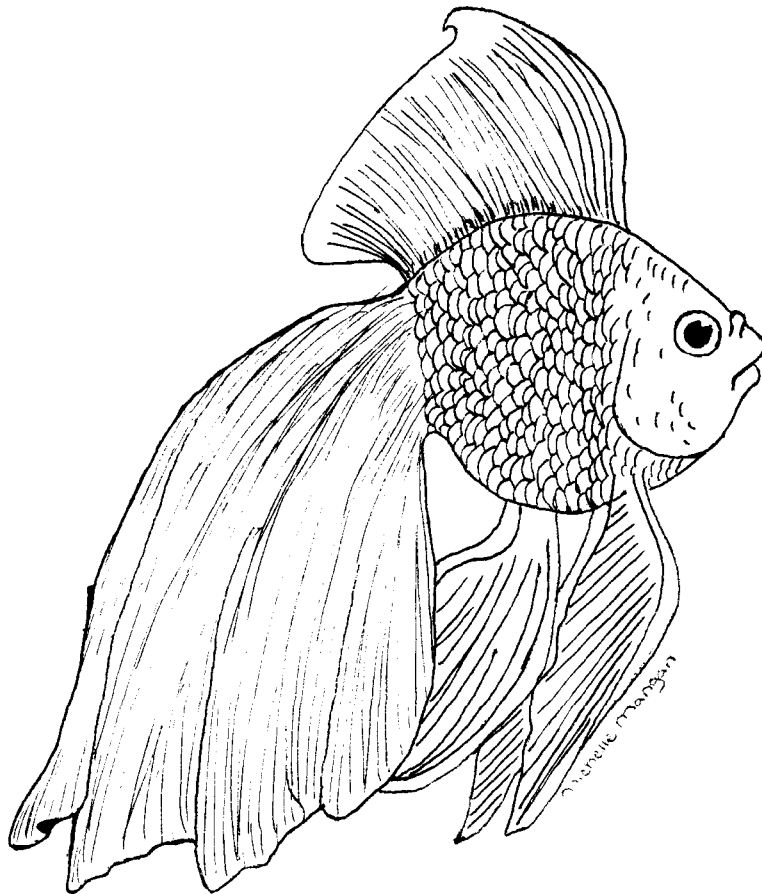


* DELTA TALE *

April 1984
vol. 15 #4

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society



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, 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 : PVAS, P.O. Box 6219, Shirlington station, Arlington, VA 22206. Original articles and drawings may be reprinted if credit is given to the author and Delta Tale. Two copies of the publication in which the reprint appears should be sent to Delta Tale; one will be forwarded to the author/artist. All materials for inclusion in Delta Tale should reach the editor by the 20th of the month prior to publication. PVAS and 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 advertiser and the buyer.

PVAS OFFICERS, 1984

President; Gerry Hoffman (703) 347-7486	Corr. Sec.: Ruth Brewer (703) 941-6692
Vice-Pres.: John Jessup (703) 534-1704	Rec. Sec.: Pete Tietjen (703) 620-0637
Treasurer: Maggi Mahoney (703) 534-0006	

PVAS BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 1984

Jerry Stirman, Darrell Holman, John Mangan, Kenny Warren
Pat Mahoney- ex officio member

PVAS COMMITTEE HEADS, 1984

Auctions:	Bowl Shows: Frank Anzilletta
BAP : Woody Griffin	Programs : John Jessup
HAP : Darrell Holman	Ways/Means: Alex Cummins
Library ; Maggi Mahoney	FAAS : Woody Griffin
Membership: Kurt Schnepf	Delta Tale: John Mangan
Spring Show: Darrell Holman	

Printed by TOP CAT PRINTING, 164 Colburn Dr. Manassas Park, VA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

March is now history, and time has come for the quarterly assesment of PVAS in 1984. Lots has happened since the begining of the year, and I think we are having fun as a club. First the good news, then the other news.

PVAS now has its first Grand Master Breeder in the Breeders Award Program. The hard work has paid off, and after 9 years & over 500 points, our own John Jessup has the distinction of spawning a Target Fish and achieving a goal that anyone in the club would be proud to have accomplished. Concratulations John!

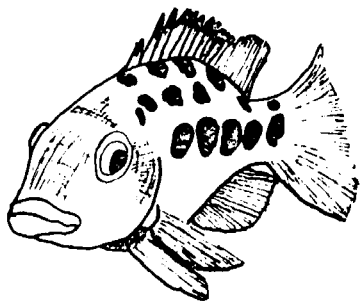
We had several new members and guests at our March meeting. It's always nice to see new faces in the crowd. Lets make the new folks feel welcome, for as long as PVAS grows there will be a place for us to get together and share our fish experiences. Each one of us was a new member at one time and through our questions we have grown into more accomplished hobbyists.

Special thanks to Linda Brensike for allowing the club to visit her 150 tank Discus breeding room. Would any of us love to have one of Linda's many, many breeding pairs of quality Discus? Did you know that her central filtration/water changing system uses only 45,000 gallons of new water each month? You should have been there.

PVAS has decided to increase dues for the first time in about a decade. Only a modest \$2-\$3 increase in the membership types will help offset the continually rising cost of printing the publication you are now reading. See the monthly minutes for details.

Now for the bad news. We ahve lost the Jefferson Fire House as our meeting hall after the Spring Show. Fairfax County will be renovating the building for the firemen's living quarters, and has asked us to find another building to meet until next spring, when the work will be completed. If anyone can HELP us out in arranging a new meeting place PRONTO, it would be greatly appreciated. We suffered through this experience about 2 years ago and the club lost some enthusium for awhile. Let's keep going and find a new place to meet

A final word about our Spring Show. Things are progressing well for the scheduled events. Are your fish ready for showing off? I've got mine picked out and have thoughts of trophies in my head. How about YOU?



EDITORIAL

First item for this month is a hearty congratulation to John Jessup for becoming the first PVAS member to achieve the Grand Master Breeder level in the Breeders Award Program. To achieve this level John had to first become a master breeder and then successfully spawn and raise a fish from the target species category (see Jan. Delta Tale). Most of the fish in this category are very hard to just keep alive, never mind spawn. John's spawning report appears elsewhere in this issue.

Next topic- thank you to Linda Brensike for inviting all of us to come and visit her fish room last month. Linda has a very impressive setup and more top quality Discus than most of us will ever see in one place.

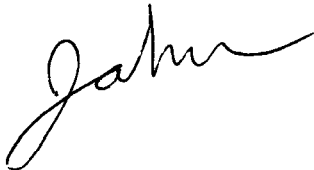
This month's open house will be at the Presidents house (Gerrys not Ronnys). There should be lots of interesting stuff to see, well worth the trip. I'll be there, hope most of you will be too.

What's next... Let's see... Well I can't complain this month about not having any extra articles in the files... I have one. I will mention something about a related topic- artwork. Any artwork submitted to Delta Tale should be in ink. I forgot to mention this previously and last month I had to turn down a very good cover drawing because it was in pencil and thus too light to be reproduced.

