

# \* DELTA TALE \*

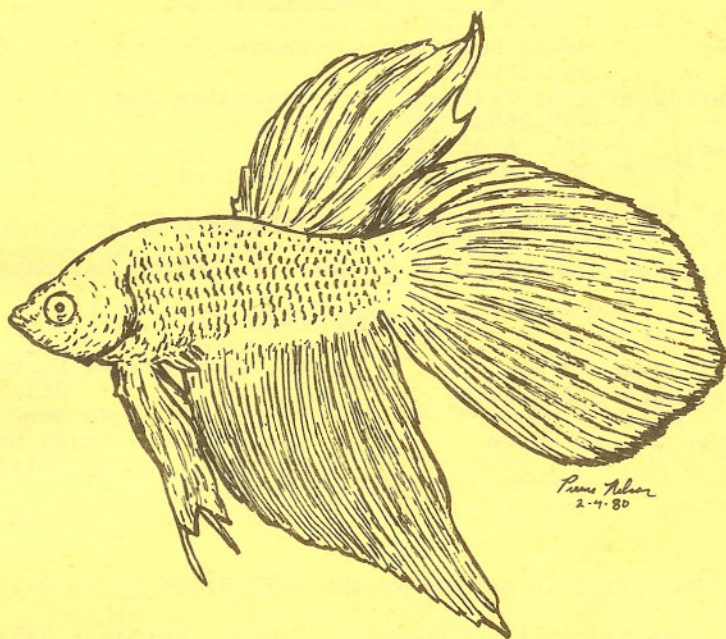
April, 1980

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

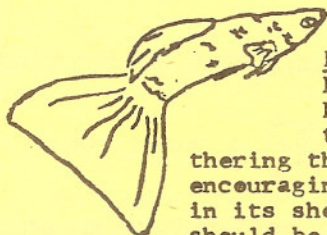
Issue 4 Vol. II

## potomac valley aquarium society

50¢







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

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Cover Illustration: Betta Splendins - Pierre Nelson



MINUTES OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING, MARCH 6, 1980

Woody called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm at his home.

Present were: Woody Griffin, Nancy Reynolds, John Jessup, Ruth Brewer, Dana Best, Bill Trout, Bev Fazil, Ken and June Reese, Darell Holman, Pat and Maggi Mahoney, Kenny Warren, Vince Edmondson, Gene Aldridge and Tom Wright.

Tom Wright has sent out between 130 and 150 letters to aquarium supply houses asking for donations. He has also made a computer print-out that can act as a record of items received. Ken Reese will write to the two large aquarium magazines for donated subscriptions.

Dana has had 2,000 fliers printed. They are ready to be distributed.

Ribbons have been ordered for the May show. The trophies are under control. John Jessup has ordered a 55 gallon O'Dell tank with split top, Aqua King filter, 200 watt 14-inch heater and a hip stand. This will be our big raffle prize. It will cost the club \$145. The dealer will store it for us for the time being.

Bill Trout brought samples of raffle ticket books. A motion was made that we print 750 ticket in 10-ticket books and sell them at \$1 a ticket 150 will be held for sale at the show and auction. The remainder will be available for prior sale by members. Motion passed.

Our business cards are printed. Kenny Warren will hand them out to whomever wants them as he sells raffle tickets at the March 10 open meeting.

Bev Fazil must resign as membership chairperson. She is moving to Washington state. Woody has appointed June Reese to fill the spot. The board concurred.

Monday's auction assignments were made and discussed.

Darrell has revised the bowl show rules slightly. He will have the revisions typed up and duplicated for review at the next board meeting. He has recommended an expanded bowl show in November, without double points.

Vince Edmondson suggested a program on "how to judge fish". John and Gene could put together a slide presentation to this effect. This will probably be our June program.

It was requested that we ask the general membership not to interrupt speakers by chatting among themselves or using the coke machine during programs.

A new Cichlid club is being formed in Baltimore and have asked for our help.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggi Mahoney, recording secretary



## THE FISH IN THE GARBAGE BAG

John E. Jessup, PhD  
P.V.A.S.

Some years ago, at a meeting of one of the aquarium societies here in the Washington area, I became the proud owner of a garbage bag full of water. As the bag was black, I wasn't really sure, when I got it, that it contained any fish.

This all came to pass when a member of the club, whom I did not know or recognize, came in during the meeting and announced that he was leaving town and presented the club with the garbage bag for the auction. I don't know how I ended up with the bag. The truth is, I suppose, that I was the only one to bid on it. Anyway, I got the bag home and emptied the contents into a 29 gallon tank. There were, in fact, about 50 fish in the bag, all rather non-descript in appearance. Taking the fish's part for a minute, I guess anyone would look non-descript if they had spent the day in a garbage bag.

At any rate, the fish were so non-descript that there was no real way of identifying them. They looked, in fact, like young Egyptian mouthbrooders, but that isn't saying too much.

By the next day, it became obvious that I had two, not one, varieties of fish in the tank. Both had colored up to a light yellow cream, but one type showed some vertical bars while the other did not. Although faint, the bars were there and other than a slightly larger size, they differed little from the un-barred specimens. It took several weeks for the fish to regain their composure to the point where I could attempt some positive, if unscientific, identification.

