DELTA TALE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF P.V.G.C. JUL 1972

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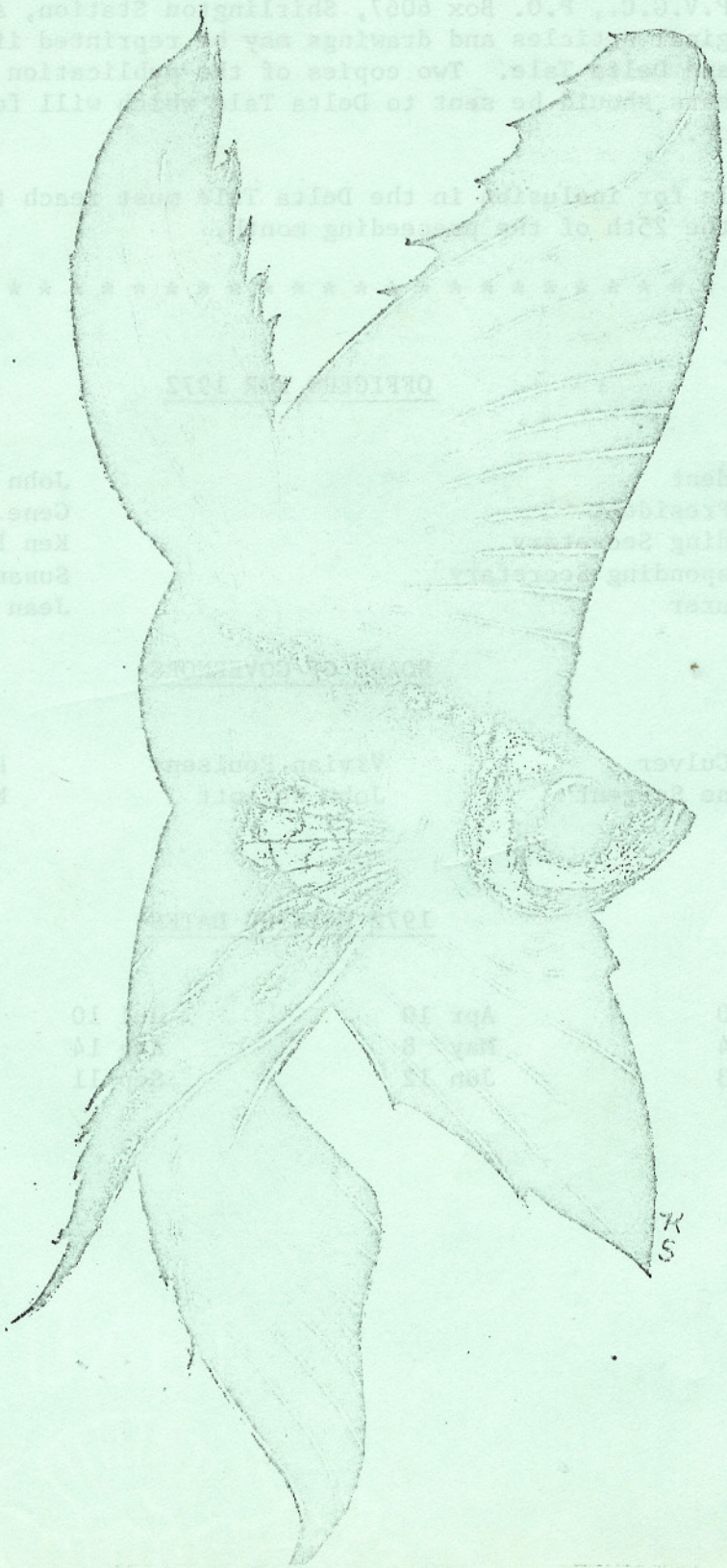

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All materials for inclusion in the Delta Tale must reach the editor no later than the 25th of the preceeding month.

* *

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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

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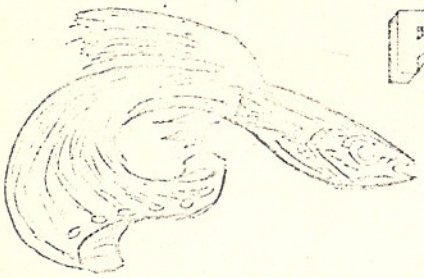

POTOMAC VALLEY GUPPY CLUB

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm sorry that I won't be at our July 10th meeting but I have been asked to lecture at a special summer workshop at the United States Military Academy--when duty calls--. It is especially unfortunate since the July meeting will be one of the most important in the history of our organization.

At the June meeting I announced that the Board of Governors decided the time was right to change the name of the P.V.G.C. to the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society. The details of this change are to be found in this issue of the DELTA TALE and should be carefully read by all.

I've had some bad luck with my fish, losing four good specimens: a 6" Hemichromis faciatus female and a younger one, my female blue gularis-championship stock, and the mysterious disappearance of a 5" male Tilopia mossambica--the cat, I think? Losses are something we all have to face but it really hurts your breeding programs. Spent a lot of time redesigning and installing new wiring in the fish room. The wires festooned all over the place finally got on my nerves! The new arrangements should handle my needs quite nicely.

Sincerely,

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

SECRETARY'S LETTER

I have not reported to you in several months, but I'm sure that you will immediately understand when I tell you that I have recently moved--this means fish room and all--into a new third floor apartment. Since much secretarial business is discussed elsewhere in this issue, I have decided to use my space to pass on some useful information and hopefully save you some leg work.

First I know that many of us want to belong to the various national organizations that deal with one or another particular fish that we are currently raising. I know and receive information from the following associations:

American Cichlid Association
Mr. Guy D. Jordan
6546 Celia Vista Drive
San Diego, Cal 92115

Goldfish Club
Mr. Dick Law
318 Cordova Street
San Francisco, Cal 94112

IFGA (Guppies)
Corresponding Memberships
Ethel Shubel
375 S. Hanlon
Westland, Mich 48185

American Killifish Association
Mr. Joseph Trusso
7 Park Circle
Shirley, NY 11967

American Livebearer Association
Joanne Norton
2305 Broadmoor Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50010

Native Species Club
Mr. John Bondhus
Monticello, Minn 55362

All of the above associations have been in existence for some time with the exception of the Native Species and American Livebearer groups. (Editor's note: membership information on these clubs will appear in next month's DELTA TALE.) The American Livebearer Association, headed by Joanne Norton, has an excellent publication full of information on raising exotic livebearers. The articles are well written and in language that we can all understand. I think you will find this association's publication very informative due to Joanne Norton's editorship. She has had considerable experience in writing for our hobby since she is the author of Fancy Platies, a book published by T. F. H., and numerous other articles concerning raising exotic livebearers.

