

DELTA TALK

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MARCH 1977

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P
V
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Volume 8
Issue 3

MARCH MEETINGS

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

March 1
8:00 p.m.

The Spragues
4605 N. 2nd Road
Arlington, Va.
841-0857

BOWL SHOW - March 14

Cichlids: Central & S.A. Medium; Julidochromis;
Mouthbrooder, New World

Other Egglayer/Livebearers: Barbs; Anabantoids; Goldfish/Koi

+ - + - + - + - + - + - + - + - + - + - + - + - + - + - + - + - + - +

APRIL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Steve Siska
2223 Dairy Farm Road
Gambrills, Md.
261-7923

DELTA TALE is published for the benefit of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society (formerly the Potomac Valley Guppy Club), a non-profit organization, established in 1960 for the purpose of furthering the aquarium hobby by disseminating information, encouraging friendly competition, soliciting participation in its show, and promoting good fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to Secretary, P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6219, Shirlington Station, Arlington, Virginia, 22206. Original articles and drawings may be reprinted if credit is given the author and DELTA TALE. Two copies of the publication in which the reprint appears should be sent to DELTA TALE which will forward one copy to the author. All materials for inclusion in the DELTA TALE must reach the editor no later than the Saturday after the monthly Monday meeting.

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Co-Editors:

Ruth Brewer

Susan Sprague

OFFICERS FOR 1977

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| President | Pete Tietjen | Corres. Secy. | Mike Sprague |
| Vice-President | Dave McInturff | Recdg. Secy. | Susan Sprague |
| | Treasurer | Gene Aldridge | |

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| John Jessup | Ruth Brewer |
| Heinz Lenzen | Warren Garner |
| Pat Mahoney | Mark Prendergast |
| Steve Siska | Diane Nixon |

Craig Tingen

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The cover drawing is a tracing by Michael Sprague of a slide by Ruth Brewer. The fish is an *Aplo. linneatus*.

BOWL SHOW REPORT FOR FEBRUARY

CICHLIDS

Central & S.A. Large

1st Warren, K.-Oscar
2nd Warren, K.-Severum
3rd -

Pseudotropheus

1st Warren, K.-Mottled zebra
2nd Warren, K.-Jacksoni
3rd Terwilliger, J.-Auratus

Tanganyikan, non-julidochromis

1st Sprague, S.-Bifrenatus
2nd Sprague, S.-Spathodus
3rd Warren, K.-Frontosa

EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

Bettas

1st Mahoney, P.
2nd -
3rd -

Corydoras

1st Garrett, R.
2nd Mahoney, P.
3rd Brocato, M.

Guppies

1st Morrison, W.
2nd -
3rd -

| | <u>MONTH QUARTER ANNUAL</u> | | | | <u>MONTH QUARTER ANNUAL</u> | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----|----|--------------|-----------------------------|----|----|
| Warren, K. | 22 | 22 | 22 | Mahoney, P. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Terwilliger, J. | 6 | 6 | 6 | Garrett, R. | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Sprague, S. | 6 | 6 | 6 | Brocato, M. | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | | | | Morrison, W. | 6 | 6 | 6 |

Judges: Aldridge & Siska

Judges: Brewer & Nixon

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS

The meeting on January 4, 1977 was held at Ruth Brewer's with 9 Board members and 5 guests present.

The main topic of discussion was our Spring show. The judges are to be contacted in a month or so and Mark Prendergast is in charge of designing cinder block racks. There were many ideas discussed concerning the awarding of prizes at the show. Some were the use of large rosettes, loving cups, or plaques instead of our normal trophies. Dave McInturff said he would personally call for volunteers to help with the show.

Another point brought up was the feasibility of having another tank raffle. Heinz Lenzen proposed that maybe Cappett could be encouraged to donate a tank or sell to our club at a sacrifice price. Heinz was commissioned to draft a letter to them.

The mini-auction rules were discussed and clarified. There is a limit of 3 bags per person with a dollar minimum per bag as the standard procedure. It was stressed that non-club members are welcome.

Pete Tietjen brought up the question of increasing membership. Gene Aldridge made the point that working members were to be encouraged instead of just people adding more money to the treasury. Diane Nixon was interested in having more social activities. Heinz Lenzen wants to have members get together and swap fish. Steve Siska believes more advertising to let the public know of our existence is needed. Pete asked Pat Mahoney to head the membership drive.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35.

#

The Board of Governors met on February 1, 1977 at the home of Heinz Lenzen. The Corresponding Sec'y, Mike Sprague, reported that the meeting dates and show dates have been confirmed for 1977. Our Spring show is scheduled for the weekend of May 28-29.

