

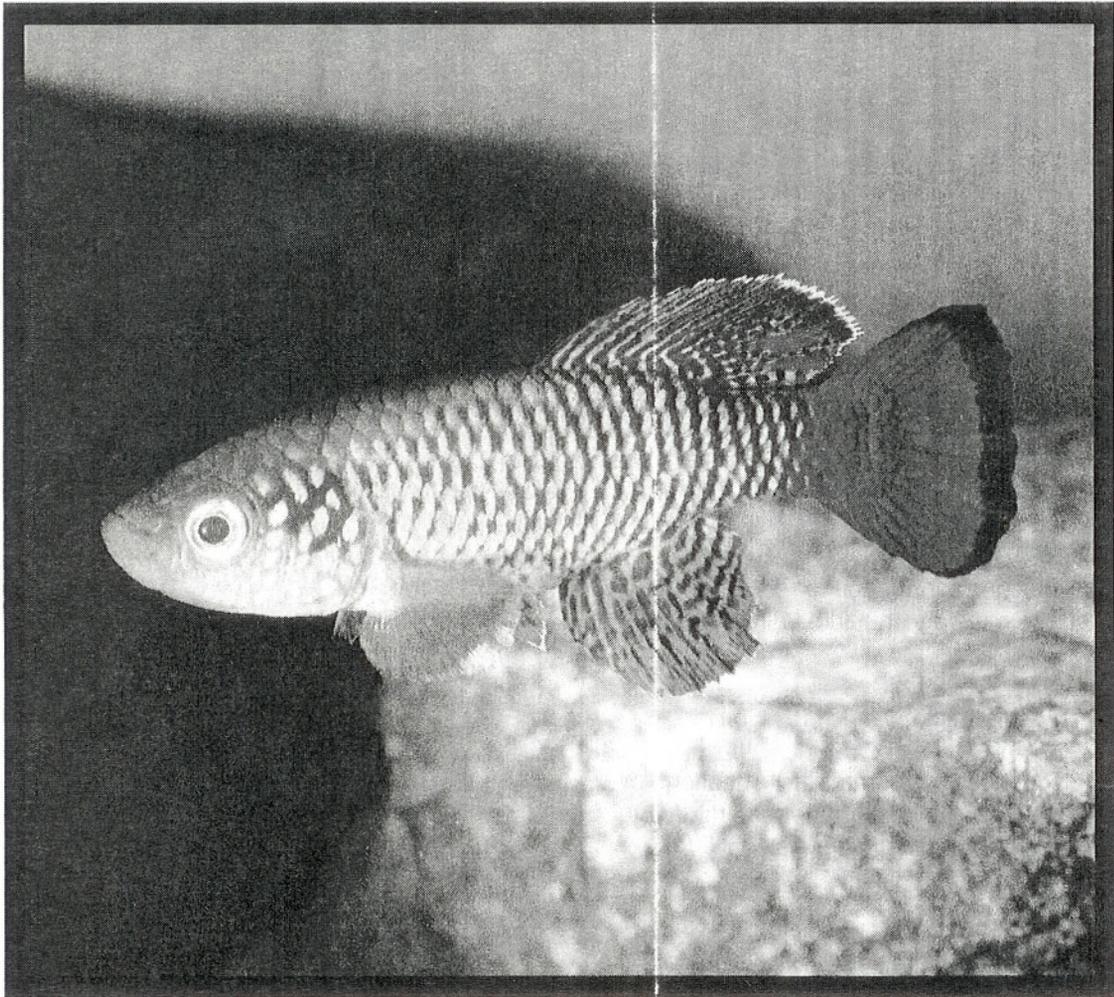
The

DELTA TALE

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Official Publication

Volume 34, Number 4

PVAS Fall Fish Festival Best In Show



THE DELTA TALE

Volume 35, Number 2

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

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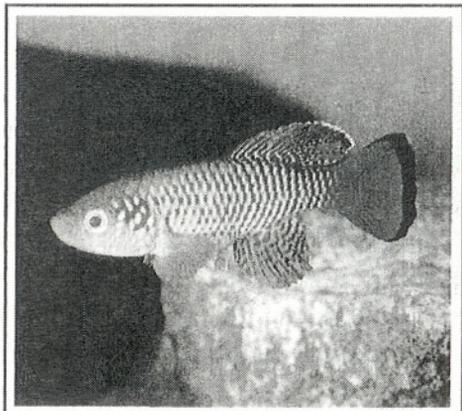
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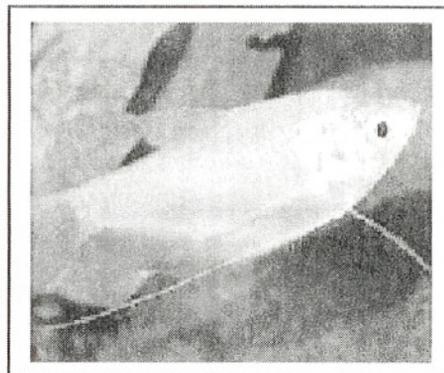
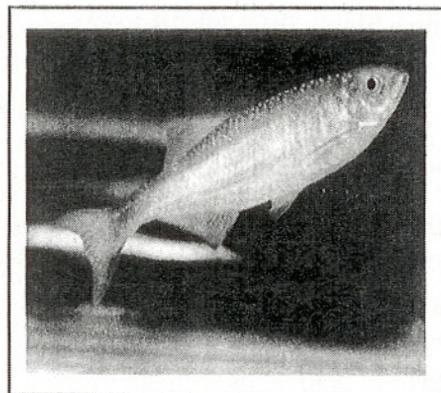
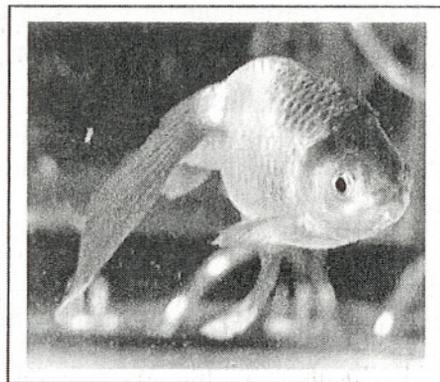
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OCTOBER-DECEMBER

2003



Cover Photo:
Nothobranchius guentheri
Rick McKay



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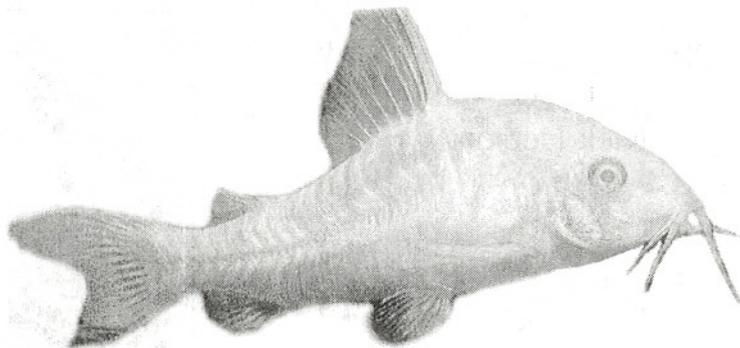
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President's Message

Andrew Blumhagen

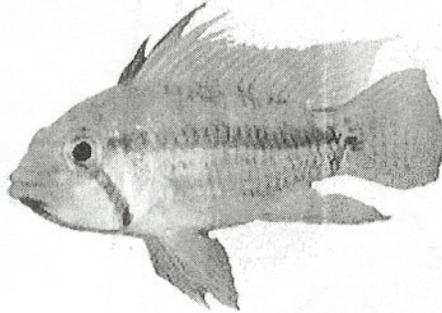
Well, we thought we had enough tanks for the Fish Show... Who would have thought that over-participation would be our greatest challenge? The Fall Fish Festival was demonstrative of the entire year for PVAS. Throughout the past year many, many people have been participating in our events and pitching in to help out whenever help was needed. This spirit of community has never been shown more clearly than at the 2003 Fall Fish Festival. It's especially gratifying that so many people who joined the club in the last year or two are making themselves a part of the events. We had new members engaged with the Fish Show, with registration for the events, with running the auction and just about everything else.