The larger of the two species was *Haplochromis stappersi*. I reported on these fish in 1975. The smaller was not so easy to find. Fryer and Iles did not list them, nor did Axelrod, which is completely understandable. I was fortunate, however, in having some information on the species in a publication of the British Museum and by that source, and a subsequent confirmation by Paul Loiselle, I was able to claim ownership of some of the few specimens of *Haplochromis acuticeps* found in the United States at that time. This fish is a true dwarf among the *Haplochromis* species.

After several months of care the males grew to 2-1/2 inches while the females attained the monumental size of 1-1/2 inch. Of the 25 *H. acuticeps* I had, all but two turned out to be males. As these fish were extremely rare at the time, they had a heavily planted, well rocked 29 gallon tank of their own. Water conditions were: temperature, 78°F; pH - 7.6, dH, 6.4.



Conditioning the fish took no special course, although, because they were special, they received more than their share of live, adult brine shrimp. As the fish became a little more robust, I began to notice what must be considered some form of social structuring. The males all swam about ten inches off the bottom, while the females stayed directly above the rocks, ready to dart for cover at any sign of danger. Should one of the females attempt to leave this position, she was unceremoniously chased back by the nearest male. The reason for this behavior is unknown to me but might explain why there was such a high ratio of males. The females were simply too small to allow the collectors much chance of trapping more than a few in comparison to the number of males taken. Another, more fanciful notion is that, in nature there is a natural imbalance that makes them such a rarity. This could explain the males overly protective behaviour. I'm sure any trained scientist would scoff at this, but it is an idea.

When spawning took place, I was unaware of it until I noticed one female missing from morning chow call. I'm sure she was there the night before and that she ate. Hence, spawning took place in total darkness as my fish room is all but windowless. In subsequent spawns I was able to ascertain the eggs, usually no more than 10 in number, were sack-shaped, yellowish-white in color and 3/64 inch in size. With the first spawn, I literally had to dismantel the tank to get the female out. They are so small that they simply recede further back into the rockwork with each attempt to take her. When I finally did corner her, I lifted her in a glass beaker and transferred her, along with water, rocks and some floating plants, into a secluded five gallon tank, under relatively subdued light. Five days later the fry appeared fully developed and with only a minimum egg-sack. Subsequent spawnings establish 5 to 7 days incubation. Because they were relatively small, I fed the fry infusoria for two days and then started them on live baby brine, then frozen baby brine. They did well and, although I did not do it, I believe they were ready to spawn in about six months. It may be, however, that their sexual maturity is only ancillary to their growth pattern.

H. acuticeps is an interesting, if unspectacular, little fish which I enjoyed primarily because it was different. It is truly unfortunate that all fish cannot be show-stoppers but some, by virtue of rarity, downright ugliness or unusually habits, manage to survive, if only in the memory. This is the way I remember H. acuticeps.

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#### APRIL PROGRAM:

We will have a visiting speaker - James S. Kepley, Executive Director of the Baltimore Aquarium. Jim is also one of the founders and guiding lights of the Aquarium Hobbyists of Baltimore and a hobbyist himself. Ruth left the topic of the evening up to him, but I'm sure it will prove to be an interesting one. Let's have a good turn out for him.



## BOTIA MODESTA

Darrell Holman, P.V.A.S.

*Botia modesta* is a fairly large, gray colored loach with a red, orange or yellow tail. They are native to Thailand, where they reach a length of ten inches. I have a pair of these loaches which are about seven inches long. There are no physical differences between sexes, except that the female gets very heavy when in condition for spawning.

I spawned my pair in a 20 gallon long tank that was heavily planted with corkscrew Val. I also placed in the tank an upside down flower pot with a hole notched in the side, so the pair could hide in it during the day. Most loaches are very sensitive to light, so I kept the tank covered. The water was slightly alkaline and I added a little salt. The temperature was set at 78°F. I fed them heavily on brine shrimp and tubeflex worms. In no time the female looked as if she was bursting with eggs. I kept this conditioning up for over a month and nothing happened. Then one night I accidentally left their heater off. By the time I noticed it, the temperature was below 70°. When the temperature finally returned to normal I noticed some activity in the tank. The pair were embracing and the female was releasing eggs and the male was fertilizing them. At each spawning embrace they released about 50 to 75 eggs. This activity went on for several hours. When they finally finished there were thousands of eggs on the plants and in the gravel. The parents started eating the eggs immediately, so I put them in another tank.

The eggs hatched in about 72 hours, but only several hundred actually hatched. It seemed that most of the eggs weren't fertile.

The fry were very small and had to be fed infusoria the first couple of weeks. The fry became free swimming in four days and grew very slowly. At two weeks they could finally take newly hatched brine shrimp. At 60 days they were 1/2 to 3/4 inch long and eating grown brine shrimp and tubeflex worms.

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### KUDOS AND GOLD STAR:

Gerry Hoffman's article, "Whiptail Cat" in the November, 1979 Delta Tale was listed as recommended reading in Tank Topics, February, 1980. This is the publication of the Greater Akron Aquarium Society. Congratulations Gerry.