There was discussion concerning trophies vs. ribbons for the Show and it was decided that we would have rosette type ribbons for first place in the sub-classes and trophies for the Best of each Class I - IV. There have also been changes of importance in the categories. It is very important to read them over carefully.

The decision was made to again raffle off a 125 gallon tank or \$125 over the next few months. There are to be 1000

tickets printed.

Dave McInturff has been named to be the new BAP chairman. Any questions in regard to that program are to be directed to him.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Sprague
Recdg Sec'y



TRADING POST

| | |
|---|---------|
| Black Paradise 3/4"+ | \$ 1.50 |
| Albino Cory. fry | .15 |
| 23½"x46"x½" Plate glass
for 2'x4' wooden tanks | 20.00 |
| Aqua Kings | 20.00 |

Call Steve Siska 621-7923

Labeotropheus fuelleborni
1"+(mottled mother)
Julidochromis marlieri,
ornatus, regani, or
transcriptus from
¾" to almost 2"

On all of the above make
an offer or will con-
sider a trade.

Call Susan or Mike
Sprague 841-0857



LAKE GEORGE, UGANDA

By: Eugene T. Aldridge, Jr.
PVAS

The material for this article has been extracted from "A Revision of the Haplochromis and Related Species (Pisces: Cichlidae) from Lake George, Uganda", by Peter Humphry Greenwood. The basic article appeared in the Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Zoology, Vol. 25 No. 5, London, 1973.

Lake George is the smallest of the African "Great Lakes" covering an area of just over 100 square miles. This lake is nearly square as can be seen by the figure 1. in the western Rift valley right on the equator. Though in the Rift valley, Lake George is not a rift lake; it is a saucer with its depth rarely exceeding 8 feet; however, in some places the depth does go to 13 feet. Large areas of the bottom are covered with a loose fluffy organic ooze over a firm clay bottom. The lake fits in a large grass plain surrounded on its north and north-east shores by large papyrus swamps nearly half as big as the lake itself. In addition to the swamps, the shores include muddy bays and sandy beaches. Another distinction Lake George has is being directly linked with another body of water, Lake Edward. This link is the 19 mile long Kazinga Channel.

When considered together, Lakes George and Edward have endemic fish and a few common to both. As would be expected, the fish found in both are also found in the channel. No fish tagging was done to prove fish went from one lake to the other; however, with the same fish in all areas of the lakes, there must have been movement. Not enough study was done to understand why some of the endemic fish in each lake living close to the channel are not found in the other lake.

Each type of habitat within the lake has its definable group of species. The open offshore waters have the fewest species. A careful analysis of the known Haplochromis species seems to give the impression of a small-scale Victoria flock. There are some types that have not evolved in Lake George like the Lake Victoria mollusc shellers. The water of Lake George is very poor in its light conducting ability.

The basic article identifies six new Lake George Haplochromis and updates and expands the technical information on 10 old Haplochromis. Besides providing more specimens, the most significant new data included in the descriptions is the "living colors". A good portion of this article dealt with the origins and history of the Lake George Haplochromis flocks.

The flocks of Lakes George, Edward, Victoria, and Kivu are all inter-related and come from the basic original stock. Dr. Greenwood brings up the idea (not his own) of at one time, there were usable passages between the four lakes. However, as more is learned of the area in a geological sense, it appears we are seeing a case of parallel evolution between the George-Edward cichlid species and their Victoria counterparts.

Reading the original article will provide you with some interesting information and "food-for-thought".

