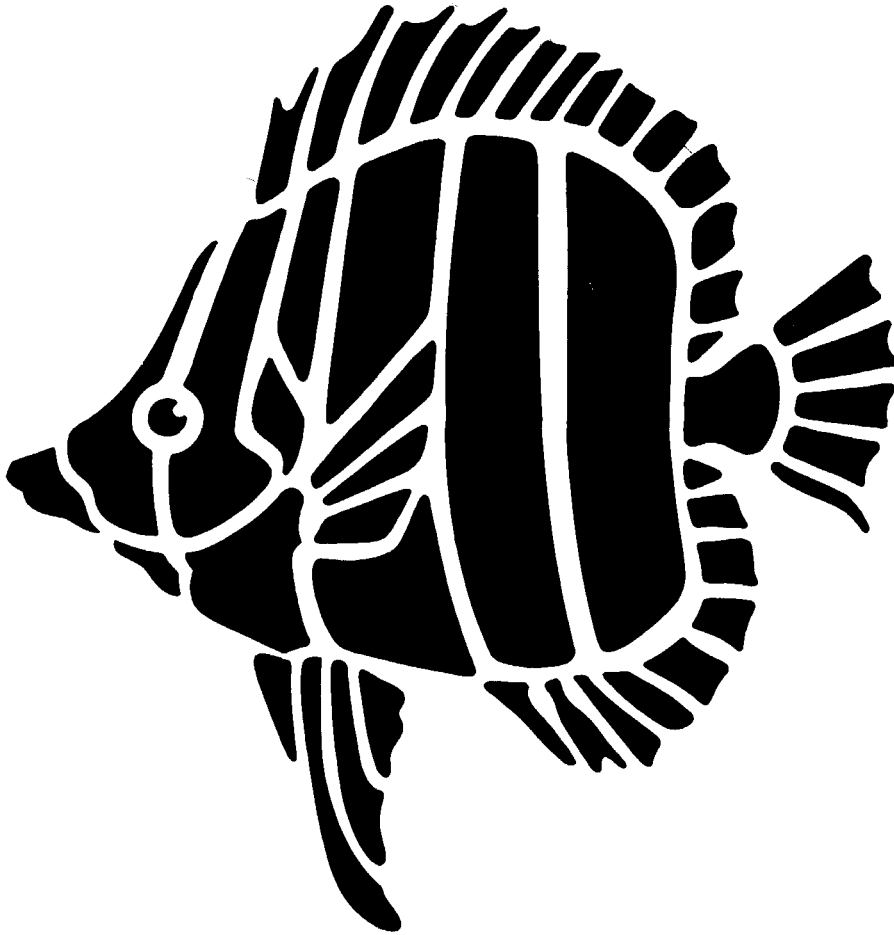


# \* DELTA TALE \*

Oct. 1984  
vol. 15, #10  
50¢

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society



FALL AUCTION OCTOBER 21!!! DETAILS INSIDE

# POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

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Treasurer: Maggi Mahoney (703) 534-0006	

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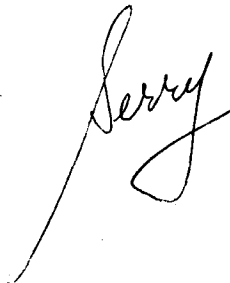
## From The President

PVAS seems to be back in full force after a summer of vacations and letting the business of fish keeping take a back seat to many other activities. Just witness the turnout for last month's meeting. Everyone was more than pleased with the program. Local aquarium shop owner Dave Shaw spoke on where we get all those fish that finally end up in our tanks. What you always wanted to know and never asked about was finally asked by many of you and Dave was eager to answer each question. Profit margins, mark-ups, freight and shipping costs, live foods, dead fish and much more was discussed. Thoroughly interesting, and now everyone has an idea of what goes on in the world of the aquarium shop owner. Thanks Dave.

Spend this month getting ready for winter. Winter already? Well, its coming soon enough. Are your heaters ready to function again? Is your favorite tank still soaking up the sun right in front of the window; that cold, drafty window that will be harmful to your fish? Winter means fewer hours of sunlight; will your plants require more light? Keep your fish happy and think of their possible needs.

John Mangan had his fish room in good shape last month and I hope that those of you that attended enjoyed it. Even the water in the turtle tank was not a deep shade of green this time. All those many Goodeids always seem to look alike unless you really take the time to examine their subtle differences. Then they still look grey and the same. Oh well, someone has to keep those things.