The last few weeks the weather has started to become warmer, birds are starting to sing and frogs to call, flowers and leaves are starting to appear. You know what that means don't you? Right, it's almost fish show time!! The spring show and auction are coming up next month. Better start choosing your show fish now and giving them extra good care. Information on the show and auction are in the center of this issue (I hope) and will be repeated in next month's issue also. Next month's issue will be a special pre-show issue with lots of information and tips on showing and auctioning. This should be a big help to all of our newer members as well as for many of the long time members - it amazes me how some people can have kept fish for so long without learning how to properly bag them for an auction, if Jim Long can learn how anyone can. One last thing about the show and then I'll move on to my next topic- show chairman Darrell Holman will probably be asking for help to set up, run, and clean up after the show. Don't wait to be handed a personal invitation, go up to him and offer to help.

As my final topic for this month I'd like to remind everyone of something that appears on the inside front cover of every issue of Delta Tale- the purposes of PVAS: "furthering the aquarium hobby by dissemination of information, encouraging friendly competition, soliciting participation in its shows, and promoting good fellowship". The underlining is my addition, think about it.

Until next month...



IN: APRIL

The program: The Synodontis Species of the lower Zaire (Congo) Basin. The slide & narrative program we were supposed to have last month. From the American Catfish & Loach Association, an excellent presentation reviewing a very popular group of aquarium fish.

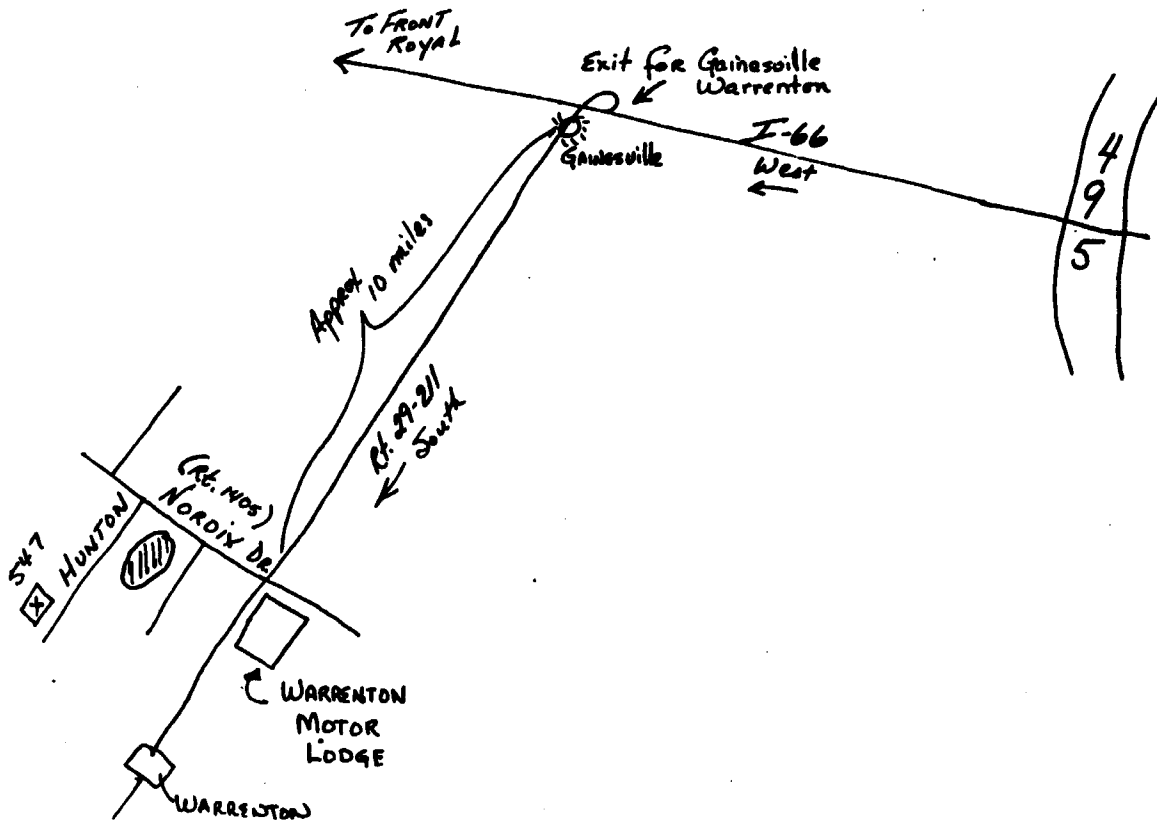
The raffle: 10 gallon tank & other wonderful items.

The bowl show: 8oz. of Tetramin for the best fish of the night.

The mini-auction: 3bag/member limit. Take home something new for your tanks.

The open fish room: Gerry Hoffman's on Sunday April 15th 1-3:30
547 Hunton St
Warrenton, Va 22186
(703) 347-7486

Gerry has a little of everything: plants, dwarf cichlids, killies and other small fish.



FEMALE UTOPIA

I marvel sometimes at the way things
go
in this wonderful world of ours-
I learned many, many long years ago
of the birds, and the bees, and the
flowers;
I took certain natural functions
As an everyday matter of course-
But that was before I ever met up
With the topsy-turvey sea-horse!

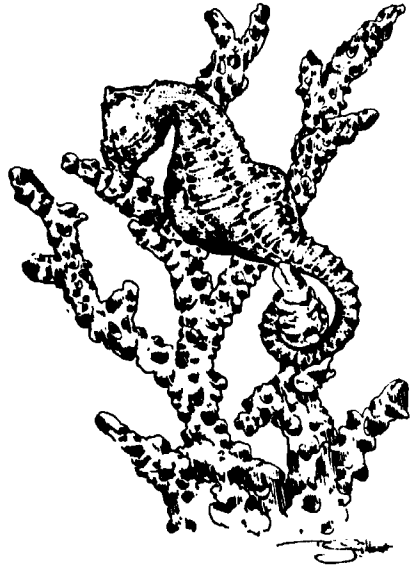
I heard that the sea-horse bore its
young
But thought, in my innocence tender
That "horse" meant the female of the
kind-

I never once questioned the gender.
But now my world is upside down-
It's the biggest shock I've had
To find in the sea-horse family,
The children are borne by Dad.

It's Pop who loses his breakfast each
morn,
And Pop who suffers heart-burn.
It's Pop that the progeny kick until
He doesn't know where to turn.
And mamma goes joyfully on her way
And no thought of pregnancy mars-
For all that she does is wait for the day
And then hands out the sea-gars!

-Ruth Dye

Reprinted from The Aquarium Journal, February 1940



NOT ALL THE GOLD WAS IN SARAJEVO

John E. Jessup PhD

Since ancient times the seahorse has held a special place in man's awe of the seas around him. Along with the shark, the whale and the dolphin, the seahorses have been written about, drawn, sculpted and worshiped by many of the world's great civilizations. Pliny the Elder, a 1st century, AD, Roman naturalist, wrote of the seahorse, and even earlier, the Greeks used its unusual appearance in many of the art forms associated with the development of the Aegian/Mediterranean culture. Today, at least 50 species of seahorses are known to science, there is a wealth of data on its habits, and it is rather easily kept, albeit for relatively short periods, in a home aquarium. For these last reasons, I chose the seahorse as the target fish I would use in my own personal "quest for the Gold." Let me explain.

First of all, the "Gold" I am referring to is the gold seal on a Grand Master Breeder's Award Certificate of the type given by the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society. It is important to understand that, although I have always been interested in the world of marine fishes, I probably would have approached the decision to go into salts in an entirely different way had it not been for the opportunity I perceived for earning a Grand Master's award. Therefore, upon finally getting my Master Breeder award at the end of last year, I was placed in the position of having to decide on one of three courses: rest on my laurels -- in other words, quit worrying about it; take a chance and maybe get lucky -- a method chosen by some, generally those who are too dumb to have it otherwise; or approach the effort in a deliberate and hopefully successful way. I chose a point somewhere between the last two.

