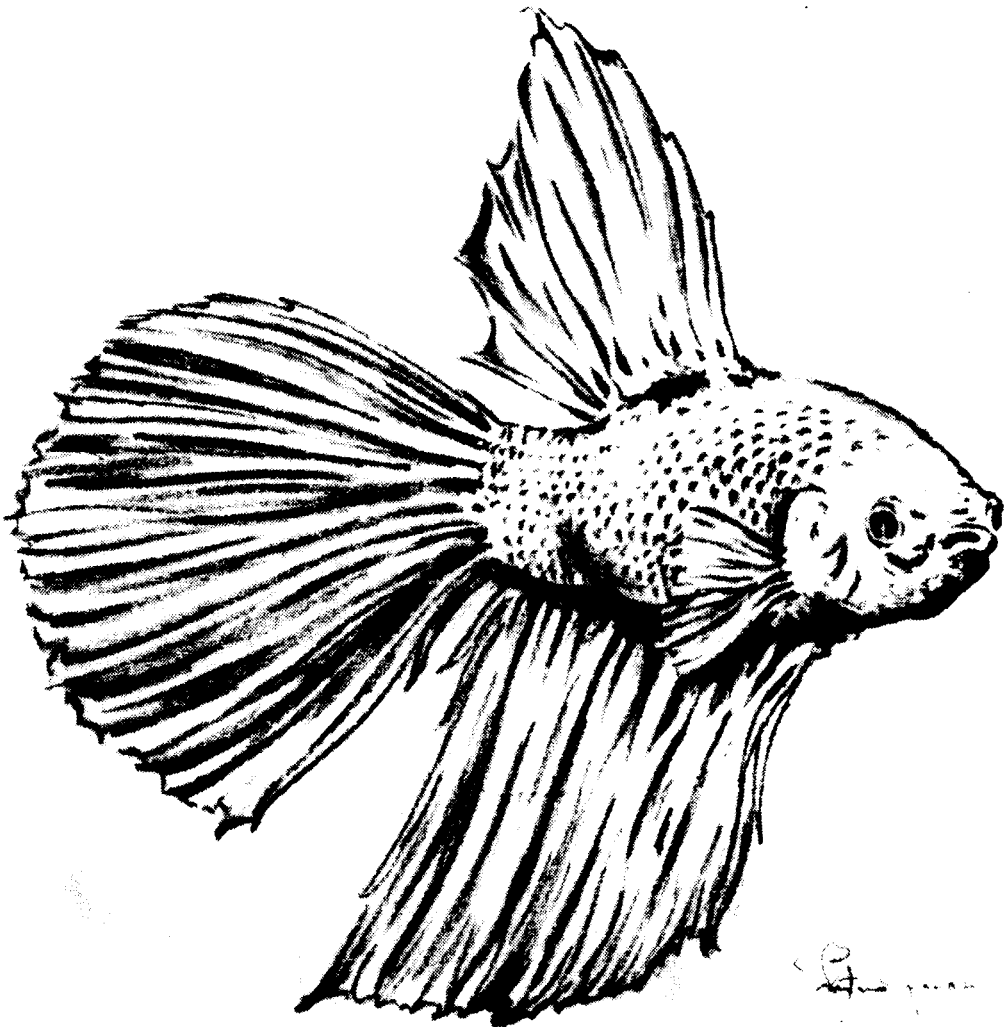


* DELTA TALE *

April 1985
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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society



FROM THE PRESIDENT

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN
BUT SOMETIMES TOO OLD TO REMEMBER

How many times have you read about what to do when you buy some new fish for your community tank? You know, the idea of a quarantine tank or keeping new purchases isolated for awhile until you can be certain that no diseases are present. Most of the time the fish are healthy, and after a few times of putting them up by themselves for a week before introducing them to the 'big tank' you say to yourself, why bother? It never happens to me, you say, or I'm too experienced to do that. Well, the worst can happen if you don't follow 'the rules'; I know, because it happened to me.

The fish were only some algae-eater types, *Otocinclus* and some Flying Foxes that I have been interested in and wanted to try. They looked healthy enough in the store and the salesman said he usually never bothers to quarantine his fish. So in they went, fish and disease. To be fair, I did put some plants in the tank also, but they came from the same shop. Presto, wham, fish dropping dead as I looked at them. First an Angelfish, then a cichlid, a few *Corydoras*, more Angels, 5 large Australian Rainbows, for over 16 fish (in a 125 gallon tank). Large red ulcerative lesions appeared overnight, the fish stopped eating and were dead within 24 hours. It wasn't Ich, or a fungus, but a deadly outbreak nonetheless. Learn your lessons well neophytes-- don't add fish to your tank until you are certain it won't bring something with it to harm your prize specimens.

Now for my monthly attack on the you-know-what-fish. Without mentioning names, I'll say the store I got the fish from is run by someone who keeps Goodies, and the salesman was the Goodied King of Virginia. Could it be his nets were first dipped in Goodied water before catching my fish, or is this some cruel plot to get back at me for 6 months of anti-Goodied commentary? In all fairness to him, I can't be sure that it was those fish that wiped out my tank, or the plants, or something completely different. My safeguarding procedures were disregarded and I got stung. Don't let it happen to you. Or, as the old saying goes, **BEWARE OF GOODIED OWNERS BEARING GIFTS.**

Now that I've lost a few nice fish that might have made it to the Spring Show there is still some chance that you will have the best fish that is entered this year. Although my Best-of Show Tetra is still alive, he is only good for the Deformity Division. His spine is bent with arthritis and old age, and all hopes of him spawning are long gone. A nice fish, and he can be proud of his track record. Who will take his place as #1 fish? Will it be your entry? Let's find out next month.



FROM THE EDITORZ DESK

After flipping through this issue you may notice scarcity of original articles in this issue, also notice that the few there are were written by the same person ,even though he has no taste in fish he does write about the ones he has. What about you? And what about me? It's been a couple of months since we've seen an article from you Mr. editor , you may be saying (although you're probably using a less polite name). Well the reason for that is that all of my "Delta Tale time" has been spent typing reprints so I have something to fill up the pages. Being a slow typer this takes quite a bit of effort. Which leads me to a related topic - I still could use someone to help type. I have a huge file of reprints but it doesn't do me much good until they are typed. Sometime in the next couple of months I will be starting a rather time consuming project (possibly two) for the ALA. This means that if I don't start getting more support from the PVAS membership the Delta Tale will be shrinking in size. I have been able to keep it at at least 20 pages since I took over, but I don't know how much longer I can keep it up the way things have been going lately. So it's up to all of you- pitch in and help or put up with a lower quality magazine. I didn't want to have to write this, I've put it off for several months, but that's the way it is.

