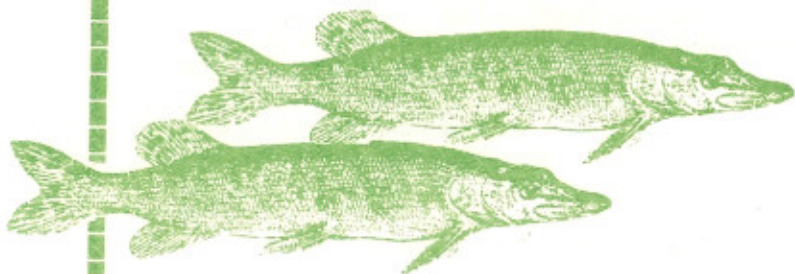
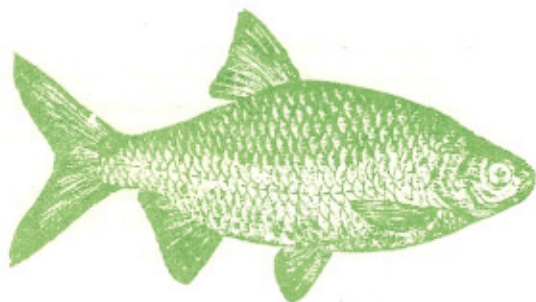


* DELTA TALE *

Nov/Dec 1995
vol. 26, #6

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society



The *Delta Tale* is published bimonthly for the benefit of the membership of the POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY INC. , a non-profit educational and social organization . The society was founded in 1960 for the purposes of furthering the aquarium hobby by the dissemination of information and advice, and the promotion of good fellowship among the membership by organized activities and competitions.

All correspondence to the society and to *Delta Tale* should be directed to P.O. Box 664, Merrifield, VA 22116.

Original articles and artwork appearing in *Delta Tale* may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations if credit is given to the author, *Delta Tale*, and PVAS. Two copies of the reprinting publication should be sent to PVAS. Please include the authors name on the mailing label of one copy so that it will be forwarded.

PVAS disclaims any responsibility for the content or availability of merchandise or services advertised in *Delta Tale*. Customer satisfaction is a matter to be worked out between the advertiser and the buyer.

All materials for inclusion in *Delta Tale* must reach the editor by the 10th of even numbered months (Feb.,April, etc.).

1995 PVAS OFFICERS

President	Alex Townsend
Vice President	Pete Thrift
Treasurer	Rich Blumberg
Corresponding Secretary	Mark Kaprow
Recording secretary	Val Spring

1995 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

John Jessup Rick McKay Kenny Warren Ray Hughes

1995 COMMITTEE HEADS

Breeders Award	John Mangan
Library	Alex Townsend
Membership	Gene Aldridge
Bowl Shows	
Programs	
Ways & Means	Pete Thrift
<i>Delta Tale</i>	John Mangan

Printed by TOP CAT PRINTING, Manassas Park, Va.

Frum the editor's desk

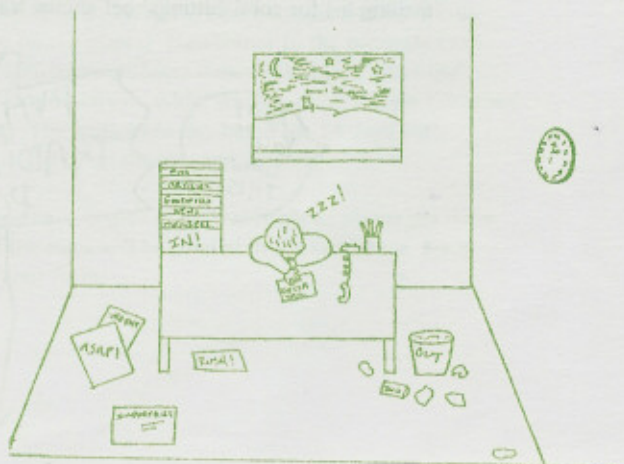
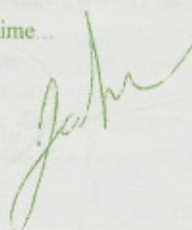
It's hard to believe, but this is the last issue of the year. Before you know it we'll be wearing winter coats and shoveling snow (maybe even by the time you receive this). How depressing. Look on the bright side though- since it will be too cold to do anything outside you can finally get to all of those projects in your fishroom that you've been putting off for months and months.

