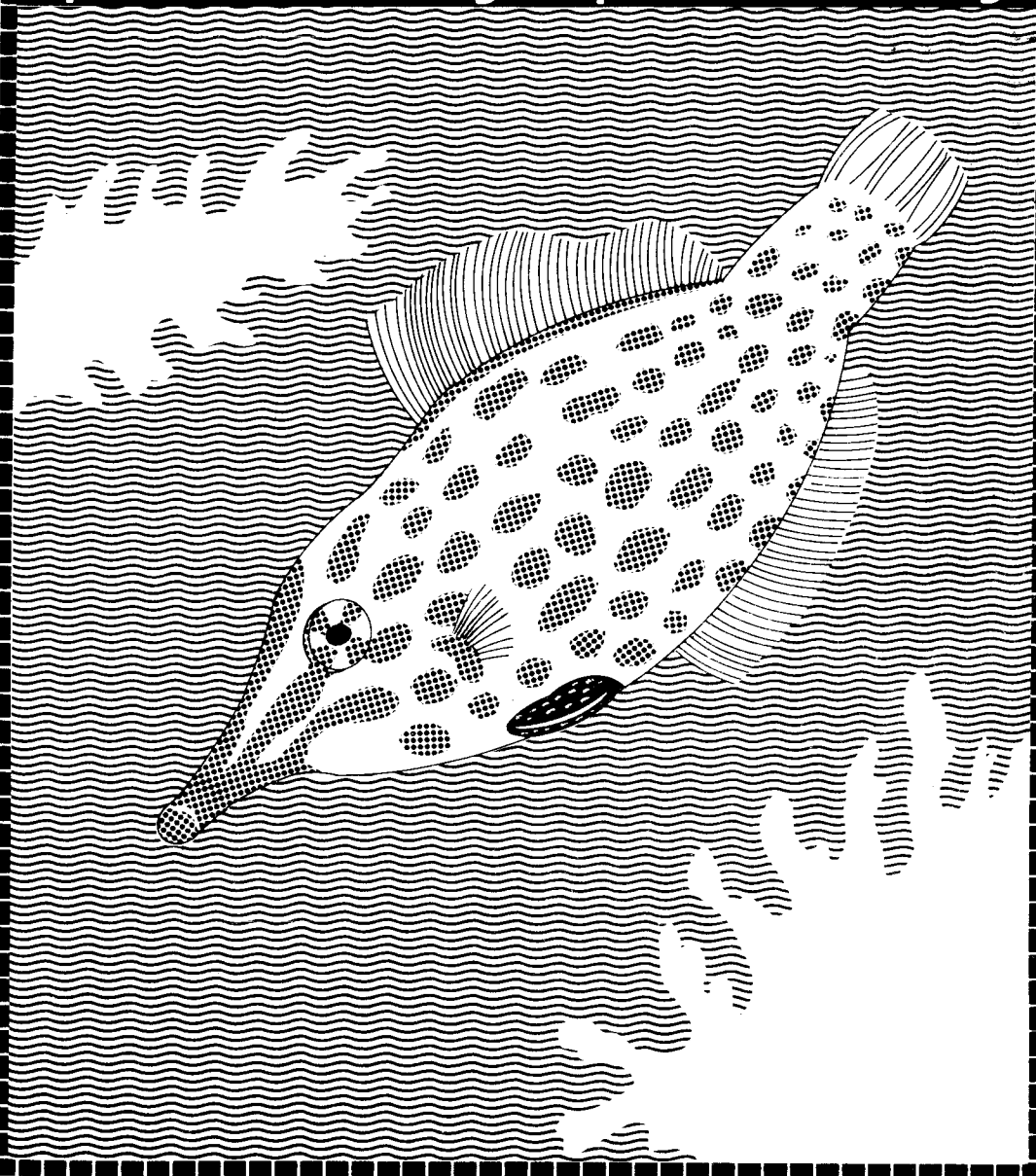


* DELTA TALE *

March 1987
vol. 18 #3
50¢

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

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Ex-officio- Bob Roser

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BAP- John Jessup	Bowl Shows-
HAP- Alex Cummins	Programs-
Library- Pete Thrift	Ways & Means-
Membership- Pat Gore	FAAS- Gerry Hoffman
Spring Show- Pete Thrift	Delta Tale- John Mangan

