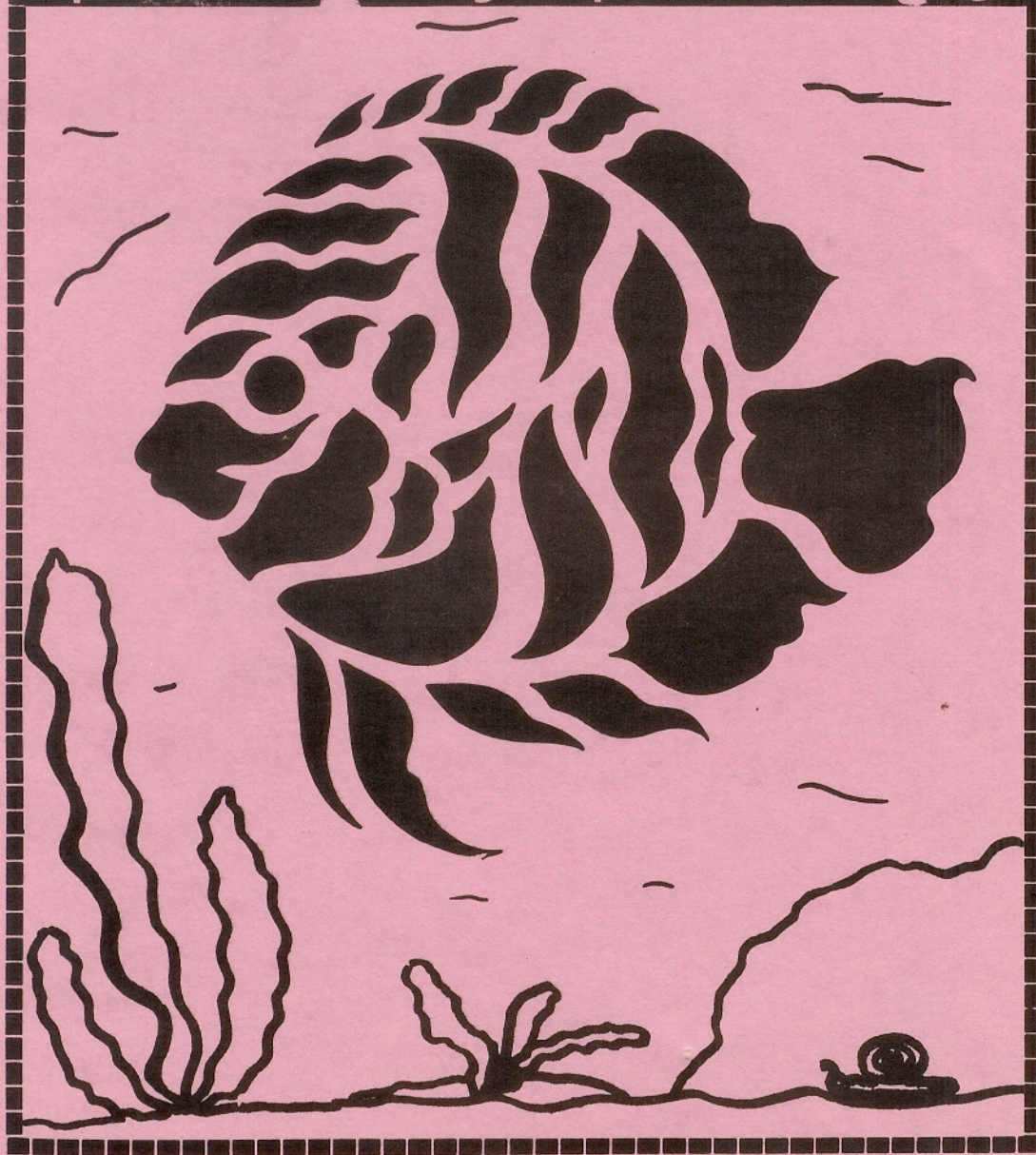


DELTA TALE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society

July/Aug
1993



The Delta Tale is published bimonthly 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 purposes of furthering the aquarium hobby by the dissemination of information and advice, and the promotion of good fellowship among the membership by organized activities and competitions.

All correspondence to the society and to Delta Tale should be directed to PO Box 6219 Shirlington Station, Arlington, VA 22206.

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Letter from the Pres

When you are the proud owner of a pond, spring and summer can be mixed blessings. During the winter all you had to do (if you prepared properly during the fall) was check that all was well as you walked by. But spring is a different story. Your fish begin to eat and metabolize as the temperature rises to 55 and above. First they will graze on any algae that is growing and that will keep them happy for a little while. Then you can give them some Cheerios - a little something to munch without the protein to cause upset to little awakening digestive systems. Meanwhile your filters are beginning to come alive and they need attention and maintenance. Now this is where I ran into my first problems. Being of the firm conviction that I had set up the perfect system I was sure that I didn't need to freeze parts of my anatomy last October and breakdown and flush my filters. I mean, after all, I had done weekly maintenance all summer and when I stopped feeding in the fall there was no load on the filter to worry about, right? Not!! When the whole pond turned pea soup green and smelled bad and I couldn't even see my poor fish, I had to admit that maybe my perfect set-up was less than so.

