

THE DELTA TALE

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Official Publication

Volume 35, Number 4



Winter issue

THE DELTA TALE

Volume 35, Number 4
WINTER ISSUE

The Delta Tale is published quarterly for the benefit of the membership of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society, Inc., a non-profit educational and social organization. The society was founded in 1960 for the purpose of furthering the aquarium hobby through the dissemination of information and advice, and the promotion of good fellowship among the membership by organized activities and competitions.

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**Potomac Valley
Aquarium Society**

www.pvas.com

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Thanks to all who served in 2009. Thank you to all who volunteered to be on the PVAS board in 2010!



Cover Photo by Sherry Mitchell: Arapaima, Amazonia Exhibit, National Zoo.

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October Meet Pictures!



Jen and Ron Love PVAS



Dave and Kurt Love PVAS



Chris and Kelly Love the PVAS Calendar.

Editors Tank:

I am writing this as my dog, Roxy, and I watch the weather on TV and out my window. I've already got 12"+ of snow, and the forecast is calling for another 8=12". (Is it too early to dub this: "The Blizzard of 2009"?). It may not be technically winter yet, but it seems appropriate weather to be finishing up the Winter issue of *Delta Tale*. This is the fourth issue (not counting our special Aquafest issue) since we restarted it – a full year of *Delta Tale*. It went so quickly! I'm looking forward to next year – PVAS' 50th anniversary year and the 2010 Catfish Convention.

The club has done a lot this year – changed days of our meetings, brought back *Delta Tale*, the bowl show and the Breeders Award Program. Next year will be even busier. We have special 50th Anniversary events planned, the Catfish Convention, and of course our Spring Auction and July Bowl Show.

In this issue we have a variety of things for you. Club president, Sherry Mitchell recounts the epic tale of her 2-day road trip to visit every aquarium store in Northern Virginia (That she knows of. Apologies if we missed any!). We have a bried farticle from *Fincinnati*, the journal published by our friends in the Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society, on using cherry red shrimp to aid in hatching cory eggs. We have short interviews with Susan Findley, a 2010 Board of Directors Member, and Ron Leftwich, our auction chair, 2008 vice president, and board member for 2010. Frank Cowherd presents another installment of his "Tips for Your Fishroom" column. We also have a map showing the wide are our members commute from. (Amazing! To think that I thought the 30 miles I travel was so far that I knew about the club for Several years before I came to a meeting!) We have pictures from various meetings and events, highlights from the year, and the calendar (so far) for 2010.

It's the end of the year, so it is time to renew your memberships. You can do so online, at www.pvas.com, in person at the January meeting (January 2) or via mail using the form on the second-to-last page of this issue.

Paul Lord, Editor

🐠 **Everyone Loves PVAS!** 🐠



Ron and Cecilia. Both of them Love PVAS!



Terri loves the PVAS Auction.

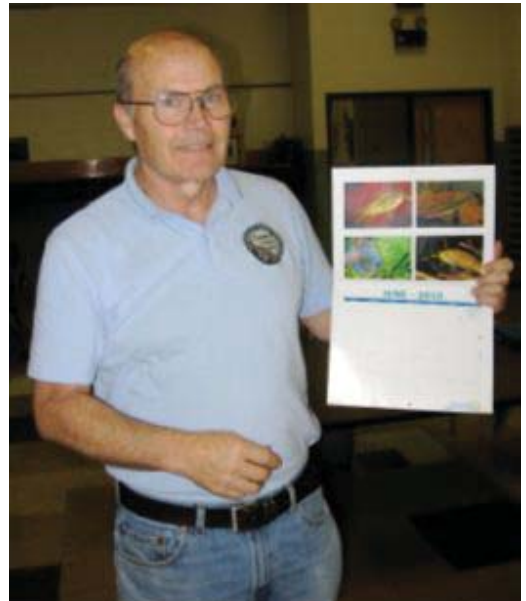


Our prez loves PVAS, and her terrific speakers.

🐠 **More October Pics!** 🐠



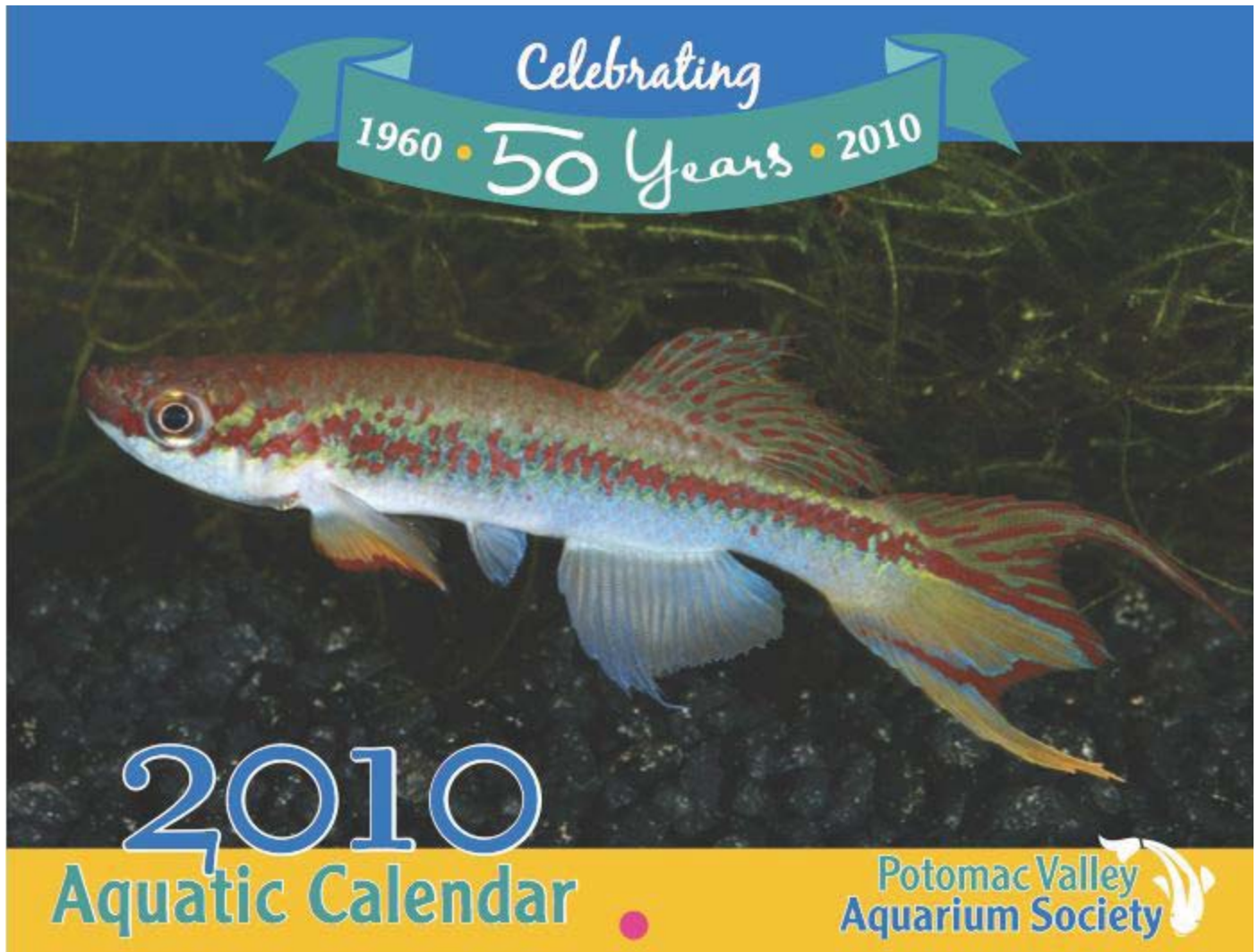
Our speaker Chuck Hawks, loves angelfish.