Now to a more pleasant topic- the Spring Show is getting closer and closer. Are you getting your fish ready yet? It's not too early to start geting your best fish into show condition. Start feeding more live foods, making more water changes. Do you have enough drum bowls? Also start putting some size on those fry so they will bring a better price at the auction.

Apparently you don't have to be a competent fish keeper to become the president of a tropical fish club. Without mentioning names I'll say that I know of a club president that bought, not one, but two batches of flying foxes. It seems that he killed the first bag full by letting all of the air out of the bag and then leaving it setting in his tank all night. Surprise! Surprise! next morning all of them were dead (by the way this was the same night he didn't show up for a club meeting and his vice president and editor had to take over everything and save the day). He then proceded to buy another bag full of victims and killed these with some strange disease that was festering in his tanks. He claimed that the disease was brought in by the new fish but neglected the fact that the dealer hadn't lost a single fish in the tank in question in weeks and all of the flying foxes remaining were perfectly healthy (and still are from what I hear). Everytime someone loses a newly purchased fish the first thing he does is to blame the dealer. It seems strange to me how fish can be in perfect condition in the dealers tank for weeks then suddenly catch a fatal disease the instant they are caught and put into a plastic bag. If the president were the least bit intelligent he would have known that when new fish are added to a tank they are very susceptible to any disease organism present in the water due to the stress of being moved. This is why you should isolate new fishes for a time, allowing them to get used to your water

APRIL HAPPENINGS

The Program: Aquatic Plants: Proper Lighting/Plants Anyone Can Grow
Fresh off the lecture circuit in North Carolina, Gerry Hoffman will present slides and narrative on growing something other than fish in your tanks.

The Mini- Auction: The last one until after the Show and Giant Auction
The next one, will be in June

The Raffle: Lots of new items have been received directly from the
Manufacturers. A list of them will be made public in next
month's Delta Tale.

*** 25th Anniversary Souvenir Coffee Mugs have been ordered and should
be ready by the May meeting. Don't forget to get yours.

From the editors desk, cont.

and recover from the stress of being netted and moved. I very rarely isolate new fish and once lost a tankful of fairly rare fish when some newly introduced halfbeaks came down with ich several days later. I'll admit that I'm often careless and neglect to quarantine new fish, but at least when I do have a problem because of it I know why and don't go yelling at the person who sold me the fish.

The HAP program is still struggling to get off of the ground. See the HAP report elsewhere in this issue. If your excuse is that you don't have a report form there's a copy of the new one also in this issue.

That's it, until next month...



Q and A

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Any questions on fish, plants, live foods, or anything else
dealing with aquariums can be sent to Delta Tale c/o
John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave., Vienna, VA 22180.

THE BIG ONE OR THE LITTLE ONE?
(Observations of Julidochromis by a Novice African Keeper)

Gerry Hoffman, PVAS

Having been in the aquarium hobby for over ten years, I have had the satisfaction of keeping and breeding a wide variety of fish that usually are sexually distinguishable by their body characteristics of behavior. My favorites have been the smaller fish and especially the dwarf cichlids, and the mbuna of Africa aren't usually kept in my tanks. The Julies fit in with fish in my size range and are behaviorally interesting enough to have a place reserved for them.

Two of the smaller sized Julies are J. ornatus and J. dickfeldi, and a pair of each species was given its own 20 gallon long aquarium equipped with a dolomite substrate and several broken clay flower pots and slate rocks. With normal feeding of flake and live foods, the pairs began to breed and continued to do so again and again. Being a novice with Africans I appeared to do well with getting the fish to reproduce and I will provide the following observations that I had noted during the past months. But try as I would, one question always came up: which was the male and which was the female, the big one or the little one?

*There was a noticeable size discrepancy in both breeding pairs of fish, but all the fish were full bodied and maintained the same basic shape even after spawning was completed.

*In the pairing off process (several fish living together with two fish emerging as the dominant duo) the larger fish seemed to be more aggressive to the others remaining. Is size and aggressiveness indicative of maleness?

*No color differences or finnage differences were evident. Only there generally seems to be a size factor—one larger than the other.

*Spawning was never witnessed, therefore the female was never observed in the process of depositing eggs. Although the pair bred regularly with spawns of 20 or more each time, there seemed to be little difference in their "tubes". I could not count on a larger ovipositor of the female as an indicator of sex.

*Both fish tended to guard the eggs and alternately take turns doing so. Perhaps the smaller fish remained with the eggs more often and the larger fish guarded the perimeter area. In other cave spawning cichlids, generally it is the female who defends the eggs and the male who defends the surrounding territory.

*Logically speaking, the above observations tend to imply the larger fish is the male and the smaller the female, but until I actually observe them during a breeding session I may never be certain.

*Both fish tend to be good parents, ignoring the fry but yet providing a defense of their home. Subsequent spawns all live together in the same tank, with the previous group being 'kicked out' to another portion of the tank to make way for the new fry. At a certain population density (also dependent on the tank size) fry may disappear before free-swimming or shortly thereafter. Probably the parents eat them as a means of controlling living conditions. Removing the juveniles of previous spawns will insure survival of later spawnings.

*Julies are sensitive to water changes in great amounts. Change less water more often rather than more water less often. After a large water change the fish appear distressed or greatly inactivated.

*How about your ideas on the subject—which is which—the big one or the little one?

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE ?

by Jay Popovits, EVAS

Is anybody there, where has he or she gone? Are they extinct? Are Shedd Aquarium's 4 various dealers tanks the only ones left? Is everyone bare tanked and flower potted? Must be, I sure don't see em anymore. Do you? Who, you ask? Why! the naturalist of course. Remember him, the guy who had the beautifully landscaped and planted tank. Yeah, I know the opening line sounds like it came from a Day After movie, but it's the truth! Is anyone there who still goes in for aquascaping, rather than big bucks breeding. What happend to the thrill of plants and nice looking tanks? Being a one time victim myself, I can see the point of trying to make the hobby pay for itself, but haven't we taken things a bit to far? Has the hobby joined the ranks of the money conscious, hurry up and wait, fast food world. What happened to the aquarium beautiful, most of us had as our first tank? Did our fast paced society put our nice tanks and plants in the un-employment line or what!