I spent almost six hours bending over (I was truly crippled for days afterward) scooping and washing thousands of filthy lava rocks. They were relatively inexpensive to begin with, but they are no bargain in the long run. One hundred gallons in each filter is too much to flush properly and each little scoopfull had to be strained and washed and rinsed and washed again. As it was cleaned, we put them in separate containers. Luckily, I had 7 large restaurant containers to hold them. Then the bottom of the filter had to have about 20 gallons of stinking black muck flushed out. This was no easy undertaking since it didn't want to go out. I had designed the fill to swirl and that's just what it kept doing - swirling. Finally, one clean and refilled. Now to wash and empty the second one. I have them set up in a series so the second one is not near as dirty, but just as full and just as heavy. When we are almost to the bottom, the interior structure that we had constructed to hold the lava rock above the in-flow self destructed...crashed down in a heap of broken fluorescent egg crate and dirty lava rock. I could have cried. It was late Sunday afternoon and we didn't have the glue or egg crate or anything to rebuild it. We circumvented that filter and set the system up with one and got it running.

The next morning I started checking gun shops for the price of shotgun wadding. I ended up going through a wholesaler and buying 10,000 pieces. It took a week to get them. In the meantime we built a new infrastructure and waited anxiously. (I put the lava rock in my driveway - it looked real pretty) When the wadding came it was almost dark outside - we ran out and opened all those bags and dumped them in the filter. I was very excited - my husband was not! We turned on the water and guess what? - the wadding floated!! Quick! turn off the water! Quick

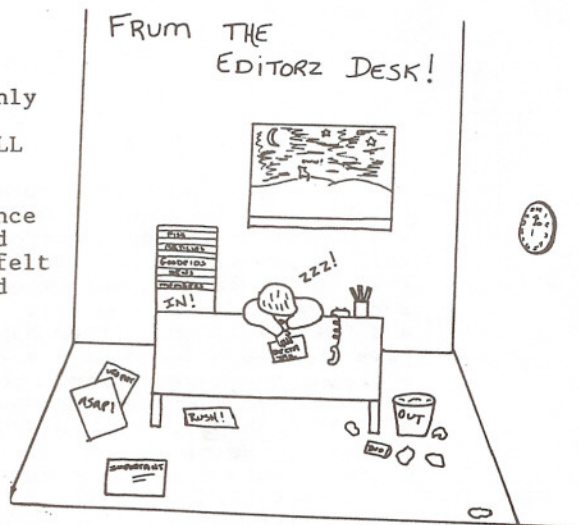
Well here I am late again. The only excuse I have is that it's all Beverle's fault. Well maybe not ALL her fault, but after all, blaming everything that's wrong on the President is the American Way. Since the fourth of July is right around the corner as I'm writing this I felt it was my patriotic duty to uphold this long American tradition and blame everything on Beverle.

There's not a lot to talk about this month. Our Spring auction is history and our Fall Auction and Workshop isn't until October. I don't have any details on it yet. Everything is still in the planing stages. Complete details should be in the next issue though. So look for them there. We're hoping to have a real good lineup of speakers. You should be able to get information from the PVAS Hotline - (703) 352-3365- as it becomes available.

We are hoping to have the PVAS library available at meetings again very soon. Brian Groover had been doing an excellent job of making the library material available to members but unfortunately has a schedule conflict and hasn't been able to come to meetings lately. We've recently found a sucker, I mean volunteer, to take over the job. Much thanks to Brian for the time and effort he put into the library.

I still have about half a page to fill and nothing else to say. Oh well, I'll find something to fill it up with.

Untill next time...



Historic note: Until his life's destiny was further clarified, Robin Hood spent several years robbing from the rich and giving to the porcupines.



"Well, just look at you, Jimmy Long ... Soaking wet, hair matted up, shoes untied ... and take that horrible thing out of your mouth!"

What's Happening!

For up to the minute information on "what's happening" call the PVAS Hotline at 703-352-3365. The line is open 24 hours a day.

July 12: PVAS Monthly Meeting. Speaker- Dr. David Allison of the Center for Marine Conservation.

Aug. 9 : PVAS Monthly Meeting. The program will be the films "Fishes of Lake Malawi" and "Fishes of Barundi". These are not films that you are ever going to see on TV. In addition we will have the usual door prize, raffles, mini auction, refreshments and more. Doors open at 7:30, meeting begins at 8:00. Everyone is welcome.

Sept. 13: PVAS Monthly Meeting. Speaker, door prize, raffles, etc.

Oct. 15, 16, & 17: PVAS Fall Workshop & Auction: Speakers will include Jack Watley, Charlie Grimes, Sally Boggs, & Steve Somermeyer, plus more TBA. The workshop will be Saturday (with very possibly a dinner afterwards). Friday night will feature a beginners workshop, and Sunday will be an auction of fish and related supplies. Make plans to come. PVAS members will receive complete information soon others keep checking the hotline.
NOTE: this info just in- the workshop will be FREE for PVAS members!



PVAS members may advertise in the Trading Post at no charge. Send ads to John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave., Vienna, VA 22181. Deadline for the next issue is Aug. 15.