Each Breeder's Award Program is different but the commonality that runs through all of those I have seen is the increasing difficulty required to attain the next level of performance. The PVAS requirement for Grand Master Breeder calls for attaining the Master's award and then spawning a species listed on the Target Species list. A quick look at that list convinced me

that: 1) my past experiences had proven I couldn't keep most of the species alive, no less in spawning condition and, 2) that I couldn't think of any other fish I was familiar enough with, or ever had any luck with, that might qualify for inclusion in the "non-designated" category (that was set up in case someone lucked out by spawning Nile River Perch in a 20-gallon high). Thus, by process of elimination the choice came down to category 7, "Any species of fish naturally found exclusively in salt water." Once that hurdle had been overcome, the rest was easy, or so the old cliché goes. The truth is, of course, that "easy" means different things at different times.

Today, a number of marine fishes are being spawned, but we know that many of these reports emanate from facilities that are more laboratories than fishrooms. This does not denigrate the accomplishment, but it does give one pause to consider when, as I did, he visualizes a 10'x10' fishroom with an antiquated air system and recently developed vagrant electrical problem that blows circuits at the most inconvenient times. In a way, however, this was all a superfluous exercise in thinking the problem through, as I had long ago decided that, if I ever got the chance, I would go for seahorses. They have been spawned on a number of occasions and, in a few cases, the young have been successfully reared to maturity in a fishtank. This last point, plus the fact that they are fascinating, left little question as to which direction I would go in, if I got the chance.

I guess I also knew the disagreeable fact that someone would claim I ordered pregnant seahorses from Florida. You can, you know, but they are of a different species than I got from a local dealer. Knowing I would have to put up with this, I still decided to set up a seahorse tank. This required digging out some long unused books on salts, the acquisition of some new ones on seahorses, and the outlay of a fair amount of money on new UGs, test kits, marine salt, etc., etc. Ever try to buy just one piece of coral when two would look so much better? Of course not! I also speeded up the tank establishment process by getting a good quantity of already seasoned gravel from various dealers and wholesalers I know. This is a good means of circumventing the rather lengthy process necessary to reduce the ammonia/nitrite in the tank to make it safe for the introduction of specimens. It is absolutely essential, however, that the water be tested for both ammonia and nitrite on a regular basis. When I finally got the seahorses, the tank was running with a hermit crab

and a pencil urchin already in residence.

As I mentioned earlier, there are about 50 species of seahorses that are found in most of the warm water seas around the world. The seahorse belongs to the family Syngnathidae and constitutes the genus Hippocampus. It is closely related to the pipefishes which themselves form several genera within the family. The family of seahorses was first described in 1810 by Rafinesque and has been the subject of numerous articles and scientific papers, especially over the last century. The name hippocampus is, of course, Greek and means literally, horse-caterpillar. Before the scientific classification was established and even to this day, these little creatures are known by many names: falopa, cavaletto marino and cheval marin to name but a few of the variations.

This fish is in all ways unique. First of all, it approximates the bumble-bee -- which isn't supposed to be able to fly, in that one look at a seahorse convinces anyone that it can't, or at least shouldn't, be able to swim. This comes very close to the truth as the seahorse came up short when finnage was handed out. Locomotion is provided by a dorsal fin, while steering is provided by a pair of small pectoral that appear as ears on the fish's head. The seahorse swims upright in a position closely akin to that assumed by a fish suffering from a terminal swim bladder disorder. Where a caudal fin ought to be there is instead a prehensile tail that is used by the seahorse for grasping a passing plant or piece of coral to which it anchors itself for relatively long periods of time. The upper body and head is plated with a tough skin that forms an outer skeletal structure beneath which an intricate inner bony structure, including a typically fish-like skeleton, is found. The head is horse-shaped with a bony, tubular mouth. Because of these factors, seahorses are best kept by themselves as they cannot compete very well for the live food that constitutes their entire diet -- I was never able to trick them, and because they cannot defend themselves against bullies. There are, of course, some acceptable tankmates that can safely be kept with them, but that is another story.

There are at least three species of seahorses readily available in American waters. Of these, the dwarf seahorse, H. zosterae, is the most popular. It achieves about 1 1/2 to 2" at maturity and may be kept in relatively small aquaria. H. hudsonius punctulatus is called the large or giant seahorse that reaches 8" at

maturity. This particular species is often called H. erectus which is the generic name for two very closely related sub-species. H. ingrens is found along the west coast from southern California to southern South America and grows in size to nearly a foot! These giants are sometimes seen in east coast shops with most of them being imported from Costa Rica.

Among the other unique characteristics of seahorses the most unusual is that they are livebearers and that the male carries the incubating eggs in a pouch similar in many respects to the marsupial pouch found on a number of land creatures such as the kangaroo. The fact that they are livebearers gives something of an edge to the aquarist as one of the chief problems in rearing marine fish is the care of fry in the larval stage when the seas natural nutrient level cannot be properly matched in the tank. With seahorses, while the fact that they are livebearers is an advantage, the mortality rate among the fry is not. Available literature indicates that only 1-2% of a spawn should be expected to survive. This means that an initial spawn of 200 should produce no more than 2 to 4 survivors over a period of time. The question was, of course, whether that magical period of time was in excess of 60 days, and by how much? The key issue was how long would ten survive? As I knew these facts in advance, I should have applied in advance, if I had wanted an exception to the rule, but since I did not, I felt I had no one to blame but myself, if I did not keep 10 of them alive for the mandatory 60 days.

I was able to get six healthy H. hudsonius punctulatus(?) out of the shipment of about 25 specimens when it was received by the local dealer. As I knew the shipment was due to arrive, I was able to be on hand to get the fish out of the shipping bag thereby reducing the handling of the animals as much as possible. I installed them in the 29 gallon tank in early December 1983 after dripping them for about three hours. All of the specimens were infested with argulus, a type of fish louse. These had to be picked off by hand and this was accomplished while the fish were acclimating so as to prevent an infestation of the tank. From the presence of these pests I presume the fish I got were wild specimens. In each case of parasite removal I swabbed the effected area with a mercurochrome-based solution (2%) as a preventative against infection. The sexes are easy to distinguish and I certainly was careful to choose the most healthy from among the rather large shipment. All of the specimens were about 4", except for one large

male that was about 5" and considerably larger in structure than the others. As there are two sub-species (H. hudsonius punctulatus and H. hudsonius) it may be that this particular specimen was a member of the closely related subspecies H. hudsonius or vice versa. This is the one that was first to drop its young.

Of the six seahorses, two were females. It is possible that all the males were carrying eggs when they were received although I doubt it. I did observe what is described as courtship and the possible transfer of eggs from female to male, but not until after the first hatch and not to the male that was the first to deliver and upon whom this report is rendered. Normal incubation takes from 10-45 days and it was more than two weeks before the first young appeared on Christmas morning. Only the largest male produced at that time. By best count, the young numbered about 167. As the tank had plenty of cover and a dark background, the young, which were about 1/4 inch in size were quite difficult to see. Delivery takes place through a vent at the top of the pouch. There is some obvious discomfort involved for the male as he uses considerable energy expelling the young. The fry, once free of the parent, swim to the surface where they grab on to anything floating including their brothers and sisters. As they appear quite weak, it is possible that these early hours are crucial to their survival. They will take baby brine shrimp almost immediately and have tremendous appetites. I also feel that a number of fry were lost because the tank was too large and the live fry food became too widely scattered. I think a 10-gallon maternity tank may be the answer. All six adults remained with the fry until a female died of no apparent cause to be followed by a male who also died for no apparent reason. At that point I transferred the adults to a second 29 that was being set up for another venture into salt-water spawning. They were moved back with the fry when the nitrite level jumped off the scale at D+50. One part of knowing if your fish are well is to constantly monitor water conditions. I did it everyday because of the fry and the importance of their surviving the 60-day period.

