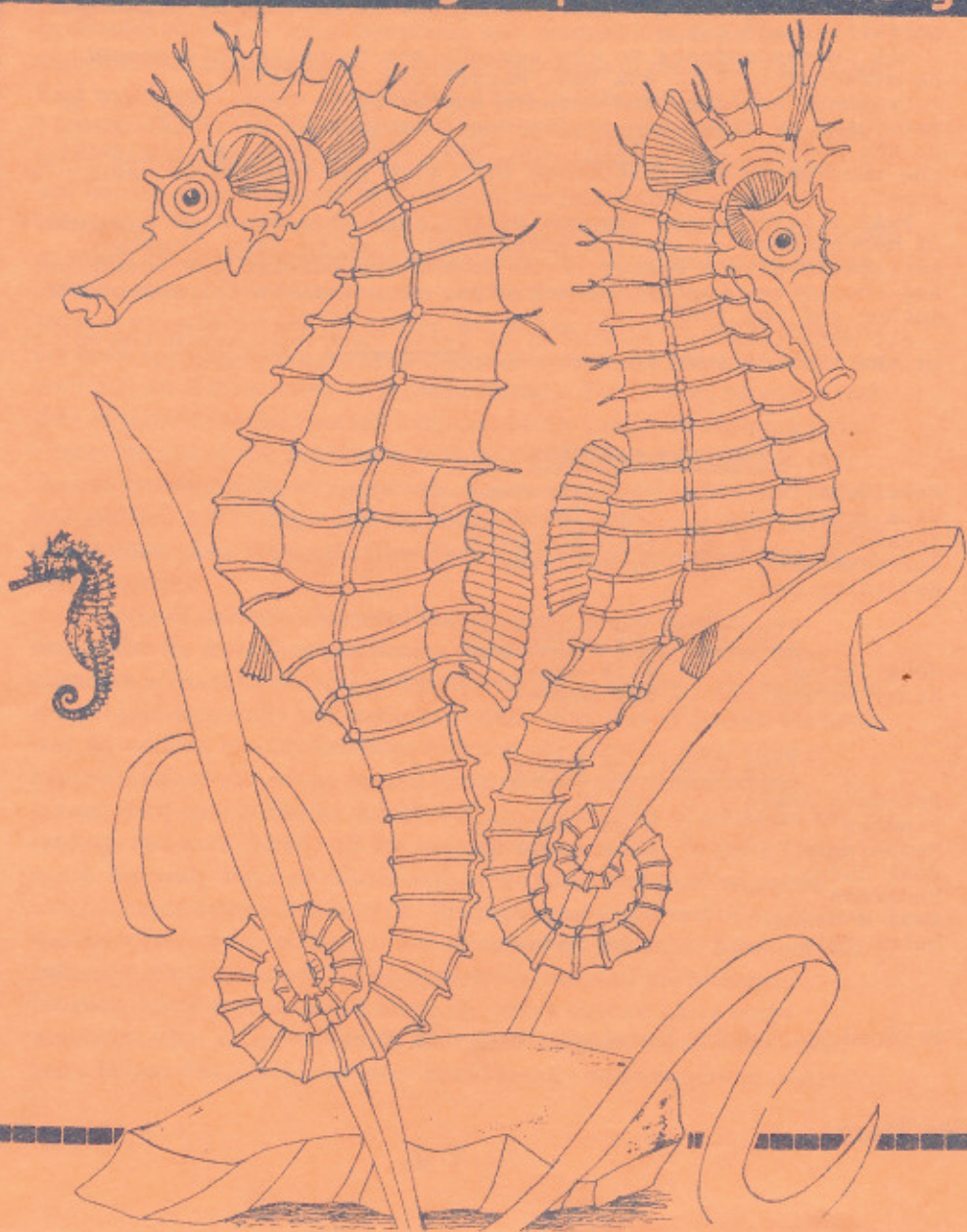


# \* DELTA TALE \*

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society



Delta Tale is published bimonthly for the benefit of the membership of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Inc., a non-profit educational and social organization. The society was founded in 1960 for the purpose of furthering the aquarium hobby by the dissemination of information and advice, and the promotion of good fellowship among the membership by organized activities and competitions.

All correspondence to the society and to Delta Tale should be directed to P.O. Box 664, Merrifield, VA 22116.

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All materials for inclusion in Delta Tale must reach the editor by the 10th of even numbered months, Feb. April, etc.