Remember that October is our club's big month. We will be having our Fall Banquet in a new location, so see the brochure for details. We always have fun at the Banquet, so come along and join in. Expect a super talk and slide show from Dave Herlong. He also is talking about bringing some spectacular imported Africans to our auction to try and bring back the African cichlid fever. Good luck Dave, because we are a well rounded club, not just an African group like a few years back. By the way, the Auction on Sunday should be a blockbuster once again. There are a few changes in the registration so that everyone will be able to insure that some of his/her bags will be sold right at the beginning and not all of his/her items will not be left to the very end, which has happened a little bit in the past. One word of advice gang, leave the duckweed home this time. It doesn't sell well and he who has duckweed in one tank will soon have it in all of his tanks unless one keeps goldfish or certain cichlids. Why not just bag it up and offer it to anyone who may want it? Or better yet, maybe I should make the bringer auction off his own plant. Get the hint gang-- bring in something that you feel is of good quality and you might want to buy yourself. If it must be duckweed, well, o.k. Anyway, with a little help from everyone once again the day will come off smoothly. I'll see you all there.



From the Editorz desk

The first thing I'd like to do this month is to thank everyone that came to my open fishroom. There was a pretty good turn out, about 30 some people over the course of the day.

We have a new HAP chairman starting this month. Alex Cummins is taking over the program. The program was officialy started several years ago but never has gotten off of the ground. Hopefully Alex will finally get things going. Anyone having plants to check in can bring them to the October meeting and Alex will help you get started in the program. Complete HAP rules can be found in the January issue of Delta Tale. If you need a copy I will try to bring some extras to the meeting with me.

The Fall Auction and Banquet are this month. Complete details are in the center of this issue. There's always lots of good stuff for sale so if you've never been to a PVAS auction be sure to come. It will also give you a chance to get rid of all of those extra fry and fish you've lost interest in. You may even win a 55 gallon tank set up.

I don't like doing this but once again I going to complain about a lack of articles being sent in to me. As you can see this issue is a little thin and I don't have any original articles in my files for next month. I can't write every issue all by myself.

I just read something interesting- the October issue of **Discover** magazine has an article on the clean up of Three Mile Island. Did you know that zeolite, the substance used to remove ammonia from your aquarium, was used to filter the radioactive water that had to be removed before cleanup could procede? It seems that zeolite is able to filter the radioactive substances out of the water. Now I'll know what to do if my new nuclear powered Dynaflo melts down.

On a number of occasions over the past few weeks I've had a chance to talk with several of our newer members. What stuck in my mind about all of these conversations was that these people were apologizing for being beginneers and not knowing much about fish. Well, we were all beginneers once and everyone advances to a different level at a different pace. Those of you that consider yourselves beginneers have actually already advanced beyond that level just by joining an aquarium club. Take advantage of what the club can offer you, ask questions, don't be afraid of being considered a "beginneer". Before you know it people will be asking you questions, and you'll be answering them.

In regards to Gerry Hoffmans comments on goodeids (which he misspelled) all I have to say is this- everyone has different tastes. Some people slowly savor the bouquet of fine wines, others chug-a-lug beer.

That's all for this month, I've got to go savor my fishes.



## Raising Brine Shrimp

by Mike Rininger (P.V.A.S)

Many hobbyists including myself consider brine shrimp to be an excellent food for Tropical Fish young and old. I raise most of my own shrimp but will on occasion purchase adult shrimp from a pet shop. My first problem raising brine shrimp is finding a place to put them. I tried almost every imaginable container: margarine tubs, milk jugs, juice containers and even the styrofoam containers that fish come from the wholesaler in. I finally ended up using a goldfish bowl.

First I add 4 tablespoons Coarse salt and then 1 tablespoon Epsom salts and finally  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon brine shrimp eggs. I pour this into the bowl after mixing and add warm water aerating it heavily to mix the salts and water together. Then I put in an aquarium heater (8"25watt) and heat the water to 85° F then I turn the aeration down to a small stream of bubbles. I then sprinkle a little yeast on top as a first food to the napauli. Then as soon as the eggs hatch 48-72 hours after contact with salt water. I add large amounts of algae to their water. Brine Shrimp napauli molt 9-12 times before maturity. It is a fact brine shrimp napauli must have some form of vegetable matter to reach maturity. Newly hatched napauli are an excellent first food for some of the larger fry and I highly recommend them.

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### What's Happening in Oct.

Meeting: John C. Wood facility, rt. 237 (Old Lee Hgwy.), Fairfax City. starts at 8:00 pm. everyone is welcome, bring a friend.

Program: information not available at press time, but it will be something interesting.

Mini- Auction: there will not be a mini-auction this month due to the fall auction on the 21st. Save all of your stuff for this. Details in the center of this issue.

Door prize and Raffle: lots of good stuff.

Open Fishroom: none this month due to the fall auction.

There are a number of different color morphs of the colisa lalia, the dwarf gourami, which have come into my possession. I'm sure there are many more. I have had three different sets - - the regular dwarf gourami with its red and blue male, the flame gourami with its nearly all red male, and the neon gourami whose male is mostly blue in color. The females of all the varieties are a silver-gray color.

