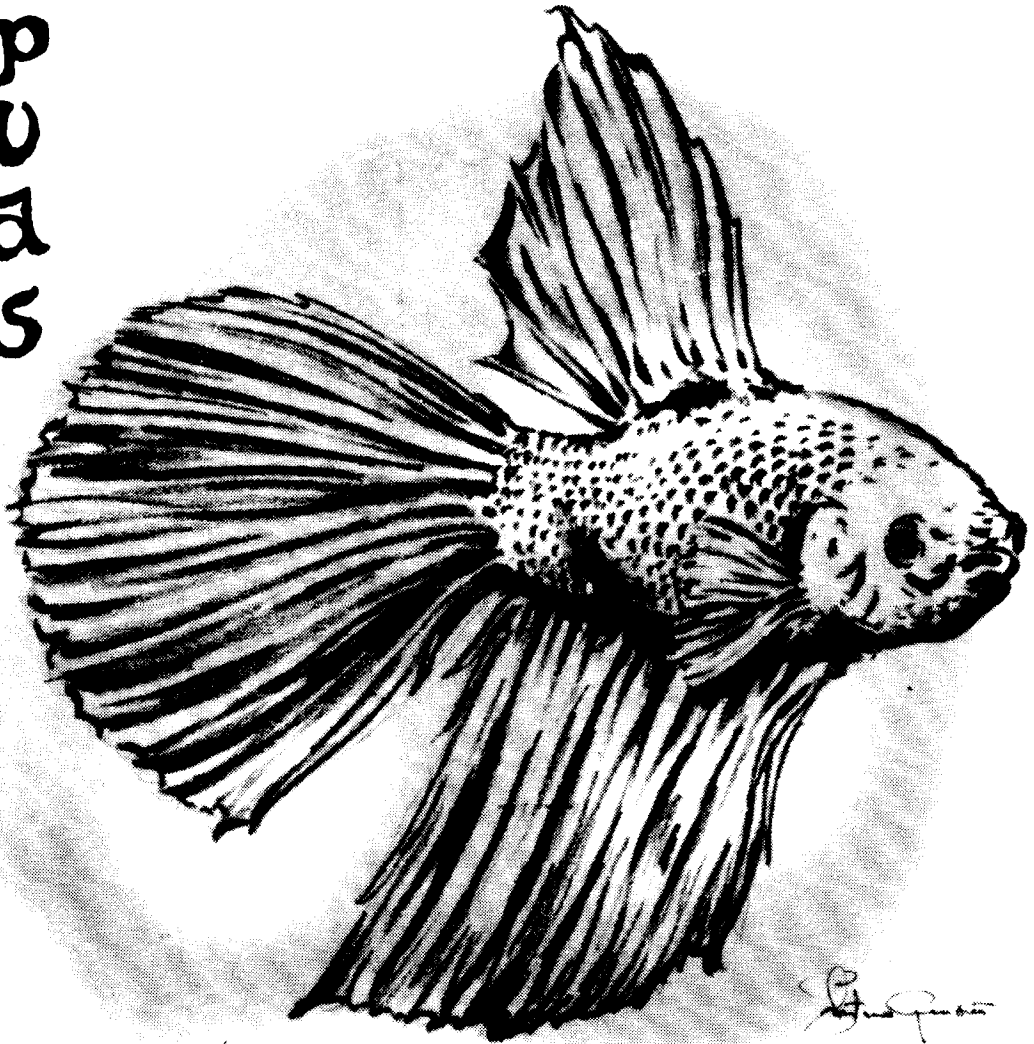


DELTA TALE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF P.V.A.S.

MARCH-APRIL, 1978

PLANTS



Volume 9

Issue 3

50¢ per issue

DELTA TALE is published for the benefit of the Potomac Valley Aquarium society (formerly the Potomac Valley Guppy Club), a non-profit organization, established in 1960 for the purpose of furthering the aquarium hobby by disseminating information, encouraging friendly competition, soliciting participation in its shows, promoting food fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to: Secretary, P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6219, Shirlington Station, Arlington, Virginia 22206. Original articles and drawings may be reprinted if credit is given the author and DELTA TALE. Two copies of the publication in which the reprint appears should be sent to DELTA TALE, which will forward one copy to the author/artist. All materials for inclusion in the DELTA TALE must reach the editor no later than the 2nd Saturday after the monthly Monday meeting.