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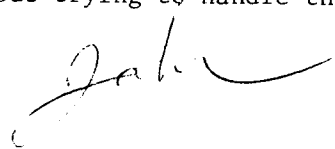
FRUM THE EDITORZ DESK

Much to my surprise I actually got some response to last months column. For two of the jobs I actually had several people willing to do them. The result was that the following people have been added to the Delta Tale staff: Amy Stirman will be taking over The Mirror, her first column should be in next months issue; Tom Hetzel is the new Trading Post editor, you can find information on where and when to send your trading post ads elsewhere in this issue; Scott LeMessurier will be in charge of distribution of Delta Tale to the shops, everyone currently taking Delta Tales to a shop(s) should see Scott at the next meeting, or see me and I will introduce you to Scott. I would like to thank all of these people (and the others who volunteered) for their help.

Help is still needed in several areas though- A question & answer editor is needed before the Q&A column can be resumed. I need several typists to help type the file full of reprint articles I have accumulated. You don't need to be a fast typist for this job. Even if you could only supply a couple of pages per month it would be a help. I am also still looking for someone to take over as Delta Tale editor. As I've said before- no experience necessary, I can very easily teach you everything you need to know (which isn't much considering I'm able to do it).

There is also a non-Delta Tale job that desperately need someone for. A Ways and Means chairman is very badly needed . Please see Pete Thrift (or call him) for details. As show chairman Pete has more than enough to do without trying to handle this too.

That's all for this month...



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Program: Show Preparation, fish and equipment. By John Jessup. Everything you'll need to know to start preparing for the Spring Show. It's coming up fast and now is the time to start getting ready.

Miniauction: good stuff at bargain prices. Sellers may bring up to 3 bags each.

Bowl Show: details elsewhere. Bring those fish.

Door prize & Raffles: as usual lots of good stuff for you to win.

MARCH 9

be there

JANUARY BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING

The Board of Governor's meeting was held on January 2nd, 1987 at the home of Bob Pallansch. Attending the meeting were Ray Hughes, John Jessop, John Mangan, Gene Auldridge, Jerry Hoffman, Kenny Warren, John Stieringer, Pete Thrift and Bob Pallansch.

The treasurer reported a current balance of \$1870.11.

Following a lengthy discussion the following changes were made the the annual bowl show rules:

1. Visitors will now be allowed to remain in the room while the judging is being done. Marshall Jerry Hoffman was appointed captain of the crowd control committee whose job it will be to keep entrants and visitors away from and out of the way of the judges.
2. Tanks used to display fish may be painted flat blank on the bottom glass. Flat black is the only color which will be permitted.
3. The three classes of guppies have now been combined into a single classification.
4. The tetras category was divided into two categories, 1-3" & 3" +.
5. The arts category and the crafts category were combined and will now be known as the Arts & Crafts category
6. Set tanks will now be judged on contents and the overall appearance of the tank (both interior & exterior), The appearance of the tank stand will not affect the scoring.

The raffle prize for the Spring auction will be a 55 gallon set up or \$100.00 cash, whichever is the preference of the winner.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Start
Thinking
About
What
You
Will
Do
To
Make
The
PVAS
Spring
Show
And
Auction
A
Success!

Pete Thrift
1987 Show Chairman
971-0594

Ten Commandments for Living With Non-Fish Fans

by George White, PVAS

All of us have at one time or another encountered difficulties in dealing with parents, brothers/sisters, girl/boy friends, spouses or roommates who fail to see the value in keeping finy pets. Upon reflection, we usually realize that a bit of the blame for the flap may rest with some abrasive aspect of the hobby. A friend suggested that we put together a list of irritating practices we should avoid. Hence,

1. Thou shalt not let non-fish keepers in your household see the worms, bugs, veggies, and questionable items you mix into fish food in the kitchen blender.
2. Thou shalt not keep blackworms and various other fishy goodies in the refrigerator that might be accidentally mistaken for a tasty snack by a non-fish keeper, unless you clearly label it. (it's a costly mistake since fish food is usually much more expensive than human food.)
3. Thou shalt not keep earth or other types of worms in a shoe box in a shared closet without warning others --someone frantically searching for shoes on a Monday morning might not appreciate discovering worms.
4. Never use a razor blade to scrape algae from your tanks and then put it back in some unsuspecting male's razor. (In any case, this is a risky practice since a razor blade will often scratch your aquarium's glass.)
5. Never use someone's nylon stockings for a filter bag without permission.
6. Thou shalt not allow creatures from your live food cultures to escape when your mother-in-law is visiting.
7. Never leave dead fish lying around, especially in the kitchen--a non-hobbyist might think that you plan to prepare them for dinner.
8. Never let your non-fish keeping members of your household see you raid the kitchen for handy "tools" for your aquaria.
9. Never tell non-fish keepers you actually pay money for goodies, particularly if they are fishermen who frequent bait shops.
10. Never let someone you like to French kiss with see you siphoning muck from the bottom of your tanks.

