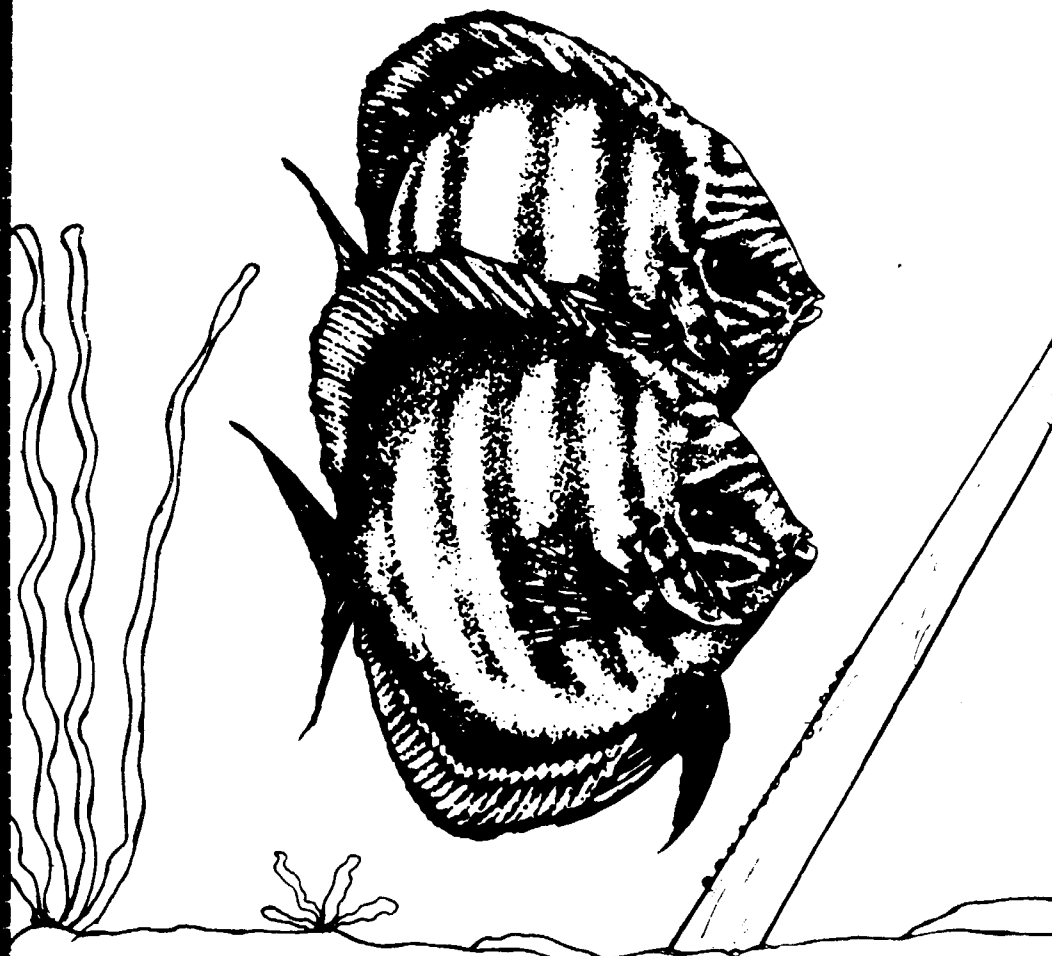


* DELTA TALE *

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE REAL PVASers WERE THERE

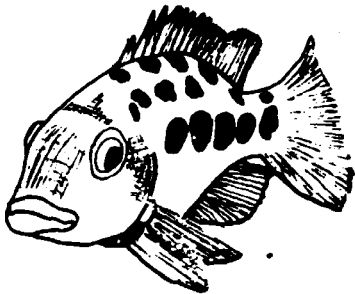
Where were they? What is this guy talking about this month? More of those Goodied jokes?(just wait). I'm talking about the big picnic in August. Some of the club members were on vacation, one I know was in Europe doing secret stuff for our Uncle, another took off for Kalamazoo to be part of a convention for livebearer enthusiasts. Both of them were there, discussing our old favorites, the Goodieds. A typical conversation might have gone like this: "What color are your fish?", "Grey with black specks.", "Same as mine.", "Gee, they sure are pretty aren't they?"