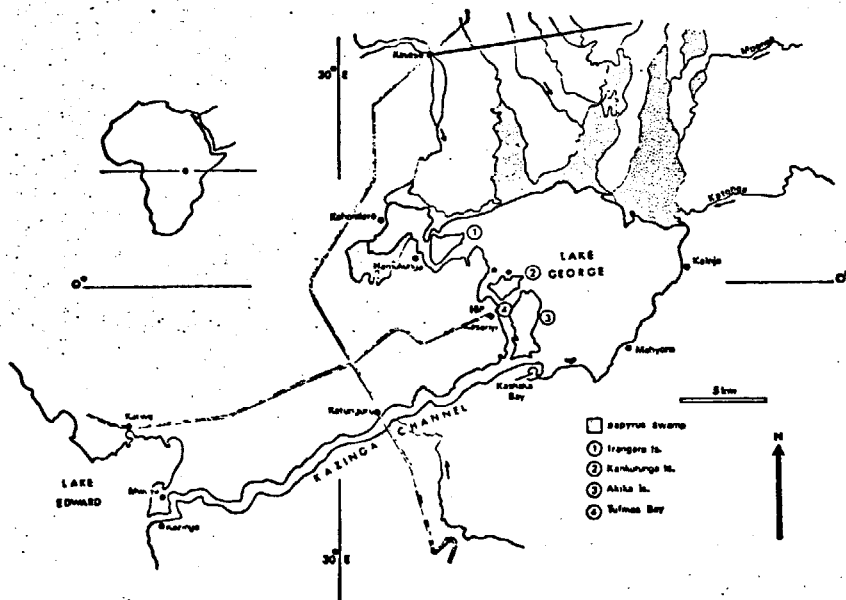


FIG. 1. Lake George and its major affluent rivers. Inset shows geographical position of the lake. Modified after Dunn *et al.* (1909).

1977 SPRING SHOW CATEGORIES

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING REVISED SCHEDULE FOR THE SPRING SHOW:

- I. LIVEBEARERS
 - a. DELTA-TAIL GUPPIES, MALE
 - b. DELTA-TAIL GUPPIES, FEMALE
 - c. GUPPIES-ALL OTHER
 - d. FANCY SWORDTAILS
 - e. FANCY PLATIES
 - f. FANCY MOLLIES
 - g. REGULAR SWORDTAILS, PLATIES, AND MOLLIES
 - h. OTHER FISHES
- II. EGGLAYERS (NON-CICHLID)
 - a. CATFISH-CORYDORAS
 - b. CATFISH-AFRICAN
 - c. CATFISH-ALL OTHER
 - d. BETTA SPLENDENS
 - e. BETTA-ALL OTHER
 - f. ANABANTOIDS-ALL OTHER
 - g. SHARKS AND LOACHES
 - h. TETRAS
 - i. BARBS
 - j. GOLDFISH AND KOI
 - k. DANIOS, BRACHYDANIOS AND RASBORAS
 - l. KILLIFISH
 - m. NATIVE AMERICAN
 - n. OTHER FISHES
- III. CICHLIDS
 - a. NEW WORLD LARGE (OVER 7")
 - b. NEW WORLD MEDIUM (4" to 7")
 - c. NEW WORLD DWARF (UNDER 4")
 - d. ANGELFISH
 - e. RIFTLAKE MBUNA
 - f. RIFTLAKE NON-MBUNA
 - g. NON-RIFTLAKE AFRICAN
 - h. AFRICAN PAIRS - 1M, 1F
 - i. NEW WORLD AND ASIAN PAIRS - 1M, 1F
 - j. OTHER
- IV. MARINE
 - a. FISHES
 - b. INVERTEBRATES
- V. SET TANKS
 - a. FRESHWATER
 - b. MARINE
- VI. DEALER TANKS
- VII. PHOTOGRAPHY
 - a. COLOR SLIDES
 - b. COLOR PRINTS

THE SPRING SHOW WILL BE HELD ON MAY 28 WITH THE

ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION ON MAY 29.

COME AND MEET OTHER TROPICAL FISH HOBBYISTS

SHOW YOUR FISH

REVIEWS

Aquarium News, Toadtown, Magalia, Calif. 95954, Frederick Kerr,
Managing Editor Jan. & Feb., 1977

The February 1977 issue's lead article concerns itself with the Australian government's efforts to ban goldfish, all marine fish, and limit species available to hobbyists to 100. It sounds like shades of the Lacey Act, hunh!

There are also articles on Aphyosemion bivittatum billed as an easy killifish, spawning piranhas, an ongoing article on mbunas, and many others of interest to the hobbyist. This publication looks like a worthwhile investment.

In the January 1977 magazine there is an article on using foam (I assume styrofoam) for filter material instead of charcoal and fluff. It sounds interesting but one is warned to make sure of the product you are using i.e. regarding it's toxicity to fish. This may be a good alternative to charcoal and fluff since it is reusable and creates a biological filtration system along with the mechanical filtering but I wonder what the cost and availability of the product is.

Also of importance is an article on the life of Hermann Meinken (1896-1976), a major contributor to ichthyological literature. Anyone interested in the lives of men who help identify and name our fishes will probably find this story enlightening.

As a breeder of fish myself, I found the article on Spawning the Clown Knifefish of importance. Like the hobbyist, Randy McDonald and retailer, Scott Borek, that spawned them, I find it thrilling that one more fish previously unbred in captivity has been spawned.

Super Fish al Notes, Madison Aquarium Club, Ltd, 1941 Tennyson Lane, Madison, Wisconsin 53704, Dick Johnston, Editor
Dec., 1976 & Jan., 1977

I like the format of this magazine. I find the use of logo's and pictures of the authors a boon to publishing in aquarium literature. It breaks up the monotony of all the type and makes one feel more in touch with the author. Now to try and add similar features to our mag.

