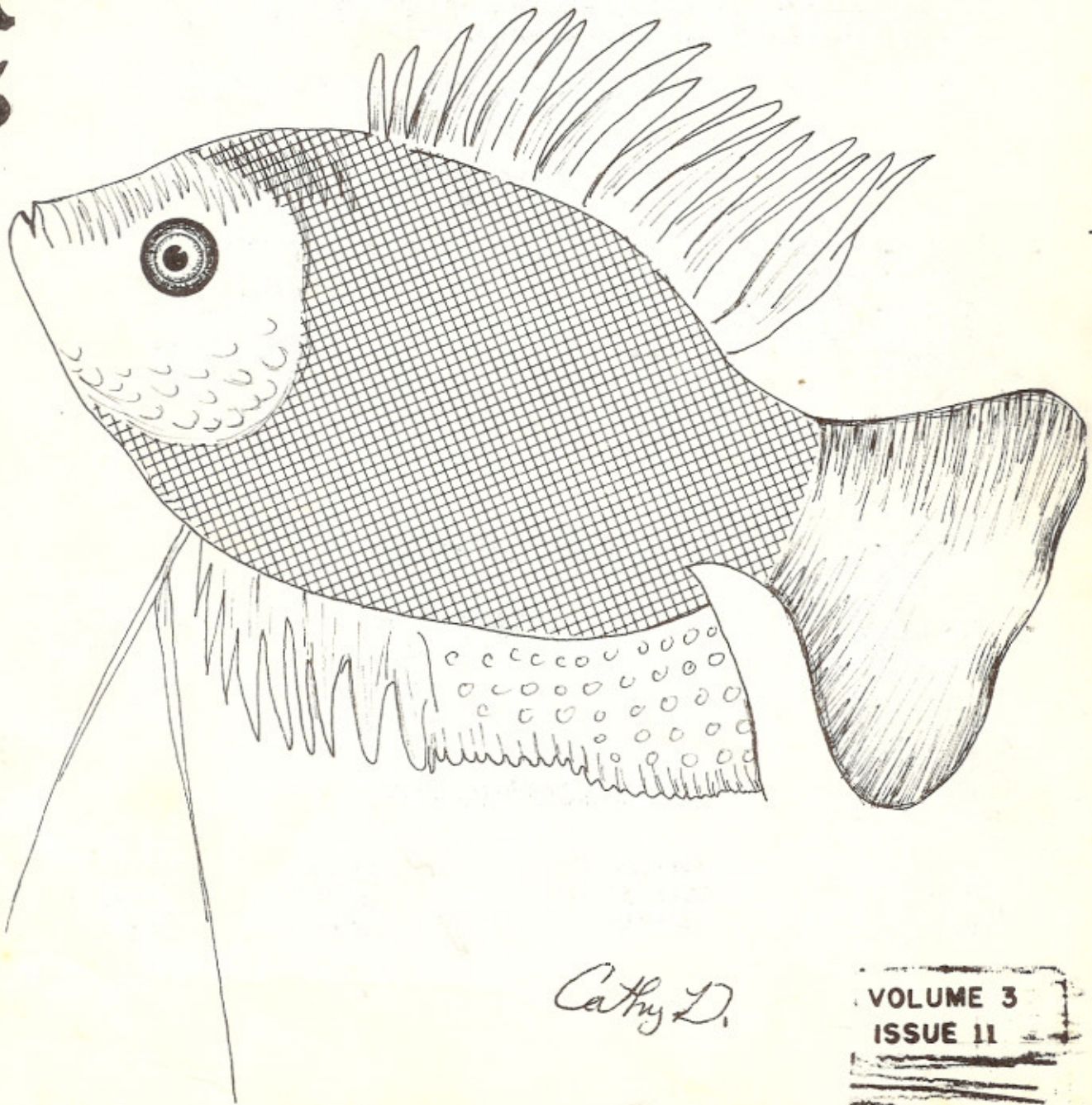


DELTA TALE

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VOLUME 3
ISSUE 11

DELTA TALE is published for the benefit of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society (formerly the Potomac Valley Guppy Club), a non-profit organization, established in 1960 for the purpose of furthering the aquarium hobby by disseminating information, encouraging friendly competition, soliciting participation in its shows, and promoting good fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to Secretary, P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6067, Shirlington Station, Arlington, Virginia, 22206. Original articles and drawings may be reprinted if credit is given the author and DELTA TALE. Two copies of the publication in which the reprint appears should be sent to DELTA TALE which will forward one copy to the author.