Remember folks -- the more original articles I have to print, the more often we are going to be mentioned or reprinted in other societies publications. Write! Don't wait till you need a spawning report -- write about any and everything happening in your fish room.



## MORE THAN SCAVENGERS

by Kerry Teats, Plecostomus  
Blackhawk Aquarium Society, May, 1978

There are several species in the family Cobitidae, genus Botia, that are quite popular with the aquarist. Probably the most popular and most attractive is the Botia macracantha, the clown loach, however there are several more that are interesting and suitable for the aquarium. Before getting into the individual species there are some general areas that cover all of the Botia species.

The first of these is the aquarium in general. Many are retiring species or territorial and they require some type of hiding place. A half a coconut, a cave or an inverted flowerpot with a door cut into it all work well! The water conditions aren't extremely critical but the Botias do their best in a medium hard to soft, DH of 5-10, water with pH from 7.6-6.4 and a temperature in the range of 75 to 80 degrees F. A 25% water change every couple of weeks is recommended.

Next comes feeding. Since Botias are primarily bottom feeders, not scavengers, it is best to feed foods that will settle to the bottom. Frozen brine shrimp, tubifex flake foods, beef heart etc. are excellent for the Botias. While not exactly dealing with feeding the Botias have a taste for snails. If you have an overpopulation of snails in a tank dump a couple of Botias and shortly no snails.

Accounts of breeding Botias are sketchy at best. More often than not 1/2 to 3/4 inch young fish appear in a tank where semi-neglected adults have been kept over extended periods of time.

Extreme care must be taken when handling the Botias for they have a movable spine under the eye that can be protruded at will. When caught in a net they will protrude these spines and become entangled in the net.

There are many Botia species however some are seldom found in aquarium shops. A note on these will be found with their description.

Botia berdmorei: This is one of the rarer Botias. It grows to 12 inches in nature. Coloring ranges from cream to buff with 10-12 dark vertical bands on the sides. Two black stripes run from the eye back toward the dorsal fin. The caudal has three solid vertical bands.

Botia beauforti: This Botia is light greenish gray with four rows of spots running vertically on the sides of the body. Each spot is surrounded by a pale ring. From the head back to the dorsal run five broken bands. The fins are varied shades of orange, the pectoral and ventrals light orange and the anal nearly yellow. In its native Thailand it reaches 8-10 inches.



- Botia horae: One of the smaller Botias it reaches a length of 2 1/2 inches. Coloring is simple but an appealing light brown to tan with a black stripe running from snout to the base of the caudal. Thus the common name skunk loach.
- Botia hymenophysa: This is the tiger loach so commonly seen. A wild size of 12 inches is not usually reached in the aquarium. Its gray body is encircled with dark bands hence the name tiger. Here is a very nasty Botia that can even be kept with Cichlids and it will fare well.
- Botia lohachata: The reticulated Botia gets its common name from a dark patterning on its silver gray body that branches off on the dorsal side of the body. A small loach, it reaches about four inches. The reticulation may vary greatly from fish to fish.
- Botia macracantha: Here is one of the most colorful of the freshwater aquarium fish. The basic color is orange red with three wedge shaped vertical bands. All of the fins are from mercurochrome to bright red. This is another of the large Botias, to 12 inches, and it is long lived. While many of the Botias tend to be nocturnal, the B. macracantha, or clown loach, is active during daylight hours. This is one of the Botias that has been spawned. It was discovered by accident that they had spawned.
- Botia modesta: Here is where we find the red tail, yellow tail and orange tail Botias. They have a dark silver-gray body with a caudal fin of yellow, red or orange and fin colors matching the tails on a much lighter shade.
- Botia sidthimunki: Here is a beautiful little fish that gets along with all aquarium inhabitants. Growing to only 1 1/2 inches the dwarf loach is easily cared for. The bottom half is white and the upper half barred both vertically and horizontally making a checkered pattern. It is happiest in a school of 6 to 8.
- Botia striata: Commonly called the zebra loach this fish is basically yellowish green with 8 to 10 slanted vertical bars. The bars are rather wide with a slight light stripe in the center of it. Another small species, it only grows to 3 1/2 to 4 inches.

