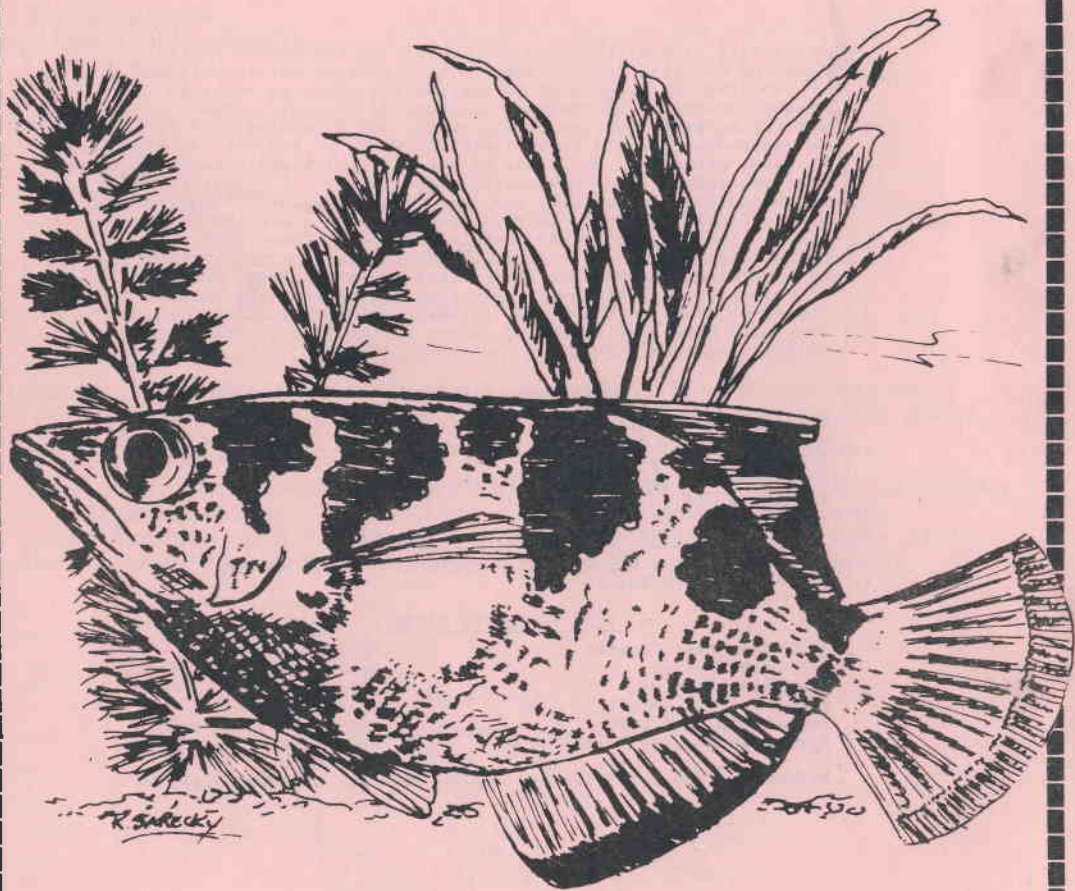


* DELTA TALE *

April 1987
vol. 18 #4
50¢

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

Delta Tale is published for the benefit of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society, Inc., a non-profit organization, established in 1960 for the purpose of furthering the aquarium hobby by dissemination of information, encouraging friendly competition, soliciting participation in its shows, and promoting good fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to: PVAS, po box 6219 Shirlington Station, Arlington, VA 22206. Original articles and artwork may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations if credit is given to the author, Delta Tale, and PVAS. Two copies of the publication should be sent to Delta Tale c/o PVAS. Please place the authors name on one copy to insure that it gets to him/her. PVAS and Delta Tale disclaim any responsibility for content or availability of advertised merchandise or services in these pages. Customer satisfaction is a matter to be worked out exclusively between the advertiser and the buyer. All materials for inclusion in the Delta Tale MUST reach the editor by the 18th of the month prior to publication.

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The Spring Show and Auction are getting closer and closer. There is a copy of the show flyer in the center of this issue with all of the details. Be sure to read it closely, there have been a few changes made in the rules this year. If there is something that is not clear to you now is the time to ask about it. Also- help is still needed in several areas for the show weekend. See Pete Thrift for details.

There's been a few more additions to the Delta Tale staff- Diane Spencer and Gene Aldridge as typists and Rick Bell, of Rick's Fish & Pet Supply, will be taking over the Question & Answer column.

This is a pretty short column, but I really can't think of anything else.

Until next month...

