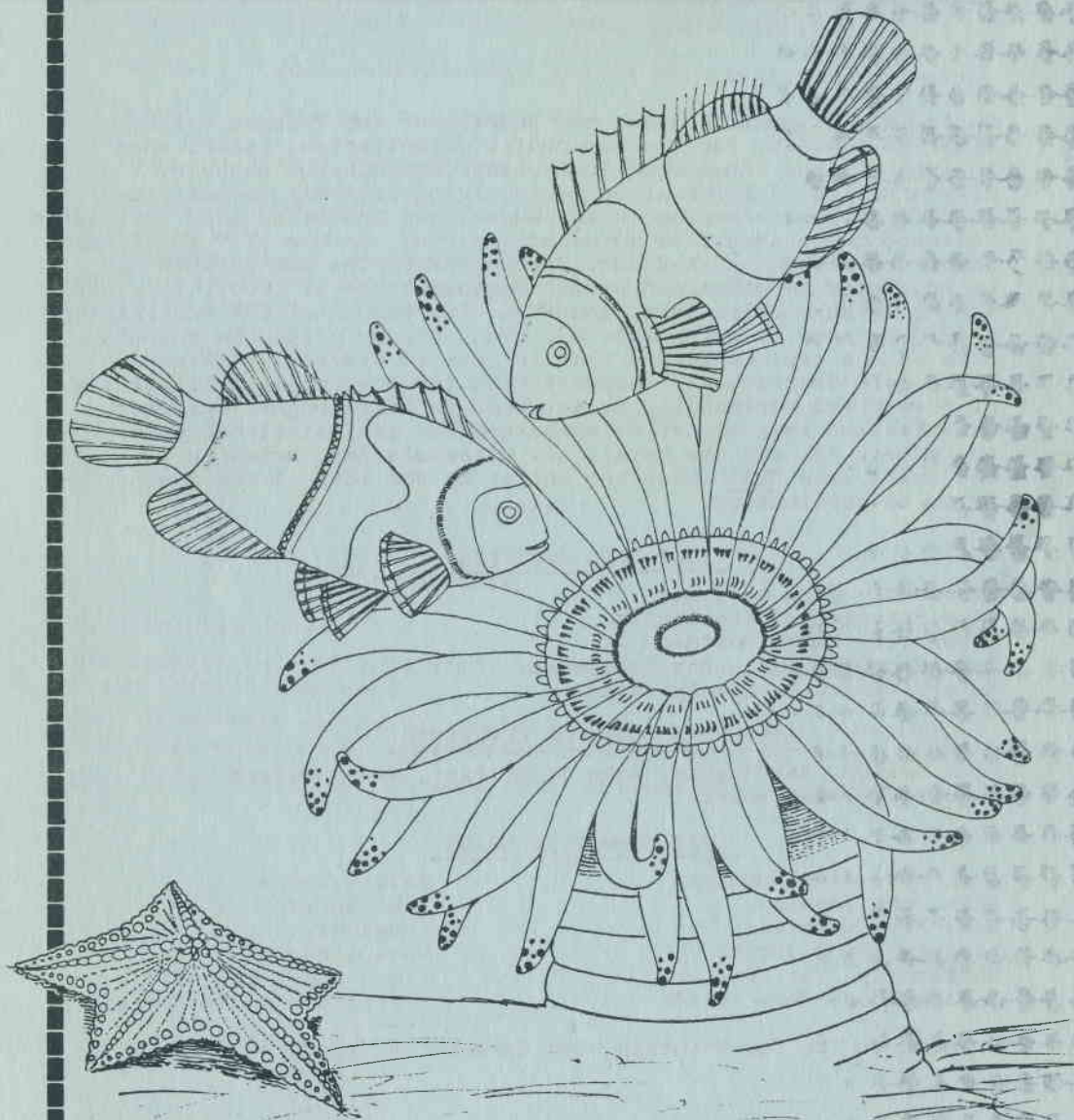


* DELTA TALE *

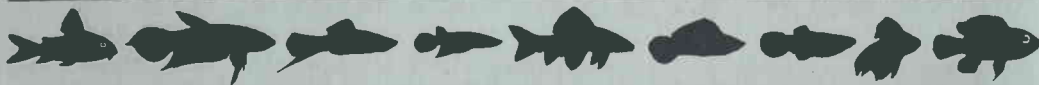
Feb. 1987
Vol. 1 #2
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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