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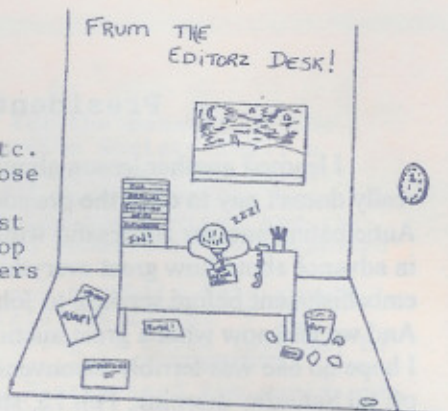


### President's Message:

I learned another lesson about being club president last month—it really doesn't pay to draft the president's message too far in advance. Anticipating another successful winter auction, I worked up some nonsense in advance about how great everything was, then set it aside for later embellishment before sending to John for this issue of the Delta Tail. Yeah. And we all know what a great auction it was in February. NOT! Seriously, I hope no one was terribly inconvenienced by the postponement. We held off till Saturday morning, Feb 12, still hoping for a miracle, but waking up and hearing announcements like "Virginia has just declared a state of emergency" made us realize what we were up against. Anyway, the prospect of events like this was one of the reasons the club set up its hotline, and an announcement of the postponement was on the recording by noon. For those of you who did call the hotline, this will be old news: **we're going to try once again to hold a winter auction this year—on March 13** (this way we'll find out if the number 13 is really cursed). By the way, we owe a real debt of gratitude to the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge for allowing us to change the date at the last minute with no penalty — and thanks to Kenny Warren for making the arrangements. Likewise, Mike Trzonkowski called and said he'll still be there with his plants (Mike, by the way, now has some stories about plant shipments from Florida arriving at airports during major winter storms).

Some of us have discovered that the nasty winter weather was responsible for more than postponing the auction -- it also caused (and continues to cause) some real problems with water quality. The problem is low pH readings; really low readings. I discovered this, of course, the hard way, by walking into my fishroom with a newly acquired fancy (and expensive) pleco and seeing several tanks of dead and distressed fish. The normal water quality checks quickly revealed high levels of ammonia and pH readings that were literally off the scale on the acid side. To make things worse, the really major problems were in the tanks that received partial water changes every other day (i.e., the problem was not one of neglect, at least as regards water changes). For some reason, the entire fishroom had suffered a major pH crash, which apparently killed off the biological filtration, which sent ammonia levels up, which sent me into a panic wondering what in the heck to do with all those tanks full of acidic water and a Mango Pleco that I was now afraid to put into an aquarium. Anyway,

Oh well, so much for getting back on schedule. I've been kept pretty busy though. I'm just now getting over the last bad winter cold/cough/sore throat etc. (just in time to start catching one of those fun spring colds). I also took a weekend off and went down to Raleigh, as the guest of Brian & Wendy Tramm, for their workshop and auction. Also on hand were PVAS members Kenny & Sandy Warren, Pete Thrift, Gerry Hoffman, Rick McKay, and Alex Townsend. All of us were thoroughly disgusted by the fact that the Tramm's still are able to keep their tanks spotlessly clean. It didn't seem like they'd figured



out that we had arranged to have Brian transferred down there because they were making the rest of us look bad. So I guess we've gotten away with it. (Actually, I wish we could talk them into coming back. Their moving was a big loss to PVAS). Then there was the unbelievable PVAS auction. What is usually the smallest of our three auctions turned out to be the biggest and longest in recent history, and the second longest since I've been a member (a long time). While on this subject- it was also the very worst I've seen in a long time in terms of fish being put into bags that were too small. We're going to have to crack down on stuff like this in the future and if something isn't bagged properly we may refuse to auction it- so be warned! It's amazing how far behind you can get in your fishroom when you loose a weekend, not to mention two so close together. It seems like I'm never going to get caught up. Especially since I've also recently become a mother, no I don't mean father I mean mother. I'm raising two baby flying squirrels whose mother died when they were about two weeks old. As I'm writing this they are about four weeks old and being fed every four to five hours with an eyedropper. If you want to have some real fun try washing milk off of a tiny, squirmy, sloppy face with a Q-tip at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. I'm lucky though in having an understanding boss who has let me set up a "infant day care center" and lets me take "maternity leave" several times a day. And if all of that wasn't enough- my typewriter is slowly dying so it is often taking me twice as long as my usual semi-slow pace to get everything typed. Anybody out there want to contribute to the "buy the editor a computer fund"? I'll accept cash, checks, money orders, old jewelry, gold fillings (yours or someone else's, we won't ask questions).

I'm getting near the end of the page so I'll finish up by mentioning that the results of last issues puzzle contest can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Until next time...

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John".