The 2003 Fall Fish Festival was a smashing success. We had four great speakers deliver five workshop seminars and a banquet talk. I think this is a new record for our club, at least in recent memory. Dr. Wayne Leibel started the day for us with a talk on Pike Cichlids and finished the seminars telling us about Earth-eater Cichlids. We were especially fortunate to have Wayne since it appears that he'll be taking a hiatus from his 26-year tour of the aquarium society circuit. Randy Carey followed Wayne, describing for us the patterns for spawning egg-scattering fishes. I expect that we'll see more Tetras, Barbs and Rasboras at upcoming auctions as hobbyists, inspired by Randy's talk, take a chance on spawning fish beyond Livebearers, Cichlids and Killifish. At the banquet, Randy showed us his fish room and described the values and design solutions he used to make the perfect fish room for his pursuit of the hobby. Bob Dozier gave a talk on all aspects of keeping, breeding and showing Betta splendens. He also gave us an introduction to some of the wild-type Betta species that are now starting to make an appearance in the hobby. Finally Dr. Greg Morin told us all about the chemistry of the planted aquarium. Greg is President/CEO of Seachem, a new friend of ours whom we are very happy to have helping us with our events.



Editor's Tank

Francine Bethea



Yes, I know this issue is very late. I apologize to every entity out there waiting. So many things to do and so many things going on.... overwhelming participation at the Fall fish Festival, an upcoming All-Aquarium Catfish Convention, logo designing, hot flashes, elections, begging for articles, sharing files between three computers, missing links, losing discs, a micro-managing boss at work, having to actually do work at work, snow, too much rain, basement flooding, all kinds of algae outbreaks, sick fish, new fish, spawning fish, discus, discus fry, flukes, fluke treatments, 30 tank water changes, friends, hot flashes, family, a 122 lb dog, a 12 year old dog, fatigue, being frazzled, more hot flashes, planted tanks...I could go on and on but I'll stop here.

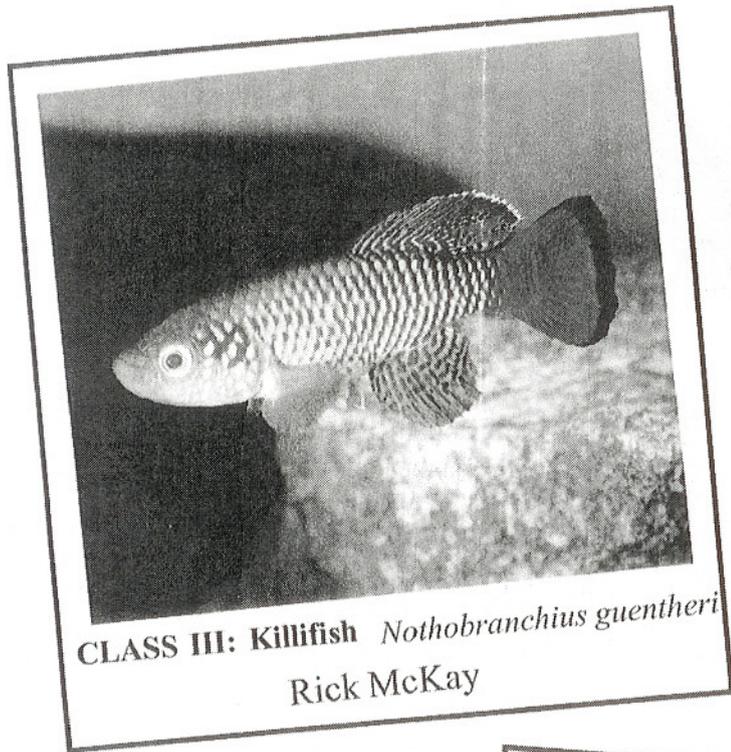
Send in your articles, photos, and breeding reports. Text should be in Microsoft Word, Word Pad or by e-mail. The photos should be in jpeg format.

Thanks!

Francine

Send your stuff to poppycat_2000@yahoo.com

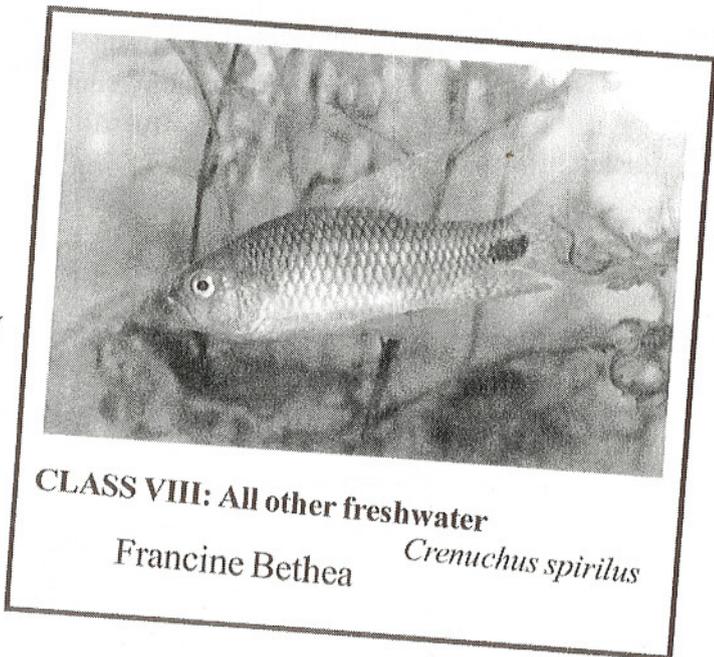
Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Fall Fish Festival Pictorial



CLASS III: Killifish *Nothobranchius guentheri*
Rick McKay

Best of Show

Reserve of Show



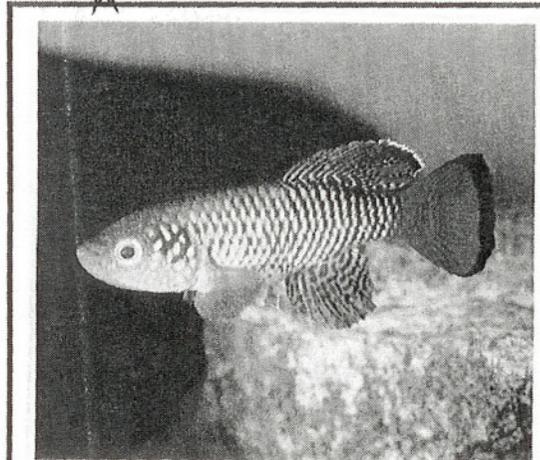
CLASS VIII: All other freshwater
Francine Bethea *Crenuchus spirilus*

First of Class winners:



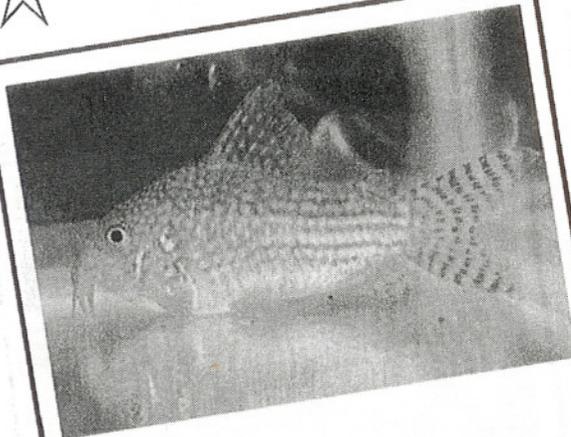
CLASS I: Cyprinids
Egg Pheonix Goldfish

Russell Taylor



CLASS III: Killifish
Nothobranchius guentheri

Rick McKay



CLASS II: Catfish
Corydoras sterbai

Rodney Conway

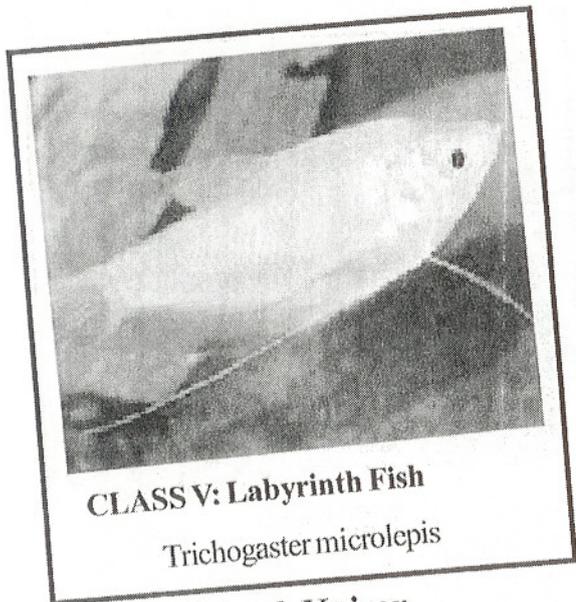


CLASS IV: Livebearers
Half Black Red Guppy

John Hendrichs



First of Class winners:



