

# \* DELTA TALE \*

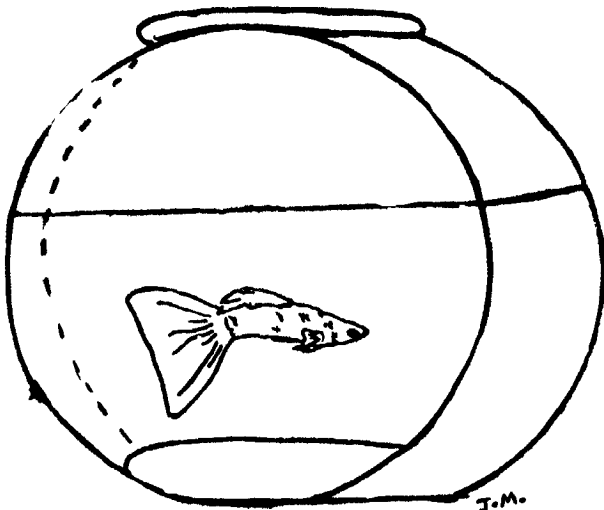
May, 1984  
vol. 15 #5  
50¢

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

**potomac valley aquarium society**

**Annual Fish Show and Auction - 1984  
May 18, 19, 20 (at the Jefferson Fire House,  
just off Arlington Blvd. and Graham Rd.  
on Hodge St. Falls Church, Va.**

**Sanctioned by: FMS and the ACA**



# 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, 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, P.O. Box 6219, Shirlington station, Arlington, VA 22206. Original articles and drawings may be reprinted if credit is given to the author and Delta Tale. Two copies of the publication in which the reprint appears should be sent to Delta Tale; one will be forwarded to the author/artist. All materials for inclusion in Delta Tale should reach the editor by the 20th of the month prior to publication. PVAS and Delta Tale disclaim any responsibility for content or availability of advertised merchandise or service in these pages. Customer satisfaction is a matter to be worked out exclusively between the advertiser and the buyer.

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Printed by TOP CAT PRINTING, 164 Colburn Dr. Manassas Park, VA

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

So you are proud of your favorite fish that you have kept alive for the past year or two. He is pretty big, isn't he, and very colorful. Many times you have seen others like him but they never seem to measure up to his beauty. Well, its time to let everyone else see him and let him display his stuff for one and all.

May is show time for PVAS. Our Annual Spring Show is only weeks away and as our end of the planning is nearing completion, all we need is support from you in entering fish. Be proud of your hobby and show off some of your better specimens. The sprit of friendly competition makes the event a fun time for everyone. Lots of bragging is overheard, unusual fish are seen for the first time, and the overall good feeling of people united in a common bond of a hobby that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and occupations.

I sincerely hope that most of you will take the time to bring a few fish to the Spring Show. It is a truly spectacular sight to see a whole room full of fish bowls, tanks, and fish and listen to the background sound of bubble-bubble. PVAS will be awarding 2 medallions to our own club members who have the most fish winning trophies and ribbons this year. Why not turn out forthe setting up on Friday afternoon or stay around for clean-up on Sunday? You might be surprised at the fun we can have at these tasks.

This auction will be a blockbuster again this year. Expect to see some wonderful fish and plants for that extra tank you plan on setting up. Already we are accumulating items for our raffle. As usual, these will be bigger and better items that are wor than worth the 3/\$1 chances. And don't forget the Super Raffle---\$1 tickets for a complete 55 gallon set-up with stand.

The weekend will be lots of fun, fromFriday set-up to Saturday's dinner and speaker to the final mop-up of the Fire House. Come and join the excitement.

*Larry*



## EDITORIAL

As you should know by now this month is when our spring show and auction take place. The show/auction is THE major event of the PVAS year. To help you get the most out of it, and to encourage you to participate, the majority of this issue will be devoted to topics related to the show and auction. I will attempt to give you all of the information you need for the weekend from how to prepare your fish ahead of time through breeding the things you bought at the auction, and everything in between.

Those of you who were active members last year (and that wasn't very many) may remember that last years show was, to be blunt, terrible. It had the worst turnout since I've been a member and I've been told it was one of the worst ever. I'm not blaming last years show committee or administration, it wasn't really their fault, people just didn't show up to enter fish.

This year we have many new members, most of whom seem rather enthusiastic. I want to encourage all of the newer members (and older ones) to participate. Don't be intimidated. It doesn't take any experience to be succesful at a show. I still remember my first show-- I had only been a PVAS member for a few months but decided to enter a few things anyway. I wasn't very confident and really didn't expect to win anything. I can't describe the thrill. I got upon finding that I had won two trophies and a ribbon (including a best in class). It was the first time in my life that I had ever won anything. So you see everybody has a chance to win, experience, age, number of tanks, etc. has nothing to do with it. All you need to do is give it a try. Even if you don't win youve tried, you've had a new experience, and you'll probably learn something that will give you a better chance next year. And , besides all of that, it's fun.

So as they say in show business-- break a fin.

Just got back from the open fishroom at Gerry Hoffmans. Where were you? The turnout was rather poor (only about six people). Gerry put a lot of time and effort into getting his fishroom ready. He has a lot of interesting fish, many of which I'm sure most of you have never seen. Despite everyone elses absence, I had a good time. I got to see pygmy rasboras spawning (a very rare site), saw a newborn bumblebee shrimp and lots of other neat stuff. There was also a kayak exhibition by Jim Long ( in Brood Run, not in the fish room) and best of all I got a free dinner.

There will be no open house in May due to the show but I hope we have a better turnout in June. The open house program is for your benefit, support it. Besides getting a chance to see many rare fishes and learning how to care for them it's also a lot of fun and a chance to socialize and get to know some of the other members.

John

# DOTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON VIRGINIA 22206

## **Annual Fish Show and Auction - 1984 May 18, 19, 20 (at the Jefferson Fire House, just off Arlington Blvd. and Graham Rd. on Hodge St. Falls Church, Va.**

### **Sanctioned by: FAS and the ACA**

#### SCHEDULE

##### Friday, May 18:

6 PM to 9 PM - Registration....)

) These times are inclusive  
) for all entries.

##### Saturday, May 19:

9 AM to Noon - Registration )

1 PM to 5 PM - Judging (Only Judges and designated Show Committee personnel  
will be allowed in the Show area.)

5:30 to 7 PM - Public Viewing

Special Feature - A new feature has been added to the PVAS weekend of excitement. We have arranged, (with our good friends at Mr. T's Restaurant, located at 5831 Columbia Pike, Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia) for us to meet there for cocktails, Dinner, and to listen to our guest speaker. (No advance reservations are required, but we do need to know, by noon Saturday, May 19th, if you are planning to attend.)