## What's Happening!

- Apr. 11: PVAS Monthly Meeting. Program (TBA), door prize, raffles, mini-auction, refreshments, and a chance to socialize with fellow aquarists. Meeting starts at 8:00 pm doors open at 7:30.
- May 6-8: American Livebearer Assoc. Convention. Grand Rapids, MI. For more information contact Tim Boelema, 8024 Emberly, SW, Jenison, MI 49428. Or John Mangan.
- May 9: PVAS Monthly Meeting. All of the same good stuff listed above.
- June 5: PVAS Spring Auction. Watch for more details in the next issue.
- July 15-17: American Cichlid Assoc. Convention. San Antonio, TX. For more information contact ACA '94, 6801 Toledo Ct., Ft. Worth, TX 76133. Or there are a number of PVAS members that belong to ACA that should be able to give you info: Kenny Warren, Gene Aldridge, John Mangan, etc.
- Oct. 14-16: PVAS Winter Auction & Workshop. Our last workshop got rave reviews from everyone that attended. We've started planing for this one and have a great tentative list of speakers.
- Dec. 25: Christmas. Start shopping now for the traditional expensive gift for the Delta Tale editor. Actually, no PVAS member has ever given an expensive gift to the editor. But hey, traditions have to start somewhere. Wouldn't you like to be able to say that you were the person that started one.



PVAS members may advertise in the Trading Post at no charge. Send ads to John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna, VA 22181, or the PVAS PO box. Deadline for the next issue is April 11.

For Sale: Magazine collection-TFH 1952-1989 missing only 7 issues. \$900. Reasonable offers considered. Contact Chris Bergesen in Bethesda. 301-229-6043.

For Sale: Discus fry. 5 to 7 months old. Parents nearly solid turquoise. Fry are showing color, have red eyes, excellent finnage and body shape, and are healthy and very active. Asking \$10-\$15 per fish. Lower prices in quantity. Also have several adult red/turquoise discus at \$25 each. Pete Thrift 703-971-0594 evenings and weekends.

For Sale: Lake Tanganyikan Cichlids Lamprologus leleupi. Beautiful yellow-orange cave spawners. Hatched late Oct. 1993. Raised in Rockville tapwater (pH adjusted to 8.3, 1 tbspn salt/5 gal). \$5 each, 3/\$12, or 10/\$30. Mark Kaprow 202-501-2886 (d) 301-942-2135(e).

## U.S. AQUARIAN ADVISORY SERVICE

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Mailing Address: USAAS, c/o Mardel Labs, 1958 Brandon Court, Glendale Heights, Ill. 60139  
Fax Number: 407-788-2156

Thomas's Europe, the manufacturers of the **AQUARIAN** line of flake foods for fish would like to announce the establishment of the Aquarian Advisory Service for the United States. In England, the Advisory Service has played an active role in the aquarium hobby for over 15 years. Headed by Dr. David Ford, the man who developed the **AQUARIAN** line of fish foods, the Advisory Service continues to be an integral part of the hobby scene in that country.

In the United States, Edward C. Taylor has been chosen to continue the **AQUARIAN** tradition by heading the Advisory Service. Basically, here's how the service works. If you, as a consumer, aquarist, fish hobbyist, or retailer, have any questions concerning the care and maintenance of your fish, you can write or fax Ed and he will answer them for you. The appropriate fax number and address are listed on this sheet. You can expect a response to your query within 7-10 days. Here's a little information about Ed to better acquaint you with him.

Ed Taylor is a life-long aquarium hobbyist who has been keeping and breeding fish for over 28 years. He has a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Duke University and a master's degree in biological sciences from Old Dominion University. His graduate work was concentrated in the fields of fish systematics and animal behavior.

Ed owned and operated his own fish hatchery in Virginia for over 15 years before moving to Florida. In Florida, he worked for two of the largest fish farms as a hatchery manager and livestock salesman. As a hobbyist and professional fish breeder, Ed has spawned and raised over 450 species of tropical fish.

For a period of almost three years, Ed worked at T.F.H. Publications as the editor or assistant editor of *Tropical Fish Hobbyist Magazine*. He also has experience as a petshop retailer, fish importer, and industry journalist and photographer. Over 100 articles have appeared in aquarium hobby and industry trade magazines written by Ed. At present, he is a participating member of an aquarium service company in Orlando, Florida.

Ed has been a member of numerous hobby organizations such as ACA, AKA, ALA, IBC, and FAAS. He was the first elected chairman of the American Cichlid Association in 1969, and served as the Federation of American Aquarium Society's first president in 1971. He is well-known as a workshop speaker and fish show judge. As you can see, Ed is well qualified to serve as the U.S. Aquarian Advisor, and he should be able to answer most questions put to him.