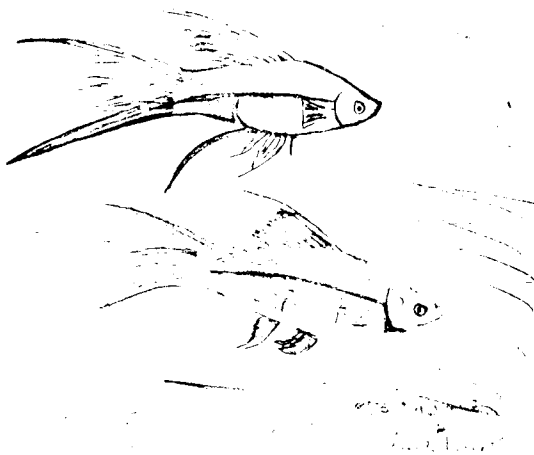
What's Happening in April

Program: African Cichlids, by George White

Miniauction: Sellers can bring 3 bags each, buyers can buy as much as they want. Lots of good stuff at bargain prices as usual.

Door Prize & Raffles: Lots of good stuff to be given away.

Bowl Show: this months catagories- Angelfish & Discus, Non-Riftlake African Cichlids, Livebearers non-Guppy, Sharks & Loaches, and the two open classes for everything else. Bring those fish. Here's your chance to get some practice for the Spring Show.



EXTINCTION ALERT!!!
MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS IN LAKE VICTORIA

Dr. Paul V. Loiselle

Aquarists, unlike bird and herptile enthusiasts, have not to date been faced with a serious environmental threat to the continued existence of any of numerous species of ornamental fishes currently available to the hobby. Within the past year, this situation has undergone a marked change for the worse. The Haplochromis species flock of Lake Victoria is under tremendous pressure from an introduced predator, the Nile perch, whose outcome may well be the extinction of many of these distinctive endemic cichlids.

Although this crisis manifested itself in an unmistakable fashion only recently (See Fryer et al. 1985. Destruction of fisheries in Africa's lakes. Nature 315 (6014), May 1985 for further details), the potential for disaster has been building slowly since the initial - unauthorized - introduction of the Nile perch into Lake Victoria in 1960. The numbers of the introduced predator grew slowly at first, due to predation on its eggs and larvae by the lake's indigenous species. However, within the past five years, the Nile perch population has grown sufficiently to have a major impact upon the endemic Haplochromis species.

To understand why this is the case, a little background information on both the Nile perch and the Victorian haplochromines is necessary. The 200-odd haplochromine cichlids endemic to Lake Victoria are rather small fish as members of the Family Cichlidae go. Most species average between 4" and 6" in overall length. Even the largest predatory species barely reach 10" total length. Furthermore, while fish-eaters are well represented in the species flock, these native predators are relatively inefficient at capturing and handling their prey. The Nile perch, by way of contrast, is one of Africa's largest freshwater fish. Mature specimens routinely grow to 6.5' total length and can attain weights in excess of 600 lbs. It is a super-efficient swallowing machine capable of engulfing prey up to a foot long so swiftly that it literally seems to vanish before an observer's eyes.

Obviously, all of the native cichlids are grist for the Nile perch's mill, and it is evident that those species that live offshore over open bottoms have been decimated by its voracious appetite. Of equal importance is the effect that a more efficient competitor has had upon the lake's many specialized predator haplochromines. Because they lack the Nile perch's specialized adaptations for "gape and suck" predation, these cichlids are guaranteed losers in any competitive interaction.

The situation is not hopeless. The Nile perch is an important food fish. Ultimately, a viable fishery capable of

holding down its numbers in Lake Victoria can be developed. However, this will take time. Local fishermen will have to be taught alternative fishing techniques of both catching and preserving this species. In the meantime, captive breeding provides the only hope for saving a significant number of Lake Victoria's endemic haplochromines from extinction.

As part of an international effort to salvage as much as possible from a grim situation, the Horniman Museum in London has been afforded the status of Fish Rescue and Breeding Center. This institution, which is funded by the London Educational Council, has demonstrated its long-term commitment to such an effort by allocating building space for an aquarium room, purchasing a computer system to keep track of breeding information and genetic lines, and hiring the staff necessary to maintain such a facility. Such a project is necessarily costly to carry out. In consequence, the Center is seeking matching funds that will allow them to utilize monies already allocated to support the necessary renovation of the space allocated to the project. Essential work includes installing in a mezzanine floor capable of supporting the weight of of the aquaria necessary for such a breeding program, installing an appropriate drain system, and purchasing 50 drilled glass quarantine aquaria. Dr. Gordon Reid, the Center's appointed director, estimates that £ 13,000 (c. \$20,000) in matching funds are necessary to get the Center up and running.