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1972 MEETING DATES

Jan 10	Apr 10	Jul 10	Oct 9
Feb 14	May 8	Aug 14	Nov 6
Mar 13	Jun 12	Sep 11	Dec 11

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES PAGE

"The Naked Sand Darter"
by H. Ross Brock 6

"Judging Guppies"
by Stan Shubel 8

"His Highness the Discus"
by Jack Wattley 12

FEATURES

FROM THE PRESIDENT 4

EDITOR'S NOTE 5

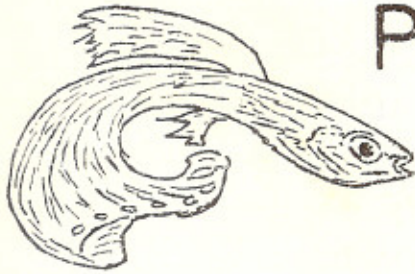
BOWL SHOW RESULTS AND STANDINGS 16

CICHLID GROUP NEWS
by Sue O'Meara 17

TREASURER'S REPORT 18

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 19

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM
by Alan Levitt 20



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I've spent my time rearranging fish. A few new additions and a relatively high birth rate have forced the mixing of some rather odd bed-fellows. Hopefully, this situation will not be for long and I can get back to some semblance of order.

Our November meeting will be on the sixth. Each November we must hold the meeting on the first rather than the second Monday because of conflicting schedules at the Coca Cola Bottling Plant. We owe them such a debt of gratitude that we really can't complain about anything.

At this meeting we will elect next year's officers. Since several of the people approached by the Nominating Committee have subsequently declined to serve we will take nominations for these positions from the floor.


JOHN E. JESSUP, JR., Ph.D.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This month's feature article, one of three gleaned from other publications, is concerned with the care and breeding of native fish, a branch of the hobby that is rapidly gaining adherents in our own Society. Pat O'Meara, for example, has developed a mania for native fish that threatens to crowd out the O'Meara's celebrated cichlid collection. More interesting to the rest of us, Pat has also developed a tremendous knowledge about native fish and is always willing to share his expertise. Just one word to genial Pat, and I guarantee that within the week you will find yourself thigh deep in some nearby secret pool or creek with hook and net.

This month also features a report from one of the Society's subordinate groups, The Cichlid Club. We hope that articles like this from the various clubs will become a regular part of future issues.

In next month's issue we will give a full report on the doings at the fall fish show: the categories; the prize winners; the financial statements; and a report from the rest home where no doubt by that time Show Chairman John Wolcott will be residing.

M. MACGREGOR

THE NAKED SAND DARTER

by H. Ross Brock

Americans often overlook the things which are free for the taking locally in favor of something similar which comes from a foreign land and often costs a considerable sum of money. This is particularly true of American aquarists. In every part of the United States there exist numerous springs, creeks, rivers, lakes, swamps, sloughs, bayous, and marshes which contain a wide variety of interesting and unusual fishes. Some tend to become a bit large for the aquarium. Few are quite as colorful as the tropical fishes. But, many unusual forms exist. All are interesting and each type presents a unique challenge. Besides, it is a lot more fun to get out and catch them yourself than it is to ride down to your local pet shop and look at what you are getting before you get it. There is no mystery in that. Except, maybe, how you are going to pay for it.

One of the largest groups of small native fishes that may be found in various waterways of the United States is the perch family, Percidae. The most interesting of these are the numerous, tiny members of the genera Ammocrypta, Percina, and Etheostoma. (The term "perch" or "darter" is correct for this group of fishes, whereas the term "perch" is used by fishermen in an entirely different vein to indicate, usually, a member of the Centrarchidae.)

The genus Ammocrypta comprises the sand darters, which are very thin, elongated fishes that inhabit sandy streambeds. One of the most interesting sand darters is A. beani, the naked sand darter. These little fishes are very slender. In fact, the depth of the body goes seven or more times into the total body length; the total body length seldom exceeds 75 millimeters. The name is derived from the absence of scales on the cheeks and opercular areas. Except for several rows on and above the lateral line. The overall body color is light grayish tan. Unlike most darters, A. beani possesses no dark spots on the sides of the body. The only dark splotch is rather large and occupies the anterior part of the spinous dorsal fin.

The naked sand darter is not difficult to keep in a home aquarium, as long as its basic requirements (which are few) are understood. It occurs in coastal streams with sluggish currents, from Mississippi to Florida; thus, the water temperature is not a critical concern as long as it does not exceed 75°F. The water should be kept clean, with

frequent replacements of fresh water to which has been added about a teaspoon of salt per five gallons. The water should be filtered constantly with a box or outside filter. I do not advise using undergravel filters with any members of this genus. Provide an active source of strong aeration, a few rocks or pebbles over clean white sand, and a few sturdy plants to give them a little extra sense of security. Feed well with live and frozen foods, as they are strictly carnivores.