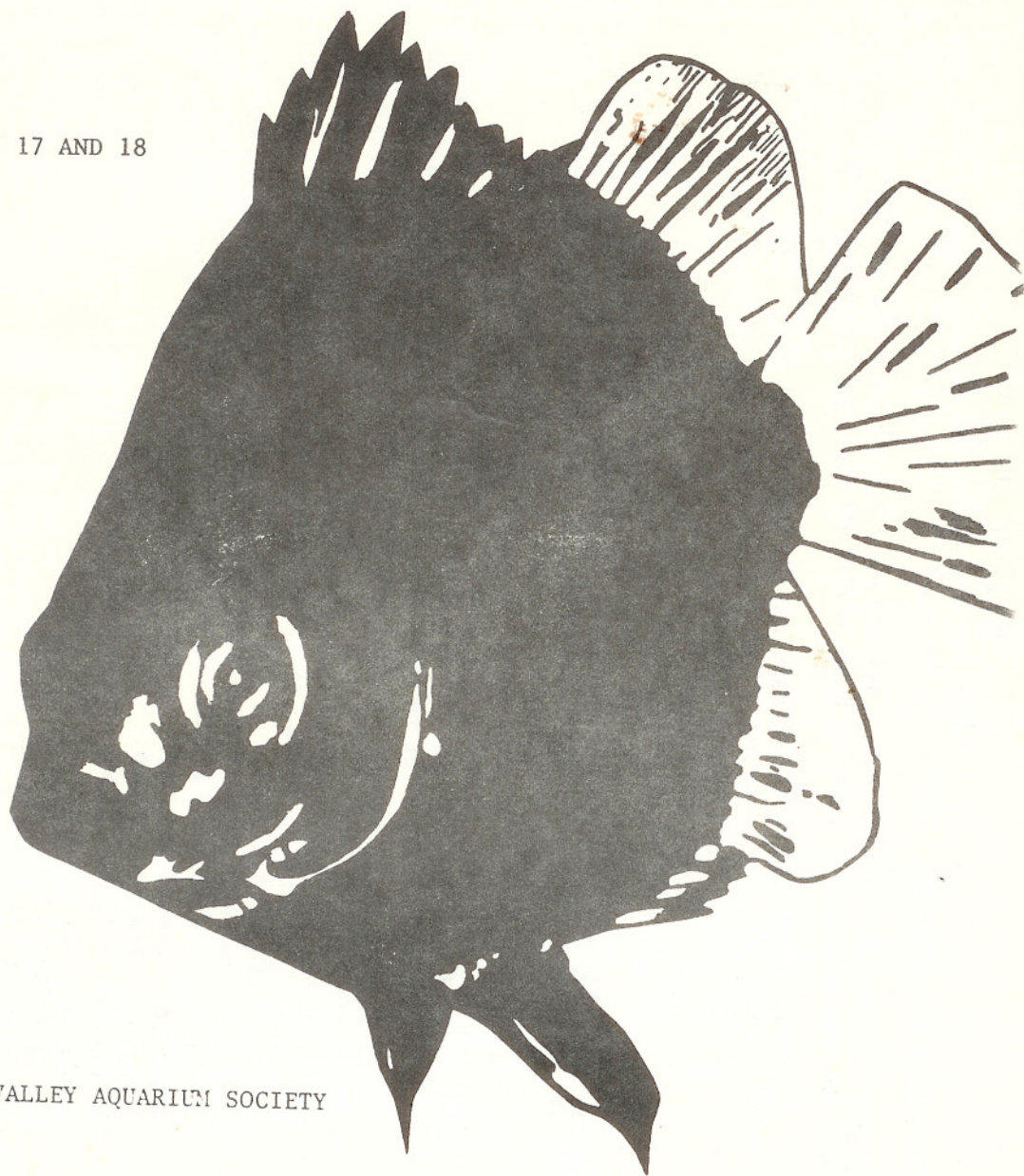
These are the more common Botias. Remember they can become pugnacious and will hold their own against Cichlids.



1980 SPRING SHOW

AND AUCTION

MAY 17 AND 18



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



## RULES OF THE SHOW

Registration of Entries: 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, Saturday, May 17. Includes all classes.

Judging: 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The public will be required to leave during this period.  
Open to the public for viewing from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Saturday; Sunday beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Entry Fees: Single Fish--\$1.50(female may be added, but will not be judges.)  
Pairs(III h.)--\$2.00.  
Set Tanks, non dealer--\$3.00.  
Dealer Tanks--no charge.  
Slides and Prints--\$1.00.

Regulations: All entries must be shown in containers with at least two flat surfaces. Two-quart drum bowls are available from P.V.A.S., \$2.00 rental fee required. (Call Dana Best at 548-1868 to advise how many you require.)

-All tanks or larger drum bowls must be provided by entrants.

-Entrants must provide a stand for tanks in excess of 5½ gallons.

-Classes I through IV may not have individual lights or decorations. Heat may be provided by entrant. Air will be provided by the Club; bring your airline and airstone.

-Classes I through IV should be labeled above the waterline to indicate the generic or common name of the fish.

-Classes V and VI--all equipment must be supplied by the entrant; tank, stand, filter, air, lights, extension cords, etc. No restrictions on tank size. NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT A STAND.

-Class VII--Photographic entries will be accepted by mail provided that payment of the entry fee is enclosed. Return of entries will be made only with the receipt of a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Mail entries to PVAS, PO Box 6219, Shirlington Station, Arlington, Virginia, 22206.

-All entries will be judged and pointed in each class in accordance with current class standards. Photography will be judged primarily on technique and composition. Decision of the Judges in all classes are final.

-Set tanks, freshwater or marine, should present an overall pleasing appearance of fish and/or invertebrates, plants, and other decorating materials. In the marine class, algae is considered a plant.

-Exhibitors will be responsible for proper classification of their own entries. Assistance can be provided by a member of the show committee if needed.

-All entries must be left overnight unless prior permission is obtained at the time of registration. All entries must be removed on Sunday, May 18, between 12:00 noon and



5:00 p.m.