This is clearly an effort which both the organized aquarium hobby and the pet industry should enthusiastically support. The British Cichlid Association, not surprisingly, has taken the lead in this effort. In addition to putting on an auction to raise money for the Center, it has also brought this situation to the attention of organized hobby groups outside the U.K. I strongly urge American hobbyists to follow the B.C.A.'s example. Aquarists and the pet industry have received a great deal of flak for their insensitivity to environmental concerns. A show of support by individual hobbyists, aquarium societies and all levels of the pet industry would go far to counter this negative image, while making a real contribution to the preservation of many beautiful and aquaristically desirable fishes. Please show your concern for the future of the cichlids of Lake Victoria by sending your contributions, made out to the "Fish Rescue and Breeding Center", to:

Dr. Gordon McGordon Reid
The Horniman Museum
London Road, Forest Hill
London SE23 3PG
UNITED KINGDOM

It is equally obvious that aquarists can play a significant role in any sort of captive breeding program for these fishes. Anyone interested in helping me organize a data base that will allow interested parties to keep track of existing aquarium

stocks of Lake Victoria cichlids is invited to contact me at their earliest convenience at the following address:

Dr. Paul V. Loisel
134 Bentley Ave.
Jersey City, NJ 07304
Telephone: (201) 432-1150 (W)
(201) 435-2650 (H)

TRADING POST

Ads for the trading post should be sent to Tom Hetzel, 5601 Seminary Rd. #1702, Falls Church, VA 22041, by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

ed. note- Tom must receive your ads by April 15th to get them into the May issue.

Q & A

Questions on any aspect of fishkeeping can be sent to Rick Bell, 1785 Hill Meade Sq. Frederick, MD 21701.

ed. note- the Q & A column is now back in business. Send your questions to Rick at the address above and he will answer them in this column.



Surviving the Great Blackout

by George White, PVAS

Awaking the morning after the great Northeast snowstorm I felt unusually well rested, but failed to question why. A quick glance out the window told me that I would not be able to get into work--the Washington area public transportation system is unable to cope with more than an inch of snow and we had at least eight. Oh well, I could stay in the house and take care of odd tasks without anything pressing to worry about.

Suddenly it dawned on me that the house had become rather cold--and, the electric clock had stopped at 5:00 a.m. The room temperature had plummeted to below 60 degrees and the heaters in my fish tanks had stopped. Some tanks were already as low as 65 degrees--deadly for most tropical fish.

My Lamprologus Brichardi tank suffered the most. Not only had I lost most of the five day old spawn (only eight of thirty-five survived), but I had lost all but four of the older spawn that had undergone the first check for the breeders' award program. And, my male was dead. That lovely pair had bred almost like clockwork--a new spawn every month--making them one of my favorites. (moral of the story number one: do not procrastinate on the paperwork for the breeders' award program--you cannot assume your fish will live healthy, normal length lives).

Fortunately, the rest of my fish including some rather rare West African cichlids were still alive, although clearly in danger of freezing. Frantically I tried to think logically about how to save them. Fortunately, I remembered the following emergency tricks:

If you have a gas hot water heater (which I do), frequent small water changes can be used to maintain the proper temperatures in the aquaria and provide aeration. For emergencies such as this keep some chlorine remover handy--either store-bought or homemade from sodium thiosulfate. I started using it on the third round of water changes.

If by lucky chance you have some styrofoam on hand, you can also use it or blankets to wrap up tanks--a measure to bear in mind if you do not have a gas hot water heater.

Cover the tops of the aquaria tightly with glass, large plastic garbage bags, or styrofoam (either insulation sheets or the lids of fish shipping boxes).

The other possible means of heating the tanks is to heat water on a gas stove (a very labor intensive task, justified only if you do not have a gas hot water heater).

If you wish to minimize the number of tanks requiring water changes, move fish from the smaller aquaria to the larger ones since smaller tanks cool much faster.

A power outage in your neighborhood will usually knock out the heating in all the homes with gas heat since their furnaces usually depend on electric ignition systems. But it will not stop the older oil furnaces that have a permanent pilot light. I hate the oily smell of oil furnaces, but would consider staying with a neighbor who has oil heat under such circumstances.

You can use any available styrofoam shipping boxes or pick-nick ice chests as a fish saver of last resort. Put the warmest available water and your best fish in them.

Under these circumstances do not feed your fish and add to the biological load in the aquaria.

Changing water by candlelight is a real bear. If you have goodieids, you may wish to consider the power blackout as an act of fate and do nothing.

Our neighborhood was one of the lucky of the unlucky--our electrical power returned at midnight after being out 19 hours. I hit the sack dog tired, but happy that I had lost only the Brichardi that died earlier in the day.

ed. note- if you have goodeids, nothing is exactly what you do during a blackout. All of my goodeids live in unheated tanks and just laugh at cold temperatures while all of those wimpy cichlids are suffering. J.M.

DOTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

27TH ANNUAL SPRING SHOW AND AUCTION

15 - 17 MAY 1987

FALLS CHURCH INN, 6633 ARLINGTON BLVD. (RT. 50), FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, May 15

6 PM to 9 PM - Early Registration of Show Entries

SATURDAY, May 16:

9 AM to Noon - Registration of Show Entries

1 PM to 5 PM - Judging

2 PM to 8 PM - Public Viewing of Show Entries

SUNDAY, May 17:

8:30 AM to 1 PM - Public Viewing. The public is cordially invited to attend the Awards Presentation and the Auction.

9 AM to 12:30 PM - Registration of sale items for the Auction

11 AM - Awards Presentation

11:30 AM - Auction, continuing with periodic breaks until all items are sold

THERE IS NO ADMISSION CHARGE FOR VIEWING THE SHOW OR ATTENDING THE AUCTION

RAFFLES - RAFFLES - RAFFLES

Aquarium-related prizes will be raffled off at intervals during the Auction. You must be present to win these prizes. At the close of the Auction, a 55-gallon tank set-up will be raffled off. You need not be present to win this prize.