For a fish with real character, you can hardly beat Ammocrypta beani. They are generally on the move after food or a new love affair, and their inquisitive nature makes them inevitably investigate every nook and cranny of the floor of the aquarium as they flash about from place to place and support themselves on their enlarged pelvic fins.

Once the fish have become accustomed to their new home and begin to feed and grow well, you might be lucky enough to have them spawn for you. The eggs of this and of similar species are laid on the underside of large stones when available or are placed in small depressions and covered with sand. In either case, the male drives the female away spawning is completed, guards the eggs until they hatch and the fry are free-swimming.

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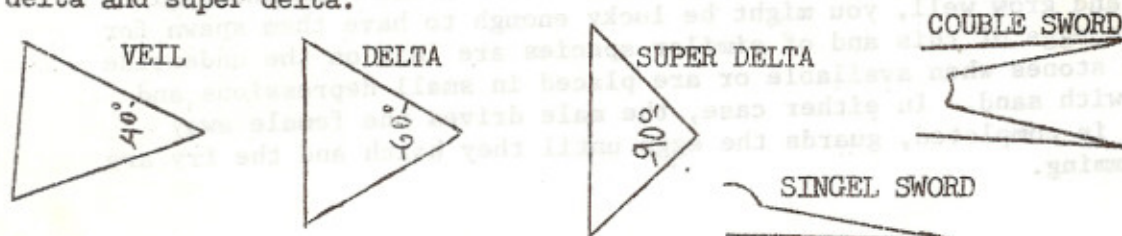


PART III - JUDGING THE CAUDAL (MALES)

We now come to one of the most important area's in Judging. Not only are more points allocated for the caudal, but generally speaking here you will determine which class the fish will go into.

Once it has been determined the fish you are judging is a male you will deal with three basic tail shapes: Delta, Veil and Swordtail. Perhaps in the near future we may have a fourth the Super-Delta.....demand and availability will determine this. Thankfully we are now able to disqualify fish improperly classed. In the past it was all too common to see half of the veil classes filled with poor delta's and many times winning. With the improvement of our judges, along with the new rule regarding disqualification for improper color or tail shape, the shows should improve greatly.

First of all we will consider shape of the male caudal. The following illustrations will show the various tail shapes for the male. The proposed super delta is also shown to point out the difference between the delta and super delta.



As you will note on paper it seems quite easy to determine the difference between the veil, delta and super-delta. In actual practice it is not always so simple especially in a moving fish.

I would seriously doubt if but a few people could determine a variance of less than 5°, so it is up to a judge to familiarize himself with the different degree's of angles.

A simple and effective method is one that I will describe and it may be used before and during a show. Take a piece of square paper fold it in half, the angle at the base as shown is 90° or a super-delta. See #1

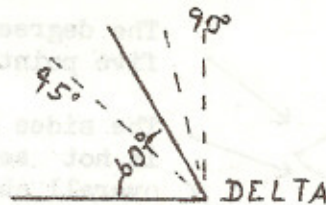
If in turn you fold this paper from the points you will have an angle of 45° or the veil tail shape. See #2



Now if you will keep the 45° angle and divide the part that you folded over into thirds. By the addition of one of these thirds to the 45° you

will now have 60° or the delta tail shape. #3

#3

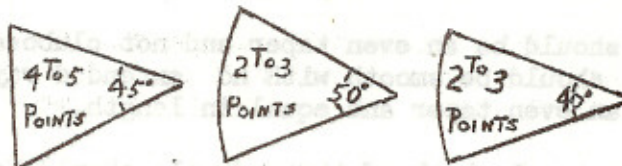


By the use of the above angles you can solve many arguments. If the fish you are judging are properly classified you would start pointing the fish, if not they would be disqualified at this point.

This next may be somewhat of a new thought for many judges in regard to tail shape. For example our standards call for an isosceles triangle of 45° for a veil guppy as far as it goes this is fine. However in actual practice the breakdown would be somewhat as follows for shape points.

Take the total of 10 points for shape and allow 5 points for degree of angle and 5 points for overall shape. Through the below illustrations I will attempt to clarify this.