But the real hard core nucleus of PVAS turned out for hamburgers, hot dogs, and plenty of Coke(New, Old, Classic, Cherry, Diet, Caffeine Free Diet). There must be more types of Coke than there are Goodieds(at least everyone can find one type of Coke that appeals to them). To be at the picnic took real dedication(or hunger) because all day it was pouring rain. There could have been lots of outdoor activities to do if it wasn't so wet, so instead everyone enjoyed good company and watchin the chefs get wet. The East Coast doesn't see a drop of rain all summer and on the day of our picnic it pours. I think our editor picked the day since he knew that he would be out of town.

September begins the real start of another PVAS season. Kids are back in school and everyone is home again and not traveling. Right now the program for the month is undecided, but it will be short and compact. The reason- September 9 is the first Monday Night Football game and it features our team, the Washington Redskins vs. the Dallas Cowboys at 9:00. A great rivalry, almost as famous as Real Tropical Fish vs. Goodeids. We promise to let the diehard football fans get home in time to watch most of the game.

The plans for the October Banquet and Auction are finalized. Our Speaker for Saturday night is John Brill. a noted native fish collector, photographer, and hobbyist. This should be a different program than past ones, which have all been great, only since we don't see enough of these fish that are obtainable right around our homes. Our topic this year is "Natives of the East Coast". See the enclosed flyer for all the details. I think we could have a large turnout this year. Be prepared for an Auction on Sunday in an air conditioned room. October here we come!

See you all at the meeting.



Gerry

From the ~~Travel~~ Editorz Desk

Thursday morning, packed.

Let's see, did I have everything? My show fishes were bagged, Lisa's show fishes were bagged, the bowls were all boxed up, my auction stuff was bagged, Jim's auction stuff was bagged. Something was missing though. I looked it all over again. Tubing, extra plastic bags, show forms.

Then I remembered. A suitcase. Since I was going to be gone for about five days I thought it would be a good idea to take along some extra clothes.

By now it was thursday afternoon. I decided that I might as well have lunch before I left.

Lunch was over, the car was packed, and I was off.

No I wasn't. Gas. The car works better if you have some in it. (You pick up useful information like this when you have a mechanic as a friend).

Stopped and filled the tank up then I was off (really this time).

Traffic was fairly light, the stereo was playing, everything was great... then the Cabin John Bridge. Traffic was squeezed down to one lane and barely moving. Once I made it over the bridge though everything spread out again.

4:30, Western Pennsylvania, the sky was getting REAL cloudy. All of a sudden the bottom dropped out and visibility was down to a few feet. The traffic was pretty light so I decided to keep going and try to pass through the storm. By 5:30 the rain was down to a drizzle and I decided it was time to stop for the night.

Unpacked the car, checked on the fishes. Everybody looked good.

Friday morning, breakfast (included in the price of the room), pack the car, off again. It was raining lightly but I passed through it in about an hour and it was clear for the rest of the day.

About 4:30, arrived in Detroit. I was told later that this was right before the beginning of rush hour. Rush sure seemed like a pretty good way to describe it to me though. Cars were zipping in and out, back and forth, up and down (or so it seemed at the time). Apparently 55 is considered parked.

I managed to arrive at Jim Langhammers house in Royal Oak, a suburb of Detroit, unscathed (physically at least).

After unwinding for a little while I unpacked the show fishes and put them into their bowls. Oh No! my best fish was covered with small blobs of fungus. Apparently there had been an ammonia build up in the bag. Freshwater and an airstone were added to his bowl. He looked like he would survive but his chances of entering the show were gone.

Next I checked on the auction fishes. Everyone was fin except for the bag of Ienoporus captivus (the green goodeid). One was dead and the others didn't look very good. The survivors were moved into a large jar with some fresh water. I hoped they would look better by morning (they didn't and got left in the jar in Jim's fish room).

After sitting around talking fish, ALA business, and various other things we went for dinner. When we got back I decided to check and see how everyone was doing. I peeked into the first bowl. Hmmm, nothing moving. Took a closer look. Still didn't see anything. It was dark in the box so I picked the bowl up for a better look expecting to find the fish hiding down in a corner. Still nothing. The bowl is empty. Lisa's best fish has disappeared! After a frantic search he was found in a corner of the box. He felt like cardboard but I decided not to give up hope yet, how could I tell Lisa I killed her best fish. After five minutes of artificial respiration I reluctantly gave up. No, I didn't breath into the fish's mouth for five minutes, to give a fish artificial respiration you slowly move it back and forth through the water allowing water to pass over it's gills.

Saturday morning, pack the car, pick up David James (another ALA member), and we were off to Kalamazoo.

The trip took a little longer than planned so we totally missed the first speaker. We weren't too disappointed since he was only speaking on cichlids anyway.

The second speaker was Peter Lewis on sharks, loaches, and eels. Very interesting. Peter is a good speaker and really seemed to know his subject well.