If you didn't make it to the fall auction you missed another good one. Lots of good stuff was offered for sale. Those who stuck it out until the end got some real bargains. Those of you that brought stuff did a good job. There were very few leaky or poorly packed fish and not much "junk" that should have been put in the trash not an auction. Keep up the good work. Our next big auction is scheduled for the beginning of march. I can't remember the date but it will be printed in the next issue of *Delta Tale* and as the time gets nearer you can find information on the PVAS Hotline (703-352-3365).


Coming up at the November PVAS meeting - the election of 1996 officers. We need some new people to get involved in helping to run things. The same basic group of people end up doing everything year after year and need a break. Nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to voting. See any current officer, or me, if you are interested in running for an office. You don't need any special skills, or knowledge, just a willingness to help.

The December PVAS meeting, for those of you new to the group, is different from our typical meeting. This is typically a Christmas party/ pot luck dinner affair. PVAS will supply a main course (turkey, ham etc.). Everyone else is asked to bring some kind of side dish or desert. We've discussed doing something different this year but since the plans haven't been made by this time we probably won't. If you go to the November meeting an announcement will be made, if you can't make it check the hotline. Another tradition at the December meeting is a gift exchange. Everyone is asked (but not required) to bring an inexpensive, wrapped, fish related gift. Everyone bringing one will receive one in return.

Until next time...



WHAT'S HAPPENING!

 For up to the minute information on what's happening call the free PVAS hotline anytime (703) 352-3365.

Nov. 13: PVAS Monthly Meeting. Election of 1996 officers. Nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to voting. Consider running for an office we need some fresh faces to get involved. See any current officer at the meeting for more information. We'll still have all of the usual stuff too- Program, mini-auction, raffles, door prize, refreshments etc. etc.

Dec. 11: PVAS Christmas Party. See previous page and call the hotline for information.

Jan. 8: PVAS Monthly Meeting. All of the usual stuff- Program, mini-auction, door prize, raffles, refreshments, etc.

TRADING POST

PVAS members may advertise in the trading post at no charge. Send ads to *Delta Tale*, c/o John Mangan, 12633, Oakwood Dr. Woodbridge, VA 22192.

For Sale: backissue aquarium magazines. Many different titles. Send SASE for catalog. John Mangan, 12633 Oakwood Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22192.

For Sale: Turquoise Discus fry. Parents nearly solid turquoise. Real nice fish! \$5 & up. All Glass 20L tank and hood. New condition. \$25. Pete Thrift (703) 971-0594.

Wanted: Coral cuttings, soft corals or hardy hard corals. Also interested in forming mailing list for coral cuttings/reef animal trading. Call Tommy Pallas (301) 924-4432.



Breeder's Award Program

BAP Checkers:

Annandale/Falls Church area: Jeff Burke (703) 3230
Montgomery County: Ray Hughes (301) 424-3531
Mt. Vernon/Olde Town area: Gene Moy (703) 765-0865
Oakton/Vienna area: Rick Mckay (703) 281-1647
Occoquan/Lake Ridge area: John Mangan (703) 491-4980
Springfield/Franconia area: Pete Thrift (703) 971-0594
Warrenton/Manassas area: Gerry Hoffman (540) 347-7486

We still could use some more checkers. There are a number of areas where we don't have anyone. Even if there is someone already listed for your area we could always use someone else to help spread the work around.

