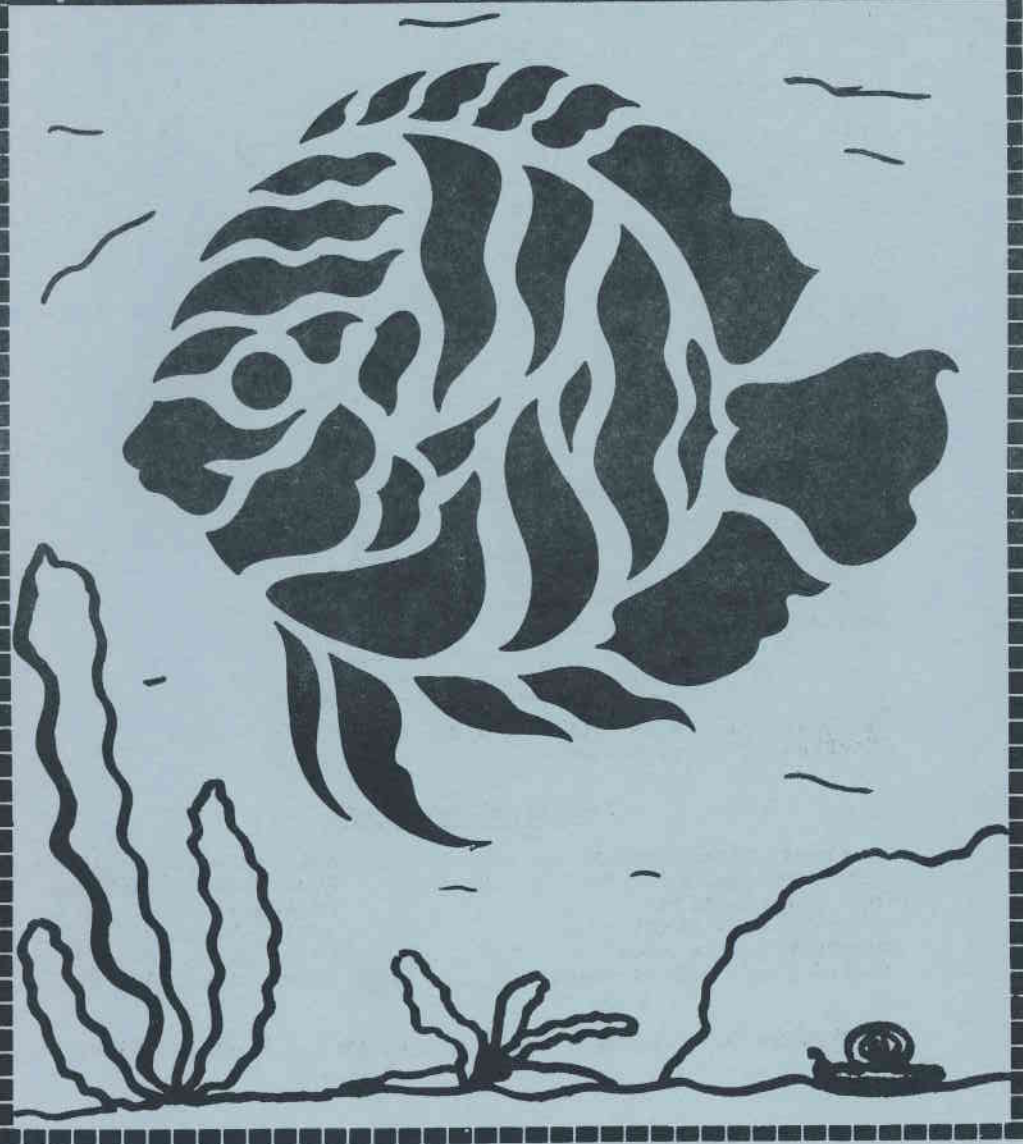


* DELTA TALE *

March 1986
vol. 17 #3
50¢

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



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FRUM THE EDITORZ DESK

Things are looking pretty good for the spring show. For a while it looked like we might not be able to find an affordable place to hold it. We ended up with the Falls Church Inn- same place as we held the fall banquet and auction. We are going to try something new (at least new for us) this year. We are going to be seeking individuals, groups, organizations, etc. to sponsor classes in the show. Basicly what this means is that for a certain amount, which will be used to help pay for the trophy or ribbons for the class, you will be acknowledged as the sponser of a class. Which class you sponser is your choice, on a first come first served basis of course. Complete details on this program should be available at the March meeting and will be printed in next months Delta Tale.

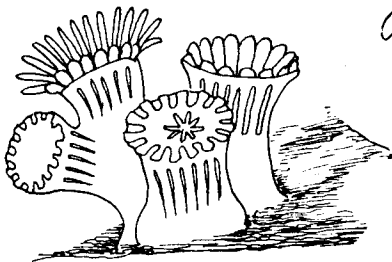
I'm desperately seeking new artwork (that sounds familiar, wasn't that the name of a movie... no, I guess not) for use in Delta Tale. I've been recycling the same old stuff for the past couple of years and I'm getting tired of looking at it. Can anybody out there draw fish? I know some of you out there can draw flies... never mind, let me change the subject before I get myself into trouble.

