

* DELTA TALE *

July 1985
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potomac valley aquarium society



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

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From The President

School is out; summer is in. Be prepared to give your fish the extra care that the warmer months can bring with them. If your tanks are crowded, beware of disasters due to excessive heat. Provide extra aeration or surface motion if necessary. Keep the water clean through necessary water changes. Try spawning those fish that require temperatures in the mid-80's for breeding. This time of year may not require a heater to accomplish this goal. Try it and see.

This month's message will also be in the form of the Q&A column. Right after the super successful Show and Auction, I received the following letter from someone who was a PVAS member 8 years ago, left the area for overseas duty, and recently returned. His letter expresses what people all over the country have been asking. I feel compelled to answer his questions as best I can. Remember that 8 years ago nobody was plagued with these darn Goodieds as we are today. First the letter.

Dear President Gerry,

Having dropped out of PVAS for a number of years I am not up to date on the latest developments in the hobby, and have a few questions. I have only read the most recent issue of PVAS, so I do not know if you have already answered these questions.

Could you tell me:

What is this dreaded new disease goodied that you complain about?

Can it be prevented?

How do you pronounce it? Is there a common name for it?

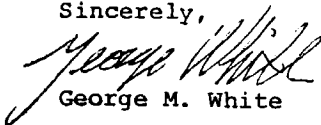
What are the symptoms?

Is it species specific like discus "hole-in-the-head" disease, or is it a general threat like ich?

How do you cure it?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am sure that other new PVAS members will also appreciate your information so they can avoid unpleasant experiences in their tanks.

Sincerely,



George M. White

Now the answers:

The disease occurs once your fish have been exposed to fish of the Family Goodeidae, the water that they have been kept in, drum bowls that once displayed them for bowl shows, or even the presence of a hobbyist who keeps these fish. It is highly communicable and attacks when you have been thinking of putting a Goodeid in one of your tanks. Prevention requires pleading poverty when the pet shop owner tries to sell you this fish, swearing that you only keep egg layers, or that its grey and black colors are too dull for your fluorescent pink gravel.

Pronunciation varies from Good-ee- add, to Good-day-id, to the all too popular Good-as-dead. The common name of the infectious process is Goodeidichosis. Osis at the end implies a state of disease. Even Sterba says of these fish, and this is quoted from The Aquarium Encyclopedia, page 283, "The species of the Family are not commonly found anywhere and have no economic importance. In the aquarium hobby they are only of interest to the specialist." I know of only one specialist who has a whole basement of these things.

It is a specific disease which attacks show specimen fish, fish that have been in your tanks for at least two years, or expensive, hard to keep species. It generally ignores common variety tank fish such as feeder guppies or zebra danios. Symptoms mimic other well known tropical fish diseases and can be easily confused with possible errors in tank management or neglect.

The cure for Goodeids is simply not to ever consider these fish for any reason whatsoever as tankmates for your community aquarium. Isolation in a tank by itself is the only way of preventing a contamination. Another method might be to lower the Breeder's Award Points for these fish from 10 points to 0.75 point so that nobody would waste the time on spawning them for points. Also the fractional computation of many spawns would totally confuse both the breeder and the BAP Chairman.

I hope that the above information will benefit both George and anyone considering obtaining these unusual fish.



FOR JULY

Program: Spawning the Fish from Australia

Slides and breeding tips on keeping and breeding the currently popular rainbows, gobies, and other species that are available from Australia. Be there!

Mini-Auction: Back on the agenda again in July. 3 item limit/ person

Raffle: Plenty of terrific prizes to take home each month.

Mugs: Did you purchase your 25th Anniversary Mug yet? They are wonderful with coffee, decorative, and only \$5 while they last.

August: Speaker: Joachim Paulo of Germany. If all has been arranged, the feature speaker from the ACA convention will be available for speaking at our club.

Picnic: Details will be provided in the Delta Tale next month.

PVAS will provide the food and drink this year once again.

A wonderful time for the whole family, kids too, to meet people and spend the afternoon telling those tall fish tales.

