

* DELTA TALE *

MARCH 1983
VOL XIV: No.3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society

THIS MONTH



MINI AUCTION



BOWL SHOW

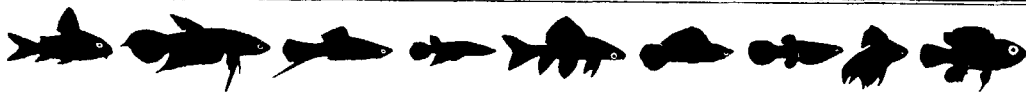
New World Dwarf
Riftlake, non-Mbuna
excl. Haps
Open



Killifish
Catfish, non-Corydoras
Open



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 (formerly the Potomac Valley Guppy Club), 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: Secretary, P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6219, Shirlington Station, Arlington, Va. 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; One will be forwarded to the author/artist. All material for inclusion in Delta Tale should reach the editor 10 working days prior to the monthly meeting date. P.V.A.S. disclaim and Delta Tail disclaim any responsibility for content or availability of advertised merchandise or service in these pages. Customer satisfaction is a matter to be worked out exclusively between the advertisers and buyers.

P.V.A.S. OFFICERS, 1983

President	:	Pat Mahoney 534-0006	Corr. Sec.	:	Jim Long 280-1753
Vice-Pres.	:	Woody Griffin 949-3188	Rec. Sec.	:	Chryss Guiler 864-1299
Treasurer	:	Maggi Mahoney 534-0006	Rec. Sec.	:	Nancy Griffin 949-3188

P.V.A.S. BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 1983

Pete Tietjen, Jim Hajdics, Jerry Stirman, Darrell Holman

Exofficio, John E. Jessup

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

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

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

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NOW HEAR THIS...

SNOW....SNOW....SNOW... WIPED US OUT...

But, DARN THE SNOW--FULL SPEED AHEAD!

Last month's snowstorm really wiped us out... we can't catch up on missed bowl show categories... we'll just move on to the published schedule and I urge everyone to bring AT LEAST ONE FISH to keep up the competition spirit in this vital club activity.

We will have a bowl show this month in addition to the MINI AUCTION.

Our annual Spring Show is moving along. This May 20-21-22 event is a MAJOR club activity. Guests from all over the fish club community and the general public attend.

Woody Griffin is our capable show manager and he will hold a WORKERS meeting at his home at 10:30 a.m. Sunday March 13.

There are a variety of jobs to be done-- so join us--call Woody at 949-3188 for information and/or directions to his house.

See you at the meetings...

Pat Mahoney
PVAS President

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members who have joined since the last Delta Tale....

Mark and Shirley Rosenquist of Greenbelt, Md., bring 15 years of in hobby experience to PVAS. Currently operating seven tanks they have spawned many types of live bearers, cichlids and gouramis. Mark is assistant manager of The Animal Hut in Washington.

Kevin Uzzle, Raleigh, N.C., has joined as a corresponding member... we met Kevin at the October show of PVAS... Eight years in the hobby, Kevin is editor of CAROLINA AQUARIAS-- the publication of the Raleigh Aquarium Society. He keeps 25 plus tanks and promises to visit PVAS at the May Show.

SPAWNING GEOPHAGUS JURUPARI

By Vince Edmondson, PVAS, LIAS

Geophagus jurupari, sometimes known as the "Demon Fish," is found in parts of Brazil and the Guianas. The fish reportedly grows to approximately 25 cm. (ten inches) in the wild, but very seldom do we see specimens larger than 15cm. (six inches) in captivity. *Jurupari* has the reputation of being one of the most peaceful cichlid species. Some other *Geophagus* are quarrelsome and even predatory, for example, *Geophagus Brasiliensis*, which I've learned not to trust with smaller fishes.

I became interested in *Jurupari* about two years ago, in my transition from African Cichlids to Neotropicals. The fish were often seen at two inches in pet shops, but were never abundant at the time and rarely in good shape. I found four *Jurupari* in two different shops and placed them in a fifty-five gallon community tank. The fish were approximately 7.5 cm. (three inches) long and exhibited no sexual dimorphism.

In April, 1982, while visiting Ginny and Charlie Eckstein, I observed their *Jurupari*, which had spawned just prior to my arrival. The pair were approximately 12.5 cm. (five inches) in length and (again) sexually indistinguishable. An interesting observation at the time, which later proved inconclusive, was that the male had shorter pelvic fins than the female; the dorsal fins were unremarkable in both the male and female. Ginny and I theorized that one of the problems with spawning *Jurupari* is that the male, with his normally longer fins in most cichlid species, had been conditioned for spawning, rather than the female, which in Ginny's pair, had the longer fins, at least with regard to the pelvic fins.