Frank loves seeing his fish in the new PVAS calendar.



PVAS 50TH Anniversary Calendar On Sale NOW!



Made by PVAS Members, for PVAS members and anyone who loves fish and aquariums. Over 40 pictures of fish, tanks, ponds and plants.
\$10 each at meetings.

~First Nano Tank ~



Sherry Mitchell 2.5 gallon nano tank.
It's home to a small family of tiger endlers.

AQUAFEST NANO TANK...



One of the 2.5 gallon tanks featured on the GWAPA table at
AquaFest. Good things DO come in small packages!

The Three "Families"



Pat Finley of CCA, Kris Weinhold of GWAPA, and
Sherry Mitchell of PVAS at the September CCA meeting.
Photo by Li of Monster Fishkeepers:
www.monsterfishkeepers.com

2010 PVAS CALENDAR

January 2: Water Workshop

February 6: "A Historic Walk Through the D.C. Aquarium" in 3-D, by Harry Chow.

March 6: "Inverts", by Rachel O'Leary

April 3: "Piranha", by David Schleser

April 25: BIG SPRING AUCTION,
Marshall Road Elementary School
Vienna, Virginia

May 1: "Koi, Goldfish and Koi Ponds", by John
Bianchi of Blue Ribbon Koi

June 5: PVAS' 50th Anniversary Celebration

July 10: Summer Bowl Show
(Note: this is NOT the first Saturday of the month)

August 7: "Asian Fish", by Tony Orso

September 7: TBA

October 2: "Guppies", by Bill Gill of the IGEES.

October 21-24: All Aquarium Catfish
Convention

November 6: TBA

December 4: Holiday Potluck Party and Awards
Ceremony



Cherry Red Shrimp as a Cory Egg Hatching Aid

by Steve Smith

Reprinted w/permission. This article first appeared in 'Fincinnati' the magazine of the Greater Cincinnati Aquarium Society.

We are always looking for new ways to successfully hatch eggs. In the fall of 2008 I found one more. An Aquabid.com user named Neoncory was advertising corydoras eggs of various kinds for sale. He would ship however many eggs he had on a given day, so I ordered eggs from Cory. davidsandsi, C. duplicareus, C. sterbai and C. panda. When they arrived we opened the package to see several bags of cory eggs, some of which had already started to hatch and a surprise. In each of the bags there was a single Cherry Red shrimp. I poured a couple of these into a 10 gallon tank and watched as the shrimp pick up eggs and clean them, rotating them and nibbling at anything they found. I contacted Neoncory and found that he had been experimenting with this method in his own tanks for quite some time and found the shrimp to be excellent egg cleaners.

In experiments with some Orange Laser Cory eggs I found that an individual shrimp in a plastic container and air bubbler did best with no more than 20-25 eggs. Beyond that I don't think one shrimp can keep up with the egg cleaning duties. Also, keeping the air bubbler to a minimum seems to be more agreeable with the shrimp. Once the eggs hatch the shrimp pay no attention to the fry and I was not able to see any loss of fry over the first few days when I left shrimp in the hatching containers. I typically remove the shrimp back to their own tanks once the cory fry are free swimming.

This method is preferable to the addition of chemicals and even easier than the other relatively new method with alder cones, which need to be changed daily.



Visit the PVAS STORE
For great stuff !



www.cafepress.com/pvas

ROAD TRIP

A Dozen Fish Stores in 24 Hours

By Sherry Mitchell

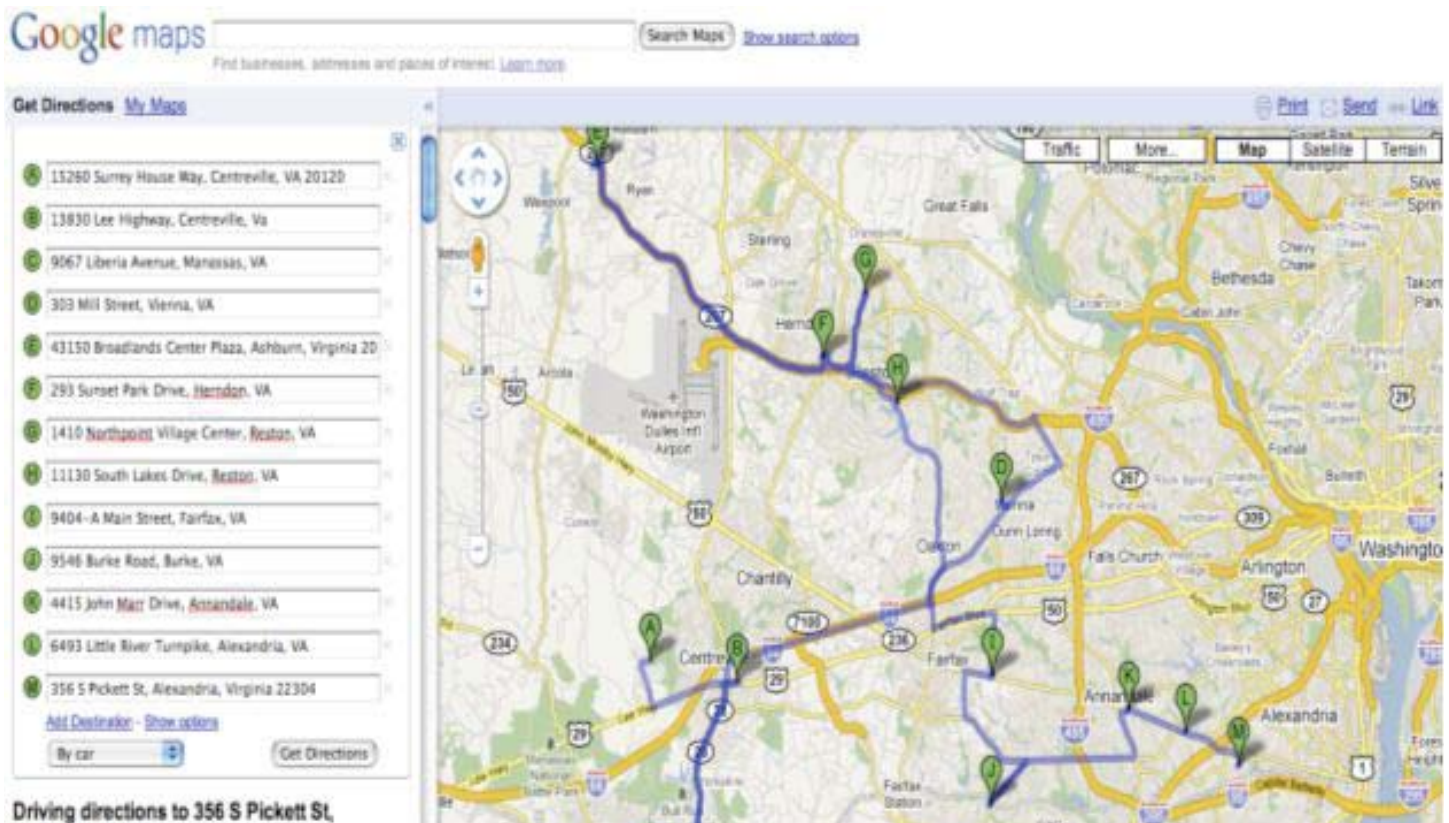
How does any road trip start? I admit I was curious about all the fish and pet stores around the Beltway and part of my job as president of PVAS this year has been to compile a list of all the locally owned pet stores in D.C., Maryland and Virginia. With Aquafest just two months away, I suddenly decided to visit all 12 pet stores in Virginia and personally deliver Aquafest posters to each one.

