

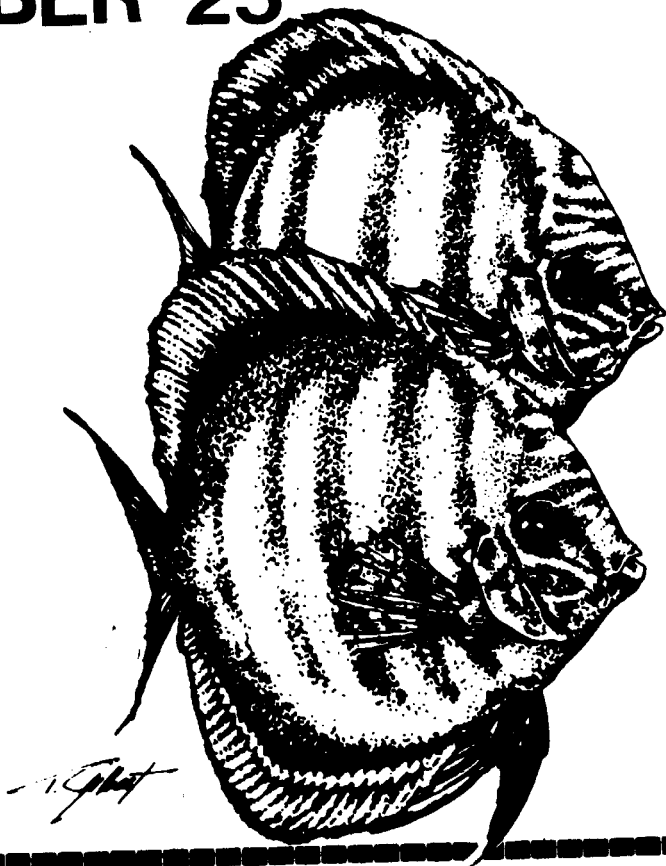
# \* DELTA TALE \*

SEPT., 1983  
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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society

**COLLECTING  
TRIP  
SEPTEMBER 25**



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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# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Board of Governors Meeting

August 1, 1983

The August meeting of the PVAS Board of Governors was held on August 1, 1983 at Jim Long's house. Present were Pat and Maggi Mahoney, John Jessup, Chryss Guiler, Woody and Nancy Griffin, Ruth Brewer, Ron Thompson, Darrell Holman, Jim Long, Jim Hajdics, Jerry and Amy Stirman and Pete Tietjen.

Pat Mahoney opened the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Maggi Mahoney presented the Treasurer's report which was then accepted by the board.

It was announced by Pat Mahoney that an attorney is looking into the incorporation and non-profit status that the club is seeking and that the attorney will get back to us.

Several speakers for this year's annual banquet were suggested by members of the board; after some discussion, it was decided that Pat Mahoney would investigate the possibility of having one of them attend the banquet.

Preparations for the picnic, to be held on August 14, are proceeding as planned.

Several locations for a club collecting trip are being considered. Some members of the board expressed a desire that the trip be located some distance away so that species not found in this area could be collected. Darrell Holman and Ruth Brewer will recommend a location by the next board meeting.

Chryss Guiler  
Co-recording Secretary

# THE TREASURY

## POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

JULY, 1983

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Beginning Balance		\$2,318.95
Income:		
Dues	24.00	
Spring Auction	158.32	
7/11 Raffle	11.00	
Donation (Uzzle)	10.00	
		<hr/>
TOTAL		211.01
Expenses:		
Letterhead/Env.	73.20	
Quarterly awards	16.53	
Dealer Trophy/ Quarterly Awards	27.83	
A.C.A. Dues	10.00	
		<hr/>
TOTAL		127.56
July 31, 1983 Balance		\$2,402.40

How about PVAS members getting together for a convoy to the North Jersey Aquarium Society "Cichlid Face-Off" on the 4th, 5th and 6th of November. Better still, lets enter some of our cichlids in the show and not just attend the auction. For more details, contact Vince Edmundson or Pat Mahoney.

