

# \* DELTA TALE \*

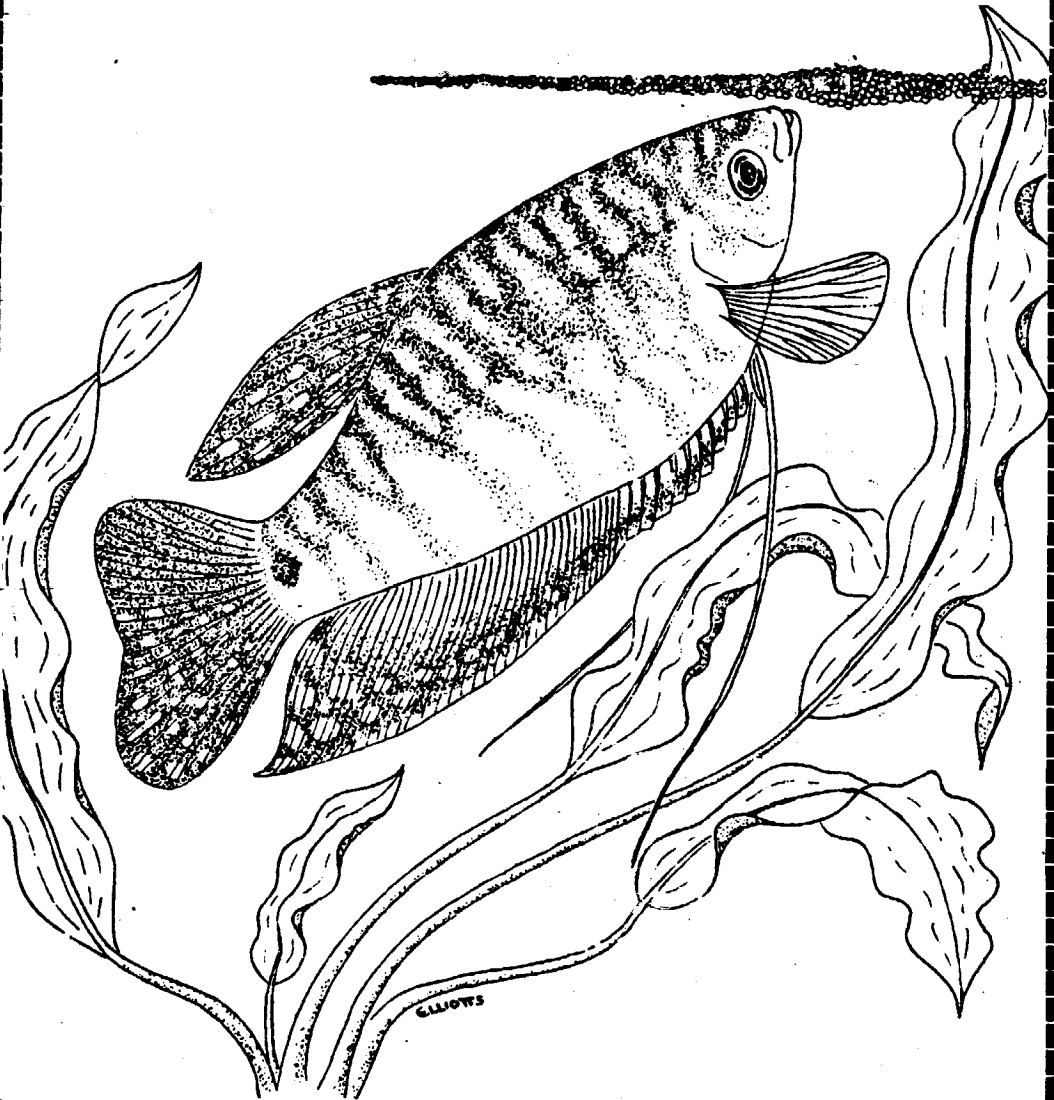
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## potomac valley aquarium society



ELLIOTT

# POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

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 dissemination of 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 6219, Shirlington Station, Arlington, VA 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/artist. All material for inclusion in Delta Tale should reach the editor no later than the first Saturday after the monthly Monday meetings. The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society and the Delta Tale disclaim any responsibility for content or availability of advertised merchandise or service in these pages. Customer satisfaction is a matter to be worked out exclusively between the advertisers and buyers.