My 24 hour journey started in Centreville, Virginia where I live, and took me as far north as Ashburn and as far south as Alexandria. I clocked over 90 miles on the car and a trip that Google Maps said would take 2 hours and 54 minutes, actually took me over 24 hours, with traffic and a break in between. Not one to worry, I was thrilled to finally be touring every shop within 25 miles of our nation's capital on the Virginia side.

What I found were stores that had a few fish, some that had no fish at all (but had surprises, nevertheless) and a few perfect "gems" that were like an oasis in a sea of motley fish departments! Here's the breakdown:

(1) **Centreville Aquarium**, 13830 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA. Being closest to my house, I stopped at my LFS, first. Dave has been taking care of my hobby obsession and fish for over a dozen years. He sold me my first tank when I jumped back in the hobby and has stuck with me through many ups and downs in my fish room. On the day I visited, Dave gladly took the Aquafest poster and hung it right next to the cash register. Last year, he upgraded his store to a new location, taking over the local bike shop in the same strip center he started in. The new store has a tremendous front area for hard goods and tanks that are for sale, and features 60 tanks at the back for livestock. The best part of Dave's store doesn't come from a tank, however. It comes from the white fridge at the back. He happens to sell terrific blackworms!

Dave will be the first to tell you that he has always relied on a steady supply of "bread and butter" items and fish in his store. He stocks the standard live-bearers, tetras, cichlids, and goldfish, as well as a nice selection of saltwater fish. More exotic livestock can be special ordered. Nicely decorated display tanks in the store show planted freshwater set-ups as well as creative salt water displays.



Sherry's "Epic Fish Store Road Trip" Map from Google. Route shown in blue, stores in green.

(2) **Aquatic Obsession** (AKA The Cozy Clownfish), 9067 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, VA. Next on my list was a visit to Manassas to the Cozy Clownfish. A recent move to a new location prompted a new name – Aquatic Obsession. Now occupying the warehouse that housed the former Cordis Pet Shop, the new store was in the process of being finished when I visited. The shop has been completely redecorated, revitalized and refreshed and I was very impressed with the set up. Featuring over 6000 gallons (2000 freshwater, and 4000 saltwater), the store will be completely up and running by the time this article hits the stands. Most notable was the beautiful built in 120 gallon tank at the entrance with the discus. On the day I visited the planted tank was alive with these “swimming gems” and they just glowed in the peripheral light from the front windows. The overall effect of the store is fresh and well organized. They still have a few finishing touches, but Greg Coghill and his staff have been working hard on a truly wonderful new space.

(3) **Vienna Aquarium**, 303 Mill Street, NE, Vienna, Va. I have known the owners of this family-owned store for more than 30 years. Found in a back warehouse district of Vienna, the store features a large tropical fish room with row upon row of tanks, split between fresh water and salt. The set up is more utilitarian, but one can see the way the tanks are set up to drain into large sumps and filters. The “works” are not hidden behind fancy walls. This is a straight-up working man’s fish room and has functioned for them for many years.

Several years ago the owners gained possession of the warehouse next store and turned that into a goldfish and koi showroom. The large pools of koi are worth a visit and their imported goldfish are high quality imports – a few which grace my own pond. On the day I visited, I was taken by a lovely tank of koi angelfish they had set up at the entrance of the koi and goldfish warehouse.



(At that point I was done for the first leg of my trip. I

returned home got a good night’s sleep and trekked out the next day for 9 more stores.)

(4) **Fins and Feathers**, 43150 Broadlands Center Plaza, Ashburn, VA. A busy cacophony met my ears when I walked into the store. Right away a pair of tiny chihuahuas ran out from the front desk and pranced around my feet. I smiled at the diminutive “welcoming committee” and met the store owner as she fed fresh corn on the cob to a trio of baby parrots.



A lovely Hagen Osaka curved glass tank is heavily planted about halfway down the length of the store and I was drawn to it. The owner, followed by the chihuahuas and the screaming birds (All three of them flew to the floor and chased us as we walked back to look at the tank!), said that the tank had been aquascaped by Ghazenfar Ghori of GWAPA – a name I immediately recognized. I should have known! Ghazenfar doesn’t live far from the store! Their fish department was neat and tidy with 12 tanks of freshwater fish and 460 gallon saltwater display. I was especially drawn to the pretty little Von Rio Flame Tetras and would like to go back someday when my large planted tank is up and running for a dozen of them. The shop also had a nice display of ADA tools and items from Amano in Japan.

(5) **Marine Scene**, 293 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon, VA. From Ashburn I headed north to Marine Scene, a store that is exclusively saltwater. The store may be out of my part of the hobby, but it was very cool and they agreed to hang the Aquafest poster on their bulletin board. Seth, one of the employees said, “Well a lot of us have both (salt and freshwater fish). I’ve got cichlids along with the saltwater fish, so we’ll be interested in Aquafest.” The store was in a converted warehouse and featured floor-to ceiling racks of tanks. Most notable were the tiny nano set-

ups in 2.5 and 5 gallon tanks (A bargain at \$479) and the 75 gallon display tank next to the front desk. The display of corals was as pretty as any aquascaped tank I've ever seen.

(6) **Just Pets**, 1410 Northpoint Village Center, Reston, VA. I had just been to Just Pets a few weeks prior and had found it to be a nice shop, after I underwent a desperate search to find an electric blue crayfish for my son's college apartment on 24 hours notice.



Just Pets had the only blue crayfish in the area. The small fish area is very well maintained with 36 nicely decorated tanks. I was tempted by the tri-color swordtails that day, but walked out with a bag of lovely rock for one of my tanks instead. There is an aisle of aquarium hard goods as well as a few decorative items (like my nice rocks) under the tanks. The store has a wide variety of animals, but I was really taken by a terrarium on the back wall containing colorful poison dart frogs. The plantings in the display were outstanding.

(7) **PetValu**, 11130 South Lakes Drive, Reston, VA. I was a little disappointed that there were no live animals at PetValu, but they do offer a small section of aquarium supplies and tanks. The store mascots are worth a trip to see, however. They are a pair of Australian parakeets that are the most colorful birds I've ever seen. On the day I visited, the pair were raising two nestlings in a nest box and I was thrilled to see that the father and mother birds had the run of the store to fly in. The girls behind the desk gladly chatted with me about their pet fish as they hung the poster on their community bulletin board.



(8) **Petland**, 9404 Main Street, Fairfax, VA. Located in the outer area of Fairfax, I was greeted with an entire wall of puppies when I went into the store. Ty, the fish room manager was nice enough to talk business and goldfish (his favorites!) with me, and took the poster to hang up. Two-thirds of their fish room is devoted to saltwater and live rock (Fraggs as low as \$5!) but a small section carries freshwater fish. On the day I visited, Ty commented that they were fighting an outbreak of anchorworm with their freshwater fish, and sure enough, I saw several of the wretched things attached to fish in the tanks. Ty explained that they were bringing out the really big guns by using a pond-grade product to combat the worms. The tanks were well kept and I appreciated Ty's honest approach in the sales of his fish. Many other stores would have just sold fish with a disease or parasite, and not copped to a problem.

(9) **Burke Pet Center**, 9546 Burke Road, Burke, VA. A straight shot up Braddock Road took me over to the Burke Pet Center. They have a very small fish department of about a dozen fresh water tanks, but I was impressed that each tank had its own hang-on-back filter so any disease outbreaks are contained. A clipboard on a fish prep counter had notations for pH, water change schedules, and treatments which was refreshing to see. A nice brackish display tank was also an interesting change from all the freshies and salties. A Bonus! They hung the Aquafest poster right in the front window!