Degree of shape or angle

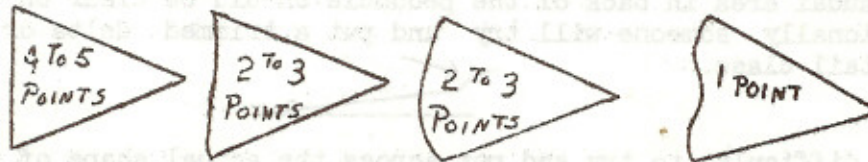


WEIL SPREAD

50°

IDEAL 45°

40°



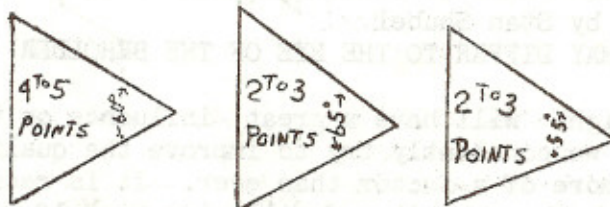
Overall shape

Anything above 50° angle would be disqualified in the Veil class, less than 40° would receive one point.

By combining the degree or angle point with the overall points you will come up with the correct total shape points.

Overall shape should be with both sides smooth and even; the end should be smooth or naturally fringed with no scallops, dips or extended rays. Overall shape points would be the same for any male class.

The degree of shape or angle points for the Delta tail, would be as follows:



DELTA SPREAD

65°

IDEAL 60°

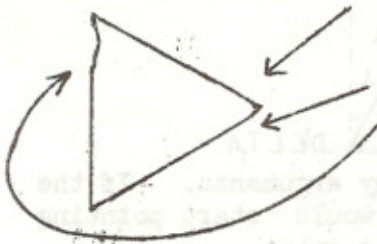
55°

Anything below 55° would be disqualified in the Delta class. 70° and above would receive one point for degree of shape.

If and when we do incorporate the Super-Delta I would suggest that the ideal would be 90° and work up and down from there as we do in the

Delta and Veil classes.

As an example we will take a Delta tail and total the shape points.



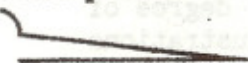
The degree of angle is 60° so we would give five points for angle.

The sides are even and smooth but the edge is not so we would give three points for overall shape.

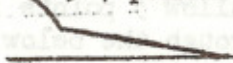
This would give us a total of eight points for shape. As in judging all the area's leave room for improvements.

Going next to the Swordtail class: We will use a single sword for illustration.

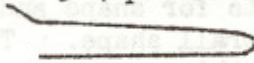
8-10 points



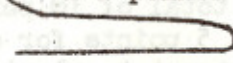
5-7 points



3-4 points



1-2 points



The Sword should be an even taper and not clubbed or blunted at the end. The edges should be smooth with no extended rays. The double sword should be an even taper and equal in length.

The caudal area in back of the peduncle should be clear on a swordtail. Occasionally someone will try and put a trimmed delta or veil in the swordtail class.



It is difficult to try and put across the actual shape of fish through the use of illustrations. You will note the sides of the caudal are all even when in actual practice it is seldom so. As I am not an artist, for me to try and depict the variances of the caudal would only give you a more distorted view.

Take the angle charts down to your fishroom and check over your fish, I think you may be somewhat surprised.

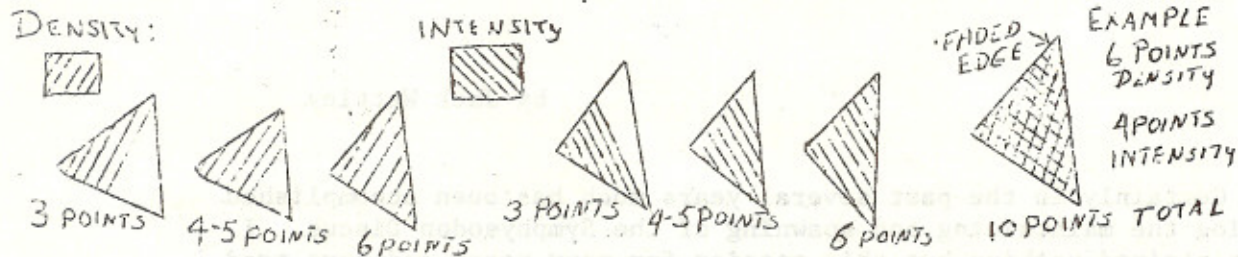
JUDGING GUPPIES - PART IV - CAUDAL COLOR

by Stan Shubel

COLOR, LIKE BEAUTY, MAY DIFFER TO THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

In judging guppies, available light will have a great influence on the color your fish will display. As we constantly try to improve the quality of our shows, light is becoming more of a factor than ever. It is recommended that before entering fish, the exhibitor familiarize himself with the type of light that will be used at the show. In this manner he will be better able to determine color classification of his fish.