Now that I'm finally getting my fish room in order after moving, shows, etc., I'm finding that my 20 % discount at PJ's is really coming in handy in this expensive hobby of ours. Even if you don't need any equipment, it's well worth the trip just to see the beautiful salt water tanks now in operation and have a cup of fish H2O coffee with Jean and Paul.

Ken Fisher

WATER

By Charles Elzer, Jr.

So much has been written on the subject of water chemistry by people eminently qualified to deal with the subject that I hesitate to put in my oar. With great trepidation, I will attempt to set forth a simplified version.

I recently read an editorial in a well known aquarium magazine, some 20 years old. The subject concerned syphoning mulm from the bottom of the tank, allowing the water to settle in a pail. This allows the suspended material to precipitate and then it was recommended that the clarified water be poured back into the tank. This reverence of old and seasoned water remains in many forms with us as yet today.

In any discussion of water that is considered suitable to be used for fish, the terms pH and DH soon appear. We are instructed in the use of various kinds of apparatus in order to test water. In addition, we can learn of a number of chemicals to adjust these values. We have heard of methods to collect rain water or snow melted for the purpose of obtaining "soft" water. This soft water is very low in mineral contact and therefore can be used to adjust the DH or relative hardness.

All of the methods of adjusting the chemistry of water that are available to the hobbyist have their advantages. They also have their own peculiar disadvantages. The one general disadvantage they all possess is that the diligence and attention to detail of the average hobbyist varies with conditions. To say this another way, any attempt to alter the original characteristics of the water as it comes from the tap is only as good as the regularity with which it is done.

If we do not remain absolutely faithful to any additions of chemicals, we can do far more harm than good. We must be prepared to spend considerable time and effort to maintain exactly the same conditions for our fishes when syphoning off water, adding, or because of evaporation.

Generally speaking, the average hobbyist may be well advised to use the water available to him, exactly as it comes from the tap. It seems that good clean water is far more important than small changes in pH or DH. The hobbyist is much more likely to change water if it does not involve additions of chemicals and subsequent testing.

There are certain fishes that will not tolerate some conditions that exist in the available water. The potential owner of these fishes then faces the decision of creating the necessary conditions or perhaps altering his wishes and switching his fishes. With the wealth of fish life available to us, perhaps wisdom dictates that we choose fish that are compatible with our conditions.

Reprinted From:

MODERN AQUARIUM, October 1969

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CARE AND BREEDING OF THE GOLD SEVERUM

By Tom Collins

Albino hybrids, developed and selectively bred by dedicated hobbyists, have given us some of the most beautiful aquatic fishes, and the Gold Severum ranks high among such varieties.

My first glimpse of these fish was about four years ago when we purchased two young 1" specimens at a very handsom price. They were a light golden color and shy for a few days until they became accustomed to their new environment.

For the first year they enjoyed the company of many different fish from other cichlids to large gouramis and various catfish. They were held in 15-gallon and 20-gallon tanks for this period and fed mainly on beef-heart, dew worms, and trout pellets. Seldom did they bother the foliage, but seemed to like to retreat among it and the driftwood in the tanks. By the following year, during the summer, they had attained a length of 5" and showed signs of enjoying each

other's company. They seemed, perhaps, to be a pair! Returning from vacation, we found our treasures to be the victims of summer heat and a faulty air pump. With them we had lost a large African Leaf Fish. I can always remember how the three of them loved to snatch those little black tadpoles with sheer delight.

Robbed of our original pair and impressed with their majesty, we acquired another pair. Theirs was a life of solitude and delicate care but the future held many rewards for us with these fish.

After a year and a half, they caught up with our former pair and together claimed a 30-gallon aquarium for their own. Several smooth chunks of rock and a large slab of slate adorned their home, in our attempt to have them spawn. Our first premonitions of this came when we joyfully watched them locking jaws in a manner characteristic of many Cichlids. They do this pre-spawning "kiss" not like that of a Kissing Gourami, but with an actual lock of one lip over the other. This may often lead to sore, ripped mouths, but these soon heal and rarely lead to anything much.

Soon after our initial warning, both fish began to clean the piece of slate with their mouths, and egg and sperm tubes appeared. For a period of approximately two hours we witnessed the fascinating act of reproduction. Over and over again, the female passed over the slate, sticking rather large, clear, and adhesive eggs to it, while the male followed, expelling sperm to fertilize the eggs. When finished, some four hundred eggs lay scattered over the grey stone.

Coloration reached its peak during this breeding cycle. Both fish were a brilliant gold with a slight whitish tinge to the chin. A brilliant orange could be found covering the anal fin, with particular brilliance on the rays. Eyes were fired like red coals, in contrast to the black pupils. However, both sexes were easily distinguishable. Streaking the forehead of the male were dots and stripes of orange, while the obvious long and thin sperm tub protruded below. In contrast, the female's head held a rather obvious lump or bump of yellow fatty tissue between the eye and extending over the forehead. Her egg tube was blunt, fatter, and much shorter.

For three days, the parents cared for their eggs, fanning them and taking turns at guarding them! It was fun watching them charge at our hands or close approach to their domain, with signs of warning, "keep away." During this period I reluctantly noticed no embryonic development within the eggs, and therefore was not surprised to see them fungus and later vanish.

For the next year and a half, the parents grew larger and even more beautiful, but some two or three dozen more spawnings yielded

nothing. They soon became careless as to their spawning site and chose everything from rocks, slate, filters, the bottom of the tank and even the side glass. I had given up hope, and yielded to the concensus that my male was sterile. Changes in water temperature still granted me nothing. Stories reached me from several sources that hatching the eggs of these fish had long been a stumbling block for many competent breeders. A "secret" formula, so I was told, was huddled away in the minds of several misers who basked in the glory of their knowledge. It was not a very optimistic situation.