BAP Standings:

Breeders Award *
Intermediate Breeder **
Advanced Breeder***
Master Breeder****
Grand Master Breeder*****

Jeffrey Burke 320***
John Mangan 155**
Gerry Hoffman 10 +
Don Kinyon 10

Recent activity: Jeffrey Burke receives 15 points for *Neolamprologus ocellatus* (see article in this issue). He also has points coming for *Lamprichthys tanganicus* pending approval of category change. Gerry Hoffman receives 10 points for *Barbus cumingi*. Gerry conditioned the breeders of this rarely seen Barb in a 55 gal. tank on a diet of flake foods and frozen bloodworms. They spawned in a 20 gal. tank 2/3 full of Java Moss. Adults were removed when fry appeared. The fry were fed microworms and baby brine shrimp (plus the natural infusoria found on the plants). Newcomer to the program Don Kinyon receives his first 10 points for *Aphyosemion bitaeniatum*. Don bred this killie in a 2 1/2 gal. tank. Adults were fed mosquito larvae, white worms, earth worms (chopped up I assume), daphnia, and brine shrimp. The eggs were incubated for 14 days with acriflavin added as a fungicide. Fry were fed brine shrimp, and daphnia.

Once more I'd like to ask any of you that have copies of your records to please get them to me. A complete, up-to-date copy of the rules will be printed in the next issue. Keep trying to breed your fishes and fill out your forms.

Neolamprologus Ocellatus

By

Jeffrey Burke

Neolamprologus Ocellatus is a personnel little shelldwelling cichlids from lake Tanganyika. These feisty little cichlids will hold there own in a Lake Tanganyika Community tank with fish five times their size and even spawn under those conditions.

The spawning tank (if you can call it that) is 30 gallon tank. Filtration was achieved by means of a Fluval 202 Canister and a back up sponge. Substrate was gravel and crushed coral. Rainbow shale was stacked up 2/3 the back and formed caves. Placed on top of the rocks were 3 PCV pipes twelve inches long and four in diameter where the Catfish called home. Their tank mates were 5 Neolamprologus cylindricus, 4 Atalamprologus compressiceps, pair of Synodonis multipunctatus and another pair of unidentified Shelldwellers.

The pair of Ocellatus each had their own shells which happen to be at opposite ends of the tank. Non-Spawning times the male would chase the female. Spawning time they would share and defend the shell even from the much larger Synodontis. The funny thing is that they would spawn in either his shell or her shell. After 10-15 days of the pair sharing a shell I would remove the shell and empty the fry out of the Shell. The fry would still have egg sacs. The fry are easy and undemanding to raise. Even with a busy tank with larger tank mates these little Shelldwellers will flourish and even spawn.

The Native Tank

by Tom Pallas

The natural water systems of Virginia and Maryland offer an abundance of water life suitable for the aquarium. I have collected various fishes, algae, invertebrates, and plants from local freshwater streams and creeks. Not only have I filled an aquarium with a widespread collection of animals, I have learned more about the ecosystem in our area.

At the first glance, the typical stream or creek seems to be rather lifeless. A more detailed look, however, reveals a world within itself. Minnows, trout, crawfish, and aquatic bugs scurry about through thick strands of green algae. In the spring, the frogs gather and lay eggs, which soon give way to many tadpoles. Collecting native fishes and keeping them in home aquaria is an enjoyable aspect of the hobby.

Before you begin to collect, we must first deal with the law. Many parks have restrictions on collecting, and many regions require that you must have a permit before collecting. Always know the rules on nets, seines, chemicals, etc., before you go out to collect. Contact the park service for more information.

Good supplies will help you collect more and better specimens. One of the most handy tools is a large fish net tied to a long broom handle. This gives you more area when collecting with a small net. Nets used in fishing are also helpful, but make sure that the netting is fine enough to catch smaller specimens. Seines are also very helpful. These large nets can be spread across a body of water and dragged to collect specimens- although this normally requires more than one person to accomplish. A bucket with a source of aeration is a must for preserving specimens- more than one are helpful, a separate container for more aggressive specimens.