- The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society will not be liable for any entries, but will act to the best of its ability to protect all exhibits against theft and tampering. There will be a night watch all Saturday night to ensure the safety of the fish.
- The Show Committee will have the final ruling on all matters pertaining to the show and entries.
- AWARDS: One Best-of-Show trophy. One Best-of-Class trophy for each of Classes I through IV. Dealers have a rotating plaque. Trophies for 1st place in sub-classes I through V and Class VII. Ribbons for 2nd and 3rd place for the sub-classes I through V and Class V I. Awards will be presented promptly at 12:30 Sunday.

The following classes are open to the public competition:

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| I. LIVEBEARERS                       | III. CICHLIDS                      |
| a. Delta Tail Guppies, Male          | a. New World Large(over 7"0        |
| b. Delta Tail Guppies, Female        | b. New World Medium(4-7")          |
| c. Guppies, all other                | c. New World Dwarf(under 4")       |
| d. Mollies                           | d. Angelfish                       |
| e. Swordtails and Platies            | e. Riftlake Mbuna                  |
| f. Other livebearing fishes          | f. Riftlake non-Mbuna              |
|                                      | g. Non-riftlake African            |
| II. EGGLAYERS (NON-CICHLID)          | h. Cichlid pairs, 1 male, 1 female |
| a. Catfish-Corydoras                 | i. Other Cichlids                  |
| b. Catfish-African                   |                                    |
| c. Catfish-all other                 | IV. MARINE                         |
| d. Betta Splendens                   | a. Fishes                          |
| e. All other Bettas and Anabantoids  | b. Invertebrates                   |
| f. Sharks and Loaches                |                                    |
| g. Tetras                            | V. SET TANKS                       |
| h. Barbs                             |                                    |
| i. Goldfish and Koi                  | VI. DEALER TANKS                   |
| j. Danios, Brachydanios and Rasboras |                                    |
| k. Killifish                         | VII. PHOTOGRAPHY                   |
| l. Other Egglaying non-cichlids      | a. Color slides                    |
|                                      | b. Color prints                    |
|                                      | c. Black and white prints          |

(Auction Rules and Map on back page.)