One of the functions of the Advisory Service is to schedule lectures at various aquarium society functions around the United States. If your club is having a show, workshop, or other special event, drop Ed a letter and let him know. He may be able to attend as a guest speaker courtesy of **AQUARIAN**. Placements are limited and arrangements must be made in sufficient advance of the event dates.



## TELEMATOCROMIS BIFRENATUS

by

Jeffrey Burke

I bought five adult Telematochromis and found out these little guys are very aggressive and also have sharp teeth quite able of doing severe fin damage which they inflicted on each other quite frequently.

The breeding tank was a fifty five gallon with a Fluval 303 using prefilter noodle, chemi pure carbon, crushed coral, foam mouse and a ultraviolet sterilizer at the output. The back up filters were a whisper 3 and sponge filter. The substrate was natural brown gravel with two or three pounds of crushed coral. The tank had about fifty to sixty pounds of shale which formed many caves and crevices. There was also two large shells and one medium shell in the tank.

The male was four inches in length, and one female was 4 inches and the other was three. As for the other two fish they also were three inches in length but, I was never able to determine their sexes.

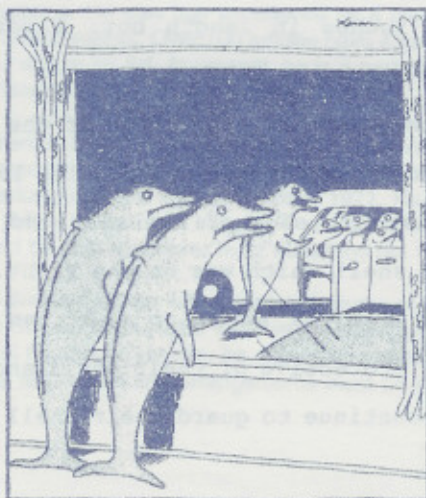
For one reason or other both of the female fish would lay eggs in shells but never in the rocks. The larger female picked a large shell on the left side of the tank and the smaller female picked the smaller shell which was on the right. For six months I watched the females bellies swell up and then flatten, then they would become very protective of their shell and guard the entrance of it. They would continue to guard their shell a week after their bellies

had flatten. This behavior indicated that they were laying eggs. Once I even saw two small free swimming fry briefly trying to leave the shell but, the mother stopped that in a hurry.

One day I was cleaning the tank and when I moved the large shell fifty to sixty eggs rolled out so I gathered them up as fast as I could. Then I collected eggs from the smaller shell which had only twenty to thirty eggs with most of them fungasted up. I put them in a five and a half gallon tank with water from the fifty five gallon and a sponge filter from the breeding tank.

The fry hatched in two days and the egg sacks also absorbed in two days. The first two days they got liquid fry then Baby E powder food and microworms. The fry were easy to raise only two or three died and two were deformed and destroyed.

These are interesting fish with very easy to raise fry but be careful they can inflict serious harm to each other especially during breeding time.



"Well, there he goes again. ... I suppose I shouldn't worry, but I just get a bad feeling about Jimmy hanging with those tuna punks."



PUZZLE PAGE

Results of last issues "our first aquarium" puzzle:

I've received four entries from some pretty smart PVAS members. All of the fish names were found by at least one person, and a few of them were pretty hard. Everyone came pretty close but no one managed to find all 39 names. Everyone even managed to find the word swordtail which due to a typo was printed as swordthil, and 3 out of the four found killifish typoed as rillifish. Since you all came pretty close, and took the trouble to send entries in, I'll speak to our ways & means committee about giving you all at least some kind of small prize. Congragulations to Jesse Torgesson, John Speece, Kathy Dochez, and John Haldeman/ Bill Cucura (a joint entry).

The complete list of fish in the puzzle is as follows:

Ameca	Flounder	Oscar
Angelfish	Gar	Otocinclus
Belonesox	Goby	Pike
Betta	Goldfish	Platy
Botia	Goodeid	Plecostomus
Carp	Guppy	Rainbowfish
Cod	Killifish	Ram
Corydoras	Koi	Rasbora
Damsel	Labeo	Rosy Barb
Danio	Loach	Scat
Darter	Molly	Sculpin
Discus	Mono	Swordtail
Eel	Neon Tetra	Trout

Kathy & John/Bill also found the words cat and toad, and John/Bill found the words ray and abelone ( a good guess but it's an invertebrate not a fish and spelled abalone- which I didn't know until I looked it up).