Cocktails - 6:30 to 8 PM (Cash Bar)

Dinner - Promptly at 8 PM (Menu open to your choice)

Speaker - Nationally Renowned Ichthyologist, Edward C. Taylor

Subject - The Fishes of Australia and New Guinea

##### Sunday, May 20:

8:30 AM to 1 PM - Public Viewing (The public is cordially invited to  
remain for the presentation of awards and the auction)

9 AM to 12:30 PM - Registration for auction

12:30 PM - Presentation of Awards

1 PM - Auction begins

SHOW ENTRY FEES: Single fish - \$1.50 (A female may be added, but will not be judged)  
Pairs and family entries - \$2.00  
Plants - \$1.50  
Set Tanks (Non-Dealer) - \$1.00  
Dealer Tanks - no charge  
Slides and Prints - \$1.00  
Artwork - \$1.50

There is no entry fee or admission charge for the Auction or Public Viewing

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AWARDS: Trophies or plaques for Best in Show (Classes I-V), Reserve in Show (Classes I-V), Best of Class (Classes I-VII, IX & X), and for First Place in each of the Subclasses in those classes. Ribbons for Second and Third Place in all subclasses. Dealer's Rotating Award for Class VIII.

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ALL CLASSES ARE OPEN TO PUBLIC COMPETITION

- I. Livebearers
    - a. Delta Tail Guppies, Male
    - b. Delta Tail Guppies, Female
    - c. Guppies, all other
    - d. Mollies
    - e. Swordtails and Platies
    - f. Goodies
    - g. Other livebearing fishes
  - II. Egglayers (Non-Cichlid)
    - a. Catfish, Corydoras
    - b. Catfish, African
    - c. Catfish, all other
    - d. Betta Splendens
    - e. All other Bettas and Anabantoids
    - f. Sharks and Loaches
    - g. Tetras
    - h. Barbs
    - i. Goldfish and Koi
    - j. Danios, Brachydarios, Rasboras
    - k. Killifish
    - l. North American Native Fishes
    - m. Other Non-Cichlid Egglayers
  - III. Cichlids
    - a. New World Large (over 7" mature)
    - b. New World Medium (over 4" and under 7")
    - c. New World Dwarf (under 4" mature)
    - d. Angelfish
    - e. Rift Lake, Malawi
    - f. Rift Lake, Tanganyika
    - 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. Art
    - a. Frameable Art
    - b. Crafts
- 

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO ALL ENTRIES

Once entered in the competition, no entry may be removed without the consent of the Show Chairman until after completion of the awards ceremony on Sunday. All entries must be picked up by the owners by 6 PM on Sunday, otherwise they may be disposed of at the discretion of the Show Chairman.

P.V.A.S. can assume no liability for any of the entries, but at least one qualified hobbyist will be on duty at all times to insure the safety and well-being of the fish and to guard against theft or damage.

### SHOW RULES

#### Classes I to VIII (Fish, Plants, Set Tanks)

Tanks, other containers and stands: Containers must have at least two clear flat sides. Tanks in excess of 5½ gallons must be accompanied by a stand. All tanks, drum bowls and stands must be furnished by the entrant. All entries in classes I thru IV should be labeled above the water line with the common or generic name of the fish. Labels will be available at the registration table. P.V.A.S. Committee members will be available to assist in correct identification.

Entrant should bring a small pump and an extension cord for each large tank, which may have to be located at a distance from the air source provided by P.V.A.S.

No restriction on tank size for Classes VII and VIII, however, entrant must supply all equipment - tank, stand, filter, air, lights, extension cord, etc..

Decorations and Lighting: No decorations or bottom cover allowed for Classes I thru VI. Individual lighting allowed only for large tanks, on stand, which may have an owner-provided hood or strip light.

Air, Heaters, Filtration: The P.V.A.S. air system will furnish a constant air source for all drum bowls and small tanks. Entrants must supply their own airline and air stones. (A supply will be on sale by P.V.A.S. at the registration table.) Box filters or outside filters will be allowed in all classes at the discretion of the entrant. Entries in Class IV may be fitted with an undergravel filter, but, the tank must otherwise be bare. Heaters will be allowed in all classes.

Class V (Family of Fish): Consist of the display of an adult, breeding pair along with a number of their fry. The fish may either be placed together in a single tank or bowl; in a compartmented tank, or shown in two adjacent tanks or bowls.

Class V (Plants): Consist of the display of any variety of aquatic plant (rooted, cuttings, floating, etc..) Only a single species may be displayed in an individual container. Compartmented containers may display only one single species per compartment.

Classes VII and VIII (Set Tanks): May represent either a fresh water or marine environment and may be decorated and stocked as desired. These tanks will be judged on the overall appearance of the contents. The external appearance of the tank will not be considered. (It is suggested that you arrive early in order to complete set-up before judging begins.)

No plants may be added to Classes I thru V; No fish may be added to class VI

Judging: All entries will be judged and pointed in each class in accordance with current standards.

Classes IX and X (Photography and Art): Entries will be accepted by mail if mailed to P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6219, Shilington Station, Arlington, Va. 22206 in time to arrive no later than noon, Friday, May 18, 1984. Entry fee must be enclosed. Entries will be returned only if a stamped, self-addressed mailer is enclosed.

Art entries must consist of a non-photographic presentation of fresh or salt-water fish and associated environments.

Judging of photography will be based primarily on technique and composition. Art will be judged on the basis of originality, design and overall artistic merit.

Entries in the photography and art classes are expected to be the work of the entrant. If appropriate, entries may be titled, but should not display the name of the entrant.

Sunday, May 20 - Auction Rules:

Rules for the Seller:

1. Limited to 15 bags per person; fish, plants, or hobby related items. (No exception to this rule). Anyone may sell - not just P.V.A.S. members.
2. Registration will begin at 9 AM and end promptly at 12:30 PM. If you are in line at 12:30, your items will be registered.
3. Auction will start immediately after the awards ceremony.
4. Each item is assigned a \$1 minimum, unless seller wishes to assign a higher minimum. Seller may lower the minimum on an item that does not move during the auction.
5. Bags will be offered as is. Contents may not be split into two or more Transactions.
6. No payment will be made to seller on the day of the auction. Payment will be forwarded by mail within 10 days following the auction.
7. 2/3rds of the selling price goes to the seller, 1/3rd is retained by P.V.A.S.
8. All items not sold during the auction must be claimed by the seller immediately upon conclusion of the auction; otherwise they will be disposed of at the club's discretion.
9. Fish to be auctioned should be offered in clear, plastic bags with a minimum amount of water; air filled and sealed. (P.V.A.S. is not responsible for the condition of fish improperly bagged). The common or generic name of the fish and any minimum over \$1 should be marked on the bag.

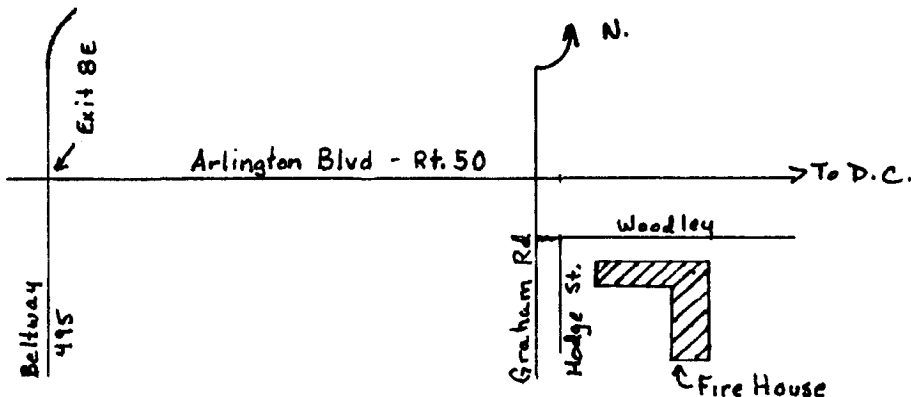
Rules for Bidders:

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

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**RAFFLE!** Aquarium related items will be raffled off at intervals during the auction. You must be present to win.  
As a Grand Finale, a 55-gallon tank set-up will be raffled at the end of the auction. You do not have to be present to win.  
Tickets for both raffles may be purchased before and during the show and auction.