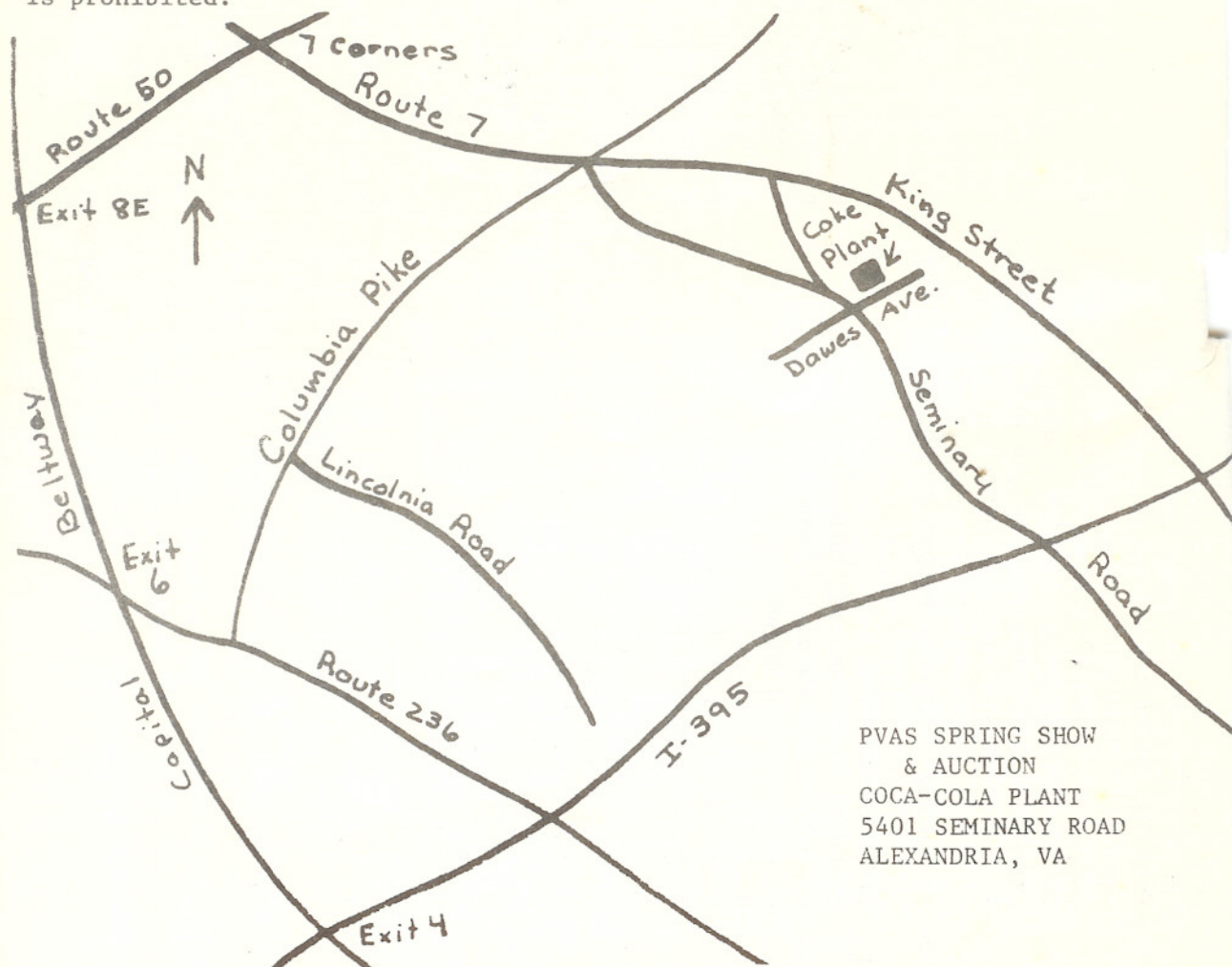
## MAY 18 AUCTION

Fish for auction must be registered between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Limit 15 entries per person, plus fish entered in the show. Please leave your name and address when registering. NO MONEY will be given out at the show. It will be mailed to the seller within 10 days.

The Club will divide the sale price with the seller at the ratio of 1/3 to the Club, 2/3 to the seller. Bags of fish not sold during the auction must be picked up by the owner immediately upon the conclusion of the auction, or they will be disposed of by the Club.

The auction will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. Raffle drawings will be made at intervals during the auction. There will be a special raffle for a 55 gallon tank, stand, hood, and appropriate filter and heater.

Fish for sale at the auction may not be withdrawn. \$1.00 minimum per bag; you may set a higher minimum. Private sale of fish within the show or auction is prohibited.



PVAS SPRING SHOW  
& AUCTION  
COCA-COLA PLANT  
5401 SEMINARY ROAD  
ALEXANDRIA, VA



## Breeding the 'Electric Blue'

by Pat Cooney, Buntbarsche Bulletin 75  
Journal of the American Cichlid Association  
Oxford, New York, December, 1979

Possibly the most spectacular import to come from Lake Malawi in the last ten years is 'Haplochromis ahli', a mid-sized predatory species known commonly as the 'Electric Blue.' This common name is derived from the indescribable intensity of the male's coloration. The fish must be seen to be truly appreciated. An excellent color photograph of a male appeared in Paul Loiselle's article on the 'Haplochromis' of Lake Malawi in the January, 1979 issue of 'Freshwater and Marine Aquarium' magazine. As is typical of these 'haplochromis', the species exhibits sexual dimorphism; the male is colorful while the female's coloration is rather drab.

When the fish was first imported five to six years ago, only males were found in shipments. When females were finally available, they were so few in numbers that they commanded enormous prices. For a long time, owning the fish was only a dream. Gradually, however, aquarists were able to get pairs of the fish reproducing.

One of the first aquarists to breed these fish was Jonathan Harris, a San Diego aquarist, who specialized in newly imported 'haplochromis.' Jonathan obtained six young fish which eventually turned out to be three males and three females. Some aquarists live right! These fish spawned and he sold the fry to Bob Brooks and Art North. It was from these fry that my brother and I obtained our future breeding stock.

We had heard that there seemed to be a disproportionately high percentage of males in spawns, so we asked Art to pick out the ten smallest fry out of approximately 150 youngsters! Two hours later we had our fish and the normally good-natured Art was contemplating murder! By choosing the smallest fish we felt our chances of obtaining females were increased, as it had been our experience that males tend to grow more rapidly in spawns.

We housed our new charges in a fifteen gallon (56.775 liters) aquarium furnished with gravel, a few lava rocks and plastic plants. San Diego water is known to local killifish-keepers as liquid rock because of its high alkalinity and hardness, so no buffering agents were required to approximate Lake Malawi's water quality. The fish immediately disappeared into the caves formed by the lava rocks.

We had had success using Zebra Danios as 'dither fish' with other shy cichlids in order to get them to come out, so we added about ten danios to the tank. Danios were chosen due to their constant motion and speed in eluding the chasing cichlids. They had the desired effect as the 'H. ahli' immediately came out of hiding, but they were out only as long as it took them to kill the danios, after which they re-entered the caves. I had hoped that the adults would enter a community aquarium later in life, but after the danio incident I began to have doubts!

The fry grew rapidly on a diet of fish and meat-based flake foods and copious feedings of live brine shrimp. Water changes of 50% were done three times weekly to facilitate rapid growth. At two inches the fish began showing sexual characteristics. The males began showing a white edging on the dorsal fins and a slight blue tinge in the facial region.

The four males with which we ended up began squabbling among themselves and began chasing the females. It became necessary to move the fish to their new home, a 55 gallon (203.175 liters) aquarium. Unfortunately, before we moved the fish, we lost a female which managed to jump out through an incredibly small opening in the back of the fifteen. Needless to say, we made sure the 55 was completely covered!



Once in the larger aquarium the fish put on a rapid growth spurt and the males' colors began to intensify. Deciding to take a chance after our experience with the danios, we added a trio of young breeding 'Trematocranus jacobfreibergi' to the 55. As these new inhabitants were half again as big as the largest 'H. ahli' there were no incidents. The male 'T. jacobfreibergi' ruled the tank for about four months until the 'electric blue' males surpassed him in size.