The "puzzle" for this issue will be to answer the following questions whose answers can be found in the above list of fishes. By the time you get this issue there won't be enough time for anyone to get answers back to me before my next deadline. So no prize this time. I'll try to come up with something I can offer a prize again for in the next issue. Answers can be found on page

1. Which of the above are cichlids?
2. How many of the above are livebearers?
3. Which has its pelvic fins modified into a "suction cup".
4. which is used as a common name for a freshwater group of fishes and an unrelated saltwater group of fishes?
5. Which is named after the river in which it can be found?
6. Which was first brought to this country on the Hindenburg?
7. Which has a member with skin/scales so tough it was used as armor?
8. Which of the above are able to come to the surface for a "breath" of air?
9. Which two of the above have eggs that are shipped by hobbyists very easily all over the world?
10. I had wanted to end with a really hard one but I've sat here for a long time and can't think of anything good. Since it's time to go feed my "kids" I'll let you make up your own question.

## AQUARIUM

By Jesse Torgerson, PVAS

Have you heard about the virtual aquarium club? What I am talking about is the AQUARIUM bulletin board. It is touted in an advertisement for Comp U Serv in a national magazine. AQUARIUM is on Bitnet and can be accessed on Internet.

The bulletin board is a discussion forum with participants from all over the country and the world. There are participants from Germany, England, Australia, Italy, and Brazil. All the topics, freshwater and marine, beginner and advanced, are covered. Almost every question is answered and many result in lively discussions. One of the most discussed topics is algae, usually how to control it, but last week there was someone who wanted to grow more algae for his african cichlids and plecos to eat.

In addition to AQUARIUM there are bulletin boards for those with more specific interests. BETTA discusses the care and breeding of bettas, KILLIFISH is for those who are interested in killifish.

One recent topic which most of us have faced or will have to face (unfortunately) is the task of moving an aquarium. So I will use the discussion of it as an example to illustrate this bulletin board.

Original question from Mark:

I'm looking for some help in moving a 55gal freshwater tropical aquarium.

The aquarium is currently at my brother's house and will be moved to my soon to be purchased house in late February.

It's a 55gal tank with an UG filter with 2 power heads and a filter (forget the name) that hangs on the back of the tank.

It's got gravel (about 1.5-2 inches), artificial plants and drift wood.

The fish in it are (sorry I don't know scientific names, just the common names); 2 silver dollars, 2 tri-color sharks, 1 irridescent shark, 4 terpae tetras, 5 zebra danios and 3 bottom feeders (no sure what they're called).

The tank has been running for about 1 year.

I'm going to have to move it about 1 hours drive. Any help/suggestions on does/donts would be greatly appreciated. Any suggestions on transporting the fish and getting the tank set up and ready to accept the fish at the other end. It will be the same tank....

Thanks



## Dave's nine step plan:

Moving 55 gallon tank. This is not a one person job. Here are the steps:

- Day -7 Buy a large plastic garbage can. Scrub it throughly to remove manufacturing oils. Put it in the area where the aquarium is to go. Fill it with water. (Estimated time 2 hours)
- Day -6 Buy two or three large scrub pails (3 gallons). Make sure you can cover them some way (lids, plastic wrap, etc.) Scrub as above, rinse carefully (as you should above, too). ET 1 hour
- Day -5 Add one quart old aquarium water from an aquarium you trust to the garbage can. ET .5 hours
- Day -4 Plan the move. Who will do which remaining job. ET .5 hours
- Day -3 Decide whether to reuse the sand or buy new. If buy new, buy sand (probably aquarium #3, I would guess 2 sacks). Bring sand home and wash it! Huge job. ET 3 hours
- Day -2 Recruit enough friends and con them into helping. ET 6 hours  
If your house is cold, move thermostat into garbage can.
- Day -1 Go over everything in your mind. Have backup car, driver in case something goes wrong. Get good night's sleep. ET 10 hours
- Day 0 Siphon 2 gals water into each scrub pail. Net the fish into the pails. Dump remaining tank water. Carefully scrub inside of tank with rock salt (water softener salt). Rinse. Pack fish and tank and filters into car, drive to new home. Unload tank, set it up in place, add ug filters, add sand, add water, add thermostats and heaters. The water should about half fill tank, float pails in tank for a hour or two, exchanging a cup of water with the tank every 10 minutes starting 10 minutes in. After one hour, release fish. Refill garbage can. Have a beer. ET 8-10 hours
- Day 1 Top up tank from garbage can, adding a few gallons of water each hour till tank is full. Start outside filter. ET 2 hours

## Curtis's 3 guidelines:

First : I would strongly discourage mover the aquarium with anything in it. including gravel. It is very easy to tweak the seals and then the tank will leak. Also, any twisting of a full aquarium can cause the glass to crack. I've worked in per shops and have seen what happens when tanks are set up on unlevel surfaces.