Jan., 1977 - Under the column, Guppy Gossip, an article by John Stanton suggests treatment of fin damage with B-12. The author suggests continued use of the vitamin for general health and fin strength.

In Cichlid Corner by Dick Cramer discusses using plastic

and live plants with cichlids. The part of the article I find most interesting concerns the use of live plants protected from the fish by a glass panel. This seems a worthwhile project for keeping plant digging fish and plants together.

Other articles of note are ones on plants, amphibians, discuss and many others. I will be following this mag. losely in months to come.

✓
Marine Hobbyist News, 205 Orr Drive, Normal, Ill. 61761, Charles wonderlin, Editor Dec., 1976 & Jan., 1977

In the Dec. issue I enjoyed the article, Twenty-One Years of Marineg. He brought home a few points with noting; mainly, when one is comparing different marine books' suggestions on techniques to use in setting up a tank, remember that the author is talking about a total system. When one tries to take a little from one and a smitch from another, maybe those things will not combine into a third system and work for the support of marine life.

The Jan., 1977 issue has an artile on spawning, The Way To Do It From One Inch To Parenthood by Dianne L. Kattman. This is just another example of what is possible in the marine hobby if you try hard enough.

✓
Colorado Aquarist, 5444 Clay Street, Denver, Colo. 80221, Ella Pittman, Editor Dec., 1976 & Jan., 1977

The Dec., 1976 mag. contains a reprint from the Darter published by the Missouri Aquarium Society titled As The Water Bubbles. This appears to be a monthly column by Ken Sommerhauser. Of note is the fact that the article is basically a spawning report about Apistogramma agassizi but the specifics are presented in a humorous manner. All the facts are there but it is anything but cut and dried. I think that Ruth Brewer has followed this approach in the past and this lends more diversity in BAP reports.

There is a good reprint from Tank Topics on a native killifish, Cyprinidon variegatus. The parts of the article I found most interesting are that the author, Rick Johnson, caught them in Florida, and most intriguing that he kept them and spawned them in a salt water tank. He writes that they can be maintained in salt, brackish or fresh water. This sounds like a versatile medium size fish (male 2½", female 3 1/8").

In the Jan., 1977 issue there is an excellent article by Ella Pittman called Genetics For the Beginner. This will be a series to try and explain how genetics affects characteristics in our fish. This article is especially helpful for those interested in understanding how a fish ends up with a certain color, finnage, body shape, etc.

✓

Guppy Roundtable, Pan Pacific Guppy Assoc., 17810 Hatton St.,
Reseda, Calif. 91335, Jack Rosengarten, Editor

Following along the lines of genetics' articles, the Dec. 1976 magazine has an article by Jack Rosengarten entitled Guppy Genetics, Part III - Sex-Linked Genes. This article is a little more involved than Ella Pittman's but has obvious applications for fish other than guppies.

Another article to make note of is Gerber's Fish Food? by Jack Rosengarten. He discusses using strained baby meats for your fish. The price is right and his fish love it.

bap REPORT

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>POINTS</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Susan & Mike Sprague | 155** |
| Ruth Brewer | 190** |
| Gene Aldridge | 80 |
| John Jessup | 55* |
| Diane Nixon | 70* |
| Pat & Pete Tietjen | 15 |
| Jan & Dave McInturff | 355*** |
| Jerry Donnelly | 10 |

- * Breeder Award
- ** Intermediate Breeder Award
- *** Advanced Breeder Award

Spawnings:

Brewer - Ameca splendens

Dave McInturff
BAP Chairman

1977 BOWL SHOW CATEGORIES

| | <u>Cichlids</u> | <u>Other Egglayer/Livebearer</u> |
|-----------|--|---|
| March | Central & S.A. Medium
Julidochromis
Mouthbrooder, New World | Barbs
Anabantoids
Goldfish/Koi |
| April | Central & S.A. Dwarf
Other African
Open | Livebearers, non-guppy
Killifish
Open |
| May | Angelfish
Tilapia/Seratherodon
Other rift lake | Sharks/Loaches
Catfish, non-corydoras
Guppies |
| June | Haplochromis
Mbuna, non-pseudotropheus
Open | Tetras
Characins
Open |
| July | Cent. & S.A. Large
Pseudotropheus
Asian | Bettas
Corydoras
Goldfish/Koi |
| August | Cent. & S.A. medium
Julidochromis
Discus | Barbs
Anabantoids
Guppies |
| September | Cent. & S.A. Dwarf
Other African
Open | Livebearer, non-guppy
Killifish
Open |
| October | Angelfish
Tilapia/Seratherodon
Malawian, non-mbuna, non-haplochromis | Sharks/Loaches
Catfish, non-corydoras
Guppies |
| November | Haplochromis
Mbuna, non-pseudotropheus
Open | Tetras
Characins
Open |
| | NOVEMBER IS FOR DOUBLE POINTS | |
| December | <u>NO BOWL SHOW - CHRISTMAS PARTY</u> | |

SPRING IS ON THE WAY!