Upon returning home, I set up my *Jurupari*, now about 12.5 cm. (five inches), for spawning, removing all but a pair of *Discus* from the fifth-five gallon tank. I bought a large plastic Amazon Sword and laid a piece of slate behind the plastic plant, duplicating Ginny's set up, except that she used a hexagon tank.

Some time passed before I noticed that two of the *Jurupari* spent considerable time behind the plant over the slate which was partially sheltered by the leaves. I turned the thermometer up, raising the temperature from 82 degrees F., and removed the other two *Jurupari*. At about eleven o'clock on an August evening, the pair spawned. I took many, many pictures of the sequence, fearing at first that the fish might be distracted, but they ignored me and proceeded to lay, in typical cichlid fashion, approximately 120 eggs in an hour or so. The female's breeding tube was blunt while the male's tube was pointed. No other sexual differences were noted, though each fish showed a remarkable capacity for color changes through-out the spawning, not unlike many cichlids.

On the following evening, the female, with the male at her side, picked up the clutch of eggs and began a seven day oral incubation period, releasing her fry intermittently from the eighth day forward. About ten days later, I moved the female and her fry to a ten gallon tank.

Primarily because the male had become somewhat aggressive towards his mate. On a diet of Artemia Revolution, a beef heart/agar mixture, and powdered fry foods, the young Jurupari grew to about an inch in about two and a half months.

With reference to my earlier remarks regarding longer pelvic fins on Ginny Eckstein's female Jurupari, my male's fins, all of them were noticeably longer, so our theory on sexing and conditioning Jurupari didn't survive. I will state that in adult Jurupari (I've now spawned two pairs), the females are heavier bodied, particularly in the abdominal region, and are the aggressors when in breeding condition.



THE TREASURY

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT: 2/12/83

Bank Balance, Jan. 1, 1983		\$1,747.00
1/1/83 to date income:		
Membership dues	\$ 97.00	
Raffle, Jan. meeting	14.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 111.00
1/1/83 to date expenses:		
Jefferson Fire House, donation	\$ 50.00	
Amer. Catfish & Loach Assn., dues	7.50	
FAAS, dues	15.00	
Print January <u>Delta Tale</u>	33.00	
Postage, January <u>Delta Tale</u>	27.01	
	<hr/>	\$ 132.51
Bank Balance, Feb. 12, 1983		\$1,725.49
MEM: PVAS Treas.		

SPAWNING THE CHOCOLATE CICHLID

When I first saw a Chocolate Cichlid about two years ago in a local shop, I was anything but impressed, since the single specimen was in a very large tank and was being harassed by larger and more aggressive cichlids and catfish. It was sometime later when I again saw the fish at Ginny and Charlie Eckstein's Aquarium, Long Island, New York.

When my wife, who prefers Poodles to fish, said that she thought the fish was pretty, I was convinced then and there that I had to have some. Before returning home, we had "Jennifer," a twelve inch female Chocolate Cichlid, given to Barbara Edmondson by Ginny Eckstein, as a pet. With the "pet" category was the message, "no shows, no breeding," so I set out to find some smaller Chocolates.

The Chocolate Cichlid is *Cichlasoma coryphaenoides*, according to Paul Loiselle's excellent studies, "The *Cichlasoma* Species of South America: Part 1" in the December, 1980 FAMA, and is found in the Amazon Basin. According to Sterba, the fish grows to approximately 22cm. (1)

Much controversy has surrounded the correct scientific name of the Chocolate Cichlid, also known as *C. hellabruni*, *C. crassa*, and *C. temporale*. As if there wasn't enough confusion, an article in TFH magazine called the fish "The Emerald Cichlid," (2) referring apparently to the velvety green of some specimens uppersides; the undersides and flanks are a beautiful wine-red, especially so in breeding dress.

Jim Langhammer, Curator of the Belle Isle Aquarium, Detroit, Michigan, and a Technical Editor of *Buntbarsche Bulletin* (Journal of the American Cichlid Association), says that "almost without exception, illustrations in all hobby publications for *Cichlasoma coryphaenoides*, *Cichlasoma crassa* and *Cichlasoma hellabruni*, are actually illustrations of the same species at different ages. (3) He goes on to say that one to four inch illustrations are usually labeled *C. coryphaenoides*, four to six inch sub-adults called *C. crassa*, and fully adult fish labeled *C. hellabruni*. (4)

He concludes that *C. coryphaenoides* is "the first and hopefully the last name...." (5)

I found six small Chocolates at Mother Nature's in Levittown, New York in October, 1981 and placed them in a forty gallon tank with several other species of cichlids and assorted catfish. The chocolates were very shy and didn't compete very well for food, so I soon moved them into a twenty gallon tank and, still later, into a fifty-five with Keyholes and other less aggressive species.