You will find several pages on the BAP program in this issue. I would like to urge all of you to read these. The BAP needs your support and participation. If you are not familiar with the program see the Jan. Delta Tale for complete details or talk to John Jessup at the next meeting. This used to be the most popular program in the club and I'd like to see it return to this status.

I'm running out of stuff to talk about. I wonder if it matters though? Is anybody out there actually reading this column? Or could I just ramble on and on and on and on and on about nothing in particular without anyone noticing? If I could it sure would be easier than trying to come up with something original to say each month. I could even just recycle old columns and even save myself the trouble of typing anything. So, what do you think? Hello..... is anybody out there? Oh well, I can't sit here all night I have other things to do.

Until next mont (maybe)....

John



Trading Post

Ads for the Trading Post should be sent to Delta Tale C/O John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna, VA 22180 by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

Want: Allotoca spp., Allodontichthys spp., Zoogoneticus spp., Xenotoca melanosoma, female Iriatherina wernerii (red tail strain).

For Sale/Trade: Xenotoca eiseni, Chapalichthys encaustis, C. pardalis, Xenoophorus captivus, Egyptian Mouthbrooder.

Buy/Sell/Trade: old aquarium books and magazines.

John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna, VA 22180.

For Sale: 20 gal. inc. hood; 5 gal. inc. hood; Diatom X-L Filter; Coral; Battery operated air pump; breeding trap (hardly used); 250w Ebo-Jager Heater; 200w ECL heater (hardly used).

Contact David Sun, 941-5116.

Whats Happening in March

Program: Rick Bell, PVAS member and owner of Rick's Fish and Pet Supply, will speak on running a pet shop.

Raffle: lots of good stuff plus the door prize.

Mini-auction: heres your chance to pick up some good stuff at good prices.

Bowl Show: New World Dwarf Cichlids, Riftlake non-mbuna, Killifish non-corydoras catfish, and of course the usual open classes for everything that doesn't fit any of the above.

FREE admission to the first 25,000 people so come early.



FIXING (AND IMPROVING) WEAK AIR PUMPS

Mark Westling, PVAS

I recently purchased a used Whisper 100 air pump to power an air stone for a ten-gallon tank. Not suprisingly, at least not to those of us who own lots of used aquarium equipment, the amount of air flowing from the pump was weak, bordering on pathetic. What *did* surprise me was the discovery that, after only a few minutes of tinkering, I was able to restore the pump's original performance, and actually improve on it.

First, some basics about vibrator air pumps. Virtually all of these pumps use an electromagnet to drive a bellows-like apparatus. In most cases, a small rubber cup (diaphragm) fits over a valve assembly. Two valves are used to direct the air flowing in and out of the diaphragm. One valve allows air to enter from the outside, but not to escape that way. The other valve allows air to flow from the diaphragm out through a nozzle. Like the other valve, this valve is one-way: air cannot flow back through the nozzle into the diaphragm. The diaphragm is attached to a lever, one end of which is connected to a magnet. When the pump is plugged in, the electromagnet causes the magnet, the lever, and the diaphragm to vibrate back and forth. As the diaphragm moves inward, air is pushed out through the nozzle of the pump. No air can flow through the other valve at this point. Next, when the diaphragm moves outward, the valve to the nozzle closes and the other valve opens, allowing outside air to come in. Thus, a one-way flow is generated: air comes in through one valve, and leaves through the other. The flow coming from the pump seems to be continuous only because the diaphragm is moving so fast (sixty times a second).

There's not much to these pumps. The only moving parts which can break are the diaphragm and the valves, and many manufacturers provide these in repair kits. Occasionally, the electromagnet of pump may overheat and fail, and in this case, well, you've lost a pump but gained some spare parts.

The Whisper air pump can now be examined a bit more knowledgeably. The bottom black rubber piece is removed with four phillips-head screws. The diaphragm is a small rubber cup, about an inch in diameter and half-an-inch in height, that fits snugly over the valve assembly. The valve assembly and the rubber grommet on which it sits can be taken out by first removing the screw that enters the pump case next to the output nozzle and then by prying it off the diaphragm. Old diaphragms tend to crack, so be gentle. (If you discover a crack in the diaphragm, either buy a replacement kit or cannibalize another pump of the same model. Most diaphragms I have seen attach to a metal arm with a small nut and bolt, and can be removed with a small wrench.) The valve assembly is a hard plastic disk with a thick rim. The valves themselves are small, thin rubber flaps shaped like the silhouette of a lightbulb. The wide end of each flap

is held in place by a thick rubber plug so that the smaller end lies flush on top of a hole in the disk. Air pressure on this side cannot push the flap through the hole, so the valve is closed. Air pressure on the other side, however, will push the flap open and allow flow.