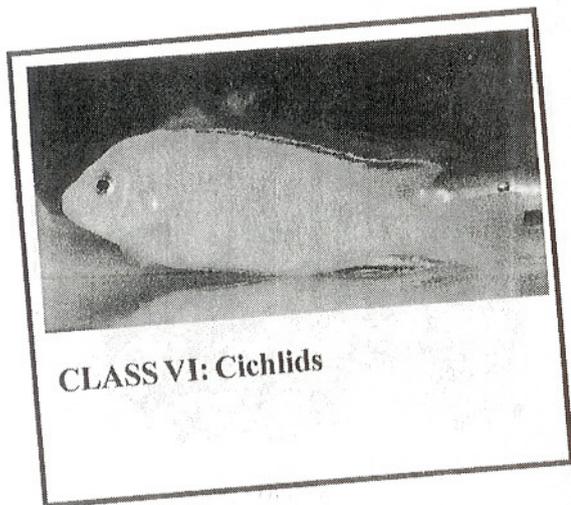
CLASS V: Labyrinth Fish
Trichogaster microlepis

Michael Kaiser



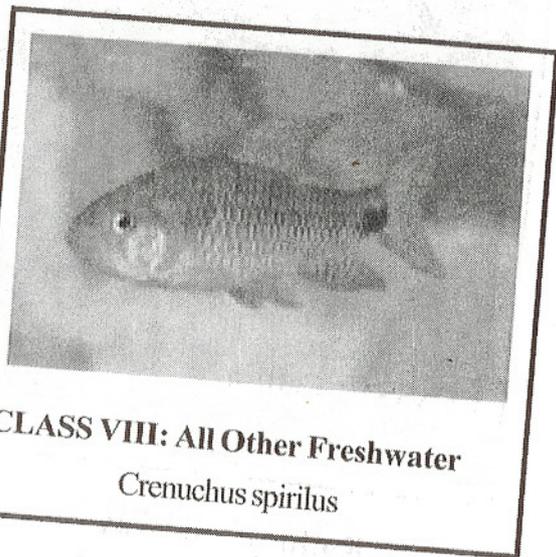
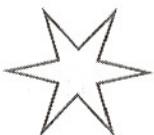
CLASS VII: Native Fish
Lepomis mega lotis

Bob Bock



CLASS VI: Cichlids

Rick McKay

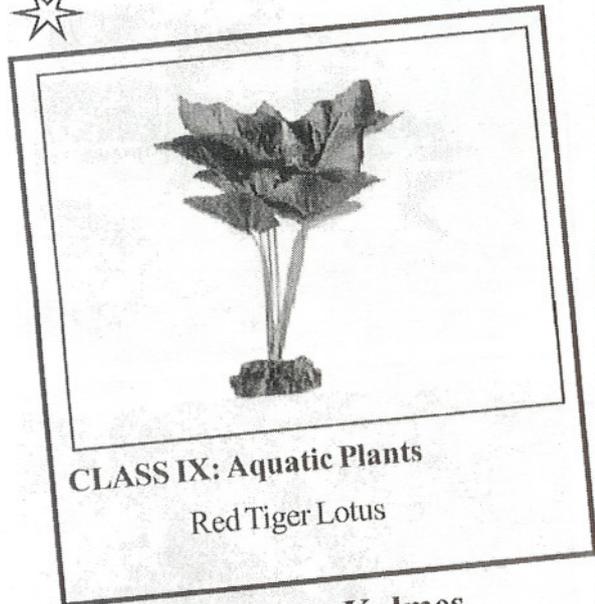


CLASS VIII: All Other Freshwater
Crenuchus spirilus

Francine Bethea

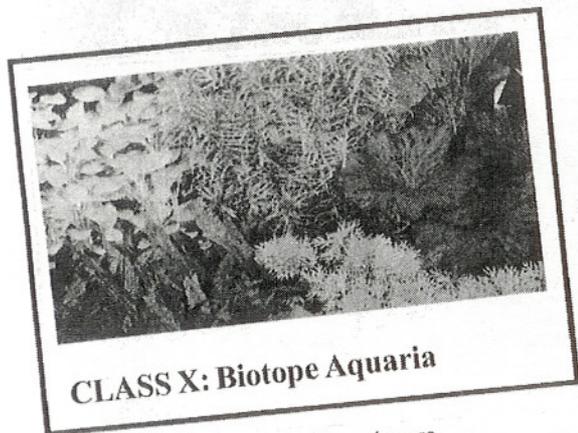


First of Class winners:



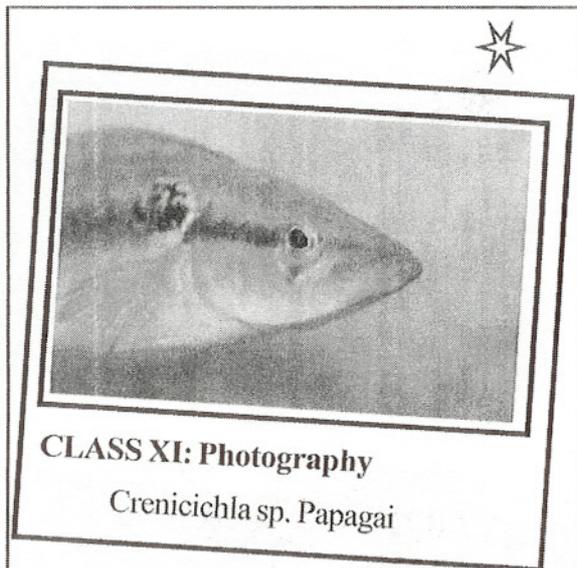
CLASS IX: Aquatic Plants
Red Tiger Lotus

