

DELTA TALK

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Editor: Dana Skibbie Best

OFFICERS FOR 1978

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| President: | Pat Mahoney | Corresponding Secretary: | Mike Sprague |
| Vice-President: | Steve Siska | Recording Secretary: | Pat Tietjen |
| Treasurer: | Gene Aldridge | | |

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Heinz Lenzen | Tom Lighton | Bill Trout |
|--------------|-------------|------------|

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The Board of Governors met January 4, 1978 at the Sprague home with 10 members present.

The Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$223.13 and no outstanding bills.

Steve Siska, the Vice President, read a letter from Pat Mahoney, our President, who was unable to attend since he would be in Iran on business for about a month. With Steve's election to Vice Presidency, his seat on the board would be vacant. Pat Mahoney was appointing John Jessup to fill the remainder of the term (12 months). John accepts Wendy Morrison had been asked to serve as Ways & Means Chairman, but she declined due to other commitments. The position is open. Jerry Hoffman and Susan Sprague confirmed as co-Chairman of the Program Committee. Dave McInturff agreed to serve as Bowl Show Chairman and will handle the Breeder's Award Program. Steve Siska agreed to chair the Auctions Committee. Another new position - Membership Chairman - is also open.

The Coca-Cola plant has a new policy whereby the facilities may not be used on weekends. We now need a place to hold our Spring Show and Auction and the fall Auction. Tom Leighton suggested O'Connell for May - Spring Show. Would check with O'Connell and let us know. The regular meeting dates have been confirmed. It was suggested we not wait until spring to resolve the problem of finding a place. Any suggestions would be welcomed.

It was suggested again that an ad be placed in the Sunday's paper preceeding each regular meeting. This has been approved for a trial period of three months. Steve Siska will handle this matter. The suggestion was also made that ads be placed in the local papers along with announcements on the radio, ads placed in THF and Aquarium News, etc. This matter will be brought up before the general meeting.

Gene Aldridge brought up the fact that the signature (1st & 2nd) authorization on PVAS checks be changed.

Gene Aldridge also suggested that we look for reasonably priced printers - since the Spring show is next up, and we will need flyers and posters. Prices are going up.

There will be a mini-auction in February, Steve Siska as Chairmen will handle it.

Dana Best is having troubles with the Delta Tale. She needs assistance. Otherwise it will have to become a bi-monthly bulletin, or she will have to drop it.

Gene Aldridge suggested that back issues of the Delta Tale be offered for sale by local aquarium shops - persuade them to sell them by offering them the profit.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM. Gene Aldridge made the motion to adjourn and Steve Siska 2nd it.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Tietjen, Recording Secretary

3-Jan-78

Welcome to the 1978 P.V.A.S. Board. Your new president has gotten off to an auspicious beginning by leaving the country. I am now on my way to Iran and most likely will be gone until about February 1.

Now, to the business at hand. As you know, with the election of Steve as the new vice-president, his seat on the board is vacant. Because I'm somewhat nervous about my new position, I feel the need of experienced personnel on the board to keep me on the straight and narrow. Accordingly, I am appointing John Jessup to fill the board seat for the next 12 months. I have contacted John and he is willing to serve.

The Nominating Committee, in its thoroughness, suggested names for various committees. Included in the list was the name of Wendy Morrison for the Ways & Means chairperson. I talked to Wendy and was advised that she has "too many irons in the fire" to do the job right and must decline with regret.

So, we need a Ways & Means Chairman. I would ask the Board to consider a new member for the job. For example, Mr. or Mrs. Haywood Griffin of Kensington. Or, perhaps Mrs. Beverly Fazil of Alexandria. Or, you might have another person in mind. In any event, I would appreciate your suggestions not later than the February Board meeting.

I have confirmed the recommendations of Jerry Hoffman and Susan Sprague as co-chairmen of the Program Committee. Likewise Dave McInturff has agreed to serve as Bowl Show Chairman and will handle the Breeder Award Program. Steve Siska has agreed to chair the auctions committee.

That leaves us with a nomination for Membership Chairman, a new position. As I see it, the incumbent will be required to maintain and update the membership role, to advise the members one month in advance of their expiration date of membership. If the membership dues are not paid after notification, then the names will be included in the next Delta Tale. They would also be responsible for getting applications and a Delta Tale out to all newly interested parties.

At the present time, this chore is being handled by Mike Sprague, who is also the Corresponding Secretary. Susan, Mike's wife, is co-chairman of the program committee and keeper of the Library. This is too much for one family. In an effort to reduce the work load of the Spragues, I feel we should appoint a separate Membership Chairman. After all, we don't want to "burn out" the Spragues as we have other families in the past.

Maggi has said that if we cannot find a conscientious volunteer, she will accept the position. Subject to your concurrence, I offer Maggi's name for this position.