Tickets for both raffles may be purchased at any time during the Auction at the concession stand. Soft drinks and souvenirs will also be on sale.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

All classes, except for VIII, are open to public competition

- I. Livebearers
 - a. Guppies
 - b. Mollies
 - c. Swordtails & Platies
 - d. Goodeids
 - e. Other Livebearing Fish
- II. Egglayers (Non-Cichlid)
 - a. Catfish, Corydoras
 - b. Catfish, African
 - c. Catfish, All Other
 - d. Betta Splendens
 - e. All Other Bettas & Anabantoids
 - f. Sharks & Loaches
 - g. Characins, Under 3" Mature
 - h. Characins, Over 3" Mature
 - i. Barbs
 - j. Goldfish & Koi
 - k. Danios, Brachydanios, & Rasboras
 - l. Killifish
 - m. North American Native Fish
 - n. Other Non-Cichlid Egglayers
- III. Cichlids
 - a. New World Large (Over 7" Mature)
 - b. New World Large (4" to 7" Mature)
 - c. New World Dwarf (Under 4" Mature)
- III. Cichlids (continued)
 - d. Angelfish
 - e. Rift Lake, Malawi
 - f. Rift Lake, All Other
 - g. Discus
 - h. Non-Rift Lake African
 - i. Cichlid Pairs
 - j. Other Cichlids
- IV. Marine
 - a. Fishes
 - b. Invertebrates
- V. Family of Fishes
- VI. Plants
- VII. Set Tanks
- VIII. Dealer Tanks
- IX. Photography
 - a. Photographic Slides
 - b. Photographic Prints
- X. Arts and Crafts

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO ALL ENTRIES

Once entered into the competition, no entry may be removed until after the Awards Presentation on Sunday without the consent of the Show Chairman. All entries must be removed by 6 PM, Sunday, May 17, or they will be disposed of at the discretion of the Show Chairman. All entries must be accompanied by an entry form, a copy of which is in this flyer. There will be qualified hobbyists available to assist you in classifying your entries.

PVAS can assume no liability for any entry. However, at least one qualified hobbyist will be present at all times during the show to assure the safety and well being of the fish, and to deter theft or other damage.

AWARDS

Trophies will be awarded for Best In Show (Classes I through IV), Reserve In Show (Classes I through IV), Best In Class (Classes I through IV), and for First Place in each category of each class (Classes I through IV, IX, X), and First Place in classes V through VII. Ribbons will be awarded for Second and Third Place in each category of each class. A Dealer's Rotating Trophy will be awarded for Class VIII.

INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact Mr. Peter Thrift, Show Chairman, at (703) 971-0594 weekdays between 6 PM and 9 PM, and weekends between 2 PM and 4 PM.

SHOW RULES

The competition is open to anyone.

FOR CLASSES I THROUGH VI:

TANKS, OTHER CONTAINERS, AND STANDS: All tanks, drum bowls, and stands must be furnished by the entrant. All containers must have at least two clear, flat sides. Tanks larger than 5 1/2 gallons must be accompanied by a stand. An air pump, filtration, light, and extension cord must be furnished by the entrant for each tank larger than 5 1/2 gallons, as they may have to be placed at some distance from the PVAS-supplied air source.

DECORATIONS AND LIGHTING: No decorations of any kind, including plants, back or side painting, or gravel, will be allowed in Classes I through V. See below for Class IV. The external bowl or tank bottom may be painted flat black. Only tanks on stands may have entrant-provided lighting.

AIR, HEATERS, AND FILTRATION: PVAS will furnish a constant air supply for all bowls and small tanks. Entrants must furnish their own airline and airstones. A supply of each will be available for purchase from PVAS. Box and sponge filters or outside filters will be allowed at the entrant's discretion. In Class IV, undergravel filtration may be used, but the tank must otherwise be bare. Heaters are allowed in all classes.

FOR CLASS V (FAMILY OF FISHES):

An acceptable entry consists of a breeding pair of adult fish and their fry. The fish may be displayed in a single container, a divided container, or separate containers.

FOR CLASS VI (PLANTS):

An acceptable entry consists of a single species of any recognised aquatic plant displayed in a single container. Several individual species may be displayed as separate entries in a compartmented container. A rooted plant may be displayed in a pot or floating. No gravel or planting medium is allowed on the bottom of the container. No fish or other fauna may be present in the container.

FOR CLASSES VII & VIII (SET TANKS):

Entries may represent either freshwater or marine environments, and may be stocked and decorated as desired. These tanks will be judged on the overall appearance of the tank and its contents. The appearance of the tank stand will not be judged. All equipment must be supplied by the entrant. All entries must be ready for judging by noon on Saturday.