EDITOR: M.E. Mahoney

OFFICERS FOR 1978

President:	Pat Mahoney 534-0006	Corresponding Sec.:	Dana S. Best 960-1686
Vice-President:	Steve Siska 621-7923	Recording Sec.:	Pat Tietjen unlisted
Treasurer:	Gene Aldridge 931-7426		

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Heinz Lenzen, Tom Lighton, Bill Trout, John Jessup, Dave McInturff

COMMITTEE HEADS

Membership - Bev Fazil	Breeders Program - Dave McInturff
Ways & Means - W. & N. Griffin	Library - S. & M. Sprague
Program - S. Sprague, G. Hoffman	Auctions - S. Siska
Monthly Bowl Show - D. McInturff	

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

	PAGE
A SOCIETY'S PUBLICATION & WHAT IT MEANS	3
MINUTES OF THE MARCH BOARD MEETING	4
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	5
PITTSBURG SHOW NEWS	5
NOTHOBRONCHIUS KORTHAUSAE, JOE PAULL	6
BOWL SHOW RESULTS	7
NEW MEMBERS NEWS	7
PARADISE FISH SPAWNING, BEV FAZIL	8
THE EMPEROR TETRA	9-10
E.A.P. REPORT	11
COVERING BOWL SHOW CATEGORIES	11

Covering Drawing: Sheldon Gilbert

Cartoon art by Bob Sarecky

A SOCIETY'S PUBLICATION
AND WHAT IT MEANS TO A CLUB AND THE HOBBY

Ken Keim, The Darter, Oct.'77
Missouri Aq.Soc.

Oftentimes, I believe we all overlook the importance of our monthly bulletins. While everyone usually reads it (and screams when it isn't there on time) most of us must plead guilty to not actively supporting it. The reasons for not writing are many, and often justifiable. "I can't find the time." "I'm not a writer." "I don't have anything to say," and so on. Well, I wouldn't argue with any of the explanations for not taking pen in hand, but if you allow me a few minutes, I'd like to put forth how I view the relationship between a society publication and the society and hobby itself.

The hobby uses a society publication in a diversity of ways. When the government threatens to maim the hobby, cries for help are sent throughout the land in monthly publications. From California to Florida, knowledgeable hobbyists raise their pens to point out the deficiencies and more often than not, sensible legislation is passed that is helpful instead of destructive.

New ideas that advance the state of the hobby abound within the pages of society publications. From loosely written scientific experiments (Breeding) to highly technical explanations (diseases), they're all there, providing the hobbyist with a correspondence course in fish education.

There's little doubt that the hobby would survive without society publications, but I seriously question whether it would have reached its present state without a means for hobbyists in Texas to learn from other hobbyists in Canada and vice versa.

What does a society's publication mean to the society itself? One simple answer is to imagine what things would be like without it. I'm willing to bet that you get as much information from its pages (about your club's future activities, information about other clubs, valued opinions of other hobbyists and more) as you do at the monthly meetings. Our members may be the heart of the society but our publications are the reins that transport information to its different branches.

Ever hear of a nationally known club that didn't have a first-class publication? Neither have I, because it's rather difficult to give recognition to a society that's a thousand miles away, when all we know about them is information based on the contents of their publication. Like it or not, right or wrong, a society is often judged by the quality of its bulletin. I've heard it a dozen times ... "What's happened to that club? Its publication used to be first class." Well, maybe nothing has happened to that club. It may be just as dynamic as ever, but you may not know it, because its written publication is no longer advertising the fact.

You might say "So what? It doesn't matter what the rest of the country thinks our club knows." Well, it is important to me and I guess to a lot of other members, to have something we put so much effort into held in high esteem by others. "You're part of one of the best."

It's so simple for you to help your society to reach national recognition by just writing for your publication. Come on, friends, you don't have to be Mark Twain to write! You have the most important things already; ideas and knowledge. So what, if you can't spell? All we want to know is how to care for, raise and breed that fish! Gives us a break and share yourself and your hobby with us. We'll love you for it.

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Amen"

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The Board of Governors met March 7, 1978, at the home of the Aldridge's with 7 members present.

The Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$245.36

Michael Sprague is forced to resign due to increased work obligations, but will retain the library portion of the job.

Pat Mahoney asked Woody and Nancy Griffin to be this year's Ways and Means Chairpersons, they have accepted. Beverly Fazil has accepted the new position of Membership Chairperson.

Pat Mahoney expressed a desire to see the Delta Tale printed 12 months a year, not bi-monthly. Suggested turning it over to Maggie - his wife. Maggie will accept Editorship of Delta Tale. As a trade off, Dana will take over the position of Corresponding Secretary.

The members of the board expressed strong interest in a 2-day show affair - which we can do with a large enough place to keep up the stands for fish and still make room for the sit down auction. The suggestion of Bishop O'Connell High School was made, and approved. We would like the weekend of the 20-21st of May if we can. Would be using our own stands instead of their tables. Don't want any more holiday weekends, conflicts with other plans for too many people.

It was agreed we would keep the same show categories and awards as we had last year.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!! PLEASE!!

The meeting adjourned at 11:PM

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Tietjen, Recording Secretary

NOW HEAR THIS ...

What with terrible weather, absence of your president and a reorganization within the officers, board and committee chairmen, old P.V.A.S is off to a late start this year.

At the March meeting our big event of the year, the annual fish show and auction was announced as set for May 20 and 21 at O'Connell High School. Due to a scheduling conflict, the school principal advised me that our show dates had to be changed. We are now locked in for the weekend of June 3 and 4, 1978.

There is a lot to do before now and show time. Many of you will be called upon to help in the preparations for the show. Letters have been sent inviting the judges; posters and flyers are in preparation; but there is still much work to be done. You'll be hearing from us. (Or even better, let us hear from you.)

Pat



Drawing by David F. Stellingwerf

"Haplochromis livingstoni"

From Dec., 1977 Issue

Buntbarsche Bulletin

Journal of the American Cichlid Assn.

For information about joining the A.C.A.
see P.V.A.S. Treasurer, Gene Aldridge.

OUT OF TOWN SHOW NEWS:

The Greater Pittsburg Aquarium Society is having its first annual "Species Show" Friday May 5 through Sunday, May 6. Their "species" seem to consist of all and every fish in the hobby, they include set tanks and will also have an auction on Sunday from 1 to 3:00 p.m. However, they split the proceeds 50/50 instead of our 25/75. They will have prizes and so forth. More information from either your editor or John Terwilliger.

Nothobranchius Korthausae

Joe Paull
P.V.A.S.

N. Korthausae is a fairly recent (1973) introduction from Mafia, an island off the east coast of Africa. Unlike most other Nothos, this species has no red coloring, being decorated instead with yellow and black banded fins on a metallic bluish green body. This "annual" killi also varies in its four week egg incubation period, which is the shortest of any peat spawner.

Care is simple: keep it clean, feed it anything and keep it clean. Like all members of the genus, N. Korthausae is susceptible to velvet infections, although it is not nearly as touchy as other Nothos. By adding one teaspoon of salt per gallon and keeping the tank clean of uneaten food, most problems are easily avoided.

This species breeds readily in the typical peat spawner fashion, except for the welcome fact that the males are not wife beaters like many other killies. Only one female need be provided for each male, but two or three assures you of a much greater egg yield. (Not that it is necessary - one pair produced 73 fry for me from a one week laying period.) The peat can be placed in a dish and then lowered into the tank or else dumped in and later siphoned out after one week with the eggs. I prefer the second method because half the peat from the bowl is usually knocked out by the fish. If the bowl is clear glass or plastic the stupid Nothos will constantly try to swim through it instead of over it. Killies are gorgeous, but not bright.

While keeping peat with the spawners it helps to feed live foods or very sparingly with prepared food in order to keep the peat as clean as possible. This helps reduce egg mortality during the incubation period. After one week, remove the peat, squeeze the water out (gently of course), and place it between newspapers or towels to dry until it is just moist and will not stick together when squeezed into a ball. (Most literature describes this state as similar to fresh pipe tobacco, but unless you smoke a pipe, this description is fairly useless.) Now store the peat (and hopefully eggs) in a labelled plastic bag for a month at room temperature. If you forget to hatch the eggs at the proper time, an extra storage period of a month or two usually will not hurt.

