

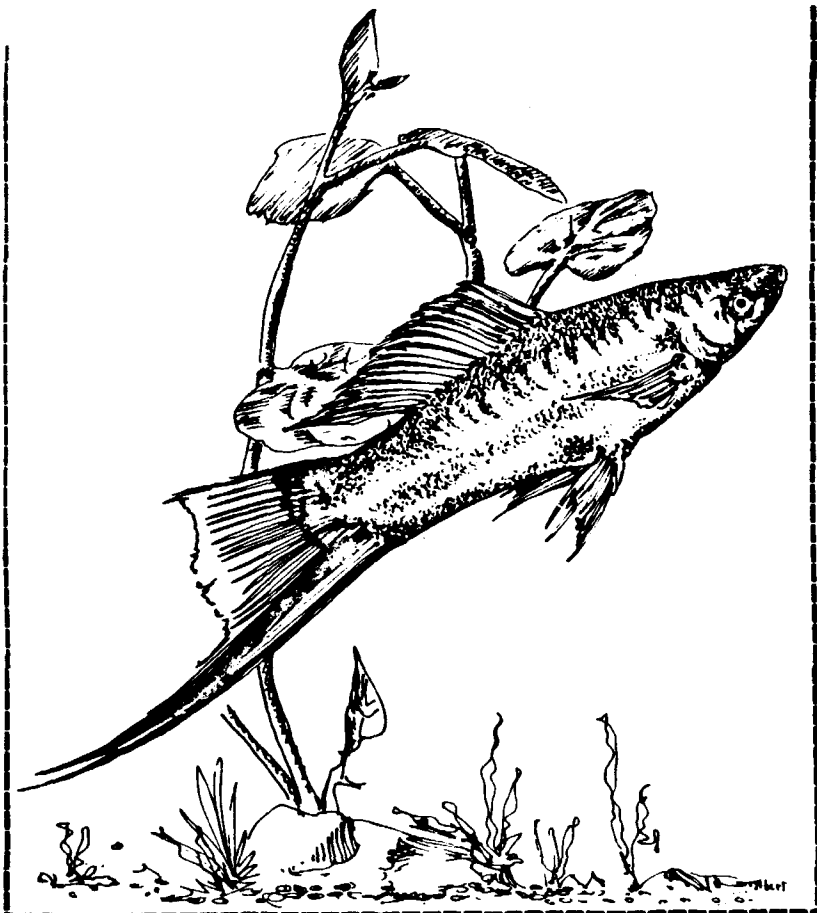
# \* DELTA TALE \*

DEC. 1983

50¢

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

**potomac valley aquarium society**



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Pete Tietjen, John Mangan, Jerry Stirman, Darrell Holman

Exofficio, John E. Jessup

#### P.V.A.S. COMMITTEE HEADS, 1983

Auctions	:	Pete Tietjen	Bowl Show	:	John Mangan
BAP	:	Pat Mahoney		:	Michelle Mangan
HAP	:	Jim Long	Programs	:	Woody Griffin
Library	:	Maggi Mahoney	Ways/Means	:	Jerry Stirman
Membership	:	Kaye Thompson	FAAS	:	Jim Hajdics
Spring Show	:	Woody Griffin	Delta Tale	:	Pat Mahoney

Members or non-members having questions about fish, aquarium keeping or breeding can call one of the officers listed for assistance.

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## WHAT A WEEKEND!

Pat Mahoney

As advertised in the Delta Tale, the North Jersey Aquarium Society's All Cichlid Face Off was held in the VFW Hall in Ridgefield, N.J., on the weekend of 4, 5 and 6 November. It was an outstanding weekend for participants and sponsors alike.

Half of the fun in organized fish clubs is in visiting other clubs in support of their shows, workshops and auctions. National Conventions, like the ACA and AKA, have proven this thesis year after year.

At our September and October Meetings, I reminded the membership of the upcoming show and auction in New Jersey and suggested that we get up a group to represent PVAS at this all Cichlid Show. The group turned out to be Gerry Hoffman, Gene Aldridge, Vince Edmondson, Corresponding Member Kevin Uzzle and myself.