FOR CLASSES IX & X (PHOTOGRAPHY, ARTS & CRAFTS):

Judging of photography will be based primarily on composition and technique. Art and Craft entries must consist of a non-photographic representation of freshwater or marine fishes or their associated environment, and are judged on originality, design, and overall artistic merit. All entries are expected to be the work of the entrant. If desired, entries may be titled but must not display the name of the entrant. Entries will be accepted by mail provided they reach PVAS before Friday, May 15. Use the PVAS address on the cover of this flyer, and enclose applicable entry fees. Entries will be returned only if a stamped, self-addressed mailer is enclosed.

JUDGING

All entries will be judged equally by established PVAS standards. If an unbreakable tie occurs, duplicate awards will be made. In all cases, the decision of the judges is final. Judging sheets will be available for entrant review after the judging process is completed. A list of show judges may be found elsewhere in this flyer.

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Show Entry Registration Form

Name: _____ Address: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

Club: _____

Entry Class	:	Bowl Number	:	Entry Fee	:	Auction?
1	:	:	:	:	:	:
2	:	:	:	:	:	:
3	:	:	:	:	:	:
4	:	:	:	:	:	:
5	:	:	:	:	:	:
6	:	:	:	:	:	:
7	:	:	:	:	:	:
8	:	:	:	:	:	:
9	:	:	:	:	:	:
10	:	:	:	:	:	:
11	:	:	:	:	:	:
12	:	:	:	:	:	:
13	:	:	:	:	:	:
14	:	:	:	:	:	:
15	:	:	:	:	:	:
16	:	:	:	:	:	:
17	:	:	:	:	:	:
18	:	:	:	:	:	:

Entry Fees: Single Fish - \$2.00 Dealer Tanks - no charge
 Pairs and Families - \$2.00 Slides and Prints - \$1.00
 Plants - \$1.50 Craft and Artwork - \$1.00
 Set Tanks (non-dealer) - \$2.00

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE SHOW ENTRY FORM

Please use this form to enter the show competition. Fill in the requested data at the top of the form. This will facilitate entry registration, insure the safeguarding and return of your entries, and allow PVAS to notify you of future events.

In the CLASS column, list the competition category for each individual entry. A swordtail, for instance, would be placed in category "Ic". Do not write in the BOWL NUMBER column, as this is for use by the registrar in assigning a specific number to your entry. You may tally your total entry costs by entering the correct fee for each entry, or the registrar will do this for you. If you wish to have the entry placed in the auction and sold after the completion of the show competition, write "Yes" in the AUCTION column. If you have any questions, the registrar will be happy to assist you.

LIST OF SHOW JUDGES

The following individuals have tentatively accepted invitations to judge this competition.

Bob Goldstein, Raleigh Aquarium Society
Dave Herlong, Raleigh Aquarium Society
Wayne Leibel, Lafayette College
Gerry Potters, Raleigh Aquarium Society
Dave Shaw, Aquaria International

PVAS AUCTION - SUNDAY, 17 MAY

RULES FOR THE SELLER:

1. You do not have to be a PVAS member to buy or sell hobby-related items, including fish, plants, equipment, etc. in the auction.
2. Registration of items for sale will begin at 9 AM and will end promptly at 12:30 PM on Sunday, 17 May.
3. The auction will begin immediately after the awards ceremony and will continue, with periodic breaks, until all items are sold.
4. All items must be labeled with the identity of their contents, to include number, sex (if possible), and other pertinent data. Use a permanent marking pen and adhesive label. Labeling equipment will be available at the auction, but labeling must be accomplished before the items will be registered.

a. Fish: 'Pair' means one of each sex. 'Mated Pair' means a pair that have spawned WITH EACH OTHER. 'Trio' means one male and two females. 'Reverse Trio' means two males and one female. 'Mixed Sexes' means at least one specimen of each sex. If you are uncertain, label the bag 'Unsexed'.

b. Supplies: All aquarium equipment must be labeled as to working condition or missing parts.

5. Proper fish bags must be used. Live items must be bagged with ample air and water. Fish packed in "baggies" or similar bags will not be registered. If a fish is registered in a bucket, tank, or bowl, the container will be considered part of the item and will be auctioned as a unit. There will be a supply of fish bags for sale at the registration desk. After registration, the Auction Committee reserves the right to re-bag any item as is necessary.
6. Registration is limited to fifteen (15) items per person.
7. A limit of five (5) bags per species or color form/variety is allowed, unless prior approval is obtained from the Auction Chairman.
8. For every five (5) items registered in the auction, one (1) colored sticker will be given to the seller to attach to the item of his choice. These items will be auctioned first.
9. Bags will be offered 'as is' and will be sold as one item. Once registered, the contents of a bag may not be split.
10. Each item carries a \$1.00 minimum, unless the seller assigns a higher minimum. The seller may lower the minimum on an item that does not sell during the auction.
11. No payment will be made to the seller on the day of the auction. Payment will be forwarded by mail within ten days after the auction date. It is the seller's responsibility to give PVAS a proper name and address to receive payment. Envelopes for this purpose will be filled out during registration.
12. The seller receives two-thirds of the selling price. PVAS retains one-third.
13. All items not sold must be claimed at the close of the auction, or they will be disposed of at the discretion of the Auction Chairman.
14. The auctioneer retains the right to set aside any improperly bagged or marked item, or any sick or otherwise unsaleable item.
15. Fish species that are restricted by either federal or state statues will not be accepted. These include, but are not limited to: Piranhas, Texas Cichlids, and Walking Catfish.