Jonathan Kalmes



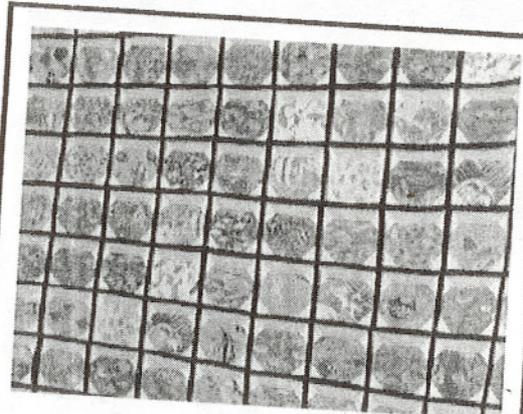
CLASS X: Biotope Aquaria

Emily Robertson



CLASS XI: Photography
Crenicichla sp. Papagai

Francine Bethea

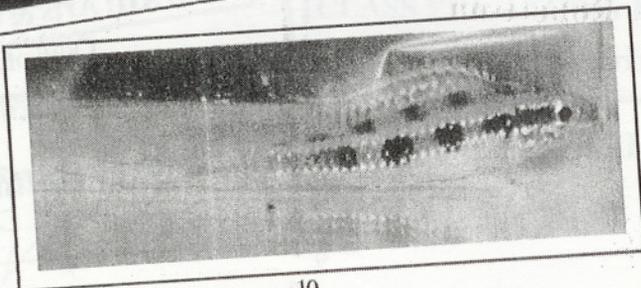
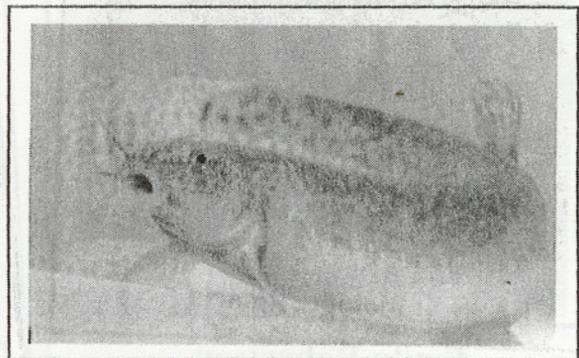
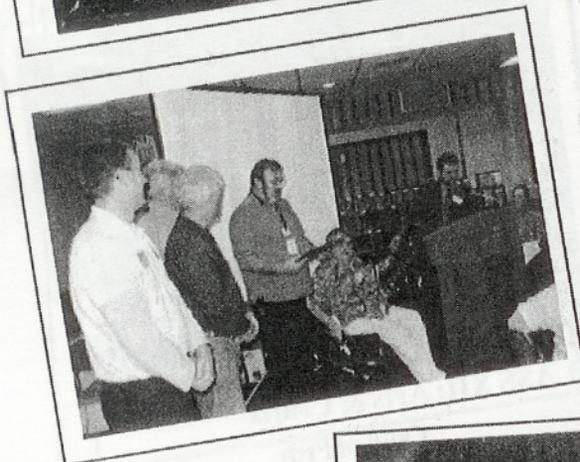
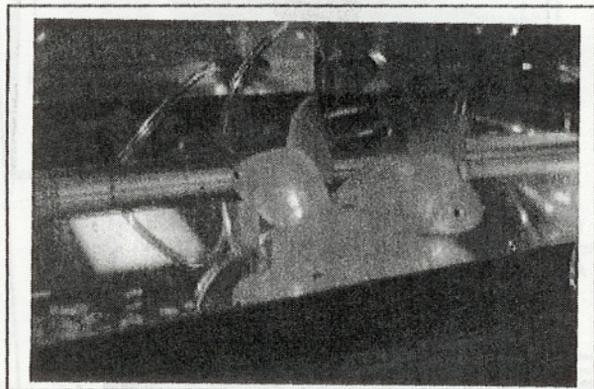
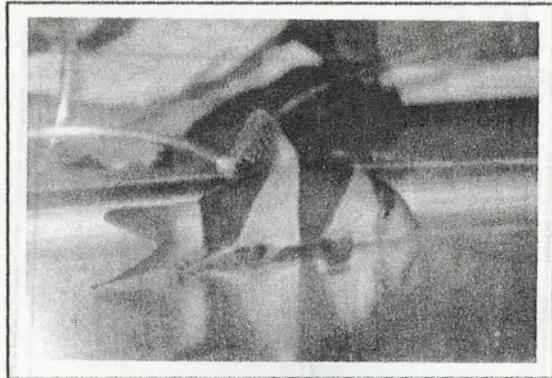
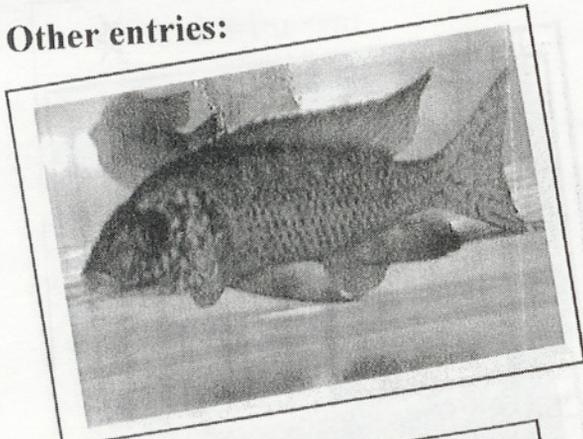


CLASS XII: Arts & Crafts
Quilt of Fish

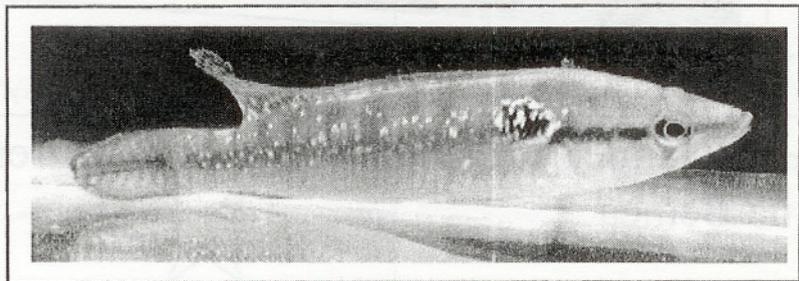
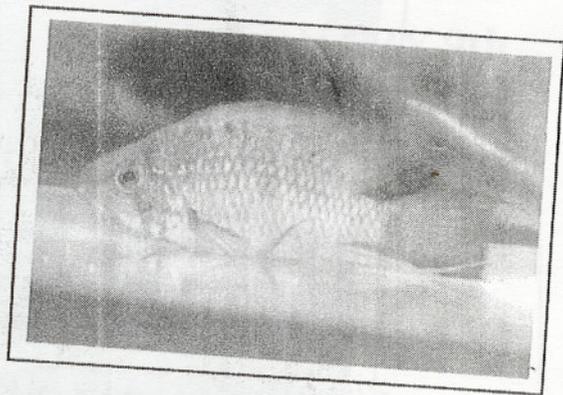
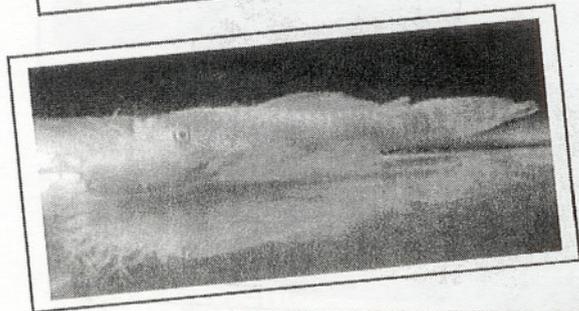
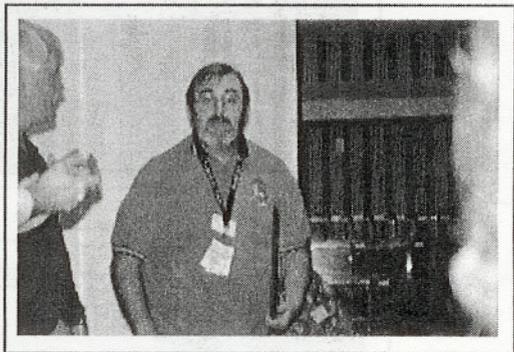
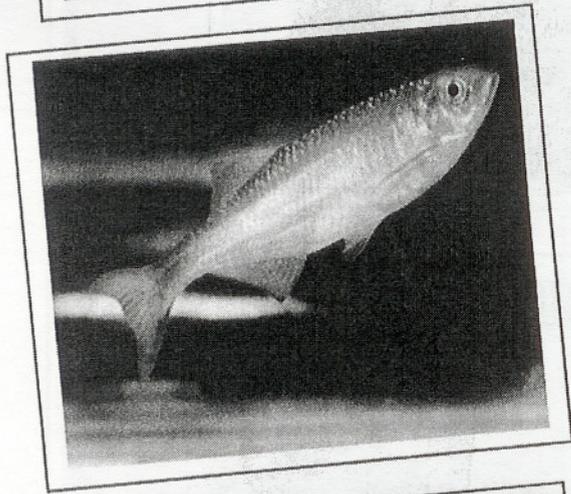
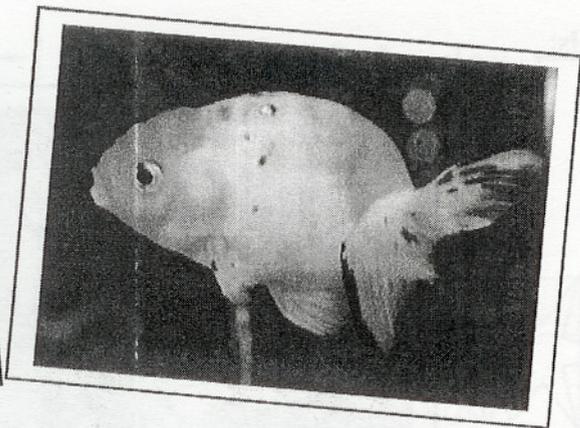
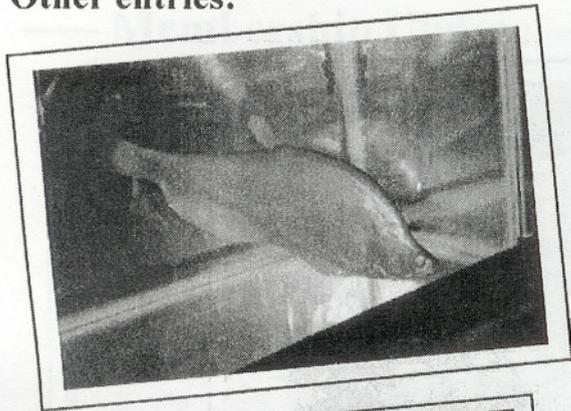
Audrey Hoffman