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## THE CURSE

by Sue E. Kroll, SDFFS

In our society there are numerous curses which plague modern man. You know, like the infamous "sock monster". This is the creature that lurks inside your washer or dryer (he prefers the dryer, actually) awaiting the next bundle of laundry. He preys upon the unsuspecting socks, devouring them one by one. Anyone who has come up one or two socks short has encountered this being.

In the tropical fish hobby we also have a mythical entity. It is the legendary "fish show curse". It occurs from the moment you learn about an annual fish show and become enthused about participating in it (well, not you, but your fish). The curse is devastating. Your prized finny possessions will croak unexpectedly, get torn up in a fight, decide to split by jumping out of the tank, or miscellaneous other maladies that will render this fish useless for a show.

I have learned several valuable lessons while picking out fish for others to view and "oooh and ahhh" over. I have lost a very large angel by, perhaps, a heart-attack when he was transferred to another tank to condition him/her. Condition, ha! I guess he'll condition the soil now. (He was to large to flush down the usual burial pot.) I also lost a fire-eel in the same tank. He just made a loop-de-loop and died standing on his head. I had to look close before I realized he was dead-- looked like he was trying to do acrobatics. (He had a weird attitude anyway).

My female australe has suddenly disappeared. (Well, I guess that's not unusual for my 20 gallon tank. My zigzag eel recently appeared after being unseen for five months. I thought I had siphoned him onto my front lawn last may during my tank cleaning. My Badis badis leaves view for about two weeks at a time. The tank must have a time warp in it, or a doorway to another dimension.) Anyway, back to my australes... I can't show the male, who has excellent color and long filaments on his fins because the killies are shown in pairs. My Bettas were in a "Betta Barracks" awaiting their permanent home in a divided tank when the barracks slipped, causing them to be turned loose in a tank of African cichlids(!) My two very prized specimens ended up looking like pitiful little bodies with no fins whatever. The third one died. The two who survived, however, would have had great deportment for the show. They never quit flaring and hating each other.

One morning my son went to sit on the couch and yelled "oh no!" He reached under a chair and picked up my 27" swamp eel which was to be my entry in the oddball class. Luckily he was still damp (although very sticky) and he survived with no ill effects. (In fact, he won the oddball class and also Judges choice for best entry of the show.)

The Curse cont.

I won't go on with the gory details any longer, but I feel I must let you know how the curse works. I have not had one fish that was chosen to go to the show remain unscathed. Even the Bettas that were seperated and to themselves developed split fins!

I have formulated several "rules" that I feel should be followed before a show in order to keep your fish and your sanity intact:

Rule 1. GLANCE OVER YOUR FISHES QUICKLY. This will not give the fish, and the curse, a chance to know what you are thinking.

Rule 2. TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER while looking into the tank. (Catches the curse off-guard.)

Rule 3. POINT TO A POOR SPECIMEN, stating "Look, Martha, how he has grown. He's perfect for the fish show!" The other fish will be relieved and think they have not been chosen.

Rule 4. DO NOT STARE AT A CHOSEN FISH. Watch him out of the corner of your eye so that he is not aware he is IT.

Rule 5. IF YOU MUST MOVE YOUR FISH to another tank to heal split fins, etc., DO SO NONCHALANTLY, talking about what a terror he is by bullying the other fishes, and that you have to seperate them in order to protect the others. In this manner the curse will not know who is to go and who is to be spared. This method also builds up the fish's ego, and is great for deportment on the day of the show. (He thinks he's really tough.)

Just remember, even if you do follow these rules, and your fish is perfect specimen with excellent condition, perfect fins, etc., the curse has a little brother: He has no name, but lurks in the net you use to dip your prize into his show tank. He will most surely get even for your thwarting the curse by gleefully splitting fins and knocking off scales.

Reprinted from The Tropical Breeze, San Diego Tropical Fish Society.

ed. note- as one that has been a victim of the curse more times than I care to think about, I intend to follow all of the above advice. I am also going to try something else to help fool the curse and his little brother- on the morning of the show I'm going to tell my fishes, as I'm loading them into the car, that I'm taking them to see a movie. Or better yet, a double feature: Jaws and Jaws 2. J.M.

You should pick which fish you want to show as far ahead of time as possible. You should pick more than you actually intend to take and think of them all as possibilities since, as you read in the preceding article, if something can possibly go wrong it will. So you should have some extras picked out as backups.

The fish you pick should be as close to full size as possible. If possible put your potential show fish into tanks of their own or somewhere where there is little chance of being picked on, getting torn fins etc. Also- give them as much room as possible and make regular partial water changes to promote growth and good health. A healthy "happy" fish will be more active and look much better to the judges than one that may be perfect but just sits around looking "unhappy".

Food is also very important. Give your show choices the best foods you possibly can. Use a variety of foods and especially live foods if at all possible. Good food will do more to get a fish into show condition than anything else.

Make sure you are going to have enough, and the right sizes, of bowls and/or tanks to show your fishes in. Be sure to use the proper size container for each fish. (Remember the container must have at least two flat sides, glass is preferable to plastic). If a fish needs a bigger bowl than you have go out and buy or borrow one. Don't try to cram a fish into a bowl that is too small for it. Make sure the bowl is clean inside and out. A dirty bowl may influence the judges opinion of your fish.

Getting your bowls cleaned and organized ahead of time will save you a lot of time and panic on the morning of the show. Also- make sure you have enough airline tubing, airstones, etc. and suitable boxes to carry everything in.

Read through the show flyer and be sure you understand all of the rules and which class your fish will be in. If something is unclear to you ask someone. Don't wait until the last minute and have your fish disqualified on a technicality.

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#### ANABANTOID SPECIALTY GROUP NOW BEING FORMED

An organization is now being formed for the anabantoid enthusiasts of North America. This organization will give some overdue recognition to the labyrinth fishes (gouramis, paradise fish, bettas, ctenopomas, climbing perch, etc.). To offer your assistance or if you are interested in becoming a member, you are cordially invited to contact: MIKE KOLP, ANABANTOID ASSOC. ORGANIZATIONAL COMM., 1319 RIALTO LANE, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105.

BUBBLE POWER!!!

-OBITUARY-

We were saddened to learn this week of the sudden unexpected death of one of our most active society members, SOMEONE ELSE.

Let us reflect upon this very sobering news. SOMEONE ELSE'S passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. ELSE had been with us for years, and for every one of those years, SOMEONE did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results;  
" SOMEONE ELSE can work with that group. Let SOMEONE ELSE do it."