Editorial

I am pleased to announce the winners of the first annual Delta Tale Vacation Giweaway. The lucky winners are Gerry Hoffman, George White, And Bob Roser. These three PVAS members will receive a free overseas airline ticket and an all expense paid tour of beautiful downtown Beirut. As an added bonus I am trying to make arrangements for Dr. Sterba to accompany you. Congragulations and send us all a postcard if you can.

Now that I've gotten them... I mean that, out of the way I can get on with business.

The ACA convention is coming up real soon. See elsewhere in this issue for details. There should be a number of PVAS members going. If you want to carpool up with someone come to the July meeting and you can probably find someone who will be interested.

The ALA convention will be held in August this year. I know Gerry is eagerly waiting for details on this. Sorry Gerry I'll have to keep you in suspense. Complete details will be in next months issue, you'll have to wait until then.

Thanks to Rick Bell for a very interesting program last month. We have what should be a good one for you this month too. Several PVAS aquarists and Gerry will be showing slides and discussing some of the newer fishes that have been coming in from Australia recently.

Last, but not least- Thanks to Pete Thrift for volunteering to help out with some of the Delta Tale typing. I've needed someone to give me a hand with this for quite some tome. Thanks to Pete next months issue should be back up to full size. I still have enough of a backlog though to keep several people busy (hint hint). and I can certainly use a lot more original articles.

That's it until next month....



After Jerry Goffman's glowing report on the wonders and joys of this "beautiful" fish, I wondered how I would expand on it. I looked in several libraries and all of my fish books and found nothing. It seems this fish is largely ignored (and if our press has his way, it will sink further into oblivion).

I finally found a reference to *betta pictum* in a volume in the Fairfax County Library. It is identified as the Javan Mouth-brooding Fighting Fish, although this fish does not seem inclined to fight anybody. Unlike the well known *betta splendens* it is found in high mountain streams of Singapore, Sumatra, and Java, and as such is more resistant to low temperatures close to 20° C.

The *betta picta* is a mud colored anabantoid. Its fins are much shorter than *betta splendens* and the female's fins are usually even shorter than the male's. Unlike most other fish in this species, *betta picta* is not a bubble nest builder, but rather a mouth-brooder. The male collects the eggs, and later the fry, in his mouth which puckers out like a chipmunk collecting nuts for the winter.

I placed my pair in a 10 gallon tank to start which was well planted and well lighted. They were fed on a variety of live foods. They remained hidden from view most of the time and refused to breed. I moved them to a 5 1/2 gallon tank, drained half the water out, removed the heater and most of the plants. Some floating plants remained in the tank. The water was softened to about DH 5. I added flake food to their diet as well as live food. The light was fluorescent and kept to a minimum.

Before too much longer I noticed the male had definitely acquired the tale-tell fat cheeks. About three weeks later I noticed the fry swimming about and removed the parents who seemed to show no interest in their offspring. They were placed in another 10 gallon tank with some killiefish and promptly hid behind the sponge filter. Within a week the male was puffed up again despite the presence of the killies. As Jerry said, they are prolific little buggers.

The fry were fed on brine shrimp, micro eels, flake foods and frozen daphnia and have grown rapidly. I can well imagine that we will soon be swamped with these fish. However, unlike the press, I thought it was an interesting experience to breed a mouth-brooding anabantoid that one rarely sees. I don't think they're all that bad - bristlenose are much uglier and goodeids are much plainer.

SPAWNING PSEUDOMUGIL GERTRUDAE

by Buddy Ballard, RAS

P. gertrudae, a rainbowfish commonly known as Gertrude's blue-eye or the spotted blue-eye, is distributed through-out Northern Australia, southern New Guinea, and the Aru Islands. The local habitats vary from small open creeks, billibogs, shaded rainforest streams, lily lagoons, and backwaters of major bodies of water. Water conditions range from fresh to brackish, from acid to alkaline, and from turbid to clear. This would seem to qualify this fish as hardy and adaptable, making them ideal aquarium tenants.