In awarding color points in the caudal we will follow the same guideline used in color judging the dorsal. Take the 12 points allocated for color and allow 6 for amount or density and 6 for brightness or intensity.



It should be noted that color points will only be given for the correct color in a given class. In other words, red spots on a caudal in the blue class will not be counted toward color points. This would be considered the same as absence of color in a given area.

As a further thought, a blue caudal may consist of several different shades of blue coloration. It would receive fewer color points than a solid color blue of one shade. The density factor may be the same in both fish but the intensity would vary greatly.

In a Bi-color class the ideal would be 51% of the primary basic color and 49% of the secondary basic color, with a minimum of 25% of the secondary color. Two shades of the same color is not a Bi-color fish. Very few true Bi-color fish are seen at the shows.

A multi-colored tail would consist of three or more different basic colors equally distributed in any random pattern.

Here again, as with the shape, if the fish are improperly classified..... disqualify them.

In a class such as Bronze, having no specified caudal color classification, equal points would be given for a red as opposed to a blue, depending of course on the density and intensity factors, (Provided also, that both are true Bronze-bodied fish.)

At a recent show using a hand-held light, one fish, when viewed with the light from the top front angle, displayed green coloration. With the light held closer to the top it showed purple, and with the light held slightly to the side, looked blue. So, in essence, this fish, viewed from three angles by a judging team, showed three different colors. This would seem to indicate that this type of lighting is not the last word for judging fish, at least for coloration.

The most controversial classes seem to be the Blue and the Green classes. A safe estimate would be that at least 25% of the fish in each class are disqualified for improper color at every show. To combine the classes would make judging easier. But, there are Blue fish and there are Green fish with a definite color difference. So the chore would seem to be to get the breeders to clarify their colors. A few are already doing this; more will follow as the judging gets sharper. ##

HIS HIGHNESS THE DISCUS

by Jack Wattley

Certainly in the past several years much has been accomplished regarding the maintaining and spawning of the *Symphysodon* Discus. I have maintained nothing but this species for many years and have read all available literature as well as talked with hobbyists all over the country who have been of great help to me. I have talked with Harry Matson many times and his helpful hints have had much to do with my success with this "still difficult" species.

TANK SIZE, WATER CONDITIONS AND FILTERATIONS

Try to keep Discus in tanks of at least 30 gallons. Several breeding size Discus really do best in tanks of at least 50 gallons. The bottoms of all my tanks are bare. Since Discus are great jumpers when alarmed, I keep wood-framed plastic screen covers on all tanks. I have still had fish (adults) jump out and die by hitting the covers with such force that they are dislodged. I now keep them weighted down, as well. I like the plastic covers because the steady stream of water from the power filters can pass through the screening.

I feel that a reasonable amount of turbulence in the water is good for Discus. Outside power filters are used with only dacron as a filtering media. In tanks with young, growing Discus, the dacron is rinsed out several times a week, inasmuch as these growing fish are fed as much as eight times a day.

I do not believe that it is of too much importance to make radical water changes as some fanciers believe. I get good results by siphoning about 1/10 of the water from the bottom of each tank weekly. Keeping the filters clean is of more importance than making drastic water changes. Water is replaced either with distilled water or rain water.

We are fortunate here in Fort Lauderdale in having medium soft tap water of about 100 p.p.m. (6 DH). Harder water can be tempered by the addition of either distilled or rain water. Our water is quite alkaline and I bring it down to between 6.0 by the addition of phosphoric acid. The acid which can be purchased in a drugstore is added to the water that I let stand to age before putting it in the aquarium. Temperature is always maintained at 82° to 84°. This is very important to their general well-being.

FEEDING THE DISCUS

As I mentioned above, young Discus, up to 12 months or so, are fed 6 to 8 times daily. Their diet will consist of live baby brine shrimp, adult frozen brine shrimp, frozen daphnia, and Tetra Min. From 12 months of age or older, I feed frozen brine shrimp, blood worms, and live adult brine shrimp, all of which make excellent food.

Be sure you do not feed bloodworms before your Discus are at least 18 months old, as smaller Discus have difficulty digesting them. Several times weekly I feed frozen beef liver and beef kidney. Again, not for the babies as it is too rich. Large Discus are fed several times daily, every other day; or if you prefer, twice daily, but fast them twice weekly. This is important, as it gives the delicate digestive system of the Discus a rest.

From my own experience, I find that the #1 killer of Discus especially juvenile Discus, is partially spoiled frozen brine shrimp. I mean shrimp that somewhere along the line has been allowed to defrost to some extent and then refrozen. I won't use frozen adult brine shrimp that isn't red in color nor of a good consistency. I also find that one particular brand is superior to all other--let's say that it might give your fish a Longer Life!