At this time we decided to remove two of the males from the group as the females began showing signs of plumpness. These spare males were added to a 125 gallon (473.125 liters) aquarium containing large 'Haplochromis' and adapted without any trouble. They caused no problems, nor did they back down from a rather aggressive 'H. livingstonii' two inches larger.

Back in the 55, the remaining two males were displaying for the females and generally making life less rosy for the 'T. jacobfreibergi.' However, although capable of inflicting damage to the male 'Trematocranus', they never physically hurt him, so we left the trio in the aquarium as 'dither fish'.

Soon we were greeted with our first female showing signs of a mouthful of eggs. There was only slight bulging of the buccal cavity, but as she wouldn't accept food offered, we knew she must have spawned. Our joy was short-lived, as the males chased the female to the point of exhaustion. Two days later she either swallowed or expelled her eggs. A week later she gave up the ghost, having been weakened by the continual chasing of the males. Our patience was rewarded when a second female showed signs of a mouthful.

We planned on watching the tank more carefully this second time, but after three days the female was eating and showing no signs of eggs. By this time we were wondering how we would get a spawn. When the third female came up with a mouthful a week later, we removed all of the fish but her from the aquarium. We finally had a female go longer than three days with a mouthful. This one managed to go five days before downing her spawn.

We chalked up these early losses to the possibility that the first few mouthfuls might have been lost due to some unknown factor in the fish's behavior. It is not unusual to have a female carry a number of times unsuccessfully and then finally get it together and do it right. We hoped this was the case with these 'Haplochromis'.

Meanwhile, one of our females came down with 'bloat' and, in spite of treatment with Furanace, we lost her. We were now down to three females, which decided to take two months off from breeding.

One day, two months after losing the female, while contemplating returning to Neotropical cichlids after getting rid of these frustrating Africans, I noticed a female with a swollen mouth. Oh, happy day! I carefully removed the rest of the fish.

Threatening death to any person who even thought about disturbing the female, we waited. The sixth day post-spawning arrived and we began arguing over whether we should allow the female to carry full term and release the babies naturally or force her to release the babies immediately and raise them away from the female. Our greed won out and we decided to make her release her spawn for us to artificially raise. Actually, she needed no coaxing from us. As soon as I had her in the net she released her brood. At six days, the brood had just hatched.

We had been successful in raising mouthbrooder fry by putting the eggs/fry in a plastic container, such as an outside filter box, hung inside an aquarium to stabilize heat. This container holds water from the spawning tank, an airstone to gently turn the babies and a few drops of methylene blue to prevent fungus. This method has proven to be the easiest way we have found.



The spawn numbered 22 fry. They were left in the container until they had used up their yolk sacs, at which time they were moved to a ten gallon (37.850 liters) rearing aquarium. The fry grew rapidly on flake food and baby brine shrimp while we did 10% water changes every day.

As the females grew larger, their spawns increased in number. In each case, we had to remove the other fish when a female came up with a mouthful due to the extreme nervousness of the female. We bred these fish for about a year until my brother was transferred north, forcing us to dismantle our breeding set-up and sell our breeders.

In discussing the problem of nervous females with other aquarists in our area, I found that similar experiences had happened to them. They reported females to be extremely nervous and the males particularly persistent in pestering the females. Jonathan Harris adjusted to this problem by setting up three 40 gallon (151.40 liters) aquariums side by side. In the middle tank he placed one male and his three females. In each end aquarium he placed one of his other males. Surrounded by two other males, the spawning male would breed with the females and then spend the rest of his time in territorial threat displays aimed at the other males. While doing this, the male left the females alone and they were able to carry on until Jonathan moved them to a smaller aquarium to complete their maternal duties. Inasmuch as Jonathan was able to obtain numbers of fry, his system was obviously a good one.

Of all the 'Haplochromis' I have kept, the 'Electric Blue' has been one of the most frustrating. The incredible beauty of the male's spawning dress, however, makes any difficulties this species presents well worth tolerating.

If you are interested in joining the American Cichlid Assn. See our member Gene Aldrige for an application blank or write to James H. Mortensen, P.O. Box 596, Oxford, New York 13830. Dues are \$10 annually.

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#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The mini-auction held at the March 1980 meeting of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society, has proven to be the most successful one the club has ever had. The auction grossed \$252.25 on over 75 sale items. The club share was just over \$84.00. As those of you who were present know some items were sold for good prices and some were down-right steals.

Eugene T. Aldridge, Jr.  
Treasurer



H O An all glass, 20 gallon high tank with fluorescent light,  
S P metaframe woodtone stand and Dynaflo 425 heater. \$75.00  
Call Meyer Gordon at 530-0341.  
A D  
R N For any of the following call Darrell Holman, 532-3419  
O U or Ken Reece, 360-4752

Two 110 gallon set ups, \$350 each One 125-gallon set up, \$400  
55 gallon set up, \$150. (complete with all accessories,  
used only 6 weeks.)