Gerry took his boys to visit their grandparents in New Jersey before coming to the show. Gene Aldridge, Nikon in hand, drove in from Harrisburg, PA. Kevin and I arrived about noon on Friday while Vince and Barbara got in late Friday night.

Although Gerry, Vince and I entered two fish each in the competition, only Vince came away with a winner. His big Red Devil took a Third Place in its category.

There were 150 entries, all cichlids, and the quality of the fish couldn't have been better. NJAS' George Fear had some fantastic entries as numerous trophies awarded to him will attest.

Hopes of many entrants for BEST OF SHOW were dashed when Ginny Eckstein entered her Acarichthys heckeli. There was no dissenting comments when Ginny walked off with the trophy. The heckeli is truly an amazing animal. The prize entry had dorsal filaments trailing four to five inches. It must be considered a difficult species to spawn as the only recorded spawning the heckeli was by Wayne Liebel, and he was only able to accomplish it once. Bet you anything that Ginny will be the second.

Entrants and visitors from Boston, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Upstate New York, the New York City Clubs, Brooklyn, Long Island, Pennsylvania and Washington area were all quartered in a local motel. The hostelry seems to be a favorite of law enforcement officials since the night before we checked in the place was raided by New Jersey's finest. The rooms weren't too bad, however, there is evidence that a Convention of careless Entomologists were the previous occupants as many of their specimens were observed crawling about the bathroom tiles. Vince and Barbara sought asylum in the Holiday Inn up the road. I wonder what they have against Entomologists?

On the way home Kevin and I stopped for a brief visit with Dan and Pat Fromm in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. I finally got a look at that fully-automated water changing setup of Dan's. He has a first-rate Fish Room and his water-changing system really works. Before leaving, Dan pulled a gun on me and made me take a half-dozen of so fry of the *Aequidens caeruleo-punctatus* that they collected in Panama. (Or was it me with the gun?)

We got home a little after midnight. Since I had Monday off from work, Kevin and I slept in until about eleven. I did manage to get Kevin and his fish (he STOLE a mature pair of High-Fin Simpson Swords for less than ten dollars at the Jersey auction) to National Airport for his flight to Raleigh.

In all it was a great weekend. Met a lot of old friends and got to meet some new ones. I saw some fish I never knew existed. Even with only five PVAS'ers, I know the NJAS appreciated our support.

To President Kevin Carr, Chuck Davis, Mike Sheridan, Frank Policastro, George Fear and all the other movers and shakers of NJAS, thanks for an outstanding weekend. The competition was tough, the judging above reproach and your auction allowed many of us to pick up fish we cannot get in our own area. Again, thank you all and when are you going to do it again?

P.S. If any of the NJAS reads this, tell Kevin I am prepared to give him SIXTEEN dollars for that big *Festae* he entered in the show. Heck, I'm not against a man making a profit.

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#### IT'S OFFICIAL

By vote of the membership at the November meeting, the 1984 Officers and Board Members were elected to the following positions:

President	Gerry Hoffman
Vice President	John Jessup
Treasurer	Maggi Mahoney
Corresponding Secretary	Ruth Brewer
Recording Secretary	Pete Tietjen
New Board Members	John Mangan
	Kenny Warren

Congratulations, one and all. I know you will do a good job.

## A TIGER IN MY TANK

Pat Mahoney...

First described by Gunther in 1869 as Heros managuensis, this large Central American predator is known today as Cichlasoma managuense. The change in genus was accomplished by Jacques Pelligrin of the Museum d' Histoire Naturelle de France in 1904 in his comprehensive revision of cichlid fishes.

The geographical distribution of C. managuense was provided by Robert Rush Miller in his paper published in COPEIA in 1966 in which it was limited to the Great Lakes of Nicaragua (primarily Lakes Managua and Nicaragua) and in the rivers of the Atlantic slope down to Costa Rica.

C. managuense is a BIG cichlid. I had procured an adult pair in Maryland, the male being twelve inches in length and the female about an inch shorter. My source had previously spawned them so I set them up in a fifty-five gallon tank by themselves. Prior to their spawning in my tank, I learned two very important facts about these fish: (1), they are a perfect example of an eating machine. At feeding time both came to the surface and opened their massive mouths as I poured in the food. It is a lot less messy that way - hardly any uneaten food reaches the bottom of the tank. And (2), C. managuense is meaner than hell. In proof of the latter statement, I now have scars to show on the thumb and the back of my right hand.