Lunch break. I finally got to meet Vern Parish after corresponding for several years.

After lunch Tom Koziol spoke on photography, Vern Parish on livebearers (this, of course, was the most interesting talk of the day), then Steve Saunders and Bev Richardson on killifish. After the speakers there was an open meeting of the American Livebearer Association. All of the ALA members present attended and were able to give the board members their input on a variety of topics. I received a lot of suggestions and comments to help me with my new job as head of the Species Maintenance Program. After the open meeting we held a closed board meeting in which we were able to use the members input to finally resolve several problems. It's much easier to discuss things face to face than through the mail, which is what we usually do.

Saturday night there was a picnic at the home of Sue and Terry Riegler. Lots of food and drinks were provided by the Southwest Michigan Aq. Soc. Everyone sat around eating and talking until dark. I got a chance to talk with Bob and Rosie Clarke for a bit. We exchanged Gerry Hoffman stories. I hope Bob was able to smuggle the Philodina I gave him back into Canada without getting shot by U.S. Customs.

As soon as it was dark enough the slides that had been entered in the show were shown and commented on by Tom Koziol. After this Peter Lewis spoke again, this time on fish shows in England. He gave special emphasis to the British Aquarist Festival which is unlike anything we have in the U.S. Only fishes that have won a best in show award during the previous show year can enter. Each local club builds a very elaborate tableau in which to display its members fish. The easiest of these to describe would be a model of the front of a small shop, the windows of which are aquariums. There are also much more elaborate one like

life size models of the Apollo lunar lander, Gypsy wagons, a carousel, and much more, all of which have aquariums built into them somewhere to display the show fishes. The tableaux are entered into various classes and judged against each other just as the fishes are. Dealers also set up booths around the show hall and offer many very rare and expensive fishes for sale. Since there will be about 16,000 visitors over the two days of the show they have no trouble selling them. This all really has to be seen to be believed. If I remember I'll bring some pictures to the Sept. meeting.

The only thing that marred the evening were the swarms of mosquitos. To give you some idea as to how big they were, I saw one bite a cat and leave it looking like a raisin. I was told that they were mild this year compared with the past.

Sunday morning, rain, pretty heavy at times. Luckily it slowed to a drizzle long enough for us to pack the car and check out of the motel. We took our auction stuff to be registered and by the time we had finished the rain had completely stopped and it was bright and sunny. Jim, David, and I went for a leisurely McBreakfast and a stroll through a nearby garden supply store.

We got back just in time for the start of the auction. There were about 1,000 items to be auctioned. Most things were going for relatively low prices. I got four bags of fish and only spent \$9.00. Some things brought high prices though. Bidding for the Gerry Hoffman dartboards was fast and furious. I made enough on them to totally pay for my trip and still have a nice profit left over. Next year I'll have to take twice as many. Speaking of next year- ALA will be looking for a different location to hold next years convention. SWMAS has been generous enough to host us for the past two years but they need a break. Anyone out there interested? We decided to leave at 5:00 and there was still LOTS of stuff to be sold.

On the way back to Royal Oak we stopped to see Ron Wheelers fish room, or I should say fish building. Besides lots of tanks Ron has a large number of concrete vats that have been converted into aquariums.

Monday morning. After pilfering Jim's fish room the car is packed (again) and I headed for home. The trip back was fairly uneventful except for one construction delay which caused me to lose about an hour. I even made it over the Cabin John Bridge without even having to slow down.

Monday night, back home., unpacked everything. The fish all look good except for the Xenophous again. Two dead this time. I guess they just don't ship well. I've brought back a number of new (to this area) species and hope to have fry to distribute within a few monthes. I know Gerry will be eagerly waiting for some of the goodeids.

John Mangan, PVAS

More Frum the Editor

Now, back to my regular editor job.

First, I'd like to thank Lea Spickler for volunteering to do some typing for me. I was very seriously considering resigning at the end of this year. Thanks to Lea and Pete I should now be able to stay on (if next years president is crazy enough to want me) and still have time to spend on my other projects.

There is still a need for original articles though. (and art). It is up to YOU to write them and get them to me.

I heard that it rained on the PVAS picnic. Could this have been Mother Nature's way of getting back at Gerry for all of his Goodeid jokes? The weather was perfect at the livebearer picnic.