P. gertrudae may be spawned in groups or in pairs in tanks of 3-5 gallons. If possible, separate the sexes for a week or so of conditioning with high quality foods such as live *Daphnia*, mosquito larvae, brine shrimp, and zooplankton. I have found it wise to condition the females in the spawning tank in order to avoid any disturbance while moving them. Males are not bothered by the transfer as long as it is done properly and not too often.

The spawning tank should be set up with a mass of Java moss occupying about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the aquarium. Filtration is not a necessity, but a small box filter with floss and a bit of crushed coral is nice. Air flow should be low in order to keep things reasonably calm. A teaspoon of salt for every two or three gallons will help keep any fungus off the eggs. A temperature of 82-84°F will help induce spawning.

The prospective parents may not commence their activities immediately, so continue the excellent diet you've provided through-out the conditioning period. It may take up to a week for the couple(s) to get friendly. The males begin by showing first and chasing each other away from the available females until a female is sufficiently attracted to a male to allow herself to be drawn into the Java moss. There the sex products are expelled with typical side-by-side trembling. A day or so after spawning behavior is noticed, the bulk of the Java moss may be removed for inspection. The moss may be lightly pressed between paper towels as both the eggs and moss are very durable and will not be harmed by this process. The eggs are rather large (1mm), colorless, and transparent. They are attached to the moss by semi-adhesive filaments and may be removed by the use of either forceps or tweezers. Four or five spawning sights may be found with three to five eggs in each site. The moss may be replaced and inspected every day or two for more eggs.

According to Allen and Cross, eggs hatch in 10-12 days at temperatures in the low 80's; however, I have never waited more than a week at the most. The fry may be provided with protozoan cultures and very fine ground flake food initially and then graduated to coarser ground flakes and microworms when a size of 10-12mm, approximately one-half adult size, is attained.

Ref. : Rainbowfishes of Australia and Papua New Guinea, Allen and Cross. TFH Pub. 1982.

Reprinted from Carolina Aquarist, Raleigh Aquarium Society.

I write this in response to a reprinted article in the January issue of our Wet Pet Gazette, concerning the cross-breeding of a guppy and a platy.

Cross-breeds, contrary to what many beginning hobbyists usually believe, are not all that rare. Platies and swordtails freely interbreed in a community setting, as do sphenon mollies with sailfin mollies, and many species of South American cichlids. We have also had mouthbrooding African cichlids interbreed, and these are just a few of the many, many species capable of cross-breeding.

The crossing of two distinct species does not constitute the "discovery" of a third new species. What it does is create a hybrid an offspring of mixed origins, making it neither one nor the other "a fish out of water" so to speak.

The important question here is not whether it could be done, but whether it should be done.

All specialty clubs, such as the American Cichlid Association, the American Killifish Association, the North American Native Fishes Association, etc., put definite warnings out against hybridization, either intentional or accidental. Hybridization is certainly a useful and necessary instrument of scientific research. It can give useful and necessary insights into the genetics and the relationships of species if in the hands of a dedicated researcher.

However, amateurs releasing hybrids into the general hobby can cause chaos. The fish is of no real species but will invariably be tagged with a name, usually that of whichever parent it most closely resembles. Many times hybrids are sterile, and this at least eliminates the possibility of continuing the line, even if it is disappointing to the unsuspecting buyer who was hoping for spawns. Besides the reproduction problem, hybrids often carry the weakest traits of each parent causing them to be poor quality stock. It causes identification problems and much confusion all the way around.

Captive breeding is an integral part of our hobby. Witness to this is the fact that a livebearer that is now extinct in the wild can still be found in the tanks of an acquaintance of ours. John Mangan of Virginia, and a few other dedicated breeders across the country. As aquarists our main aim must be to give Mother Nature something in return for the pleasure she has allowed us. We dare not wantonly harvest the crops of the streams, rivers and oceans of the world until the fish found in them are so diminished they no longer can sustain themselves in numbers adequate to guarantee continuation of their species. Such a situation quickly leads to extinction. The thoughtless

Mix or Match cont.

actions of man have caused extinction in far too many species already. Hobbyists cannot expect nature to continue to supply the stock for our millions of tanks across the world.