By now, many of you know that the Coca-Cola bottling plant has made a rule that effects P.V.A.S. The monthly meeting dates for 1978 have been confirmed, but a new policy has been evoked, whereby the facilities may NOT be used on week ends. Accordingly, our Spring Show and auction and the fall auction are in jeopardy. I strongly suggest that this be hashed over tonight. Perhaps each of the Board members could look into such organizations as the VFW, American Legion, K of C's, Masons, church halls, school facilities and military installations in the area. The latter have a "Community involvement" program that we, as a non-profit organization, may qualify for. Although we are not in dire straights at the moment, we cannot afford to wait until March or April to resolve the problem.

I am sorry I cannot be with you for the Board meeting tonight or for the January open meeting next week. I appreciate Steve handling things for me. I'll see you all in February.

Oh, yes - the Mahoney's are volunteering to host the February 7 Board meeting, when I should be back.


Pat

THE INSANITY OF IT ALL

By "Crazy Ken" Keim
Missouri Aqua. Soc., Inc.
THE DARTER

First, you have to admit that we're all a little zingy. Spending hours lugging water, first to empty, then to fill; taking fish from one tank and putting them into another, only to put more fish in the one we just emptied, and on, and on. It's pure insanity...honest it is! "yeah", you might say, "Not me. I'm not nuts!" Well, listen fishy friend, take this simple test to determine your sanity:

THE-INSANITY-OF-IT-ALL-CRAZY-TEST

- 1/4 of the behaviorisms - you're only going fish-crazy
 - 1/2 of the behaviorisms - you're crazy all right, but still curable. (quit the hobby now!)
 - 3/4 of the behaviorisms - you'll probably never be cured, (see a fish shrink, or accept the fact that you're fish-crazy)
 - 4/4 of the behaviorisms - You've lost your marbles all the way (and have replaced them with gravel)
1. Paying ten times more for fish food per ounce than steak, then explaining it to your mate as "reasonable".
 2. Going to the Zoo and spending four hours in the Aquatic House, and 30 minutes seeing the rest of the animals.
 3. Going to a fish auction, and then trying to explain to your friends what a fish auction is.
 4. Telling all your friends about the new batch of fry, and not understanding why they aren't impressed.
 5. Getting upset with your mate for her window shopping, and then spending all day Sunday going from one fish shop to another.
 6. Trying to explain to a non-crazy friend that you have 600 gallons of water in your basement....and it's not flooded.
 7. Spending \$20 for a fish, and then telling people it's only 2" long, and "No, you can't eat it."
 8. Refusing an invitation to a barbecue that weekend because you'll be at a fish workshop, and then watching the blank look on the host's face.
 9. Justifying your 10th tank for a pair of fish, while your mate explains to you that the other 9 still have plenty of room.

10. Trying to explain to a neighborhood child why you can't pump up his bicycle tire, when he heard that you have five air pumps in your basement.

So, that's it folks! I'd explain further, but if you understand what I've written already, you're crazy, and, after all, why write for crazy people? Besides, the nurse is here to help put my white jacket back on.

bap REPORT

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>POINTS</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Susan & Mike Sprague | 165** |
| Ruth Brewer | 270** |
| Gene Aldridge | 80 |
| John Jessup | 55* |
| Diane Nixon | 70* |
| Pat Tietjen | 15 |
| Jan & Dave McInturff | 405*** |
| Jerry Donnelly | 10 |
| Gerry Hoffman | 115* |
| Joe Paull | 75* |
| Pat & Maggie Mahoney | 10 |
| Beverly Fazil | 55* |

1978 BOWL SHOW CATEGORIES

| | <u>CICHLIDS</u> | <u>OTHER EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS</u> |
|-----------|--|--|
| March | Central & S. A. Medium Other riftlake Open | Livebearers Killifish Open |
| April | Angelfish & Discus Other African Open | Sharks & Loaches Catfish, non-corydoras Open |
| May | Mouthbrooder, New World Haplochromis Open | Barbs Goldfish/Koi Open |
| June | Central & S. A. Dwarf Pseudotropheus Open | Tetras Characins Open |
| July | Central & S. A. Large Mbuna, non-pseudotropheus Open | Anabantoids Corydoras Open |
| August | Central & S. A. Medium Other riftlake Open | Livebearers Killifish Open |
| September | Angelfish & Discus Other African Open | Sharks & Loaches Catfish, non-corydoras Open |
| October | Mouthbrooder, New World Haplochromis Open | Barbs Goldfish/Koi Open |
| November | Central & S. A. Dwarf Pseudotropheus Open | Tetras Characins Open |
| | | DOUBLE POINTS IN NOVEMBER |
| December | <u>NO BOWL SHOW--CHRISTMAS PARTY</u> | |

AQUATIC PLANTS

By John Gary, Nassau County Aqua.
Soc., PISCES PRESS Dec. 1977

For one who wants to spend a little time out of doors, collecting your own plants in the wild can be lots of fun. It is truly fascinating to walk into someone's home and observe their community tank full of live, healthy fish and plants. It is a microenvironment, a fraction of a natural environment. It is an art in which an individual must maintain both fish and plants in a healthy condition. A community tank blends creative ability and knowledge of aquaculture.