My first step was to remove the plugs and clean the valves, one at a time. I did this by simply wiping off accumulated oil and dirt from the flaps and by cleaning the area around the holes with a cotton swab. After putting the assembly back together, I verified the operation of the valves by putting my mouth over the disk and checking the air flow in both directions. The disk was then refitted with the grommet, which backs against the case. There are two notches in both the disk and the grommet which indicate proper alignment. Next, I put the valve assembly and the grommet back into the pump case, slipping the diaphragm over the disk (more on this later) and verifying that the grommet was aligned with the outside screw hole and the nozzle. After replacing this screw, the bottom was refitted and the pump was ready to go.

But wait; there's more! After I had performed this operation on the used pump, and was thoroughly amazed with the improvement, I decided to disassemble and clean another Whisper 100 that I had been using for a few years. When I was finished, I found that this pump actually performed worse than before. I repeated the operation, only this time not pushing the diaphragm as snugly on top of the valve assembly as before. The performance (and noise) increased. It was then obvious what was happening: the snugger the fit against the valve assembly, the less room the diaphragm had to move, and the less air that could be moved through it. By pulling it up somewhat, I created a larger chamber volume which substantially increased the flow. The pump was now putting out way too much air for a single air stone in a ten gallon tank, so I adjusted the diaphragm a bit at a time, just as I would have done with an air valve.

By cleaning the valves and adjusting the seating of the diaphragm, I was able to make the Whisper 100 produce the amount of air it would take to drive the two lift tubes of an undergravel filter in a ten gallon tank, whereas before it could adequately operate only a single sponge filter. I have not had enough time to see if there are any long term effects of adjusting the diaphragm, so I make no guarantees. (Even if I *did* have enough time I wouldn't make any guarantees.) I have not tried this with any other air pumps, since I haven't had any other recent excuses to go tearing into one. But, given their similarities of design, I believe this operation can be generally useful for rejuvenating, if not improving, the average older air pump.



NOT ALL CICHLIDS ARE DESIRABLE

by George White

Before I launch into this topic, a word of warning--keep your editorial comments to yourself John...I do not intend to use this article to make invidious comparisons between the vibrant colors and fascinating behavior of cichlids and those of goodies. After all, each fish has its proper place.

Shortly after arriving in Milan, Italy, I took a tour of the local aquarium shops. Most were small by American standards and many featured only salt water goodies. As could be expected in a country almost surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea, the dealers stocked a fantastic variety of salt water fish and invertebrates. Some of the more colorful ones came from the Red Sea--a wonderland famous among skin divers. Many stores also sold exotic shells from around the world for collectors. Three shops offered a wide selection of fresh water fish and quickly became my favorites. Fish and equipment generally cost almost twice what they sell for in the United States (Germany, in contrast, is usually less expensive than the US).

One little aquarium store tucked away in a side alley offered cichlids at attractive prices, and often had species not stocked by the other dealers. One day I spotted some brightly colored little pseudotropheus Lombardoi (aka Kenyi), an old favorite that I had never bred nor even kept. I bought five of the little rascals, envisioning eventually obtaining a breeding pair and enjoying a school of bright blue striped fry accompanied by a bright yellow male and a blue striped female.

I fed them every time I passed the tank, in which the temperature was elevated to promote rapid growth. After two months the Lombardoi had grown much larger, but lacked the vibrant blue they displayed when I bought them. Obviously they needed different foods--I had been feeding several varieties of dry flakes with a rare sampling of live foods. A change of diet had no noticeable effect--the little duds continued to fade as they grew.

At maturity, the Lombardoi females sported bland grey/blue and dark grey stripes rather than the bright blue and black found on good adult specimens I had previously admired. The males never turned a real yellow or orange, but took on a faded grey with hints of faded stripes. I apparently had a bad strain. Then a strange event aggravated me--the females refused to breed with their males and choose instead to mate with the ps. Zebra males (who were blue). I culled the fry and moved the Zebras to another aquarium.

The first Lombardoi fry finally made the scene, but something was wrong. Their dull grey color with broken stripes almost looked like mottling. Some even displayed the same mottling pattern I had seen on my Zebra-Lombardoi crosses. Further adding to the puzzle was the fact that the other species in the aquarium--haplochromis and the like--were not closely related enough to the Lombardoi to produce a cross. (I kept the strange fry for several months out of curiosity before wiping them out). While discussing my strange fish with a fellow cichlid fancier, he remarked that the mottling might have been a recessive trait that only showed up in second generation hybrids. (someone later commented that they may have been exposed to the influence of goodieds while they were young and impressionable, but I think he was merely kidding me. In any case, there were no goodieds in the store in which I found the Lombardoi).

I returned to the dealer to inquire about the source of the fish, and spotted ugly little fish with the same markings in one of the sales tanks. The dealer insisted, however, that they were cichlids and could see nothing wrong with their lack of purity. "A cichlid is a cichlid" and what counts is that they are attractively colored or patterned. I wonder how often hobbyists with this philosophy cross the ps. Zebra "morphs" which some writers suspect may actually be closely related species.