I for one don't know. If you do, explain it to me. As stated earlier, I too was a victim, now, however; I am making a comeback. Why should the Shedd have nice tanks, and not me. There are several sources to obtain rocks and driftwood, sometimes you can collect your own. Stores usually carry a variety of aquarium safe rocks at moderate prices and even if they are high priced, don't forget they will last much longer than any species of fish. Rock work, combined with any of the many gravels, or sands, available, can make a very interesting aquascaper. Take the same motiff and add a handful of plants, which this article is about anyway. Many people say that they can't grow plants ,and with a few species it is almost true, but I wonder how much time, if any, these folks spent on reading up on the plants they bought.

Plants are quite similar to fish, they require different elements and circumstances to survive. Few plants will survive in a tank of African cichlids, or in a tank of vegetarian fishes other than cichlids. Now, what do you do, well, if you're making a mbuna biotope, find out about their natural habitat, look at the pictures in books. You will probably not see any plants per say look and read further. You will find that mbuna live near rocks, lots of rocks, big and small. The only plant visible is algae. That's right -- algae is a plant, not a fungus, or disease, or scum. Hear is your big chance to try aquascaping with rocks, even if you don't know how to arrange rocks, that's ok. Just allow the algae to grow a bit before adding your fish and it will soon grow over your mistakes. Sometimes after, you add the fish you might notice scrape marks on the rocks where fish nibble at the algae. Compare it to some photo close-ups, there should be some similarity. All of this should lead to a natural looking habitat. For those of you who like other species of plant eaters, or cichlids

Is anybody out there? cont.

for that matter could aquascape using plastic plants. There are many lifelike specimens on the market.

Now then, let's get down to the real plants, the ones that look so good in the various hools. They look good in your tank for a few days or a week or two, but then they just flake apart and die. What happened, you say? Were they cheapo plants or did you just not take the time to find out the basic requirements of your plants? They're living things and need care and a bit of patience, just like fish, or any other living organism. My guess is that you, no, we are lazy and didn't read up on the plant that is sitting there falling apart, bit by bit. Now what will you do? Let me tell ya what I did. I got a few plant books and some articles from monthly fish magazines. Know what? I found out not all plants in dealers tanks are aquatic plants, they are bog plants, tropical yes, aquatic no! These guys come from swamp-like habitats, where they grow in mud, not underwater, but for the most part, above it, in hot or warm, humid areas. But you say you saw em in a dealers tank and they look good. Sure they look good, that's why he's selling them. Number 1- he probably doesn't know that they are bog plants. Number 2- he will sell them quickly because they are different and some quite pretty and they will be in your home aquarium a month, or so, before they show signs of distress and death. Some of these guys are underwater pines (Lycopodium spp.), water orchid (Spiranthes), Brazilian fern, water rose (Samolus), etc.

Stay away from this group, unless you like to throw money away. On the other hand, should you see something like Cryptocorynes, watersprite, water wisteria, swordplants, Hygrophilia, and water clover growing in water and extending above it into the air, fear not, these plants are amphibious and can grow into the atmosphere and thrive quite well. Those parts of the plant above the water will look much thinner and darker, also harder to the touch, but they are not diseased. This is a built in defense for lack of water surrounding them. All plants have a waxy cuticle covering them. This covering is heavy on land plants, because it gives them upright support and helps to store moisture. Aquatic amphibious plants like those I mentioned, have this cuticle also. There is only a trace of it when the plant is submerged, but when above water it is increased for strength and ability to hold moisture and prevent drying out.

Now then what plants to use. I will mention only a few of the easy and hardy ones available in order to save space and time. For the beginner, or person with limited time to spend with the tanks and plants, I would suggest the following: Amazon swords, Vallisneria, Saggeteria, Crypts., Hygrophilia, Ludwigia, Water sprite, water wisteria, or Ceratophyllum (hornwort). These plants are about the easiest to grow and also propagate. Naturally, you have to give a little to get a little, if you put any plant into an aquarium, just set up an hour ago, it is sure to die. Why, because there are no nutrients for it to feed upon. Don't forget

Is anybody out there? cont.

this is a living thing and needs food. Fortunately today there is a growing field of fertilizers available to us. Some even for a tank just set up an hour ago. I myself, like products like Miracle-grow or Rapid Grow water soluble fertilizers intended for garden use. So far I have had good results and no fatalities with my fish. Whatever fertilizer you use, make sure that you don't over do it, follow the directions. Light is also very important, plants need light. I don't care to go into that here but I do recommend that if you are interested in plants and lighting effects, check out FAMA magazine- past few issues which feature a thorough examination of various fluorescent bulbs and their physical effects on plants, fish and the natural aquarium. These articles explain the spectrum of lights far better than I. (ed. note- use full spectrum bulbs and you can't go wrong, J.M.)

Getting back to the plants I mentioned above and aquascaping, be innovative and experiment, use common sense when planting. Remember short plants in front, medium in the middle, and tall in the back. For the front you could use things like dwarf Saggetaria in crowded groups, sort of like a grassy outcropping, dwarf Crypts could be used also, but a little wider spacing because of stem and leaf size. The same can be said about your arrangement as a whole, from front to back, plants like corkscrew Val. hornwort, Hygrophilia, Ludwigia, can be planted in groups from medium spacing to tightly spaced to form a hedge or forest. This could also be done with crypts, but I like them to be spaced apart a bit and be allowed to grow together on their own. Doing so presents a more natural appearance. On the other hand, I have seen some terrific natural tanks where all the plants were put in tightly planted groups and each group placed very close to the ones next to it. If you want, try adding an Amazon sword plant as a centerpiece, and shorter varieties of plants around it, leaving the front clear, or use rocks for the eye catcher and one or two types of plants to offset the rocks. One point I should mention, when using rocks, just don't plop them down, try burying them a bit, say half way, then sweep the gravel away from the front and top. You might also slope your gravel, having it one inch thick in the front and up to three or four inches in the back. This will give greater depth to your aquascape and if you use rocks, it will enhance their appearance. Another point to mention is not to use river rock large or small, with say sedimentary or slab type rocks, the two just don't mix. Don't use volcanic or tufa types with anything other than volcanic or tufa type rocks, again they just don't mix as don't light color rocks and dark ones. The end result looks cheap and unnatural. Another point to mention is placement of rocks, don't put some vertically, others horizontal, unless you are able to make it look natural, such as if a horizontal rock broke in two and parts of it fell straight down as in a landslide.

Is anybody out there? cont.

Now that you are probably, totally confused as to what looks natural or phony, check out mother nature, one of the worlds leading landscapers. You can do it by reading various geographical books or magazines, or snapshots from a vacation or visit the great outdoors.