For Sale: 4 slate bottom 2 gal. tanks; 1 all glass 5½ gal. tank; 1 Dyna-flo 150 power filter (never used); 2 fluorescent lights for 29 or 20L tanks. Best offer by 8/31/93.
Ruth Brewer, (703) 494-0972.

For Sale: backissue aquarium magazines, many different titles. Send SASE for catalog. John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna, VA 22181.

THE CICHLIDS YEARBOOK, VOLUME 2

a book review by George White, PVAS

The Cichlids Yearbook, Volume 2 by Ad Konings provides enticing introductions to some of the exciting "new" Cichlids now available from the great rift lakes of Africa, other areas of Africa as well as from Central and South America. Many of these fish are new discoveries while others were known to scientists, but had not previously been made available to hobbyists. A few of the fish, such as the genus *Tropheus*, are well established favorites about which Konings provides new information. This book, as the title indicates is a follow-up to the first volume which was published at the end of 1991.

The Cichlids Yearbook, v.2 contains a spectacular selection of Cichlid photographs, including some of species I have never seen. These wonderfully sharp photos, taken primarily by Dutch and German photographers, show various Cichlids in their natural habitats as well as in aquaria. Many of the species have such vibrant colors that most people would think that they were marine fish. For example, the spectacular *Cyprichromis* sp. "Leptosoma Jumbo" pictured on page 27 has an electric blue body with a glaring sunshine yellow tail and tail fin (caudal peduncle and fin). The excellent photos of several of the very popular zebra-like *Cynotilapia* species also show just how impressive Cichlids can be.

Koning divided this volume into the following sections: Tanganyikan Cichlids; Malawian Cichlids; Victorian Cichlids; West African Cichlids; Central American Cichlids; South American Cichlids; Cichlid Maintenance; and, Cichlid Literatim. Each section contains a number of articles, mostly by Ad Koning, but also some by noted authorities and some by advanced hobbyists. The experts include: Jan 't Hooft, the founder of the Dutch Cichlid Association; Hans-Joachim Herrmann, author of an excellent book on Tanganyikan Cichlids; and Dr. Andreas Spreinat author of a book on Lake Malawi's Emperor Cichlids. The articles are accompanied by beautiful photographs and in some cases by interesting maps showing where the fish came from. (I, for one, would have liked to have seen additional maps and information on the chemistry of the water where some of the more unknown species dwell in nature.)

Ad Konings spices up this book with information and some stimulating speculation about the evolution of species in the great rift lakes. In his article, "Tanganyikan Cichlids, Clues to a step-wise speciation," Konings cites the locations at which various "races" of different species are found within the lake. He notes the geological history of the lake and suggests that changes in the physical characteristics of the lake in some cases split populations of some "races" or isolated some "races." Elsewhere in the book, Konings provides observations made underwater in the fish's natural environments on how variations in color or other physical characteristics may or may not be a factor in which males are preferred by females...and how this may be contributing to the emergence of new species.

Note: Within recent years a sometimes nasty debate has arisen on whether these "races" or member groups of "species-complexes" actually constitute new species or species that are developing. Ad Konings has often been complimented and criticized for jumping into this debate--whatever your views on evolution, you will find him stimulating. (A further comment: as a result of the debate on what can be considered a separate species, almost everyone concerned with Cichlids now realizes that different color morphs or "races" should not be crossbred.)

Ad Konings' book's shortcoming is that it is too short--it teases and makes you want more. The first two sections on the popular Tanganyikan and Malawian Cichlids contain 14 articles each while the other sections have only 2 to 6 articles each. Additional articles in some of the skimpy sections would have been a good idea, especially since some of these species are relatively unknown even to Cichlid fanciers. For example, the fascinating article on "Victorian Cichlids, Introduction to taxonomy and ecology" by Ole Seehausen deserved to be followed-up with a similar article or two in this volume. Furthermore, as the famous Swedish Professor Kullander noted in a letter to the German Cichlid Association, some of the articles were too brief and should have provided more information about the species, their natural habitats, breeding and maintenance. This said, the Cichlids Yearbook v.2, does provide a timely update on what is new and exciting in Cichlids.

The Cichlid Yearbook, v.2 also provides a few glimpses of several Cichlid species that are fascinating, but unlikely to ever be kept by hobbyists. For example, Dr. Andreas Spreinat describes his efforts to make a community tank citizen out of the infamous Corematodus taeniatus, imported briefly into the USA as "Haplochromis Jacksoni" in the late 1980s. C. taeniatus is a bright blue fish with some touches of yellow in its caudal, dorsal and anal fin. Although it looks like a typical "Haplochromis," it is easily identified by its extraordinarily wide mouth filled with rows of rasping teeth. (Note: I probably should not mention this species as it is likely to overly excite the Goodied freaks and other keepers of lesser fish.) C. taeniatus, nicknamed "Haplochromis Space Mouth" and the other species in this genus, C. shiranus earn their living in a rather unpleasant manner--they sneak attack other fish and scrape the small scales off their peduncles and caudal fins.