(10) **Annandale Super Pets**, 4415 John Marr Drive, Annandale, VA. It was late in the day when I visited, and most of the staff had already left for the day, but I managed to drop off a poster and take a quick spin around the massive fish department of the store. SuperPets has the largest number of tanks in any one store in Northern Virginia. All areas of the hobby are represented from fresh to brackish to

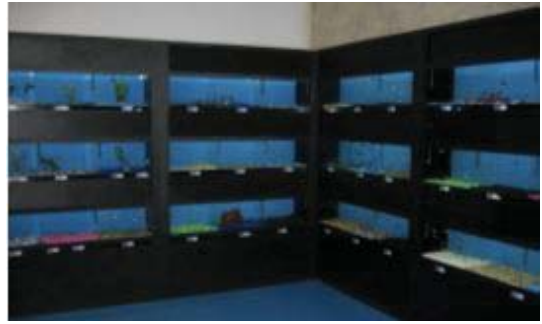
full-on salt. My favorite has always been the gigantic saltwater stonefish in the back of the fish department, but it was absent on the day I visited. Perhaps they sold it. Hardgood aisles are usually packed to overflowing, and the front wall of aquarium ornaments and decorations is impressive. If you want a skull for your tank, you can have your pick of several styles and sizes. Equally impressive was the brine shrimp tank. Pink and alive with millions of “sea monkeys,” I was tempted to buy for my fish, but the hot weather and long miles ahead kept me from making a purchase that day. Perhaps another time.

(11) **Wally’s Aquarium**, 6493 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria, VA. Tucked further along Route 236, is Wally’s Aquarium. The store has evolved over the years and is now about two thirds freshwater and a third saltwater. The back wall houses several flowerhorns for sale which are a popular item within community. I enjoyed the different varieties of livebearers, since those are the fish I’m currently into right now. A large planted tank near the front desk is also special, with large shrimps and colorful fish. Unfortunately none of them is for sale. I would have bought a trio of platinum mollies, but alas, there were no females in the tank.

(12) **Pristine Aquariums**, 356 S. Picket Street, Alexandria, VA. My last store of this epic voyage came as a pleasant surprise. I walked into Pristine Aquariums and immediately fell in love with the floor. I know, it’s silly, but I notice things like that.



The floor was a shiny aqua blue, painted epoxy that just glowed. I could imagine it in my own fish room, and store manager, Richard, shared how they labored to put it down in sections so the epoxy would not harden too quickly.



The store was clean and well stocked with nicely maintained tanks and a large well laid out fish room. An employee kept busy siphoning tanks with a Python, which I found reassuring. And, I found my platinum mollies – a pair of them in a pristine tank among a nice assortment of livebearers. Half the store is saltwater, and the other half is split between cichlids and other standard freshies.

Overall, it was a thrill to visit a dozen local fish stores in one long day. I saw a lot of fish, many well maintained tanks, and can’t say that I found any fish department disasters, thankfully. All of the stores out there are still suffering from the effects of the economy, but they are hanging in there, and in some cases expanding and improving. It was a good journey, the Aquafest posters got delivered, and I came home satisfied that the Virginia side of things was covered. For my next road trip I would like to cover the 300+ miles of Maryland stores. Anyone up for that road trip?



~ PVAS HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009 ~

THE DELTA TALE

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Official Publication..... Volume 35, Number 1



PVAS brings back DeltaTale!



PVAS "trading cards" are released to local stores.



Club is re-branded with new logo



PVAS Audits the books, hires a CPA and presents a balanced budget.



PVAS, CCA and GWAPA team together in October 2009...



PVAS has best Spring Auction in five years.



Club is re-branded with a new logo



Potomac Valley Aquarium Society
Breeders Award Program

BAP Spawning Report

16 Mar 2009

Version 1.1

JT Thomas

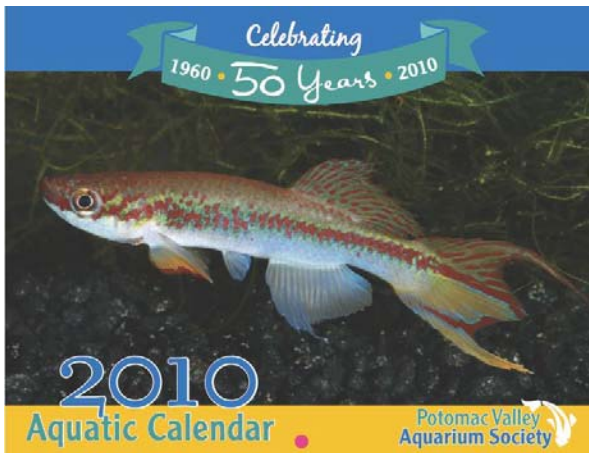
Breeders Award Program is Re-Issued.



PVAS Members Donate 18 tanks to the "Give A Kid A Tank" Program.



The Bowl Show is Brought Back.



PVAS releases 50th Anniversary Commemorative Calendar.



28 New Members Join the Club.

PVAS Wishes to Thank our Corporate Sponsor DBLS for their donation to the "GIVE A KID A TANK" PROGRAM



Many thanks to Jeff Greenspan and DBLS for their generous donation of \$200 towards the program. PVAS donated 18 tanks to needy kids and collected nearly \$600 in 2009!



Many thanks to all who donated!

William Hall Academy Gets PVAS “Teachers & Tanks” Donated Tank

On Monday, November 30th the students at the William Hall Academy in Capital Heights, Maryland received a surprise visit from members of PVAS. Word had gotten out that a teacher in the school had a tank that was leaking, and PVAS stepped into action to donate a tank and supplies to save her fish.



The tank “before”, a leaking ten gallon tank with two large goldfish.

Member, Susan Findley donated a 28 gallon curved glass tank for the effort, and other supplies were collected from used equipment that Sherry Mitchell had accumulated over the years. Cristy Keister, the member who initially alerted PVAS to the plight of the classroom tank, brought her 50 foot Python hose to fill the tank.



PVAS member Cristy Keister fills the new tank.

The building superintendent even got in on the action, when a power strip needed to be mounted under a cabinet to keep water away from the source of electricity. Teachers and staff were very excited about the tank and kept dropping by to check on the progress.



William Hall Academy building super at work on installing the power strip for the tank.

Finally, with much sloshing and flopping around the two large goldfish were moved to their new home and the children were brought in to see the new tank.



A few of the kids in Mrs. Richardson's class.

Mrs. Richardson and the staff at the school were thrilled with the new tank, and thanked PVAS for saving the fish. Upon seeing the tank, a science teacher down the hall put in a request for a tank of her own. Sherry and Cristy checked her room, measured for a tank, and determined that a 55 gallon would fit nicely on her sturdy counter top. A request went out to members for supplies and the tank on the PVAS forum, and it won't be long until the William Hall Academy has it's second tank, completely donated and installed by PVAS!



Mrs. Richardson and PVAS club president, Sherry Mitchell enjoy the new tank.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES!



The success of the tank installation and the reward of seeing how happy the tank made the kids and teachers has led to the creation of the “Teachers and Tanks Program” by PVAS. The program allows teachers to request a tank, then a call goes out to the membership to donate a suitable tank and supplies. Once the goods are collected, PVAS members install the tank in the school. While PVAS strives to collect goods for these donations, monetary donations can be made to help facilitate the acquisition of tanks and supplies at the PVAS donations page:

<http://www.pvas.com/donations.php>.