Last, but not least, a tropical fish book or magazine. Whatever you decide to do, do it! Just don't sit on your duff and think about it, do IT! Should you happen to goof things up, just start over or get the family involved, who knows, one might get bitted by the tropical fish bug and start a tank of their own. If for no other reason, try a natural tank and enter it in your next show, who knows, you just might win! !...

Reprinted from The Valley Stream, Edgewood Valley Aquarist Society.

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 20th of the month prior to publication.

For Sale- Aquarium- Breeder 40gal. (36" x 18"), power one filter, Perfecto 36" flo. strip light, Jager heater. \$85.

4 Lamprologus congolensis (1½"), \$30.

Call Chris Bergesen 229-6043, Bethesda.

Andy Hill is still looking for Apistos. See the last two issues for a list, etc.

Want- female Skiffia francesae, Allotoca dugesi, Zoogoneticus quitzeoensis. John Mangan, address above.



DOTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

25th ANNUAL SPRING SHOW & AUCTION 17 - 19 May 1985 John C. Wood Facility Rt. 237 Fairfax City, VA

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, May 17:

6 PM to 9 PM - Registration

SATURDAY, May 18

9 AM to Noon - Registration

1 PM to 5 PM - Judging (Only judges and designated show committee personnel will be allowed to remain in the Show Area.)

1 PM - Slide Presentation by Gene Aldridge, Slide Chairman, American Cichlid Association. Open to the public.

5:30 PM to 8 PM - Public View of Show Entries

SUNDAY, May 19:

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

9 AM to 12:30 PM - Registration for the Auction

12:30 PM - Presentation of Awards

1 PM - Auction (The auction will continue with suitable breaks until all items are sold.)

There is no admission charge for the public viewing, the slide presentation, or the auction.

RAFFLES - RAFFLES - RAFFLES

Aquarium-related items will be raffled off at intervals during the auction. You must be present to win these prizes. As a Grand Finale, a 55-gallon tank set-up will be raffled off at the end of the auction. You need not be present to win this prize.

Tickets for both raffles may be purchased at any time during the show and auction at the concession stand.

Soft drinks, snacks, and souvenirs will be on sale.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

(All classes, except Dealer' Tanks, are open to public competition.)

- I. Livebearers
 - a. Delta Tale Guppies, Male
 - b. Delta Tale Guppies, Female
 - c. Guppies, All Other
 - d. Mollies
 - e. Swordtails
 - f. Goodieds
 - 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 & Anabantoids
 - f. Sharks and Loaches
 - g. Tetras
 - h. Barbs
 - i. Goldfish & 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 (4" to 7" Mature)
 - c. New World Dwarf (Under 4" Mature)
- III. Cichlids(Continued)
 - d. Angelfish
 - e. Rift Lake, Malawi
 - f. Rift Lake, All Other
 - 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's 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 the completion of the Awards Ceremony on Sunday. All entries must be picked up by 6 PM, Sunday, 19 May, or they will be disposed of at the discretion of the Show Chairman. All entries must be accompanied by an entry form. For your convenience, an entry form is attached to this flyer. There will be qualified hobbyists at the registration desk to assist you in classifying your entries.

PVAS can assume no liability for any of the entries, but at least one qualified hobbyist will be on duty at all times during the show to assure the safety and well being of the fish and to prevent theft or other damage.

AWARDS

Trophies will be awarded for Best in Show (Classes I through V); Reserve in Show (Classes I through V); Best in Class (Classes I through VII, IX & X); and for First Place in each sub-category of each class. Ribbons for Second and Third Place in each sub-category of each class. Dealer's Rotating Trophy for Class VIII.

INFORMATION

For additional information, please call Dr. John E. Jessup, Show Chairman, (703) 534-1704 weekdays between 6 PM & 9 PM and weekends between noon and 4 PM.

SHOW RULES

For Classes I through VI

Tanks, Other Containers and Stands: All tanks, drum bowls, and stands must be furnished by the entrant. All containers must have at least two clear, flat sides. Tanks in excess of 5 1/2 gallons must be accompanied by a stand. An air pump, filtration, light and extension cord should be brought for each tank larger than 5 1/2 gallons as they may have to be placed at some distance from the PVAS-supplied air source.

Decorations and Lighting: No decorations of any kind, including back or bottom painting, or gravel will be allowed in Classes I through V. Only tanks on stands may be provided with entrant-furnished lighting. No plants may be added to any Class I through V entry.

Air, Heaters, and Filtration: The PVAS air system will furnish a constant supply of air for all drum bowls and small tanks. Entrants will furnish their own airline and air stones. (A supply of airline and air stones will be on sale at the concession stand.) Box filters or outside filters will be allowed in all classes at the entrant's discretion. In Class IV, undergravel filtration may be used, but the tank must otherwise be bare. Heaters are allowed in all classes.

Class V (Family of Fish): An acceptable entry consists of a breeding pair of adult fish and their fry. The fish may be displayed in a single container, a divided container, or separate containers.

Class VI (Plants): An acceptable entry consists of a single species of any recognized aquatic plant displayed in a single container or several individual species may be displayed as separate entries in a compartmented container. A rooted plant may be displayed in a pot or floating. No gravel or other planting medium is allowed on the bottom of the container. No fish or other fauna may be added to a Class VI entry.

Classes VII & VIII (Set Tanks): Entries may represent either fresh or marine environments and may be stocked and decorated as desired. These tanks will be judged on the overall appearance of the contents. The external appearance of the tank will not be judged. All equipment will be supplied by the entrant. (It is suggested that time be allocated to finish setting up the entry no later than noontime, Saturday.)

Classes IX & X (Photography & Art): Entries will be accepted by mail provided the entry is mailed to PVAS, PO Box 6219, Shirlington Station, Arlington, VA 22206, to arrive no later than noon Friday, 17 May. The entry fee must be enclosed. Entries will be returned only if a stamped, self-addressed container is enclosed. Art entries must consist of a non-photographic representation of fresh or marine fishes or their associated environments. Judging of photography will be based primarily on composition and technique. Art entries will be judged on, originality, design, and overall artistic merit. Entries in Classes IX & X are expected to be the work of the entrant. If desired, entries may be titled but may not display the name of the entrant.

Judging: All entries will be judged equally by established standards. If an unbreakable tie occurs, duplicate awards will be made. In all cases, the decision of the judges will be final.