Second : Buy a styrofoam cooler at any grocery store and put a large plastic garbage bag in it. Fill this with water from your aquarium and you have a great portable tank. If you wish, you can instal a battery powered air/filtration system but that should not be necessary.

Third : This will make transporting the gravel more difficult but will help restart your biological filtration system in the tank once your set back up: When you move the gravel leave enough water from the tank to just cover the top of the gravel. Do not rinse the gravel with tap water, but you can shake or stir the bucket your carrying it in before you dump the water out. Drian the bucket just before you put the gravel back in the tank and fill tank with water soon after.



## Joan's voice of experience:

Mark, I have had more experience than I care to relive moving and moving with fish (as well as cats and birds and kids). My advice is to first of all get some containers for the fish. Usually a pet shop will have extras from when they get their fish. If not check around at local restaurants. Pickle buckets make great temporary fish tanks. They are also useful for water changes. But just be sure to clean them out real good before using them. I have also found ice coolers to be very good - either the regular kind or the styro foam kind. Next get some battery operated pumps - one for each container of fish - and an airstone for each. Even tho your only moving them an hour away they will be out of the tank for much longer. I think you will find that keeping them supplied with aeration will help reduce their stress and make the move much easier on them. Next, fill the temporary containers with water from the tank. Bag your live plants in plastic bags. If they are secure bags you may want to put some aquarium water in the bags as well. Before moving the aquarium itself, remove all pumps, filters decorative items and anything that can be tossed around during the move. You want to avoid the possibility of breaking equipment or having equipment bounce around and break the aquarium glass. Finally, if it is at all possible remove as much of the gravel as possible. It makes a tank very heavy. I have found a big rubbermaid storage container very useful. In this way I can also easily clean the gravel before putting it back in the tank. In fact, I look on moving time as a chance to completely clean my tank. However, I really don't mean completely. At this time I do not change any of the filter mediums and I don't clean under the UGF. In fact I deliberately do not try to get all the water out. But I do wipe the glass down good, clean or replace tubing and clean all the accessories. I am sure there are microscopic things in the filter and at the bottom of the tank which help reestablish the tank. I don't know if what I am doing is right, but I do know that it works for me. I rarely lose a fish when I move and have a 55g, a 30g and a 29g as well as an occasional 10 or 20. Another thing I prefer to do is to fill the tank and let it run at least overnight before I put the fish back in. In this way I can be sure that everything is working.

This may all be more information than you wanted. But if you have other questions feel free to ask. In the last 10 years I have moved 7 times. I'll do my best to help you.


It is simple and free to subscribe to AQUARIUM. From Internet send to - [listservCemuvmi.bitnet](mailto:listservCemuvmi.bitnet)

From Bitnet send to- [listservCemuvmi.cc.emory.edu](mailto:listservCemuvmi.cc.emory.edu)

In the text of your message from both Bitnet and Internet type sub AQUARIUM Your Name

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ed. note: my typewriter only prints english, not computer gibberish. What I printed above as C is supposed to be something that looks like this- . Why do you computer people have to use all of these secret codes for anyway? Just what are you trying to hide from the rest of us? J.M.



Comments on the Preceding Article

By John Mangan, PVAS

I'm not going to make any more cracks about computers or computer nerds. Although I really do wish they could make things so that us computer illiterate people could use them without having to learn a second language.

What I want to make some comments on are some of the things in the text of the example Jesse gave us of AQUARIUM. If I had a computer I would have typed in something like the following as part of the discussion of Mark's question:

John's 2¢ worth

Comments on "Dave's nine step plan":

Dave mentions scrubbing the can. Be careful what you use to scrub it with. Don't use any type of soap or detergent on the can, or anything else you use for your aquarium for that matter. Hopefully all of you PVAS members reading this already know not to do this. Always make sure you mention this though when talking with someone like Mark who doesn't seem to know a whole lot about aquariums. Although Mark might not have had time to do this, what I do when I buy a new trashcan to use for storing my water changing water is- Fill up the can with tap water. place an air operated box filter, with LOTS of carbon in it in the can. Let this run for about a week. Get rid of this water and rinse the can. It should now be safe to use.

Don't use sand. Use gravel. Sand tends to pack tightly and you can easily form pockets of anaerobic activity which can cause problems if the sand is not kept very clean and well stirred.

Comments on "Curtis's 3 Guidelines":

Wash the gravel. It's probably really mucky and disgusting in most peoples tanks. Don't wash it so that it's sterile. Use warm water, not boiling hot, tap water is o.k. Bacteria will cling onto the gravel pretty tenaciously. You'll kill and wash away some but there will be plenty left. If you don't wash the gravel, no matter how careful you are pouring the water back in you will stir up all of the muck and have a cloudy messy tank for quite some time. Your fish will also be stressed by having to "breathe" in all of the fine silt in the water. Don't worry about covering the gravel with water, it will be fine for quite awhile. The bacteria will probably live better on damp gravel exposed to air than in shallow stagnant water. Just like on the filter media in a trickle filter.