You no doubt have noticed that absolutely no live food is fed to my Discus, with the exception of salt water live brine shrimp. This is because I strongly feel that many of the so-called protozoa diseases of Discus are brought about by the feeding of live mosquito larvae, live daphnia, tubifex, gammarus shrimp, etc. I am fully aware that live food has much to recommend it, assuming that it is absolutely clean. There is nothing that an adult Discus likes more than mosquito larvae, but, inasmuch as nearly all live food is infected with bacteria, I will gladly turn to frozen foods and to live adult brine shrimp which carry no fresh water diseases.

One new product recently introduced, Freeze Dried Tubifex Worms, is eaten by my adult Discus with obvious relish. It comes in small dried "squares" and one of these to about 4 large Discus is sufficient at one feeding. I just drop mine on top of the water and the fish tear it to bits before it has an opportunity to soften.

DISEASES OF DISCUS

The Protozoa "head disease" that Discus often get seems to me to be caused by the feeding of bacteria-laden mosquito larvae, daphnia or tubifex worms. The disease I refer to causes large, gapping holes on the

head, usually beginning around the eyes. These growths, if left unattended, will quickly kill the fish. The first indication of the disease is the action of the fishes continually scraping its head against any object in the aquarium. This usually is a week or so after feeding the above mentioned live foods. I have cured the disease in a week's time by the addition of 88% Phenol CA. to the water. Have a druggist mix one part CA. to 100 parts distilled water and add 3 oz. of medicine to each 50 gallons of water the first day and then one ounce each day for the succeeding six days. Unfortunately, if not checked in time, the deep head depressions do not completely fill in, probably due to the fact that the disease strikes at the bony part of the head. All fish make an otherwise complete recovery.

Another cichlid disease that seems to especially strike the Discus species, brings about the small white "pimples" that stick out all over the body and head of the fish. In most cases this disease is more prevalent in newly imported Discus. It may be a form of ichtyophonus, but in any case I feel sure it is not an extoparasite, but some form of an internal disease.

I have cured mild cases of this disease by leaving copper sponges--Chore Maid--(1 to each 20 gallons) for three days, and certainly not more than four days. The copper will react differently in different degrees of pH and DH so keep a very close check on the rate of respiration of the fish, their body color, etc.

At this writing I have one adult blue Discus with a severe case of the disease that has stubbornly resisted treatment with sulfa drugs, copper, carbolic acid and increase in water temperature to 95°. It is interesting to note that this fish maintains good color, eats well, and acts normal in all ways, even though the white 'pimples' break out regularly and then disappear, only to reappear. One of the surest ways to bring about a 'Relapse' of this disease before treatment is complete, is to add water to the aquarium that is cooler than their own water.

HUNGER STRIKES IN DISCUS

One of the most frustrating of all Discus ailments is their refusal to eat, after having eaten in a satisfactory manner previously. I have found that sometimes this condition usually takes place after a fish has been moved from one tank to another on a "full stomach." Bacteria differ from one aquarium to another regardless of how careful one is regarding water temperature, pH, DH, etc. and the new bacterium in the new tank react in a harmful manner to a Discus that has been added to the tank while food is in its intestines. Therefore, try and anticipate the moving of the fish and do not feed the day before the transfer or the day of the transfer.

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With tiny Discus that can ill afford to go two days without food, the switch can be made satisfactorily by the transferring of their original water to the new tank and not adding any new water for several days. Even in cases such as these, do not move the young fish with full stomachs.

Other causes of Discus hunger strikes can be, dirty tank conditions, stale unchanged water, water too hard, weak filtration, and no water turbulence. Discus are definitely subject to a form of neurosis, and one bully in a tank can cause another Discus to literally "give up" and go into a corner and refuse to eat. Too much bright light, tapping on sides of tank, strong vibrations, and too much "action" in front of the tank continually, will cause some Discus to refuse to eat also.

Having spent a month in Brazil observing and collecting Discus, I have come to several interesting observations. One is that the Discus does not consume anywhere near the amount of food in the wild state as it does in the aquaria--at least during the dry season when it is more or less confined to one stream or area. Also, I'm convinced that there are really but two distinct types, kinds of species of Discus; one being the Heckel and the other being the Brown Discus (*Symphysodon aequifasciata axelrodi*) which includes also blue, green, and gold Discus. In my opinion, those are merely color variations of the brown Discus.

In some of the lakes of the upper Amazon, Discus are so plentiful that they appear on the table! Imagine my feelings upon entering a native dwelling and seeing 50 or so full grown, breeding size "pekes" as they call Discus there, being cooked over hot coals.