By: Ruth Brewer
PVAS

I know we've still got cold weather -- maybe even ice and snow ahead, but just a few warm days and I'm all ready to get out the nets and buckets and go off collecting. One of the activities planned for PVAS members this year is a collecting trip and you'll be hearing more about this later on. But for now, let's think about some mini-trips. Going out for a few native fish or some live food for the foreigners needn't be a big deal and will make a pleasant change in the "go the the office, come home and go to bed" routine that we get into during the winter. Now that the days are getting longer, there's time to take in some outside activities after work. We are particularly fortunate in this area to have so many bodies of water within a few minutes of almost every member. And even with pollution and a hard winter, most of these streams and ponds will have fish this spring. One of my favorite spots is a little pool in Pimmit Run just off the intersection of Idylwood Road and Great Falls Road. It has a very pretty little black-nosed dace which makes an interesting addition to a small native tank. Then, behind Fairfax Hospital there's a small, very mucky pond which has small pumpkinseeds and green sunnies. If you haven't seen these two fish in breeding colors, you haven't seen fish! Back of this pond, there's a small area just full of bog plants: several different species of sagittaria and lots of hygrophila. Lake Accotink is another good source of sunnies and pumpkinseeds, as well as the common gambusia. You'll even see a few bass pulled out by the fishermen there. Back in Accotink Creek, well hidden in the rocks and weeds is the home of the Johnny Darter (*Etheostoma nigrum*) which is one of my favorite natives. Go out Columbia Pike toward Annandale and turn off at Barcroft Dam to find one of the loveliest spots in the area. The walk down to the water is lined with raspberries, there are always birds, and it's so peaceful you can't believe that just a few hundred feet away everyone is rushing around as if their silly little errands were important. If you sit quietly on a rock and wait a few minutes, you'll see the big catfish dart out and go about his work of cleaning up the bottom. These are just a few of the places just off the Virginia section of the Beltway.

Even if you don't want native fish, or are suspicious of live foods gathered from the ponds, go out for the joy of seeing the real world -- you'll come home with a new outlook on your aquarium fish and plants. It's not necessary to make an "expedition" of a collecting trip, in fact, you'll probably enjoy the impromptu trips as much as or more than that big trip to Ocean City. One warmish day, just grab your net, a bucket, some old clothes and your tennies and head out into the open for a

while. Don't be greedy, bring home only what you have room to care for (remembering that you should be especially careful not to overcrowd natives). Don't put the new fish into tanks with your old fish, instead, keep them isolated for a couple of weeks to be sure you are not introducing parasites or disease into existing setups. Keep an eye out for poison ivy and keep your shoes on in the water. Come home empty handed if that suits you -- it won't be a wasted day.

* * * * *

With this issue of Delta Tale, Susan Sprague resumes her duties, for the time being as a Co-Editor. I'm happy to turn over the reins to her and I look forward to lots of good material just like in the old days. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as sole Editor for the past few months, but I find myself in a work situation that leaves me with not enough time to do all the things I would like to do. Thanks to everyone who wrote articles, drew illustrations, helped me deliver and pick up the Delta Tale, put it together and get it in the mail. You were all just great! Now, instead of having only me to nag you, you get two naggers. We will both continue to depend on YOU for all the things that go into publishing a bulletin. Thanks again.

* * * * *

Spring brings out more than the native collectors -- it seems to bring out the fish shows, too. I have just received a bulletin from the Rochester Aquarium Society, Rochester, NY, about the C.A.O.A.S. Roundup. (That's the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs.) The Rochester group is hosting their show this year and the program sounds really good. I am intrigued by a session on fish photography using inexpensive equipment conducted by a producer of training programs for Eastman Kodak. There are presentations for editors and publicity chairmen, talks by Dr. Robert Goldstein and Dr. Robert Rofen among others, a chuckwagon buffet, followed by dancing and a beer drinking contest, as well as the fish show and auction (fish and hard goods). It all sounds like a lot of fun. I 'll have some schedules and list of classes (fish and photography) at the next meeting. The show is May 13-15.