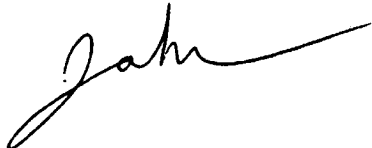
Elections are coming up soon. If you are interested in running for any office or being on any committee contact Bob Roser or any current officer and let your interest be known. You don't need any experience. When I was elected to the board two years ago I didn't no anything at all about how an aquarium society was run (I still don't but that's besides the point). Speak up now or don't complain later "I could do better than that".

The Green Water Aquarist Society will hold a show and auction Oct. 4-6 in Tinely Park, IL. Contact Ed Marcisz, 13328 Carondelet, Chicago, IL 60633 for information.

The Norwalk Aquarium Society will hold a show Oct. 12-13 in Westport, Conn. featuring the 15th annual International Catfish Championship. Contact James O'Brien, 14 Old Saugatuck Rd, East Norwalk, Conn. 06855 for information.

And finally- Football, Bah Humbug!

Now that I've gotten 98% of the club mad at me , goodbye until next month.



What's Happening in September

Don't ask me, I was out of town. All the usual good stuff I guess. Come and find out for yourself.

THE BRACKISH AQUARIUM
by Sue Altland, WRAS

The brackish aquarium is one of my favorite aspects of the hobby. It doesn't seem too popular in our area. Many hobbyists are not even familiar with the term. In attempting to gather some information, I've come to the conclusion that some of the cause for so little interest could very well be the lack of literature on the subject. Most of what I've learned about this overlooked branch of the hobby has been through trial and error. Also, small bits and pieces can be gotten from information on the specific breeds of fish you wish to keep.

Perhaps the best place to start is with an explanation of brackish water. Brackish water occurs in nature in those areas where freshwater estuaries empty into saltwater oceans. The area where the two begin to mix is neither freshwater nor high enough in salinity to qualify as saltwater. Also, large parts of the Baltic and Black seas and Lakes Caspi and Aral consist entirely of brackish water.

While brackish water is not teeming with life, it is not barren water either. There are a few true brackish water species. However, a large portion of the fish living in this area are saltwater fish that can tolerate the lower salinity of the brackish areas. A small portion of the population are freshwater species that can tolerate the high salinity than that of their normal habitat. The varieties that have become known as aquarium species are generally placed in freshwater. This action alone can be blamed for the reputation most of these fish have for being disease prone, weak, and short-lived.

In the small amount of literature I've found on the subject, the degree of salinity that constitutes a brackish aquarium varies from .5% to 50%. In some hobbyist-written articles they talk of their brackish tank and indicate the introduction of two teaspoons of non-iodized table salt per gallon. This small amount does not begin to meet the needs of most fish found in brackish waters. Through trial and error, the formula I've found to give the best results is a simple one. Although it is more expensive, I use commercial sea salt because of the trace elements included, as opposed to plain non-iodized table salt. The brand I prefer is Instant Ocean. I mix it with twice the amount of water the package calls for.

You might be saying, "If these brackish fish will survive in freshwater, why bother with the brackish tank?" The key word here is "survive". If all you want your fish to do is survive instead of thrive, you needn't bother. However, I assure you that the small amount of added trouble will be rewarded many times over. You will see colors you never knew these fish had when you kept them in freshwater. You will be amazed at the size they attain (ordinary black mollies at three inches or more). They spawn more readily, live longer, and experience very little disease. For instance, we all know the reputation mollies have for getting ick, yet I have never had a case of ick in a brackish tank.

In dealing with the maintenance of a brackish tank you must remember that salt does not evaporate. So, when you're topping off your tank because of

evaporation, all you need do is to refill it with freshwater, since the salt from the evaporated water is still in the tank. However, if you siphon off water to make a water change, you are taking away salt with the water. Then you must mix salt in the new water you add.

And now the fish ...

First, it is important to remember that if your dealer is not maintaining the fish you select in brackish water (and they seldom do), then you must acclimate them very slowly. The easiest way to do this is to empty the bags of fish into a plastic bucket. Be sure that any equipment that comes in contact with brackish water or salt water is non-metal. Use a piece of ordinary air line tubing and start a siphon from your tank into the bucket. Insert a plastic air valve into the end of the air line that is in the bucket. This valve will allow you to control the speed of the drip. A very slow drip is necessary to acclimate your fish without causing shock. A drip slower than a drop a second (about 72 drops per minute) is safe. Wait until the water level in the bucket has tripled from the amount you started with. It is then safe to introduce the fish into your tank.

Last, but most important, which species are suitable for a brackish aquarium? Monos, Bumblebee Gobies, Australian Rainbows, Archers, and Scats, Anableps - the four-eyed livebearer all benefit from brackish water. Also:

Mollies - all species are suitable, however only two species are generally found in our local shops. They are Poecilia sphenops which are the short finned common black mollies, the greens, marbles, chocolates, chocolate chips, silvers, golds, albinos, and Yucatans. These are all color morphs of the same species even if they have fancy finnage. The species we see locally are Poecilia latipinna. The large sail finned mollies.