Observe the water carefully before you begin to collect. Gather some of the sand and rocks and put them in your tank to make the tank as natural as possible. Use your own water: Decide on an area rich in diversity of life. First, check the current. Is it strong, or is it gentle? Areas with strong currents should be re-created by adding a powerhead and creating a "downstream" effect. Next check the water parameters- most importantly the water quality and hardness. I have found water in my area to be acidic and soft- but it does vary from region to region.

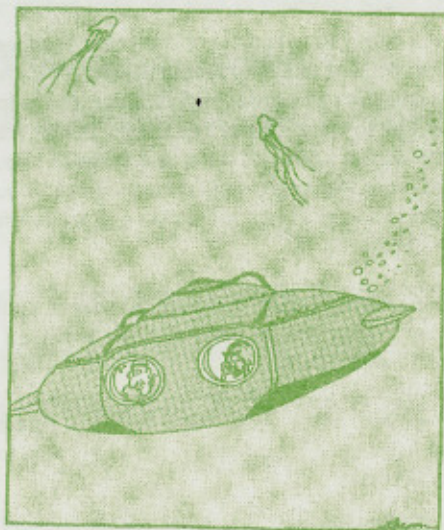
Finally, before you collect, decide on what specimens you want. Be wary of large game fish (bluegill, trout, etc.) and large, pugnacious crawfish. Small fishes, minnows, small crawfish, snails, tadpoles, and newts are all desirable. Also, be realistic in terms of your filter's bioload. Keep a rough layout of the tank's inhabitants during collection.

Here are a few pointers for collecting fishes. Minnows swim in small groups, and should be kept that way in the aquarium. When you approach with a net, the minnows will disperse in all directions, so swoop swiftly at a school with a large net. Crawfish generally

are found in semi-strong current waters under rocks. Gently lift the rock and observe. Small crawfish are desirable in a tank with larger fishes. If you plan to keep these, then gently guide them into the net. Most other fishes can be found in 2-5 feet of water, this is where the seine comes in handy. Gently drag along the stream and check occasionally. Release specimens that you do not want. Some native fishes turn out to be very pretty, so keep your eyes peeled!

At first you should only collect a small amount of livestock and learn the basics of keeping native fishes, but after that more can be added. Just remember to be realistic and respect the population and diversity of our native aquatic animals.

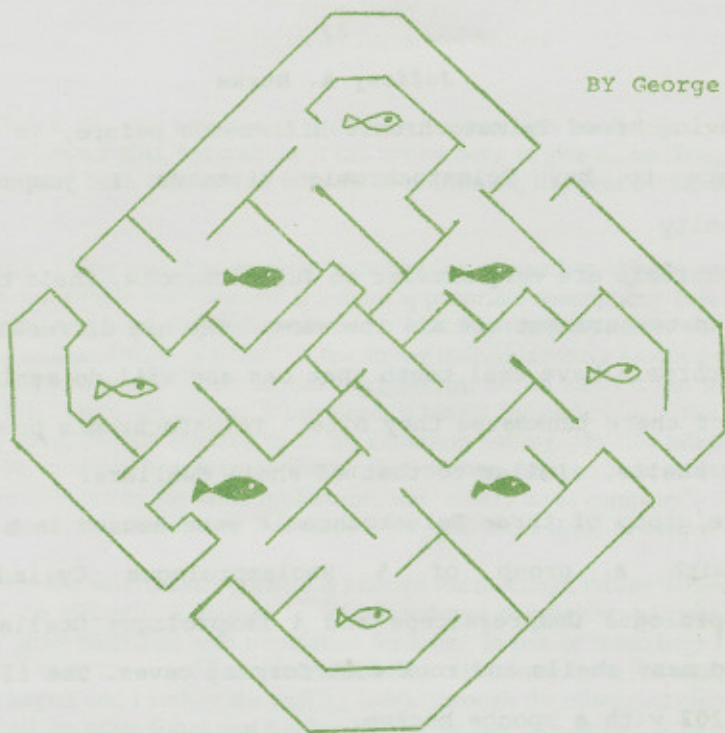
Ed. note: Interested in learning more about native fishes? Consider joining NANFA, the North American Native Fishes Association. Their Northeast Regional Coordinator is PVAS member Bob Bock, 1602 Tilton Dr, Silver Spring, MD 20902. (301) 649-4603.