Delta Tale is published for the benefit of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society, Inc., a non-profit organization, established in 1960 for the purpose of furthering the aquarium hobby by dissemination of information, encouraging friendly competition, soliciting participation in its shows, and promoting good fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to: PVAS, po box 6219 Shirlington Station, Arlington, VA 22206. Original articles and artwork may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations if credit is given to the author, Delta Tale, and PVAS. Two copies of the publication should be sent to Delta Tale c/o PVAS. Please place the authors name on one copy to insure that it gets to him/her. PVAS and Delta Tale disclaim any responsibility for content or availability of advertised merchandise or services in these pages. Customer satisfaction is a matter to be worked out exclusively between the advertiser and the buyer. All materials for inclusion in the Delta Tale MUST reach the editor by the 18th of the month prior to publication.

1987 PVAS OFFICERS

President- Gene Aldridge
Vice President- Pete Thrift
Treasurer- Gerry Hoffman
Corresponding Sec.- Bob Pallansch
Recording Sec. - Lea Spickler

1987 PVAS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

John Jessup, Ray Hughes, John Stieringer, Kenny Warren
Ex-officio- Bob Roser

1987 COMMITTEE HEADS

Auctions- Alex Cummins	Fall Program-
BAP- John Jessup	Bowl Shows-
HAP- Alex Cummins	Programs-
Library- Pete Thrift	Ways & Means-
Membership- Pat Gore	FAAS- Gerry Hoffman
Spring Show- Pete Thrift	Delta Tale- John Mangan

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NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here we are going into February and the year's major activities are moving along. I would very much like to have your ideas on programs for the rest of the year. To give you an idea on the types of things you could ask for, here is a tentative list of programs for the next several months:

- February - Salt Water Fish Panorama - Gene Aldridge
- March - Show Preparation - Fish & Equipment - John Jessop
- April - African Cichlids - From German Slides - George White
- May - Fish Photography - Gene Aldridge
- June - Plants - Jim Long & Gerry Hoffman

Remember these programs should provide you with some helpful and useful information, so let me know what you want. Better yet are YOU willing to present a program on a subject you know about.


Gene Aldridge

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Program: see above

Miniauction: lots of good stuff as usual, at bargain prices. Sellers can bring 3 bags each.

Bowl Show: This months catagories- Cichlids- New World Medium, Haplochromis, Open; Egglayer/Livebearer- Guppies, Barbs, Open.

Door Prize & Raffles: as usual lots of good stuff to win.

FRUM THE EDITORZ DESK

Help Wanted- I need some volunteers to take over various jobs connected with putting out the Delta Tale:

Trading Post Editor- This job would consist of having the trading post ads sent to you (instead of to me). You can make your own deadline for when ads must reach you. You would then type up all of the ads and see that they reach me by the 18th of the month. This job takes, at most, an hour a month. Maybe less depending on how many ads you receive and how fast you type.

The Mirror editor- For this job you would be given all of the exchange magazines that contain reviews or reprints of Delta Tale articles. You would then type up a listing of these. See The Mirror in this issue for an example of this. This job also takes, at most, an hour a month. With the severe shortage of original articles I've been getting lately you will probably only have to send me a column every other month.

Q & A editor- PVAS members would send you their questions on various fish related subjects, you would then try to find an answer. This column may not need to be done every month. It would depend on how many questions you receive. This column also usually takes no more than an hour a month.

The above 3 columns WILL NOT appear again in Delta Tale until someone takes them over. I no longer have time to do them myself.

Typists- Several people needed to type articles for Delta Tale. I have a large file of articles from other club's publications that need to be retyped so they can be used in Delta Tale. You don't need to be a fast typist for this job. Even if you can only produce a couple of pages a month it will help. You must be neat and accurate though. My current typist, Pete Thrift, is this years show chairman so he is going to be having plenty to do without being expected to do lots of typing also. If I don't get some volunteers for this then there will be fewer article per issue printed in Delta Tale.