Comments on "Joan's voice of experience":

Pickle buckets or other similar containers are great. But again, no soap. What I do whenever I come across a new bucket like this is to use it for a while for emptying tanks only. This can be from a few weeks to a few months depending on what was in the bucket originally. You may also want to let it sit around full of water for the first week, just like the trashcans, to leach out anything that may be in it.

Don't put your plants in bags full of water. They will travel better without it. For a short trip just in a plastic bag is fine. For longer trips wrap the plant carefully in damp newspaper or something similar, then into a plastic bag.

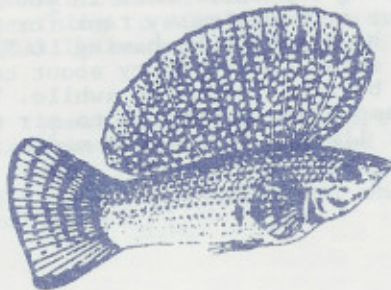
I agree with Joan about not cleaning the filter, this will help get your tank going biologically faster. This is assuming it's a short trip. On a long one the filter media may turn anaerobic if it's too dirty to start with. You can simply keep a small piece of old filter material to seed the new filter with (this is something you should also be doing whenever you do your regular maintenance filter changes also). Where I disagree is on cleaning under the UG filter plate. Like I mentioned above about the gravel if you don't clean this out all of this muck will get stirred up into your water. Besides this is a rare opportunity to clean this accumulated muck out of the system.

Not cleaning the gravel or under the plate may work for Curtis and Joan but they are probably keeping these clean with very good regular maintenance. Most people won't be able to get away with not cleaning these out before moving.

Good thing I don't have a computer. I'd be spending all of my time making a pest of myself by making comments like these, only not so polite.

AQUARIUM.cc.?!#

Mark, this is John. Don't listen to what Arnie says, he's a jerk...





crushed coral and some Neutral Regulator helped (but I still haven't completely solved the problem). The lesson here, of course, is to do regular water testing. Had I been testing the water, I probably would have detected the pH problem before it became a crisis. When I described the problem to the manager of one of the local petshops, she mentioned that the shop had been receiving an unusual number of calls from customers reporting low pH and/or high ammonia readings. So far, I've had reports from club members in Alexandria and Silver Spring (I live in Annandale), so the problem apparently is not confined to my immediate area. Just what the cause of all this is, I don't know (does anyone out there know?), but next winter I'll be watching my water quality carefully. Oh yeah, the pleco's doin just fine...so far...

Just to update everyone on what's been planned in the way of club activities, we now have the dates for three weekend events. First, obviously, is the auction on March 13th; next is our annual spring (?) auction, which will be held on June 5th this year (the only other available weekend at the hotel would have put us in conflict with the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society's spring extravaganza); and, finally, PVAS will host another weekend workshop/auction on October 14, 15, and 16. Regarding the workshop, we anticipate that it will be very similar to last year's event (which received rave reviews), albeit with a different slate of speakers. We're still working on (thinking about) a field trip sometime this spring or summer (destination to be determined). And we will have a March general meeting, even though it falls on the Monday evening after the March auction. A few of us have volunteered to give a workshop of sorts on raising live foods - should be fun.

See you on March 13th!



Alex

Puzzle Page Answers:

1. Angelfish; Oscar; Ram; Discus; I'll count Pike as an answer since there is a pike cichlid, although I was referring to the North American Pike.
2. Ameba, Ameba splendens the butterfly goodeid; Belonesox, the pike livebearer, still not the pike I was referring to with the name pike though, see the last issue of Delta Tale for more on this fish; Goodeid, a family of livebearing fishes; Guppy; Molly; Platy; Swordtail.
3. Goby is the answer I was looking for but Darter and Sculpin are partially right although their fins aren't modified nearly as much as a true goby.
4. Selfish. There are freshwater angelfish and saltwater angelfish which are no relation to each other (except very distantly). Betta will also count as a correct answer. There is a fish called a marine betta, no relation to the freshwater genus Betta.
5. Ameba splendens is named after the Rio Ameba in Mexico.
6. The neon tetra.
7. Gar. The alligator gar was used as armor by at least one Indian tribe in Florida.
8. Betta is the easy answer to this one but there are also other fishes that are able to breathe air to some extent: some Botia; Corydoras; some loaches; Otocinclus; and many of the Plecostomus type fishes.
9. Killifish is the best known example but Rainbowfish hobbyists are also able to ship eggs. Rainbow eggs are pretty tough and durable just like killifish eggs.
10. Did you make up a good question? If you did send it to me and if I get enough I will use them some time in the future. Please send me any other ideas or puzzles you can think up too. I'd like to put a puzzle page in every issue but I'm sure I'll run out of ideas before very long. Send them to me c/o the PVAS post office box: PVAS, PO Box 664, Merrifield, VA 22116.