With this view, I then concentrated on my Severums for show, as they had now reached 7" to 8" and were a handsome duet, indeed. They rewarded us with many trophies as a pair, but unfortunately I was once forced to enter them as singles. I chose the male for his obvious dominance of color. After he had done his "thing" his mate was none too glad to see him. As the typical female blasting her mate in the "where were you?" fashion, she proceed to kick the daylights out of him. This resulted in a very torn dorsal for the male and a healing job which took the best part of 2 months. His dorsal never has regained its original stateliness.

Well, the highlight of my experience with this pair came just recently. They had lived in this 20-gallon tank for 2 months and had already spawned twice in their usual bountiless manner. One evening, however, I was proceeding to show a friend the eggs of these Gold Severums of ours which, for the sake of reproducing, were useless.

Lo and behold, but a mass of wiggling tails confronted us on the side of a rectangular box filter. We watched in amazement! The female was carefully picking the young up in her mouth and placing them in the corner of the aquarium, while at the same time trying to keep the male away from them, with force when necessary. His beady eyes betrayed his intentions!

I was then faced with a difficult situation. Should I remove the remaining young still on the filter and place them in a small tank? How would the female react to this? Would she eat the remaining young or care for them? How would the young take the changeover?

With caution I decided to remove the filter and place it in a clean 3-gallon all-glass tank, with plenty of air. Lucky for me that I did so, for that night the parents ate the young which were left in the aquarium.

During this period, too, the pair fought consistently, creating quite a ruckus, so the male seemed to blame the female for the loss of the young on the filter. They searched the spot where the filter had been, in wonder and in grief.

Amazement followed in the next three days, as the young kept their yoke sacs and did not become free-swimming until the fourth day; and at very irregular intervals. It seemed some became free-swimming one day and the rest did likewise over a period of two days. With the initial one that buzzed to the surface, I poured the freshly-hatched brine shrimp to them. About half died in the proceeding days, much to my sorrow--but some twenty young are left to encourage me on to victory.

They're just like little nuggets of gold now and, for all the enjoyment they gave us, are as rich and pure too.

As I sit writing this, my pair of Gold Severums are just completing another spawn. They look like much better eggs--much better because they've proven they are living ones. With the "secret formula" (whatever it is) behind us, we appreciate more than ever the work and effort of the hobbyist who gave us The Golden Severum.

Reprinted From:

MODERN AQUARIUM, January 1971

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DONT'T FORGET TO MAIL YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IMMEDIATELY!!

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MALAWI COMMUNITY SPAWNING: L. CAERULEUS X P. MINUTUS

By Susan P. O'Meara P.V.G.C.

For those of you not familiar with Rift Lake cichlids, let me introduce them with a quote from an expert:

> "The mbuna of Lake Malawi are among the most colorful of all the cichlids. But all of them are fast-moving, apparently high-strung mouthbrooders who seem to stay in nervous motion almost constantly."[1]

The fishes known as Labidochromis caeruleus and Pseudotropheus minutus are two of the mouthbrooding cichlids originating in Lake Malawi (formerly Lake Nyasa), one of the African Rift Lakes. Both are lovely pale streamlined fishes with the aggressive nature usually found in the Malawi cichlids. Although these are not as aggressive as most mbuna, they certainly are not mild.

The adult pair of L. caeruleus I acquired from a breeder friend were each about 4 inches long. (Every living thing is given a name in our house, including the fish). "Mark" is pale, silvery blue-white with light blue fins. He has bright yellow egg spots on the anal fin and his ventral and anal fins are edged in black. "Erika" was gray, without the black edging, and much plainer and shyer than the male. (She was killed before spawning by some P. tropheops in the 29 gallon tank).

The young P. minutus I acquired on Washington's birthday were about 2 inches and 2½ inches long. They were both pale pink-goldish-white; i.e. flesh colored. "George" has since darkened to a lovely honey color. "Martha" is the larger of the two and since I got them from a tank full of young P. minutus, They may be brother and sister (or sisters? It's hard to distinguish sexual differences in young Malawi cichlids). George has a large distinctive egg spot, while Martha has little. The P. minutus

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[1] H. Ross Brock, "Tropheus", Advanced Aquarists Magazine, (Aug. 1971),

were put into a 10 gallon tank with three P. williamsi for holding until the 100 gallon community tank could be prepared.

This large tank was set up with fresh diatomed water at 79-80 degrees, pH 7.5, with gravel for digging in, live plants for decoration and for food, and rock caves for shelter. Some tuffa rock was used to keep the water alkaline and hard. Up to one tablespoon of salt per gallon of water is recommended.

A few days later the Malawis were introduced all at the same time to avoid aggressiveness: the P. tropheops, the Labeotropheus fuelleborni, and the L. caeruleus from the 29 gallon tank; P. minutus and P. williamsi from a 10 gallon tank; and an adult male "blue auratus" from another 10 gallon tank.

From the very start, the young pair of P. minutus took a liking to the L. caeruleus male and followed like shadows all over the tank wherever Mark went. And Mark seemed to be protecting them from the other larger fish, chasing off any attempting to approach them. By the third day together, his behavior abruptly changed towards Martha and George. Mark seemed to be guarding her jealously, especially from George, the young male of her own species. Mark couldn't stand the sight of George anywhere near Martha. And George finally got the idea, since Mark was twice his size and weight, and he made himself scarce for awhile.

Mark pursued the female, attempting to catch her eye with fins spread wide and flashing body movements. He shivered wildly and spun around and around Martha, cutting off every avenue of escape, trying to herd her to his chosen spawning site. She eventually let herself be led into his cave, but every time he got her in there, "Bl'eugene", the adult male blue auratus, the dominant male in the tank, broke up this activity by swimming through this cave and scattering them.