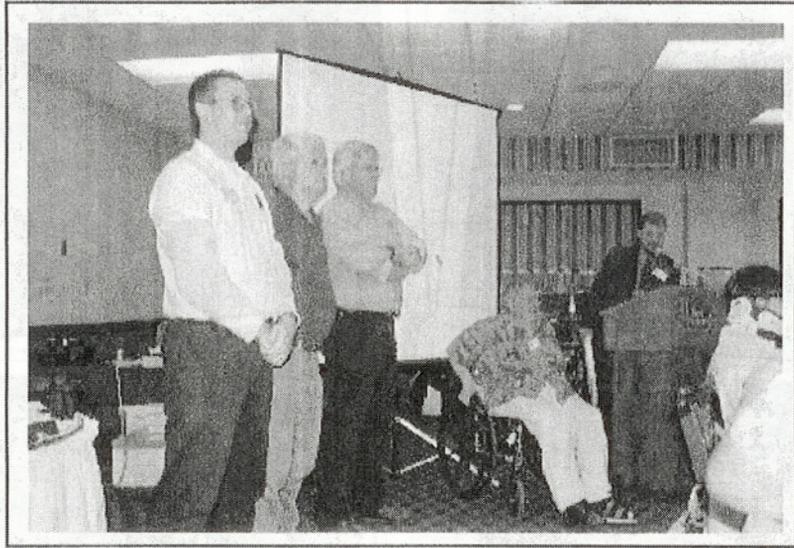
Other entries:



Other entries:



Awards:

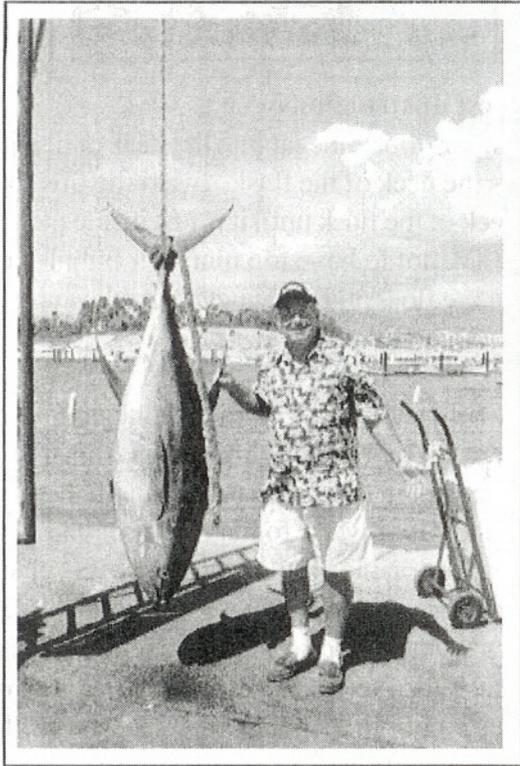


Photographs by: Jamie McCloughlin, Kenneth Warren, and Francine Bethea



Membership Update

Rodney Conway



Kenneth Warren 'keeping fish'



PVAS Calendar

JANUARY 12, 2004

MONDAY

Meeting January
Doors open 7:30 pm

Bowl Show
Mini Auction
Door Prize
Raffle

FEBRUARY 9th

MONDAY

Meeting February 10th
Doors open 7:30 pm

Bowl Show
Mini Auction
Door Prize
Raffle

Emergency Fry Food – Vinegar Eels

Rick Dotson

Everything seems to be going great with your tanks. No algae, fish are looking good and unexpectedly your apistos spawn. What are you going to do? It is two weeks to the next PVAS meeting and you can't find anybody with a microworm culture.

No need to worry because you started vinegar eel culture three or four months ago. Or was it five? And since you can't kill them and they go into suspended animation when you ignore them they will be there when you need them.

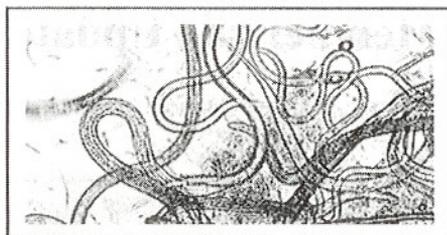
Vinegar eels are easy to culture. Starter cultures are easy to get at a PVAS meeting or by posting on the PVAS list serve. After getting your eels you will need a few items to make them easier to culture.

Culture Instructions

Mix 75% vinegar and 25% water in your jar. Add a spoonful of sugar. Add eels.

Pure vinegar to 50/50 vinegar/water seems to work. I have found that 75/25 works best for me. Some people will use a slice of apple instead of sugar. I find this disintegrates in the culture and becomes messy.

It will take about two or three weeks until you can harvest enough worms to feed everyday. I have found that if I feed eels everyday that I can get about week or so from a gallon culture. I then replace about half the vinegar and add half a spoon of sugar to rebloom the culture.



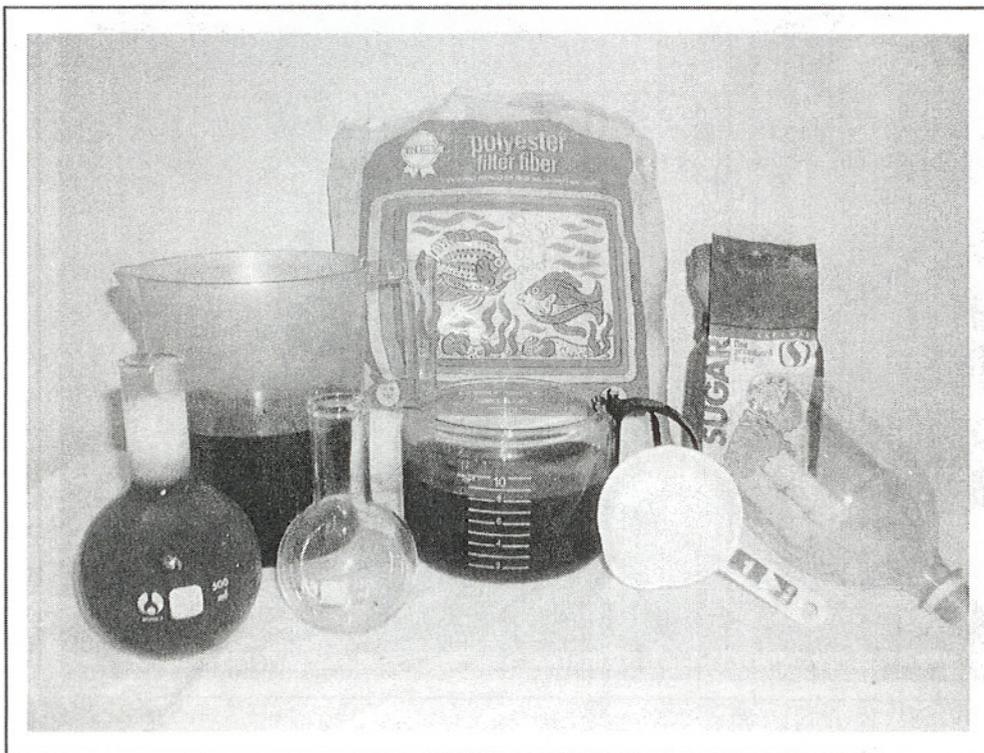
Harvest Instructions

Pour the worms/vinegar into the flask until it just enters the neck of the flask. Insert the floss into the neck of the flask until it is just inside the vinegar. Try not to have too many air bubbles between the floss and the vinegar. Add water (tap seems ok) to fill up the neck.

The worms will move from the vinegar into the water to get more air. I will usually wait about 6 hours and pour off the first eels through the floss, then add more water to harvest a second time. Depending on how strong the culture is you can sometimes get three or four feedings from the flask before having to add new vinegar from the mother culture. When you have harvested all the eels from the flask pour the vinegar back into the mother culture and repeat.