"Oh, there goes Lenny again — draining off the goldfish bowl ... He wants to one day work for the Army Corps of Engineers, you know."



# POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Post Office Box 6219 Shirlington Station, Arlington, Virginia 22206

## Application for Membership

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 199\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you hear about PVAS/get this application?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of aquariums: \_\_\_\_\_ Time in hobby? \_\_\_\_\_

Special interests (e.g., catfish, cichlids, etc..)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reason for joining: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

Family/Individual: \$12/yr  
Corresponding: \$ 9/yr  
Junior (under 18): \$ 5/yr

Please send application and check for dues to the address shown above.

## SUPPORTING VIRGINIA SHOPS

### ANNANDALE PET SHOP

7406 Little River Turnpike  
Annandale, VA 22031  
256-2400

### AQUATIC ENHANCEMENTS, INC.

Box 22677  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
(703) 765-4620

### DISCOUNT PET CENTER

9028 Mathis Avenue  
Manassas, VA 22110  
361-7769

### BAILEY'S PET CENTER

35217 South Jefferson Street  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
931-1400

### BEACON MALL PET CENTER

6776 Richmond Highway  
Alexandria, VA 22306  
660-6100

### NATIONAL PET AND AQUARIUM

6168 Arlington Blvd  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
533-7828

### NEESE'S PISCES

3304 Mt. Vernon Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22305  
548-0557

### OAKTON PET SHOP

Rt 123 & Hunter Mill Road  
Oakton, VA 22124  
281-9622

### PET MART - TYSONS

8417 Old Courthouse Road  
Vienna, VA 22180  
281-8181

### PETS, ETC - ALEXANDRIA

7688-B Richmond Highway  
Alexandria, VA 22306  
768-2200

### PETS, ETC - CHANTILLY

13932 Lee-Jackson Highway  
Chantilly, VA 22021  
378-2777

### PETS, ETC - HERNDON

462 Eiden Street  
Herndon, VA 22171  
437-0381

### PETS, ETC - STERLING

243-C Harry Flood Byrd Hwy  
Sterling, VA 22170  
430-9667

### PETS-N-THINGS

3081 Nutley Street  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
573-4400

### SUNSHINE PETS

7395-H Lee Highway  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
573-6946

### TANKS-A-LOT

6635 Backlick Road  
Springfield, VA 22150  
703-866-1057



## SUPPORTING MARYLAND SHOPS

### ANIMAL EXCHANGE

765-A Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852  
424-PETS

### AQUARIUM CENTER

Liberty Road at Offutt Road  
Randlestown, MD  
301-521-4529

### BROTHERS PETS INC.

13810 Georgia Avenue  
Aspen Hill, MD 20906  
460-4600

### CONGRESSIONAL AQUARIUM

162 Congressional Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852  
881-6182

### FISH FACTORY AQUARIUM

582 North Frederick Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
881-6182

### GLENMONT TROPICALS

12345 Georgia Avenue  
Wheaton, MD 20902  
949-0344

### HAPPY PETS

617 Hungerford Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850  
762-6878

### HOUSE OF TROPICALS

7389F Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
301 761-1113

### MARINE CARE SPECIALISTS

15820 Redland Road  
Rockville, MD 20855  
330-0720

### MARYLAND TROPICALS

11229A New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
593-1116

### MONTGOMERY TROPICALS

7845-G Airpark Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
670-0886

### PETDATE - WHITE FLINT

5268 Nicholson Lane  
Kensington, MD 20895  
231-5216

### RICK'S FISH & PET SUPPLY

1003J West Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD 21702  
301-694-9664 301-831-6866

### SHOWCASE AQUARIUM

11248-11250 Triangle Lane  
Wheaton, MD 20902  
942-6464

### TROPICAL FISH WORLD, INC.

16529 South Frederick Center  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
921-0000

### TROPICAL LAGOON

9439 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
585-6562

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
PO Box 664  
Merrifield, VA 22116

Meetings are held at the John C. Wood Facility, 3730 Old Lee Hwy.  
(rte 237) Fairfax City, VA. Room 7 (in the rear of the building).  
Doors open at 7:30, meetings start at 8:00. ALL ARE WELCOME.

