearers

Killifish
 Catfish, Non-Corydoras
 Open

Thank You For Your Support
 Chairman of the Bowl Show
 Frank Angilletta

Off the record; Bowl show tips-

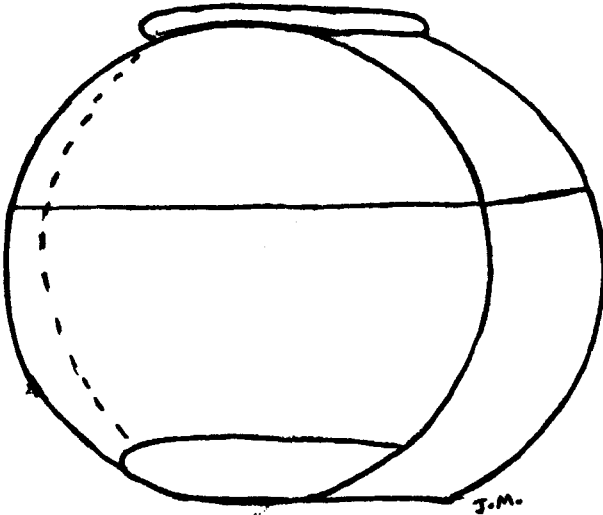
If you think the fish looks good and healthy the judges probably will too (and visa versa).

A clean bowl with clean water will help. Don't leave old stickers from previous shows on the bowl. Take them off as soon as you get home from a show. They come off easily then. Every day cements them on more firmly. Don't feed your fish any later than the morning before the show. This will help insure that the water stays cleaner.

Use a container big enough for your fish. A drum bowl is ideal for most but go to a 2½ or 5 gallon tank if you have a large fish.

Bring your fish to the show. You won't get anything by saying "I have one at home that looks twice as good as that one".

Best, two-flat-sided container is the drum bowl in an appropriate size, preferably of glass.



Do not fill the bowl all the way to the top. Only fill it about 3/4 of the way to create the largest possible air surface.

BREEDER'S AWARD PROGRAM

Garland Neese	1040	****
Gerry Hoffman	765	****
Pat & Maggi Mahoney	705	****
Darrell Holman	640	****
Woody Griffin	610	****
John Jessup	535	****
Vince Edmondson	500	****
Ruth Brewer	305	***
Jim Hajdics	275	**
Art Lembke	165	**
Wagner Family	165	**
Kenny Warren	90	*
Roser Family	70	*
Frank Angilletta	70	*
Alex Cummins	50	*
Ray Krause	10	

**** master
*** advanced
** intermediate
* breeder

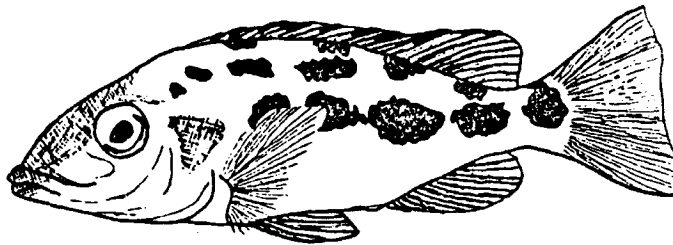
RECENT SPAWNINGS

Gerry Hoffman- Tateurndina ocellicauda (15 pt), Melanotaenia herbertaxelrodi (10 pt), Egyptian mouthbrooder (10 pt), Aphyosemion callopanchax (10 pt), Aphyosemion boehmi (10pt).

Bob Roser- Cherry Barb (10 pt), Poecilia reticulata (10 pt).

Frank Angilletta- Geophagus brasiliensis (15 pt), Xiphophorus maculatus (10 pt).

There will be a meeting of the BAP committee at Woody Griffins home on march 14, 1984 at 7:30 p.m.



**POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance, January 1, 1984.....\$2,158.03

INCOME:

January 9 Meeting Raffle.....\$ 37.20
 January Dues Paid..... 36.00
 October Auction Tab Paid [Final]..... 25.83
 Sterba Encyclopedia.....154.00

Total Income\$253.03

EXPENSES:

Delta Tale Postage (January).....\$ 47.80
 Delta Tale Postage (February)..... 55.50
 Delta Tale Print (January).....111.00
 Delta Tale Print (February)..... 44.00
 Dues, American Catfish & Loach Assn..... 7.50
 Dues & Show Sanction, F.A.A.S..... 25.00
 M.I.T. Press (Sterba Encyclopedia)..... 214.00

Total Expenses.....\$504.80

Balance February 13, 1984.....\$1,906.26

FEBRUARY, 1984 AUCTION

48 items were offered for sale

14 members or families submitted things for sale.

Gross proceeds \$271.50 breaks down as follows:

100% to PVAS (Cory Cats) 29.00

Paid or traded to sellers 161.68

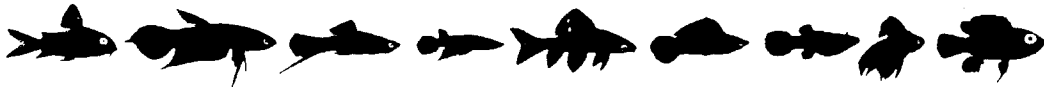
1/3 portion to PVAS 80.82

Still Outstanding (billed) \$62.41

Expenses (Cory cats) 15.00

Total Profit to PVAS: 94.82

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DATE _____ 19 ____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE CONTACTS H _____ B _____

Number of tanks _____ Time in hobby _____

Fish you have spawned _____

What can this club do for you _____

What do you want to do for the club _____

Which sub-groups of fish interest you _____

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

Occupation _____

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

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

Please send application and check for dues to address above.

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

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Meets on the Following Dates in 1984:

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

Meetings are held at the Jefferson Fire House located just off Graham Road and Route 50 (Arlington Blvd.), Falls Church, Virginia. Please do NOT call the Fire House for information. See inside front cover for PVAS officers and phone numbers. All meetings open to the public and potential new members.