I purchased a pair of the flame gouramis from a local pet shop with the object of trying to breed them. I set up a 5 1/2 gallon tank with some floating plants and a sponge filter (unconnected so as not to disturb the soon-to-be-built bubble nest). The water level was put at six inches and a jar filled with water and a heater was placed in one corner.

The temperature was 78° and the PH 6.8. A water softener packette was placed in the tank. I placed both the male and the female in the tank together. They were fed on live brine shrimp, black worms and a special breeding conditioner flake food. The temperature was gradually raised over a period of a week to 82°.

After a week, the bubble nest typical of anabantoids was built among the floating plants. It was not as large as the ones built by bettas or even the one built by my honey gouramis (colisa chuna), a much smaller fish.

After mating comes the trick of getting the female out of the tank without destroying the bubble nest. The male was left until the fry were free swimming, about four days later.

The fry were small, about the size of a comma. They seemed to be doing well on a diet of liquifry, egg yolk, and the natural infusoria of the sponge filter. Frequent partial water changes were made to make sure the liquifry and egg yolk did not foul the water. Small amounts of water were removed from the bottom with a kitchen baster and squirted into a small white plastic cup. Any fry which were sucked up were put back with an eye dropper.

The fry did well for about a month when disaster struck. My heater went on the fritz and the temperature suddenly shot over 94°. All but six died. To compound this tragedy, the female died in the community tank about the same time.

Time to try again! A trip to Creatures and Critters in Woodbridge showed an extra female flame gourami which they sold to me as a singleton. Clean out the tank, set up again, condition the water and the breeders and hope for the best.

This time the male built his bubble nest but the female did not appear to want to fool around (deja vu!). I kept them together for two weeks; several nest were built but I never saw any eggs in them.

Giving up on this pair, I moved them back to the community tank. History tending to repeat itself, the female was dead within a few days.

Several weeks later I was ready to prep the 5 1/2 gallon tak for a pair of long finned zebra danios. Praise be to spnge filters and the natural infusoria it creates! There were flame gourami fry in the tank. The breeding pair had seemed uncooperative and I never noticed eggs, but there they were. This time breeding was in the late spring, so there was no heater to foul up. The fry were fed on liquifry and tetramin egglayer flake food. When about a month old they took newly hatched brine shrimp. I am anxious to see what color combinations I get when they are older. The original group who survived heat stroke is down to three and I think I have all females (does this tell us something, guys).

## THE DWARF AFRICAN UNDERWATER FROG

by Ella Pittman, CAS

There are two entirely aquatic African frogs available from time to time to the aquarist. One is the thick legged frog which grows to three or four inches long, and the dwarf, which reaches no more than two inches at the most. The larger of the frogs is a predator and has a bad reputation for eating fish. This article is on the smaller of the two. This is also the one seen most often in fish shops.

This little aquarium citizen is very peaceful. It can be kept with fish but one must make sure that it is getting enough to eat. It is a little slower to eat than its' fish companions and the food can all be gone before it gets started if one is not careful. For breeding purposes the same principals hold forth as for fishes. It should be given a tank of its' own. The eggs don't stand a chance if there are fish in the tank.

Unfortunately most frogs seen in the fish shops are quite young and difficult to guess at sex. The only way I know of is by body shape. The females have a quite round shape and the males are longer and slimmer. One can only tell for sure if you have one of each for comparison. Even then it is difficult. The best way is to buy 4 to 6 young frogs and set them up in a tank where conditions are good for them. When they have reached maturity ( this can be several months or more, depending on the level of maturity at the purchase time) they will begin to pair off. At this time you can remove a pair to another tank or remove all of the other frogs. The pair spawns with the male grasping the female around the "waist". They swim about in this manner for several hours or more until the spawning is over. It is said that the male "squeezes" the eggs from the female. I don't know if this is actually the case or not, however, the female releases eggs and the male fertilizes them. This process usually begins in the morning. The eggs are tiny black spots, about the size of a typed period. A closer look with a strong magnifying glass or microscope will show that the dot is surrounded with a clear tissue which would make the egg about the size of the average fish egg. The eggs float to the surface of the water and may be removed by dipping them up with a teaspoon or small bowl. They are quite adhesive and will stick to the spoon if one is not careful. This much is easy. Once started the adults will usually spawn on a regular basis. The first spawns may be small but will increase as the parents get older. Raising the babies is another matter.