SHOW ENTRY FEES

Single Fish - \$1.50 (A female may be added but will not be judged.)
Pairs & 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

PVAS AUCTION - SUNDAY, 19 MAY 1985

RULES FOR THE SELLER:

1. You do not have to be a member of the PVAS to buy or sell hobby-related items, including fish, plants, equipment, etc., in the auction.
2. Registration of items for the auction will begin at 9 AM and will end promptly at 12:30 PM on Sunday, 19 May.
3. The auction will begin immediately following the awards ceremony.
4. All items must be labeled with the identity of the contents to include: number, sex(if possible), and other pertinent data. Use a permanent marking pen or adhesive label. Labeling equipment will be available at the auction, but labeling must be accomplished before the items will be registered.
 - a. Fish: "Pair" means one of each sex. "Mated Pair" means a pair that have spawned WITH EACH OTHER. "Trio" means one male and two females. "Reverse Trio" means two males and one female. "Mixed Sexes" means at least one specimen of each sex. If uncertain, the bag should be marked "Unsexed."
 - b. Supplies: All aquarium equipment must be labeled as to working condition. (i.e. It must be stated if a tank leaks or a piece of equipment is broken.)
5. Proper fish bags must used. Live items must be bagged with ample air and water. Fish packed in "Baggies" or similar bags will not be registered. If a fish is registered in a tank or bowl, the container will be considered part of the item and auctioned as a unit. There will be a selection of fish bags for sale at the registration desk. After registration, the Auction Committee reserves the right to re-bag any live item as is necessary.
6. Registration is limited to fifteen (15) items per person. **There will be no exceptions.**
7. A limit of five (5) bags per species or color form/variety is allowed unless prior approval is given by the Auction Chairman.
8. For every five (5) items entered in the auction, one (1) colored sticker will be given to the seller to attach to the item of his choice. These items will be sold first at the auction.
9. Bags of fish will be offered "as is" and will be sold as an item. Once registered, the contents of the bag may not be split.
10. Each item carries a \$1.00 minimum, unless the seller assigns a higher minimum. The seller may lower the minimum on an item that does not sell during the auction.
11. No payment will be made to the seller on the day of the auction. Payment will be forwarded by mail within ten (10) days after the auction date. It is the seller's responsibility to give PVAS a proper name and address to receive payment. Envelopes for this purpose will be filled out at registration.
12. The seller receives 2/3 of the selling price. PVAS retains 1/3.
13. All items not sold must be claimed at the end of the auction or they will be disposed of at the Auction Chairman's discretion.
14. The auctioneer retains the right to set aside any improperly bagged or marked item, or any sick or otherwise unsaleable item.

15. Fish species that are restricted by either federal or state statute will not be accepted. These include, but are not limited to : Piranhas, Texas Cichlids, and Walking Catfish.

RULES FOR THE BUYER

1. All persons wishing to participate will be required to sign in with their full name and address. Bidding numbers will be assigned to all buyers.
2. Items may be inspected before the auction and during the intermissions only.
3. All bidding raises will be in fifty (50) cent increments up to \$5.00. At that point, \$1.00 bidding raises will be used. The auctioneer has the right to alter this procedure at his discretion.
4. Successful bidders will have their items brought to them, at which time payment is expected. If a bidder desires to "run a tab" or to pay by check, please see the Treasurer before the auction. Proper identification will be required for all payment by check or run a tab.
5. In all instances the decision of the auctioneer is final.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE SHOW ENTRY FORM

This form may be used if you intend to enter fish in the show competition. Fill in the necessary data at the top of the form. This will facilitate registration, insure prompt notification of future events and insure the safeguarding of your entries.

In the CLASS column list the Competition Category in which the particular entry should be placed. A Swordtail, for instance, would be placed in Category "Ie". Do not write in the BOWL NUMBER column. This is for use of the registrar in assigning a specific number to your entry. You may tally up your total cost by entering the fee for each entry in the ENTRY FEE column. You may leave this column blank and the registrar will determine your entry costs. If you wish to have the entry entered in the auction after the completion of the the show competition write the word "Yes" in the AUCTION column.

If you have any questions, the registrar will be happy to assist you.

LIST OF JUDGES

The following individuals have tentatively accepted invitations to judge this competition:

Mike Sheridan - North New Jersey Aquarium Society
Ed Taylor - Tidewater Aquarium Society
Kathy Taylor - Tidewater Aquarium Society
Dave Herlong - Raleigh Aquarium Society
Dave Shaw - Aquaria International

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society was founded in 1960. It is a non-profit organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The sole purpose of the PVAS is the pleasure of hobby and the recreation that comes from association with fellow hobbyists. PVAS would like to invite you to join as a member and participate in the numerous programs and activities associated with the society. Please fill out the form below and hand it to one of the members at the registration desk or mail it to the PVAS at the address shown on the front of this flyer. You will be contacted.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DATE _____ 19__