Almost anyone who has ever kept neo-tropicals will tell you that they have far more "personality" than say, Africans. This is probably true, however, I am not sure how meanness translates into personality.

It seems to me that every time I entered the fishroom, I discovered a lack of filtration in the managuense tank. Whenever the male became bored he would bang the hell out of the siphon tubes and filtration ceased. Then the game would begin. Removing the top glass and stip light, I would take a twelve-inch net and force the pair to the opposite end of the tank. With the other hand I restarted the siphons. But before I could retrieve the net the maddened male would bash the siphons again and I got to start the operation all over. I once foolishly tried to restart the siphons without the net. This was definitely NOT one of my better ideas for as I withdrew my hand with Senor Managuense in hot pursuit, he actually came six inches out of the water to bite my thumb. After talking to God about it for awhile, I returned to my task WITH the net and a band-aid on my thumb. Filtration was restored for another day. You know, I think that big male enjoyed the game - we played it so often.

After a month or so in my tank, the lip-locking commenced. I came home from work to find approximately 700 eggs deposited on a large slanted rock. The tank water was old with a pH of 7.5. Where my other tanks got weekly water changes, the managuense tank was only changed every other week. This was due to another annoying habit of the beasts. They constantly attacked the garden hose used in my water changing, banging the metal tip against the glass so that I expected them to break the tank and flood the fish room. Fortunately, this didn't happen.

Four days after the spawning, Maggi and I left for a week in Florida with our daughter. The house (read FISH) sitter was advised of the miserable disposition of the managuense and was told to feed them with extreme caution. I think she felt that my warnings were exaggerated and her first feeding nearly resulted in a torn finger. She had tried to feed them directly over the spawning site. Thereafter my advice was needed religiously.

On our return we were greeted by 700 free-swimming fry as they swarmed about the parents. This scene of domestic tranquility lasted for about a month when Big Daddy decided that making babies was fun so he opted to repeat the performance. He solved the problem of what to do with 700 little tank apes - he ate them. Between the two daily feedings he received from me, he nibbled on Fry Pate'. I decided that if I expected to get breeding points for this animal, I had better salvage some of the fry from the rapidly diminishing brood.

If I thought restarting siphons was fun, removing fry from two of the meanest critters I have ever owned was downright ecstasy.

With the help of TWO twelve-inch nets - one above the other - I attempted to force the parents away from the fry, now about 50 in number. I placed a small netbox inside the tank hooked to the top. Into this tank I planned to place the netted fry. It was a good plan - somewhat long on theory with little to no contingency considerations. With the two nets between me and the angry parents, about two dozen of the miniature monsters were placed in the net box. About that time, Mad Dog Managuense ripped through the bottom net, bit the back of my hand and demolished the net tank - snapped it off its hooks and pulled it to the bottom of the tank where the two of them ripped it to pieces. All I had for my efforts was a bleeding hand and the knowledge that I had once again been outsmarted by a damned neo-tropical monster.

And again I talked with God, created a few new words, added another band-aid and returned to the fray. This time I commenced the operation by banging the wire end of the net against the snout of the marauding male. He took umbrage at my actions and decided that I really didn't need my right arm which I felt certain he planned to remove about the elbow. The female tried to corral the fry in among the rocks and played no part in my second invasion of their domicile.

This time the male was netted and held against the back glass of the tank. With my free hand two dozen or so fry were quickly netted and placed in a container OUTSIDE the tank. I freed the monster and quickly pulled the net, dropping the top glass panel into place. As a final gesture of fury, Mad Dog rushed headlong above the water and nearly succeeded in pushing a 4" X 48" glass panel off of the tank.

As soon as the fry were safely placed in a small breeding tank, I left the room exhausted. There must have been five gallons of water on the floor, so I prayed for evaporation.

I must confess that breeding *C. managuense* was an experience. It rates right up there with having your tooth pulled. I may have received my breeding points in the BAP, however, the most satisfying moment of the entire experiment was when the new owner walked OUT of my fishroom carrying two large buckets containing a nasty pair of cichlids.