In 24 to 36 hours the black spots will have elongated into looking like a comma. Some will have broken from the egg sac. In another 24 hours all of the eggs that are going to hatch will have developed and broken from the egg sac. The tiny tadpoles will be lying on the bottom and in another day will begin to swim to the surface. They will quickly change to a round body with a tail. Up until this time feeding will not have been necessary as there is usually enough food in the unhatched eggs and other organic matter that may be present to start the growth going. At this time some aquarists begin by feeding liquid fry food. I usually start with newly hatched brine shrimp. I have tried just about every "first food" available to the

frog cont.

aquarist and have found that the tiny tadpoles will accept just about any of them. At any time from this stage on you may find a complete spawn dead, overnight, or in a few hours time. Over a time of many spawns I have come to the conclusion that absolute cleanliness is the key. If the tiny tadpoles are kept in a container such as a plastic shoe box, all sediment and debris should be removed every day or two, along with one-third to one-half of the water. This should be replaced with fresh water of the same temperature. The tadpoles grow quickly and in three to four weeks will be about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch across the body. At this time they will soon develop back legs and, soon after, front legs. In six weeks to two months from spawning they can be tiny frogs. At all times one faces the threat OF A COMPLETE WIPEOUT IF CARE IS NOT TAKEN. Any a dead tadpole or frog is noticed, a one-third to one-half water change should be done. As the frogs grow the food supply can be enlarged to larger sizes. Dwarf African frogs will accept most dry foods as well as live foods and frozen substitutes.

Various types of filters can be used with the growing tadpoles. Some aquarists feel the sponge filters are best. I have relied on water changes more than filters, however, I have never tried to raise them in large quantities and perhaps a filtering method would be more practical for large numbers of little ones.

There are many unanswered questions regarding the spawning and raising of African frogs. Just when you think you have solved the problem, it crops up again and it's back to the drawing board. They are, however, so prolific that once they begin spawning, one could never begin to raise all of the young without turning over all ones' tanks to African frogs, and that takes all of the fun out of fish-keeping! It's variety that adds spice to any aquarists hobby.

Reprinted from Colorado Aquarist, Colorado Aquarium Society, Denver CO

## TRADING POST

All ads for the trading post should be sent to Delta Tale C/O John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna, VA 22180 by the 20th of the month prior to publication. This service is free to all PVAS members.

For Sale: 12" Plecostomus cat, \$25. Contact Millie Secular, (301) 588-0195.

Want: male Allotoca dugesi. John Mangan, address above.

For Sale: Mealworm larvae, large and healthy, 4¢ each. Can deliver to monthly meetings. Michael Rininger, (703) 860-1734.





# POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY ANNUAL FALL AUCTION & BANQUET - 1984

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Saturday, October 20 — Banquet

TIME: 6:30 to 8:30 pm cocktails (Pay Bar) and Buffet Dinner  
8:30 Banquet Speaker - David Herlong  
See Details & Map Inside, Page 2

### Sunday, October 21 - Auction

TIME: 9 am to 12:30 pm — Registration of Items for Auction.  
12:30 PM - Auction Begins  
PLACE: John C. Wood Facility, Rt. 237, Fairfax, Virginia.  
See Details Inside on Page 3, Map on Page 4

★ EXCITING RAFFLE PRIZES ★ WIN A 55 GAL. SET UP ★



# POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY 1984 FALL BANQUET

Saturday, October 20, 1984 at The Army -Navy Country Club, 2400 S. 18th Street, Arlington, Virginia.

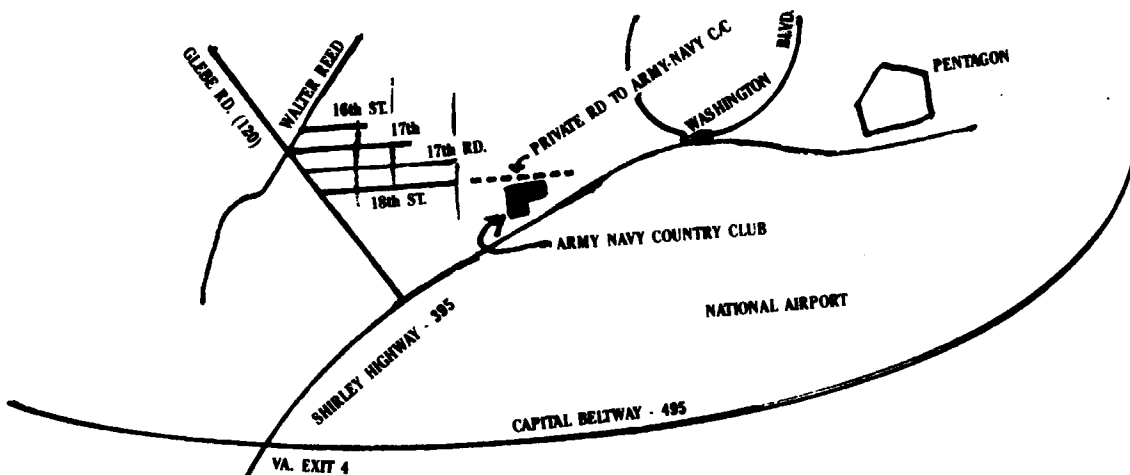
COCKTAILS & BUFFET DINNER: 6:30 to 8:30 pm (Cash bar)

MENU: A Buffet of assorted hot and cold dishes, including steamship round of beef. Enjoy all you can eat, coffee (only) included.