Thoroughly thwarted, the interested pair did not quite give up. Mark was still insisting, but Martha decided to choose a new spawning site less disturbed by other fish. She would leave the cave every time Bl'eugene rushed at them and finally Mark gave up his territory to join her at the new site, a nearby sandy area, where they began circling in earnest. She eventually joined in and

actively twitched and circled with Mark, head-to-tail, round and round, quivering excitedly. This went on for some time. First one, then the other, would pass close over the depression made in the sand by circling, as though to indicate readiness to spawn to each other.

The male's color was very intense at this point, almost iridescent; while the female's color was muddy-looking and splotchy. She was co-operating fully with Mark by now. I did not actually see Martha pick up any eggs at this time, and since we had to leave for a meeting right after supper, I missed seeing just what happened next. Most Malawi females pick up the eggs as soon as they are fertilized, often as they are being blown around above the nest, in the current created by the parents' activity.

> "In Labidochromis caeruleus, the female may wait until spawning is completed before picking up the eggs."[2]

And I missed seeing how Martha did it.

By the next afternoon when I got back to observing them closely, Mark was still at her side, no longer circling, but still herding and running off any other fish which ventured too near Martha. He may have been keeping her for himself, rather than protecting her from others. I couldn't tell quite which, as there is always much activity in a tankful of Malawi cichlids.

Closer observation showed Martha with her lower jaw greatly distended; it looked like she had a mouthful of marbles. She kept her mouth more tightly closed than usual, perhaps not to drop the eggs; and constantly moved her mouth in a chewing motion, juggling the eggs around to clean and settle them.

It is best to remove the incubating female for her own protection and that of the fry. She will seek seclusion at this time instinctively. We did not want her to be harrassed by the other fish, and frightened into

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[2] Robert J. Goldstein, Cichlids, (T.F.H. Publications, 1970), p. 98

eating or spitting out the eggs. So we prepared a tank for Martha with water conditions matching those in the comunity tank. Into the incubation tank were put an open-ended flower pot on its side, for a hiding place; a box filter going slowly; and a cave of tuffa rock. (My husband drilled holes through the tuffa rock as tunnels for the babies to hide in after release, holes too narrow for their mother to pass through in pursuit). We put gravel in this tank also and a few floating plants as well.

All the while she was incubating the eggs, Martha did not eat. Even brine shrimp were ignored. Martha just sat around and waited. All alone in the 10 gallon tank, she alternated between the pot at night or the farthest reaches of the tuffa rock cave in the daytime. Sometimes as we peered in at her, checking progress, she would swim cautiously over to the glass to look at us, but any sudden movement near the tank sent Martha scurrying for cover momentarily.

We waited and counted the days in anticipation. By the 17th day we began looking for fry (some Malawi females start releasing as early as the 17th day), but none were being released yet. By the 19th and 21st days, Martha still just swam languidly around the tank. Every morning we'd check her first thing before breakfast (as early as 6:30 a.m.), but she still was incubating, her mouth now impossibly full. We could see the dark shapes of the fry trying to get out, as she shuffled and re-shuffled them in her mouth to settle them again. By the evening of the 23rd day, Martha was becoming more and more jittery, racing from one end of the tank to the other, very easily startled, wedging herself far back into the cave or fleeing at the slightest movement in the room. She had been relatively calm throughout the incubation period so now we felt release surely must be imminent.

This change in behavior is indeed significant according to Kappy Sprenger:

> "...there is a sign that release has begun, for which one may watch: The female becomes restless, investigates corners and crevices, and seems to be fretting over every plant and pile of mulm. Constantly on the move (unless startled), there is nothing in the aquarium she ignores,---. The resting posture that by now has become familiar to the aquarist is gone,

and in its place there seems to be an inability to remain still for even a moment."[3]

As far as we could see (and I tried to keep a very close watch), Martha had not been releasing and retrieving her fry for days as sometimes happens with Malawis. I am told the procedure does vary with individual females. When we came down on the morning of the 24th day, all the babies had been released (around dawn?) and were not being allowed readmission. Fry were everywhere throughout the incubating tank, and none remained in one place long enough for an accurate count; however, there appeared to be approximately 20 fry. All fry were swimming well, none resting on the gravel or swimming with difficulty. (In an early release, the mother usually retrieves any fry having difficulties and readmits the brood the first few nights).

Whenever we approached the tank, Martha ducked behind the box filter in the corner, leaving the two hiding places previously hers for the fry. They also scuttled for cover at the first signs of movement near the tank, but soon came out into the open again if we remained absolutely still. We watched Martha very closely for several days; never once did we see her chase the fry to eat them. Since she did not allow re-entry, not even for the night, we decided to remove her for reconditioning before putting her back into the large community tank. After such a prolonged fast, she would not be strong enough to stand up for herself among other rambunctious mbuna.

We offered both brine shrimp, then tubifex, as soon as we discovered that Martha had released the fry. Both mother and babies eagerly ate these live foods. We also fed the fry a fine high protein dry food (powder) containing liver and (I think) shrimp, which they also ate eagerly as it fell. These new fry were easily 3/8ths inch long and growing. They were exactly the same color as their mother and more calm and curious than South American cichlids I've spawned. Within a week after release, the fry were chasing after and attacking Dr.

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[3] Kappy Sprenger, "The Rusty Cichlid", T.F.H., (Aug. 1970), 36

Jessup's high protein paste formula[4] as it fell, or running up to the top of the water (much like corydoras after a bubble of air) attempting to knock down flakes of Tetramin, then snatching bites out of the flakes as they fell. The less bold ones would hurry down to get their share on the bottom. The young fry would also grab live brine shrimp by the tail (or any which way) and eat whatever they managed to chew off. Some swam around in tight little circles with a tubifex worm in their mouth, fighting not to lose it. They'd try anything edible!

By now, over six weeks later, the young caeruleus x minutus have more than doubled in size and are still always eager to eat. It's a great pleasure to feed these babies; they'll eat anything any time. They remain ever curious and active, and they are just beginning to claim and to try to hold territory. There seems to be about 25 fry by the latest count, all in good shape. I haven't lost any yet. (Hope I don't).

We look forward to their developing distinct personalities and we hope to see some with the lovely blue coloring of their father, as well as the flesh-white of their mother or the honey color of Uncle George. Time will tell.