Moral of the story? Obviously, we should all take care to maintain the purity of our species and cull any accidental hybrids instead of dumping them on the market--creating the risk that an unsuspecting hobbyist might buy them and breed them into a previously pure strain producing fish whose true identity cannot readily be seen. I cannot be sure that whoever sold the "Lombardoi" to the dealer did not tell him that they were hybrids--in any case, I was fooled. And we should watch out. After all, not everyone is as magnamou as John Mangan who is willing to dedicate a whole basement to preserving obscure little fishes, one species of which may be facing extinction in its natural habitat.

Some Comments on the Preceding Article

John Mangan, PVAS

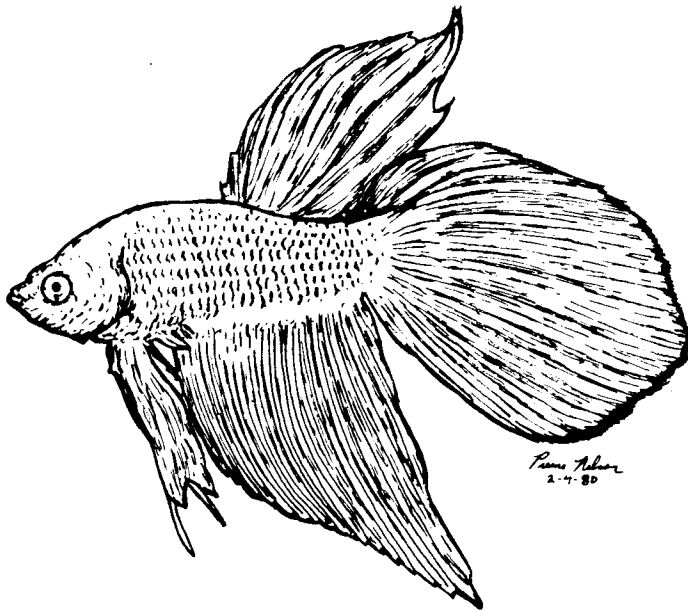
In the preceding article George White brings up a subject that I think cannot be stressed enough - hybrids. The situation that George found himself in is all too common. People will indiscriminately hybridize species and then dump them on an unsuspecting public. I don't think that this is generally done out of malice, but out of stupidity and carelessness.

Once these hybrids become established in the hobby they cause frustration and disappointment for hobbyists such as George and nightmares for taxonomists.

Due to pollution and habitat destruction more and more species are becoming endangered, and extinct, in the wild. Care must be taken to keep our aquarium strains pure. Once a fish is lost or the strain "polluted" by hybridization we may not be able to replace it. An example of this is the goodeid that George refers to in his article. Skiffia francesae IS extinct in the wild. If anything happens to the aquarium strain of this fish then the species is finished. Examples of fish that are endangered can probably be found among just about any group.

It is the responsibility of all of us, hobbyists and dealers, to prevent instances like the one that happened to George. We must all work together to protect the future of our hobby.

One final comment, on a different subject- I have a pretty good guess on the identity of the "someone" who told George that the problem was caused by exposure to goodeids. George was very wise not to pay attention to him.



FROM THE BAP

Hopefully, this will not become a regular feature in the DELTA TALE. My only reason for putting it in this issue is to pass along a few things that I consider important about the Breeder's Award Program and that I felt I wanted to mention to the membership in general.

When Gene Aldridge and I, along with several others, formed the BAP, we did so base upon advice we received from the Youngstown Aquarium Society and upon the clear conviction that our Society was stagnating and need a new challenge. Half of the group was raising African cichlids and the other half were into guppies. Attendance at meetings in those days was not for the faint of heart as rancor and open threats were not unknown. There is even a DELTA TALE cover depicting a long-toothed African cichlid eating a guppie! (The editor quit right after that edition came out!)(See illustration)

Our purpose in starting the BAP was to force the dedicated members of PVAS into new areas of the hobby, to deal with fish of other, different species, and to broaden our overall appreciation of the hobby.

Some of us, Gene and I included, had been in the hobby a long time. We had worked with many different varieties of fish holding some in awe and others in disrepute. We knew what the challenges were and wanted others to have the pleasure of facing them. The BAP looked like a means of accomplishing that notion; I felt that then and I feel it now. That is why I have taken this opportunity to address these few points to you.