PRICE: \$12.50 Per Person

SPEAKER: Dave Herlong, PVAS Corresponding Member and long time friend.

SUBJECT: His recent trip to Lake Malawi in Africa and his collecting trips there. Dave has been a friend and member of PVAS for several years now. He makes his home in Cary, North Carolina. Dave is a past chairman of the American Cichlid Association and is currently on their Board of Trustees. He is a member and past president of the Raleigh Aquarium Society and was a judge at our spring show this year. Dave really knows his African fish and has had the rare opportunity to see them in their native environment.



— RESERVATION BLANK —

All reservations must be received by Monday, October 15. Please forward the reservation blank below (with check) to: P.V.A.S. Banquet, c/o Maggi Mahoney, Treasurer  
3011 Aspen Lane, Falls Church, VA 22042

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in Party: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Enclose your check, payable to PVAS, for \$12.50 per person, including children.)

## P.V.A.S. AUCTION - SUNDAY. OCTOBER 21

### RULES FOR THE SELLER:

1. You do not have to be a club member to participate and/or buy or sell fish, aquatic plants, or aquarium equipment and supplies.
2. Registration will begin at 9 am and end promptly at 12:30. If you are in line at 12:30 your items will be registered.
3. Auction will start immediately after registration.
4. All items **MUST** be labeled with identity of contents, number in bag, sex (if possible) and any other pertinent information. Use permanent ink marker and/or self-sticking tags to label bags.
  - a. Fish: "Pair" means one of each sex. "Mated Pair" means the two fish have spawned WITH EACH OTHER. "Trio" refers to one male and two females. "Reverse Trio" means two males and one female. "Mixed sexes" means AT LEAST ONE OF EACH SEX. If uncertain, label as "Unsexed".
  - b. Supplies: All aquarium equipment **MUST** be labeled as to working condition. (i.e. it must be stated if a tank leaks or is broken).
  - c. Labels will be available at the registration desk if needed.
5. Proper fish bags **MUST** be used. Live items must be bagged properly with ample air and water. Baggies or similar sandwich bags are **NOT** acceptable. If fish is in a bowl or tank, that must also be for sale at the same time.
6. Limited to 15 bags per person: fish, plants or hobby related items. (No exceptions.)
7. A limit of 5 bags per species and/or color form/variety (i.e. gold angels, marble angels) per seller will be observed unless you have prior approval from the auction chairman.
8. For every 5 items placed in the auction, 1 colored sticker will be given to the seller to place on an item of his choice. All such marked items will be offered for bidding at the beginning of the auction.
9. Bags will be offered "as is". Contents may not be split into two or more transactions.
10. Each item carries a \$1 minimum, unless seller wishes to assign a higher minimum. Seller may lower the minimum on an item that does not move during the auction.
11. No payment will be made to seller on the day of the auction. Payment will be forwarded by mail within 10 days after the auction date. It is the responsibility of the SELLER to be sure P.V.A.S. has their proper name and address for mailing their payment. Envelopes for this purpose will be filled out at the registration desk.
12.  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the selling prices goes to the seller,  $\frac{1}{3}$  is retained by P.V.A.S.
13. All items not sold during the auction must be claimed by the owner (seller) immediately upon conclusion of the auction; otherwise they will be disposed of at the club's discretion.
14. Auctioneer retains the right to set aside improperly bagged, sick or otherwise unsaleable merchandise.

### RULES FOR THE BIDDER:

1. All persons wishing to participate will be required to sign in with their full name and address. They will receive a bidding card, whose use will be explained before the auction starts.
2. Bags may be inspected before the auction begins and during intermissions only.
3. All bidding raises will be in 50¢ increments up to \$5. After \$5 is reached, minimum raises of \$1 will be accepted. (Auctioneer has the right to alter this at his discretion.)
4. Successful bidders will have their items brought to them, at which time they may pay. If bidders wish to "run a tab" or pay by check, please see the Treasurer before the auction begins. Proper identification will be required for payments by check.
5. In all instances the decision of the auctioneer is final.