The two goldfish in Mrs. Richardson's new tank are much happier in the larger, non-leaking tank!

- Members receive a 10% discount with participating fish stores.
- Members are allowed to sell in the mini-auctions at each monthly meeting.
- Members receive a 75% cut in our auctions. Non-members receive 70%.
- Members receive the quarterly club magazine, Delta Tale.
- Members have exclusive access to the “Member’s Only” area of the PVAS forum.
- Members are allowed to participate in the PVAS Breeders Award Program.
- Members are eligible for our Group Buy program.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE.
GO TO: WWW.PVAS.COM TO RENEW TODAY!



Breeders' Award Program End of Year Report:

JT Thomas, BAP Chairman

Active in BAP this year	Current		Prior		Total Awarded	Total Pending	Level
	Awarded	Pending	Awarded	Pending			
Member(s)							
Don Kinyon			1,190	-	1,190	-	Master
Dave Snell			330	-	330	-	Advanced*
Gene Moy			290	-	290	-	Intermediate
JT Thomas	150	105			150	105	Intermediate
Bill Pabst			125	-	125	-	Breeder
Jen Williams	55	25			55	25	Breeder
Gerry Hoffman**	40	60			40	60	
Terri Vance	35	10			35	10	
Robert Peterson	30	-			30	-	
Michael Kaiser			30	-	30	-	
John Mangan***			30	-	30	-	
Sherry Mitchell	20	-			20	-	
Cecilia Allman & Ron Leftwich	20	135			20	135	
Susan Findely	10	-			10	-	
Chris Todd	-	25			-	25	
Eugen Leontie	-	15			-	15	
Jeff Greenspan	-	10			-	10	

* Under current rules, Dave is Intermediate. He was awarded an Advanced certificate in the prior run.

** Gerry holds a prior run Master certificate with 935 points not documented

*** John holds a prior run Intermediate certificate with 165 points not documented

BAP Report 2009

by JT Thomas, BAP Chairman

As we wind down to the end of the year, we're off to a good start with the renovated and reinvigorated BAP. Here's a review of where we are, what we did, how we did it, and what we're going to do next year....

MAJOR RULE CHANGE

Probably the least favorite part of the BAP process is writing up a spawning summary for higher category fish. This is unfortunate, but understandable, as it can be time consuming. We had this year waived the written spawning summary for category 2 & 3 fish if there is available on the PVAS website a Summary for the species that's 5 years old or less. Not much help at the outset, but should make it easier down the road.

However, this is still a problem, so the BAP committee has voted to accept a donation of the species spawned in lieu of the summary or presentation. So, for most fish, one can get out of the writing or public speaking by donating the 10 fry required to get the points to the club. If the fry are too small after growout, or too delicate to move, then there is the option of donating the breeders (at least a pair) or donating 6 older fish of the same species.

In the case where there are fewer than 10 fry required, this is scaled accordingly. For a 5 fry required, the breeding pair or 3 other fish will suffice. For the one fish that only requires 2 fry (River Stingrays), a single older fish can stand in for the 2 fry (in view of the exceptionally high price point they command.).

STATUS OF PARTICIPANTS

Bill Pabst

- Currently holds Breeder Certificate from Prior run
- Point total is 125
- Needs 25 more points in current run for Intermediate

Cecilia Allman & Ron Leftwich

- Current Participants
- Current Awarded point total is 20
- The following are pending:
 - o Bristlenosed Pleco (*Ancistrus lineolatus*): Verification & Spawning Summary (by 12/29) required
 - o Severum (*Heros severus*): Verification & Spawning Summary (by 1/12) required
 - o Motoro Stingray (*Potomotrygon motoro*): Verification & Spawning Summary (by 1/26) required
 - o Peacock Gudgeon (*Tateunrdina ocellicaudia*): Verification & Spawning Summary (by 12/30) required
 - o Honduran Red Point Cichlid (*Cryptoheros sp.* "Honduran Red Point"): Verification required
 - o Firemouth (*Thorichthys meeki*): Current spawn needs documentation.
- Expecting to get closure on these over the next several months.

Chris Todd

- Current Participant
- 25 Points pending

Dave Snell

- Currently holds Advanced Certificate under Prior run.
- Requires 50 more points in Category 2 and/or 3 to advance past this under current rules.
- The issue being that category 4 was included in calculating the 100 points necessary from Categories 2 & 3 to gain advanced. Pending reorganization or clarification, 50 points in Categories 2 &/or 3 need to be made up.
- Running with the prior rules, a Master Certificate can be gotten with 170 additional points, including at least 3 category 5 or 6 spawns.

Don Kinyon

- Currently holds a Master Certificate from the Prior Run
- Requires a single Category 6 spawn for Grandmaster

Gene Moy

- Currently holds an Intermediate certificate from prior run.
- Requires 10 more points (any category) for Advanced certificate.

Gerry Hoffman

- Currently holds a Master Certificate from the prior run, but only 10 points were documented in the prior run records.
 - A list of conjectural species spawned may be provided to substantiate the prior run level, in which case, a single Category 6 spawn will gain a Grandmaster's certificate.
 - Failing that or additional prior run records coming to light, the following situation obtains:
 - 10 points from Prior run
 - 30 points from Current run
 - Spawning summaries are pending:
 - o Albino Bristlenose Pleco (*Ancistrus sp.*)
 - o Cockatoo Apisto (*Apistogramma cacatuoides*)
 - o Angelfish (*Pterophyllum scalare*)
- All are due 12/1/09 - but the next meeting will suffice, and waiver to January is probable.
- So current status is Participant.
 - Any or all of the 3 items pending above will get Breeder

Jen Williams

- To be awarded a Breeder Certificate from the current run with 55 Points.
- Her proposal to raise one of the Spawns to a category 2, has been accepted by the BAP committee.
- One current spawn of Domestic Discus (*Symphysodon sp.* "Domestic") is pending, with verification not possible until after 12/26
- 70 points beyond the pending Spawn are required to make Intermediate.

John Mangan

- Holds Intermediate certificate in Prior run with 185 points. However...
 - o Only 30 points are documented
 - o A list of conjectural spawns is allowable to document this, However...
 - o John is looking in other places to try and unearth more prior records.
- There is no way to determine what is required to move to the next level lacking documentation of higher category spawns. At a minimum, 115 points is required, 100 or less (depending on documentation) of which must be from Categories 2 &/or 3.
- If no list or documents are produced, then 20 more points are required to get a Breeder Certificate in the current program.

JT Thomas

- To be awarded Breeder and Intermediate Breeder Certificates with 150 points.
- Needs 150 more points, 40 of which must be from Category 2 or 3 to advance to Advanced Breeder
- The following Spawns are Pending:
 - o Sterba's Cory (*C. sterbae*) - Requires Summary by 2/17
 - o Black Chinned Livebearer (*Girardinus metallicus*) - barring accident, will be verified at December meeting.
 - o *Betta pugnax* - In growout period. Verification after 12/30 (may be insufficient fry)
 - o Panda Cory (*C. panda*) - Just reported. Verification after 1/28
 - o Bronze Cory (*C. aeneus*) - Just reported. Verification after 2/1 (est)
 - o Gold Laser Cory (*C. sp. CW010*) - Just reported. Verification after 2/1 (est)
- Total pending points are 105, 95 of which are from categories 2 & 3.
- Currently holds the highest point total and species count in 2009.

Mike Kaiser

- Holds 30 points from Prior run. (Possibly more)
- 20 more points are required to achieve a Breeder's Certificate.