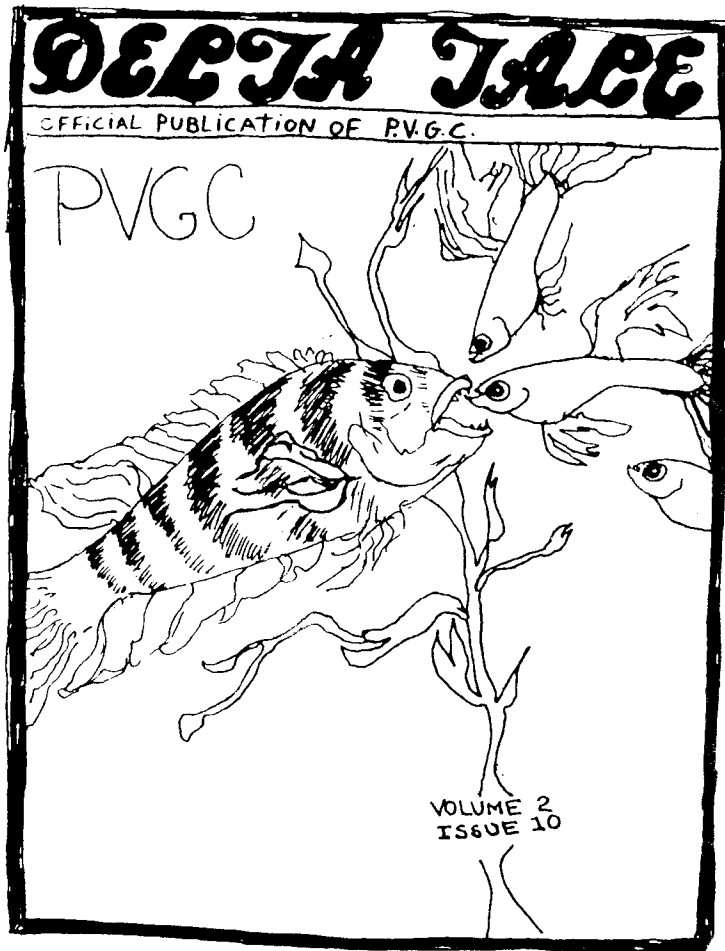
First of all, I believe most of you are aware that President Bob Roser asked me to take over chairmanship of the BAP upon the untimely death of Pat Mahoney. I accepted in the conviction that the BAP is one of the most significant parts of our organization and that I can probably make my best contribution to PVAS by seeing that it runs well. Besides, I have a computer and it will be great fun trying to devise a program whereby all of the voluminous records associated with the BAP may be reduced to bits and bytes!

Secondly, I want to use this as a means of announcing the 1986 Committee of the BAP. With the concurrence of the President and the Board of Governors, I have asked the following PVAS members to be members of the Committee:

Gerry Hoffman
Garland Neese
Gene Aldridge
John Mangan
Bob Roser (ex officio)

Third, I want to announce that there will be a meeting of the BAP before the end of April the time and location of which will be announced at the March meeting. The agenda will include time for discussion of recommendations from

the general PVAS membership on how to improve the BAP. The Committee solicits your comments and the results of each recommendation that is made will be reported to the general membership following the BAP meeting. Please submit your suggestions to me or to one of the other members of the BAP Committee as soon as possible. If you feel it necessary to personally address the Committee, please see me.



ed. note- if you are wondering why Delta Tale is labeled above as "official publication of PVGC" - our original name was the Potomac Valley Guppy Club. J.M.

Fourth, and most important, is my personal plea for those of you interested in this phase of the hobby to participate in the BAP. Even those of you that raise Goodies can participate! It may not be as much fun as raising real fish, but it has its own rewards. There is a great deal of pleasure in working with fish and in arranging their conditions so that they feel comfortable enough to spawn. One of the most inspiring sights in nature is watching a pair of breeding fish care for their young. Some of the elements of human parenting are missing, of course, but, in their own way, fish accomplish the same results. It is a rewarding part of the hobby to participate in this process and it is really what the whole thing is all about. There are those in the hobby who believe that fish need only be put in a tank and left to their own devices to spawn. This is nonsense and, even though these folks get lucky once in a while, the real challenge is in developing an environment that induces the spawning.

Please feel free to address your questions about the BAP to me or to one of the other Committee members. We look forward to hearing from you!

CHECKERS

Arlington County:	Pat Gore - 522-3884
Fairfax-Vienna:	Jim Long - 280-1753
Alexandria:	Jerry or Amy Stirman - 941-6729
Clifton-Centerville:	Kenny Warren - 378-8838
Dale City:	Bob Roser - 659-1879
Warrenton:	Gerry Hoffman - 347-1704
Prince Georges County:	Alex Cummins - 656-6356
Montgomery County:	Ray Hughes - 424-3531

ed. note- back when I first joined PVAS the BAP was one of the most active parts of this club. Over the past couple of years, however, participation has dropped drastically. I think one of the main reasons for this is that as the older members have left the program for various reasons newer members haven't been entering to take their places. I would, therefore, like to ask all of our newer members to strongly consider getting into this program. YOU are the future of this club. It is up to YOU to help keep it going. You may even learn something at the same time.

J.M.