Puffers - Most commonly found are Greens, Leopards, and Figure 8s. All tend to be tail nippers.

Siamese Tiger Fish - Datnioides are territorial and aggressive.

Indian Glass Fish - I suggest you buy the plain ones and bypass the ones that have been showing up with stripes of fluorescent paint. While it may last several months in freshwater, the paint flakes off in a matter of days in brackish water.

Silver Sharks - This is one of the names they have sold under locally. They are silver fish with black fins that are outlined in white and white flowing whiskers. They are actually Arius jordani, a brackish water catfish from the Panama Bay.

This is only a partial list. There are many more, such as some of the species of Desert Pupfish, but I have only listed those which are readily available in our local shops.

If you try these fish in a brackish environment, I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised.

(reprinted from Wet Pet Gazette, White Rose Aquarium Society)

CICHLASOMA SEVERUM

(Garland Neese

Cichlasoma severum, the Banded Cichlid, may be found over a wide geographical range from the Guianas to the Amazon Basin. It is a large species that will reach six to eight inches in length. The basic body color is a yellowish green with the green becoming more prominent near the head. There is a black spot in the last rays of the dorsal and anal fins and these spots are connected with a black bar across the body. Some males will have a sprinkling of red dots forming horizontal lines across the body. My Banded male did not. Perhaps this can be blamed on the poor water quality in my area. Another sexual difference is that the males have longer and more pointed dorsal and anal fins. This holds true for both the Banded and Gold varieties.

I have kept Banded Cichlids over the years but always in large community tanks with other South Americans. When I noticed my pair lip-locking they were immediately set up by themselves in a twenty-nine gallon tank.

The Severums breed in the standard cichlid manner but getting them in the proper condition to spawn can be a problem. Because of their large size, considerable amounts of live food is needed before they get that healthy well-rounded appearance. I found that earth worms did the job nicely. I alternated this rich diet with Koi pellets, an old favorite of my large cichlids.

My pair spawned on an elongated flat rock which was then removed to a three-gallon hatching tank in which methylene blue was added. The hatching tanks in my fish room are on a shelf elevated near the top of the room and the average temperature is in the mid-80's. Even at this relatively high temperature, the eggs required eight days to hatch. I estimated the number of eggs to be about a thousand, however, I experienced a sizable loss due to fungussing. My free-swimming fry numbered only 125 to 150. Another dozen or so failed to make it after the fry were removed from the methylene blue tank. At sixty days I counted 100-plus fry.

Ironically, when the Banded Severums were set up, another pair of the Gold morph, slightly smaller, were also set up and both pairs spawned within hours of each other. The Gold morph had an even higher mortality rate during hatching and immediately after. Only two dozen or so lived to sixty days.

CORYDORAS HASTATUS

Pat Mahoney

Last Fall Pat Kapsner, former Editor of the Daphnian, the fine publication of the Boston Aquarium Society, came to Washington to attend a course at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. Pat is a Chief Hospital Corpsman and the course came prior to his final ship-board duty aboard the Assault Carrier USS Peleliu before retirement. Pat spent a weekend with us during which we did a little shop hopping among the local fish stores.

At Dave Shaw's Aquarium International we were surprised to see an ample supply of dwarf Corydoras catfish that Dave had just received from South America. There were *Corydoras hastatus*, the mid-water swimming Cory and *Corydoras pygmaeus*. In addition, there was one pair of *Corydoras cochui*, the speckled dwarf, that had come in as a contaminant with the *pygmaeus* shipment.

I purchased a half dozen each of the *hastatus* and *pygmaeus*, and of course, the lone pair of *cochui*. I had only seen line drawings of the latter in fish books and was anxious to try my luck with them even through the odds were not in my favor.

At home the three species were set up in identical five gallon Killie tanks. Each tank was planted with Java Fern embedded in drift wood. White sand base and a Jungle sponge filter completed the set up. Although I had spawned Corys before (*Aeneus*, *Paleatus* and *Elegans*) this was my introduction to the dwarf or pygmy varieties.

I remember reading Gerry Hoffman's article on his successful spawn of *C. hastatus* in the April, 1982 Delta Tale. Gerry's formula for success included a well planted tank, live food and leave them alone equalled fry. Like Gerry I believe microworms must take the major credit for getting these little fish to spawn. And, spawn they did in spite of my own stupidity. For you see, I had let a post-retirement trip to Florida almost ruin my first attempt to spawn these little catfish.