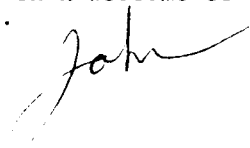
I also need to start getting some original article and artwork from people. Artwork must be in black ink in order to be reproduced properly.

Distribution assistant- I need someone to oversee distribution of Delta Tale to the Pet Shops. This does not mean that you have to distribute them yourself, I already have people to do that. When the Delta Tale comes back from the printer I would call you. You would then come and pick up the required number of copies from me. They then need to be stamped on the cover with a rubber stamp indicating that they are free samples and put into bundles. You would then bring them to the monthly meeting and pass them out to the people that take them to the shops.

Last, but certainly not least, I am still looking for someone to take over the entire editors job. As I've said before- you don't need to have any experience at all. I can teach you everything you need to know.

One final comment- anyone complaining about my occasional use of "creative spelling" is more than welcome to have my job.

See you all at the meeting...



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Board of Governors Meeting

5 January 1987

The first PVAS Board of Governors Meeting of 1987 convened at 8:15 p.m., January 5, at the home of President Gene Aldridge. Others present were Jerry Hoffman, Ray Hughes, John Jessup, John Mangan, Bob Pallansch, Pete Thrift, and Kenny Warren.

Treasurer Jerry Hoffman noted that our 1986 year-end working capital was approximately \$2,150 (after purchasing a new slide projector, trophies and ribbons, etc.), which puts PVAS in about the same tax position as previously.

President Gene Aldridge expressed concern over the lack of a program chairman, Ways and Means Chairman, and help for Editor John Mangan with the Delta Tale. January's program will be BAP Chairman John Jessup's presentation on the BAP. Other suggestions included HAP, and an instructional program on aquarium photography.

The board agreed to sponsor another Fall Workshop/Banquet/Auction on the lines of Jerry Hoffman's successful program last November. The target dates (subject to revision) are October 17-18, 1987. We will try again to have it at The Falls Church Inn. Gene Aldridge suggested notifying other clubs of our spring and fall programs. Compilation of a master PVAS mailing list was discussed.

Re: revision of PVAS' By-laws, the board decided to provide copies of our current By-laws at the January meeting; Ray Hughes will ask the membership to suggest any changes to him by the February Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Robert Pallansch
Corresponding Secretary

Shopping at the Hardware Store

By George White, PVAS

Anyone who considers the kitchen a handy source of useful items to perform odd tasks in the fishroom will find the local hardware store a gold mine--and a lot less hazardous to one's health. Unlike the queasy keeper of the kitchen, or the non-fish loving husband, the hardware clerk won't shudder about blackworms and other "goodies." To mention a few of the most useful things offered by the store:

Clear plastic hose available at most hardware stores by the foot or yard (and cut to the length you want) makes a better siphon than garden hose. For one thing, you can see through it and notice if you have accidentally siphoned any fry. Screw on hose couplings can be mounted on a short length of clear plastic hose if you want to attach it to a regular garden hose.

Styrofoam sheets normally used for insulating houses can be cut and placed under large aquaria to pad them in case your aquarium stand is uneven. The styrofoam will compress the most where the pressure is greatest, eliminating uneven stress on your tanks that could, in extreme cases, crack the glass producing an unwanted water change. Styrofoam used as a bottom pad will also provide some insulation for the aquarium.

Hand drill pumps available at many stores (they cost \$5 to \$8) were designed to be attached to a garden hose and run with a hand drill to pump water out of leaky basements. They also work on fish tanks placed on low stands that are hard to siphon out.

Basters (large versions of eyedroppers found in the housewares section) can be used to squirt brine shrimp close to fry in rearing tanks, cutting down on waste (and hence the danger of pollution). Basters can also be used to carefully remove small fry that would be hurt in a net.

"Egg crate" grids for overhead florescent lights can serve lots of functions in the fish room. The "egg crate" has holes about 3/8 of an inch square and can easily be cut with a saw or broken into desired sizes and shapes. It can be fashioned into covers for aquaria, tank dividers, breeding traps, dividers for outside filter and more.