DELTA TALE STAFF: Editor, Wayne Hilburn  
Exchange Editor, Vince Edmondson  
BAP Editor, Gerald Wagner  
Editorial Assistant, Carol Kawecki

## P.V.A.S. OFFICERS, 1982

President :	John E. Jessup 534-1704	Corr. Sec. :	Jim Long 280-1753
Vice-Pres. :	Darrell Holman 533-7750	Rec. Sec :	Chryss Guiler 864-1299
Treasurer :	Ruth Brewer 941-6692		

## P.V.A.S. BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 1982

Kenny Warren, Nancy Griffin, Pete Tiejen, Jim Hajdics

## P.V.A.S. COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, 1982

Auctions :	Woody Griffin	Bowl Show :	Gerry & Kay Wagner
BAP :	Gerry Hoffman	Programs :	Woody Griffin/ Darrell Holman
Library :	Darrell Holman	Ways/Means :	Jim Hajdics
Membership :	Jerry Stirman	Constitution :	Ruth Brewer
Spring Show:	Darrell Holman		
Ex-Officio Member of the Board :	Woody Griffin		

MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS HAVING QUESTION ABOUT FISH, AQUARIUM KEEP-  
ING, AND BREEDING CAN CALL ONE OF THE OFFICERS LISTED ABOVE, WHO  
WILL BE GLAD TO ASSIST YOU.

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It certainly feels as though fall is in the air! This may be a good time to think about getting your heaters in good working order and getting your tanks ready for the cold period ahead.

I hope you will all try and be at our next meeting (13 Sept. at 8PM at the firehouse). We expect Gene Aldridge to pay us one of his all too infrequent visits and to provide the program for that evening. Gene is one of the real experts around these parts and it's always a pleasure to see and hear him!

I recently visited New Orleans and happened to get a look at some of the shops down there. (I'm always on the look-out for native Americans.) But, alas, my schedule and the fact that only one shop - it was closed - was in the downtown area, I simply could not get to any of the shops in the hinterlands. Maybe next time.

Don't forget that our fall auction and dinner will be 16 - 17 Oct. Mark your calendars now, so you don't forget.

  
John E. Jessup PhD  
President

MINUTES OF THE P.V.A.S. BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING  
AUGUST 1, 1982

Meeting was held at the home of Darrell Holman. Present were: Woody & Nancy Griffin, Jim Hajdics, Kenny Warren, Wayne Hilburn, John Jessup, Ruth Brewer, Jim Long, and Pete Tiejn.

Meeting called to order by John Jessup at 8:05 p.m.

First order of business was deciding on a meeting place for the next meeting. Westover Baptist Church would not be available for the August meeting. Efforts will be made to find a meeting area for August 9th.

Board meetings for the rest of the year are to be held at; September- Jim Long, October-Woody Griffin, November-Ruth Brewer, and December-Kenny Warren.

Ed Taylor responded by letter concerning fish categories for judging and given to show committee for consideration in designing judging forms.

Treasurers Report presented and approved. Newspaper ad for sale of club's Conde pump approved.

General discussion on Banquet & Auction for October 16th & 17th. Committee formed by Woody Griffin to plan & organize. Members volunteering for committee were; Pete Tiejn, Ruth Brewer, Jim Hajdics, and Kenny Warren. Pre-registration form to be prepared in time for the September Delta Tale. Committee to meet August 16th at Woody Griffin's.

Jim Hajdics will prepare a survey form for next meeting. Ruth Brewer will hold the club's pass for members wishing to visit the National Aquarium.

John Jessup reported on the Greater Richmond Aquarium Society organization plans.

Wayne Hilburn and Pete Tiejn will get more information on incorporating in the District of Columbia.

Meeting closed at 9:32 p.m.