I wanted the fish room to be squared away before my trip. (Maggi will feed fish in my absence but would file for divorce before getting involved with water changing and filter cleaning except in emergencies.) I made a major water change on EVERY tank in the room, including those housing the dwarf Corys. Furthermore, in my haste I managed to siphon a lot of "grains of sand" that had somehow gotten on top of the Java Fern leaves in the *hastatus* tank. Moral: do not change water without your glasses!

I must have lost a lot of eggs with my siphoning. The old bromide "Haste makes waste" is certainly true and I am the living proof of it. But, in spite of my error the little guys managed a successful spawn. Before leaving for Florida I counted eleven free swimming fry with another dozen or so "unfungussed" eggs still on the Java Fern. On my return home I carefully lifted the drift wood and counted eighteen fry.

C. hastatus is a native of Paraguay that will reach 1½ inches in length at maturity and, with *C. cochui*, are the smallest of the genus. The minute eggs layed on the leaves of plants require four to five days to hatch. Spawns of 40 to 60 eggs are normal for dwarf catfish, unless of course, their idiot owner insists on hurried water changes.

THE NEON TETRA
Hyphessobrycon innesi
by Vince Delsignore, YATFS

The Neon Tetra (Hyphessobrycon innesi) is a very peaceful and colorful species. The actual spawning of the fish was frustrating, to say the least. However, it was a very gratifying feeling once I did successfully spawn the fish. In the process leading up to my last and most successful spawning, I can't guess how many fry I watched die. I was able to raise fry to 60 days only 3 times. One time six fry, one time three fry, and finally 45 fry. Because my last try was my best, I'll describe how I did that one.

All of my spawnings have been done with the same seven adults that I purchased when they were too young to be placed with other fish. I have spawned them no less than 15 times. To me, the most critical factor to induce spawning seems to be the water. At no time would they spawn in plain tap water. My tap water is hard-alkaline water. I could only get them to spawn in snow water or rainwater. Furthermore, I had to soak peat moss in the water. After about three days, the soft rainwater would be very acid from the peat moss. I never tried chemicals in lieu of peat moss to make the water acid. I always believed that the peat moss released tannic acid, which I'm told induces fish to spawn. I placed all seven adults in a 2 1/2 gallon tank.

The tank has a plastic fabric platform that permits the eggs to fall through. The water temperature was always a random setting anywhere between 70 and 80 degrees. The fish spawned after three days in this tank.

After removing the adults and the plastic platform. I added methelene blue (five drops) and I taped paper on the tank to keep it totally dark. After 2 1/2 days, I removed the paper. The newly hatched fry were wriggling all over the tank. I added infusoria and vinegar eels. On the next day I added newly hatched brine shrimp. This may have been the most critical factor of all. Even though the fry were very, very small, they took nibbles off of the brine shrimp. Within an hour after I fed them the shrimp, I could see their bellies turning tan. From then on I fed them straight brine shrimp.

I kept an extra gallon of rainwater which I gradually added and changed with the tank water. After the gallon was used up, I gradually began adding tap water. I usually changed two plastic bowlfuls of water every other day.

In summing up, I want to point out that I felt the two most important things for me were to have the correct water and not to fear feeding brine shrimp too soon.

(reprinted from The Youngstown Aquarist, Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society)

THE BUMBLEBEE GOBY
Brachygnathus Xanthozona
by Wade Mitcheltree, YATFS

The Bumblebee Goby is native to the rivers of Malaysia. They are bug-eyed, with pugnacious little faces which somewhat resemble a bulldog, and they are fascinating and comical little performers. They are a quiet and quite lazy little fish. They can attach themselves to the most unique perches, facilitated by the suction cup formed by the pelvic fins. They should be kept in a small aquarium with many hiding places. They should also be kept by themselves, because they do like to nip fins of other fish.

Their body coloration is a butter yellow with four wide, dark, vertical bands. The dorsal and anal fins are black. These little gobies are small and stocky and may reach a length of 1 3/4 inches in length, but they are very seldom seen that size in the aquarium.

These little gobies should be kept in water which is slightly brackish. This is easily accomplished by adding one heaping teaspoon of salt to every gallon of aquarium water, or if possible mix two-thirds water with one-third seawater. There are very few plants that can take this amount of salt, but Ceratopteris thalictroides is one that can. In nature they are found in very hard water in which their yellow coloring becomes much stronger. The water should be slightly acid (pH 6.8) with a temperature range of about 75 to 78 degrees F.