#

## IN MEMORIAM

We have received the sad news that Guy Jordan, 74, one of the founders of the American Cichlid Association, died in University Hospital, San Diego, California on Wednesday, 9 November 1983, after a short illness.

A life member of the San Diego Aquarium Society, Guy was also the driving force in the ACA during its formative years. He was named the first Fellow of the ACA in 1972.

Through his column "Scanning the Periodicals" in the *Tropical Breeze*, the publication of the San Diego Aquarium Society, and his remarkable correspondence with hobbyists across the country, Guy was probably the greatest single disseminator of information on tropical fish in America.

A retired musician, Guy was legally blind for the past fifteen years of his life. But blindness couldn't stop him. His correspondence during this period switched to cassette tapes. Jim Mortensen, ACA Membership Chairman, alone exchanged 902 cassettes with Guy.

Guy, you will be sorely missed.

Pat Mahoney  
Editor

## SPAWNING CRENICARA FILAMENTOSA

Darrell Holman

One of the most beautiful and rarely seen members of the group of fish known as Dwarf Cichlids is Crenicara filamentosa, the Lyretail Checkerboard.

C. filamentosa is found in the waters around the Rio Negro area of the Amazon Basin. They can be found living near the shoreline among thick planted areas surrounded by small rock formations where they can quickly retreat to shelter when predators are about.

For many years C. filamentosa was imported by accident in mixed shipments of Dwarf Cichlids. Due to the rise in demand for this rare little cichlid, shipments have become more regular.

The Checkerboard is a fairly peaceful fish but does become very aggressive during spawning. The male of the species will attain a total body length of about 2½". If you include the lyretail, they will sometimes exceed four inches in overall length. The female remains somewhat smaller, rarely exceeding two inches.

The non-spawning coloration is yellow to tan with two horizontal rows of square-shaped red to black colored spots. This gives them the checkboard pattern. The fins of the male are streaked with an assortment of reds, blues and greens while the ventral fins of the female is cherry-red. During spawning these colors intensify and the lower row of spots will darken so as to create a horizontal stripe running the length of the body from the snout to the base of the tail.

Checkerboards should be maintained in soft, neutral water, slightly on the acid side. Ideal water temperature is 80 degrees Fahrenheit. An ordinary corner box filter will suffice for filtration; peat should be added to the filter medium. Tank size depends on the number of fish to be housed, but over-crowding is especially with these fish since males stake out their own territories which can result in vicious battles.

Feeding is no problem. The Checkerboard will accept most dried and living foods. A varied diet will keep your fish in top condition and will also suffice when conditioning them for spawning.

Spawning is not often achieved. Inducing these fish to spawn seems nearly impossible. Even if you are fortunate to get them to spawn you will soon discover how difficult it is to raise the fry. Checkerboard fry have a high mortality rate and many will probably become what are known as belly-sliders. Sometimes, even the healthy fry will suddenly stop eating and waste away.



When selecting fish for breeding purposes it is best to start with young, healthy specimens. The males should be selected very carefully to insure you choose those with the best color and tail development. Only males with long flowing tails will be able to attract the females of their choice. The flashing of colors and flaring of the tails play a great part in attracting female attention. You should also select several females for each male because they are very selective in choosing a mate and also during courtship many females may be brutally beaten or even killed if they are not ready for spawning.

The spawning tank should be at least ten gallons in capacity but a fifteen or twenty gallon tank is better so the male can retreat to the far end of the tank for shelter once the spawning is completed. The water should have a pH of 6.5 and a DH of not more than 4. The tank should be well planted, especially with Cryptornes. This will give the fish some privacy and shelter if needed and will provide a good selection of spawning sites which is usually a plant leaf.