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (HOME) _____ (OFFICE) _____

Occupation _____ Number of Tanks? _____ Time in Hobby _____

What PVAS do for you? _____

What do you want to do in PVAS? _____

What part of the hobby interests you _____

Have you ever belonged to another fish club? _____

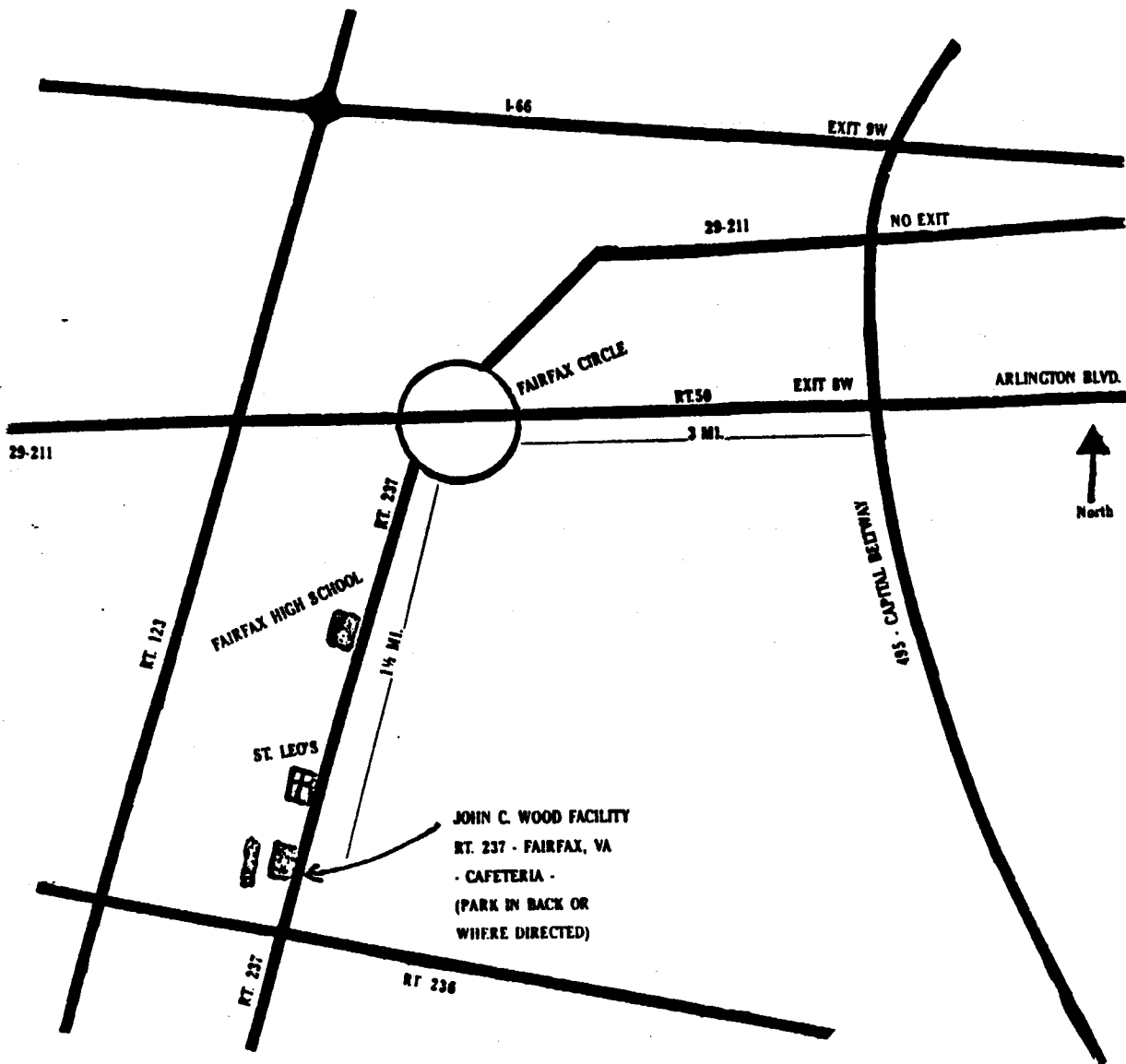
If yes, which one? _____

Did it have a Breeder's Award Program? _____ Did you participate? _____

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

Family	\$12.00	Corresponding	\$7.00
Individual	\$10.00	Junior (under 18)	\$5.00

ROUTE MAP TO THE FISH SHOW



JOHN C. WOOD FACILITY
RT. 237 - FAIRFAX, VA
- CAFETERIA -
(PARK IN BACK OR
WHERE DIRECTED)

The family Cyprinidae is one of the largest among freshwater fishes. There are four sub-families which include the carps, barbs, loaches, and gobies, with the danios and rasboras also represented. Because even a very basic article concerning the care, breeding, and general maintenance of such a wide assortment of fishes would fill a small volume, we will devote our attention in this space to the fundamental care of barbs, particularly the tropical and sub-tropical species of Asia and Africa, since they are quite popular, inexpensive, and easily obtainable.

Although barbs, in groups of six or more, will generally do well in a community aquarium, they are most comfortable and their behavior best observed in tanks that are specifically oriented to their natural biotype. They are a schooling fish and movement is constant. Their tank should be long, low, and heavily planted along the back and sides. The center of the aquarium should remain fairly free of obstructions in order to minimally disturb the movements of the school. Overhead lighting is preferred, and the addition of some natural sunlight striking the tank from the side seems to enhance the appearance of the barbs. Water temperature should be relatively warm (approx. 75 degrees F). It should be noted that at higher temperatures, water becomes rather insufficient in its content of dissolved oxygen, so the addition of an airstone or other aerating device is recommended. Water quality cannot be overemphasized. Barbs seem to have a low tolerance for polluted environments and will quickly make that fact known to the hobbyist. A generous weekly water change will help keep them in prime condition. The barbs are omnivorous, so in addition to high quality prepared and frozen foods, some plant material should be included in their diet. An inexpensive method of providing this nutritional requirement is simply to anchor a leaf of Romaine lettuce to the bottom. Romaine lettuce decays slowly and will not cause harm to the water if left in the tank for several hours.

Breeding barbs is not especially difficult. They often will spawn when ready, even in a community situation, but since they are notorious egg eaters, fry are seldom seen. It seems best to separate your breeders for a week or so prior to introducing the pairs. Females are generally a bit larger, less colorful, and fuller in the abdomen, than males. The breeding tank for average size barbs should be at least ten gallon capacity and contain aged water. Thickly plant one end of the aquarium and raise the temperature to approximately 82 degrees F. The use of a sponge filter is advised. The conditioned breeders can be placed in the tank in pairs or small groups. Spawning is vigorous and violent. Courting behavior is followed by a mad dash into the plant thickets where eggs are released and fertilized. After several hours, the breeding pairs can be removed. Eggs hatch within 48 hrs. and the fry will appear as tiny splinters clinging to the plants and glass. First feeding is not necessary until a day after the yolk sacs are absorbed, normally three to five days, depending on temperature. At this time the fry are large enough to accept newly hatched brine shrimp or finely ground prepared foods. Growth is fairly rapid and the young fish should reach saleable size

Cyprinidae, cont.

within ninety days if given room to grow. Some of the more popular and easily bred barbs are listed as follows: Tiger barb, Rosy barb, Cherry barb, Checkerboard barb, and Black-Ruby barb.

Reprinted from Neptunes Notes, Western New York Aquarium Society.

BETTA PICTA

Gerry Hoffman, PVAS

Not all Betta species are bubble-nest builders, nor are all Bettas beautiful. Have you heard about the mouthbrooding, colorless, terribly shy and non-stop spawning Betta that is available now? Better yet would you like some? Please?

Introducing Betta picta, a different sort of Anabantoid that doesn't have any of the wonderful characteristics of its cousin, Betta splendens. Body color is basically a mud brown, with some red/blue in the anal fins of the male which can be seen with strong lighting, as with a flashlight. Its size approaches that of B. splendens, and it can be kept in a smaller aquarium easily. But be sure to leave the top off so it can jump out. With any plants in the tank it will be extremely difficult to find the fish because they forever will be hiding. They are not very social or aggressive. They are just there.

Their one interesting feature is that the fish is classified as a paternal mouthbrooder. That is, the male incubates the developing eggs in his mouth. For almost three weeks the eggs grow and so does the size of his buccal cavity. It is obvious when the pair has spawned, the female is thinner, the male has "fat cheeks" and refuses to eat.