The best foods to feed these little guys are live foods such as live baby brine, white worms, etc. However, they will eat, or should say tolerate, flakes and freeze-dried tubifex worms.

The best way I found to condition these little guys are to feed them very heavy on baby brine for about two weeks. After this intensive feeding, the sexes should become quite obvious. The female, who was smaller and paler, becomes more colorful and robust during the breeding season. The male changes in color, the once yellow bands usually become a deep orange. The sexes need not be separated, but keep them well fed.

The book recommends a spawning group of five, two females and three males working best. Myself, I used a group of 10, two males and eight females. The book also recommends the breeding tank should be 10 to 15 gallons, large for such a small fish, and well planted. The water should only be about four inches in depth and should be kept at a constant 76 degrees F. There should be rocks forming caves or a small flower pot on its side.

My setup was a little different; for one reason, I could not find a good way of heating a tank that size with only four inches of water. Myself, I prefer to use a 5 or 5 1/2 gallon tank full of water. The reason I like to use the 5 1/2 is after the fry are free-swimming, they can stay in the tank and be raised very easily. My basic setup was a 5 1/2 gallon tank with a bare bottom. I used fresh water; I did not use salt in their tank. The temperature was kept at 78 degrees, the water was hard and alkaline, 7.2 pH.

The best spawning material I have found is a 1/2 inch plastic T pipe. I have offered them all three types of spawning sites: rock caves, pots, and the T pipe. They have chosen the T pipe all five times they have spawned. Getting back to the spawning, I had the pleasure of witnessing the spawn. The male worked like a busy bee cleaning the site, then the male would back into the top of the tee (they always laid their eggs in the bottom of the tee) and let the female in to lay a few eggs. The male would then back her out and fertilize the eggs. They repeated this procedure 21 times, at which time they had about 200 eggs. The male then drove the female out. The male is the one who tends to the eggs. My male has never eaten the eggs or fry.

The eggs hatched on the morning of the fifth day, and were free-swimming on the night of the sixth day. Two days after they were free-swimming, I removed the male. The fry were fed liquid fry food for the first three days, with brine shrimp sparingly on the second day. Some of the fry were eating the brine on the second day. 10% water changes were made once a week. The fry looked like their parents at the age of two weeks. The fry have large appetites, and must be fed large amounts of brine; after all, you don't want them to starve, do you? Flake foods were added as a filler on the third week. They will eat it, not as willingly though. At the end of sixty days, I have successfully raised 150 of these little bees to a length of 3/4 to 1 inch size.

(reprinted from The Youngstown Aquarist, Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society)



Q&A

Anyone having questions on fish or related topics may send them to Delta Tale c/o John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave., Vienna, VA 22180 by the 20th of the month.

Q. Do turtles shed? My painted turtle has a white film all over its legs and neck.

A. Yes, turtles do shed but normally only small patches of skin at a time are shed. A few types, the painted turtle is one, also shed their scutes (the plates on their upper shell). These are also shed only a few at a time. The purpose of this is to get rid of parasites, algae, etc. attached to the shell.

The white film you describe doesn't sound like shedding. It is probably a fungal or bacterial infection. Keep the water clean, provide light and heat for basking, and treat the water with one of the fish medications used for bacteria/fungus.

Q. Why doesn't Gerry like goodeids? Why does he write about them all of the time?

A. First let me say that I did not make up this question. It was submitted by one of our younger members. The same one that asked the turtle question as a matter of fact.

At first I was just going to answer this question with something quick and witty like "...some people like warm, stale, beer and some people like chilled champagne just as some people like Malpolluted kretseri and others like goodeids". But my curiosity got the better of me. What is the Real reason Gerry doesn't like goodeids?

I used my contacts at GMU to arrange a meeting with the head of the psychology dept. After analyzing all of Gerrys columns for the past two years he came to the conclusion that Gerrys problem stemmed from traumatic events in his childhood.

I sent Delta Tales team of investigative reporters to find out what this was. After many hours of interviews the story was pieced together. It seems that as Gerry was growing up his mother was constantly saying things to him like "Gerry! why doen't you get rid of those ugly little dwarf cichlids and get some nice fish, like goodeids? And stop trying to put braces on the dog, you've ruined every coat hanger in the house!" She only had little Gerrys best interest in mind but the damage was done.

I took this information back to the university and was told that Gerry wasn't beyond help yet. we will have to procede in gradual stages though. At the Sept. meeting go up to him and say in a nice soothing voice "dwarf cichlids aren't extremely ugly". In Oct. we can advance to "tetras are o.k.". Eventually we should be able to have him leading an almost normal life if we all pull together. Gerry needs our help, don't let him down.