As an interjection, I should point out that anyone interested in fooling with seahorses should first learn how to hatch live baby brine shrimp. If you don't know how, or don't care to learn, you had better have plenty of money to pay someone to do it for you. Incidentally, if you intend to keep adult seahorses, you had also better be sure your bank account is in good shape. I used about 10-15 healthy portions a week with the six adults and somewhat less

with the four. If you can't afford the time or expense, look for something else to work with. You simply cannot keep seahorses without live food.

Growth of the young was rapid and by D+30 days they had tripled in size to 3/4". They had also reduced their numbers to no more than 50-60 specimens. At about D+60 days the young had not grown more than another 1/4", but they had begun to fill out and look more like the adults rather than the spindly little creatures they had been. The very young fry were covered by what appeared to be hair-like appendages or cilia. These subsequently disappeared in most cases by the 45th day. In coloration the fry maintained two color patterns, dark brown and very light gray. One or two of the 15-30 day fry showed distinct yellow but one of them has since disappeared while the other one appears to be crippled or deformed. At the present d+60 level the two colors remain constant with the brown specimens showing what appear to be white dots. The number of young is now about 15, but a second spawn was discovered in the tank! Oh well, it is a hobby, isn't it?



DOTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

Annual Fish Show and Auction - 1984 May 18, 19, 20 (at the Jefferson Fire House, just off Arlington Blvd. and Graham Rd. on Hodge St. Falls Church, Va. Sanctioned by: FAS and the ACA

SCHEDULE

Friday, May 18:

6 PM to 9 PM - Registration....)

) These times are inclusive

Saturday, May 19:

9 AM to Noon - Registration)

) for all entries.

1 PM to 5 PM - Judging (Only Judges and designated Show Committee personnel will be allowed in the Show area.)

5:30 to 7 PM - Public Viewing

Special Feature - A new feature has been added to the PVAS weekend of excitement. We have arranged, (with our good friends at Mr. T's Restaurant, located at 5831 Columbia Pike, Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia) for us to meet there for cocktails, Dinner, and to listen to our guest speaker. (No advance reservations are required, but we do need to know, by noon Saturday, May 19th, if you are planning to attend.)

Cocktails - 6:30 to 8 PM (Cash Bar)

Dinner - Promptly at 8 PM (Menu open to your choice)

Speaker - Nationally Renowned Ichthyologist, Edward C. Taylor

Subject - The Fishes of Australia and New Guinea

Sunday, May 20:

8:30 AM to 1 PM - Public Viewing (The public is cordially invited to remain for the presentation of awards and the auction)

9 AM to 12:30 PM - Registration for auction

12:30 PM - Presentation of Awards

1 PM - Auction begins

SHOW ENTRY FEES: Single fish - \$1.50 (A female may be added, but will not be judged)
Pairs and family entries - \$2.00
Plants - \$1.50
Set Tanks (Non-Dealer) - \$1.00
Dealer Tanks - no charge
Slides and Prints - \$1.00
Artwork - \$1.50

There is no entry fee or admission charge for the Auction or Public Viewing

AWARDS: Trophies or plaques for Best in Show (Classes I-V), Reserve in Show (Classes I-V), Best of Class (Classes I-VIII, IX & X), and for First Place in each of the Subclasses in those classes. Ribbons for Second and Third Place in all subclasses. Dealer's Rotating Award for Class VIII.

ALL CLASSES ARE OPEN TO PUBLIC COMPETITION

- I. Livebearers
 - a. Delta Tail Guppies, Male
 - b. Delta Tail Guppies, Female
 - c. Guppies, all other
 - d. Mollies
 - e. Swordtails and Platies
 - f. Goodioids
 - g. Other livebearing fishes
 - II. Egglayers (Non-Cichlid)
 - a. Catfish, Corydoras
 - b. Catfish, African
 - c. Catfish, all other
 - d. Betta Splendens
 - e. All other Bettas and Anabantoids
 - f. Sharks and Loaches
 - g. Tetras
 - h. Barbs
 - i. Goldfish and Koi
 - j. Danios, Brachydanios, Rasboras
 - k. Killifish
 - l. North American Native Fishes
 - m. Other Non-Cichlid Egglayers
 - III. Cichlids
 - a. New World Large (over 7" mature)
 - b. New World Medium (over 4" and under 7")
 - c. New World Dwarf (under 4" mature)
 - d. Angelfish
 - e. Rift Lake, Malawi
 - f. Rift Lake, Tanganyika
 - g. Discus
 - h. Non-Rift Lake African
 - i. Cichlid Pairs
 - j. Other Cichlids
 - IV. Marine
 - a. Fishes
 - b. Invertebrates
 - V. Family of Fishes
 - VI. Plants
 - VII. Set Tanks
 - VIII. Dealer Tanks
 - IX. Photography
 - a. Photographic Slides
 - b. Photographic Prints
 - X. Art
 - a. Frameable Art
 - b. Crafts
-

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO ALL ENTRIES

Once entered in the competition, no entry may be removed without the consent of the Show Chairman until after completion of the awards ceremony on Sunday. All entries must be picked up by the owners by 6 PM on Sunday, otherwise they may be disposed of at the discretion of the Show Chairman.

P.V.A.S. can assume no liability for any of the entries, but at least one qualified hobbyist will be on duty at all times to insure the safety and well-being of the fish and to guard against theft or damage.

SHOW RULES

Classes I to VIII (Fish, Plants, Set Tanks)

Tanks, other containers and stands: Containers must have at least two clear flat sides. Tanks in excess of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons must be accompanied by a stand. All tanks, drum bowls and stands must be furnished by the entrant. All entries in classes I thru IV should be labeled above the water line with the common or generic name of the fish. Labels will be available at the registration table. P.V.A.S. Committee members will be available to assist in correct identification.

Entrant should bring a small pump and an extension cord for each large tank, which may have to be located at a distance from the air source provided by P.V.A.S.

No restriction on tank size for Classes VII and VIII, however, entrant must supply all equipment - tank, stand, filter, air, lights, extension cord, etc..

Decorations and Lighting: No decorations or bottom cover allowed for Classes I thru VI. Individual lighting allowed only for large tanks, on stand, which may have an owner-provided hood or strip light.

Air, Heaters, Filtration: The P.V.A.S. air system will furnish a constant air source for all drum bowls and small tanks. Entrants must supply their own airline and air stones. (A supply will be on sale by P.V.A.S. at the registration table.) Box filters or outside filters will be allowed in all classes at the discretion of the entrant. Entries in Class IV may be fitted with an undergravel filter, but, the tank must otherwise be bare. Heaters will be allowed in all classes.

Class V (Family of Fish): Consist of the display of an adult, breeding pair along with a number of their fry. The fish may either be placed together in a single tank or bowl; in a compartmented tank, or shown in two adjacent tanks or bowls.