We were wondering what to call this caeruleus-minutus cross when we read:

> "The trade fish formerly known as Labidochromis caeruleus, then as Pseudotropheus minutus, is now back in Labidochromis, but may be an undescribed species."[5]

This seems to indicate that these species may be, in reality, merely different color variations of the same fish. We eagerly await conclusive information as to their correct identification. Anyone know?

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[4] John E. Jessup, Jr., "My Special Food: A Secret Formula?", P.V.G.C. Delta Tale, (March 1972), 10-11

[5] Robert J. Goldstein, "Cichlid Notes", T.F.H., (May 1972), 54

EDITOR'S NOTE

We've decided to drop the Question Corner from the Delta Tale. Jean Keplinger reports that there has been very little response from club members, and with the inauguration of a question and answer session at the monthly meetings we feel that your questions can best be handled from the floor. Jean promises to take notes at these sessions, and she will report in the Delta Tale from time to time on any exchanges of general interest to our readers.

There are two cut-outs in this issue. The first is the ballot on the constitutional change that will be voted on at the July meeting. This is for the convenience of those members unable to attend the July meeting, but we want to emphasize the time factor here and urge you to get your ballot in the mail immediately. The second cut-out is a list of new club members. We hope that you all get to meet them personally, but in the meantime we ask you to remove this page and add it to the list of club members mailed to you last month.

We are unable to acknowledge this month's cover artist. The picture recently surfaced among some old club papers, and because of its singular beauty we decided to run it without credit. If any member can identify this "KS" we would appreciate hearing from you, and we will then be able to give public credit to this fine illustrator next month.

This month's feature article by Sue O'Meara hopefully will spur other club members to unleash their until now jealously held fish secrets. Sue is the mother of three young children, the caretaker of an impressive fish collection, the peripatetic corresponding secretary of our club, and a talented editor and cover artist for the club paper among other things. If she has the time, how about you? If I had a fish tank for every promise of an article that I've received in the last six months, I could set up my own national aquarium!

M. MacGregor

POTOMAC VALLEY GUPPY CLUB

TABLE SHOW RESULTS & STANDINGS

JUNE 1972

	1st	2nd	3rd
GUPPY			
a. H/B AOC	SERGENT	SERGENT	WOLCOTT
b. Female	WOLCOTT	GANSLEN	HIRSCHMAN, E.
c. AOC	SERGENT	WOLCOTT	WOLCOTT
CICHLIDS			
a. So. Am. Over 5"	-	-	-
b. Riftlake	JESSUP	JESSUP	JESSUP
c. Other	JESSUP	HIRSCHMAN	SHIFLETTE
OTHER			
a. Sharks & Loaches	FISHER	FISHER	HIRSCHMAN, A.
b. Catfish(other than Corydoras)	HIRSCHMAN A.	-	-
c. Other	FISHER	FISHER	FISHER

POINT COUNT

GUPPY	JUNE	QTR	ANN'L
Cunningham	-	-	3
Ganslen	3	3	3
Hirschman, E.	3	3	3
Johnson, A.J.	-	-	2
Johnson, M.	-	-	16
Keplinger, D.	-	-	1
Keplinger, K.	-	-	1
Keplinger, M.	-	-	2
Keplinger, N.	-	2	10
Norbu	-	-	1
Oliver	-	-	11
Patterson	-	-	1
Poulsen	-	2	2
Sergent	13	43	70 ←
Shiflette	2	2	2
Thomas	-	-	4
Walsh	-	-	8
Wolcott	12	33	43

CICHLIDS	JUNE	QTR	ANN'L
Adams	-	-	3
Aldridge	-	3	15
Gargani	-	4	7
Goodman	-	4	6
Hammond	-	8	12
Hirschman,E.	3	3	3
Jessup	14	38	58 ←
Lenzen	-	7	12
Oliver	-	-	9
O'Meara, P.	-	-	6
Shiflette	2	2	2
OTHER			
Aldridge	-	-	4
Fisher	16	28	28 ←
Gargani	-	-	6
Goodman	-	-	7
Hirschman,A.	9	9	9
Hirschman,E.	2	2	2
Lenzen	-	3	6
Oliver	-	-	9
O'Meara,S.	-	-	6
Rushton	1	9	13
Toro	-	-	1
Walsh	-	-	11
Whittman	1	1	6

SECOND QUARTER TROPHY WINNERS

☆ GUPPY--Sergent ☆ CICHLIDS--Jessup

☆ OTHER--Fisher

July 10, 1972 Show Schedule

GUPPY - Red, Blue, AOC

CICHLIDS - So. Am. over 5", African "all", other

OTHER - Barbs, Anabantids, Other

TOTAL ENTRIES - JUNE (36)

POTOMAC VALLEY GUPPY CLUB

FALL TROPICAL FISH SHOW

14 OCTOBER 1972

Anyone that desires to be on the Show Committee, please contact John Wolcott.

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MONTHLY TABLE SHOW

Why not, on July 10, dip into your aquariums and pull out your prize fish, and bring them to the meeting. Compete for the Ribbons and Trophies. Give it a try!

TABLE SHOW SCHEDULE

AUGUST - DECEMBER

	GUPPY	CICHLIDS	OTHER
JULY	SEE OTHER PAGE		
AUGUST			
	SNAKESKIN	SO. AMERICAN "ALL"	TETRA
	BLACK	CENT. AMERICAN	CHARACINS
	AOC	OTHER	OTHER
SEPTEMBER			
	MULTI	ANGELFISH	LIVEBEARERS (Other than Guppies)
	2 MATCHED MALES	BREEDING PAIRS	KILLIFISH
	AOC	OTHER	OTHER
OCTOBER			
	GREEN	DWARF	BETTA
	H/B RED	AFRICAN (other than Riflake)	CORYDORAS CATFISH
	AOC	OTHER	OTHER
NOVEMBER			
	H/B AOC	SO AMERICAN UNDER "5"	SHARKS & LOACHES
	FEMALE	RIFTLAKE	CATFISH (other than Corydoras)
	AOC	OTHER	OTHER
DECEMBER	PARTY - AWARDS -	FUN & GAMES	

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM

By Alan Levitt

The most noticeable "happening" at the aquarium last month was a complete paint job--deep blue with black trim. It was the first time the public area was painted since the aquarium was built. Needless to say it was a vast improvement.