Plastic screen can be cut into little pieces and affixed to the end of a siphon hose with a rubber band to ensure that small fish are not sucked out with the mulm when changing water. The screen can also be cut to the proper size and attached with silicon aquarium cement to "egg crate" to make tighter lids or tank dividers.

Light timers can be used to automatically turn on and off the lights on your aquarium--handy if you have plants and are forgetful.

Safety-fused multiple outlet extension cords may be one of the best buys. Most hobbyists always need more electrical outlets. And, the partial protection against electrocution is a nice bonus. The cords have handy switches that make it easy to turn off all the electrical equipment which, of course, should always be done when fooling around in a tank. The fuse reduces the risk should you forget.

PVC pipe can be cut to various lengths and glued together with silicon aquarium cement to form apartment houses for fish such as cichlids who require oodles of hiding places. PVC pipe is easily cut with a hand saw.

Plastic automotive hose clamps can be used to attach small pieces of driftwood to outside filter tubes, making them less obvious.

PVC rain gutters with a white interior can be cut to various lengths and used as reflectors for florescent lights if you are making custom lids. They also work well as a planting tray placed at the back of an aquarium and loaded with the right substrait for plants--rocks can be placed in front to conceal them. This idea can be used to creat a nice two tier aquarium landscape.

Plastic dustpans make it easy to scoop out gravel when changing tank set-ups.

Clear plastic shoeboxes make excellent temporary tanks and can easily be stacked. Special lids to provide air and protection can be easily crafted. A utility knife will easily cut out the center of the lid; then some plastic screen can be glued on with silicon cement. Killiefish fanatics find this the most convenient and least expensive answer to "where do I put all these fry?"

Food strainers with different size screen on them (found in the housewares section) will sift out impurities and divide sand and gravel collected at local streams and rivers if you are setting up a "natural" tank.

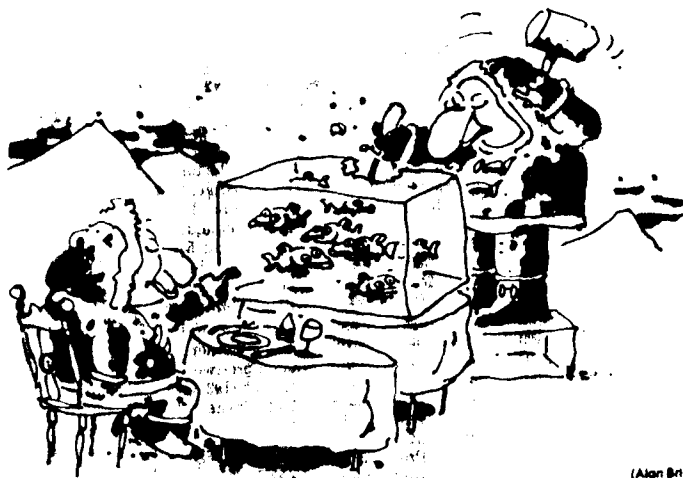
Most of these ideas have been "stolen" from friends and I have probably forgotten a few good ones. I appreciate all the good advice they have given me. However, since they are too lazy to write an article for the club magazine, I won't give them credit.

TRADING POST

For Sale: \$3 each or five for \$10: *Lamprologus Richardi*, *pseudotropheus macrothalmus*, *labeotropheus fuelliborni*, *ps. lombardoi*, *aulanocara nyassae* (regal peacocks). George White 5243785
Labeotropheus Trewavasae.

FOR SALE: 55 gal, 20 gal, six 10 gal, two 5½ gal tanks (plus two 10 gal cracked, one 20 gal high cracked, one 5½ gal cracked) Two of the 10 gal are stainless steel. 55 gal stand, two 20 gal stands, two 10 gal stands, Eheim canister filter, whisper 700, rocks, driftwood, gravel, fish (including about 20+ silver sailfin mollies), one home made canister filter, one powerhead, undergravel filter for 55, box filters, sponge filters, foods and medicines, drum bowls, etc. \$500 takes it all. Bob Roser (703)659-1879.

NOTICE!!- This will be the last Trading Post column until a new Trading Post editor can be found. See From The Editorz Desk on page 4 for details.