Vinegar eels stay suspended in the water column, which makes them good food for tetras and killifish. I have found that I don't feed them that much because for large numbers of fry baby brine is hard to beat. The best thing about them is that because they can take so much abuse they will be there when you need them.

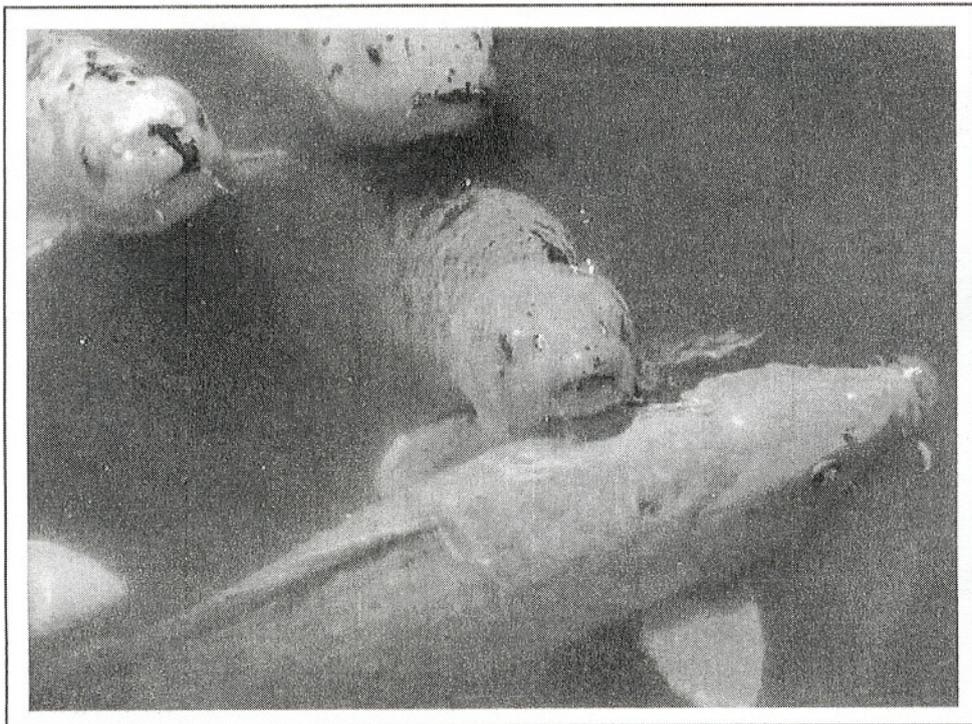
If you have any questions ask me at the monthly meeting, post on the list serve or email me @ rickdotson@aol.com.



Rick Dotson

What You Need

1. Gallon jar with large surface area – pickle jars work although I found that a pitcher works better because it is easier to pour from
2. One gallon of vinegar – \$3 at Giant food. It was a dollar cheaper than Safeway.
3. Sugar – your wife (or husband) will never miss it.
4. Funnel – I found that one made from two-liter bottle works better than one from the hardware store.
5. 500 ml Florence flask - available \$9.21 + shipping from Ward's Scientific on the web at <http://wardsci.com/product.asp?pn=173010>
6. Filter floss – need I say more
7. Cup – To add water to the flask and to pour the worms into the tank.



Koi Terms

Carol Ross

The terminology regarding Koi colors can be very confusing, especially when you just start thinking you have been able to combine terms and use them properly. One example of this is Hikarimuji, from "hikari" (metallic) and "muji" (one color). Since "utsuri" means two colors, then a Hikariutsuri, logically, is a two color metallic fish. Many of the names follow such a logical pattern, but then you come up against "kin" (gold), "gin" (silver), and "ogon" (golden or silvery). Whoops, I was under the impression that gold and silver are metallic colors, - foolish me! At any rate, I had to do a lot of searching for terms for this month's puzzle, and I thought you might like to know the meanings as close as I can come to them, so here goes, in alphabetical order:

AI - indigo blue
 ASAGI - light blue
 BEKKO - white, yellow, orange or red with black blotches
 DOITSU - a few large scales
 GIN - silver
 HI - red spot
 HIKARI - metallic or shining
 KADO - edge
 KAGAMIGOI - mirror scales, one row on each side of dorsal fin
 KARASUGOI - black crow (all black)
 KAWAGOI - leathery
 KAWARIMONO - any other color
 KI - yellow orange
 KIN - gold
 KINKI - metallic yellow
 KINSHIRO - silvery black
 KOHAKU - red & white

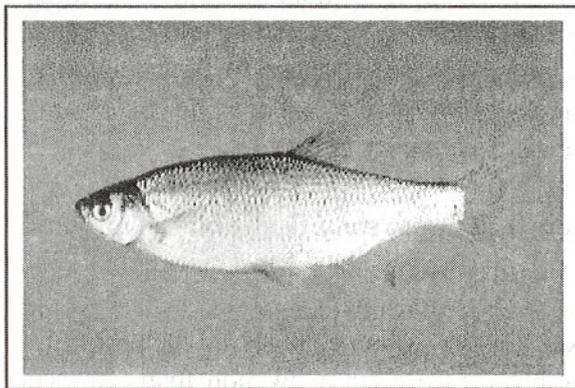
KOI - orig. meant wild carp, now applies to all of them
KOROMO - robed - silver or blue cast over red & white
KUCHIBENI - lipstick (red lips)
KUJAKU - multicolor
MAGO - modern term for wild carp
MATSUBA - pine needle pattern
MOYO - normal patterns
NISHIKI - silk brocade
NISHIKIGOI - fish bred for color
OGON - golden or silvery
RIN - scale
SAN - three
SHIRO - white
SHOWA SANKE - black with white and a small amount of red
SHUSUI - autumn water (blue)
SUI - water
SUMI - inky black on white
TAISHO SANKE - kohaku with black splashes
TANCHO - crane (white with a red head spot)
UTSURI - two colors
UTSURIMONO - color over black
YAMABUKI - bright yellow
YAMATO - Japanese brocade
YOROIGOI - striped

KOI

This article was first published in the Bucks County Aquarium Society's "Buckette".

Golden Shiner

Bob Bock



The golden shiner has to be the best kept secret in the bait shop. People who are familiar with them know these seasonally colorful little fish as irresistible to bass, pike, pickerel and virtually all of the larger sport fish. Recently, I learned from the NANFA e-mail list that the humble shiner will also clear unwanted hair algae and duckweed from an aquarium-without bothering higher aquarium plants.

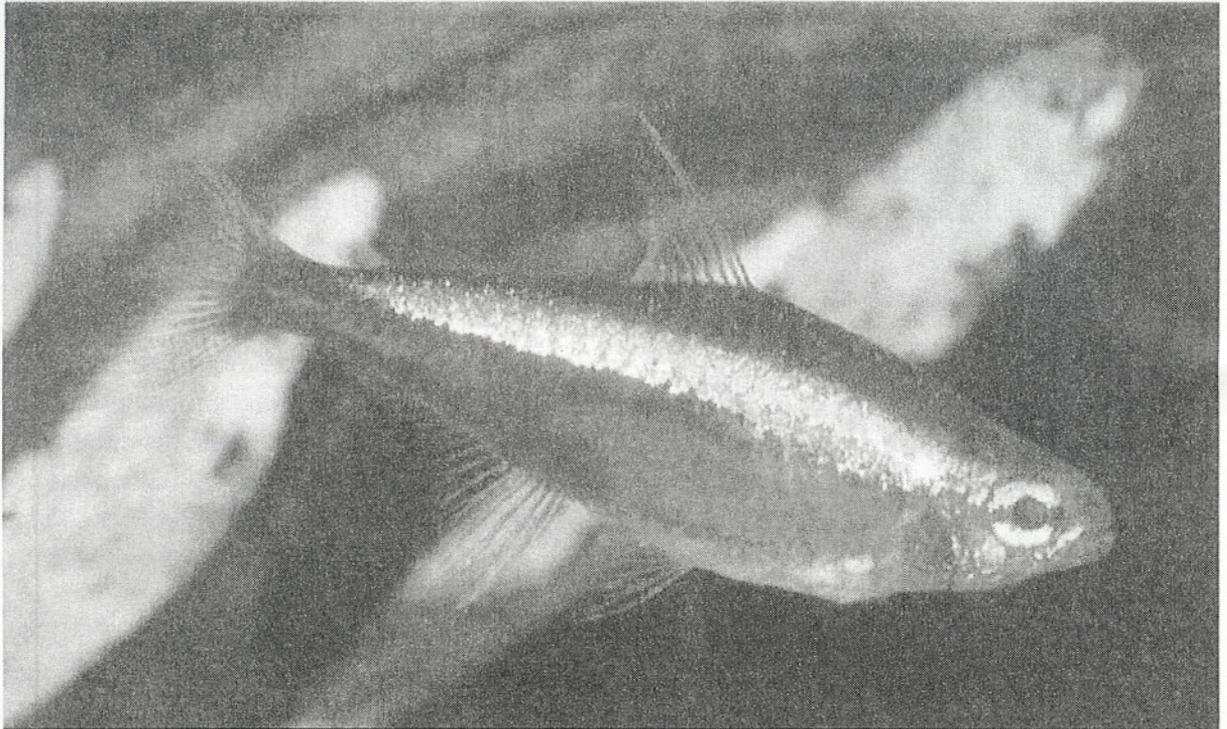
The golden shiner, *Notemigonus crysoleucas*, is a member of the minnow family and is native to the entire Atlantic and Gulf Coast drainages, from Nova Scotia through Texas. In the wild, they tend to form tight shoals and graze on algae.