The NORTH JERSEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY presents:

# THE GREAT EAST COAST CICHLIDS ONLY FACE - OFF

## NEW WORLD CLASSES

1. APISTOGRAMMA, NANACARA, CRENTICARA
2. AEQUIDENS SP. SMALL
3. AEQUIDENS SP. LARGE
4. GEOPHAGUS SP. SMALL
5. GEOPHAGUS SP. LARGE
6. DISCUS, UARU
7. ANGELFISH
8. CICHLASOMA SP. SMALL
9. CICHLASOMA SP. MEDIUM
10. CICHLASOMA SP. LARGE
11. ALL OTHERS (OSCAR, PIKE, LUKI)
12. NEW WORLD FAMILY TANK

## OLD WORLD CLASSES

13. LAKE TANGANYIKA SUBSTRATUM BRED.
14. LAKE TANGANYIKA MOUTHBROODERS
15. LAKE MALAWI (MBUNA)
16. LAKE MALAWI HAPLOCHROMIS DERIV.  
(HAPLOCHROMIS & AULONACARA)
17. TILAPIA SP.
18. NON RIFT LAKE SP.
19. OLD WORLD FAMILY TANK

AWARDS: FIRST, SECOND, & THIRD IN EACH CLASS (HON. MENTION BY JUDGES)  
"BEST OLD WORLD CICHLID"  
"BEST NEW WORLD CICHLID"

**NOV. 4, 5, 6, 1983**  
V.F.W. Post #7502 Ridgefield, N.J.  
GEORGE FEAR WILL BE HANDLING MAIL-IN ENTRIES

JUDGES: ROSARIO LaCORTE  
WAYNE LIEBEL  
JERRY NEOLA  
NINI SCHULTZ  
MIKE SHERIDAN  
Plus others.



AMERICAN CICHLID ASSN. SANCTIONED

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

KEVIN CARR  
19 W. 34TH ST.  
BAYONNE NJ 07002  
(201) 339 - 2828

MIKE SHERIDAN  
226 74TH ST.  
NORTH BERGEN NJ 07047  
(201) 662 - 6804

CHUCK DAVIS  
31 PEARSALL AVE.  
JERSEY CITY NJ 07305  
(201) 435 - 2859

# UPDATE

## SPECIAL NOTICE

### Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Collecting Trip

At 0830, Sunday morning, 25 September 1983, members will meet at the Jefferson Fire Station Parking Lot (Arlington Blvd at Graham Road). We will wait until 0845 when we will move out in convoy to the Quantico Marine Base. The route will be the Beltway (I-495) East to I-95 (Springfield) then South on I-95 to Quantico. The first exit to Quantico is marked TRIANGLE-QUANTICO. The second exit (where we leave I-95) is marked MARINE CORPS BASE. We exit down the ramp to a stop light and turn right. Stay on this road for 1.2 miles where we go up a hill. At the top of the hill, a gravel road comes in sharply from the left. Turn left on the gravel road for about a block where we will see a small white building on the left. On the right a sign reads GAME WARDEN, GAME MANAGER and FORESTER. Turn left onto the parking lot.

Mr. Tim Stamp, Wildlife Manager at Quantico, will meet us at 0930 and will be our escort for the day.

One thing more - this is a collecting trip and not a picnic. Depending where we collect, Quantico offers tidally affected pools, swift running streams, ponds and even a lake or two. In the interest of safety, we suggest that small children be left at home.

So count on joining us on the 25th of September. Bring your nets, buckets and battery-powered aerators (if you have 'em) and pack a lunch. Remember, there are no McDonalds in the boondocks.

Pat...

# LEAKY PIPES

Reprinted From  
Caroline Aquarist,  
Jan.-Feb., 1983

The new, one piece magnet driven filters are quickly taking over the shelves in our aquarium shops. These self-priming filters generally use the "waterfall" return and seem to be very effective.

There are some problems with these new filters though. Almost all of these filters are constructed with the impeller coming before the filter box which can lead to some bad problems. This design makes it very easy for dead plant material and other detritus to become lodged around the impeller and inhibit its rotations. When this occurs the motor can over heat and could possibly cause the box to melt, so when cleaning your filter, be sure and check the impeller.

While you're looking at the impeller take a minute and turn it upside down as the shaft tends to wear unevenly. This can add extra life to the impeller. Keeping the impeller clean and turning the shaft over periodically should keep your filter running quietly. Does your already rattle? If so, it probably has worn un evenly. You can check it by looking at the bottom of the impeller. If it has an egg shape then it has worn and needs to be replaced.

You may, on occasion, find yourself running through the house with a mop. This unpleasant act can be brought on when your filter pad becomes too dirty and stops the flow of water. When the water can't easily go through the pad it will easily find its way over the pad or floss.

One other problem point with the "waterfall" filters is that the water falls into the tank very near the intake tube which causes already clean water to be cleaned again and can lead to dead spots. This problem can easily be rectified by adding an elbow to the intake tube.