Dr. Spreinat noted that the other residents of his large tank had ragged tails for several months, but soon became skilled at dodging the "space mouth." The Mbuna were the quickest learners and were especially good at avoiding having their tails scraped. As a result, the "space mouth" switched to eating the standard prepared fish food almost exclusively. However, the "space mouth" never became a model citizen. He would always prey on any new fish added to the tank until they learned to keep their distance. As a professor of biology, Dr. Spreinat was no doubt interested in observing the "space mouth's" unusual feeding behavior. A Cichlid hobbyist, however, would probably wish to keep this species only if she or he had a large aquarium stocked with cheap, non-Cichlid feeder fish.

Ad Koning's very interesting book provides valuable information on a number of Cichlid species which are not covered by other publications. Hence, it could be a useful addition to a Cichlid fan's library. A copy may be ordered through your local aquarium store or from the American Cichlid Association. Ordering information: The Cichlids Yearbook, Volume 2, ISBN 3-928457-05-5, was published by the Cichlid Press, Bluetenweg 17, 6837 St. Leon-Rot, Germany and is distributed in the USA by Old World Exotic Fish, Inc., P.O. Box 970583, Miami, Florida 33197.

Any one who is interested in the fascinating Cichlids should consider joining the American Cichlid Association. For \$15 annual dues you will receive a well written and highly informative monthly magazine on Cichlids as well as information on ACA conventions and special events. The address for the American Cichlid Association is:

Glenn Eaves
ACA Membership Committee
P.O. Box 32130
Raleigh, North Carolina 27622

The American Cichlid Association has a large number of people interested in all the varieties of Cichlids ranging from the tiny one inch long shell dwellers to the huge pike Cichlids. Two of the ACA's largest special interest groups are:

The Apistogramma Study Group
1845 Janes Road
Mosinee, Wisconsin 54455

The Cichlasoma Study Group
6432 South Holland Court
Litterton, Colorado 80123

THE INFERNO OF FISH OWNERS

By Jesse Torgerson

PART 2

Canto 7

When we came to the bank of the river
my guide told me, "We are now in transition
from those who were ignorant to those who
knew or should have known what they were doing
We will wade across the river and enter
the next aquarium on the other side".

As we approach the river I noticed
it was filled with creatures like
Jack Dempsies, Green Terrors, and Pike Cichlids.

When we were about to enter the water
the beast approached us. They would
not let us pass. My guide tried to make
them let us pass but they would not. From above
came an Emperor Angelfish. It was
a pastel yellow on top with dark blue
stripes running along it and it had dark
blue cheeks and underside, its eyes were covered
in a dark mask. It chased away the
other fish, and then as quickly
as it came it left.

Canto 8

As we entered the next aquarium
we heard sneezes and coughs. Everybody in the
aquarium was sick. We walked through the

crowd and my guide pointed out a man
to me. He said, "This man when he was alive
was the owner of [-----

-----]*" The pet store owner
told us that he and the rest of the people
here were owners of the pet stores that
sold people sick fish. He said that a lot
of his fish were sick because when they came
to him they had been stressed by shipping.

Since they were stressed they were not as
resistant and became sick. He said
at first he tried to treat the sick

fish but he did not have
enough time or medication.

Also some of the fish became
sick from being kept in unclean water, or
being kept with other sick fish.
We are punished by chronically being sick

*ed. note- Jesse was very specific about the name and location
of this shop. To avoid trouble I thought it best to leave this
blank. (No, it isn't me). J.M.

because we did not make sure our fish
were protected from disease or treated
so we are not by the one above."

We left the aquarium of those who sold
sick fish and moved on to graver sins.

Canto 9

We entered the seventh aquarium
and saw a giant aquarium filled
with souls. Over it passed a bridge. The
souls were gasping for air as they bobbed
to the surface of the water. They did
not stay on the surface long as the current,
created by the waterfall, pulled them down
very quickly. My guide said that the
waterfall is from the river we crossed
earlier. As we walked across the bridge
one of the sinners said to me, "Hey, Jesse
what are you doing here?" I said I
recognized him as being Jeremy, who
was in my scout troop, and told him
I am going through to write the Inferno
of Fish Owners. I asked him, "Why are you here?"
He said, "I had a tank and started out
with three guppies. But you know, and I found
out the hard way there is a reason guppies
were called millions fish. So my guppies
started to reproduce and I had almost
forty guppies, this made the tank water
dirty and it started to smell. I got
tired of the smell and my dumb fish so
I flushed them down the toilet. So now
I have to pay for my sins and we are
put in this tank with the current so we
are dragged down like a fish being
flushed down a toilet. The only
difference is we are allowed to
breathe long enough that we are
still alive. "We left and crossed
the aquarium to descend to the eighth
aquarium, the second closest to the
center of Hell and the devil himself.

Canto 10

We were near the aquarium. I noticed
a frigid breeze coming from farther on.

My guide said, "Do

not bother to ask about the wind
which comes from Satan, who you will
soon see is enclosed in ice and flapping
his fins creating this frigid breeze." As we
entered the aquarium. The blackness
enclosed us like a blanket. The dark

silence was broken by a voice. The
voice said, "What type of horrible sin have
you committed?". I responded, "I have
not committed a serious sin, and am not
dead, but have been taken on a journey
through Hell." I then asked him, "What hideous

sin have you committed that you have been
put at this level so close to Satan?"