Now that you have patiently waited out the incubation period, dump the peat in water, crumble any lumps and make yourself scarce for the day. If you can manage to ignore the eggs until the next day, you will save yourself the anxiety and suspense when nothing appears as the hours creep by. After all, the eggs will hatch very well by themselves. If nothing is visible after 24 hours, set up your breeders and try again. Usually, however, you will find more fry than you want if the parents were well conditioned.

The fry are very tiny and require infusoria for several days before they can handle microworms or brine shrimp. After a week or two, crushed hake may be added to their diet. By six weeks they are easily sexed and are almost old enough to spawn. This species is a slow grower compared to other Nothos; N. guentheri is often fully grown and spawning at six weeks, whereas N. Korthausae does not reach full growth until three or four months old.

Bowl Show Report For February, 1978

Cichlids:

We had no entries, so no points.

Egglayers/Livebearers

Anabantoids

- 1st - Fazil, B. - Dwarf Gourami
- 2nd - Fazil, B. - Blue Gourami
- 3rd - Fazil, B. - Kissing Gourami

Corydoras

- 1st - Hoffman, G. - Schwartz
- 2nd - Hoffman, G. - Metae
- 3rd - Hoffman, G. - Aeneus

Open

no entries, no points

Judges, Sprague, S. and Walsh, T.

Bowl Show Report for March, 1978

Cichlids:

We had no entries, so no points.

Egglayers/Livebearers

Livebearers

- 1st - Lenzen, M. - A.Splendens
- 2nd - Lenzen, M. - Redtail goodeid
- 3rd -

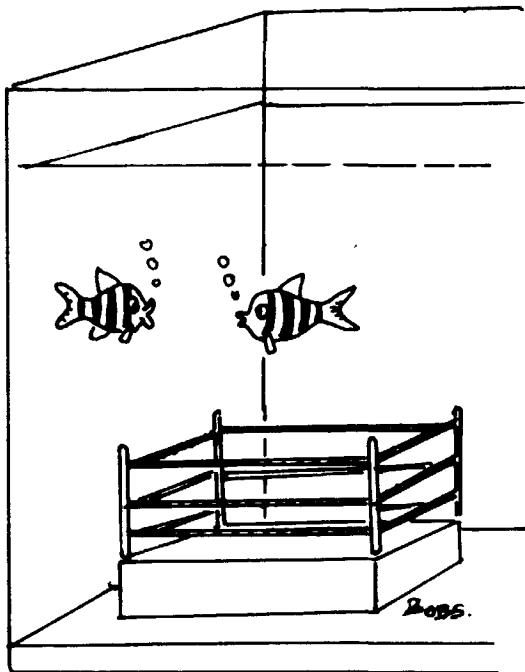
Killifish

- 1st - Mahoney, P.- A.Australe
- 2nd - Mahoney, P.- P.playfairi
- 3rd - Mahoney, P.- A.mento

Open

- 1st - Griffin, M. - Neo Tetra
- 2nd - Griffin, M - Lemon Tetra
- 3rd -

Judges: Sprague, S. and Hoffman, G.



"Rumor has it that we're getting a couple of bettas!"

MONTH QUARTER ANNUAL

Fazil, B.	0	13*	13
Hoffman, G.	0	13*	13
Mahoney, P.	13	13*	13
Griffin, M.	10	10	10
Lenzen, M.	10	10	10

*Quarterly Award

WELCOME!

A sincere and hearty welcome to four 1978 joiners. They include Belinda and Marian Nichols of Arlington, in Jan. John and Ann Garvey of Woodbridge in Feb. We had two sign up at the March meeting, Irene Sippel of Alexandria and David Balfoort of Laurel, who responded to our ad in the paper. It's paying off, it seems. Let's see to it that everyone helps them get into activities and introduces them around.

PARADISE FISH SPAWNING

Bev Fazil
P.V.A.S.

I went out to a pet store and found a very nice pair of paradise fish that I wanted to mate. They're very much like the bettas, but you can have the female in longer with paradise, "I Think". I bought the fish on July 18, 1977, had a five gallon tank set up for them with live plants and tunneled ceramics, bottom filter and air stone. I started feeding them live tubiflex and tetramin two times a day. I turned off the bottom filter and let the air stone gently move the water. One week later the male started building a nest by the worm feeder for about one week. Then, August first the male embraced the female and fell through the water as she dropped her eggs. The male frantically picked up all the eggs and put them in the nest. They continued this for up to two hours or more. Then he took charge and watched the eggs; when the female came too close he chased her away.