**SEE MAP ON BACK**

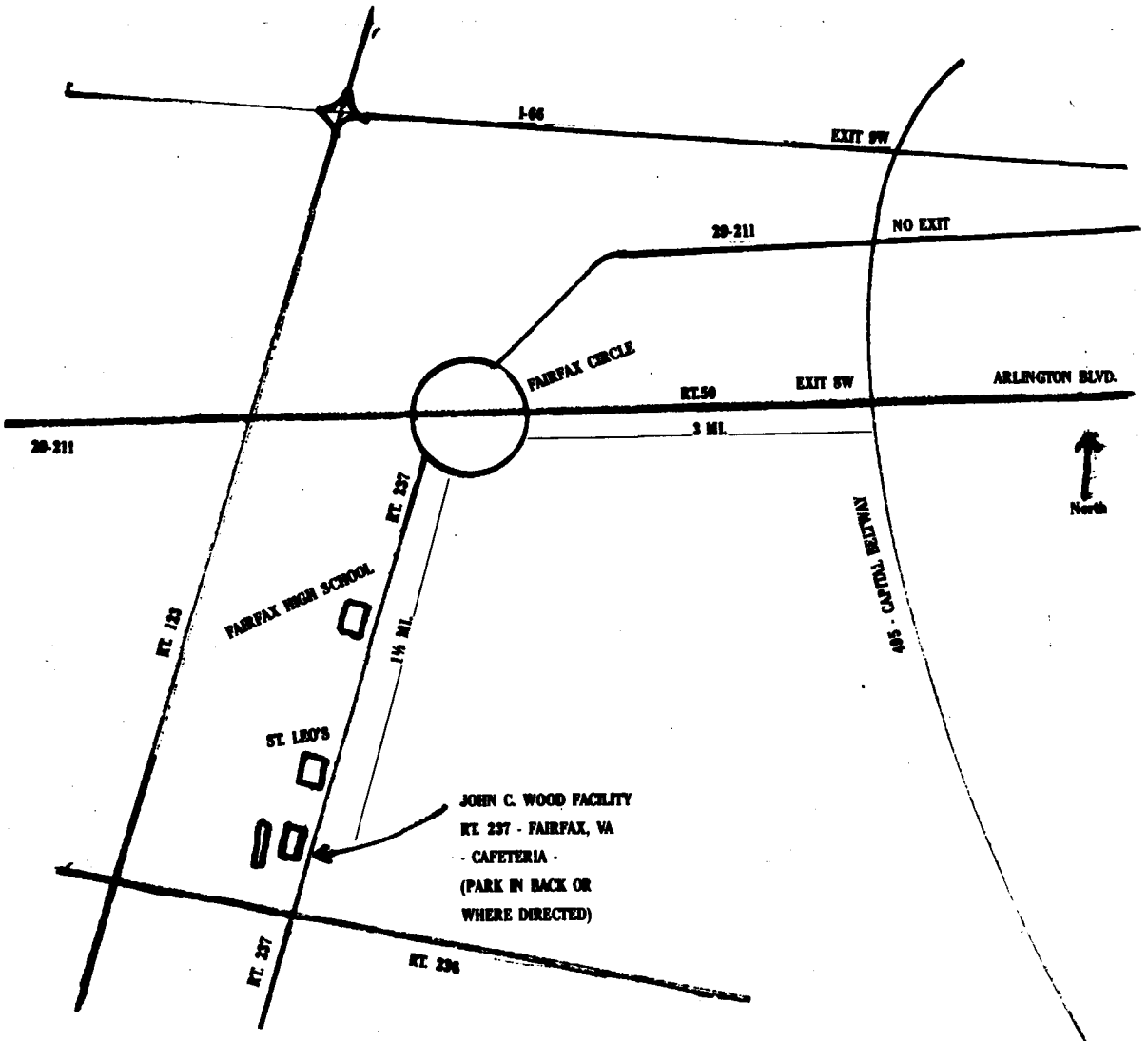
— RAFFLE PRIZES — RAFFLE PRIZES — RAFFLE PRIZES —

Aquarium related items will be raffled off at intervals during the auction. You must be present to win. As a Grand Finale, a 55-gallon tank set up will be raffled at the end of the auction. You do NOT have to be present to win this.

Tickets for both raffles may be purchased before and during the auction at the concession stand.

Soft drinks, snacks and souvenirs will be on sale.

**AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT JOHN C. WOOD FACILITY, LOCATION ON MAP BELOW:**



## THE SECRETS BEHIND POECILIA CHICA

By Charley Grimes, IAS

About 1979 a new livebearer hit the hobby in the Midwest. It was a little fish known as Poecilia chica. We got this fish with nothing more than this name and high expectations. It proved to be a precocious and prolific little animal and in short order all who were interested, in the Indianapolis area, had these little rascals.

These fish turned out to be a lot like guppies and a lot different in many ways. In size you immediately are reminded of a guppy. The female is the same size and shape of a female guppy. I am not referring to your show guppy, but to the kind you can find in my fish room; the good-sized "fedder guppy". They are a little darker and a little more coarse appearing but the first impression is to think you are eyeballing a guppy from the first day it swims till the day it goes to that "quiet little pool in the sky". The one thing that causes a second look and a reassessment is the blue sheen in the body.