In bait shops, they're usually sold at from 2 to 4 inches in length, although they're capable of reaching about 12 inches. The smaller ones are priced at about \$ 3-4 a dozen. Foot long shiners are also available, especially in the south, where they are prized as bait for Florida large-mouth bass.

The All Aquarium Catfish Convention Is
Coming....

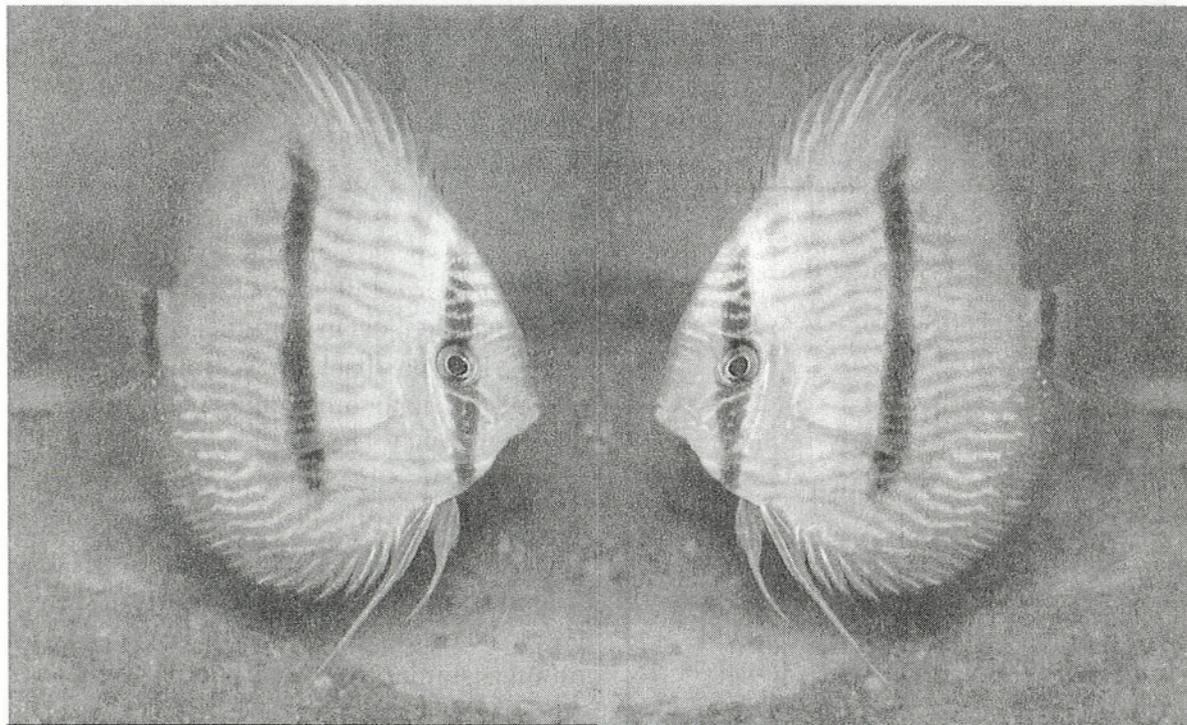


Oh my!



Photos Needed!

Goldfish-Angelfish-Discus-Loaches-Killifish-Tetras-Corydoras-Loricaridae-Crenichichla-Live Food Culturing-African Cichlids-Plants-Central American Cichlids-Book Reviews-Product Reviews-Anabantoids-Rainbows-Diseases-Photography-Saltwater-ReefTanks-Shrimp-Apistogramma-Tank Setups-Tank Problems-Algae Problems-Guppies-Pirahna-Koi-Mollies-Gar-Ponds-Pencilfish-Fish Shows-Fish Shops-Eels-Sharks.....anything!



Articles Needed!

Goldfish-Angelfish-Discus-Loaches-Killifish-Tetras-Corydoras-Loricaridae-Crenichichla-Live Food Culturing-African Cichlids-Plants-Central American Cichlids-Book Reviews-Product Reviews-Anabantoids-Rainbows-Diseases-Photography-Saltwater-ReefTanks-Shrimp-Apistogramma-Tank Setups-Tank Problems-Algae Problems-Guppies-Pirahna-Koi-Mollies-Gar-Ponds-Pencilfish-Fish Shows-Fish Shops-Eels-Sharks.....anything!

Breeders Award Program

John Mangan

Current Standings

<i>PVAS Member</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Award Level</i>
<i>Don Kinyon</i>	<i>1155</i>	<i>Master</i>
<i>Gerry Hoffman</i>	<i>945</i>	<i>Master</i>
<i>Lorne Williams</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>Master</i>
<i>Francine Bethea</i>	<i>345</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
<i>Gene Moy</i>	<i>305</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
<i>John Mangan</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>
<i>David Snell</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>
<i>Dov Goldstein</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>
<i>Shane Linder</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>Breeder</i>
<i>Nancy Johnson</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>Breeder</i>
<i>Michael Kaiser</i>	<i>15</i>	
<i>Kelly Kinyon</i>	<i>10</i>	

Please contact John Mangan to volunteer to be a Checker. Even if there is someone already listed for your area we could always use someone else to help spread the work around.

CORYDORAS VENEZUELANUS & VENEZUELLANUS 'BLACK'

Don Kinyon

photos by author

Here are two species, or quite possibly sub-species of *Corydoras* catfish that I was lucky enough to personally collect in Venezuela. It was an experience I'm sure that I'll never forget, but that's another story for another time. As far as I know, the fish have not yet been officially described, but are most likely a close relative of the *C. aeneus*, and are very similar in outward appearance. *Venezuelanus* are a fairly large *Corydoras*, with the females reaching close to three and one-half inches, the males about two and a half. The coloration is similar to *aeneus*, but the dark green body is highlighted with a bright red/brown shoulder stripe, with the fins and tail the same color. *Venezuelanus* "black" doesn't grow as large, with the females reaching two and one-half inches, the males closer to two. It's markings are the same as it's larger cousin's, only brighter.

Both fish are from clear, flowing streams with gravel bottoms. The smaller "black" species we collected first in Miranda State, Venezuela in a small caño (jungle stream) that the locals called the stream Caño Mendez. The local name may or may not have been correct, but either way, it is a tributary of the Rio Tuy. The larger fish; the *Venezuelanus*, we collected in Carabobo (loosely translated as "stupid face") State from a larger stream: the Rio Chirgua. One of my most vivid memories of the entire trip was the first time I waded into a clear shallow stream and witnessed a group of wild *Corydoras*, possibly a hundred strong, swimming away from me.



Enough about the collecting of the fish. It will suffice to say that getting them back to the States and into their own tanks safely was an experience, but it was well worth the effort. I ended up with two pair of the larger fish and nine of the smaller: five males and four females. The two species spawned within a week of each other, so it was easy to compare the similarities and differences.