Last month we also established an information rack. Currently, we have about a dozen or so free handouts to the public. They range from one page monographs on biological concepts to various bibliographies. Included is an assortment of material for teachers on the elementary level.

One of our aquarists, Tom Opilla, built a fiberglas background (5' by 6') for the Mississippi River Community tank. Tom designed a relief mudbank complete with root systems and rocky areas and then accented them with various paints. The result was a great improvement over the appearance of our square concrete tanks (circa 1932). Tom will be doing more such fiberglas work in the near future.

The Atlantic Coral Reef Community received a number of new specimens and now includes Squirrelfish, Hamlets, Butterflies, High Hats, Tangs, Black Edge Moray eels, live corals and other assorted invertebrates. These fish are in addition to the small Bonnethead shark already on display.

In a trade with Sea World of San Diego, we received two Pacific Octopuses with armspans of about two feet. One was placed by itself in a 130 gallon tank and the other in the 1,000 gallon Pacific Cold Water Community with many other anemones, fish and a large Spiny Rock Crab. When the rock crab recently shed its exoskeleton, the octopus took advantage of its vulnerability and soft shell. It bit through it and paralyzed the crab, then sucked out its tissue. We found the shell intact one morning but completely hollow. In the same trade we also obtained a Midshipman, five Opaleye and a number of ocean perch.

A 39" Lemon shark jumped out of its 2500 gallon tank and died (maybe because someone in the public areas was banging on the glass). Although the other Lemon of similar size is in good condition, it will soon be traded to the New England Aquarium. Six smaller Lemons will take its place. The three foot Nurse shark will remain on display. A Remora or "sharksucker" also arrived here last month and can be seen hitching rides on the sharks and sea turtles.

Spawnings included Seahorses, Gold Angels, M. vellicans, P. zebra, Parental Care Exhibit fish, and assorted livebearers.

Butterfly Fish
(Chaetodon)
from Hong Kong

DIGESTIBILITY OF PROTEINS

Why you should know about it — The key to determining the digestibility of a fish food is in the scientific use of enzymes to find the amount of water-soluble proteins produced. This result corresponds to the amount of amino acids received in the blood circulation of the fish, and reveals significant facts about how nutritious a fish food really is.

In most fishes digestion starts in the stomach. For example, in the Fighting Fish (Betta splendens) hydrochloric acid and pepsin are separated out of the food by the gastric glands in the stomach, and the proteins are transformed into peptones; in the mid-intestine the partly digested food is broken down into amino acids by various groups of enzymes, such as trypsin from the pancreas.

But in the great majority of tropical aquarium fishes, such as the Barbs, an actual stomach — distinct from the remainder of the intestinal tract — is not present. In all these fishes digestion is primarily done by pepsin in the intestine. To have the right fish food for both Bettas and Barbs — fishes with stomachs and those without — requires very special qualities in the food's digestibility. Staple TetraMin and all the other Tetra Fish Foods meet these requirements. This has been accomplished by years of scientific studies in the Tetra Laboratories, providing you with the best in foods for tropical aquarium fishes.

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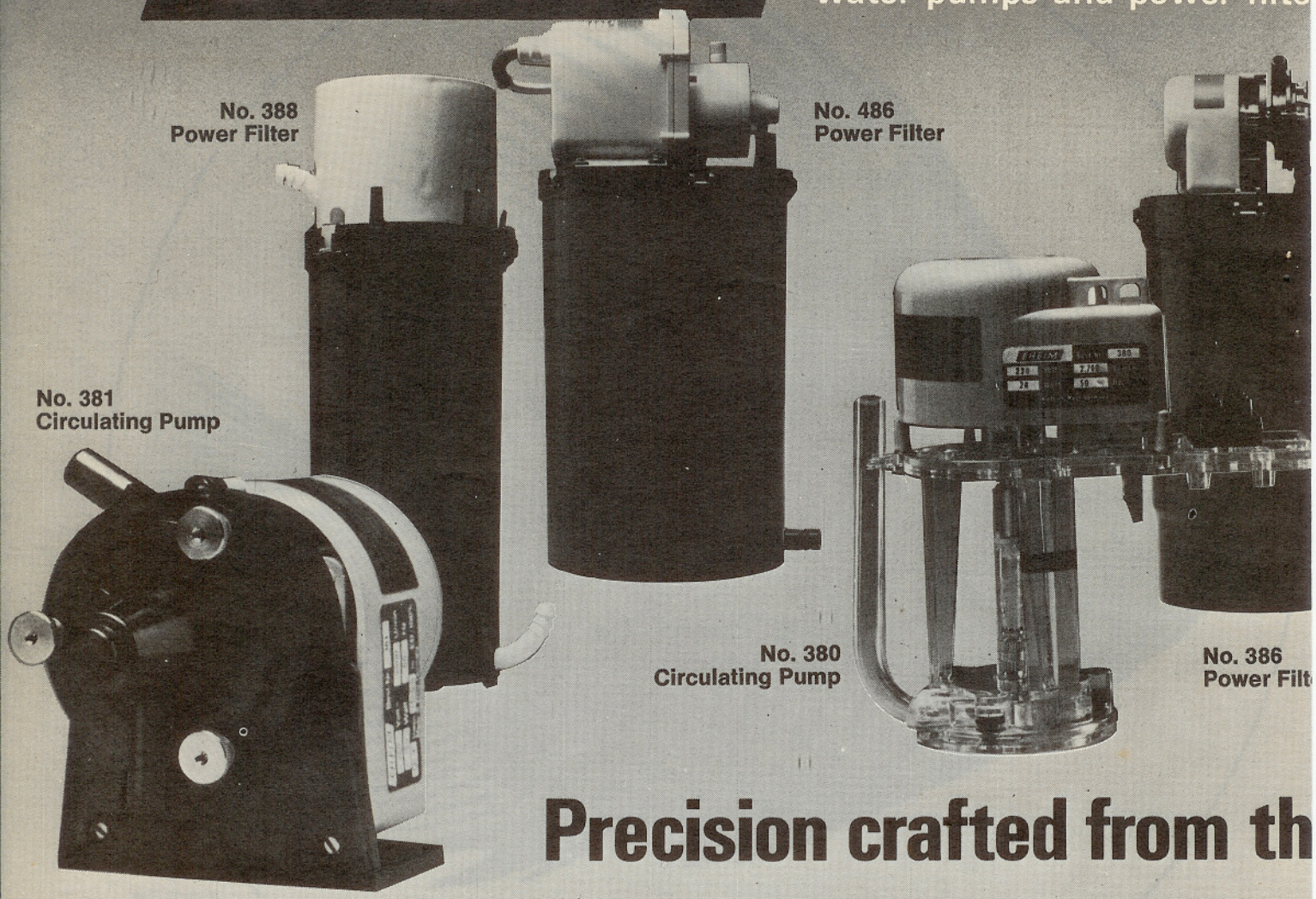