The male is a little more separated from a male guppy. With the exception of a hint of blue sheen in the body, the male is a greenish-brown with short rounded fins. When guppy-like shape and appearance of the fry is lost as the male begins to assume his adult male shape you will notice he is a little more robust than a male guppy. In comparison to a male guppy size-wise, the male P. chica seems to be larger.

From the day they are born, the P. chica are pert and alert. They seem to accept almost any standard aquarium fare and mature at an expected rate. A ten gallon tank with a moderate amount of cover suit them very well. The male, in what seems to be typical Poecilia conduct, constantly courts the females. The fish don't seem to fight among themselves and become sexually active in 6 months. The gestation period seems to be about 30 days. A brood size of about 30 seems to be the norm. If fed properly and there is sufficient cover, the adults seem to ignore the fry.

The unusual thing that I have noticed more with P. chica than any other is that they tend not to over populate a tank. While there seems to be considerable variance in this, the population of a tank of P. chica will level out and hold at a reasonable number and stay this way for a prolonged period of time. With the removal of a large portion of the fish in the tank, a population spurt will occur and soon reach the "stable figure". This, in and of itself is quite interesting and seems more pronounced and predictable than for most species.

These fish have a well deserved reputation of being nasty and while seeming to get along with each other, are very rough on non-specifics. This has been commented on by everyone, to my knowledge, that has worked with this fish to any extent. This is unfortunate and will be detrimental to this fishes future in the hobby. While this fish can't be other than it is and we should try to understand that this is a character trait that has developed thru many years of evolution and has, quite probably contributed quite importantly to this species survival over the years. Understanding the reason for it does nothing to make the behavior any more acceptable to the tank mates (victims) or the hobbyest.

My first experience with this fish led me to determine it wasn't the fish for me and I passed fish and fry on to another interested aquarist with proper warnings regarding its probable behavior when settled into its new aquarium. Later I saw an exceptionally handsome fish in a tank across Vern Parish's fish-room and closer examination revealed it to be a male Poecilia chica. What had happened?

Subsequent conversation revealed that I had maintained these fish only a short time after the males had reached sexual maturity but had not retained them until they were fully mature adults. An adult male is a charcoal black fish that really looks good in a tank. The only restriction is that only one male will "color up". This holds true for a 15 gal. tank at any rate. More may be able to color up at one time in a larger tank. Removal of the black or dominate male will allow for another to become the "top dog" and another male will "color up" in a few days.

I sometimes wonder how many fish I have disposed of and relegated to a "who cares" category because I moved them on before they achieved their potential. On the other hand, even when colored an attractive black, the male is still justly considered a villain regarding his actions toward other fishes.

My other "secret" is a question as to who, what and where regarding P. chica. I have been unsuccessful, as has Vern Parish, in any efforts to discover any real information about this fish. The name of P. chica isn't of much use by itself and, for all the world, sounds like a common Spanish name. Chica meaning small.

While I don't plan on losing any sleep over this, I would like to know. This article wasn't written in an effort to convince you to keep P. chica but to share my experience and to advise you that a fish that has proven itself to be capable of successful reproduction hasn't necessarily reached full maturity, nor has it realized its full potential. Please be careful you don't dispose of a fish you have enjoyed before you can really enjoy it.

Reprinted from Tropical Topics, Indianapolis Aquarium Society  
November, 1983

#### The Tank Tank

by Michael Rininger (PVAS)

Most Plecostemos owners know the agony of trying to keep plants rooted in a tank while a Plecostemos goes about his business. Domino (my six inch Plecostemos) seems to take great pleasure in uprooting everything in sight, when one plant floats up he goes on to the next (which explains his name-Domino). Not many fish in my tank are large enough to tackle Domino and the others usually stay clear of him. I keep Domino in a 10 gallon tank with six Kribensis which is a bit crowded but they don't seem to mind a bit.

The largest of my Kribs tries day and night to defend his flowerpot from Domino but if a cucumber slice floats in Domino is usually following it, Much to the Kribs dismay. Despite his disturbing habits Domino gets to stay where he is and live his life being the tank tank.

#### IN MEMORIAM

The members of PVAS express their deep sympathy and condolences to Gene Aldridge and family on the death of his wife, Millie on Saturday, Sept. 22, 1984, after a lengthy illness.

Along with Gene, Millie was a long time friend and supporter of PVAS. She will be missed by all who knew her.

## Q and A

Anyone having questions on fish, plants, live foods, or anything else related to fishkeeping, send them to Delta Tale, c/o John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna, VA 22180. No names will be printed, so don't be afraid to ask what you think is a dumb question. There are probably many other people out there that want to know the same thing but are afraid to ask.

Q. I have to add water to my tanks almost every week to replace what has evaporated. Since I am adding new water do I still need to make water changes too.