(Alan Brien)

WHO SAYS THIRTEEN ISN'T LUCKY?
Pat and Tom Bridges, IAS

On April 15, 1986, something very exciting happened in our fish room. One of our female Anableps, a medium sized one about 2 years old and in her first pregnancy, gave birth to 13 babies. We knew that Anableps could have this many or more babies, because a larger female had aborted 19 bodies earlier, but these 13 were all alive and swimming about. All 13 were moved to a hastily prepared 20 gallon tank on April 17, and they are all frisking about, eating like pigs, and thriving. The mother regained her strength quickly and is now back visiting the males.

Those of you who know and love Anableps will understand our excitement. If, however, you aren't really aware of these strange four-eyed livebearers, you may wonder what all the shouting is about. After all 13 babies is much of a spawn were most fish are concerned. Thirteen baby guppies, mollies, swords, or platies would be a dismal failure.

Anableps are somewhat larger than most of the livebearers in our hobby. For example, one of our females is at least 10 inches long (TL), and there is no reason to believe that she has stopped growing. In nature, Anableps are reported up to 12 inches or so. You might expect such a large fish to have many babies, but the babies, at birth, are from 1 3/4 to 2 inches long - perfect replicas of the adult fish with proportionate bodies. They are nourished by the mother. In nature under perfect conditions, spawns of 15 to 20 may occur, but until April our biggest live spawn had been 5. We have no information on the sizes of spawns other hobbyists may have attained, but for us you can see why we think 13 is remarkably lucky.

Our initial success with the "bleps" some years ago pretty well petered out when all but one of our babies turned out to be males, and then trouble with our air system caused the death of some of those, severely stressing the others. The lone female never did get successfully pregnant, and for a time we were unable to get any new stock. When they were finally available in this area, about a year and a half ago, we ordered 10. The bag came with 9 live and 1 dead small "bleps". As they grew in a brackish 4 ft. tank of about 35 gallons, the number was reduced to 4 by power failures, (when frightened, "bleps" are very strong jumpers who can push fairly secure lids out of the way), and complications giving birth.

Along with our losses we had a little success. We have gradually developed a system of leaving the males and females together until a female starts to look pregnant. Then we move her to a maternity tank. On June 27, 1985, one of our females gave us 4 perfect, healthy, exuberant babies. They have turned out to be 2 males and 2 females. Shortly after that, in July, while traveling home from a visit to the Erie Aquarium Society, we spotted and purchased 2 young "bleps" from a pet store. They turned out to be a male and a female and they were so close in size to our 4 babies that we have raised them together. Four of these are less than one year old, and two of them are a little over a year old, but it is impossible anymore to say which is which.

We noticed that two of these young females looked pregnant, and we started planning to move them to maternity quarters. On May 21, one of them surprised us before we were ready. One of her babies was dead, one had a bent spine, and the other two were fine. The one with the bent spine showed no sign of dying on its own, so, sadly, we destroyed it after a few days. The two healthy babies are doing fine.

Is this our long-awaited second generation? Because we raised ours together with the pair we bought, we can't be sure, but since the gestation period seems to be

about 3 months, we know that "bleps" can get pregnant as early as 9 months of age. The mother in this case is only about 6 inches in length and the other pregnant "blep" is even shorter. Needless to say, she is getting special attention in a maternity tank and we are waiting.

Anableps need a little special attention paid to their housing and comfort. There needs to be a rock or slate 'shelf' provided at water level for the "bleps" to come partially out of the water on. This means that the tank isn't filled completely with water. The 'shelf' rests on a flower pot, sliced vertically and placed on the gravel.

The "bleps" enjoy a temperature of from 84 - 86 degrees F. and an addition of marine salt to their water. (With the use of a hydrometer, we maintain our specific gravity of 1.012). A high pH is further encouraged by the use of crushed coral as a substrate. The addition of a HEFTY lid makes sure that these speedy jumpers stay in the tank. (We use 1/4" glass for lids, and quite often put something else heavy on top of that).

Our "bleps" are friendly, eat almost everything we give them, have insatiable appetites, and get extremely excited at the mere suggestion of food. They are always disturbed by very bright colors, so there are certain items of clothing that we just don't wear in our fish rooms.