Both species were kept in unheated, mostly unadorned tanks, with plenty of aeration and water movement. The temperature varied from the low seventies to the low eighties. The *Venezuelanus* were in a twenty gallon tank, and the smaller fish in a forty-five. Water was straight out of the tap, from a well. The pH is at 7.4 and the total hardness 140 ppm.

Feeding was also the same for both species, and neither showed any signs of being the least bit fussy about meals. Any flake, freeze-dried, frozen or live food that was offered was eaten quickly. With live and frozen food on the daily menu, the females were plump with eggs in no time.

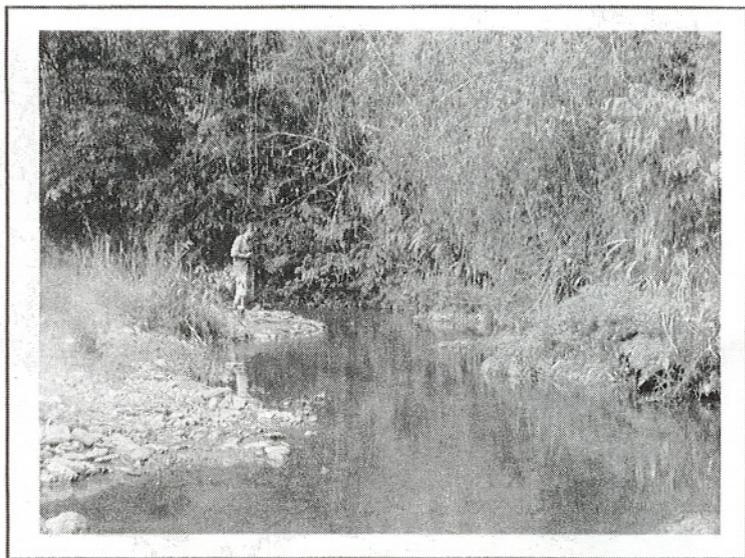
Once the fish were in good breeding condition, all it took was for a weather front to pass over and drop the atmospheric pressure. The *Venezuelanus* spawned when a fairly mild front passed, and about a week later the *Venezuelanus* "Black" spawned when a more severe front came through. Both fish laid the eggs on the glass sides of the tank (almost all on the front: the only clean side of my tanks) and all

Breeding report

the fish appeared to participate in group spawning. There was easily three hundred eggs from the two female *Venezulanus*, while the greater number of black species females produced only one hundred or so total. The larger fishes' eggs were about five thousandths of an inch, with the smaller species a tiny bit smaller.

Some of the eggs proved to be infertile, but approximately two-thirds of each species' eggs hatched, and the fry proved equally hardy. The *Venezulanus* hatched in five days at a temperature in the mid seventies, while the black species took six days. As soon as the fry were ready to eat, about four days after hatching, they could take micro worms and decapsulated brine shrimp eggs. I kept the species separate in shallow plastic boxes with only an inch and a half of water, and water changes were done twice daily at about 90 percent.

With fresh water so often and twice daily feedings, the fry grew quickly and soon outgrew their accommodations, so other arrangements had to be made. The young fish were about a month old by now, and to tell the truth, I was getting tired of the twice-daily water changes. I have used a temporary system that will recirculate water from an aquarium into one of the small tubs and dump the overflow back into the tank. Actually, this "temporary" system is well into its second year of operation. There were so many fry that they had to be split up into several of the tubs, even with the constant water movement, but they grew rapidly in the system and in one month the larger spe-



cies were one-half inch long, and smaller were three-eighths. They were still eating the same foods, but about this time could take the same foods as the adults, only more finely chopped.

By the time the fish were two months old, they had outgrown the tub set-up and could be moved to the main tanks with the parent fish. This caused no problems with adult or young, all fish accepting the change well. The only problem it created was for the fish keeper, who had to do water changes on the much-overcrowded tanks three or four times per week.

These fish proved to be very popular for trading and selling at club events, and are so easy to keep and breed that they could be recommended for even a beginning aquarist. The coloration and active lifestyle of these *Corydoras* make it an attractive fish for the advanced hobbyist as well.

One of the reasons our meetings, workshops and auctions are successful is the support we get from manufacturers, their representatives, and local aquarium shops. We would like to extend our thanks to all who donated their products, time and effort to make our events successful.

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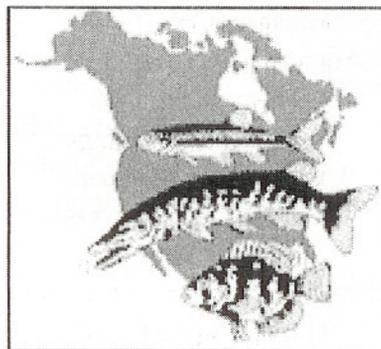
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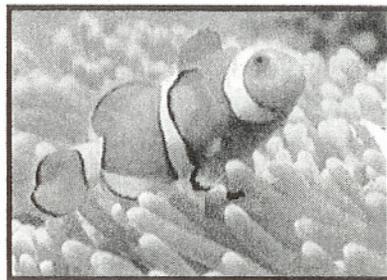
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www.wamas.org



PVAS Membership

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society, Inc
PO Box 664
Merrifield, VA 22116

Membership dues for PVAS are:

Category	Yearly Fee
Family	\$20
Individual	\$12
Corresponding	\$9
Junior (under 18)	\$5

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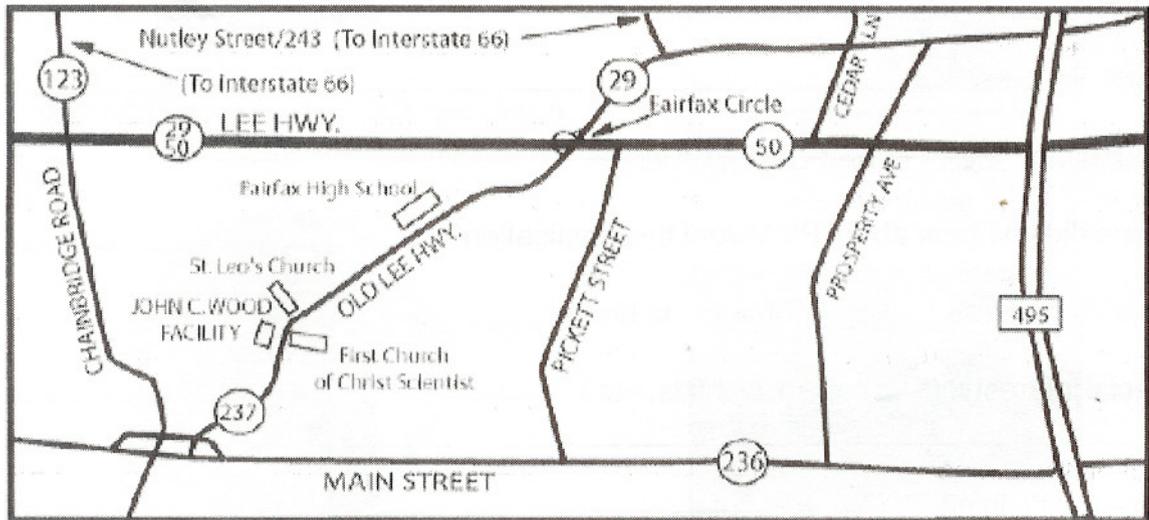
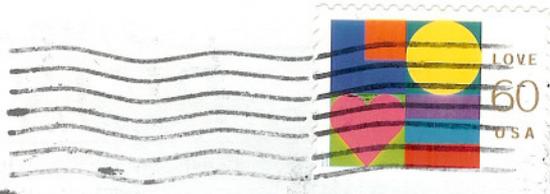
No. of Aquariums: _____ Time in the hobby: _____

Special interests: (e.g. catfish, cichlids, etc.) _____

Reason for joining: _____

Renewals are due in January. At other times of the year, dues are prorated.

Potomac Valley Aquarium Society
P.O. Box 664
Merrifield, VA 22116-0664



Meetings are held at the John C. Wood Facility, 3730 Old Lee Highway (Route 237), Fairfax City, VA. We meet in Room 6, which is located behind the Police Station. Doors open at 7:30 and the meetings start at 8:00 p.m. ---EVERYONE IS WELCOME!