RULES FOR THE BUYER

1. All persons wishing to participate in bidding are required to register with their full name and address. Bidding numbers will be assigned to all buyers.
2. Items may be inspected only before the auction and during the intermissions.
3. All bidding raises will be in fifty (50) cent increments up to \$5.00. After that point, \$1.00 raises will be used. The auctioneer has the right to alter this procedure at his discretion.
4. Successful bidders will have their items brought to them, at which time payment is expected. An authorized bidder may run a tab, or pay by check. Please see the Treasurer before the auction. Proper identification will be required in these instances.
5. In all cases, the decision of the auctioneer is final.

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY, INC.

The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society was founded in 1960. It is a non-profit organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The sole purpose of the PVAS is the pleasure of hobby and the recreation that comes from association with fellow hobbyists. PVAS would like to invite you to join as a member and participate in the numerous programs and activities associated with the society. Please fill out the form below and hand it to one of the members at the registration desk or mail it to the PVAS at the address shown on the front of this flyer. You will be contacted.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DATE _____ 19__

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (HOME) _____ (OFFICE) _____

Occupation _____ Number of Tanks _____ Time in Hobby _____

What can PVAS do for you? _____

What part of the hobby interests you? _____

Have you ever belonged to another fish club? _____

If yes, which one? _____

Did it have a Breeder's Award Program? _____ Did you participate? _____

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

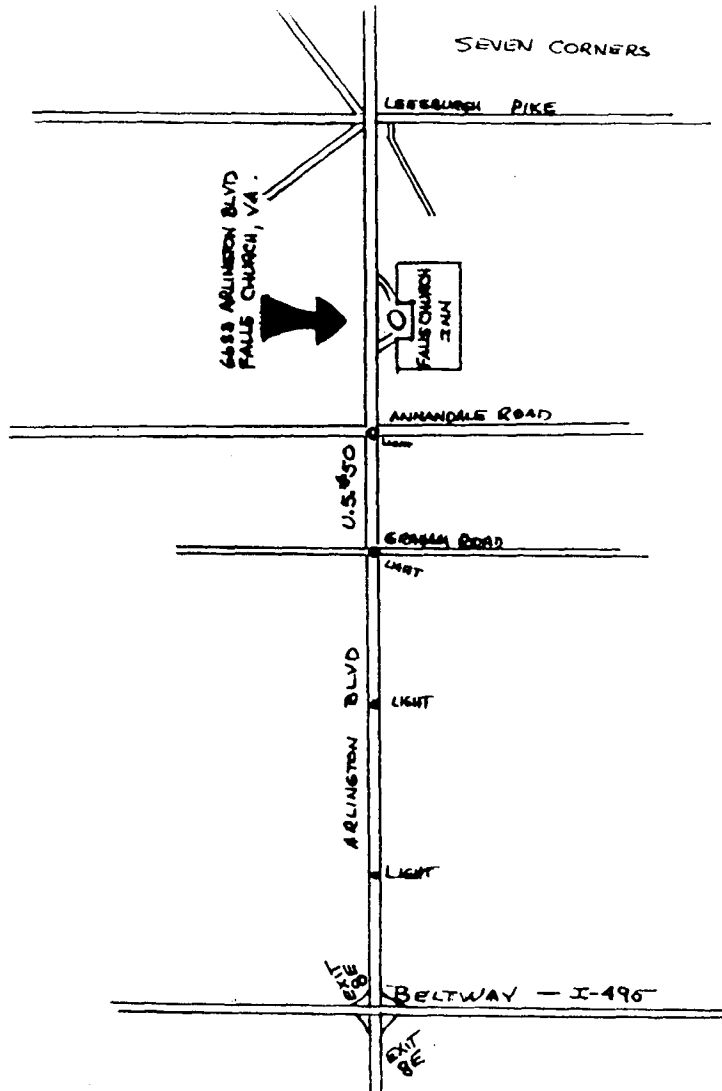
Family	\$12.00	Corresponding	\$7.00
Individual	\$10.00	Junior (under 18)	\$5.00

HOW TO GET TO THE SHOW AND INFORMATION ON MOTEL RESERVATIONS

This year's show will be held in the **FALLS CHURCH INN**. This is a very fine **BEST WESTERN MOTEL** located at 6633 Arlington Blvd. (Rt. 50), Falls Church, Virginia. Rooms are available at a special PVAS rate. Those desiring reservations should call the motel at (703) 237-0530 as soon as possible. Be sure to mention PVAS and the Spring Show!