During our almost seven years of Anableps keeping, we've had our share of failures, but still look forward to new births and much as we did at the beginning.)

Note: Anableps means 'looking up'.)

(reprinted from Tropical Topics, Indianapolis Aquarium Society)

THE MIRROR

REVIEWS

Sponge Filters: A Personal Evaluation, by Pete Thrift, was reviewed in the Dec. 1986 issue of Tropical Journal, publication of the South Florida Aquarium Society.

The PVAS Fall Workshop was reviewed in the Nov. 1986 issue of Algae, publication of the Tidewater Aquarium Society.

REPRINTS

A Native Fish for Your Aquarium, by Gerry Hoffman, was reprinted in the Oct. 1986 issue of The Nekton, Publication of the Saskatoon Aquarium Society.

Gerry's article was also reprinted in the Dec. 1986 issue of Wet Pet Gazette, publication of the White Rose Aquarium Society.

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NOTICE!! - This will be the last Mirror column until a new Mirror editor can be found. See Frum the Editorz Desk on page 4 for details.

Ed. Note- I have just been informed that Fish Ltd. in Annandale, VA is going out of business. Owner Gary Jackson has been a good friend to PVAS and we thank him for all of his past support. Fish Ltd. will probably be having a number of used tanks etc. for sale. The stores adress and phone number can be found on the last page of this issue. J.M.

FRESHWATER SPONGES
John Bialy, CNYAS

An interesting item known by few hobbyists and even fewer non-hobbyists is that many fresh waters are inhabited by sponges. If one only looks closely in clean streams and rivers you can see brown, yellow, and green masses encrusting rocks, submerged branches, and other assorted objects. In the slower flowing streams, these sponges develop upright finger-like excursions. Most of the freshwater sponges are small and scattered, but when conditions are favorable, these small animals have been known to reach over 400 square feet.

The sponge is a primitive mass of randomly arranged cells. Most people would not consider this remarkable animal an animate creature. If some type of non-toxic dye is released near the sponge, you will be able to observe the dye enter from one side and be expelled out through pores on the outer walls. The inside of the sponge is an inner connecting mass through which microscopic food particles are absorbed and digested. Parts of the inner chambers have small whip-like cells that move the food organisms and fresh oxygen-bearing waters through the sponge. Wastes and carbon dioxide are expelled by the outgoing currents made by the frailing whip-like cells.

The normal coloration of the sponges is yellow or brown. The green color of some sponges is generally the result of algae which the sponge has ingested. If there is sufficient sunlight available, the algae in the sponge's cells will reproduce for a short time. When the sunlight is removed, the algae is completely absorbed and they will return to their normal color.

When summer rolls around, small mobile embryos are released to drift on the currents until they fall to the bottom of the stream. There they attach themselves to any available object, and they then proceed to grow into a new sponge. In the winter the sponge secretes a covering of dead tissue which covers itself. This "cocoon" allows the sponge to survive even the coldest winters. In spring, this "cocoon" splits open and growth starts again. This cycle continues year after year with the sponge growing as large as conditions allow. Next time you are near a fresh body of water, take a few moments to study this fascinating animal, the SPONGE.

(reprinted from The Reflector, Central New York Aquarium Society)

NEON TETRAS

Neon tetras, *Hyphessobrycon innesi*, need no introduction to the hobbyist. Millions are imported annually without any long lasting effect on their natural population since they proliferate rapidly in their natural habitat. This free breeding activity just doesn't occur in the aquarium. I hope this article, containing my experiences, will help others to spawn this problem fish.

When healthy stock is conditioned, the neon's already intense colouration becomes downright breathtaking. The colour consists of an electric blue stripe running the full length of the body. Under this is a scarlet stripe extending through the rear half of the body. Sexual distinctions show as the breeders ripen. Then the females are much deeper and broader in the body.

I scoured the local shops looking for healthy young neons. I would not purchase stock from any tanks containing fish with either the blue or red colouration interrupted or dull. Such fish probably have incurable diseases which will ruin your breeders. Large breeder size neons are out of the question for breeding stock. These fish have probably been ruined for breeding by prolonged maintenance under poor conditions.