Breeding pairs and trios:

Haplochromis mloto, \$75 trio  
Haplochromis ovatus, \$60 pair  
Electric blue Haps, \$100 pair  
Haplochromis electra (deepwater Hap)  
Breeding colony of 8 - \$30  
Pseudotropheus kribia, 2 trios, 6-7", \$25  
Synodontis brichardi, \$35  
Haplochromis brownae, \$25 trio  
Extra large Mono sebae, \$25 each  
Synodontis davidi (tank bred and  
raised) \$12 each  
Synodontis pleurus, \$20  
Synodontis notatus, \$12 each

75 pounds of red and green shale - \$15.00

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Kordon Water Condition Tests. Professional. Accurate. Easy to use.

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NAME	POINTS
Joe Paull	505****
Ruth Brewer	305***
Garland Neese	310**
Gerry Hoffman	220**
Pat & Maggi Mahoney	185**
Beverly Fazil	180**
Sue and Mike Sprague	165**
Woody Griffin	160**
John Jessup	100*
Kenny Warren	90*
Gene Aldridge	80
Vince Edmondson	75*

# bap REPORT

\* Breeders Award

\*\*\* Advanced Breeders Award

\*\* Intermediate Breeders Award

\*\*\*\* Master Breeders Award

Recent points for spawning:

John Jessup: 5 more points for his H. acuticeps by virtue of printing.

Vince Edmondson: Ps ornatus  
M. johanni  
Ps williamsi

Pat Mahoney : Ps ornatus

Woody Griffin: L. trewavasi (red tops)

If you want to get into the Breeders Award program or have additional spawns to report -- here are the folks to call. (Remember, any member in good standing can sign in a 10 point spawn.)

Alexandria/Arlington - Gene Aldridge, 931-7426  
Dana Best, 548-1868

Fairfax City - Joe Paull, 591-9245

Fairfax County, Falls Church - Ruth Brewer, 893-6997  
Pat Mahoney - 534-0006

Warrenton - Gerry Hoffman, 347-7486

Prince George's County - Tom Wright, 345-7486

Montgomery County - Nancy or Woody Griffin, 949-1290



# BOWL SHOW RESULTS AND STANDINGS, MARCH 1980

## CICHLIDS

### New World, Dwarf

- 1st - Ram, D.Holman
- 2nd - Ap kleei - Mahoneys
- 3rd - Ram - Mahoneys

### Riftlake, non-Mbuna

- 1st - Brichardi - D.Holman
- 2nd - Oxyrynchis - Kenny Warren
- 3rd - Peacock - G. Neese

### Open

- 1st - Kingslyi - G. Neese
- 2nd - Albino Zebra - K.Warren
- 3rd - Rainbow cichlid - G. Neese

## EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

### Killies

- 1st - Cyn.constancia - Mahoneys
- 2nd - Epiplatus dageti - Mahoneys
- 3rd - Ap.gardneri - Mahoneys

### Catfish, non-corydoras

- 1st - Syno.brichardi - S. Reynolds
- 2nd - Whiptail cat - S.Reynolds
- 3rd - Snyo.species - D.Holman

### Open

- 1st - Green cobra guppy - Holman
- 2nd - Starburst Molly-Holman
- 3rd - Red dwarf gourami-S.Reynolds

## STANDINGS:

### CICHLIDS

	MONTH	QUARTER	YEAR
Kenny Warren	9	44	44
Darrell Holman	15	38	38
Garland Neese	10	23	23
Pat & Maggi Mahoney	9	20	20
Bill Kent	2	4	4

### EGGLAYER/LIVEBEARERS:

Pat & Maggi Mahoney	14	58	58
Darrell Holman	14	24	24
Suzann Reynolds	14	17	17
Garland Neese	0	11	11
Kenny Warren	0	3	3
Bill Kent	0	1	1

## APRIL BOWL SHOW CATAGORIES:

### CICHLIDS

- Angel fish & Discus
- Non-Riftlake Africans
- Open

### EGGLAYER/LIVEBEARERS

- Livebearers, non-guppy
- Sharks and Loaches
- Open





POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
PO BOX 6219, SHIRLINGTON STATION  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

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

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tanks \_\_\_\_\_

Type of fish \_\_\_\_\_

Time in hobby \_\_\_\_\_

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

What you would like  
to do in this Club? \_\_\_\_\_

Which sub-group interests  
you? (guppy, cichlid, other) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

Family \$10.00  
Individual \$ 7.00

Corresponding \$5.00  
Junior \$3.00  
(under 18)

Completed applications accompanied by your check or money order should  
be mailed to P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6219, Arlington, Virginia 22206.

Please attend our meetings at the Cocoa-Cola Bottling Plant, 5401  
Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia at 8:00 P.M.



Potomac Valley Aquarium Society  
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1980 MEETING DATES



APR. 14  
MAY 12  
JUN. 9

JUL. 14  
AUG. 11  
SEP. 8

OCT. 13  
NOV. 17  
DEC. 8

Meetings are held at the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, 5401 Seminary Road,  
Bailey's Crossroads, Alexandria, Virginia. Meetings start at 8 p.m.,  
Bowl Show Registration at 7:45 p.m. -- Doors open at 7:30 p.m.