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P.V.G.C. TREASURER'S REPORT, JUNE 1972

CASH IN BANK LAST REPORT		$363.50
INCOME:		
Memberships	$ 35.50	
Entry Fees (Spring Show)	177.00	
Donations (Spring Show)	30.00	
Sale of Club Property	13.18	
Raffle 5/20 (Spring Show)	83.50	
Raffle 6/12	15.50	
Auction Profit (Spring Show)	43.41	
		$762.59
EXPENSES:		
Airline Purchases	5.20	
Secretary's Expense	8.00	
DELTA TALE (Postage)	10.00	
Refreshments	2.26	
Miscellaneous Show Expenses	57.17	
Program Expense	16.96	- 99.59
CASH IN BANK 5/15/72		$663.00

SPRING FISH FAIR
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME:	Auction		$ 43.41
	Raffle		83.50
	Entry Fees		177.00
	Donations		41.80
	Sale of Airline		7.46
		TOTAL INCOME	$353.17
EXPENSES:	Truck Rental		25.84
	Advertising		30.23
	Raffle Expense		1.10
	Trophies		195.80
	Airline		5.20
		TOTAL EXPENSES	$258.17
		NET PROFIT	$95.00

PROPOSED NAME CHANGE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Board of Governors has proposed a change in the name of the PVGC. The new name proposed is the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society. It is felt that this new title better corresponds to the role and composition of the club. At the same time it is considered appropriate that, concurrent with this change, the group be broken down into "clubs" within the society.

Initially a minimum of three "clubs" should meet our needs. These would be the Potomac Valley Guppy Club, so named to prevent the need for changing our affiliation in the IFGA, a second group dealing with cichlids, and a third group composed of those interested primarily in other types of fishes. More groups can be formed if sufficient interest develops in specific area of the hobby. A society member may belong to as many of the groups as he wished.

Each group will select a chairman on either a permanent or rotating basis who will be responsible for reporting the clubs activities at the monthly society meeting. (Hopefully each club will meet separately and carry on one or more projects within their area of interest.) It is expected that each club will also be responsible for preparation of a monthly article for the DELTA TALE.

As required by the constitution and by-laws, an announcement of the suggested change and discussion of the proposition took place at the June 12 meeting. This announcement in the DELTA TALE constitutes the formal announcement as required. At the end of this issue is a ballot which may be used to cast your vote inabsentia should you be unable to attend the July meeting when the formal vote will be taken. A committee of tellers will be responsible for counting and reporting absentee ballots received through noon on the tenth of July. The committee is composed of Mrs. Susan O'Meara, Mr. Kenneth Fisher, and Mr. Morris MacGregor.

The proposed name-change will require the following modifications to the constitution:

Article I - To be changed to show new name.

Article II - OBJECTIVES - To be changed to reflect new organization by modifying "C" to indicate types of meetings to be held.

Article III - Stands as amended in May 1972 except that reference to club name will be changed and a paragraph added describing membership in the "clubs" within the society.

Article IV - An additional paragraph will be added describing the chairmanship of each "club."

Article V - No change.

Article VI - No change.

Article VII - No change.

Article VIII - No change.

Article IX - Add to Section I - "Reports of the chairman of each "club."

Article X - Stands as amended in May 1972 with the addition of a paragraph on meetings of the various "clubs."

Article XI - Change reference to name of organization.

Article XII - Add paragraph on duties of "club" chairman.

Article XIII - No change.

All references in the constitution and by-laws to club, except where dealing with the newly conceived internal "club" organization, will be changed to society.

A revised copy of the Constitution and By-Laws will be printed and distributed to each member in the near future.

QUALITY FISH FOOD

With the exception of the GOLDFISH FOOD, the following foods for fish are offered at the rate of $4 per pound. An order for 10 or more pounds is sold at the rate of $3.50 per pound; and an order for 25 or more pounds is sold at the rate of $3 per pound. The GOLDFISH FOOD is offered at the rate of $2.50 per pound. Each pound is individually packaged and labeled.

For an order which is to be picked up at the following PVGC meeting, please telephone 280-5768 and ask for Edward or Alfred.

SPECIAL FISH BLEND	Contains small fish, livers, salmon eggs, shrimp and kelp. Over 72% protein. MEDIUM GRIND
OCEAN HARVEST	Contains small fish, livers, salmon, crab, kelp meal and shrimp. Over 70% protein. MEDIUM GRIND
ALL SALMON MEAL	Contains Salmon flesh, Eggs, Milt, Heart, etc; 65% protein. FINE GRIND
GUPPY FOOD	Composed of small fish livers, fish eggs, fish milt, fish solubles, shrimp and kelp. Crude protein, min. 65%; crude fat, min. 6%; crude fibre, max. 1%; ash, max. 12% FINE GRIND
CONDITIONING FOOD	A general all purpose food that makes for an excellent change in diet. Contains fish, fish solubles, Vitamin "A" supplement, Vitamin "E" and B 12. 45% protein. MEDIUM and FIND GRINDS both available
GOLDFISH FOOD	100% Organic, a product of the sea; an excellent food for all goldfish COARSE GRIND

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Additions to the Membership List:

Thomas W. Brackeen, Jr.
1520 N. Longfellow St. Apt. A
Arlington, Virginia 22205
536-4692