Reprinted From:

MODERN AQUARIUM, April, 1971

TABLE SHOW RESULTS & STANDINGS

OCTOBER 1972

○ <u>GUPPY</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
a. Green	SERGEANT	SERGEANT	SERGEANT
b. 1/2/Red	WOLCOTT	WOLCOTT	-
c. AOC	SERGEANT	SERGEANT	WOLCOTT
○ <u>CICHLIDS</u>			
a. Dwarf	JESSUP, JN	HIRSCHMAN, E	HIRSCHMAN, E
b. African (Other than Riftlake)	JESSUP, JN	JESSUP, JN	JESSUP, JN
c. Other	JESSUP, JN	STAMPLER	STAMPLER
○ <u>OTHER</u>			
a. Betta	HIRSCHMAN, A	SHIFLETTE, D	SHIFLETTE, D
b. Catfish Corydoras	HIRSCHMAN, A	SHIFLETTE, A	SHIFLETTE, A
c. Other	LENZEN	HIRSCHMAN, A	PIPKIN, J

POINT COUNT

□ <u>GUPPY</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>ANN'L</u>	□ <u>CICHLIDS</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>ANN'L</u>
Cunningham	-	3	Aldridge	-	15
Ganslen	-	3	Gargani	-	7
Hirschman, E.	-	3	Goodman	-	6
Johnson, A.J.	-	2	Hammond	-	12
Johnson, M.	-	16	Hardy, C.	-	15
Keplinger, M.	-	2	Hirschman, E.	7	43
Keplinger, N.	-	16	Jessup	17	85
Oliver	-	11	Lenzen	1	23
Poulsen	1	3	Oliver	-	9
Sergent	16	116	O'Meara, P.	-	6
Shiflette, J.	-	6	Pipkin, T.	3	6
Shiflette, N.	2	25	Shiflette, J.	2	25
Thomas	-	4	Stampler	5	5
Walsh	-	8	Jessup, June & Pipkin, M. 1 Point		
Wolcott	11	84	□ <u>OTHER</u>		



NOVEMBER IS THE LAST CHANCE

TO SHOW YOUR FISH IN 1972



NOVEMBER 6, 1972 SHOW SCHEDULE

GUPPY H/B AOC, FEMALE, AOC

CICHLIDS SO. AM. UNDER "5", RIFTLAKE, OTHER

OTHER SHARKS & LOACHES, CATFISH (Other than Corydoras) OTHER

Aldridge	-	4
Fisher	-	50
Gargani	-	7
Goodman	-	9
Hirschman, A.	13	56
Lenzen	4	11
Oliver	-	9
O'Meara, S.	-	6
Pipkin, J.	2	2
Pipkin, T.	-	3
Platt	2	2
Rushton	-	23
Shiflette, A.	5	5
Shiflette, D.	8	12
Shiflette, J.	-	5
Walsh	-	11
Whittman	-	8

TOTAL ENTRIES - OCTOBER 45

GROUP MEETS

Where were you?

The recently formed cichlid group within the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society held its first meeting on September 27, 1972 at the home of Pat and Sue O'Meara. The meeting was chaired by Gene Aldridge. Everyone who indicated an interest in joining the group was contacted. If you were missed, contact Sue O'Meara at 522-5282.

The cichlid group was charged with the establishment of cichlid classes for the Fall Fish Show- October 28-29, 1972, as its first project. It was decided to base the classes on those suggested by the American Cichlid Association. The points schedule for judging was also taken from ACA and was slightly amended to fit our needs. Through an oversight on the part of the group's recorder, Class IV. h. HOME SPAWNED & RAISED (15 or more young to be exhibited), was inadvertently left out when the classes were presented to the Show Chairman. Many apologies!

The second meeting of the cichlid group was held on October 18, 1972, at the home of Gene Aldridge. A tour of the fish room was followed by a tape program featuring G. Bartel on cichlids, and a group discussion of new or strange fish.

These meetings are held on the third Wednesday each month at eight o'clock. The next several meetings are scheduled as follows:

date:	November 15, 1972	December 20, 1972
time:	8:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
host member:	Don & Linda DeRoze	Heinz Lenzen
address:	13103 Tamarack Rd. Silver Spring, Md.	215 N. Greenbrier St. Arlington, Va.
phone:	384-5568	528-1486

Please be sure to R.S.V.P. if you plan to attend.

All P.V.A.S. members interested in joining the cichlid group are invited. Call the host member for directions before the next meeting. Hope to see all you cichlid enthusiasts there.