LOCATION BOTH EVENTS

Falls Church Inn, 6633 Arlington Blvd. (Rt. 50), Falls Church, Virginia 22042



Xiphophorus milleri - A Munchkin from Mexico
Dave Williamson, G.A.A.S

What has the shape of a swordtail (minus the sword), the color of a wild platy, and the size of a guppy? If this description leaves you blank, the answer is Xiphophorus milleri.

My experience with this little fish started at the UltraAqua '82 show auction. At that time I was just beginning to get interested in out-of-the-ordinary livebearers. I was running fish in the auction when two bags of these fish came up and I decided that I just had to have them, and I got both bags. When I got them home I found that I had 2 adult females, 3 adult males, and 2 immature ones. After a couple of days I lost one male and one of the young ones. The other young one turned out to be another male but he was stunted for some reason and didn't do well. This left me with three males and two females, not too bad of a group to start with as my main intention was to spawn them for the Breeders' Award Program. They are not very hard to spawn, the only problem being they have very small spawn, being such small fish. They also do not show much tendency to eat their fry. Maybe this is because I don't give them much of a chance to, considering there is a 1 1/2 inch layer of Riccia over the entire top of the tank. From my experience an average spawn is about twelve, which are delivered about every two months.

After I had spawned them for breeders' award, I decided to keep them, which is unusual for me. Usually it takes me so long to spawn something that by the time they do it, I'm sick and tired of looking at them and I can't wait to get rid of them. The reason this didn't happen with the milleris is that they are different. I have a soft spot (or maybe that's a soft head?) for uncommon fish (for selfish reasons though, I must admit; I have to have something other people don't). I'm surely not in love with their color - they don't have any. Both sexes are a honey brown color with some almost microscopic black markings on their bodies and fins. The males don't have swords, but they are easy to spot at a distance since they have black gonopodiums that stick out like sore thumbs.

Another reason I like these fish, for the reason of limited tank space, is that they are very small. My females average 1 1/4", and 1" for the males. They may actually grow larger than this - I am not the world's best fish-grower - but I would doubt that they get much larger since they breed quite readily at this size.

All I have written about is personal experience. This is because all that I have ever found written about this species is that it comes from the Catamaco River in Mexico. (Big deal! All the Xiphophorus species come from Mexico.)

I have been working with this species for nearly three years now, but I'm getting near the end. I guess from the inbreeding they are getting weaker and I am out to lose my last female. I still have two healthy males so I think I may try to cross them to one of the other Xiphophorus species for an experiment.

Who knows, maybe if I'm real lucky I will find some more someday. To anyone else who may find them, I highly recommend them as they are interesting, small, easy to keep and breed fish, with the added attraction of being out of the ordinary.

(reprinted from Tank Topics, Greater Akron Aquarium Society)

KOMMENTS ON KILLIEKEEPING (#1)
Don't Be Afraid To Try Them. You'll Like Them!
by Joel Antkowiak, GPASI

The family Cyprinodontidae, whose members have come to be known as the killiefishes, offers the hobbyist a multitude of species with a dazzling assortment of color combinations and a variety of degrees of spawning difficulty. Still, this family of fishes has yet to gain the popularity it so richly deserves. Through the years, the killiefishes have contracted a bad name. They were said to be fussy eaters, difficult to keep, and hard to breed. While this was undoubtedly true when they were initially introduced to the hobby, modern advances and the fixing of strains into the aquarium have made killiefish somewhat easy, and in some cases downright simple, to keep and breed.

The first thing to keep in mind when trying to maintain killiefishes is that they prefer, as do most aquarium fishes, clean water. A weekly water change is good, and certainly no more than two weeks should elapse between changes. Hardness and pH pose no problems, though extremes should be avoided, and neutral to slightly acid water is preferred by most species. A teaspoon of salt per gallon is recommended. Though killiefish can stand quite a bit of crowding, it is not recommended. If crowding is necessary, more frequent water changes should be employed.

The reason that killiefish can withstand more crowding than most other tropical fish is that they prefer a lower temperature. A temperature of 70 degrees F. keeps them quite content. The lower temperature allows the aquarium water to hold more oxygen. For example, water at 70 degrees F. can hold oxygen at a rate of 6.3 parts per thousand, while water at 85 degrees F holds approximately 5.7 parts per thousand of oxygen. The higher oxygen content will allow more fish mass to live comfortably in a given volume of water. Of course, the actual oxygen content in aquariums is not near these values, usually being about half. This is because other gases, such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, and others, displace some of the oxygen. At higher temperatures these gases become more concentrated, and if the aquarium is overcrowded, death may result to the weakest fish.

Little or no aeration is necessary in a killie tank, dependent upon the population of the tank. However, it is suggested that a sponge filter be used, operated at a slow rate of about one air bubble per second.