I finally located some ideal stock at a very reasonable price from one of our quite reputable dealers. I purchased ten fish to ensure that I would get a number of each sex. The stock I had purchased were being maintained in hard water at a warm temperature. My plan for conditioning them required that my breeders be maintained in water of 1.5DH, 6.4pH and a temperature of 69-73 degrees F. I acclimated them with a series of 20% water changes per day over a period of a week. Acclimating was done in a two gallon tank to conserve water.

The neons were placed in a ten gallon tank under the aforementioned conditions, after acclimating. The all-glass tank was placed over a dark piece of carpet on the concrete floor of my fish room. The tank was covered with an opaque plastic cover. This provided the fish with dark conditions and the low temperature they require. A nylon spawning mop provided the only cover available for my neons. An outside power filter was used, with floss, charcoal and boiled sphagnum moss as the filter medium.

The tank was kept clean by syphoning off mulm and uneaten food frequently and 20% of the water was replaced each week with water from a dehumidifier.

The fish were fed several times a day with as varied a diet as possible, including freeze dried foods, frozen beef heart, frozen shrimp, live shrimp, tubifex and good quality flake food.

Growth was very rapid and the fish showed their liking of the good food and clean water by showing their best colours. Within two months the fish were beginning to spawn in the conditioning set-up. I moved the spawning mop with eggs to a sterile hatching container but the water soon showed a little cloudiness and the eggs turned white.

SPAWNING:

After I found out that I wasn't going to save a spawning that easily, I set about to do the job right. One gallon plastic tanks were scalded with boiling water. This had to be done quickly to prevent bulging. The tanks were then filled half way with crystal clear, peat filtered, amber toned water of 1.5DH and 6.2 pH. The tanks were placed over dark carpeting on my fish room floor which gave the water a temperature of 72 degrees F.

The slender, colourful males were selected and placed in separate tanks with quite "heavy" females. The tanks were covered on all sides and the top with cardboard. Half way up the front side, I cut a one inch by two inch window to allow a little light to enter. I checked the tanks twice a day for spawnings by turning off all the room's lights except for a high intensity lamp aimed at the floor, to provide indirect lighting. The tanks were uncovered and held over the light while examining from the top.

After 48 hours, the water in both tanks had turned cloudy. The water was replaced with a three-quarter water change in both tanks. I decided to outfit one tank with a nylon breeding net, spawning mop and a small inside filter. The other tank was left as it was. After 24 hours the filtered tank had a spawning while the other tank contained slightly turbid water and fish with washed out colours.

Now action had to be taken to try and save the spawning. All work was done by indirect lighting previously described. The breeders were fished out, the mop was shaken out and removed and the filter and net were removed. About 75% of the water was removed to eliminate any chance of a bacterial rise caused by decomposing milt. White eggs (infertile) were carefully removed with an eye dropper. Clear water of the same chemistry and temperature (72 degrees F.) was placed into the tank. Another check, 12 hours later, revealed one more bad egg which was also removed.

The eggs hatched within 36 hours of removing the breeders. The fry were tiny and resembled glass commas. They were examined at this time and at all future times using my indirect lighting method. The fry are extremely light sensitive and exposure to even very soft light produced violent wriggling motions. The tank was examined morning and night for cloudiness and a 50% water change was made at even the slightest hint of turbidity. Three times during the first five days I had to make a water change. After five days I noticed some detritus on the bottom of the tank so I syphoned off the fry into a clean plastic tank. The fry were quite active but not yet free swimming and their yolk sac had nearly disappeared.

I decided to give them their first feeding of infusoria. This early feeding would ensure food availability as soon as needed. The infusoria preparation was done carefully to prevent a bacteria rise within the fry tank.

The culture I took my infusoria from did not have many bacteria present as was evidenced by it's nearly clear condition. Holding a sample near a light did,

however, reveal many tiny swimming organisms. The culture was syphoned through a fine net to remove any large particles. The liquid was then passed through a piece of paper towel. The infusoria is left on the towel which is then "blotted" on the surface of a container of soft water. The bacteria and hard water of the culture can then be kept out of the fry tank. The soft water and infusoria mixture was examined against a strong light to ensure that the desired organisms were present. The mixture was added to the fry tank every four hours, day and night for three days. A 50% water change was made after feeding for ten days. Three days following free swimming I began feeding both infusoria and newly hatched brine shrimp (San Francisco). This diet was changed to "brine shrimp only" after seven days. Light aeration was started at this time. When the fry were one month old some fine, dry food was included in the diet. Uneaten food was removed frequently.