He replied, "I had an aquarium
full of red platy fish. But then it got
overcrowded and I wanted to use
the aquarium for other fish. Since
the Rio Teuchitan was so close by I just
let the platy fish go in the river.
This was a terrible mistake. The platies

quickly multiplied and out-competed
the native livebearer the Golden
Skiffia. It eventually wiped out
the Skiffia in 1978. It has been kept from extinction
through captive breeding in the aquarium. After
you are done with your tour of this tell

aquarists of my story so none of
them repeat my grave mistake of letting
exotic fish go in rivers, streams and lakes.

The punishment we have is we are put
in unfamiliar surroundings in
the dark. Because the fish we released

were in unfamiliar surroundings and
also because the other fish taht were indigenous
were not used to these newcommers. Also joining

me in this section of Hell are those who
released Goldfish in Greenbelt lake, also
those who let fish such as firemouths, jewel
Cichlids and walking catfish escape from fish
farms in Florida are here. We then stumbled
through the rest of the aquarium. My guide
said, "Now prepare to enter the final and most
horrible aquarium where Satan himself lives.

Canto 11

As we approached the final aquarium
the wind was even colder and my toes
fingers and ears became numb. This final
step in our journey through the inferno
was about to begin. I saw the aquarium
and it was filled with ice. There were bodies
buried in the ice and in the middle of them
was Satan, an overgrown monstrous fish.
My guide told me he was an
an enormous Nile Perch. We walked out on to
the ice surface. My guide said, "Those down
below us are reporter who wrote untrue
stories about fishermen catching piranhas
in local waters. He said hardly
ever had fishermen caught pirahnas,
but usually caught pacus, which
have pretty big teeth and look somewhat like
a piranha. They are put in the ice so
they can not unnecessarily shock people
like they did when they where alive." The devil flapped
his fins causing a huge gust of wind to blow
nearly hurling me and my guide out of
the aquarium. My guide said we must
get out before the dark one awakes."
We hurried over when he flapped
his fins. We got on his back and
slid down his back through a hole
in the ice and exited Hell through
a hole in the bottom of the aquarium.

Letter from the Pres, contd -

get the sabre saw and start cutting a piece of egg crate to fit the top! Quick! it is getting dark!! Quick! Find some rocks to put on top!! Quick! it is getting darker!! Finally it was pitch dark but it was done and running. I am not even sorry. They work beautifully. The pond is clear as glass and the wadding rinses very easily. In the fall I will switch over the other filter - but this time I will have the egg crate for the top ready and in place before I get the water running.

The new filters were working for about a week when I noticed one of the shibunkins was acting as if he didn't feel well. Two days later he was dead. Next week two more dead. Next week two more sick and dying. I noticed that their tail fins were bloody and I called Dick Ashbaugh at Koi Unlimited. He said "bacterial infection" - "feed medicated food, fast". Again Sunday - again no source. Local shops out. We finally found some after letting our fingers do the walking through the Yellow Pages for about 45 mins. I fed it for 10 days and still lost 8 Shibunkins altogether. I surmised that bird droppings had brought in the bacteria since I have a lot of feeding stations and a bird bath in the yard near the pond. But since then I have come to the conclusion that the culprits are the large male Koi. All the fish have been together for several years, but of course the Koi got huge and the Shibunkins didn't and when the temperatures rise the fish get very "frisky", to say the least. Until they reach a certain age or size it is difficult to sex them, but it appears that most of my Koi (and Shibunkins for that matter) are male. It broke my heart to lose those lovely little fish. They were very special, being Bristols and to date are not replacable, which of course I wouldn't do anyway since I wouldn't want them to get dead next spring.

Just a little story to close. Last week when my Secretary, Patti came to work she noticed that the tank with the 5 full grown Rainbow Cichlids was acting strangely. They were all crowded into one corner and listing to one side. When she touched the tank she was horrified to find that it was incredibly hot. The heater (unnoticed and plugged in) had stuck open and the temperature could have been around 100. She panicked at first and grabbed a coffee cup and started to scoop out water, but she quickly realized that time was of the essence. Then, and this is the really good part, she found a little mesh isolation basket that I picked up at an auction years ago and put it in the tank full of Mollies right above. Then she got a net and scooped out the Rainbows, one by one and plopped them into the basket. They were, naturally, quite easy to catch. When I got in to work, I see these 5 fish, packed like sardines in this tiny basket, staring out at me but perfectly healthy. They were even grumbling with each other and jockeying for positions. She said that she was afraid that if she tried to change the water and lower the temperature that she might shock them. I was a good girl and didn't point out what a shock the Mollie tank temperature must have been. The fish were fine and she was a wonderful person to make the effort. I think it was very fast

Bladderwort

by Bruce Gebhardt

Species of bladderwort (genus *Utricularia*) are among the most beautiful floating plants, yet few aquarists keep them. They have soft, fine, feathery new growth, ``richly ramified and entangled, forming pretty light-green and loose bundles," as Frey's translator put it. Older growth can be ``planted" to create dramatic sprays, even though there are no roots. Why don't more aquarists grow bladderworts? There are several probable reasons, all easily overcome.