The living hell of Maurice, Jacques Cousteau's cat

GOODY, GOODY, GOODIEDS

BY George White, PVAS



INSTRUCTIONS FOR SOLVING THIS PUZZLE

The Museum of Modern Art has put up a spectacular display titled "Living Art" featuring Goodieds. Each species has its own show tank in a separate room in a maze. Unfortunately, you have limited time to see the exhibition. You may start at any fish, but must avoid backtracking. Furthermore, to keep things interesting, you must also avoid seeing two tanks in a row that contain the same "color" Goodieds. (Hint for Goodied fanciers: Don't waste time trying to differentiate between the colors of the fish. There are only two colors in this puzzle--black and white).

Telmatochromis Vittatus "Zaire"

By

Jeffrey A. Burke

Having breed *Telmatochromis Bifrenatus* before, so when I had a chance to buy *Telmatochromis Vittatus* I jumped on the opportunity.

Telmatochromis are very similar to *Julidochromis*, their body shape, size, and temperament are all the same. The big difference is that *Telmatochromis* have real teeth that can and will do serious damage to any of there tankmates they bite. *Telmatochromis* prefer to lay eggs in shells, similar to that of shell dwellers.

The group of three *Telmatochromis* were housed in a 30 gallon tank with a group of 5 *Neolamprologus Cylindricus*, 4 *Altolamprologus Compressiceps* and 4 *Lamprologus Ocellatus*. The tank had many shells and rock work forming caves. The filter was a Fluval 202 with a sponge backup.

One day while cleaning the tank I picked up a shell and 10-15 fry swam out, I put the shell in a specimen cup and began chasing down the fry in the tank. I retrieved 7 fry from the tank and 7 from the shell.

The fry were put in a 5 1/2 gal tank with water and sponge from the spawning tank. After 3 week the fry greedily devoured crushed flake food and micro worms.

Telmatochromis are easy to spawn and raise in the home aquarium but you need shells in the tank and they need to be checked on periodically.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: NO MORE FISH

Gian Padovani

North Jersey Aquarium Society

Tradition has it that the entrance of a new year encourages resolutions: lose ten more pounds or achieve a goal, but with me it has always been to give up smoking. Since in the past I have never been able to stick with the commitment, this year I have decided to give up fish.

Tropical fish. You call it a pastime, a hobby, or recreation. Some would call it a fascination, but I think that "disease" is a more appropriate description. It is a malady that insidiates a human being and reduces him to a veritable slave, an addict who is dependent on constant replenishment of a "fix". A few strong individuals have fought and won against it, but not without scars. Scientists call it ichthyeros, but to me it is not love of fish but slavery to fish. Once the disease is ingrained, it leaves the patient with the alternative of entering a ward, usually referred to as an aquarium society. In this infested place, the disease is so rampant it permeates the air, but no one cares or worries because all the patients are afflicted by the same misfortune, and "misery loves company". After all, what difference does it make between one more drink, one more drag, or one more fish?