With a good cleaning and maintenance program and a little modification these filters are easy to take care of and have advantages over other filters. One good point is that since they are self-priming, the water level can be very low in the tank without the filter losing its prime. This is especially helpful at water changing time. Another very good point is that they use only one-quarter the amount of electricity. Being under the filter, box they are subjected to less salt spray and therefore usually last longer. These filters also rely on water for lubrication and do not require oiling.

Used in conjunction with an under gravel system, these filters are even more effective as some of the problems outlined in this article are eliminated. With the gravel between the large particles and the filter you no longer have to worry about the impeller getting clogged although it should still be turned over.

Although these filters have their faults they are generally less trouble and work better than some of the other models. They are also very reasonable in price and you can count on a long life from most.

--- ALAN PITEGOFF

## NEETROPLUS NEMATOPUS

Pat Mahoney

At the Fall Workshop of the North Jersey Aquarium Society in 1982, I picked up a bag of six, small, slate gray Neetroplus nematopus.

Arriving home late on a Sunday night with an 0800 flight to Pensacola, Florida facing me the next morning, the Neetroplus were temporarily housed in the only available tank in my fish room, a clean forty gallon. I fully intended setting them up in a twenty gallon long tank on my return from Florida.

The forty gallon tank had been prepared in advance in case I was fortunate enough to purchase some adult Aequidens rivulatus in the New Jersey auction. I didn't get the Aequidens and the tiny Neetroplus seemed lost in such a large tank.

Neetroplus nematopus is a native of both the great lakes of Nicaragua and in the swift-flowing rivers emanating from the lakes. They are also found in the rivers of the Atlantic slopes of Costa Rica,

I had heard the horror stories at ACA Conventions about these unusual Central American cichlids. I had also read Ginnie Eckstein's account of her spawning of the peppery little monsters. Still, I had to try to spawn them.

I was cautioned not to put them in with any other fish. They were fiesty enough among themselves - fiesty, but not fatal as all six reached maturity.

By the time I remembered my intention to set them up in a twenty gallon tank, six were too big for a twenty. Besides, they had established territories in the forty, so in the forty they remained. Yes, Procrastination was my college major!

Rock work and caves were established the length of the tank. By the time the Neetroplus reached three inches in length it was apparent that my colony consisted of two males and four females. Each male established residence at opposite ends of the tank with the females constantly on the move in the middle.

One female finally accepted the invitation of the larger male and moved into his cave. A few days later I thought some strange fish had gotten into the tank as she had turned jet-black with a white belt around her middle. Furthermore, the damn fish looked as if it had been Simonized.



As Paul Loiselle described in his article on *N.nematopus* in the January 1983 issue of Freshwater and Marine Aquarium, the female had become a photographic negative of herself. This is the breeding coloration signifying that eggs had been deposited and at the same time serves to warn all tank mates - "BEWARE! I AM ONE MEAN MOMMA!"

The spawning site was a porcelain elbow cave - open at one end, closed at the other and with a side opening. The male pushed sand up against the open end nearly to the top. With the help of a flashlight I was able to see a small clutch of reddish-brown, oval-shaped eggs at the turn of the elbow. I was somewhat surprised at the large size of the eggs from this small female. Only twenty or so eggs were visible with the promise of more out of sight.

Two days later the male also made his color change - not as dramatic as his mate, but change none the less. His black coloration was more of a matte finish and with a greenish hue about the head. This change of color in the male indicated that the eggs had hatched. He positioned himself midwater about a foot past his cave and kept the other male and three females at a distance.

On the evening of the fourth day, one small (1/4") fry ventured out of the front of the cave. The next day twenty-eight siblings ventured forth. An accurate count waited for sixty-days when the rock work would be removed.

While the dentition of *Neetroplus* equips it for scraping algae from rocks, it much prefers surface feeding. Not a picky eater, this dwarf-like cichlid partakes of live foods, flake and pellets with equal vigor.

Their severe reaction to foul water is reportedly the most dramatic of any Central American cichlid. Regular partial water changes are a must if you expect to keep and spawn *Neetroplus*.

At sixty days I discovered forty-four healthy *Neetroplus* fry, the smallest being one inch in length. All fry were sold to a local fish store. The two trios of adults were given to visiting Kevin Uzzle of the North Carolina Aquarium Society and to Alex Cummins of PVAS.

#

## A SPAWNING OF THE WHIPTAIL CAT:

### LORICARIA FILAMENTOSA

Reprinted from Youngstown Aquarist  
Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Soc.  
August, 1983

By Gary Seifert  
Y.A.T.F.S.  
BAP Report

Five months ago I purchased six whiptail cats, which at the time were about 3 inches long. After going through the literature available to me, I determined that they were *Loricaria filamentosa*, relying on the fact that both sexes have an elongated ray on the upper lobe of the caudal fin.