Donald and Linda DeRoze
13103 Tamarack Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904
384-5568

Steve Ganslen
8314 14th Ave. #302
Hyattsville, Maryland 20783
431-6571

Chuck Grether
4342 Loyola Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

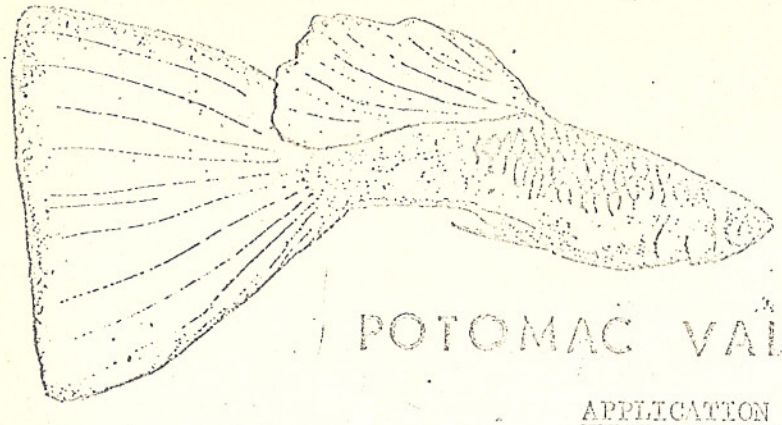
Terrance Norman
230 N. Baylor Drive
Sterling, Virginia 22170
626-2884

Henry Pettingill
3411 Newbury Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
273-4824

Frederick W. Pryor
1418 Sheridan St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011
882-8325

Jack Shiflette
7909 Stork Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22306
780-1898

Roger A. Sowards
5924 6th Street
Falls Church, Virginia 22041
671-1698



POTOMAC VALLEY GUPPY CLUB

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.G.C. are $5.00 Individual or Family; $3.00 Corresponding; and $2.50 Junior. Completed applications accompanied by your check or money order should be mailed to Mr. Paul Cornelison, Treasurer P.V.G.C., 2302 Lory Court, Alexandria, Virginia. Please attend one of our meetings held in the auditorium of the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, 5401 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia, on the dates indicated below at 8:00 P.M.

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

(If you cannot attend the July 10th meeting please use this ballot to cast your vote. To use the ballot simply remove this page, fold as indicated on the reverse, staple or tape the end closed, stamp it and drop it in a mail box. All ballots received by July 10th will be counted as a part of the membership vote. If you wish you may deliver your ballot personnally to Mrs. O'Meara. If yours is a family membership, please check the appropriate box and the Teller's Committee will make the necessary additions in the vote.)

ABSENTEE BALLOT ON THE CHANGE OF THE NAME OF THE POTOMAC

VALLEY GUPPY CLUB

To the proposal to change the organization's name to the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society.

FOR ☐

AGAINST ☐

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ☐

NAME _____

SIGNATURE

_____

PRINTED

Mrs. Susan O'Meara
136 N. Columbus Street
Arlington, VA 22203

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AND AQUARIUM

FISH PRINTING

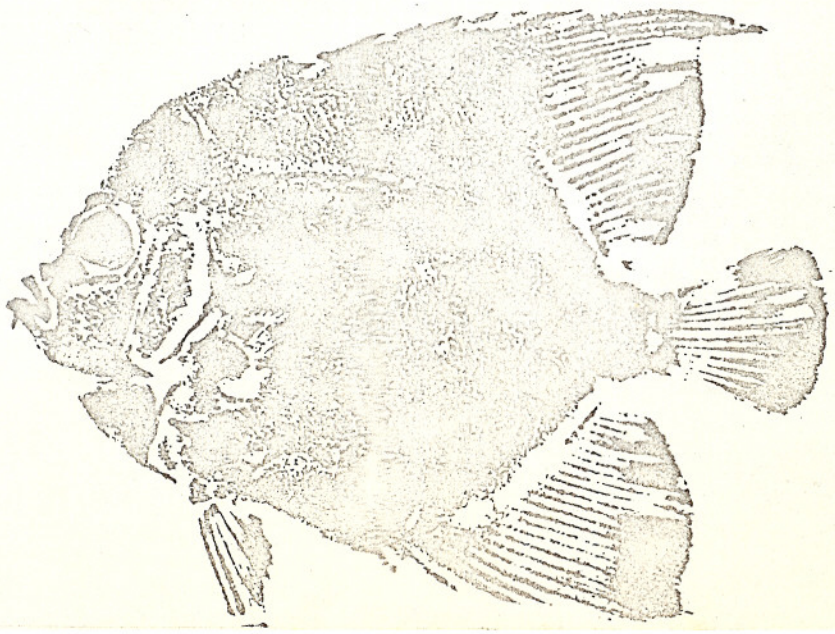
Gyotaku, the Japenese word for fish printing ("Gyo" means fish, "taku" means print) was started in China over 600 years ago as a means of recording fish catches. It was developed into an art form by the Japanese.

Fish printing is a relatively easy activity for children. It is not expensive.

Materials:
a fish (frozen or fresh)
ink (india, speedball, sumi, acrylic, water colors, etc.,-choose one)
paper (paper towels, rice paper, construction paper, etc.,-choose one)
small paint brush

Procedure:
1. If the fish is covered with slime, wash it with soap and dry it.
2. With a small brush gently paint one side of the fish with ink. Make sure all areas are covered including the fins. Use very little ink. Brush against the "grain" of the scales so ink will accumulate in these areas and make a better print. Most people use too much ink the first time so you will have to experiment.
3. Take paper and gently but firmly press down on fish. Rub evenly over all areas, especially head and fins. Do not move paper while pressing.
4. Carefully lift paper up making sure the fish does not move. This will smear the print.
5. Sign print. Give name of fish, date, etc.

Various papers and inks can be used. Experiment with paper absorbancy. Fish can be washed and reused. Generally, the thicker the ink and thinness of paper, the better the print. Try using different colored inks on various areas of the fish.



Potomac Valley Guppy Club
P.O. Box 6067
Shirlington Station
Arlington, Virginia 22206