When the fry are released they are about the size of newborn guppies and grow rapidly if well fed. I isolated the male in a gallon jug placed in the 5 gallon tank which housed the female. Several free floating bunches of Java Fern provided cover for the fry which are not bothered by the male once released.

If you have fed the female at all while the male looks like he is juggling marbles in his mouth, she is more than eager to spawn again immediately. If allowed to do so, the poor male hardly has time to eat sufficiently to regain his strength. And besides, the last thing you want is more of these fish.

Frequently, short articles like this praise the virtues of spawning such and such a fish. I hope you can infer from the above that I wouldn't recommend this fish to many people. It would be of interest to hobbyists who maintain unusual Betta species, but considering its reproductive ability one would soon be swamped with fry. If you like drab, secretive fish you may be interested in Betta picta. I'm not overly impressed, so you can have mine if you wish.

ANOTHER VIEW OF PLASTIC BAGS

by James K. Langhammer, GDAS

Red Nichols view "Plastic Bags Friend or Foe", has been around for many years now and has been reprinted over and over, as it was in the Nov. 1984 Tropic Tank Talk (ed. note- and in the May 1984 Delta Tale). Rarely do Mike Barkley and I admit to agreeing on something, but in this case we do agree on the "absurdity" of this article as it was written.

The Nichols theory won't hold up under any reasonable test. The bags used today for selling fish simply do not exchange gases as if they were a semi-permeable membrane in a classroom osmosis experiment. A plastic bag is heavier than air; if an inflated bag were permeable to gases it would collapse of its own weight. If it were selectively permeable to oxygen only, it would collapse partially since oxygen makes up about 20% of our atmosphere. If it were permeable to oxygen at all, a bag filled with pure oxygen would collapse completely under its own weight- It will not! Try it!

There are many different plastics and bags are made of different thicknesses of plastic. Perhaps that is how this erroneous story about retail fish bags started in the first place. In Aquaculture Magazine (Nov. Dec. 1980), Mr. Mayo Martin reports in "Plastic Bag Hauling of Small Live Fish" that today 3 mil polyethelene bags which are inflated with compressed air are widely used . He recomends using heavy-duty 4 mil bags doubled to transport large spiny finned fish. He mentions that one mil polyethelene bags are indeed semi-permeable and allow the passage of gases, but not water. However, the one mil bag must be supported to prevent its collapse as the air is forced out under the bags own weight. These bags have apparently lost favor because of the additional expense and weight needed to support them in transit.

Therefore don't hesitate to float your fish temporarily in acclimating them to your tank. Normally no more than 15 to 30 minutes should be required. Remember the fish can be suffocated if left too long in any bag whether floated or not. The number and size of the fish therein, the temperature, and the ratio of the contained water and air inside the bag all affect the fishes well being.

If you decide to test Nichols theory yourself, be sure that the water you float the bags in is exactly the same temperature as the air surrounding the control bags. Even a few degrees of difference would shorten a fishes life expectancy by increasing its oxygen consumption and carbon dioxide production. It is true that suffocation is probably most often the result of excess carbon dioxide in the environment rather than insufficient oxygen.

reprinted from Tropic Tank Talk, Greater DEtroit Aquarium Society

THE HORTICULTURAL AWARDS PROGRAM

The Horticultural Awards Program has been functioning since 1984. The need for participants is obvious, since you can't have much of an award program without competition, and John Mangan and myself myself are the only competitors. Also, the main purpose of the program is to perpetuate our plants so that they can be enjoyed and disseminated to fellow HAPers and club members.

There is considerable interest in having live plants in aquariums as can be seen by the auction prices paid routinely at our auction. Now, that means either we're not interested in a HAP program or we are plant mass murderers. Now, we all know that we want a HAP program, so the latter must be the case. In this case see me at the meeting for some in depth analysis of the problem.

We are now trying to get FAAS recognition for our successes in plant husbandry, and as such have decided to use their form to save on paper work. The new form is basically the same as ours, therefore, when you fill in a form make three copies (these can be xerox copies) and give two copies to me and keep one for your records. I will in turn send off one of those copies to the FAAS HAP chairman to get FAAS recognition. The new form can be obtained from me or from this months Delta Tale.

Now to another topic; our upcoming show; there is a much neglected category called plants (surprise! surprise!). So bring in some of those giant amazons I keep hearing about and get a few awards for your best plant.

HAP STANDINGS

John Mangan 130 points *
Alex Cummins 75 points*

p.s. Neither one of us were ashamed to list duckweed as one of our bred plants (although perhaps we should be). So again, participate !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Alex Cummins, HAP Chairman

FAAS HORTICULTURALIST AWARD PROGRAM REPORT FORM!

OFFICE USE - Society # _____ . Member # _____ .

PARTICIPANTS NAME: _____

SOCIETY NAME: _____

PLANT NAME - Scientific _____
- Common _____ (Code if not known)

- Ref. Source _____ Page _____

TYPE OF REPRODUCTION (circle one) - Cutting, runners, seeds,
doubling, sexual, root division, other (specify) _____

FILTRATION TYPE _____ DURATION _____

NOURISHMENTS OF PLANTS Fish wastes _____ Artificial _____

BOTTOM MEDIUM - Sand - Gravel: Grade _____ Color _____ Epoxyed _____
- Peat, Plant plug, Potted soil, Other _____
- Depth _____

LIGHT SOURCE - Natural _____
- Fluorescent (circle one) Gro-lux, Warm white,
Cool white, Vita-lite, Sea-lux.
- Manufacturer type. _____
GE., Westinghouse, etc.
- Incandescent - Regular house bulb _____ Aquarium
shaped bulb _____ . Colored _____ . Other _____ .
Duration _____ . Wattage _____ . Number of
bulbs per aquarium _____ .

TANK SIZE - Gallons _____ . L _____ H _____ W _____ .

TEMPERATURE - HI _____ . LOW _____ . WATER - pH _____ DH _____ .

NO. WATER CHANGES PER MONTH _____ . % OF WATER CHANGED _____ % .

REPLACEMENT WATER - Aged, Tap, Rainwater, Other _____ .

DO YOU ADD SALT FOR YOUR FISH? _____ . Amount per gallon _____ .

FISH TYPES PRESENT: _____

WERE SNAILS PRESENT? _____ Types _____ .No. _____ .

WAS THERE ALGAE PRESENT? _____ . Color _____ .