For the Secretary

*Wayne Hilburn*

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report - 7/31/82

6/30/82	BANK BALANCE		\$1,828.91
	Plus Revenues:		
	Memberships	\$ 27.00	
	July Raffle	12.00	
	Show fees paid	30.50	
	Spring Auction tabs paid	<u>77.50</u>	+ 147.00
	Less Expenses:		
	Printing July Delta Tale	33.00	
	Postage: July Delta Tale	29.60	
	May-July exchanges	40.50	
	Mailing labels: Delta Tale	60.72	
	Club Property: bal. on Rotron Pump	272.50	
	Flyers for picnic	9.80	
	Phones	<u>4.15</u>	- 450.27
7/31/82	BANK BALANCE		\$1,525.64

## REVIEWS & NEWS

- ✓ Sand Piper - Singing Sands Aquarist Society, June 1982, reviewed Darrell Holman's article on "Spawning Corydoras Hastatus" (The Pygmy Catfish), Gerry Hoffman's article on "Cynolebias Whitei (Albino) and "Spawning the Orange Chromide" by Vince Edmondson.
- ✓ Scale Tales - Buckeye Aquarium Society, May-June 1982 reviewed Darrell Holman's article on "Spawning Corydoras Hastatus" and Gerry Hoffman's article on "Spawning Cynolebias Whitei".
- ✓ Tropical Topics - The Indianapolis Aquarium Society, Inc., June, 1982 reprinted an article by John Mangan, "Courtship and Reproduction of Goodied Livebearers".
- ✓ Arvas Aquatic Digest - Allegheny River Valley Aquarium Society, June 1982 Reviewed Gerry Hoffman's article on "Apistogramma Ramirezii".
- ✓ Wet Tales - Susquehanna Aquarium Society, July 1982 reprinted an article by Joe Paull entitled "Fuzzy Face".
- ✓ Reporter - North Jersey Aquarium Society, June 1982, in the Sez Who! column, Mike Sheridan mentions our fantastic Spring Show.

## NEW MEMBERS

Michael T. Reilly & Veronica D. Sines  
1943 Burfoot St. Falls Church, VA 22043 442-9389

Dick Sigwald  
923 Grovehill Rd. Baltimore, MD 21227 (301) 242-3409

J. Williams Hunter, Jr. & Edith T. Byrne  
5410 Richenbacher Ave. #201 Alexandria, VA 22304 820-8853

## NOTES

FOR SALE: Used Conde air pump. Contact Bill Mangan 573-4400.

Last month's cover was reprinted from Tropic Tank Talk, The Greater Detroit Aquarium Society, cover design by Jeanne Harlan.

The Banquet program will be presented by DAVE HERLONG, former ACA president and corresponding member of P.V.A.S. No doubt about Cichlids!

The September meeting program will be presented by GENE ALDRIGE, talk & slides on Cichlids. Gene is a former local member and now corresponding member from Harrisburg, PA.

## NEW EXCHANGE CLUB

The Tropical Breeze, publication of The San Diego Tropical Fish Society, Don Sanford, Editor.

## Spawning the Half-Beak

by Jim Hajdics

When I decided to participate in the B.A.P. and saw that a live-bearer was in the "Difficult" category, I figured it would be 30 easy points. Brother, was I ever wrong!

Half-beaks, or Dermogenys pusillus as they are known in the scientific world, are from the southeast Asia area. They prefer salty water, almost to the point of seawater. They grow three to four inches with the female being the larger.

I set up a ten gallon aquarium with gravel, floating plants and a large sponge filter. I used five gallons of synthetic seawater and four gallons of freshwater to fill the tank. The temperature was maintained at about 78° F. I purchased a trio of half-beaks at a local aquarium store, finding that they were easy to sex due to the peculiar anal fin of the male. The first problem which arose was feeding; they really did not go for flake food. What worked best was live brine shrimp and blackworms. I used a worm feeder since their "beaks" will not allow them to feed off the bottom. Several months went by and nothing happened although the females would get plump to the bursting point, but then suddenly they would look slender again. Finally, around the first of the year I discovered fry in the tank. There were only eight fry, but I knew that once they had spawned they would spawn again. Nothing else happened until early summer when I noticed both females getting plump at the same time. I kept watching and waiting and finally one morning I spied fry. I picked them out with a net and got 18 fry, however most of them were belly-sliders; I still had one female expecting. I removed the male and spent female and dropped the water level to four inches. The next evening while I was feeding the fish I noticed two fry swimming at the water line, darting among the duckweed. I turned out all the lights and with the aid of a flashlight watched her give birth to 43 more fry. They were about a half inch long and free swimming immediately. I placed them in a bare two and one half gallon tank with a sponge filter and water from the ten gallon tank.