In the mean time, I bought a "mated pair" of Chocolate Cichlids from a local hobbyist and traded for a four inch female, which had been laying eggs by herself in a local shop. The "matched pair", a four and a half inch male and his slightly smaller female fought incessantly and were separated.

BY VINCE EDMONDSON PVAS

I might mention that I had tried to buy a pair from Ginny Eckstein, but she refused because they were egg eaters and she was caused to hatch each spawn artificially, on each of two pairs, if I remember correctly.

I finally got a spawn from the odd female and the male from the pair, but discovered the spawn late and all but a few of the eggs had fungused. I moved the new "pair" from a thirty gallon tank into a fifty-five gallon giving them a large flower pot and several rocks on which to spawn. The fish spawned several times in their new tank, but fought and refused to guard the spawns.

Since I also had a breeding pair of Green Severum in the fifty-five, I had divided the tank, because of very limited tank space. I decided to unload some other species (Jurupari and *Aequidens mariae*, among others) so as to return the Chocolate Cichlids to a now empty thirty gallon tank.

My efforts were soon rewarded, with a spawn of approximately one hundred or so eggs. I wound up with approximately sixty half inch fry about a month later. The loss of fry I attributed to their inability to find food, which consisted of crushed flakes and pellets and Kordon's Baby-Fry Diet. Subsequent spawns by that pair and other pairs from my six small chocolates, now four to five inches, have had larger spawns and greater survival rates.

Infusoria and Artemia Revolution are now my starter foods for just about all of my recent spawns, and I would recommend same to anyone who repeatedly has a significant loss of fry. Though pairs of *C. coryphaenoides* soon settle down and exhibit their beautiful colors, with or without fry, additional members of the species are not allowed to share the same tank(s) in peace.

I placed a smaller pair in a 110 gallon tank, which "Jenifer" calls home, and was lucky to get them out before she could do very much damage. The Chocolate Cichlid, *C. coryphaenoides*, is more available now than before, and is well worth any hobbyist's time and attention.

References:

- (1) Sterba, Gunther. *Freshwater Fishes of the World*. TFH Publications, 1973 soft cover edition, Volume 2, page 693.
- (2) Staikowski, Rainer. "The Emerald Cichlid" *Tropical Fish Hobbyist* (magazine) November, 1981, pages 76-85
- (3) Langhammer, James K. "The Chocolate Cichlid is Cichlasoma?" *Tropic Tank Talk* (magazine), a publication of the Greater Detroit Aquarium Society, March, 1982, pages 9-12
- (4) Ibid
- (5) Ibid

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The meeting was brought to order at 10:30 a.m. March 6 at the Thompson home with the Mahoneys, Griffins, Jim Long, Pete Tietjen, Jim Hajdics and Jerry Stirman in attendance.

We are investigating an offer by THE MIT PRESS of our club selling to members a new hard book they soon will publish. Edited by Gunther Sterba, THE AQUARIUM ENCYCLOPEDIA, was translated by Susan Simpson and english editing is by Dick Mills.

Woody announced that a meeting will be held at the Griffin's home at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 13, for persons interested in working at the May Show. Everyone wanting to help at the show is welcome to attend. For directions of more information, call 949-3188. Dates for the show are May 20,21 and 22. Membership participation is a must.

Pat is going to look into the clubs need to incorporate as a non-profit organization. A motion to reimburse legal fees if any was approved.

The end of year and current treasurer report will be published in the current edition of Delta Tale. The proposed budget for the coming year will appear in the April edition.

Jim Hajdics announced that a BAP meeting will be held in April-the exact date is to be announced.

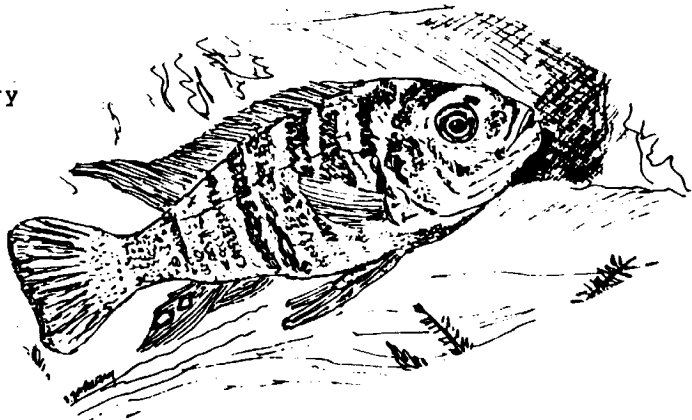
The board voted to have FAAS awards framed and the presented to members.

The next board meeting will be held at the Griffins at 8 p.m. Monday, April 4.