Class V (Plants): Consist of the display of any variety of aquatic plant (rooted, cuttings, floating, etc..) Only a single species may be displayed in an individual container. Compartmented containers may display only one single species per compartment.

Classes VII and VIII (Set Tanks): May represent either a fresh water or marine environment and may be decorated and stocked as desired. These tanks will be judged on the overall appearance of the contents. The external appearance of the tank will not be considered. (It is suggested that you arrive early in order to complete set-up before judging begins.)

No plants may be added to Classes I thru V; No fish may be added to class VI

Judging: All entries will be judged and pointed in each class in accordance with current standards.

Classes IX and X (Photography and Art): Entries will be accepted by mail if mailed to P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6219, Shilington Station, Arlington, Va. 22206 in time to arrive no later than noon, Friday, May 18, 1984. Entry fee must be enclosed. Entries will be returned only if a stamped, self-addressed mailer is enclosed.

Art entries must consist of a non-photographic presentation of fresh or salt-water fish and associated environments.

Judging of photography will be based primarily on technique and composition. Art will be judged on the basis of originality, design and overall artistic merit.

Entries in the photography and art classes are expected to be the work of the entrant. If appropriate, entries may be titled, but should not display the name of the entrant.

Sunday, May 20 - Auction Rules:

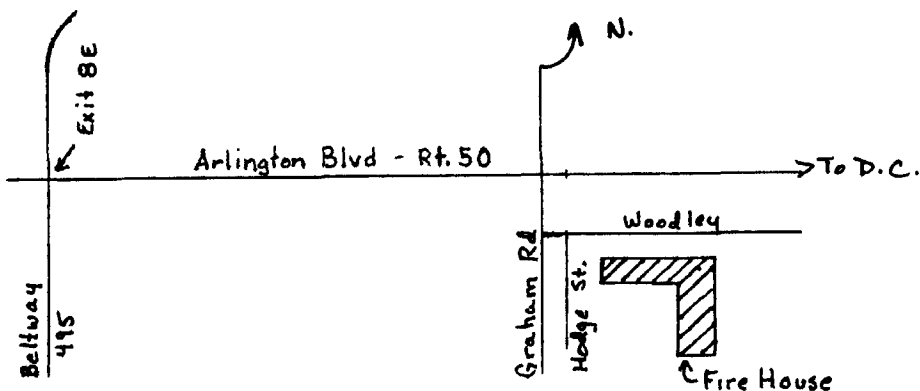
Rules for the Seller:

1. Limited to 15 bags per person; fish, plants, or hobby related items. (No exception to this rule). Anyone may sell - not just P.V.A.S. members.
2. Registration will begin at 9 AM and end promptly at 12:30 PM. If you are in line at 12:30, your items will be registered.
3. Auction will start immediately after the awards ceremony.
4. Each item is assigned a \$1 minimum, unless seller wishes to assign a higher minimum. Seller may lower the minimum on an item that does not move during the auction.
5. Bags will be offered as is. Contents may not be split into two or more Transactions
6. No payment will be made to seller on the day of the auction. Payment will be forwarded by mail within 10 days following the auction.
7. 2/3rds of the selling price goes to the seller, 1/3rd is retained by P.V.A.S.
8. All items not sold during the auction must be claimed by the seller immediately upon conclusion of the auction; otherwise they will be disposed of at the club's discretion.
9. Fish to be auctioned should be offered in clear, plastic bags with a minimum amount of water; air filled and sealed. (P.V.A.S. is not responsible for the condition of fish improperly bagged). The common or generic name of the fish and any minimum over \$1 should be marked on the bag.

Rules for Bidders:

1. All persons wishing to participate will be required to sign in with their full name and address. They will receive a bidding card, whose use will be explained before the auction begins.
2. Bags may be inspected before the auction begins and during intermissions only.
3. All bidding raises will be in increments of 50¢ up to \$5. After \$5, minimum raises of \$1 will be accepted. (Auctioneer has the right to alter this at his discretion)
4. Successful bidders will have their items brought to them, at which time they must pay; unless prior arrangements have been made with the Treasurer to run a tab. Proper identification is required for payments made by check.
5. In all instances the decision of the Auctioneer is final

RAFFLE! Aquarium related items will be raffled off at intervals during the auction. You must be present to win.
As a Grand Finale, a 55-gallon tank set-up will be raffled at the end of the auction. You do not have to be present to win.
Tickets for both raffles may be purchased before and during the show and auction.



Aequidens portalegrensis

Pat Mahoney

Another peaceful member of the genus Aequidens (and an easy spawner) is Aequidens portalegrensis - the Brown Acara. Sterba tells us that this animal is popularly known as the Brown, Black or Green Acara but most American aquarists refer to it as the PORT - short for the species name.

The Port is a native of Southern Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay. In the wild a mature specimen can attain a length of 25 cm (10 inches), however, it is considerably smaller when raised in an aquarium.

I acquired five mature adults from Allen and Laurie Coltri a few months ago. They were added to a community 55 gallon setup with a trio of G. jurupari, a pair of Ae. itanyi, a quartet of immature Ae. rivulatus and a dozen or so of the same or compatible genera that I picked up at the ACA Convention last summer in Detroit.

About six weeks ago I isolated a pair of the PORTS in a twenty-gallon tank. Rock caves over white sand with a couple of stalks of Giant Hygrophila and an outside filter completed my preparations for spawning..

Occasional feedings of live brine shrimp (delivery in the Washington area during winter being erratic at best), black worms and Eckstein's No Frills Flake Food soon had the pair in top breeding condition.

The adults are basically brown in color with a dark patch on the sides. A broad stripe will appear on the flanks from eye to caudal peduncle as breeding time approaches. The dorsal, anal and caudal fins reflect green flecks on close inspection.

As it frequently happens with sub-strate spawning cichlids (at least to me), this pair spawned behind the rockwork and the eggs were never seen. Perhaps if I had spent a little more time observing this tank I might have seen the female hovering which would have alerted me to a closer inspection. But I did not. On returning home from work one evening, I was greeted by approximately one hundred or so free-swimming fry as I turned on the tank light.