It was common knowledge that SOMEONE ELSE was among the largest supporters of the society. Whenever there was a job to be done or another worker to help, everyone assumed that SOMEONE ELSE would step in to help. SOMEONE ELSE was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing to be superhuman, but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everybody expected to much of SOMEONE ELSE. Now SOMEONE ELSE is gone. We can no longer depend on SOMEONE ELSE. It looks as if all the needs of the society are to be taken care of, then we must do them together.

REPRINTED FROM P.A.A.S. REPORT  
AUTHOR UNKNOWN

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SHOW/AUCTION WEEKEND- DAY 1  
Friday May 18

J.M.

This is mainly setup day. Volunteers will be needed to help set up the show stands and otherwise get the room ready. There is never too much help so please come if you can. Don't shrug it off and say somebody else can do it (he can't, as you see above). Everyone willing to help out should meet at the firehouse about 3:00 p.m.

If you are not going to be able to register your fish Saturday morning you can do it Friday night from 6-9p.m.

DAY 2-SHOW DAY  
Sat. May 19

Now is when all of your advance preparation will pay off. Your fish should all be in top shape and ready to go.

Make your final selection of who is to go. A show fish should be full size (or as close as they get in an aquarium). There should be no torn fins, missing scales, deformities, etc. The fish should be active and have good color.

DO NOT FEED your show fish today. If you do their wastes will dirty and foul their bowl rapidly. This will put the fish under a lot of extra stress. It won't hurt them to be a little hungry (as a matter of fact, it may even make them a little more active and alert looking).

If you followed the advice in the "before the show article" you will have all of your bowls and tanks cleaned, lined up, and waiting for your fish by now. If not, you'd better start washing. Dry the outside with newspaper-it makes the glass very clean and shiny.

Now the water-it should come from the fish's tank if possible and be clean, clear, and colorless(there is a difference between clear and colorless). If you are using a drum bowl, DO NOT fill it all the way to the top. Only fill it about 1/2 to 3/4 full so that you have the largest possible air surface.

Very carefully catch your fish and place it in the bowl, be sure not to tear any of its fins. See the article on showing large catfish for more tips. Take a piece of plastic(a plastic bag works well) and secure it over the opening with a rubber band. The bowl should be labeled above the waterline with the common and/or scientific name of the fish. The label should be written with waterproof ink and/or completely covered with transparent tape to prevent smearing.

The bowls should be placed in a sturdy box with paper or cardboard in between them to prevent knocking together. They won't break without this, but they will make a very nerve wracking sound every time you go over a bump.

An alternate method to the one above is to carry your fishes to the show in plastic bags or buckets and place them in their bowls after arriving. If you have large fish or one that may be damaged easily, it is best to transport them in a bucket.

Before leaving home, make sure you have all of the airline tubing, airstones, etc. you will need (the club should have some available for sale if you forget or need a little extra).

Upon arriving at the show hall, go inside and take a look around before bringing in your fish. Find the registration table.

After registering, place your fish in the proper spot on the show stands. If you're not sure where to put your fish, ASK. You can now punch several small holes in the plastic tops to let air in, place tubing through, etc.

Now comes the hardest part, waiting while the judging takes place (1-5 pm). If you can't wait until tomorrow to see how your fish did, the show will be open to the public from 5:30-7:00 pm.

Go see the fish early so you can go hear our guest speaker (see the show flyer for details).

Finally, go home and rest up for tomorrow.

J.M.

# SHOWING LARGE CATFISH

by CHUCK DAVIS

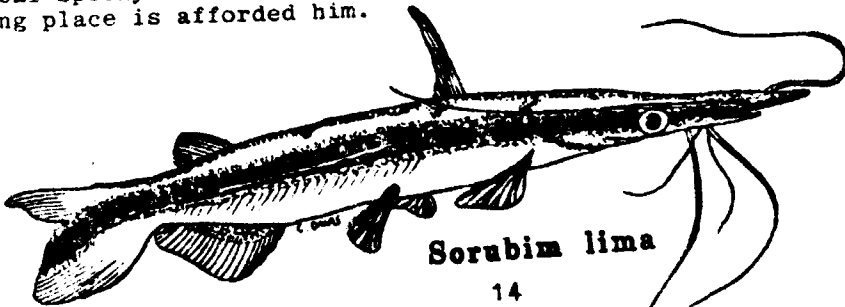
To the viewing public at an all-species tropical fish show, there are only three attributes a fish can have that will allow it to "steal the show". Admittedly, they do sway the judges sometimes, but more often than not, the judges are above being taken in by the superficial standards of an extraordinary appearance. The first "show stopper" is a fish that is exceptionally colored or marked. Bright, beautiful colors that immediately catch the eye, and often distract the average observer from obvious flaws the fish may have. Clown loaches, jaguar cats, and many African cichlids fall into this category. The second attraction is often the largest attention getter, and that is an exceptionally ugly fish. A fish that may appear to be grotesque to some people, often can cause a lot of attention to be drawn to it. Wolf fish, stone fish, and bristle-nose plecos could be considered in this category. There are some who would put the lionhead oranda in this group also. The third category is a sure fire item to draw some attention to the exhibit, and that is to enter a fish of tremendous proportion. Size is always noticed, and fish that have to be exhibited in tanks of 30 gallons or more are sure to get the viewers eye. Usually the two types of fish that wind up in this category are the large cichlids and the large catfish.

It is my firm belief that several of the catfish species fall into all three of the above categories at one time; and therefore, are always good entries and contenders for 'best of class' and 'best of show'. It goes without saying, that they still have to be in top condition. One of the reasons I got into raising so many large catfish is because I am an ardent competitor in the local aquarium club shows.

## Conditioning fish for show.

Conditioning large catfish for show takes a multi-faceted approach to keeping the animals, right from the beginning. And conditioning is the top priority for any fish entered into a show.

**WATER AND TANK CONDITIONS:** Needless to say the water must be at the very least tolerably clean. Periodic water changes are good, but water chemistry (pH, hardness, etc.) is not that important as long as the extremes are avoided, and drastic changes are not made. Clamped fins, languidly behavior, and cloudy eyes are sure signs of poor water quality. A very large water change (70-80%) should be your first course of action. Tank conditions are also important for show fish. I prefer to house my show stock, one prize animal to a tank. I usually leave the aquarium bare, right from the beginning. Two things are accomplished by this: 1. it prepares the fish against the likelihood that the baron show tank will cause him some stress, so his color won't fade and his behavior will be more normal; 2. the less likely he or she will do any damage to fins or body on objects like rocks, barrels, or pots. For real spooky fish exceptions are made, and only one smoothed-edge hiding place is afforded him.



## SHOWING LARGE CATFISH continued:

**FEEDING:** There is nothing I can think of that points to long term poor conditioning, especially in catfish, than a sunken belly. With rare exception, catfish should be full bellied, almost robust animals. I say 'almost robust' because I do not recommend feeding catfish for at least two and sometimes three full days before a weekend show. By not feeding there is less chance of fouling the show tank water, and they could become more active if they are hungry. Large catfish require large quantities of food, to provide proper growth and condition. Personally, I prefer feeding the combination of bulk type foods (a good pellet food, or Square Meal Cat Food) and live foods (like guppies, goldfish or killies). Certain large catfish - like plecos, panaques, and some African types - require vegetable

## Transporting catfish to show.

Transporting fish can be the most important part of going to a show. What you do with the the animal from the home tank to the show tank is a very critical period and can be the difference in winning or losing.