I left her in there for one week and the male for two weeks. I put the female in a round bowl, temperature 80° and then a week later added the male. They spawned again in about four days. After this second spawning, since the bowl was bare and there was no place for her to hide, I moved her into a ten gallon tank all dressed up with floating plants and all kinds of hiding places. Four days later I put the male in and then it took them about two weeks to spawn again. This time I wanted to see how long they could stay together and raise their family. The female helped the male with the eggs for awhile. He'd drive her away every once in a while, but she continued to pick up eggs and carry them to the top. They stayed together with babies for one and a half months, didn't eat any of them. Then she started bloating up, I guess with dropsy, and he had a big hole in his bottom fin. I took them both out and put them in a five gallon tank. Two days later they both died at the same time.

From the three spawnings there were over a hundred surviving fry. so it did have a happy ending, but not sooo.

RECOMMENDED READING:

"The Value of females in breeding" - touches on more than just Guppies, might be of interest to beginners, especially.

" Show Wise" - how to pick guppies for shows, might also be valuable for other species.

BOTH: Guppy Roundtable, Feb. 1978
Pan Pacific Guppy Assn.

"Bon Appetit - or what's for lunch" - a long one on feeding and making your own food, along with recipies in detail.

Bits & Pisces, Feb. 1978

"For a Change" - about water changes, how tos and the value thereof.
(Might print this one in a later issue.)

The Valley Stream, Dec, '77
Edgewood Valley Aquarist Soc.

See Librarians, Mike and Susan Sprague to borrow any of the above or other exchange publications.

The Emperor Tetra

Rick Johnson
Tank Topics - February, 1978
Greater Akron Aquarium Soc.

Of all the South American species of characines, I find only a few to be as desirable as those coming from Africa. One of these is a truly beautiful and desirable fish, *Nematobrycon palmeri*, the Emperor Tetra. As with the African species, they are rather scarce in the hobby and thus are a little expensive compared to most other South American tetras. But due to their splendid coloration and graceful lines and magnificent caudal fin, they can command the higher price that sets them aside from most of the other South American stock we see in the hobby.

Nematobrycon palmeri comes from the streams of Columbia, on the western side of that country. Reportedly they are found in a very inaccessible area and that is the reason they are not seen as often as most other SA species. *Nematobrycon* contains only one other species, that being *Nematobrycon amphotaxas*, the Rainbow Tetra. The two species are very similar, but can be easily discerned by the rainbow coloration on the sides of *N. amphotaxas*. The Emperor Tetra was discovered by Eigmann in 1911, but reportedly not imported into the hobby until the 1950s. They are supposed to inhabit warm, soft, acidic streams with bushy plants abundant. In the aquarium they are not too choosy as to water conditions and seem to do well in a broad range of pH, hardness and temperature. Of course, the extremes should be eliminated and a pH around neutral and temperature from 74 to 80° F is about ideal.

Feeding them presents little problem aslo as they accept most frozen foods with gusto and eat flake foods fairly well. Live foods are accepted with much appreciation. White worms, glass worms, daphnia, baby brine shrimp, as well as microworms, were all fed to and devoured by my fish. Live foods may be desirable for conditioning the adult fish for spawning although not entirely necessary.

Mature fish can be sexed very easily as the male develops pronounced ray extensions on his caudal fin - the top ray, the bottom and one spike growing from the middle. It is this characteristic that makes the Emperor a very attractive fish. The anal fin is slightly more developed in the male and he shows more coloration at times. The last two are a little harder to spot in younger fish, however. The dorsal fin is much more developed in the male also. The anal fin is edged in a bright yellow stripe edged with a black stripe. In spawning color, the male's body takes on a deep purplish gold tint with the black horizontal stripe thickening and becoming more intense. The eyes of fish in breeding color are also more intense, black outlined in aquamarine blue. Truly a magnificent fish. Maximum size is under two inches and most fish can be spawned at one inch. The males tend to reach a larger size than females of the same age. Females tend to fill up when carrying eggs which gives you notice of readiness to spawn.