The temperature of the water during the rearing varied between 72 and 75 degrees F. The fry were gradually introduced to light between 10 to 21 days following the spawning.

I managed to rear 24 out of 31 fry hatched. The loss of seven fry was caused as follows: 3 "belly-sliders" were destroyed, 1 fry died when crushed by an airstone, and 3 fry died one night when the water became slightly cloudy.

All facets of breeding neons have to be given meticulous attention if success is to be obtained.

Select only young healthy stock and condition them in soft water of less than 73 degrees F. Clear water, with some organic content, must be used at all times. The presence of bacteria when spawning or rearing means disaster and failure. Remove any substances which could conceivably decompose. Do not hesitate to change water when in doubt.

Eggs and newly-hatched fry cannot tolerate light.

Most of the breeding accounts that I have read specify that the spawning occurs at a low temperature (72 degrees F. or less) while the fry are reared at a warmer temperature (75 degrees F.). This temperature change phenomenon almost certainly does not occur in their natural habitat. I used cooler temperatures during both spawning and rearing with quite satisfactory results. Cool temperatures, aeration, filtration, dark conditions and soft acid water will play a role in controlling bacteria growth.

Some of the behavioral traits I observed in my breeders were not recorded in any of the spawning accounts I have read. First: Breeders in turbid water would lose their colours and become nervous. Fish in this state will not spawn and should be returned to the conditioning tank for a few days. Second: A male neon was seen forcefully repelling other males and non-participating females from the spawning site. I would, therefore, set them up as pairs instead of trios. Third: My fish spawned much younger than what has been recorded in most other accounts. Others say the fish spawn at nine months.

Successful accidental spawnings of neons are difficult to imagine. Neons are demanding about their water chemistry, temperature, light and cleanliness. Providing these conditions only occurs with meticulous aquarium management.

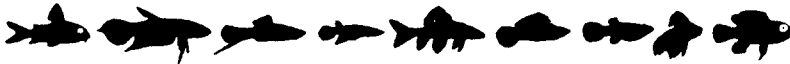
Spawning tank-reared specimens is reputed to be easier than spawning wild specimens, that is, of course, if the tank reared neons are also reputed to attain larger sizes and better colour than wild fish, so consider this when choosing fish for a show.

The feeling of triumph that comes with the successful breeding of neons makes all the extra effort worthwhile. I encourage you to try it.

by R.L. Van Hyft reprinted from "PLECOSTOMUS" by way of Hamilton & District Aquarium Society December 1982

(From the ATF FORUM / FISHNET Computer Bulletin Board Service)

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DATE _____ 19__

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE H _____ W _____

OCCUPATION _____

Where did you hear about PVAS/get this application? _____

Number of tanks _____ Time in hobby _____

What can this club do for you? _____

What do you want to do for the club? _____

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.



**Bill, Ruth, John
Mangan**

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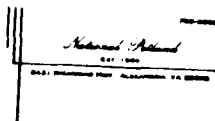
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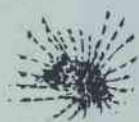
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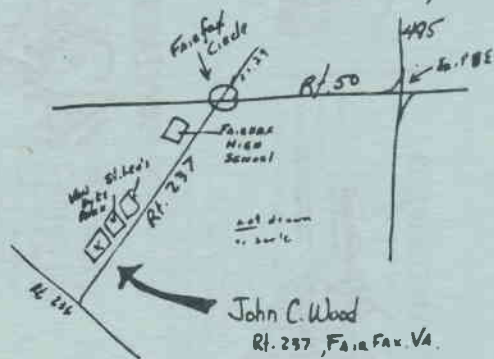
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The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society will meet on the following dates in 1987:

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

Meetings are held at the John C. Wood Facility, RT. 237 (Old Lee Hgwy.)
Fairfax City, VA. Doors open at 7:30, meetings start at 8:00 PM. Everyone
is welcome.