**TRANSPORTATION CONTAINER:** Personally I prefer to use solid type containers for transporting fish, as opposed to plastic bags. This is especially true with catfish, because of their rugged exterior, they can easily puncture a plastic bag (even large shipping bags that are doubled). The combination of plastic and a solid container does work well. For the very large cats, I use a dark green trash bag inside the appropriate size plastic bucket, trash pail, or diaper pail. I mostly use the trash bag to block out the light, which help calm the fish considerably. I sometimes do use a portable aerator, but not with an airstone, because soft sided fish can damage themselves in the container on them. Instead I insert a plant weight inside the plastic air tubing until nothing is exposed. This weight keep the tubing from rising up. I also use this method to aerate my display aquariums in the show.



marble catfish

**WATER:** Water in the transportation container should be 1/3 from the tank the fish is housed in and 2/3 new aged water. Of course, the temperature of the new water should be within a few degrees of the tank water. Water is important but so is the air above the water line in a sealed container. So be sure to allow for enough surface air space.

**TEMPERATURE:** Guarding against rapid temperature changes while transporting fish is very important. The use of styrofoam containers has been the most convenient way. You can also use picnic coolers, or just pack the buckets and pails in the car with old blankets. Anything that will stabilize the temperature will be acceptable. This is also a consideration for the extra water that you bring to fill the exhibit tank. You should do your best to keep that water as close to the same temperature as the bucket water as possible. While we are talking about extra water, it would be good to point out that I always use new, aged water, and not tank water. The possibility of a bacteria bloom in old water is greater, and would cloud your display tank and put a great amount of stress on your fish.

## SHOWING LARGE CATFISH continued:

NETTING: Putting a large catfish in a net can cause some serious problems. The fins have sharp pointed rays that get tangled up in the net. The body of the very large cats only fits halfway into the net and when the fish flops around he damages his sides on the frames of the net. So I use three different approaches: 1. I have made a net out of a ladies slip, this material is hard to penetrate, and holds water longer so this does not panic as easily. I also make it very deep, so that a large fish fits completely into it. 2. Try to catch the fish in a larger container. Corner the animal in his tank with a large plastic bag, or a bucket. 3. With very big catfish, I lower the water level to the base of the dorsal fin of the fish. I then get someone to help and we take the four corners of a wet towel and slide the towel under the fish and pick him up, and towel acts like a sling, pins his fins and controls the fish's body. There is a fourth way, but you must be very careful that either you or the fish doesn't get hurt. And that is to pick the animal up by hand. I use this method with the big plecos. I pick them up by firmly grasping the head just behind the eyes and the caudal peduncle keeping the body in a straight line.

### Do's and don'ts at the show.

Sometimes just a few small things can make the difference in placing first or even not placing at all. Most of the time, when two fish are rated equally by a judge, the entire display that puts its best foot forward will move into the first spot. Try and follow these helpful hints:

1. Clean equipment - bring a paper towel or rag and make sure that all of your equipment is as clean as possible.
2. Neat equipment - make sure your display gives a neat, well-balanced appearance. A top that fits properly, and is taped shut neatly.
3. Tank size - the tank should be the right size. Don't use an overly large tank, it demeans the size of your fish. A little smaller tank will make the fish look bigger.
4. Filtering - If you are going to use a filter, don't just grab any old one, pick one that makes a good appearance. I prefer the Jungle "dirt magnet" sponge filter, that has been running in one of my better tanks for about a week (that way it has already started a nice bacterial culture). Sponge will also keep the fish from damaging himself during the show.
5. Placing - if you have the opt-on of placing your fish in the show, put the fish where it most resembles the lighting characteristics he used to at home. If you have a very colorful entry, put it where the light will reflect well on the fish, at the time of the judging ( if they are judging at night, place fish near the artificial light because the daylight will be gone.).
6. Ditty box - put together a ditty box of things that you might need at the show, so if you need them, you got them. Things like: extra tubing, valves, medications, handi-wipes, tape, knife, siphon hose, etc. And of course aspirins.

One final word. Start with a good fish. A fish that has potential. Do not start raising a fish that has obvious flaws, that will not correct themselves over time. Flaws like a crooked first ray of the dorsal or pectoral fins, or a bent spine are there for ever. Ripped finnage and a thinned out body are usually restored with good conditioning habits. As my father always says, "you can't make a Cadillac out of a Chevy!"



As with your show fish it is a good idea to decide at least a few days ahead of time what you want to take to the auction. Here's your chance to get rid of all of those extra fry you raised for your BAP points and/ or all of those things you've lost interest in. What about those spare tanks and equipment that's gathering dust. Clean 'em up and bring 'em in. As with the show read the rules carefully.

You are allowed to bring in up to 15 items to be auctioned off but PLEASE do not bring 15 bags of the same thing. It will just make everyone groan "oh no, not ANOTHER bag of those". Make sure your fish are bagged properly (see the next article). Also- do not bring JUNK. Ask yourself "would I buy this" or better yet, since you were dumb enough to buy it once, "would I be mad if someone stuck me with this". Trash goes in the trash can, not to the auction.

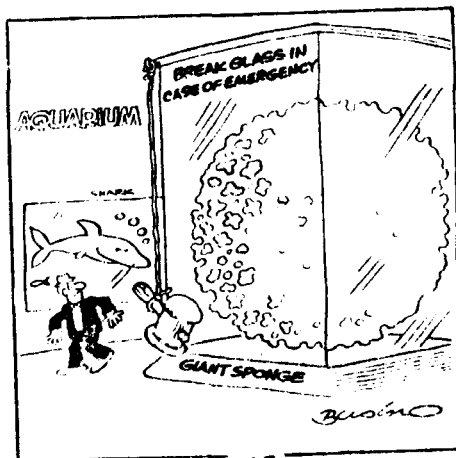
Awards for the show will be presented just prior to the auction (see the show flyer for details).

Upon arriving at the auction find out where the registration table is before hauling in your armloads of stuff. After registering make sure you get a bidding number. This is how you will be identified when you wish to buy something.

PVAS auctions are always well attended and have lots of good stuff offered for sale. We usually have numerous people from other clubs come to our auctions, both to buy and to sell things not usually available in our area. Our auctions are usually rather long so plan to spend the day. Refreshments will be available and there will be a lot of good stuff raffled off (including a 55 gal. setup).

After the auction volunteers will be needed to stay and help clean up. If someone whose had several heart attacks could stay after the fall auction and mop floors then there is no reason why some of you younger members can't stay and help. If guilt won't get you how about this- after the fall auction, besides cleaning up the dirt the clean up crew got to help "clean up" the leftover hotdogs and cokes.

J.M.



## PACKING FISH FOR AN AUCTION

John Mangan, PVAS

If you go to enough auctions you will eventually see fish packed in just about anything that will hold water (and some things that won't). While large and/or spiny fish, such as large cichlids or catfish, are best in a bucket or tank most fish should be placed in clear plastic bags. When I say plastic bag I don't mean ziploc bags. What I'm referring to are plastic fish bags. "Well where do I get these bags?" you may ask. Simple- go into any pet store that sells fish and ask. They will usually have several different sizes and will gladly sell, or if you are a regular customer maybe even give, you as many as you will need. They aren't very expensive, the small ones are only a few cents apiece.