Whiptails resemble a miniature alligator with fins instead of legs. In fact, some of the older articles referred to them as alligator catfish. Sexing these whiptails is quite easy, the males being wider, head to tail, than the females.

The cats were set up in a 10 gallon tank with 3 small clown plecostomus. The tank was bare bottomed and contained a sponge filter and 5 lengths of white PVC pipe 1.5 inches in diameter, 6 inches long. The tank recieved no direct lighting, and at best, would be considered very dimly lit. Even with the low level of light, the whiptails preferred to spend their time inside the tubes while the fishroom lights were on.

It seemed they didn't eat at all during the day, so it became my habit to feed them just before all the lights were turned out. Not being able to watch them eat, I fed very heavily. So heavily that each morning the bottom had to be siphoned to remove uneaten food and waste.

Their feeding schedule went like this. First day - a good quality staple flake food, second day - a green flake food, third day - frozen adult brine shrimp, fourth day - a homemade frozen vegetable mixture.

The frozen vegetable mix was made by grinding green peas, green beans, and spinach with a meat grinder. To this, a small amount of water containing a large quantity of unflavored gelatin powder was added. It was then frozen in baggies until ready to use.

Three months had gone by and I noticed that the two females abdomins were turning a deep green, and that a pair seemed to have taken up permanent residence in one of the tubes. Thinking that they were still too young to spawn, I didn't pay them much attention.

One evening, I was about to feed them when I noticed a large amount of greens in one of the tubes. Close inspection showed that it was large, dark, emerald green eggs laid on the floor of the tube. The male was sitting directly on top of the eggs, and became very aggitated by my presence. I removed the other fish at this time so he wouldn't be disturbed.

The Ph at this time was 6.7 and the temperature was 78. As the days went by the eggs turned from green to a dark, golden brown. The male never left the eggs and all offerings of food was ignored. On the eighth day, several of the eggs hatched and the male was literally bouncing on the eggs that were still unhatched. My guess is that this helped the fry rupture the eggshell. On the ninth day all of the eggs had hatched and there appeared to be about 70, 3/8" long fry clinging to the sides and laying on the bottom. The male showed no further interest in the fry and he was removed to a much needed rest and food.

The fry were quite large enough to eat live baby brine shrimp, so I followed my adult schedule. A good amount of baby brine, then turn out the lights. WRONG!! I lost a couple of fry the first day and 3 the next. Time to take a closer look. The fry, even though they had a large bodies, they had very tiny stomachs. One feeding a day wouldn't sustain them. So the feedings had to be made through the day. I didn't think it would work, thinking they were strictly nocturnal feeders. The fry showed no fear of the lights and ate heartily, so the feedings came 6 times a day.

I was still losing one fry here and another there. I then added greens to their diet, taking the frozen vegetables and scraping them to make a very fine mush. They ate this, along with the brine shrimp, with great gusto. But the losses still came, again one at a time.

The only thing left was the oxygen content of the water. So I lowered the tank temperature 2 degrees to 76 and increased its air flow to the sponge filter. From this point on there were no more losses.

I feel certain that the multiple feedings, the greens, and the increased turbulence of the water all contributed to the well-being of the fry. I am certain that without the help and suggestions of my fish club friends, the deaths would not have stopped.

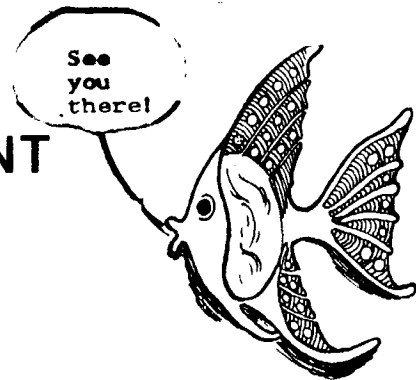
After four weeks had gone by the fry became almost completely nocturnal. Hiding from the light and refusing to eat in the daylight. So I went back to feeding at lights out with no problems. By this time they were eating adult frozen brine shrimp and the unscrapped frozen greens.

At 60 days, I have 57 baby whiptail cats that are almost 1 3/4" long and are exact miniatures of their parents.

I think that anyone can spawn these ugly beauties if they are willing to feed them properly and give them conditions to their liking. Please remember - whiptails do not eat other fishes waste. A special feeding just before the lights go out, will insure that your cats will be healthy and happy in their aquarium home.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



### GOOD NEWS:

Pat Mahoney has confirmed that Dr. Paul Loiselle has agreed to be our speaker at the PVAS Fall Banquet on the 22nd of October 1983.