I am a patient at a society and periodically I attend the meetings, mixing without shame with the rest of the afflicted. I manage to act relaxed and nonchalant, but when the auction begins, my heart palpitates with trepidation for a fix. In one of those bags I have spied a catfish that I must have, and I am concerned that others may have the same desire. The auctioning begins and I endure the waiting ordeal through the unwanted plants, box filters, snails, and all the other fishes that I either have or do not care about. A handsome pair of Australian gobies comes up and, unaware of my reaction, I raise my hand. There are other bidders, and the duel continues for a while. Incredulously I buy the fish and the other patients congratulate me on the expensive bargain that I didn't even want. Eventually "my" catfish comes up. Determined and defiant, I raise my hand and leave it up. I want that catfish, I must have it, and my face is aglow when I finally pay for it. Shortly after, the meeting is over, and the patients leave the ward for their cars. It is dark outside and by the time I arrive home, it is very late. I feel relieved that no witness can mock my purchase. With cautious, silent steps I enter the fishroom and somewhat guilty, I awaken my finny friends by turning on the lights. I survey the aquaria and wonder if the new arrivals can be compatible with the residents.

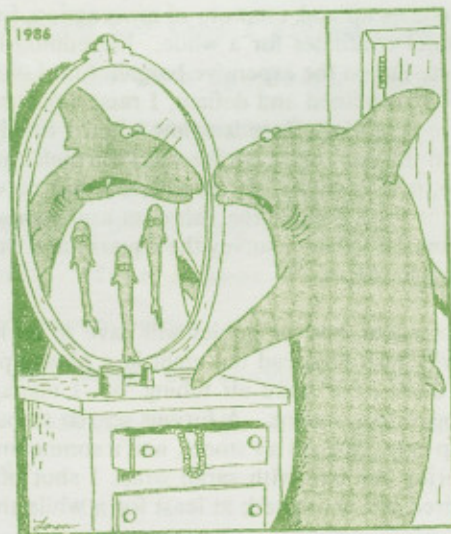
The catfish is no problem, but the gobies will have to be kept somewhere by themselves. For tonight they will have to spend the night in a plastic pail; tomorrow I will buy a new tank for them. I don't have spare air tubing, but I manage to fashion a length of it by joining pieces snipped from others. A furious search through a box of useless medicines, sterile brine shrimp eggs, clogged air stones, and a somnolent spider produces the necessary valve. After covering the pail with saran wrap, I shut off the lights and stagger to the bedroom. I feel tired but contented; at least for a while the craving has been satiated.

Around Christmas time, a friend approached me and disclosed curiosity about tropical fish. I loaded him with information and gave him a 10 gallon tank. Being a conscientious person, I also warned him about the disease. He smiled and stressed the notion that he had been endowed with an unusually strong will power. I never gave this another thought until recently, when I was confronted by a destitute woman, whom I soon discovered to be his spouse.

As she approached me I could denote a resentment in her eyes, but this initial expression turned into hatred when she finally managed to speak. According to her, I had been a bad influence on her husband and thanks to my generosity, her house has been transformed into a wrecked abode. Fish tanks had mysteriously materialized all over their apartment, nestled on every piece of furniture that could support them. Here and there on the floor, jars, bottles, and containers also held fish and other "slimy" creatures. She hadn't minded the cute "swordfish" (?) or the cute red and yellow catfish, but when the sanctity of the TV set had been violated by a permanent living picture of two red oscars, she exploded. I tried to calm her down, commiserating on the disease and trying to explain the perils of friendship. It was useless and I left her, wondering about other cases. I guess I could mention them as further warnings to the danger of fish addiction, but I think I have written enough. I just took a peek at my watch; it is 9 AM, January 1. It is time to call my friend and remind him that he owes me one. I **MUST** have that red and yellow catfish!

I am convinced that I will give up fish next year.

(reprinted from The Reporter - North Jersey Aquarium Society)



The heartbreak of remoras

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

PO BOX 664, Merrifield, VA 22116

Application for Membership

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____ Apt. _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Optional information:

Occupation: _____

Where did you here about PVAS/get this application? _____

Number of aquariums: _____ Time in the hobby: _____

Special interests: (e.g., catfish, cichlids, etc.) _____

Reason for joining: _____

Membership dues for PVAS are:

Individual/Family \$12/yr

Corresponding \$ 9/yr

Junior (under 18) \$ 5/yr

Please send application and check to the address above.