THE MIRROR

✓
Pat Mahoney

REPRINTS

SPAWNING CORYDORAS BONDI, Darrell Holman, CATALYST, American Catfish and Loach Association, July 1985.

REVIEWS

CLOUDY WATER, John Mangan, SAND PAPER, Singing Sands Aquarium Society, Michigan City, IN, March-April 1985.

DIAMOND TETRA, Gerry Hoffman, THE DARTER, Missouri Aquarium Society, St. Louis, MO, May-June 1985.

MAKING USE OF YOUR LIBRARY, John Mangan, SAND PAPER, Singing Sands Aquarium Society, Michigan City, IN, Mar-Apr 1985.



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 20th of the month prior to publication.

Want: Apistogramma spp. Contact Andy Hill, 2103 Gunnell Farms Dr. Vienna, VA 22180. 281-6484.

Fish room sale: SASE for list of tanks, equip., and fishes.
Chris Bergesen, 5116 Lawton Dr., Bethesda, MD 20816. 229-6043.

For Sale: One large, well branched piece of driftwood. Too large for 55 gal. tank. \$30.

Corydoras trilineatus (aka C. julii) and C. paleatus- young adult fish, tank raised, just over one year old. Looking to give, trade, or sell these fish to people interested in breeding Corys. Joseph Metzger, Jr. 11927 Beaver Dam Rd., Union Bridge MD 21791. (301) 775-7737. Usually attend meetings.

BOWL SHOW REPORT FOR

August

CICHLIDS

New World Dwarf

1st C. filamentosa, D. Sun
2nd P. ramerizi, D. Sun
3rd

Riftlake,

1st Ps, sp., D. Sun
2nd
3rd

Open

1st P. kribensis, D. Sun
2nd C. Meeki, J. Lamberth
3rd P. scalare, J Lamberth

EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

Killifish

1st A. Gardneri, J. Mangan
2nd F. sp., B. Pallansch
3rd

Catfish, Non-Corydoras

1st A. pectinifrons, J. Metzger
2nd H. thoracatum, J. Metzger
3rd M. iheringi, J. Metzger

Open

1st C. cochui, J. Metzger
2nd C. barbatus, J. Metzger
3rd B. horaç, J. Metzger

Judges choice-A. pectinifrons-J. Metzger Judge-Bob Roser

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
D. Sun	22	36	94
J. Lamberth	7	10	30
J. Kooken	0	10	23
J. Long	0	0	13
A. Stirman	0	0	16
A. Hill	0	0	4
D. Mann	0	0	2

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
J. Metzger	23	44	102
B. Pallansch	8	20	49
J. Lamberth	0	7	64
G. Hoffman	0	0	25
N. Manwaring	0	0	16
J. Mangan	6	6	6
B. Roser	0	0	12
D. Sun	0	0	9
J. Kooken	0	0	7
A. Hill	0	0	6
D. Mann	0	0	5
J. Long	0	0	4
A. Stirman	0	0	3

Next Month

<u>Cichlids</u>	<u>Egglayer/Livebearer</u>
Angelfish/Discus	Livebearer, Non Guppy
Non-Riftlake African	Sharks&Loaches
Open	Open

BREEDER'S AWARD PROGRAM

Garland Neese	1,070	++++
Terry Hoffman	895	++++
Pat and Maggi Mahoney	775	++++
Darrell Holman	640	++++
Woody Griffin	610	++++
John Jessup	585	+++++
Ruth Brewer	305	+++
Roser Family	210	++
Wagner Family	165	++
Frank Angilletta	140	+
Alex Cummins	125	+
Nathan Manwaring	100	+
Amy Stirman	50	+

RECENT SPAWNINGS

Garland Neese - *Cichlasoma severum*
Pat and Maggi Mahoney - *Corydoras hastatus*
- *Cichlasoma meeki*

CHECKERS

Alex Cummins	-	656-6355
Ray Hughes	-	424-3531
Pat Gore	-	522-3884
Jerry Stirman	-	941-6729
Frank Angilletta	-	670-8980
Kenny Warren	-	378-8838
Jim Long	-	280-1753



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY, INC.



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	\$12.00	Corresponding	\$7.00
Individual	\$10.00	Junior (under 18)	\$5.00

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 1985

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

Meetings are held at the John C. Wood Facility, Rt. 237 (Old Lee Hwy.)
Fairfax City. Everyone is welcome.

*Meetings start at 8:00 p.m.
Doors open at 7:30*