I started feeding the fry with newly hatched brine shrimp and microworms and experienced no problems. The first deaths occurred when I moved them into a bare ten gallon tank four weeks later. I lost a third of the fry at this time and I believe that the ten gallon tank was too large for them to easily find food and they starved. It seems that a gradual move from a two and a half to a five and a half to a ten gallon only after they are two inches long would prove a safer technique. After over a year and only one successful spawn, I can fully appreciate why the Half-beak is listed in the "Difficult" category.

## Spawning the Rasbora



by John Allen

Metro-East Aquarium Club Bullentin

Among European aquarists the measure of the expert tropical fish breeder is his ability to consistently raise spawns of species which are difficult to spawn. The red rasbora (Rasbora heteromorpha) is one of these fish.

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I had several reasons for trying to breed the red rasbora (Rasbora heteromorpha). One was to spawn a difficult fish for the breeders award program of my aquarium society and the other was to accept a challenge from a fellow aquarist who had already spawned them.

I purchased eight, half-inch long youngsters and put them in an established 10-gallon aquarium that was equipped with undergravel filtration and was planted with an Amazon sword, some microsoria and hornwort. For the first month the rasboras hid whenever I approached the tank. The school would dash into a corner and then rise to the top where they stayed until I went away. During the first month I never once saw them eat any food. I offered frozen brine shrimp, shrimp meal and dried daphnia. To try to get them over this shyness I put ten young guppies in the aquarium. This seemed to do the trick and I could now see them eating. They are voracious eaters and after each meal all of them looked eggbound. After about five months they were close to and an inch and a half long.

Up to this time the pH was a steady 7.0. Water changes were infrequent and algae had accumulated on the sides and back of the tank. Water was added when it evaporated and only rarely was siphoned off. About this time I decided to research the best conditions for spawning. I learned that German breeders had success using soft water. I then added a small outside power filter equipped with a softening pillow. I found no mention of pH, so I decided that since soft water is generally also acid, I added a layer of peat to the filter. The water took on an amber color as the hardness dropped and the pH lowered to 6.0 over a two week period. The guppies had been removed before all this adjustment took place, and the rasboras had the aquarium to themselves.

About this time four of the eight died overnight. I presume it was the shock of the water alteration, even though it was a slow process. Of the remaining four I thought I had three males and one female. Occasionally they would chase each other around the tank, the three slimmer ones following the heavier bodied one. I waited and fed them heavily to see if the presumed female would fill with eggs.



Nothing happened over the next three weeks, so I decided to separate the males from the female. I kept them separated for over a month, now adding huge quantities of live mosquito larvae to their diet, and siphoning off 10% of the water daily and adding three-day old water that had been filtered with softener and peat. Success finally seemed possible when the heavier bodied fish appeared to be full of roe. I introduced the slimmest, brightest colored of the males and waited.

Five or six days went by with the tank at a constant 82 degrees F. (28 C.) before I observed the fish spawning early one Saturday morning. The male swam over and around the female for some time. They drifted through the water slowly and disappeared behind the Amazon sword. I looked from the side pane at an angle and could see the male embracing the female while she was upside down with her abdominal region pressed against the underside of the leaf. Several small eggs appeared. This process was repeated about twenty times with three or four eggs appearing near the end of each spawning embrace.

The parents were removed as soon as spawning was completed. I shut the tank lights off, checked the heater and did not touch the tank until three days later when I added a cup of green water. One week after spawning I turned on the light and saw several young rasboras flit across the tank. I now started feeding baby brine in the morning and evening and still added a cup of green water every other day for the next week. About this time the young started schooling and seemed to prefer the areas near the base of the Amazon sword plant and the microsoria. The young now fed eagerly on the live baby brine and grew rapidly. They colored out at about half an inch approximately four weeks after hatching. At the end of seven months they were about an inch and a half long. (4cm).



COME ON... get active... we need  
you the member to become more

active in YOUR society. How about  
some articles from the new members,  
bring entries to the bowl show,  
help sell raffle tickets, judge the  
bowl show, give a program.

Remember you wouldn't be coming to the meetings if you weren't interested! So come on... Get Active, don't hide in a shell.

## Colisa chuna

by Darrell Holman

After reading Ruth Brewer's article in the March 1981 "Delta Tale" entitled Breeder's Award Program: The First Six Years, I had realized that one group of fish had basically been neglected, as a matter of fact there had been only 10 reported spawnings. The group which I am referring to is the group of fish known as Anabantoids.