BREEDER'S AWARD PROGRAM

BREEDER'S AWARD PROGRAM STATUS

Grand Master Breeder

John Jessup	585
-------------	-----

Master Breeder

Garland Neese	1,115
Gerry Hoffman	895
Pat & Maggie Mahoney	785
Darrell Holman	640
Woody Griffin	610

Advanced Breeder

Ruth Brewer	305
-------------	-----

Intermediate Breeder

None

Breeder

Frank Angilletta	140
Alex Cummins	125
Nathan Mainwaring	100
Amy Stirman	50

Members Working For BAP Status

Pat Gore	10
Ray Krause	10
John Mangan	10
Leslie Stirman	10

Q & A

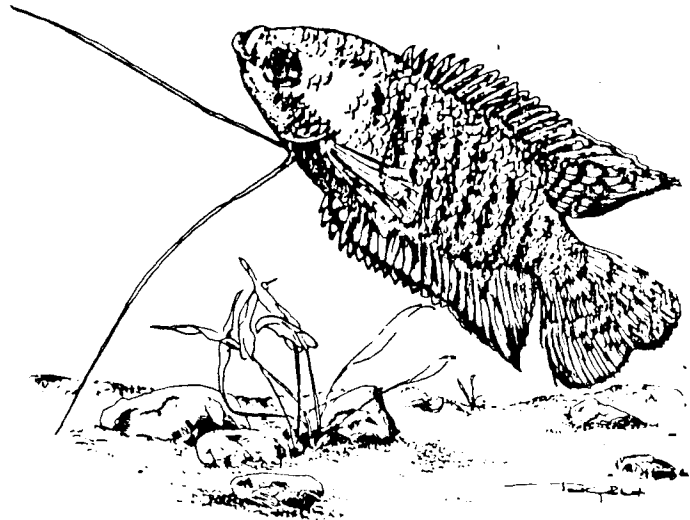
Anyone having questions about any aspect of aquariums or related topics can send them to Delta Tale c/o John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave. Vienna, VA 22180.

Q. How hardy are fresh and salt water nitrobacters? How long do they live? How fast do they reproduce?

A. The answer to all of the above questions is "it depends". There are numerous factors that contribute to all of the above. Nitrobacters are bacteria that convert nitrite into nitrate under aerobic conditions. As long as they have plenty of oxygen and a food source they will be very "hardy". They can, however, easily be killed off by many types of medications. This is why when using an undergravel filter you have to be very careful about adding medications to the tank or you will "kill" the filter. How long they live is almost a philosophical question rather than a biological one. When a bacteria divides in two is it two new individuals? Two copies of the old one? An old one and a new one (if so which is which)? How fast they reproduce depends on environmental factors such as oxygen content, food available, temperature, etc. Under good conditions they will reproduce much more rapidly than under poor ones.

Q. What is the function of "The Mirror" in the Delta Tale?

A. The Mirror column is a listing of article, originally published in Delta Tale, that have been reprinted or reviewed by other publications. Its purpose is to acknowledge the fact that other clubs thought the article was good enough to reprint or review and to congratulate the author on a job well done. Kind of like a pat on the back. It also shows the authors listed that at least someone out there is reading what he has written and liked it.



THE MIRROR

J.M.

REVIEWS

✓
"Good Parents" by Howard Kresin was reviewed in the Dec/Jan issue of Sand Paper, publication of Singing Sands Aquarium Society.

"The Panamanian Acara" by Pat Mahoney was reviewed in the Dec. 1985 issue of The Reflector, publication of the Central New York Aquarium Society.

"The Black Ghost" by John Mangan was reviewed in the Nov. 1985 issue of Fins 'N Tales, publication of the Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society.

Thank you to the following for printing obituaries for PVAS member Pat Mahoney: All Cichlids, Michigan Cichlid Assoc.; North Jersey Aquarium Society Reporter; The Daphnian, Boston Aquarium Society.

P I S C E S

By

Jason E. Kooker, PVAS

Fish

Living, Swimming

Wet Wonderful Beautiful

Pices

BOWL SHOW REPORT FOR

February

CICHLIDS

New World Medium

1st
2nd
3rd

Haplochromis

1st Hap. Euchilus-M. Westling
2nd Hap. Petoni-J. Long
3rd

Open

1st Apisto. Kleei-D. Mann
2nd Ps. Tropheops-D. Sun
3rd Ps. Zebra-D. Sun

EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

Guppies

1st Guppy-Julie Lamberth
2nd
3rd

Barbs

1st T Barb-J. Bennet
2nd
3rd

Open

1st Sailfin Molly-J. Bennet
2nd Swordtail-J. Bennet
3rd Unknown Fish A--D. Mann

Judges Choice-Sailfin Molly Judge-John Mangan

<u>MONTH QUARTER ANNUAL</u>				<u>MONTH QUARTER ANNUAL</u>			
D. Sun	6	22	22	J. Bennet	16	16	16
C. Edlar	0	10	10	C. Edlar	0	11	11
D. Mann	7	7	7	B. Pallansch	0	14	14
M. Westling	6	6	6	J. Lamberth	4	14	14
J. Long	4	4	4	M. Westling	0	6	6
J. Bennet	2	2	2	D. Mann	5	5	5
				J. Stieringer	0	2	2

Coming Attractions

New World Dwarf Killifish
Riftlake, Non-Mbuna Catfish, Non-Corydoras
Open Open
Bring in d'em fish!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!(etc.)

SPAWNING MALPULUTTA KRETSEI
OR
PARADISE LOST, PARADISE FOUND,
ALIVE AND WELL, BUT TWO TANKS DOWN

by Gary Lange
Missouri Aquarium Society

There's "this guy" from the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society that's always spawning and writing about some rare and beautiful fish, like Diamond Tetras, or Peacock Gudgeons, or Malpulutta Kretseri. Makes me sick!*It's always something that I want but isn't available here, not even at Beldt's! Well, a few months back I saw that Gerry Hoffman (this guy from PVAS) was advertising fish in the new Breeder's Guild newsletter. Wow, maybe I could get some of those fish too!