Robert Peterson

- 30 Points
- Spawns of Convicts (*Amatitlania nigrofasciata*), Jewel Cichlid (*Hemichromis guttatus*), and Red Tailed Goodeid (*Xenotoca eiseni*) reported, verified this week.
- 20 more will be required to get to a Breeder's Certificate.

Sherry Mitchell

- 20 points currently.
- 30 more points required for Breeder certificate

Susan Findley

- 10 points currently.
- First points awarded in the current run.
- 40 more points required for Breeder's certificate.

Terri Vance

- 35 points from Prior Run.
- A spawn of *Archocentrus sp.* "Cutteri" was just reported, so 10 points are pending.
- 15 points required for Breeder's certificate.

Also, Jeff Greenspan and Eugen Leotie have both reported their first spawns in December.

A number of others participated but were through lack of time to spend or recalcitrant fish were unable to get any points. Don't be discouraged, folks! Treat 'em right, they'll keep breeding for you.

ANALYSIS

(Note, there was significant activity in December, and not all of it is captured here.)

There were 13 species bred and awarded this year:

- Guppy (*Poecilia reticulata*) (4)
- Endler's Livebearer (*P. wingei*) (4)
- Domestic Swordtail (*Xiphophorus sp.* "Domestic Swordtail") (3)
- Gardneri Killie (*Fundulopanchax gardneri*) (2)
- Domestic Platy (*X. sp.* "Domestic Platy") (2)
- Albino Bronze Cory (*Corydoras aeneus*) (1)
- Bandit Cory (*C. metae*) (1)
- Least Killifish (*Heterandria Formosa*) (1)
- *Labeotropheus trewavasae* (1)
- Festivum (*Mesonauta insignis*) (1)
- Sailfinned Molly (*Poecilia sp.* "Domestic Sailfinned Molly") (1)
- Honey Blue-Eyes (*Pseudomugil mellis*) (1)
- Common Whiptail Catfish (*Rineloricaria eigenmanni*) (1)

Unsurprisingly, the Guppies and Endlers were the top choices.

Additionally, the following 25 species were reported bred, and many are pending verification or Spawning summaries:

- Convict (*Amatitlania nigrofasciata*)
- Bristlenose Plecos (2 species) (*Ancistrus lineolatus* & *A. sp.* "Albino")
- Cockatoo Apisto (*Apistogramma cacatuoides*)
- Cutteri Cichlid (*Archocentrus sp.* "Cutteri")
- *Betta pugnax*
- Siamese Fighting Fish (*B. splendens*)
- Salvini Cichlid (*Cichlasoma salvini*)
- Bronze Cory (*Corydoras aeneus*)
- Pepper Cory (*C. paleatus*)
- Panda Cory (*C. panda*)
- Gold Laser Cory (*C. sp. CW010*)
- Sterba's Cory (*C. sterbae*)
- Honduran Red Point Cichlid (*Cryptoheros sp.*)

“Honduran Red Point”)

- Black Chinned Livebearer (*Girardinus metallicus*)
- Jewel Cichlid (*Hemichromis guttatus*)
- Severum (*Heros severus*)
- Flag Acara (*Laetacara curviceps*)
- Motoro Stingray (*Potamotrygon motoro*)
- Angelfish (*Pterophyllum scalare*)
- Domestic Discus (*Symphysodon* sp. “Domestic”)
- Peacock Gudgeon (*Tateurndina ocellicauda*)
- Firemouth (*Thorichthys meeki*)
- Pearl Gourami (*Trichogaster leeri*)
- Blue Gourami (*T. trichopterus*)
- Red Tailed Goodeid (*Xenotoca eiseni*)

Overall, 13 Cichlids (in 7 Catch All Categories), 10 Catfish (including 7 Cories and 3 Loricariids), 8 Livebearers, 4 Anabantids (2 Gouramis and 2 Bettas), and 3 other fish (A Goby, a Stingray, and a Killifish) were bred, often successfully.

There were 16 people who participated (4 of these participated as 2 teams) this year. Of the 14 teams and individuals participating, half were awarded points.

A breakdown of Spawns by Catch-All and Category follows:

	Awarded	Pending	Total
Cichlids I	1	4	5
Killifish I	2	0	2
Livebearers I	15	5	20
Rainbowfish I	1	0	1
Angelfish	0	1	1
Dwarf Cichlids	0	2	2
Gobies	0	1	1
Corydoras et. al.	2	5	7
Festivums	1	0	1
New World Large Cichlids	0	1	1
Domesitc Discus	0	1	1
Bristlensoed Catfish	0	2	2
Severums	0	1	1
Whiptailed Catfish	1	0	1
River Stingrays	0	1	1
Category 1	19	9	28
Category 2	0	8	8
Category 3	3	6	9
Category 4	0	1	1

	Awarded	Pending	Total
Category 5	1	3	4
Category 6	0	1	1

AWARDS

Breeder’s Award: JT Thomas, Jen Williams

Intermediate Breeder’s Award: JT Thomas

Since the BAP chair, as the clearinghouse for all data in the BAP, has a significant advantage in scoring points, and since the BAP chair has the highest point total and species count this year, there will be no Breeder of the Year award in 2009.

There were no Junior Members participating, so there will be no Junior Breeder Award.

As this is the first year of the program, there is no New Breeder of the Year award.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Susan Findley was the first to score points in the current run of the BAP, JT Thomas the second.

JT Thomas was the first to be awarded the Breeders Certificate, Jen Williams the second.

Ron Leftwich and Cecilia Allman have spawned *Potamotrygon motoro*, the Motoro Stingray, which is a category 6 fish.

COMING UP IN 2010

- Look for a revision to the Award levels to clarify the rules and perhaps extend them a bit.
- Serious consideration to be given to including Species Maintenance points (points for spawns beyond the first), and recognition of maintenance of IUCN redlisted species (other than the ones that have become ubiquitous in the hobby - e.g. White Clouds, Red Tailed Black Sharks, and Cherry Barbs. All are endangered or extinct in the wild. All three can be found in quantity in any fish store.)
- Discussions of streamlining or automating some or all of the BAP process.

Get to Know Our Members!



Ron Leftwich

Home: Brandy Station, VA

In the hobby since: First fishbowl from Dad in 1974, hooked ever since. Have had at least one tank going since then.

PVAS Member Since: 2006

PVAS Offices Held: Vice President, BOD 2009-2010, Chair Auction Committee.

Fish Room: Currently running over 3800 gallons with room and plans for expansion.

Breeds: Tetras, gouramis, cory cats, plecos, discus, angels, central and south american cichlids, african cichlids, freshwater stingrays, dwarf cichlids, species he collected in Peru, freshwater inverts and more.

Favorite Fish: Recently given a group of outstanding *Geophagus altifrons* that are his "lastest" favs!

Dream Fish: The Asian Arowana (*Scleropages formosus*) with the *Arapaima* as a second choice.



Susan Vought Findley

Home: Falls Church, Virginia, by way of New York City.

In the Hobby Since: Mid-70's with an "inherited" tank from her brother. Jumped back into the hobby in 2006.

PVAS Member Since: 2008

PVAS Offices: Head Coffee Technician and BOD 2009-10

Fish Room: Seven tanks: 56, 45, 30H, 30 cube, 29, and two betta tanks.

Breeds: Silver (Zebra), Sunset Blushing and Black Angelfish, Pearl Gourami, German Blue and Bolivian Rams, Diamond, Rummynose and White Skirt Tetras, Harlequin, Espei and Brilliant Rasboras, Bronze, Albino, Peppered, Julii and Sterbai Corydoras.

Favorite Fish: Angels

Dream Fish: Oscars!

Who Knew????