Both fish and plants need a minimum amount of nourishment; it is not difficult for one to care for both. One of the most important elements needed by the plants is carbon dioxide which is released by the fish through respiration. Mineral elements are available by decomposition of fish waste and food. As long as there is waste decomposing it will not usually be necessary to add liquid fertilizers. Occasional siphoning of the bottom is necessary so there is no build-up of waste, this can be done when you make your partial water changes every week.

Any fresh water pond or lake can give you many fine local aquatic plants. The spring is usually the best time to get specimens, but, because of cold water temperature it is very difficult to get those plants in deeper water. You will have to be satisfied with those nearer the shore until the summer months. The only danger involved with waiting until the summer is the possibility that various weed and insect killers have been used. A check with your local Environmental Protection Agency office will avoid any problems.

Some of the common water plants located in the northeast region are the Corkscrew, *Vallisneria Spiralis*, Duckweed, *Lemna Sp.*, a floating plant which is excellent for baby fishes to hide under and for plant eating fish, and *Cabomba caroliniana*. The Spider Algae, *Nitella*, can be found along the banks of ponds and lakes, and is an excellent plant for egg layers. Several species of Hair Grass, *Eleocharis*, can be found and are useful for spawning. Lastly, let me mention the Foxtail plant, *Myriophyllum sp.* This plant can be used to hide filters and tubing in your aquarium to give it that real natural look. These are just a few of the different varieties you can find on an outing.

Remember before you go for those plants:

1. Take along some type of trowel, or a spade if you don't feel like putting your arm in the cold water.
2. Wear high rubber boots in order to wade in the water.
3. When you pull the plants up, try to also get a part of the root system, they will grow much better than just breaking a piece of the plant.
4. Take something that can hold water in which to place the plants, or else they will dry out. Plastic bags are good for this.
5. Most important don't fall in the water!!!

After returning from your enjoyable outing, place the plants in clean water for three or four days to make sure there aren't any snails or aquatic insects on the plants. If there are, most will eventually fall to the bottom of the container and can be separated and poured out.

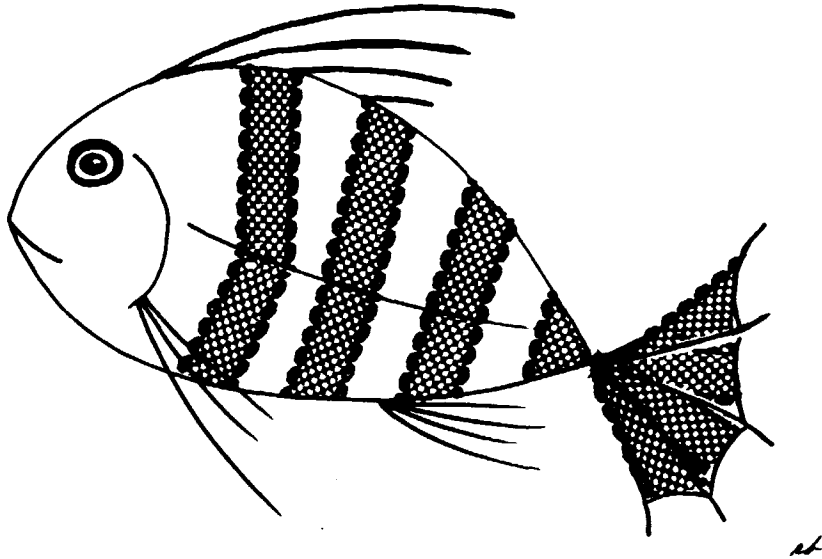
Have fun finding the plants and may they grow like "WEEDS" in your own environment.

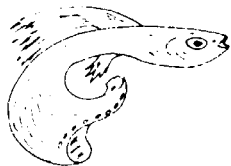
(Editor's note: Whenever you go on a collecting expedition, be careful to get permission from the local landowner, and respect all "NO TRESPASSING" signs.)

FROM THE EDITOR:

This issue is the last monthly issue. We hope to have better, bigger bi-monthly issues coming out starting with the March-April publication. The new deadline for submission of articles is the Saturday after every other meeting (next deadline is the Saturday after the April meeting).

We still need cover artists!!! Call Dana at 920-3177, work, and 960-1686, home.





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.