The most startling is that the plant eats fish! It is a distant relative of the Venus' Flytrap, pitcher plants, and sundews. It would be spectacular to watch its ``active trap" at work, but strong magnification would be needed. The plant bears ``bladders" once thought floats. These may range up to 1/8 inch or slightly larger, but are very small on new growth. Darwin among others finally observed that bladderwort can float without ``bladders," and eventually discovered that the little round objects were traps.

Imagine a football, of which one end is hinged. If there were a vacuum inside and the end suddenly opened under water, water would rush in, right? So it does, and carries any organisms like daphnia or insect larvae in with it. Trigger hairs on the end of the trap cause it to open whenever something bumps it. The door opens and closes, ingested water is pumped out, and the organism is dissolved to nourish the plant.

Carnivory doesn't rule out bladderwort for fish tanks. The traps are usually small enough that only small fry could be caught. The fact that the plant floats further removes it from mischief. It wouldn't be smart to use bladderwort in a breeding tank for prized fry, but it would be harmless in most tanks.

Bladderwort does have some special needs. It is probably difficult for some aquarists to provide them.

First, bladderwort is native to soft, acid waters. Some kinds can tolerate alkalinity - even salinity. Nevertheless, pH should be low in the long run for nearly all species, or the plant will not thrive, though it may hang on.

Second, the plant does best in incandescent light or sunlight. As with unfavorable pH, it can survive under fluorescent, but it seems to need one of the other types of light to flourish. Frey rightly stresses that excessive light should be avoided; it causes algae to smother the bladderwort, and some coldwater stock cannot stand the heat if directly below light bulbs.

Third, special feeding is required; the plant gets stringy otherwise. Some tiny live food -- baby brine shrimp, daphnia, even a sifting of small animals from a fishless pond or puddle -- will help. Since bladderwort often forms strands many feet long, one can understand how a single plant cited by Frey was estimated to be digesting

150,000 small animals! Bladderwort makes other carnivorous plants seem ineffectual.

Bladderworts are easy to find in most bodies of slow or standing soft, acid water in the Atlantic Coastal Plain, the Gulf Coastal Plain, and possibly inland sphagnum areas. In the Atlantic Coastal Plain, it chokes most such waters from summer to fall.

Surprisingly, for such sinister plants, they produce attractive little flowers on foot-high stalks. In southern New Jersey, for instance, I am familiar with white-, yellow-, and pink-flowered species. Flowers probably would never grow in an aquarium.

By winter, bladderworts seem either to have wasted or been washed away. The bladders fall off, as they do when any condition deteriorates. Plants in cold areas such as New England form "turions," or winter buds. These are tightly wrapped

spheres of green fronds coated in thick, clear gel. In New Jersey, since I have not found turions, my guess is that bladderworts rely on spring revival of bedraggled fragments to revive themselves. That's the way it works in aquaria if the plants die down in winter.

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Bruce Gebhardt, Phila., PA, President,
North American Native Fishes Association

*Reprinted from Fin Fax, a publication of
the Delaware County Aquarium Society,
November 1990.*

Letter from the Pres, cont. (again) -

thinking on the part of a non-fish person. P.S. Such an adventure probably would have killed any fish except Rainbow Cichlids.

Read the whole newsletter, please, and I would love to see everyone come to the meetings and the Workshop in the Fall.

Later, Dudes

THE DEMISE OF MOM AND POP

by Tony Benages, CCAS

Reprinted from Fancy Fins, Circle City Aquarium Society.

I have fond recollections as a youngster growing up of the corner variety and grocery store where I would take my weekly allowance and buy a candy bar and a bottle of pop. I was always greeted by name and came to look at the grey haired owners with affection; they seemed genuinely pleased to see me and were interested in how I was and what new was going on in my life.

Those days are long gone and with them the corner grocery stores. I feel an emptiness when I reminisce and realize that the shop is closed and boarded up. Mom & Pop didn't ask much out of life, just a chance to invest in a small business, treat their customers with the care and attention they deserved and make enough money to pay their bills and set aside a small nest egg with which to retire. All in all, not an extravagant expectation.

Mom & Pop loved what they did, knew their limited business well, knew their customers and their specific needs, and treated them with concern and respect. In their last few years, Mom & Pop found it harder and harder to compete. Mass merchandisers were able to undercut the small shop, exchanging service and familiarity for volume and pricing. People were surprised and saddened to see the old neighborhood store closed and couldn't understand why.

We've seen the same tendency over the last few years on businesses ranging from the corner variety store and hobby shop to the family farm. People loving what they do, having to compete with mass merchandisers and large corporations, can't compete. We seem to be numbed by this experience, shrug our shoulders and move on as another piece of our past is chipped away to be lost forever.

Competition is healthy. Businesses that compete on an even playing field rely on service and customer support and those that offer the best service are rewarded with customer loyalty. With the advent of mail order and mass merchandising, these rules are thrown out the window.