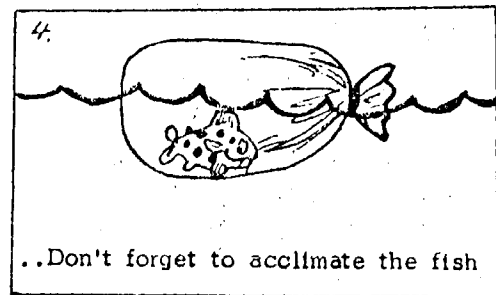
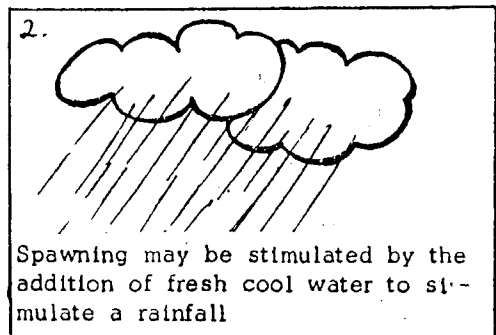
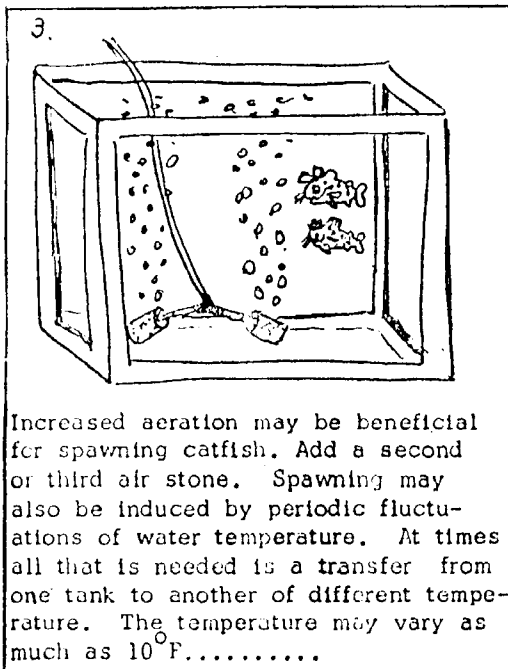
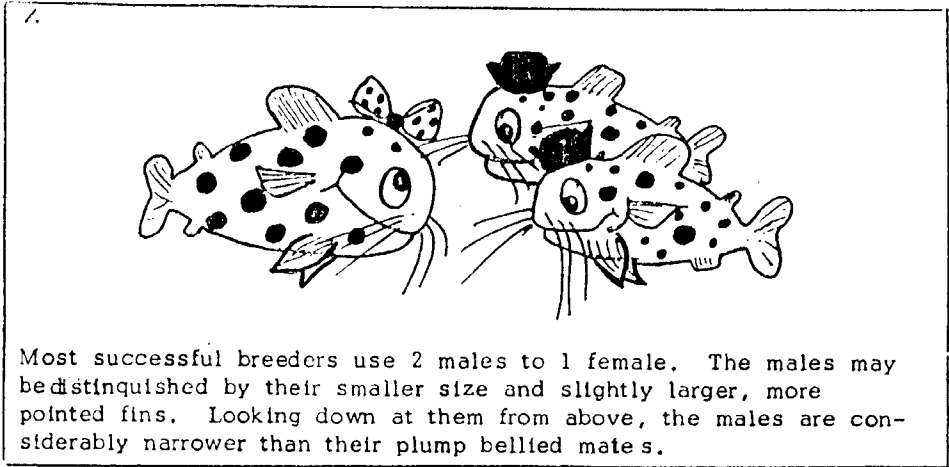
I would assume the eggs were small - small for the genus, that is, as the fry were mere pin-heads with tails when first seen. At thirty days they only measured a quarter of an inch, and that seems small to me. The parents were 4" (F) and 4-3/4" (M) respectively.

Between 60 to 80 fry have survived their first month in this world. Perhaps the favorable survival rate is due to the fact that the mature male was returned to the community tank when the fry were less than a week old..

HINTS ON SPAWNING CORYDORAS CATFISH

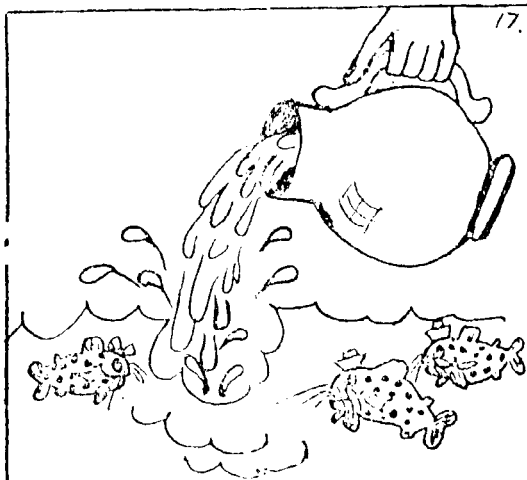
By: Martha Barnes, GDAS

Reprinted from Tropic Tank Talk, Greater Detroit Aq. Soc.



12
At times I'm able to hatch the eggs without any fungicide at times I had to use either Mar-Oxy or Methylene blue. I find it a good idea to cover the tank with a piece of glass or plastic-wrap to keep any dust and dirt out. Raising the water temperature to 80°F. will shorten the hatching time and helps to get an edge on dying and fungusing eggs. If the eggs still fungus try the use of soft rainwater in the hatching tank.

13.
If a fungicide has been used to hatch the eggs start to gradually change the water to get rid of the chemical.



To assure healthy baby catfish and quick growth, weekly water changes of about 25% are a must. Catfish are especially sensitive to gas embolism, so use only water that has been aged for 24 hours.

The fry begin to eat the day after hatching. They are best fed on microworms and baby brine shrimp (live). A light should be placed under the tank to attract the brine shrimp which are phototropic so the baby catfish can catch them. Catfish babies eat only from the bottom.



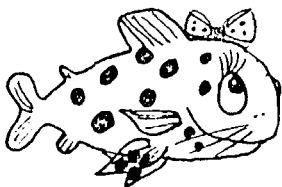
I don't rinse the baby brine shrimp. I don't think that the salt hurts the catfish fry in any way. My theory on the much described death of catfish fry do to unrinsed brine shrimp, is, that the fry die from velvet, possibly introduced by brine shrimp hatched in old salt solutions or uneaten brine shrimp that has been left in the fry tank.



I never bother removing brine shrimp or any other uneaten foods from the fry tank I let a few small ramshorn snails do the cleaning for me.

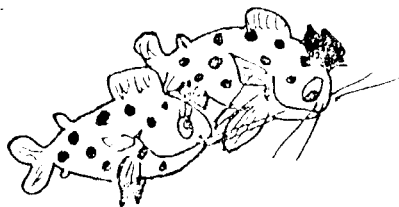
5
Feeding a variety of foods is a major part in breeding catfishes. Live white worms, live Daphnia and tubifex worms are especially favored. Frozen brine shrimp and a high quality flake food will complete their diet.

7.



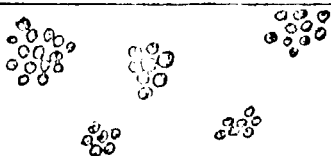
The eggs held firmly by her ventral fins, the female will find a place to stick them on to.

6.



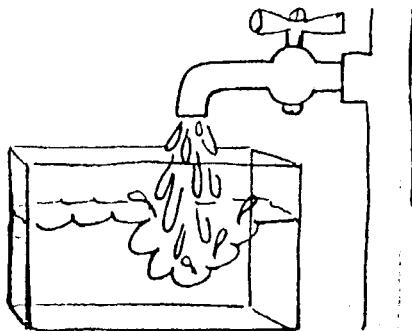
After some lively chasing the actual spawning begins. The female will swim to the under side of the male, touching his belly with her barbels. At that time the male folds his pectoral fins over the barbels of the female. As the female free's herself from this position 3-6 eggs are released which she scoops up into a pocket formed by her ventral fins.

8.



The eggs are deposited all over the tank in small groups from 5-15 eggs. Depending on the hatching temperature the eggs hatch in 3-7 days.

9



If the eggs are moved to a hatching tank, fresh water may be used. The gases present in tap water present no threat to the eggs.

10.



For a few hours after spawning the eggs are adhesive and can be removed with a razorblade or by touching them with your finger.

11
If the parent fish are removed from the breeding tank and the eggs left in there to hatch, I recommend a water change or the use of a Diatom power filter for a few hours.