Having your fish in a decent looking bag will increase the price you get for it at the auction. If your fish is in a nice, clean, new, bag it will give people the impression that you care about your fish and that the fish in the nice bag is probably of a higher quality than the one in the used ziploc bag. The higher price you get for your fish will more than offset the small investment in plastic bags. Remember the fish will be in the bag all day so make sure that you get enough and the right sizes of bags so they aren't crowded. If you need to use more than one bag for a group of fish the bags can be fastened together with strong tape. Also when figuring out how many bags you will need keep in mind that the fish should all be double bagged. There are several reasons for this- catfish and other spiny fish will often poke holes in a single bag; if the inner bag leaks you will still have the outer one; there will be no corners for the fish to get stuck in (more on this later); and finally- if you've ever been to an auction you have probably seen at least a few bags of fish tumble off of the table and crash onto the floor, a double bag will give your fish more protection.

The next thing to do is to label your bags properly. There are several methods that can be used. A piece of paper can be placed in between the two bags or you can write on the outside with a waterproof marker. The label should contain the common and/ or scientific name of the fish, the number of fish in the bag, and the minimum bid if there is one. Also include any other information that could be helpful- are the fish a pair, do they need any special care, is there something special about them( ie are they a new strain or rare). Little bits of information like this will often increase the value of your fish.

Bags should contain a minimum amount of water and as much air as possible. DO NOT seal them with wire ties. Use tight rubber bands or best of all a good knot (see next page).

packing fish cont.-

Tying a bag properly is not difficult yet there are a lot of people who have been keeping fishes for many years taht still can't do it. There are even many people in the fish bussiness that don't do it right. Below are step by step instructions that, with a small amount of practice, will allow you to tie good firm, non-leaky bags.

Step 1- open a bag and place your thumbs at opposite corners inside of the opening. Now place several fingers on the outside of the bag and against your thumbs. Press your fingers in and up. You should now have turned the top 2-3" of the bag inside-out forming a collar. This will make it easier to hold the bag and pour in the water.

Step 2- hold the top of the bag firmly with one hand and then spread the opening wide with the other. Now, still holding tight, pour in the water (make sure you take your hand out of the bag first).

Step 3- unfold the top of the bag.

Step 4- hold the top of the bag firmly with one hand and with the other spread the entire bag open . Resting the bottom of the bag on a table will make this easier if you are having a problem.

Step 5- now grasp the bag firmly very near the top. This should trap a lot of air in the bag if you did the last step right. DO NOT blow into the bag to fill it with air. "Used air" is no good for the fish.

Step6- With your free hand grasp the tip of the bag that should be sticking through your other hand. Pull up until the bag is very firm like a balloon.

Step 7- now twist the top of the bag until it resembles a rope. Wrap this around your index finger making a loop. Push the tip of the bag through the loop and pull to make a knot. Hold the top of the bag and push down hard on the knot to make it tight.

All of this isn't as complicated as it sounds. Practise a few times with an empty bag and you should quickly get the hang of it.

Once you have your single bag sealed up it should be placed inside of a second bag. Start with the second, empty, bag flat. Turn the full bag upside-down. Place it into the opening of the empty bag knot side first, Slide it all the way in and then seal the bag. Notice that now both sides of the bag are rounded. There are no corners for the fish to get stuck in.



## PLASTIC BAGS- FRIEND OR FOE

Reprinted from the Kitsap Aq. Soc.

Many pet shop owners know the problem that occurs frequently when a customer complains that the fish he purchased died before he could let them out of the plastic bags. Usually the customer will complain that the proprietor sold him sick fish. Thanks to the Jungle Laboratories, we may now have the answer to this one. According to their letter, Jungle Laboratories introduced the plastic bag several years ago. Here is what Mr. Red Nichols has to say on the subject.

NEVER FLOAT PLASTIC BAGS WITH FISH IN THEM!!! - This is one of the most common fallacies in the hobby today. Tropicals may be introduced into warmer water at any time without ill effects of any kind. A 20° increase will not damage them providing that the higher temperature is no more than the normal range for the fish. Taking fish at 55° and placing them in water at 75° is OK!! The fish that is acclimatized slowly will have a higher death rate than those that are just dumped right into the water-- try it! They will lay on the bottom for a short time, when lowered, but more will survive with less problems than if they had been slowly accliatized.

The REASON? The 15° range of tropicals is the only temperature they should be kept at inside the tanks... the shorter the exposure to the wrong temperature the better. Temperature shock is almost impossible to fish that swim in stratified temperature pools in the natural state. Pool surface temperature of 100° is quite normal in the summer months, while deeper parts may be as low as 65° in certain areas... and the fish move up and down in this from fright, for feeding, etc.

As to FLOATING ... just try this: Take a small plastic bag half filled with water and half filled with air and six expendable fish. Float in the tank for one hour as is commonly done by "carefull" hobbyists. Set up a similar bag in the same way, but do not allow the bag to become wet on the outside. The floated fish will soon show signs of distress and begin to die shortly thereafter. The fish in the bag with the dry exterior will remain lively and well up to several days, depending on the load and bag size.

Here is the reason for the drastic difference. The polyethylene bag is a maze of water repellent fibers, too small to be seen with the best optical microscope but it is open and porous to oxygen and carbon dioxide molecules. Bags open to air will leak gases readily, while floated bags will not, as the pore are closed by the outside liquids. Very little oxygen is available, even in the best of water (10 ppm- while normal air has 200,000 ppm). This vast difference accounts for the rapid oxygen starvation of floated fish. Brain damage occurs in most fish when the carbon dioxide content rises much above the tolerance level and lingering death or incurable disease is their lot from the physical damage that is non-reversible.

plastic bags cont.-

For those who cannot or will not believe the hardness of tropicals to sudden changes in temperature, the only way to acclimatize the fish properly is to float a glass container in the aquarium with the dry bag inside the glass container. This, however, is a needless task if foregoing tests are run to prove that shock from temperature change is no factor in fishes well being.

**AUTHORS NOTE:**

It seems feasible to consider the above, even though it goes against all the generally accepted methods of transporting fish. The theory ( or shall we say fact) was not unreasonable since it is known that even in humans, brain damage is what causes death in most cases where a child suffocates in a plastic bag. This is due to the intense buildup of carbon dioxide. I have tested this theory on several different types of fish... livebearers, such as guppies; the so-called "breathers", bettas, gouramis, etc. and many others. The principal discussed here has proven to be true in EVERY CASE, WITH OUT EXCEPTION! Therefore it cannot be considered unreasonable to assume that the statements made about the plastic bags are true. The polyethylene bag is invaluable in transporting fish from place to place, but it should be remembered that THE OUTSIDE OF THE BAG SHOULD REMAIN DRY AT ALL TIMES.

It should be noted that in one particular test in which common guppies were used as the test fish, that the statements were shown to be substantially true. The bags used were the common 9x12 bag in which two cups of water were placed. The remainder of the bag was floated in a 10 gallon tank while the other was placed on a strip of glass over the same tank. Within five hours, the floated fish showed signs of distress and were released into the tank (same ph, dh etc.). These fish failed to recover and all died within a day. The fish that were on the glass top showed no signs of distress, even after being in the bag for THREE AND ONE HALF DAYS and were subsequently released in the same tank. They were all in good health and continued to show normal activity!