OTHER PLANTS IN THE AQUARIUM: _____

COMMENTS

PROBLEMS

DO YOU HAVE A FISH ISOLATION TANK? _____ . PLANT ISOLATION TANK? _____

DO YOU TREAT YOUR FISH WITH MEDICANTS WITH THE PLANTS IN THE TANK?

_____ . IFSO, WITH WHAT MEDICANTS? _____ .

ANY PROBLEMS? _____ .

CLASS ASSIGNED _____ . POINTS AWARDED _____ .

BOWL SHOW REPORT FOR

March

CICHLIDS

New World Dwarf

1st Apisto. cacatoides, J. Long
 2nd Apisto. steindachneri, A. Hill
 3rd Apisto. kleei, D. Mann

Reftlake, Non-Mbuna

1st
 2nd
 3rd

Open

1st Firemouth, J. Lamberth
 2nd
 3rd

Judges- John Mangan, John Jessup
 Judges Choice- Bumblebee Cat, Bob Pallansch

EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

Killifish

1st Aph. australe, A. Hill
 2nd Blue gularis, J. Long
 3rd Aph. boemi, D. Mann

Catfish, Non-Eorydoras

1st Bumblebee cat, B. Pallansch
 2nd Otocinclus flexilis, J. Metzger
 3rd C. callichthys, J. Metzger

Open

1st Guppy, J. Lamberth
 2nd male Betta, J. Lamberth
 3rd female Betta, David Sun

	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>QUARTER</u>	<u>ANNUAL</u>		<u>MONTH</u>	<u>QUARTER</u>	<u>ANNUAL</u>
A. Stirman	0	16	16	N. Manwaring	0	16	16
D. Sun	0	10	10	J. Metzger	9	23	23
J. Lamberth	7	13	13	G. Hoffman	0	9	9
J. Long	6	6	6	B. Roser	2	12	12
A. Hill	4	4	4	J. Lamberth	11	25	25
D. Mann	2	2	2	B. Pallansch	6	10	10
J. Kookan	2	2	2	A. Stirman	3	3	3
				D. Sun	2	3	3
				J. Kookan	1	2	2
				A. Hill	6	6	6
				J. Long	4	4	4
				D. Mann	5	5	5

April Categories

Cichlids

Angelfish and Discus
 Non-riftlake African
 Open

Egglayer/Livebearer

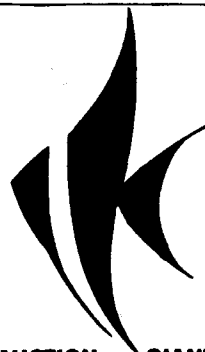
Livebearer, non-guppy
 Sharks and Loaches
 Open

AMERICAN CICHLID ASSOCIATION 1985 CONVENTION

Your Hosts: The Atlantic Coast Cichlid Association

When: July 26 thru 28, 1985

Where: Mount Laurel Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, New Jersey



★ FISH SHOW COMPETITION ★ SPEAKERS ★ BANQUET ★ AUCTION ★ GIANT RAFFLE ★

★ **FISH SHOW** The Convention Fish Show will have awards for all winners. It also kicks off the 1985-86 ACA Show Championship Award Program. Points garnered at the Convention Show can be added to those won at other ACA Sanctioned Shows throughout the year. The current championship trophy for 1984-85 will be awarded at the banquet.

★ **SPEAKERS** This year's convention speakers will include: Germany's Jochem Paulo and Walter Dieckhoff, and our own Dr. Paul Loiselle, and Ross Socoloff. This is your chance to hear it from the professionals.

★ **BREEDER'S PANEL** A panel of renowned aquarists composed of Rosario LaCorte, Ginny Eckstein, John Williams and Delores and Dewey Schehr will express their opinions, discuss their own breeding experiences and answer your questions on the breeding of Cichlids.

★ **AUCTION** The annual ACA Convention Auction is second to none. Species never found in your local Fish Stores will be available at reasonable prices. This is your chance to get that fish you have only seen in Cichlid Books.

The Hilton Hotel is offering a special convention rate \$45 per night, single or double. When you write or call for reservations, be sure the hotel knows you're with the ACA convention.

Detailed Information is being sent to all ACA members.

For additional information, or if you are not a member, write or call:
Ginny Eckstein, 528 Chester Road, Sayville, Long Island, NY 11782 - (516) 567-5555

BREEDER'S AWARD PROGRAM

Garland Neese	1,040	++++
Gerry Hoffman	895	++++
Pat and Maggi Mahoney	735	++++
Darrell Holman	640	++++
John Jessup	585	+++++
Ruth Brewer	305	+++
Roser Family	170	++
Wagner Family	165	++
Frank Angilletta	140	+
Alex Cummins	125	+
Nathan Manwaring	100	+
Kenny Warren	90	+
Amy Stirman	50	+
Pat Gore	10	
Ray Krause	10	

Recent Spawnings:

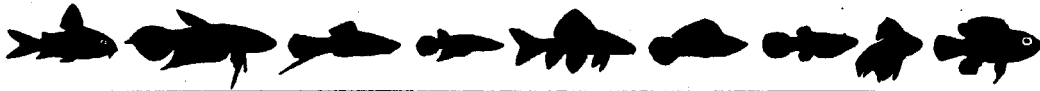
Gerry Hoffman - *Glossolepis incicus*
Poecilia reticulatus
Betta picta
Julidochromis ornatus
Julidochromis dickfeldi

Nathan Manwaring - *Corydoras paleatus*

BAP Checkers:

Alex Cummins - 656-6355
Ray Hughes - 424-3531
Pat Gore - 522-3884
Jerry Stirman--941-6729
Frank Angilletta - 670-8980
Kenny Warren - 378-8838
Jim Long - 280-1753

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY, inc.



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DATE _____ 19__

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE CONTACTS H _____ B _____

Number of tanks _____ Time in hobby _____

Fish you have spawned _____

What can this club do for you _____

What do you want to do for the club _____

Which sub-groups of fish interest you _____

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

Occupation _____

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

Family	\$12.00	Corresponding	\$7.00
Individual	\$10.00	Junior (under 18)	\$5.00

Please send application and check for dues to address above.

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



Robert w. Britton
1823 Dudley st.
Philadelphia, PA 19145

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Meets on the Following Dates in 1985

Jan. 14	May 13	Sept. 9
Feb. 11	June 10	Oct. 14
March 11	July 8	Nov. 11
April 8	Aug. 12	Dec. 9

Meetings are held at the John C. Wood Facility, Rt. 237 (Old Lee Hwy.)
Fairfax City. Everyone is welcome.

Meetings start at 8:00 a.m.
Doors open at 7:30