I remember working in a pet shop once when a customer came in with a piece of equipment that didn't work quite right and asked me if I could help him. When asked where he purchased the equipment he stated that he ordered it from a mail order catalog. He seemed surprised when I was reluctant to help him after he went elsewhere to purchase based solely on price. He failed to understand that when someone buys from the local shop you pay not only for the equipment but also for service, advice and working knowledge.

Another shop owner shared her experiences with me. It seems that a customer came in to purchase a small hamster and told the shop owner that she had purchased the cage and other supplies

from a mass merchandiser. Asked why, the customer responded that the prices were cheaper. Asked why she didn't purchase the animal there also, she responded that nobody there knew anything about them and their livestock appeared sickly. How long can that shop owner continue to compete?

It is already too late for some shops! They have accrued damages too severe to recover completely. Others are struggling from day to day to make ends meet and weather the storm. Only the buying public can make a difference. Support your local pet shop, be it a small Mom & Pop or a larger shop. Failure to do so will result in their demise, and once they're gone the hobby will be at the mercy of those whose only interest is dollars and not the welfare of the hobbyists. We'll have no one to blame but ourselves.

Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting

submitted by J. Mangan, self-appointed unofficial Delta Tale political reporter.

7:01 7:02 7:03 7:04 7:05 7:06 7:07 7:08 7:09 7:10 7:11 7:12 7:13
7:15 7:16 7:17 7:18 7:19 7:20 7:21 7:22 7:24 7:24 7:25 7:26 7:27
7:28 7:29 7:30 7:31 7:32 7:33 7:34 7:35 7:36 7:37 7:38 7:39 7:40
7:42 7:43 7:44 7:45 7:46 7:47 7:48 7:49 7:50 7:51 7:52 7:53 7:54
7:55 7:56 7:57.

7:14, 7:23, and 7:41 were not included in an effort to make the meeting shorter. They will be added onto the end of next months board meeting along with the 7:19 that was accidentally left out of the January meeting.

ed. note- if any of the above makes sense to you seek professional help as soon as possible.

THE MIRROR

Below is proof that writing articles for Delta Tale can make you world famous and rich beyond your wildest dreams. Just look what's happened to some of the people mentioned below: Jim Long was able to quit his job and now stays home all day and plays with his birds; George White is living in luxury in Italy; Alex Townsend has become vice president; who knows what it could do for you.

Water Changes- who Needs Them, by Tony Fitz was reviewed in the May 1992 issue of Fin Fax, Delaware County Aq. Soc.

Microworms, by Tom Biery was reviewed in the July 1992 Kitsap Aquarian, Kitsap Aq. Soc.

Grindal Worms, by Tom Biery was reviewed in the Fall 1992 issue of Carolina Aquarist, Raleigh Aq. Soc.

Philodina: A Rotifer, by Jim Long was reviewed in the Nov. 1992 issue of Pittsburgh Finformation, Greater Pittsburgh Aq. Soc. AND the Oct. 1992 issue of Kitsap Aquarian.

Discus Tips, by John Oliva was reviewed by the Dec. 1992 issue of Tankquillizer, Tropical Fish Soc. of Rhode Island.

Chasing Fish Across The Sahara, by George White was reviewed in the May 1992 issue of The Darter, Missouri Aq. Soc.

Killifish Aquaria, by George White was reviewed in the Nov. 1992 issue of Pittsburgh Finformation.

Discus Symposium, by Alex Townsend & Tom Biery was reviewed in the Jan. 1993 issue of Aqua News, Minnesota Aq. Soc. AND the Feb 1993 issue of the Bulletin of Central Florida Aq. Soc.

Beverle Sweitzer's "Letter From the Prez" on earthworms was reviewed in the Dec. 1992 issue of the Shoreline, Jersey Shore Aq. Soc.

Packing Fish for an Auction, by John Mangan was Reprinted in the Oct. 1992 issue of Tropic Tank Talk, Greater Detroit Aq. Soc.

A Method of Artificial Rearing of Discus, by Garland Neese was reviewed in the Feb. 1993 issue of Pittsburgh Finformation.

Aquatic Conservation Network, by Alex Townsend was reviewed in the Feb. 1993 issue of Pittsburgh Finformation.

The Magnet, by John Mangan was reviewed in the Feb. 1993 issue of Bulletin of Central Florida Aq. Soc.

Natural Aquatic Environments, by George White was reviewed in the April 1993 issue of Pittsburgh Finformation.

We Met Elvis at the ACA Convention, by Brian & Wendy Tramm was reprinted by the Weekly World News. Not really, just checking to see if anyone has bothered to read this far. Sorry Brian and Wendy, but you move out of town and your fair game to get picked on. Just ask George White.

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING,
APRIL 12, 1993

The meeting as called to order at 7:00 PM by President Beverle Sweitzer. Attendees included: Pete Thrift, Alex Townsend, Kenny Warren, Ray Hughes, John Mangan, Richard Blumberg, Mark Kaspro, and Juliet Spall.

Treasurer's report and minutes of March meeting were submitted.

Items of business included:

Tax return to be completed - our "Not-For-Profit" status will be discussed at a later date.