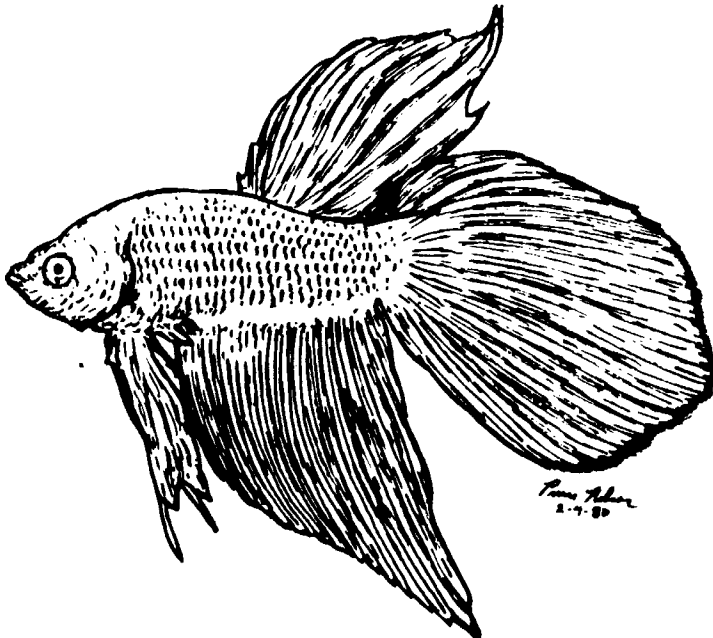
It then follows that we must have a concern for conservation. This is precisely where our acquired breeding expertise comes into play. We must learn to breed all our replacements for our tanks. The vast majority of stock in shops should come from breeding tanks and breeding ponds, not from natural habitats. This necessity is especially urgent in the area of saltwater species. But, hybridization only serves to hasten the demise of distinct species. Breeding accomplishments are of no value towards the problem of extinction if we do not make every effort to keep the species pure and true.

This is not to say that we should stifle our creative instinct. When the bug to cross and develop bites, go ahead and cross and develop, not between species, but rather within a single species. Cross for more vivid coloration, an entirely new color morph, longer life spans, larger broods, or more disease resistant stock. But, by all means, KEEP THE SPECIES PURE!

As a member of the breeders award program committee, I would like to remind you that No fry from any cross-breeds are eligible for B.A.P. points.

After all folks, "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature" !

Reprinted from Wet Pet Gazette, White Rose Aquarium Society.



BOWL SHOW REPORT FOR

June

CICHLIDS

New World Large

1st J. Lamberth
2nd
3rd

Riftlake Mbuna

1st D. Sun
2nd
3rd

Open

1st D. Sun
2nd J. Lamberth
3rd D. Sun

EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

Anabantoids

1st J. Metzger
2nd J. Metzger
3rd G. Hoffman

Catfish/Corydoras

1st J. Metzger
2nd J. Metzger
3rd J. Metzger

Open

1st J. Lamberth
2nd J. Lamberth
3rd J. Lamberth

Judges choice-J. Lamberth for her impressive Feeder Guppy

| | <u>MONTH</u> | <u>QUARTER</u> | <u>ANNUAL</u> | | <u>MONTH</u> | <u>QUARTER</u> | <u>ANNUAL</u> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| D. Sun | 16 | 48 | 58 | J. Metzger | 22 | 35 | 58 |
| A. Stirman | 0 | 0 | 16 | J. Lamberth | 14 | 32 | 57 |
| J. Lamberth | 5 | 7 | 20 | B. Pallansch | 0 | 19 | 29 |
| J. Long | 0 | 7 | 13 | G. Hoffman | 4 | 16 | 25 |
| J. Kookken | 0 | 9 | 13 | D. Sun | 0 | 6 | 9 |
| A. Hill | 0 | 0 | 4 | N. Manwaring | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| D. Mann | 0 | 0 | 2 | B. Roser | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| | | | | A. Hill | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| | | | | D. Mann | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | | J. Long | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| | | | | A. Stirman | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| | | | | C. Abbas | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| | | | | J. Kookken | 0 | 0 | 7 |

Next Month

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Cichlids</u> | <u>Egglayer/Livebearer</u> |
| New World Med. | Guppies |
| Haplochromis | Barbs |
| Open | Open |

Trading Post

All ads for the trading post should be sent to John Mangan ,
9770 Oleander Ave, Vienna, VA 22180 by the 20th of the month
prior to publication.