Please give some thought to projects we might undertake within the group (no pun intended). What do we want to work on next as a group? Don't hesitate; volunteer your ideas!

P.V.A.S. TREASURER'S REPORT, OCTOBER 1972

CASH IN BANK LAST REPORT \$574.87

INCOME: -----

EXPENSES:

Delta Tale \$13.60 - 13.60

CASH IN BANK SEPTEMBER 30, 1972 \$561.27

INCOME:

Memberships \$17.50
 Sept. Raffle 27.75
 Oct. Raffle 16.25

\$622.77

EXPENSES:

Oct. Raffle \$ 3.11
 Delta Tale (postage-Oct.) 6.05
 " (postage-Nov.) 10.00
 Corr. Sec't. (postage) 8.00
 Dues - IFGA '73 15.00
 Trophy - IFGA '73 15.00
 Dues - ACA '73 5.00

-62.16

CASH IN BANK, OCTOBER 23, 1972 \$560.61

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Committee met in September and prepared a slate of nominees for the 1973 offices. This slate will be presented to the members for their consideration at the November 6 meeting. The nominees for Treasurer and Recording Secretary have since declined the honor, and nominees for these offices, therefore, will be presented from the floor during the November meeting. The slate is as follows:

President: John E. Jessup, Jr.
Vice-President: John Wolcott
Corresponding Secretary: Susan O'Meara
Board of Governors: Gene Aldridge
Board of Governors: Ken Raab

These members have indicated their willingness to serve during 1973, and the Committee urges their appointment. At the same time the Committee recognizes that the Society has many talented members perhaps willing to volunteer the time and energy demanded by these appointments and will be pleased to receive further nominations from the floor. We urge all members to attend the meeting and vote.

WENDELL POULSEN

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM

by Alan Levitt

The National Aquarium received 14 baby Loggerhead Turtles last month from a private organization attempting to prevent the sea turtles from disappearing from the Atlantic Coast. The three week old babies are only about 3" across but reach 500 lbs. in the wild. We will raise them for a year and then they will be released off the Georgia coast. Next fall we will receive another shipment to raise.

To make room for the new turtle display, we moved the inhabitants of the small Atlantic Reef Community to the 1,000 gallon community.

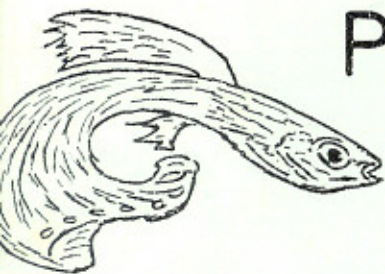
A "Blackwater Pool" was also set up last month in a 1,000 gallon tank. Soft, acid waters are quite common in areas subject to periodic flooding. The decomposition of uprooted trees and plants releases tannic acid and turns the water a dark color. The acid also cuts down on the enormous amount of bacteria present in decaying matter and thus prevents excessive bacteria from accumulating on the skin of fish. Probably most aquarium hobbyists have at one time or another kept fish whose native habitat was a blackwater pool. Our display includes very large Discus, about 100 Neons and Cardinals, assorted tetras, headstanders and other fish common to blackwater environments.

A number of juvenile pupfish and about four large females (*C. macularis*) were received last month from the Sonora Desert Museum in Arizona. Since the male pupfish is quite aggressive and has a strong determination to spawn, females are likely to be killed in an aquarium. We are using the new specimens as a source of supply since we try to keep the ratio of females to males at three to one.

Spawnings last month included Blue Chromis, Tomato Clowns, Angelfish, Rift Lake cichlids and assorted livebearers.

A malfunction or incorrectly installed heater last month resulted in the death of all inhabitants of our African-Asian Community and the air-breathing tank (including an Australian and South American Lungfish and Barramundi). Workmen just finished installing a new heating system the night before the disaster.

If anyone knows anything about the 15" Snakehead that was mysteriously left in a half filled plastic bag in a strofoam box in the middle of the aquarium one night last month, we would appreciate hearing about it.



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

DATE _____ 197__

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? _____

Other Interests & Hobbies: _____

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

Occupation: _____

Membership dues for the P.V.A.S. are \$7.50 family; \$5.00 individual; \$3.00 Corresponding and \$2.50 Junior. Completed applications accompanied by your Check or Money Order should be mailed to P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6067, Arlington, Virginia, 22206. Please attend our meetings at the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, 5401 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia on dates indicated below at 8:00 P.M.

September 11

October 9

November 6

December 11

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society
P.O. Box 6067
Shirlington Station
Arlington, Virginia 22206



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 6067
SHIRLINGTON STATION
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206