THE MIRROR

Pat Mahoney

REVIEWS

"Disaster - An Equal Opportunity Event", Pat Mahoney, originally published in TROPICAL TOPICS, Indianapolis Aquarium Society and reviewed by Rosie Clark in TANK TALK, Sault and Area Aquarium Club, Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario, JAN-FEB 84.

"Delta Tale", issues of DEC 83 and JAN 84, reviewed by Mike Sheridan, THE REPORTER, North Jersey Aquarium Society, Inc, FEB 84. We must be doing something right for Mike to take the time to review two issues. Mike comments on Pat Mahoney's "What A Weekend" and "Cichlasoma managuense" articles, Darrel Holman's "Crenicara filamentosa" report, Frank Angilletta's Angelfish article and lauds Garland Neese for his outstanding efforts in the BAP. Looks as if we have one avid reader up there.

"Delta Tale Tells A Tale", TROPICAL FISH HOBBYIST, MAR 84, pg 77. We have made the Big Time! A National magazine yet! Ed Taylor reviewed the JAN 84 DELTA TALE and had some pretty nice things to say about us. Garland Neese was singled out for special merit for breeding over 85 species, the last of which carried him over the magic 1000 point mark in the BAP. Pat Mahoney's "Ancistrus lineolatus" article came under scrutiny as did Jim Long and the Horticulture Award Program (HAP). In summation, PVAS was described as "the perfect example of an active aquarium society being supported by members who are dedicated to their hobby." WHEW! He even gave his readers our address should anyone want to contact us. As an aside, the same page announced that there is another PVAS - the Pioneer Valley Aquarium Society of Springfield, Massachusetts. Their latest publication carried an article on the spawning of the red-finned Barb of Ghana. I think we had better contact this club and set up an exchange with them.

#

Let's keep those articles coming. If DELTA TALE is to get reviews like those cited above, John Mangan must have your articles.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE
POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

The meeting was held on March 4, 1984 at the home of John Mangan. Present were: John Jessup, Darrell Holman, Ruth Brewer, Gerry Stirman, Kurt Schnepf, Kenney Warren, Gerry Hoffman, John Mangan and Peter Tietjen. The meeting was called to order by President Hoffman at 10:11 am. The reading of the minutes of the last Board meeting were waived. As the Treasurer was not present a Treasurer's report was not given. The Society is still solvent.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The February mini-auction was very successful. The actual figures for the auction are reported in the March Delta Tale. We will continue to hold the mini-auctions.
2. Prizes of tanks for the raffles have been bought. We are averaging \$40 each month in revenue from the expanded raffles.
3. We will continue to award trophies to quarterly Bowl Show winners. The ribbons that were received from Tetra will be given to the Fish-of-the-Month winners.
4. The fish room visit for March is at Linda Brensike's.
5. There is a write up about PVAS in the latest TFH.
6. Progress is being made towards the revised roster. An interim version will be available soon.
7. The Spring Show is getting closer. Ed Taylor has agreed to both judge and speak at the dinner that night. Kathy Taylor will judge as will Gene Aldridge. Rosy LaCorte cannot come. We have ordered ribbons for the next two years. We are having raffle tickets printed for the 55-gallon tank raffle. We will get enough to last for several years. A revised judging form was passed around and will probably be used this year. Ads in the Washington Post have been arranged. A flyer and posters will be printed soon. There will be a show committee meeting on March 14th at Woody's.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The idea of having a Home Show of just set tanks in conjunction with the Spring Show was raised. Everyone liked the idea but it was decided that it will not be feasible to implement this idea this spring. The show committee will continue to develop this idea.
 2. All members of the Board have received copies of the new By-laws and other Incorporation papers. We discussed what should be the next step in the process. John Jessup will get information on an attorney and the necessary forms. Gerry Stirman will get the state forms. John Jessup will coordinate the remainder of the project.
 3. A discussion of the PVAS T-shirts was held. Some felt that we should have new shirts that weren't so "tacky". It was decided that these shirts would have to do for now, but we would consider other designs if someone draws them.
 4. A discussion of raising membership dues was held with the result that as of May 1, 1984, the dues of PVAS will be: \$10 for regular members, \$7 for corresponding members, \$12 for a family membership, and \$5 for a junior membership. The increase will help offset the increased costs of producing and mailing the Delta Tale.
 5. There will be a meeting of the BHP on March 14th in conjunction with the Show committee meeting.
- The April Board meeting will be held at Peter Tietjen's in Reston. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Q and A

Questions about fish, plants, live foods, or anything else related to aquariums can be sent to Delta Tale Q&A c/o John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna, VA 22180. Questioners names will not be printed so don't be afraid of asking what you think others may consider a dumb question.

Q. What are Macrobrachium ?

A. Macrobrachium are a genus of shrimp-type animals. The species most likely to be encountered by the aquarist is Macrobrachium rosenbergii, the "blue lobster" or "Malaysian prawn". This species is raised commercially for food but the excess sometimes find their way into the tropical fish trade. A very interesting addition to a freshwater tank but they do get quite large and will eat any fish that they are able to catch. At least one company sells frozen lobster eggs as a fish food. I believe that they are from a Macrobrachium sp.

Q. Can Pelvicachromis pulcher (Kribensis) live without brackish water? Can they survive in a tank with Botia macracantha (Clown Loach) ? I am interested in spawning them and would like to know a few of the living and breeding requirements.

A. Kribensis will do much better without brackish water, they are not a brackish water fish. They should get along fine in a tank with clown loaches. The kribensis will get a little aggressive when spawning but the clown loaches are quite able to defend themselves. The clowns carry little switchblades around with them (retractable spines under their eyes) and like the little kid in the karate school ads they say "nobody bothers me". Since this question is about kribensis I'll leave the clown loach stories for some other time. Now where was I- spawning- Kribensis are fairly easy to spawn and a good beginners cichlid. They aren't to fussy about water conditions as long as you stay away from extremes. My last pair breed regularly despite the fact that I never bother to check pH or hardness (I do make regular water changes however. This is important for ALL fishes). Kribs like to spawn in caves and a flower pot laid on its side usually works well. Fry do well if started off on Philodina and/or Liquafry. They soon graduate to microworms, baby brine shrimp etc.

Q. Can a Plecostomus punctatus survive without brackish water? What are some good live foods to feed to wild A. ramirezi fry and adults?

A. As above, this fish will be very unhappy if placed in brackish water.

A. ramirezi (now Microgeophagus ramirezi) should eat just about any live food offered to it- brine shrimp, black worms, grindal worms, Daphnia etc. It would be best to start the fry on Philodina and/or baby brine shrimp. A reliable source tells me that baby rams will not eat microworms. A good article on spawning rams will be appearing in next months Delta Tale.

TRADING POST

Ads for the Trading Post should be sent to Delta Tale c/o John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave., Vienna, VA 22180 by the 15th of the month prior to publication. They can also be handed to me at the monthly meetings.

Wanted: Cheap 8", 50W heaters. Used or new. Call Michael Rininger (703) 860-1734 not before 6:30 am or after 10:00pm.

Wanted: Backissues of Delta Tale- need almost all before 1980, also want other magazines and old books. Female Characodon lateralis.