SUPPORTING SHOPS

ANIMAL EXCHANGE

765-A Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
424-PETS

AQUARIUM CENTER

Liberty Rd. at Offut Rd.
Randlestown, MD
521-4529

BROTHER'S PETS

13810 Georgia Ave.
Aspen Hill, MD 20906
460-4600

CONGRESSIONAL AQUARIUM

162 Congressional Ln
Rockville, MD 20852
881-6182

DISCOUNT PET SUPER- MARKET

1321 A&B Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
309-9110

FISH FACTORY AQUARIUM

582 N. Frederick Ave
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
881-6182

HOUSE OF TROPICALS

7389F Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
761-1113

MARINE CARE SPECIALISTS

16065 N. Frederick Rd
Rockville, MD 20855
330-0720

MARYLAND

MARYLAND TROPICALS

13884 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904
879-0200

MONTGOMERY TROPICALS

7845-G Airpark Rd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
670-0886

RICK'S FISH & PET SUPPLY

1003J West Patrick St.
Frederick, MD 21702
694-9664 831-6866

SHOWCASE AQUARIUM

11248-11250 Triangle Ln
Wheaton, MD 20902
942-6464

TOTALLY FISH

14332 Layhill Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20906
598-2229

TROPICAL FISH WORLD

16529 S. Frederick Center
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
921-0000

TROPICAL LAGOON

9439 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
585-6562

AQUATIC CREATIONS LTD

2909 Urbana Pike
Ijamsville, MD 21754
(301) 831-8200

SUPPORTING SHOPS

ANNANDALE PET SHOP

7406 Little River Trnpl
Annandale, VA 22031
256-2400

AQUATIC ENHANCEMENT

PO Box 22677
Alexandria, VA 22304
765-4620

CREATURES 'N CRITTERS

9575 Braddock Rd.
Fairfax, Va
978-0745

DISCOUNT PET CENTER

9028 Mathis Ave.
Manassas, VA 22110
361-7769

NATIONAL PET & AQUARIUM

6168 Arlington Blvd
Falls Church, VA 22046
533-7828

NEESE'S PISCES

3304 Mt. Vernon Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22305
548-0557

OAKTON PET SHOP

Rt. 123 & Hunter Mill Rd
Oakton, VA 22124
281-9622

PET MART-TYSONS

8417 Old Courthouse Rd.
Vienna, VA 22180
281-8181

VIRGINIA

PETS ETC-ALEXANDRIA

7688-B Richmond Hgwy.
Alexandria, VA 22306
768-2200

PETS ETC-CHANTILLY

13932 Lee Jackson Hgwy
Chantilly, Va 22021
378-2777

PETS ETC-HERNDON

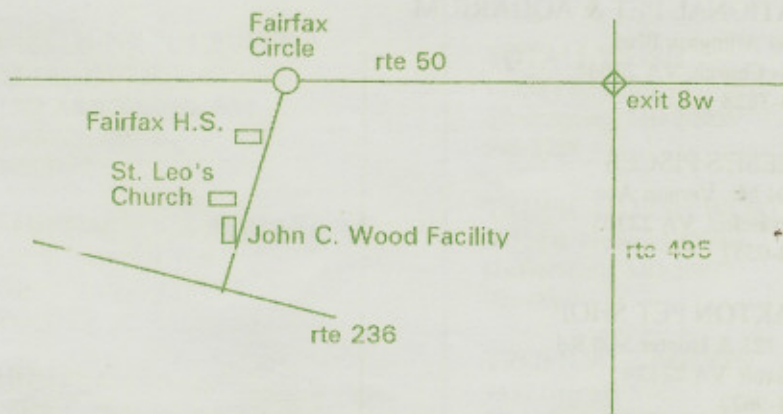
462 Eiden St.
Herndon, VA 22171
437-9667

PETS ETC-STERLING

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

y

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society
PO Box 664
Merrifield, VA 22116



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