Dan Hoermann (you know, KILLER DAN) had read his articles and said that I should try and get some Malpulutta kretseri from him also. Malpulutta what? Then he started carrying on and on about how neat these little anabantoids are, how they were the only ones in this genus, and how they built their bubble-nests *under* the water, etc., etc. Dan had some of these a while back but he *murdered* them! That is, he didn't use a tight fitting lid and they jumped out. Well, it turned out that Gerry didn't have many of those kretseri left, oh well, maybe next time. I was still getting a large box of other delectable goodies. When the box finally arrived it had an extra little goody in it, a pair of young kretseri.

In the bag they didn't look too spectacular, a little one inch brown speckled anabantoid with a rather strange looking dorsal. I couldn't really tell how Gerry could tell the male from the female because he didn't have any of his fancy finnage yet. When I called Gerry to confirm arrival the last thing he said was "take good care of those kretseri, there aren't many around. Cover them well, they really jump!"

Those little kretseri got their own warm (82 degrees F), shallow, bare, black bottom 5 gallon tank at the bottom of the rack, complete with lots of duckweed, java moss, java fern, and a few thick floating nylon mops to hide in. The top of the tank was *completely* covered with a tight glass cover, except for a very tiny (1/2 inch or less) corner opening to let an airline into the tank for the sponge filter. These fish were very spooky and would hide deep inside the mops or java fern. On more than one occasion I had to poke through their tank to make sure they were still inside.

They were fed lots of live baby brine shrimp and also a lot of daphnia. They really don't like frozen brine shrimp and they wouldn't touch flake food.

Then one day when I was getting ready to feed them I noticed that one was missing again, time to tear that tank apart again to find it. But this time no

* ed. note- he has that effect on lots of people. J.M. (PVAS)

matter how hard I shook the mops, NO fish! I remembered that phrase that Gerry had used in his article, "even a rare fish is no good if it is dried up and mummified." Oh no! A thorough search below my three tanks high rack revealed no mummies, and nothing stuck to the wall, either. Search the lower racks! This was a rather futile effort because all my tanks are covered with only a few small opening for heaters and power filters, and to top it off the tanks below were heavily planted, busy community tanks. After a few minutes of poking through those tanks I decided she must have gone to the bubblenest heaven, but there was no body, an MIA! "Take good care of those fish, cover them well, they really jump." I blew it! Those sorts of things really get to me. I firmly believe that if you get a new or unusual fish you should do everything possible to take care of it, spawn it, and spread the fry around.

By now I could tell it was the female that had jumped because now the other fish's dorsal had become greatly elongated and he had developed a long tail spike that ran almost an inch, this for a two-and-half inch fish. I think Gerry's description of this fish does a much better job than I could do. "Males have a fantastically elongated tail spike and thread-like extensions of the dorsal with blue iridescent outline to the finnage and definitely blue pelvic fins. Both sexes are dusky brown with black mottling, more so in the male, and a gorgeous blue and black patterning in the finnage. During courtship and spawning, the male appears very dark (blue-black) with increased mottling on the body, and the female appears more golden brown." Enough said. The male now spends most of his time in a 1" by 6" piece of PVC pipe in the bottom of the tank, making little bubblenests inside for his lost "baby."

Well, space being at a premium in my fish room, a young pair of redtailed *Iriatherina werneri* (featherfin rainbows) were added to the male's tank. They are also peaceful fish so everyone got along well.

One day, about a month later when I was feeding my planted community tank, I spied a small brownish fish. It's her! I haven't yelled that loud since I grabbed both ends of a shorted strip light in my bare feet on the basement floor! Fifteen minutes of tearing up plants, I finally had her, and placed her back where she belonged. Then the male really started working on his bubblenest. He would come out of his pipe and strut for her, spreading his fins, which really shows off that tail spike. About three days later I noticed a group of tiny tails hanging down out of the bubblenest. The male kept busy by gently putting the fry that fell out back into his nest. A careful siphoning of the tank produced about twenty fry.

These were moved to their own two-and-a-half gallon tank and fed liquid fry, egglayer formula, and microworms. A few plants were added and some snails were added to clean up any excess food. About a week later they could eat baby brine shrimp and quickly increased in size.

In the meantime I had noticed that there were still quite a few babies in the parent's tank. I'm not sure if the well fed parents and the *werneri* just ignored the babies or if they were just good hiders. I was always surprised to see how

many orange bellies there were swimming around in the plants after a good feeding of baby brine.

About two weeks after the first spawning the male was back in his pipe blowing bubbles and soon he had another nest of tiny tails. These fry are now about six weeks old and growing fairly rapidly. I hope that they will sex out fairly rapidly so they can be offered to other interested Breeder's Guild people and MASI members.