I know that many bags are printed to float, but you will find the above to be correct in all respects. We have helped many importers to lower their losses substantially. The floating method was introduced in the days when cardboard cartons were the only way to bring fish home alive, and had been outmoded since the plastic bags were introduced over 20 years ago. A cardboard box could be floated, and it sure didn't hurt the fish any when the hobbyists let them out quickly, as they couldn't stand leaving the fish in the tiny boxes any longer than they had to.

Editors note- The above IS TRUE. Several years ago I read a report on plastic bags that said basically the same things as this one does. All of the facts above about the structure and

plastic bags cont.-

actions of plastic bags are true. I have not floated a plastic bag at home for years, when I receive fish shipments at work they are never floated (however you should make sure the ph isn't drastically different). If the fish have been in the bag for a long time or are crowded it is much better to GET THEM OUT and into a tank fast than to leave them floating in the bag and under greater stress. I realize this goes against everything you have been told for years but believe it. If you can't bring yourself to stop floating all at once try the method I've been using on people- when someone says to me " I'm supposed to float these in my tank for a couple of hours right", I cringe inside and tell them that five or ten minutes is more than enough. Most will accept this where if I told them to just dump 'em in they'd think I was less knowledgable than they were and continue floating for two hours( and probably never believe anything else I told them again). I can't think of anything else to say to convince you so I'll conclude by saying IT'S TRUE, IT'S TRUE, IT'S TRUE. J.M.

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#### WHATS HAPPENING IN MAY:

The Program: Not known for sure at press time, it will be either Killifish of North America or Tropical Fish in Holland.

The Raffle: As usual lots of good stuff will be raffled off.

The Bowl Show: 8 oz. of tetramin to the fish of the night.

The mini-auction: NO MINI-AUCTION THIS MONTH due to the big auction on the 20th.

The Open Fish Room: Will not be held this month due to the show.



## SPAWNING TWO SPECIES OF DWARF CICHLIDS

By Mark Steele, PVAS

*Microgeophagus ramirezi* and *Apistogramma* sp. are both beautiful species of dwarf cichlids from South America. Although they were once placed in the same genus, both body form and breeding behavior speak well for their current separation. In my experience, neither species is very difficult to spawn given the correct conditions.

When I first obtained my *M. ramirezi*, they were about 2.5 to 3.0 cm long and had probably just reached sexual maturity. Within a few days, my pair, a gold male and a wild type female, had come down with ick. This was readily cured by raising the temperature to 29°C (85°F) and using "Quick Cure" produced by Aquarium Products. The temperature was then lowered to about 27.5°C (82°F) and on a diet of blackworms, frozen bloodworms, and frozen brine shrimp, the pair spawned within a few weeks. This occurred in a ten gallon tank with a Dynaflo 150 power filter. Three other wild type rams had been added before the spawning. There was abundant cover in the form of Java moss. The eggs were deposited on a waterworn piece of yellow quartz from a nearby creek. Being in a lazy mood, I didn't bother to remove the eggs and inevitably, they were eaten.

Eventually, the rams were moved to a different ten gallon tank with a Dynaflo 150. This tank had cover in

the form of driftwood, a few rocks, Java moss, some cryptocorynes, water sprite, and half of a coconut shell. They shared the tank with seven albino corydoras. This tank was also maintained at about 27.5°C (82°F). These fish were fed frozen bloodworms, blackworms, frozen and live brine shrimp, and some flake food. All went well in this tank until a pair of *Apistogramma steindachneri* were added. Within a week, this pair had the rams cowering in the floating plants. To remedy this situation, I put the original pair of rams in a well-planted five gallon tank equipped with a sponge filter. This tank had a thick layer of floating plants, thus the tank was quite dark. The others were put in an 18 gallon high with two breeding pairs of angels.

This state of affairs suited the pair of *A. steindachneri* well, and within a week they had spawned in the coconut shell. At the time, the female was about 4 cm long and the male was about 7 cm long. The female did an admirable job of protecting her eggs from the numerous catfish. Rarely did she leave the coconut shell and then only to eat briefly. When she did appear, she was a beautiful yellow color. All the while, the male stayed near but never entered the coconut shell. After about a week, the fry emerged from the shell following their mother closely. At this time the water quality was tested. The temperature was about 26°C (79°F), the pH was 5.8, and the total hardness was 125 ppm (about 7° DH). Why the pH was so low is a mystery to me, possibly it was due to the driftwood



leaching tannic acid, but it wasn't due to neglect since water was changed at least every other week. Whatever the case, at this point I removed the catfish for fear they would eat the fry even though the parents were doing an excellent job of protecting them. Also I removed about half of the fry and put them into a one gallon drum bowl equipped with a sponge filter and a 25 watt heater. The fry were fed newly hatched brine shrimp and eventually, frozen baby brine shrimp, and frozen daphnia. The fry are now about a month old and the largest ones are about 1 cm long.

Two days after the *A. steindachneri* had become free-swimming, the rams, which were now about 5 to 6 cm, spawned. This took place in 28°C (83°F) water. The pH was 7.0 and the total hardness was 140 ppm (8° DH). This was the same pair that had spawned originally. The eggs were deposited on a flat piece of yellow quartz. They were quite small for cichlid eggs and amber in color. The spawning occurred the day after a one gallon water change. Also I had increased the cover by adding more Java moss. The rock that contained the eggs that numbered about 100, was removed and put in a small plastic box floating in the parents' tank. Water from the parents' tank was utilized and methylene blue was added until I could barely see the stone. An airstone was added to circulate the water. When the eggs hatched in two days, half of them had fungused. Water was removed daily so that in five days, when the fry were free-swimming, there was hardly any blue tint to the

water. These fry were smaller than those of the *A. steindachneri*, but consumed newly hatched brine shrimp with no problems at all. These fry are still doing well on a diet of live baby brine shrimp, frozen baby brine shrimp, and frozen daphnia.

Neither of these species need special care to breed. My pairs were being fed only one meal a day when they spawned. It surprised me that the *A. steindachneri* spawned so soon because I had purchased them when the female was still guarding a spawn. I'm sure clean water contributed to their willingness to spawn.

The major differences between these two fish, besides body design, are in spawning behavior. *Apistogramma steindachneri* prefers caves and other well-sheltered places to breed in, although I have seen them spawn in dark corners, on the wall of a tank. *Microgeophagus ramirezi* prefers fairly open spots, spawning on a flat rock, or even on the gravel. The eggs of the ram are quite a bit smaller, somewhat transparent, and usually more numerous than those of *A. steindachneri*, whose are usually an opaque yellowish-white. Besides these differences, the male ram contributes much more to the care of the eggs, but in general, the female *A. steindachneri* is a much more dedicated parent than either ram parent. Also, rams seem to prefer a slightly warmer environment.

I would not hesitate to recommend either of these species to the prospective breeder of dwarf cichlids, but *Apistogramma steindachneri* is probably easier to breed successfully.