Trade/Sale: Backissues of aquarium magazines. Several species of goodeids. John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave., Vienna, VA 22180

WANTED: Green Chromide (male); Bristle-nose Plecostomis (females only); any species of Aequidens (pairs only); any species of Geophagus or Gymnogeophagus except G. Brasiliensis (pairs only); Back issues of TFH, FAMA, and Buntbarsche Bulletin 1 thru 29

Sale/Trade: Breeding pair of Banded Severums / \$25.00; Alfaro Cultratus (Knife Livebearer); Breeding pair of Calico Fantails /50.00 or best offer

Contact - Darrell Holman, 5134 N. 25th Place, Arlington, Va. 22207
(703) 538-4941

White Rose Aquarium Society of York Pennsylvania 6th annual show

I've been asked by Sue Altland of the White Rose Aq. Soc. to announce her clubs spring show. The information arrived too late for last months issue of Delta Tale. Hopefully this issue will be mailed in time to get the information to anyone interested in attending this show. It will be held April 5 thru 8 at the West Manchester Mall, Rt. 30 at Kenneth Rd. York PA. Anyone wanting additional information can contact me- I have a copy of the show flyer which I will bring to the monthly meeting with me. You can also contact Jim Altland, the show chairman, by calling (717) 292-4482.

Oops-- just realized our meeting is on the 9th, too late for the info to be of any use to you. Anyone wishing information give me a call (938-4778) and I'll try to help you over the phone.

J.M.

P.V.A.S. Horticulturalist Award Program

Well it seems that our Horticulturalist Award Program has got off to a slow start. We are now into our second year of the program and we still haven't received a single report.

The Breeders Award Program also got off to a slow start, but it is now one of the highlights of our club. To date, we have 1 - Grand Master Breeder, 6 - Master Breeders, 1 - Advance Breeder, and 4 members that have achieved Breeders status.

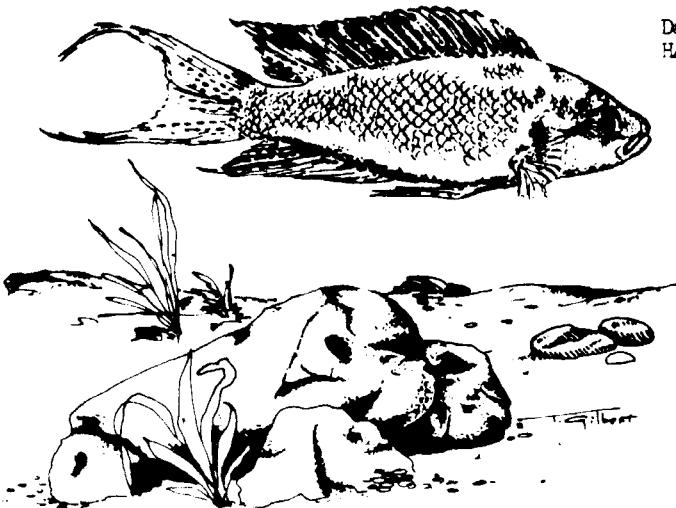
As the new HAP Chairman, I would like to see our members become so enthusiastic over this program, but I realize this might be a little much to ask. But I hope to see at least a few members get into the groove and help get this program off to a good start this year.

A copy of the rules and regulations along with a copy of the HAP report form can be found in the January issue of the Delta Tale or by contacting myself or one of the HAP committee members.

To date the committee consist of: Darrell Holman Chairman (703) 538-4941
Gerry Hoffman (703) 347-7486
John Jessup (703) 534-1704
Alex Cummins

"So Please" get those plants checked-in, fill out a report form and start accumulating points towards those fantastic awards you'll receive at the end of the year.

Darrell Holman
HAP Chairman



BREEDER'S AWARD STADINGS

Garland Neese	1040	****	
Geory Hoffman	765	****	
Pat & Maggi Mahoney	715	****	
Darrell Holman	640	****	
Woody Griffin	610	****	
John Jessup	585	*****	GRAND MASTER BREEDER!!!
Vince Edmundson	500	****	
Ruth Brewer	305	***	
Jim Hajdics	275	**	
Art Lembke	165	**	
Wagner Family	165	**	
Kenny Warren	90	*	
Roser Family	70	*	
Frank Angilletta	70	*	
Alex Cummins	50	*	
Nathan Manwaring	20		
Ray Krause	10		

***** grand master
**** master
*** advanced
** intermediate
* breeder

Recent Spawnings

John Jessup- Giant Atlantic Seahorse (Hippocampus hudsonius punctatus)
50 points, this makes John the first PVAS Grand Master Breeder.
Congratulations John.

Pat Mahoney- Aequidens portalegrensis, 10 points

Nathan Manwaring- Aphyosemion gardneri, 10 points: Gambusia affinis,
10 points. This is Nathans first 20 points. Welcome to the BAP
Nathan.

Woody Griffin, BAP Chairman



BOWL SHOW REPORT FOR

March

CICHLIDS

New World Dwarf

- 1st** Mike Steel, Micro G. Ramirez
2nd
3rd

Riftlake, Non-Mbuna

- 1st**
2nd
3rd

Open

- 1st** Frank Angilletta, Black Chin Mozambique
2nd Robert Roser & Son, Marble Angelfish
3rd Frank Angilletta, G. Brasilieusis

Judges Choice
 Jim Long, Blue Gularis

MONTH QUARTER ANNUAL

Frank Angilletta	11	38	38
Mark Steel	6	16	16
Nathan Manwaring	0	6	6
Robert Roser & Son	4	4	4
Ray Krouse	0	1	1

EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

Killifish

- 1st** Jim Long, Blue Gularis
2nd Gerry Hoffman, Aphyosemeum Cinnamomeum
3rd Nathan Manwaring, Aphyosemeum Gardneri

Catfish, Non-Eurydoras

- 1st** Gerry Hoffman, Pigmy Holosternum
2nd Frank Angilletta, Royal Farlewella
3rd Frank Angilletta, Banjo Catfish

Open

- 1st** Pete Thrift, Black Moor
2nd Nathan Manwaring, Bleeding Heart Tetra
3rd Frank Angilletta, Australian Rainbow

Members Choice
 Jim Long, Blue Gularis

MONTH QUARTER ANNUAL

Frank Angilletta	9	39	39
Gerry Hoffman	10	29	29
Nathan Manwaring	8	29	29
Mike Rininger	1	8	8
Pete Thrift	6	8	8
Jim Long	6	7	7
Robert Roser & Son	0	3	3
Alex Cummins	0	2	2
Jason Kookan	1	1	1

I'd like to take this time to thank the judges for the excellent job they did. Woody Griffin for the judging of the Cichlids, Darrell Holman for the judging of the Egglayers/Livebearers.

I'd like to also thank everyone who brought their fish to the bowl show. This was an outstanding turn out for the month of March. The bowl show now is occupying three tables for the show let's see if we could make four tables for the month of April.

Next Months Bowl Show Category

Cichlids
 Angelfish/Discus
 Non-Riftlake African
 Open

Egglayers/Livebearers
 Livebearers, Non-Guppy
 Sharks & Loaches
 Open

Thank You For Your Support
 Chairman of the Bowl Show
 Frank Angilletta

Potomac valley Aquarium Society
P.O. Box 6219 Shirlington Station
Arlington, Virginia 22206

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Meets on the Following Dates in 1984:

April 9	July 9	October 8
May 14	August 13	November 12
June 11	September 10	December 10

Meetings are held at the Jefferson Fire House located just off Graham Road and Route 50 (Arlington Blvd.), Falls Church, Virginia. Please do NOT call the Fire House for information. See inside front cover for PVAS officers and phone numbers. All meetings open to the public and potential new members.