A tank of 10 gallons or more is ideal for housing and breeding Emperors. A community tank is fine and probably better than a single species tank, as the males are very aggressive and show tendencies of being territorial. They are capable of making small wounds with their teeth on their unfortunate enemies. I have observed fish swimming with small patches of fungus where they have lost scales to an aggressive tank mate. Especially singled out are other males, but the females are harrassed as spawning time approaches. A ratio of one male to three or more females is desirable due to the aggressive traits mentioned.

I housed my fish, two males and five females, in a five gallon tank but provided a profusion of live plants to counteract the aggressiveness of the males. The tank was set up as a permanent breeding set up - one that housed the fish as well as providing them a suitable spawning medium for a long range breeding situation. The bottom had a layer of dark, natural gravel over an undergravel filter and the plants consisted of a very large clump of Java moss and a thick floating mass of water sprite, riccia and duckweed. The temperature was maintained between 76 and 80°F and water changes were made every week, amounting to approximately 15 to 20%. The decaying plants and gravel bottom caused a healthy mulm to develop which was allowed to accumulate.

NOTE: There is quite a difference between a dirty tank and an unhealthy tank. True, an unhealthy tank can be dirty and usually is, but a healthy tank can be 'dirty' in the sense that it contains mulm, algae and plant life as well as a balanced growth of infusoria and bacteria. The biggest distinction of course is the healthy appearance of the fish and the clarity of the water. If the fish are active, alert and eat well and the tank is clear and well established, there are no problems. Mulm harbors all sorts of microscopic life, including the bacteria necessary to the process of bacterial filtration. It provides one of the better first foods for newly hatched fry - not the mulm itself, but the infusoria it harbors. To a novice it can be a tricky problem getting a dirty/healthy tank and is probably best left alone. Infusoria can be cultured with little problem and can be fed to fry when necessary, which eliminates the risks of possible disease outbreaks or deaths from unsanitary tank conditions.

The spawning took place in and above the bottom plants with the male chasing the female until she consented to his advances. The males swam alongside the females and wrapped their bodies slightly around the females. The eggs were released and fertilized as they dropped into the plants. The parents paid no attention to the eggs, and when they hatched about 30 hours later, the fry were not eaten or molested. I have raised the fry with the parents up till three months of age with no loss of fry. The spawns were rather small, 5 and 30 respectively, probably due to the fact that a corydorous cat was in the spawning tank and got his share of caviar dinners. The fry stay among the plants the first few weeks of their life and graze on the infusorians in the mulm and plants. I didn't feed them any fry foods until they were large enough to be seen swimming about and large enough to feed microworms and baby brine shrimp to with no problems. The fry grow at a fairly rapid rate and are half grown in three months time and sexable shortly thereafter. Both the fry and the adult Emperors appear to be very hardy and respond well to a little care and feeding.

EDITORS NOTE(S):

We will, starting with the May issue, again be a monthly. I notice many publications offer a "trading Post" sort of column in which members can offer fish and/or related hardware for sale. I think this might be a good notion for the Delta Tale, too. I would also welcome fish food recipes - articles, of course - and all and any comments you might have, be they one liners or a paragraph.

maggi

UPCOMING BOWL SHOW CATAGORIES:

	<u>CICHLIDS</u>	<u>OTHER EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS</u>
May	Mouthbrooder, New World Haplochromis Open	Barbs Goldfish/Koi Open
June	Central & S.A. Dwarf Pseudotropheus Open	Tetras Characins Open

bap REPORT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Jan & David McInturff	405***
Ruth Brewer	270**
Susan & Mike Sprague	165**
Joe Paull	135**
Gerry Hoffman	115*
Gene Aldridge	80
Diane Nixon	70*
Beverly Fazil	65*
John Jessup	55*
Pat Tietjen	15
Jerry Donnelly	10
Pat & Maggi Mahoney	10

- * Breeder Award
- ** Intermediate Breeder
- *** Advanced Breeder

RECENT SPAWNINGS:

Joe Paull - Apistoagassizi, Notho-korthausi, Cory paleatus
Bev Fazil - Platies

Remember, all of you who have 15 or over-point spawning reports in -- you must either publish or speak to get your points. If you're not sure where you stand, get hold of Dave McInturff, Breeder program chairman.