"Return To The Sea" videos were discussed, with relative merits of purchase to be determined.

The Discus Study Group will not be meeting as previously anticipated, so the joint project is on "hold" at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding October meeting plans and location. Kenny Warren will finalize arrangements for location. Names of potential seminar speakers were suggested and discussed.

Plans for the May 23 auction are in place; discussion ensued regarding advertising, supplies, and, of course, members to work on the event.

A tropical fish and reptile show will be held Sunday, April 16 at Landmark Shopping Center. PVAS will have a table at the event and volunteers are needed to help.

The books in our current PVAS library are overrunning space. We need a librarian and space for the publications.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JUNE 14, 1993

Meeting called to order by President, Beverle Sweitzer.
Board members in attendance included Pete Thrift, Alex Townsend,
Kenny Warren, Ray Hughes, John Mangan, Richard Blumberg,
Gene Aldridge, Mark Kaspro, and Juliet Spall.

Treasurer's report was disseminated, and minutes of May meeting
submitted.

Items of business included:

Discussion regarding October workshop and auction

Question as to whether or not additional videotapes
which can be purchased by the club are really worth the investment
and who might volunteer as tape librarian. It was decided we
would incorporate existing library of publications with the
videotapes and Alex and Mark will share responsibilities for
safekeeping and lending.

Discussion regarding future programs - Gene Aldridge
will provide August program.

Auction report made by Treasurer showed profit from auction

of approx. \$1500

Discussion regarding speakers who have been invited;
have accepted/declined/not responded ensued. Suggestion was
made that we wait a month and then try commercial contacts if
necessary. Semi-complete listing of speakers should be available
by July meeting. Dinner plans are still tentative.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. Videotape presented
as program; mini auction followed.

*↓ Return to
"Golden River"*

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date: _____ 19 _____

Name: _____

Street: _____ Apartment: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone H: _____ W: _____

Occupation: _____

Where did you hear about PVAS/get this application? _____

Number of tanks: _____ Time in hobby _____

What can this club do for you? _____

What do you want to do for the club? _____

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

Family/Individual: \$12/yr
Corresponding: \$ 9/yr
Junior (under 18): \$ 5/yr

Please send application and check for dues to the address above.

SUPPORTING VIRGINIA SHOPS

ANNANDALE PET SHOP

7406 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA 22031
256-2400

AQUATIC ENHANCEMENTS, INC.

Box 22677
Alexandria, VA 22304
(703) 765-4620

DISCOUNT PET CENTER

9028 Mathis Avenue
Manassas, VA 22110
361-7769

BAILEY'S PET CENTER

35217 South Jefferson Street
Falls Church, VA 22041
931-1400

BEACON MALL PET CENTER

6776 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306
660-6100

NATIONAL PET AND AQUARIUM

6168 Arlington Blvd
Falls Church, VA 22046
533-7828

NEESE'S PISCES

3304 Mt. Vernon Ave
Alexandria, VA 22305
548-0557

OAKTON PET SHOP

Rt 123 & Hunter Mill Road
Oakton, VA 22124
281-9622

PET MART - TYSONS

8417 Old Courthouse Road
Vienna, VA 22180
281-8181

PETS, ETC - ALEXANDRIA

7688-B Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306
768-2200

PETS, ETC - CHANTILLY

13932 Lee-Jackson Highway
Chantilly, VA 22021
378-2777

PETS, ETC - HERNDON

462 Eiden Street
Herndon, VA 22171
437-0381

PETS, ETC - STERLING

243-C Harry Flood Byrd Hwy
Sterling, VA 22170
430-9667

PETS-N-THINGS

3081 Nutley Street
Fairfax, VA 22031
573-4400

SUNSHINE PETS

7395-H Lee Highway
Falls Church, VA 22042
573-6946

TANKS-A-LOT

6635 Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22150
703-866-1057

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ANIMAL EXCHANGE

765-A Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
424-PETS

AQUARIUM CENTER

Liberty Road at Offutt Road
Randlestown, MD
301-521-4529

BROTHERS PETS INC.

13810 Georgia Avenue
Aspen Hill, MD 20906
460-4600

CONGRESSIONAL AQUARIUM

162 Congressional Lane
Rockville, MD 20852
881-6182

FISH FACTORY AQUARIUM

582 North Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
881-6182

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Wheaton, MD 20702
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Glen Burnie, MD 21061
301 761-1113

MARINE CARE SPECIALISTS

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Silver Spring, MD 20904
593-1116

MONTGOMERY TROPICALS

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Gaithersburg, MD 20879
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Kensington, MD 20895
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Frederick, MD 21702
301-694-9664 301-831-6866

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11248-11250 Triangle Lane
Wheaton, MD 20902
942-6464

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16529 South Frederick Center
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
921-0000

TROPICAL LAGOON

9439 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910
585-6562

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
p.o. box 6219, Shirlington Station
Arlington, VA 22206-0219

Meetings are held at the John C. Wood Facility, 3730 Old Lee Hgwy.
(rte 237) Fairfax City, VA. Room 7 (in the rear of the building).
Doors open at 7:30, meetings start at 8:00. ALL ARE WELCOME.