The Anabantoid group refers to fishes which are equipped with a labyrinth or accessory breathing organ. The labyrinth enables these fish to use atmospheric air, which in turn allows them to live in water that is oxygen deficient.

The classification of the labyrinth fishes is as follows:

- Class: Teleostomi
- Order: Perciformes
- Suborder: Anabantoidei
- Family 1: Anabantidae
  - Genera: Anabas, Ctenopoma, Sandelia
- Family 2: Osphronemidae
  - Genus: Osphronemus
- Family 3: Helostomatidae
  - Genus: Helostoma
- Family 4: Belontiidae
  - Subfamily 1: Belontiinae
    - Genus: Belontia
  - Subfamily 2: Macropodinae
    - Genera: Betta, Ctenops, Macropodus, Malpulutta, Parosphromenus, Trichopsis
  - Subfamily 3: Trichogasterinae
    - Genera: Colisa, Parasphaerichthys, Sphaerichthys, Trichogaster

As can be seen in the classification above, the suborder Anabantoidei is comprised of 4 major families and 3 subfamilies, with a total of 16 genera. The 16 genera are comprised of approximately 90 separate species, with about half of the species belonging to the two genera Betta and Ctenopoma. Of these 90 species, over 60 percent are known to be bubble nest builders, the others are known to be mouthbrooders, floating-egg scatterers or other adhesive-egg scatterers. So, there is quite a variety of different spawning habits among this group of fish.

With bubble nest builders, a floating nest of bubbles is constructed which is used to house the eggs. The bubbles usually are formed by the male of the species; he will take in some air at the surface, then mix it with saliva. The saliva acts as a protective coating so the bubble will not burst. The male will then release the bubbles at the surface, usually in a corner of the tank or under some floating leaves. This process is continued until the nest is constructed to his satisfaction. The average size nest is one quarter to one half inch thick and about the size of a silver dollar. Then

the fish commence spawning and the eggs are blown into the nest, where they remain until the fry are free swimming. Good examples of fish which construct this type of nest are Betta splendens, species of Colisa and species of Macropodus.

The mouth-brooders of this group, have probably the most peculiar spawning habits. Using Betta brederi as an example, the basic spawning sequence starts out very similar to that of B. splendens. The pair will start out with the usual nuptial embrace, then the eggs are released and fertilized. The female will then pick up the eggs in her mouth and spit them at the male, the male will then catch the eggs and tuck them away in the brood-pouch for several days until the fry are free swimming. Incubation is very similar to that of the mouth-brooding cichlids. Other examples of mouth-brooding anabantoids are Betta picta, Betta taeniata, and Spharichthys ospro-menoides.

The floating-egg scatterers spawn in a similar fashion to the bubble nest builders, but do not construct any kind of nest. The eggs are released and float to the surface, where they are left unattended. Helostoma temmincki is one example of anabantids which spawn in this manner.

The adhesive-egg scatterers consist of a small group of fish belonging to the genus Sandelia. These fish commence spawning by embracing like other anabantids, but when the eggs are released they sink to the bottom and adhere to plants and rocks. No protection is given by either parent.

Recently I have tried my hand at spawning several species of anabantids. One species which I have had success with is Colisa chuna, the honey gourami.

This native of India is the smallest member of its genus, attaining a length of about one and three quarter inches. This shy, peaceful little fish is very colorful, the males when in full color are outstanding having a bright gold-colored body with an orange dorsal fin and a coal black chest with a blue overcast. The female is a golden tan with a dark brown stripe which runs from the gills to the base of the caudal fin.

Breeding this fish is a very simple task once the fish have been well conditioned. Conditioning this fish is best accomplished by frequent feeding of both live and dried foods. I conditioned my pair on a diet of blackworms, daphnia, brine shrimp and several commercially prepared foods. After a couple of weeks of being fed on this diet, the female started showing signs of loading up with eggs.

I then placed her into the already prepared spawning tank which consisted of a two and a half gallon bare tank with a spong filter and a few assorted floating plants which the male could use for constructing the bubble nest. The water temperature was about 75° F and the pH was about 7.0. The male was introduced to the spawning tank the next morning and by that afternoon had already constructed the nest.