A. Yes. Evaporation removes only water from your tank. All of the minerals that were in the water remain in your tank and their concentration grows. The white crust that forms around the top rim of a tank is an example of this. It is caused by the minerals left behind when the water evaporates. They also build up in your water.

Minerals aren't the only thing that builds up. You will also get a build up of ammonia and other undesirable things such as growth inhibiting substance. This is especially important in tanks of fry. The growth inhibiting substance is secreted by the fish and when it reaches a certain concentration growth is retarded. To put it simply, it lets the fish know when they are running out of room to grow. This is why making frequent water changes in fry tanks makes them grow faster. The growth inhibitor is diluted and the fish is fooled into "thinking" that they have more room than they really do.

If you don't make water changes the things mentioned above, and others, will slowly build up in your tank. The fish in the tank will acclimate to these slow changes and, although they may be somewhat stunted, will appear relatively unaffected by them (up to a limit). However, any new fish that you add is likely to drop dead. This is why fish store employees so often hear "all of my old fish are doing fine, how come the one you just sold me died?" The old fish were used to the "old" water, the new one received an extreme shock when dumped into it.

How much and how often to change water will get you a different answer from just about everyone you ask. It really depends on your individual setup and the type of fish you have. For the average community tank I would recommend about 10% per week. Doing it weekly gets you into a regular routine and makes it harder to forget, and 10% is an easily manageable amount, so it isn't a big chore. Changing one gallon of water in a ten gallon tank is no big deal, and it only takes a couple of minutes. Smaller, frequent, changes are also less of a shock to the fish than waiting for the water to get borderline terrible then making a big change.

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Oct. Bowl Show

### Cichlids-

New World Mouthbrooder  
Pseudotropheus  
Open

### Egglayer/Livebearer -

Goldfish and Koi  
Characins  
Open



# THE MIRROR

PAT MAHONEY

## REPRINTS

PACKING FISH FOR AN AUCTION, John Mangan, FAAS REPORT, Federation of American Aquarium Societies, September 1984.

## REVIEWS

THE NEW GUINEA PEACOCK GUDGEON, Gerry Hoffman, FISH TALES, Aqua Land Aquatic Society, Bristol, CT, June 1984.

NOT ALL THE GOLD WAS IN SARAJEVO, John Jessup, FISH TALES, Aquatic Land Aquatic Society, Bristol, CT, June 1984.

AEQUIDENS SAPAYENSIS, Pat Mahoney, PISCES PRESS, Nassau County Aquarium Society, NY, September 1984.

THE BLUE-TAIL GOODEID, John Mangan, SWAM, Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society, Kalamazoo, MI, September-October 1984.

ANCISTRUS LINEOLATUS, Pat Mahoney, THE NEKTON, Saskatoon Aquarium Society, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, August 1984.

NOT ALL THE GOLD WAS IN SARAJEVO, John Jessup, TANK TALK, Sault and Area Aquarium Club, Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario, Canada, July-August 1984.

COMMUNITY KILLIES, Susan Oglebay. Originally written for the CAROLINA AQUARIST, Raleigh, NC and reviewed in THE REFLECTOR, Central New York Aquarium Society, Liverpool, NY, September 1984.

AEQUIDENS SAPAYENSIS, Pat Mahoney, THE NEKTON, Saskatoon Aquarium Society, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, August 1984.

THE NEW GUINEA PEACOCK GUDGEON, Darrell Holman, THE NEKTON, Saskatoon Aquarium Society, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, August 1984.

DONT GIVE UP, John Mangan, THE NEKTON, Saskatoon Aquarium Society, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, August 1984.

SHOWING LARGE CATFISH, Chuck Davis. A reprint in the DELTA TALE from THE REPORTER, North Jersey Aquarium Society. The article was favorably reviewed in FISH TALES, Aqua Land Aquarium Society, Bristol, CT, September 1984, and inferred Chuck was a member of PVAS. An old friend of PVAS and current President of NJAS, Chuck is one of the "good guys" in the hobby so we are proud to claim him. Lets wear that PVAS T-Shirt, Chuck!

# POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE CONTACTS H \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tanks \_\_\_\_\_ Time in hobby \_\_\_\_\_

Fish you have spawned \_\_\_\_\_

What can this club do for you \_\_\_\_\_

What do you want to do for the club \_\_\_\_\_

Which sub-groups of fish interest you \_\_\_\_\_

How long do you plan to be in this area? \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

Family \$12.00  
Individual \$10.00

Corresponding \$7.00  
Junior (under 18) \$5.00

Please send application and check for dues to address above.

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

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Meets on the Following Dates in 1984:

October 8  
November 12  
December 10

meetings held at the John C. Wood facility Rt. 237 Fairfax City  
in the rear of the building. Everyone is welcome.

meetings begin 8:00 p.m.