According to Peter Hiscock, author of "Today's Essential Guide to Growing Aquarium Plants," the largest consumer of oxygen in an aquarium is BACTERIA. Who knew?

An article in the October issue of *The Economist* outlines how a company called, Sea to Table is harvesting Red Lionfish from reefs and offering them to high-class restaurants. The fish, when de-spined, taste like Snapper. Perhaps the Lionfish "problem" has a solution after all. Who Knew?



Fishy Word Search

C	A	F	I	T	S	S	Y	L	C	K	H	E	T	H
S	V	N	U	M	R	O	I	B	G	I	S	A	B	P
P	H	W	C	E	A	A	G	O	Z	L	I	W	W	B
H	X	R	L	I	T	R	L	F	Y	L	F	B	H	M
V	H	D	I	D	S	D	U	A	E	I	L	J	S	Y
E	N	L	R	M	F	T	V	O	H	F	E	K	I	C
E	X	O	B	I	P	H	R	C	G	I	G	D	F	U
A	W	L	S	D	I	S	C	U	S	S	N	X	T	K
S	R	H	I	X	Y	W	Q	Q	S	H	A	M	A	U
D	I	L	H	C	I	C	G	H	S	N	O	W	C	Y
G	W	J	N	F	L	I	O	I	Q	L	M	M	Z	J
J	W	Z	K	O	S	Y	B	W	L	A	T	T	E	B
T	Y	P	A	A	E	X	I	Y	T	V	C	J	G	T
H	E	A	D	K	H	N	E	K	X	M	J	X	S	I
C	O	R	Y	D	O	R	A	S	G	Z	F	T	H	G

ANCISTRUS

CATFISH

DISCUS

GOLDFISH

MOLLY

ANGELFISH

CICHLID

ENDLERS

GOURAMI

NEON

BETTA

CORYDORAS

GOBIE

KILLIFISH

SHRIMP

Tips For Your Fish Room

Tools That Make Your Work in the Fish Room Easier or Make it More Interesting

By Frank Cowherd

PART I: Long Handled Toe Nail Scissors and a Light Box You Can Build Yourself.

This is planned to be the first in a series of articles on tools that I have found useful in the fish room. Some are obviously well known, found in most everyone's fish room, but possibly used in unobvious ways. Others may provide you a better way to do a job and do it more easily. Take scissors for instance. Everyone probably uses scissors in their fish room, but long handled scissors do not cost much and are useful in cases where other scissors are not.



Figure 1. Long handled toenail scissors used to expand end of airline tubing.

Long handled toenail scissors

These long handled toenail scissors are unexpectedly very useful in a fish room. They are available on-line for \$11 or \$12 from a number of places. Just do a search on "long handled toenail scissors."

Because of their short cutting edges, they are easy to use underwater to cut specific plant stems when you are trimming your underwater garden. That is what I bought mine for, but it turns out they are useful for other things. Sure they are good at cutting airline tubing and by design give you leverage and thus are good at cutting tough things like thick reinforced tubing or even rigid airline tubing (as long as you cut slowly the rigid tubing does not crack). But what makes them so useful in the fish room is for expanding the end of airline tubing (as seen in the picture) so that it is so much easier to slip the airline tubing all the way onto those metal or plastic fittings/valves. And since the airline tubing is really elastic, it tightens up in just a minute or two, so it does not come off easily. And when you

finally have to take the airline tubing off of the fitting, these scissors are just what you need to cut the tubing off the fitting, as shown in the second picture. Or if the tubing fails because it cracked, cut a small piece off and expand the end of the tubing and put it back on. This old tubing becomes harder with age but there is



Figure 2. Long handled toenail scissors used to remove tubing hardened onto airline valve.

no problem expanding it with this tough pair of scissors.

Light box

Basically a light box is just that: a light in a box (see figure 3). You can buy one ready to use at a number of craft stores. You can build one using wood box and a piece of glass and a light socket or two and a couple light bulbs. I used 1X4s and scrap wood to build a box and put a ceramic light socket on each inside end, with instant-on fluorescent-light bulbs. You will want to paint the sheet of glass with a white paint that holds up under heat. You want the glass to be opaque. See the pictures for how the glass was fastened to the top of the box and how the box was made in Figures 4 and 5. The painted side goes down and you place objects you would like to look at closely on the top with the lights on.



Figure 3. Homemade light box (1'X2') makes it easier to see small objects like fry.



Figure 4 shows how the opaque glass is attached to the box.

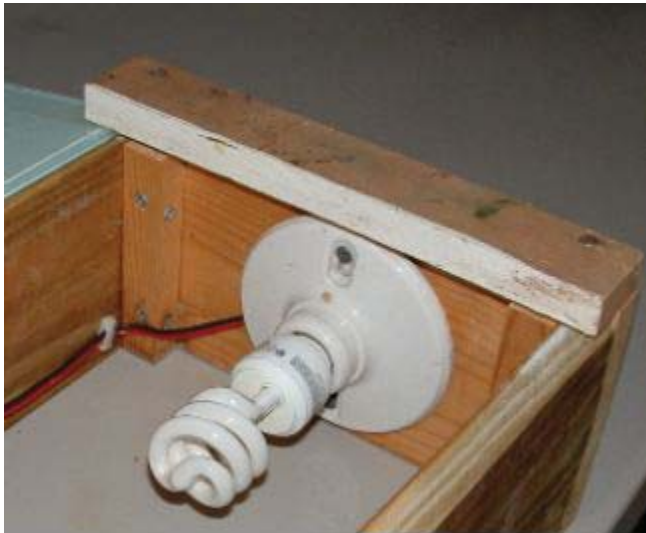


Figure 5 shows how the corners were made and the kind of light sockets used.

A light box is simply a visual aid. Place any container or aquarium with a transparent bottom on the light box and objects in the container are highlighted. I use it with plastic 2.5-gallon aquariums and with the plastic sandwich boxes. If you spawn fish like killifish in the 2.5-gallon tank, the light box allows you to readily see any eggs on the bottom of the tank. If you use the plastic sandwich boxes to incubate killifish eggs, the light box allows you to see, in conjunction with a magnifying glass, eye development in the egg, and to readily see if any of the eggs have hatched. Even for German Blue Rams, I take the eggs from the parents and incubate them in a 2.5-gallon tank with fungicides and a moderate stream of air. The fry are almost transparent, so the light box allows me to readily see if the eggs have hatched, because the fry will no longer be on the rock but will be on the bottom of the tank. And then I can also see if any are close to being free swimming. I move them to a larger aquarium when they are about to become free swimming.

And if you discover a small container hidden away, well forgotten, and you do not know what is in it,

the light box allows you to see any other creepers or crawlers that might be present.

The light box works best with only an inch or two of water in the container. Unless the water is very clear and without color, water that is over 3 or 4 inches deep is hard to search with a light box. Of course, you could make it work by changing to brighter lights and/or less opaque glass.

Weird Fishy News

by Sherry Mitchell

Car Crashes into Aquarium in Tampa, FL...

An article in U.S. News on November 10th describes a 36-year old Tampa woman who drove her car into a 12 foot long aquarium at the Tampa Airport. She had a six year old in her lap at the time. The child suffered a knot on his forehead and the 1500 gallon tank was destroyed. The tank's value is estimated at \$50-100K and the fish were worth an additional \$3-5K. Most of the fish did not survive the incident and the woman was cited for careless driving, failure to provide a drivers license, and failure to use a child restraint device. A second fish tank still remains at the airports \$200K marine exhibit.



Drive-by tank crash in Tampa.