And yes, there have to be some kretseri for "Killer Dan". Hopefully he can live down his reputation so that he too can raise and successfully reproduce these little gems. He would do well to remember the words of Gerry Hoffman, "Take good care of those kretseri, there aren't many around, and cover them well, they really jump!"

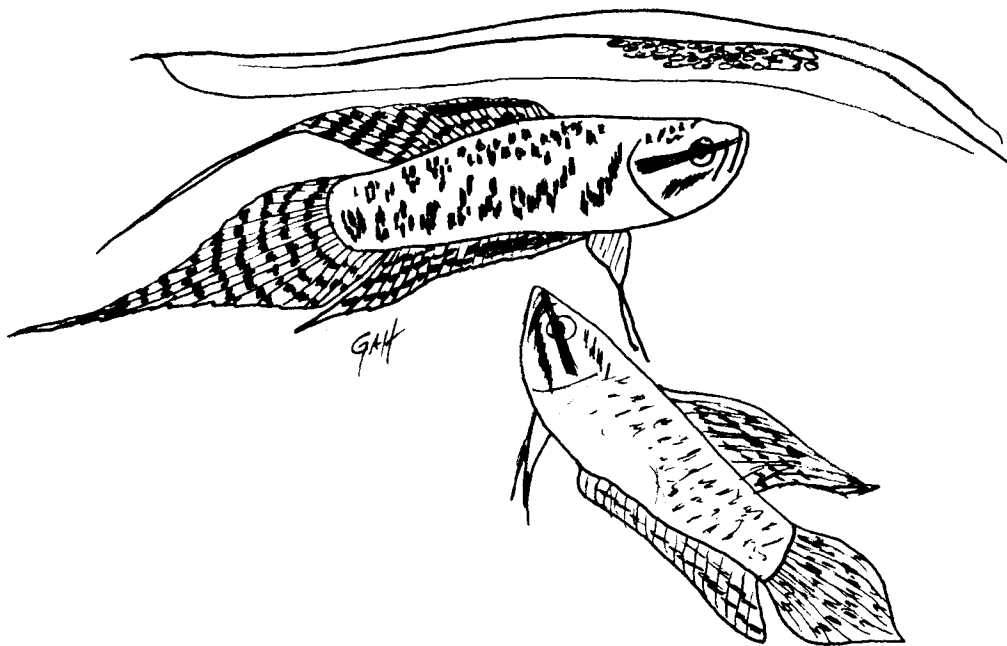
References:

Spawning *Malpulutta kretseri* - Gerry Hoffman, DELTA TALE, Oct/Nov '84, PVAS.

EXOTIC TROPICAL FISH, Exp. Ed. - Axelrod et al., p. 851.

ATLAS OF FRESHWATER FISHES - Axelrod et al., p. 620.

Reprinted from Tropical Topics, Indianapolis Aquarium Society, April 1984.



FROM THE PREZ....

It's been good to see how many loyal PVAS members have been coming out to the meetings despite all the crummy weather of late. The February meeting was well worth the effort and I thank Jim Long for a very interesting evening. Hopefully as many of us will turn out when the weather turns fair as have been coming during the dead of winter.

The March meeting will feature Rick Bell of Rick's Aquarium who will tell us the ins and outs of running a pet shop. This will be a good time for the questions that I'm sure many of our members have as to the whys and wherefores of the shops they do business with.

Bob Pallansch has been hard at work chairing the Spring Show committee. The Spring Show has always been the crowing glory of the PVAS each year. In order to make it such it takes the hard work of a lot of members. We'll be canvassing you all at the next two meetings for volunteers for the many committees we have in order to get everything moving smoothly. Unfortunately, I'll be in Seoul Korea during the show and this will be the first show I'll have missed since coming to the area. (But duty calls -- I'll have to check out the local area for any fish related items at the usual Korean prices).

Our Vice President and Spring Show Chairman also made the excellent suggestion for the April Show program of a "stump the experts" evening. Bring in your fish problems to our collective membership with its many years of experience in all fields of fish keeping and will see what answers they have. Any one who can stump John Mangan on the category of goodieds wins a week in Lorton.

I would like to remind everybody who brings items for the mini auctions to try to vary the offerings. Six bags of duck weed tends to lower the prices and brings in less revenue to the club.

I hope everyone else in the club has gotten over the flu in time for the March meeting. See you then.

Bob

ed. note- see what happens when your late, you lose your place.

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 _____

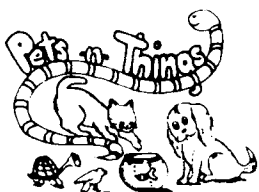
How long do you plan to be in this area? _____

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.



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

The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society will meet on the following dates in 1986:

Jan. 13	May 12	Sept. 8
Feb. 10	June 9	Oct. 13
March 10	July 14	Nov. 10
April 14	Aug. 11	Dec. 8

Meetings are held at the John C. Wood Facility, Rt. 237 (Old Lee Hgwy.)
Fairfax City, VA. Doors open at 7:30 PM, meetings start at 8:00 PM.
Everyone is welcome.