After the spawning tank has been set up the breeders should be added - one male and 2-3 females - then allow the male to make his choice of mate. Once he has chosen a female remove the remaining females. Conditioning the pair should commence immediately. A strict diet of two to three meals a day (black worms and live brine shrimp seems to do the trick) for about two weeks will fatten the female with eggs. Once the pair is properly conditioned and they choose a spawning site, the courtship commences. The male dances around the spawning site displaying his brilliant colors and flaring his elegant tail. If the time is right and the female accepts him, the spawning will soon follow. She will lay a few eggs on a plant leaf and the male will fertilize them. This sequence will continue until anywhere from 50 to 200 eggs have been laid. The female then takes over all care of the eggs and fry. She will chase the male away, sometime even kill him, so it is best to remove the male. The eggs will hatch in 48 to 72 hours and the fry free swimming in about four days. They can be fed newly-hatched brine shrimp and finely sifted daphnia. Growth of the fry is rather slow but at about 90 days they begin to resemble their parents.

Pterophyllum scalare

By Frank Angilletta

Pterophyllum scalare is popularly known as the "Angelfish" of the "Queen of the Cichlids." Pterophyllum means winged leaf, and scalare means ladder-like, referring to the back edge of the long fins.

The original Angelfish was described in 1823 by Lichtenstein. Its first record in the aquarium hobby goes back to 1911 when it was imported into Germany. The first Angelfish to reach the United States came from Germany in 1915.

The Angelfish is a South American Cichlid, native to the Amazon River. It grows to five to six inches at maturity.

I kept my large male and female in a 55-gallon community tank along with various types of Danios, Tetras, Corydoras and other large Pterophyllum scalare.

The mature adult Angelfish were fed Tetra Min Staple Food; also some live black worms and frozen Brine Shrimp. I did this to condition the mature adults for breeding by giving them a very good, varied diet.

Pterophyllum add 1

Sexing mature adults remains difficult, but you can make a shrewd guess. I noticed that the body of the male is much larger than the female. It is also much thicker from the "feelers" to the base of the beginning of the anal fin. The female is much thinner than the male except when she is full of eggs. She looks fuller in this area, as if a small bean had been swallowed.

The adults were kept in a PH of 6.8 and temperature of 78°F. They were given a 10 percent water change every seven days from the beginning of January until the day of the spawning.

I didn't see the actual spawning of the pair, but I saw the eggs attached to a large piece of slate that was in the corner of the aquarium.

I placed the slate in a 2½ gallon fish bowl filled with the water from the aquarium where the spawning had taken place. I put a few drops of Metholane Blue in the bowl and an air stone with a very light aeration to help stop the fungus from growing on the eggs.

After the eggs hatched and the fry began to swim freely, I moved them to a bare 55-gallon aquarium. I began feeding them live baby Brine Shrimp. They were raised in a gallon jug of instant ocean salt water. I found it gives a better hatch of the shrimp. I continued feeding the fry this way for the next four weeks. They began to take the shape of the Pterophyllum scalare about the third week.

Pterophyllum add 2

In the fifth week, I began feeding the fry black worms chopped in halves and thirds. In the sixth week, I served the black worms whole.

\* \* \* \* \*

Final Bowl Show Standings For 1983

<u>Fish</u>	month	Quarter	Year
<u>Richlids</u>			
Ray Krause	16	32	77
Amy Stirman	0	0	40
Don Plonkey	0	0	22
Frank Angilletta	0	0	17
John Mangan	0	0	10
Stephen Ptasek	0	0	10
Mark Steele	0	0	5
<u>Englayer/Livebearer</u>			
John Mangan	28	44	154
Frank Angilletta	0	0	51
Pete Thrift	2	10	14
Farland Neese	0	0	14
Don Plonkey	0	0	9
Jack Coffman	0	0	9
Judy Williams	0	0	6
Stephen Ptasek	0	0	6
Jim Long	0	0	5
Ray Krause	0	0	5
Amy Stirman	0	0	4
Michelle Mangan	0	0	4
Alex Cummins	0	0	2

November '83 Bowl Show Results:

Cichlids Judge- John Mangan

Angels/Discus

1st. Ray Krause, Black Angel

2nd. Ray Krause/ Leopard Angel

New. World, all other

no entries

Mbuna

Ray Krause, Pseudotropheus sp.