Photo: http://failuremag.com/index.php/failure_analysis/article/woman_crashes_vehicle_into_airport_aquarium/

70 Year-Old “Larry the Lobster” Released

In an article from the PeoplePets.com, a 70 year-old lobster in a New York City restaurant will be released back into the ocean. “Larry the Lobster” (sounds like a great mobster name, by the way), lives in his own tank at the Oceana Restaurant at Rockefeller Center and weighs in at 11 pounds. Local newspaper columnist, Ryan Sutton spearheaded the effort to free Larry, after Sutton realized that the lobster was probably born before World War II. “There’s something humbling about consuming flesh from an animal that’s given its life, involuntarily, for me, the diner,” Sutton said.



Free Larry. No word on whether or not there’s a movie in the works for the septuagenarian crustacean.

If You Go to Istanbul...

An article on www.vagabondish.com details a new 7-story underwater hotel in Istanbul, set to open in 2010. That’s right folks, you too can sleep with the fishes in the hotel’s custom made underwater rooms. Interestingly, this isn’t the world’s first underwater hotel. That award goes to the Poseidon Hotel on the island of Fiji.

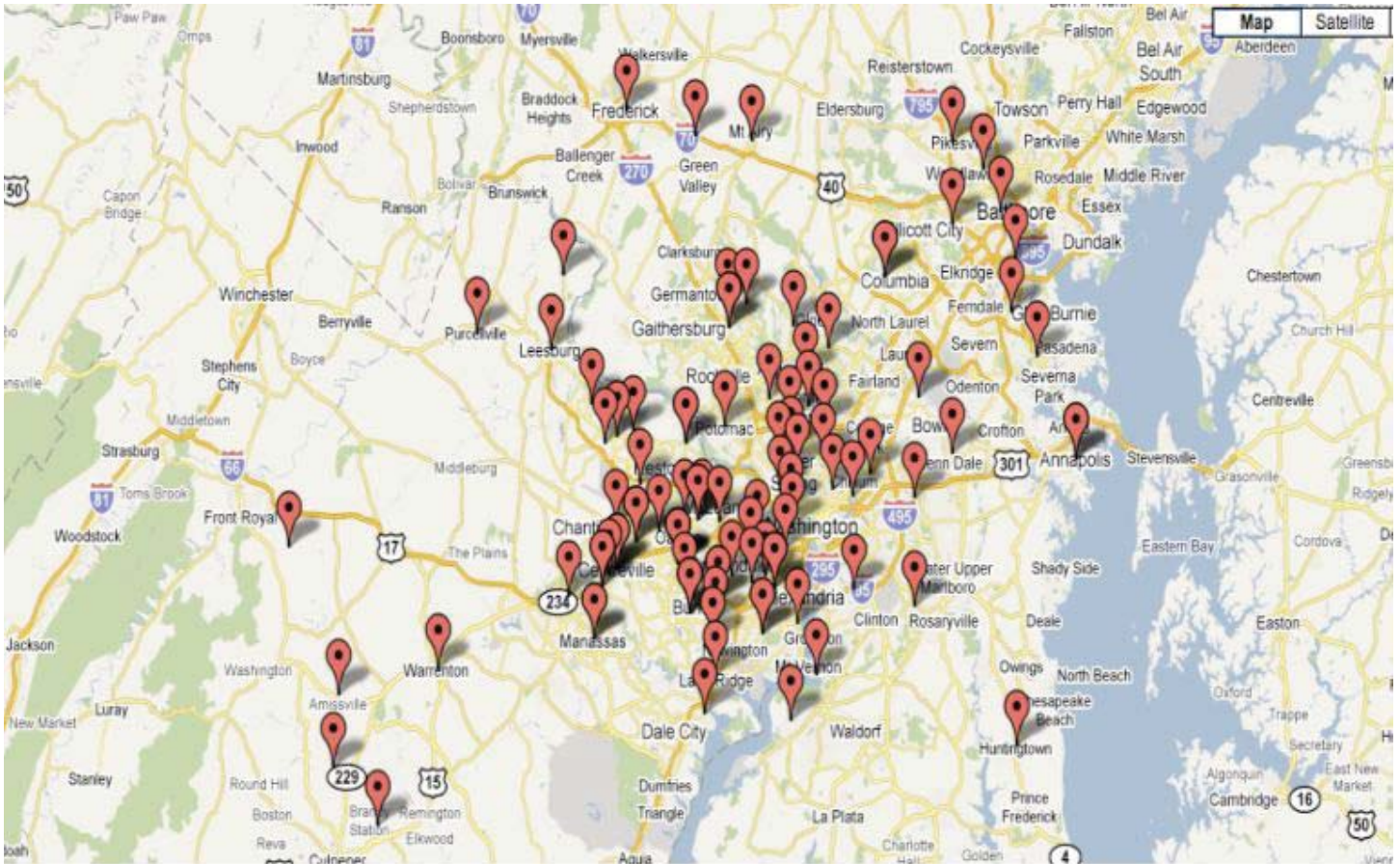


Now it’s Istanbul, not Constantinople....

Photo: <http://www.vagabondish.com/underwater-hotel-in-istanbul-to-open-in-2010>

The PVAS Member Commute —

By Sherry Mitchell



PVAS Members come from a wide region of the Washington Metro area, and beyond. (Map: ZeeMaps.com)

At last count, PVAS had 157 Members. That number is working its way upwards as the club moves into 2010. It seems like we pick up at least a few new members with every meeting. As the Washington suburbs have expanded, so have our member location's on the PVAS map.

Locally, within a 50-60 mile radius of Washington, we have members as far away as Brandy Station, Rixeyville, and Linden Virginia to the west, with another member to the east in Ocean City. To the north we have members in Baltimore, Forest Hill, and Reisterstown, Maryland. And in southern Virginia and Maryland we have members in California and Huntingtown, Maryland; and in King George, Virginia. PVAS is a very diverse and spread-out bunch!

For the most part, members come from the Washington Metropolitan area directly in and around the Beltway. Their commute to club meetings and events is less than an hour. Other members, however, travel

great distances to get to our meetings. Lately, members from the York, Pennsylvania area have come down for meets. For them, it's a two to three hour drive to club meetings at Green Acres School in Fairfax, depending on the traffic. Other members, like Ron Leftwich and Gerry Hoffman regularly travel an hour to two hours from Brandy Station and Rixeyville, Virginia.

PVAS not only has members in the Washington Metro region, we even have several members across the Atlantic in the UK! Out-of-town state-side members are in North Carolina, California, Florida, New York, Texas, Oregon and Georgia! We appreciate the lengths people go to, to get to meetings and club events. No matter, what their commute, it's great to come together to share in the hobby!



Pictures from the November Meeting!



Dozier and club Prez, Sherry Mitchell



Bob talked about Wild Bettas and their care.



Francisco enjoys the meeting.



Kurt, Frank and Bill buy raffle tickets.



Shawn checking out the goods.



The president's car is always packed to the gills for meetings!

Many “TANKS” To Our Corporate Club Sponsors! They are “Fin-tastic”!



Marc Weiss Co.



Potomac Valley Aquarium Society



Application for Membership and Membership Renewal

Name:		Date:			
Street:					
City:		State:		Zip:	
Phone:		Email:			

PVAS Annual Membership Dues (Circle one):

Individual	\$20
Family	\$30
Corresponding	\$15
Junior (under 18)	\$5
Corporate	\$40

Please send this application and a check or money order to the above address, or register for membership at the next monthly meeting. Membership cards are mailed once applications are processed. Processing takes 4-6 weeks. Any questions about membership should be directed to: membership@pvas.com.

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society
P.O. Box 664
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