For Sale: Gymnogeophagus Balzani \$3.50 ea
Cichlasoma affine \$8.00 ea
C. septemfasciatum \$ 10.00 pr
C. dovii \$12.00 ea
C. melanurum \$12.00 ea.

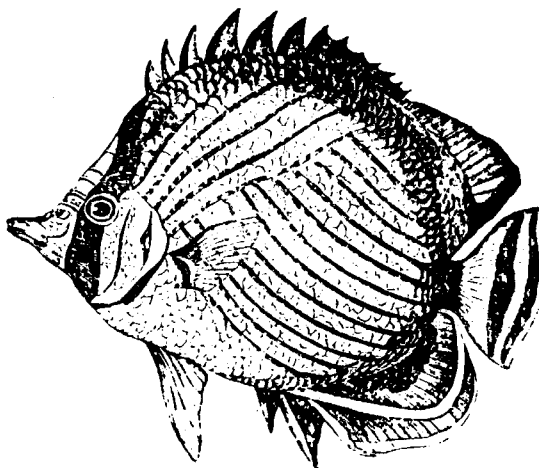
Wanted: most any species of Corydoras, killies, rainbows, Riftlake
cichlids, or any rare fishes in small or large quantities.

Also for sale: many species of African Riftlake Cichlids and
other fishes.

Contact Darrell Holman 5134 N 25th Place. Arlington VA 22207

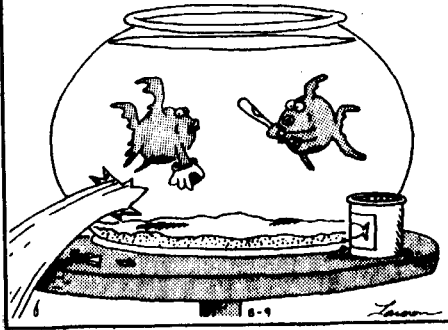
Q + A.

Anyone having legitimate questions on fish plants or any other
aspect of aquarium keeping can send them to Delta Tale c/o
John Mangan. 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna VA 22180



THE FAR SIDE GARY LARSON

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(301) 694-9664
(301) 831-6868

MON. - SAT. 10-8
SUN. 12-5

RICK'S FISH & PET SUPPLY

TROPICAL & SALTWATER FISH - AQUATIC PLANTS
BIRDS - SMALL ANIMALS - REPTILES
COMPLETE LINE OF DOG & CAT SUPPLIES

36 SOUTH MARKET ST.

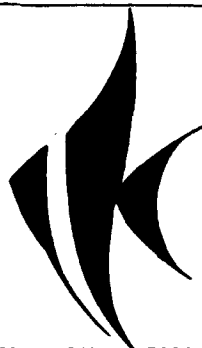
FREDERICK, MD

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**

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? _____

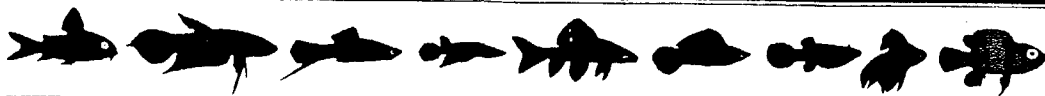
DO YOU TREAT YOUR FISH WITH MEDICANTS WITH THE PLANTS IN THE TANK?

_____. IF SO, WITH WHAT MEDICANTS? _____ .

ANY PROBLEMS? _____ .

CLASS ASSIGNED _____ . POINTS AWARDED _____ .

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

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 G. Wood Facility, Rt. 237 (Old Lee Hwy.)
Fairfax City. Everyone is welcome.

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