Pat asked that all board members bring one fish (or more) to the bowl shows.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Nancy Griffin
Recording Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT
For Year Ending 12/31/82

Bank Balance 12/31/81		3,369.23
1982 Income:		
Dues	471.00	
Advertising	24.00	
Raffles (incl. Spring and Fall)	1,228.00	
Auctions (incl. minis)	3,562.42	
Spring Show Fees	328.50	
Fall Dinner	425.00	
Concessions	435.95	
Sale of Conde Pump	125.00	
Collection of bad check	47.25	
Refund: Beltway Movers	11.60	
Refunds: Cokes, Dinner, etc.	41.56	
Uncashed checks written off	<u>41.00</u>	
		6,741.28
1982 Expenses:		
Delta Tale:		
Printing	436.00	
Postage - members and exchanges	532.15	
"Welcome to PVAS"	33.00	
Mailing labels & roster	<u>98.67</u>	
		1,099.82
Additions to Club Property:		
Carrousel	5.98	
Projection Screen	30.00	
Pump	512.50	
T-shirts	<u>617.50</u>	
		1,165.98
Auctions, Show, & Dinner	5,317.30	
BAP Expenses	135.08	
Bowl Show Expenses	144.77	
Program Expenses	60.00	
1981 Christmas Party	88.70	
1982 Picnic	163.21	
Dues & Contributions:		
ACA	10.00	
FAAS	15.00	
Nat'l Aq. Society	15.00	
Fairfax Co. Fire Dept. (check never cashed, see Income)	25.00	
Westover Baptist Church	<u>50.00</u>	
		115.00
New Checks	17.65	
P.O. Box Rents (2)	<u>56.00</u>	
		<u>8,363.51</u>
Bank Balance 12/31/82		1,747.00

BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAM

NAME	POINTS (through Jan 15, 1983)	
Garland Neese	865	++++
Gerry Hoffman	680	++++
Woody Griffin	555	++++
Pat & Maggi Mahoney	615	+++
Darrel Holman	550	+++
John Jessup	495	+++
Vince Edmondson	450	+++
Ruth Brewer	305	+++
Jim Hajdics	275	++
Art Lembke	165	++
The Wagners	165	++
Kenny Warren	90	+
Gene Aldridge	80	+
The Thompsons	55	+
Amy Stirman	50	+

B.A.P. Checkers

CHAIRMAN: Jim Hajdics

Alexandria: Jim Hajdics	Fairfax County: Pat Mahoney
435-4625	534-0006
Vienna & Ron Thompson	Arlington: Darrell Holman
McLean 938-3654	533-7750
District of Vince Edmondson	Montgomery Co.: Woody Griffin
Columbia 234-5641	949-3188
Prince William Co.: Gerry Hoffman	

A telephone call to any of the above will give assistance or information on the Breeders Award Program or spawning. Any member in good standing can sign in a 10-point fish.

PVAS BOWL SHOW STANDINGS

	Month	Cichlids Quarter	Year
John Mangan	7	7	7
Amy Stirman	5	5	5
Frank Angilletta	4	4	4
Pat Mahoney	4	4	4

Egglayers/Livebearers

John Mangan	10	10	10
Garland Neese	9	9	9
Frank Angilletti	7	7	7
Amy Stirman	4	4	4
Michelle Mangan	4	4	4
Jim Long	1	1	1

DELTA'S TALE....

Last month this Editorial Page told you about the new DELTA TALE HOTLINE-- 938-3654 that works evenings and weekends to record items of interest to the club. Here are a few examples of what came in...

Pat Mahoney returned from a two-week duty assignment in Europe to find himself hospitalized for another two weeks... Pat's out now and recovering...

Remember your first successful spawn...

Mike Reilly called HOTLINE Sunday March 6 to report not one-- but two spawns discovered while cleaning tanks.

Excited, you better believe. "I thought the Rainbow eggs fungused last week... but I got 20 or so...WOW Looking further in another tank Mike found a spawn of White Cloud Mountain Fish.

Mike's working his way into the BAP program now.

DOODLES WANTED-- If you are a doodler how about sending them along to DELTA TALE. We'll use them for accent art and give you credit as well.

FAAS/MASI CONVENTION SET

The Missouri Aquarium Society, Incorporated (MASI) will hold its 23rd Annual Show and will host the 10th Anniversary Convention of the Federation of American Aquarium Societies (FAAS) on April 15-17 in St. Louis.

The combined programs will be held at the Ramada Inn-Westport. Detailed information is available to PVAS members at our upcoming meeting or by calling DELTA TALE.



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

First Class Mail

1983 Meeting Dates:

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

Meeting will be held at the Jefferson Fire House Community Room,
Route 50 and and Graham Road, Falls Church, Va. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.;
Bowl Show registration 7:45 to 8p.m.; meeting starts at 8 p.m.