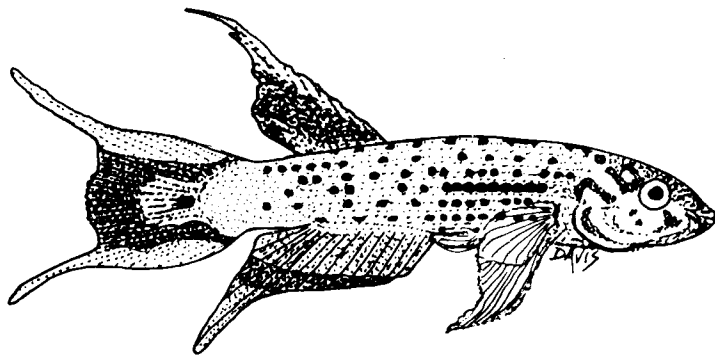
Feeding killiefish nowadays presents no problems. Most aquarium strains have been adapted to taking prepared foods such as frozen brine shrimp, freeze-dried tubifex worms, and even flakes. Even if your killies accept only live food, culturing fruit flies and daphnia is quite simple, and mosquito larvae are abundant during the summer. This is, however, a "BIG IF".

Another myth about killies is that they are not community fish. Most killies can be kept successfully with other species of similar size. An extremely beautiful sight is a community tank of killiefishes only. If this is what you have in mind, keep only males and distinguishable females together. Many female killiefish look alike and are difficult to tell apart. Some people claim to be able to distinguish among their own fish. If you can do this, more power to you.

Now that you have all this information, you probably can't wait to get your hands on some beautiful killiefish. Do NOT purchase the first pair of killies you see, if you haven't kept killies previously. Mop spawners would be recommended, as most peat spawners tend to be a little more difficult. Of the mop spawners, you might start with one or two of the following: Aphyosemion gardneri, any strain; Epiplatys chaperi or Ep. dageti; Rivulus cylindraceus; Aplocheilus lineatus; or Pachypanchax playfairi.

Breeding methods for the mop spawners will be discussed in the future.

(reprinted from the GPASI Journal, Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society Inc.)



BOWL SHOW REPORT FOR

March

CICHLIDS

New World Dwarf

1st A. cacaotupia - J. Kooeken
 2nd A. benita - D. Mann
 3rd A. mcmaisteri - D. Mann

Reftlake, Non-Mbuna

1st
 2nd No Entries
 3rd

Open

1st Cherry Zebra - J. Bennet
 2nd rib. - R. Hughes
 3rd Angel - J. Bennet

EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

Killifish

1st A. panchax - J. Steringer
 2nd A. bivittatum - J. Steringer
 3rd Cyn. constiae - D. Mann

Catfish, Non-Corydoras

1st S. angelicas - J. Steringer
 2nd Whiptail - J. Bennet
 3rd S. yamidentis - J. Bennet

Open

1st Goldfish - J. Bennet
 2nd
 3rd

Judges Choice: S. angelicas

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
J. Bennet	2	4	4
R. Hughes	1	2	2
D. Mann	2	2	2
J. Kooeken	1	1	1
N. Manwary	0	1	1

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
J. Bennet	5	5	5
R. Hughes	2	6	6
J. Steringer	4	4	4
D. Mann	4	4	4
J. Bennet	3	3	3
C. Carter	0	1	1

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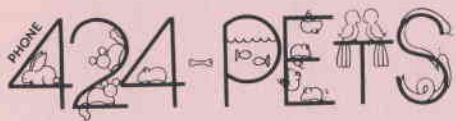


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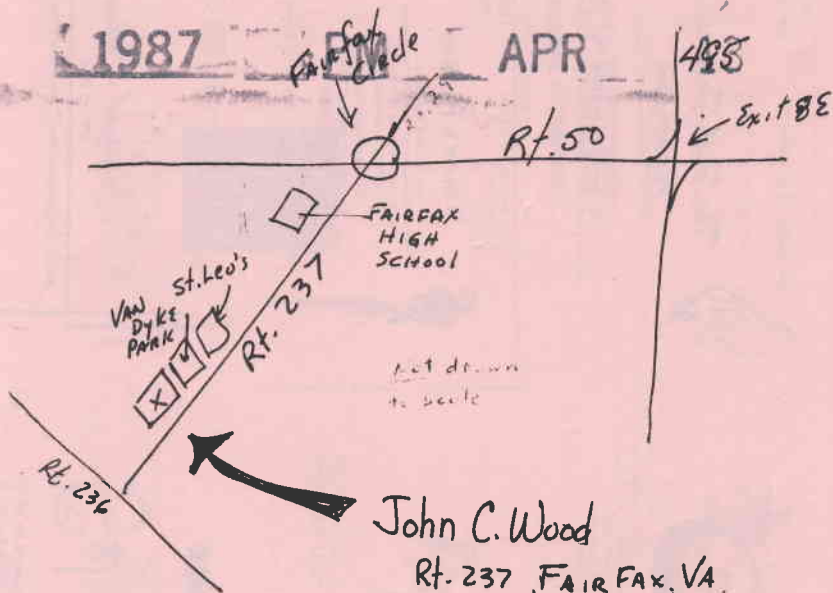
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The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society will meet on the following dates in 1987:

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

Meetings are held at the John C. Wood Facility, Rt. 237 (Old Lee Hgwy) Fairfax City, VA. Doors open at 7:30, meetings start at 8:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.