While all the details of the Banquet are not yet firm, the airline tickets to bring Dr. Loiselle from Milwaukee to Washington and return have been purchased and mailed.

We want a really big turnout for the banquet this year so mark your calendar for October 22nd and watch for the special flyer to be mailed to the membership in late September.

# MONTHLY BOWL SHOW AWARDS

## AUGUST 1983 BOWL SHOW RESULTS

JUDGES-- Cichlids, John Mangan; Egglayer/Livebearer, Gerry Hoffman

### CICHLIDS

#### NEW WORLD DWARF

- 1st. Keyhole Cichlid, Stephen Ptaszek
- 2nd. "Depends On Who You Ask" cichlid, Stephen Ptaszek

#### RIFTLAKE, NON-MBUNA

- 1st. P. elongatus, Amy Stirman
- 2nd. Cobalt Zebra, Amy Stirman
- 3rd. Red Zebra, Amy Stirman

#### OPEN

- 1st. Sevrum, Ray Krause
- 2nd. Oscar, Ray Krause

### EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

KILLIFISH-- No entries.

#### CATFISH- NON-CORYDORAS

- 1st. Frosted glass cat, Stephen Ptaszek
- 2nd. Pleco., Ray Krause
- 3rd. Electric cat, Alexander Cummins

#### OPEN

- 1st. Chapalichthys pardalis, John Mangan
- 2nd. Ameca splendens, John Mangan
- 3rd. Ataeniobius toweri, John Mangan

MEMBERS CHOICE-- Keyhole cichlid, Stephen Ptaszek

# PVAS BOWL SHOW STANDINGS

## STANDINGS

	Month	Cichlids Quarter	Year
Ray & Lisa Krause	10	16	45
Amy Stirman	13	13	40
Frank Angilletta	0	0	17
Stephen Ptaszek	10	10	10
Don & Debbie Plonkey	0	0	10
John Mangan	0	0	10
Mark Steele	0	0	6
Pat Mahoney	0	0	5

## Egglayers/Livebearers

John Mangan	12	39	90
Frank Angilletta	0	0	51
Garland Neese	0	0	14
Jack Coffman	0	0	9
Stephen Ptaszek	6	6	6
Judy Williams	0	0	6
Ray Krause	4	4	5
Jim Long	0	0	5
Amy Stirman	0	0	4
Michelle Mangan	0	0	4
Don Plonkey	0	0	3
Ray and Lisa Krause	0	0	1
Alexander Cummens	2	2	2

Thanks to Gerry for judging. Congratulations to new participants Mr. Ptaszek and Mr. Cummens. Doesn't anyone keep killies anymore? This is the second time that none have shown up.

John Mangan  
Bowl Shows

# BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAM

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u> (through August 15, 1983)	
Garland Neese	905	++++
Gerry Hoffman	680	++++
Woody Griffin	555	++++
John Jessup	535	++++
Vince Edmondson	500	++++
Pat & Maggi Mahoney	625	+++
Darrel Holman	550	+++
Ruth Brewer	305	+++
Jim Hajdics	275	++
Art Lembke	165	++
The Wagners	165	++
Kenny Warren	90	+
Gene Aldridge	80	+
Tom Wright	80	+
The Thompsons	55	+
Amy Stirman	50	+
Frank Anglilletta	45	+

## RECENT POINTS AWARDED

Vince Edmondson: *Corydoras Paleatus*, 20 pts.  
*Cichlasoma Trimaculatum*, 20 pts.

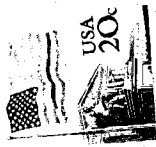
John Jessup: *Cichlasoma Severum*, 30 pts.

Darrell Holman: *Crenicara Filamentosa*, 15 pts.  
*Tateurndina Ocellicauda*, 15 pts.  
*Geophagus Braziliensis*, 15 pts.

Congratulations to Vince Edmondson and John Jessup... both reached Master Breeder level this month. This brings our total to five master breeders in the BAP. Anybody can make a master breeder, all you have to do is work hard and start reporting your spawns. See below for a checker in your area.

Jim Hajdics  
BAP Chairman

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



All Cichlids  
Michigan Cichlid Association  
P.O. Box 391  
New Baltimore, MI 48047

1983 Meetings Dates:

Sep 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12

Meetings will be held at the Jefferson Fire House Community Room,  
Route 50 and Graham Road, Falls Church, Va. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.  
Bowl Show registration at 7:45 p.m. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.