Haplochromis

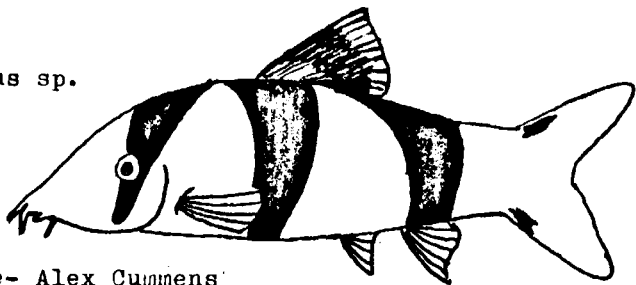
no entries

Riftlake, non-mbuna

no entries

Open

no entries



Englayer/Livebearer Judge- Alex Cummins

Livebearers

1st. John Mangan, Xenoophorus captivus

Characins

1st. John Mangan, Black Tetra

Catfish

no entries

Sharks/Loaches

1st. John Mangan, unidentified loach

Anabantoids

no entries

Open

1st. John Mangan, Peacock Gudgeon

2nd. John Mangan, Dessert Goby

3rd. Pete Thrift, Pearl Lionhead

Members choice- Dessert Goby, John Mangan

I'd like to thank everyone listed in the standings table for participating in the bowl shows this year. Also thanks to everyone who has served as a judge and a special thanks to Amy Stirman for frequently taking charge of the members choice voting. This was a big help to me.

For those of you that didn't participate this year- we'll be starting fresh in Jan. and I'd like to see everyone help Frank Angilletta, next years chairman, get things off to a good start by BRINGING FISH .

John Mangan, bowl shows

BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Points</u> (through Nov. 15)
Garland Neese	925 +++++
Gerry Hoffman	710 +++++
Darrell Holman	640 +++++
Woody Griffin	555 +++++
John Jessup	535 +++++
Vince Edmondson	500 +++++
Pat and Maggi Mahoney	665 +++
Ruth Brewer	305 +++
Jim Hajdics	275 ++
Art Lembke	165 ++
Wagner Family	165 ++
Kenny Warren	90 +
Gene Aldridge	80 +
Amy Stirman	50 +
Bob Roser	50 +
Alex Cummins	50 +
Frank Angilletta	45
Ray Krause	10

++++ MASTER  
+++ ADVANCED  
++ INTERMEDIATE  
+ BREEDER

Recent Points Awarded:

Pat and Maggi Mahoney - Cichlasoma managuense (20 points)

\* \* \* \* \*

Notice to Members: Our annual Christmas Get-together is Monday, 12 December 1983. Each member will be called and reminded to bring a dessert and a small gift (not to exceed \$2.00 in value) to put under the tree. There will be punch (both kinds), coffee and hot chocolate for the kids to go with the desserts we all bring.

This is the last meeting of the year so lets have a total membership turn out. Trophies and awards will be presented for the Bowl Show competition and the Breeders Award Program. Also, the F.A.A.S Award for the PVAS "Aquarist of the Year" will be presented. So lets all turn out.

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT, OCT.1 TO NOV.6, 1983

Beginning Balance		\$1,914.14
Income:		
Membership	34.00	
Donation	5.00	
Auction Raffle & Concessions	596.34	
Banquet	662.50	
Auction	1,476.33	
October Raffle	13.00	
Encyclopedia of Fishes	22.00	
Coins, auction-concessions	28.50	
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$2,834.97</b>
Expenses:		
October Auction, member refreshment	6.33	
Supplies	20.82	
Postage, Delta Tale and Auction	77.00	
Print Delta Tale, Oct. & Nov.	94.20	
Banquet	635.00	
Change for Auction	100.00	
Jefferson Fire House, donation	25.00	
A&A Bernie, hot dog cooker	25.00	
P. Loiselle	100.00	
Sellers, Auction	977.32	
Concession supplies (Soft drinks, dogs etc.)	124.50	
Raffle Prizes	222.19	
Raffle Tickets, printed	21.50	
Flyers printed	37.26	
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$2,466.12</b>
 NOVEMBER 6, 1983 BALANCE:		 <b>\$2,282.99</b>

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

1983 Final Meeting: 12 December 1983

Meetings are held at the Jefferson Fire Station Community Room,  
Arlington Boulevard (Route 50) and Graham Road, Falls Church, Va.  
Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Meetings start at 8:00 p.m.