Later on, I noticed the male coaxing the female under the nest, and he then wrapped his body around hers as they tumbled in a circular

fashion. Each time this peculiar sequence would happen a few small eggs would be released, which would immediately float to the surface. This activity continued for about one hour, and then the male chased the female to the other end of the tank. I then removed the female and left the male to tend the eggs, which he gathered up in his mouth and placed into the nest.

The eggs hatched in about 24 hours, and the fry were free swimming in about three days. The male was then removed, leaving the fry to fend for themselves. I first fed them a powdered flake food, which they eagerly accepted. In about a week they were started on newly hatched brine shrimp. At the age of one month, they were about one fourth of an inch in length and were starting to look much like their parents. At 60 days they averaged one half inch in length with some remaining quite a bit smaller. I then started separating the larger fry from the smaller ones, so they would not start feeding on each other.

Most anabantoids are as easy to spawn and raise as C. chuna and I highly recommend that other hobbyists try their hand at spawning some of them.

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This month's cover from Soundings, A joint publication of the  
Narrows Aquarist Association and The Greater Seattle Aquarium  
Society. Art credited to Elliots. March 1982



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# BOWL SHOW

AUGUST 1982

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## CICHLIDS

### New World Dwarf

No entries

### Riftlake, non-Mbuna/ex. Hap.

No entries

### Open

No entries

## EGGLAYER/LIVEBEARERS

### Killifish

1st: Aplocheilus dayii -  
Michelle Mangan

2nd: Fundulas Chrysotus -  
Michelle Mangan

3rd: Aphyiosemion Gardneri (Albino) -  
Michella Mangan

### Open

1st: Trinectes maculatus (Hogchoker)  
Wayne Hilburn

### Catfish, non-Corydoras

No entries

Members Choice: Hogchoker - Wayne Hilburn

## SEPTEMBER BOWL SHOW CATEGORIES

### Cichlids

Angelfish and Discus

Non-Riftlake African

Open

### Egglayer/Livebearers

Livebearers, non-Guppy

Sharks & Loaches

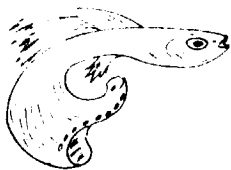
Open

BREEDER'S AWARD PROGRAM REPORT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u> (through Aug.11,1982)
Gerry Hoffman	645****
Woody Griffin	525****
Garland Neese	680***
Pat&Maggi Mahoney	575***
Darrell Holman	480***
John Jessup	485***
Vince Edmondson	370***
Ruth Brewer	305***
Jim Hajdics	275**
Art Lembke	165**
The Wagner Family	165**
Tom Wright	80*
Kenny Warren	90*
Gene Aldridge	80*
Thompson Family	80*
Amy Stirman	40
Ken Fisher	30
Leslie Stirman	10

Recent Points Awarded:

John Jessup	<i>Melanotaenia splendida splendida</i>	10
	<i>Brachydanio rerio</i>	10



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
PO BOX 6219, SHIRLINGTON STATION  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tanks \_\_\_\_\_

Type of fish \_\_\_\_\_

Time in hobby \_\_\_\_\_

Fish you have spawned \_\_\_\_\_

What you would like  
to do in this Club? \_\_\_\_\_

Which sub-group interests  
you? (guppy, cichlid, other) \_\_\_\_\_

How long do you plan to be in this area? \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

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

Completed applications accompanied by your check or money order should be mailed to P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6219, Arlington, Virginia 22206.

Please attend our meetings at the Cocoa-Cola Bottling Plant, 5401 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia at 8:00 P.M.

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society  
P.O. Box 6219  
Shirlington Station  
Arlington, VA 22206

FIRST CLASS MAIL

1982 MEETING DATES:

JAN. 11	APRIL 12	JULY 12	OCT. 11
FEB. 8	MAY 17	AUG. 9	NOV. 15
MAR. 8	JUNE 14	SEPT. 13★	DEC. 13

The September 13, 1982 meeting will be held at the Jefferson Fire House Community Room, Route 50 and Graham Rd. Falls Church, VA. (One block east of Loehmans Plaza on service road next to Rt.50)

Meetings start at 8 p.m. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Bowl Show registration, 7:45 p.m. to 8 p.m.