## REPRINTS

A TIGER IN MY TANK, Pat Mahoney, CICHLID TALES, Texas Cichlid Association, Dallas, Texas, MAR/APR 84. ✓

## REVIEWS

DONT GIVE UP, John Mangan, TANK TALK, Sault and Area Aquarium Club, Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario, Canada. ✓

ANCISTRUS LINEOLATUS, Pat Mahoney, WATER LOG, Greater Dayton Aquarium Society, Dayton, Ohio, APR 84. ✓

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1984 AMERICAN CICHLID ASSOCIATION CONVENTION - DAYTON, OH

Sponsored by the Greater Dayton Aquarium Society

Marriott Hotel, Dayton, OH, July 6, 7 and 8 July

Speakers: Dr. Paul Loiselle - Neotropicals  
Tom Koziol - Tanganyikans  
David Herlong - Malawi  
Charlie Grimes - Fish Diseases  
Wayne Leibel - Aequidens & Geophagus  
Peter Lewis - Fish Rooms in England  
and America

Banquet Speaker: Ethelwynn Trewavas

For further information contact: Dale Allen  
7114 Encanto Place  
Dayton, Ohio 45424  
(513) 236-3849

# BOWL SHOW REPORT FOR

April

## CICHLIDS

### Angelfish/Discus

1st Ray Krouse, Black Angelfish  
 2nd  
 3rd

### Non-Riftlake African

1st Jim Long, S. Causarius  
 2nd  
 3rd

### Open

1st  
 2nd no entries  
 3rd

Judges Choice  
 Jim Long, S. Causarius

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
Frank Angilletta	0	0	39
Mark Steel	0	0	16
Ray Krouse	6	6	7
Jim Long	6	6	6
Nathan Manwaring	0	0	6
Robert Roser & Son	0	0	5

## EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

### Livebearers, Non-Guppy

1st Nathan Manwaring, Cecilia Graciosa  
 2nd  
 3rd

### Sharks & Loaches

1st  
 2nd no entries  
 3rd

### Open

1st Nathan Manwaring, African Goby  
 2nd Nathan Manwaring, Malpulutta Kretseri  
 3rd Robert Pallansch, Blind Cave Fish

Members Choice  
 Jim Long, S. Causarius

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
Nathan Manwaring	18	18	49
Frank Angilletta	0	0	41
Gerry Hoffman	0	0	30
Mike Rininger	0	0	8
Pete Thrift	0	0	8
Jim Long	0	0	7
Robert Pallansch	6	6	6
John Mangan	0	0	5
Robert Roser & Son	0	0	3
Alex Cummins	0	0	2
Jason Kooker	0	0	1

### Next Months Bowl Show Category

Cichlids  
 New World Mouthbrooders  
 Pseudotrophens  
 Open

Egglayers / Livebearers  
 Goldfish, Koi  
 Characins  
 Open

Thank You to the Support  
 Chairman of the Bowl Show  
 Frank Angilletta

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING  
OF THE  
POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
*Board of Governors*

The meeting was held on April 1, 1984 at the home of Peter Tietjen in Reston. Attending, despite what were described by many attendees as poor directions were: Maggi Mahoney, Gerry Stirman, Kurt Schnepf, Darryl Holman, Gerry Hoffman, Alex Cummins, Kenny Warren, John Mangan, and Peter Tietjen. The meeting was called to order at 10:15am. There were no April Fools jokes played.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The monthly mini-auctions were discussed. It was decided that any re-evaluation of the mini-auctions would be deferred until after the Spring Show when it could be judged if there was any effect on the number of quality of items for sale due to the mini-auctions.
2. Maggi requested that the \$0.50 charge be reinstated on the cover of the Delta Tale. This will allow any shop owner to give the magazine away, yet will keep people from just taking it.
3. There will be no changes to the raffles.
4. John Jessup was selected to head up the incorporation task force. Other than that, there was nothing new with regard to incorporation.
5. The meeting of the BAP decided that Darryl Holman will head up the HAP with the assistance and expertise of Jim Long. The BAP also confirmed the award to John Jessup of the Grand Master Breeder Award. He is the first in the Club to win this Award and will be given an appropriate plaque in the shape of a baby seahorse.
6. Kenny Warren will purchase the trophies needed for the Quarterly Bowl shows.

NEW BUSINESS

1. In a shocking announcement, Gerry revealed that due to a renovation of the fire house and the storage of pumper trucks, we will be unable to meet in the fire hall after the Spring Show until at least April of 1985. We will be able to hold our Show and all meeting leading up to it at the fire station, but thereafter we must find a new location. An immediate discussion of alternative meeting sites was held. We will look into meeting at a Salvation Army hall in Annandale. All Club members should be on the look-out for a new meeting location.

cont. next page

# BREEDER'S AWARD STADINGS

Garland Neese	1040	****	
Gerry Hoffman	765	****	
Pat & Maggi Mahoney	725	****	
Darrell Holman	640	****	
Woody Griffin	610	****	
John Jessup	585	*****	GRAND MASTER BREEDER!!!
Vince Edmundson	500	****	
Ruth Brewer	305	***	
Jim Hajdics	275	**	
Art Lembke	165	**	
Wagner Family	165	**	
Kenny Warren	90	*	
Roser Family	70	*	
Frank Angilletta	70	*	
Alex Cummins	50	*	
Nathan Manwaring	20		
Ray Krause	10		
Amy Stirman	50	*	

\*\*\*\*\* grand master  
\*\*\*\* master  
\*\*\* advanced  
\*\* intermediate  
\* breeder

## Recent Spawnings

Pat Mahoney- Brown Acara, 10 points.

ed. note- my apology to Amy Stirman for leaving her name out of the last several issues. This was my mistake NOT the BAPS.

\*\*\*\*\*

J.M.

Board meeting cont. -

2. All is in order for the Show. Darryl distributed the flyers and raffle tickets for the 55-gallon tank set-up. The trophies have been ordered, some donations have been coming in, but we must go out and solicit more donations from the local stores. Please see Darryl for assignments at the next meeting. Three (3) judges have committed to judge the Show. It was decided that all electrical and mechanical equipment for sale must be in working order. The Club would provide a means for purchasers to check this out, and the Auction Committee reserves the right to refuse to sell any item it thinks is inferior.

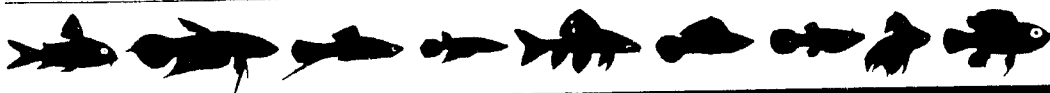
3. We will get a new supply of T-shirts with a new design of some type, hopefully in time to sell at the Show. The selected design will be a discus. The design will be shown at the April meeting.

4. The May meeting will be held at Kenny Warrens.

30

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

# POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

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

Please send application and check for dues to address above.

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

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

May 14	July 9	October 8
June 11	August 13	November 12
	September 10	December 10

Meetings are held at the Jefferson Fire House located just off Graham Road and Route 50 (Arlington Blvd.) Falls Church, Virginia. Please do NOT call the Fire House for information. See inside front cover for PVA's officers and phone numbers. All meetings open to the public and potential new members.