PRODUCT REVIEW
SeaChem Neutral Regulator and Discus Buffer
by Pete Thrift, PVAS

SeaChem Laboratories, 4805 Banner Elk Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083, is a relatively new company to the aquarium hobby. The company's marine and freshwater product line includes chemical filtration media, test kits, medications, and water conditioners. I would like to share my experiences with two of its water conditioners: Neutral Regulator and Discus Buffer.

For the past eighteen months I have been striving to maintain a 55 gallon discus tank. All of the discus literature I have read can be summarized in one phrase - frequent water changes. I siphon the tank floor every night, resulting in a three or four gallon daily water change. In addition, I perform a weekly larger water change of between 12 and 16 gallons. With this frequency and size of water changes, I was having considerable difficulty in maintaining a stable acid pH in the tank. I found myself constantly adding pH adjusters (both up and down!), and kept finding pH test vials when I emptied my pockets at night. I was beginning to feel that my long-held desire to have a discus tank was more trouble than I needed in my life, when I ran across some SeaChem product literature and decided to try the two water conditioners that are the subject of this personal report.

SeaChem Neutral Regulator is a freshwater conditioner which removes chlorine and chloramine, detoxifies heavy metals, reduces hardness, and adjusts tap water to a neutral pH and keeps it there. It is in powder form, and is supplied in 250 ml bottles sufficient to treat 800 gallons. SeaChem Discus Buffer, also in powder form, is a companion product to Neutral Regulator which further softens the water and yields a pre-set acid pH depending on the proportions of the two products used. As examples, for a volume of ten gallons, the following table can be used:

<u>Neutral Regulator</u>	<u>Discus Buffer</u>	<u>Resulting pH</u>
1 tsp	0 tsp	7.0
1 tsp	1 tsp	6.8
1 tsp	2 tsp	6.5
1 tsp	3 tsp	6.3

These resulting pH levels do not depend upon the initial pH of the water being conditioned.

After five months of personal use, I can report that these products live up to all of SeaChem's claims for them. Using these two products, I always know that the pH of the new water will match the tank's pH exactly, and that the tank pH will remain stable over time. I have run a twice-weekly pH test on my tank for the past three months, and the readings have not deviated from my desired 6.5 level by more than one pH unit over the entire period. Water clarity has been excellent, and lime deposits have been greatly reduced. From their increased appetite, activity, and color, my discus finally seem to like the aquatic environment I am now able to provide them with the use of these products.

I would enthusiastically recommend these products to any aquarist who needs soft, acid, stable water conditions for his or her fish. SeaChem products are still a bit hard to find in the PVAS area. If your dealer doesn't carry them, find one who does. These products are worth the effort!

MULTITANKITOSIS

By John Stieringer

(MULTITANKITOSIS: A SLOW GROWING, ALL CONSUMING DESIRE FOR MORE TANK SPACE)

Fortunately, my fiance, Lea and I have the same disease, which has been described above. Not too long ago we were a mere one tank household - now we're the slaves and proud owners of 16-18 (or is it 20???) fresh water aquariums of various sizes, shapes and personalities.

The first symptom of this rare affliction may be an irresistible urge to stop at every pet shop you pass by. Next you find yourself planning trips to a number of stores on the way to somewhere else like parties, Mom's for dinner, traffic court, etc. At an advanced stage of the disease you will find yourself mapping out routes through neighboring states for the sole purpose of hitting all the really good fish stores and finding something really "different" to bring back to your fish tank (or is it fish room by this time?).

During the course of "cruising the fish stores" you invariably cannot seem to leave without a least one bag of fish that was seemingly looking at you saying "take us home". And you usually do!

At this stage you begin finding out that your ten gallon tank is not exactly one big happy family. Your red-tail shark is nipping fins, and maybe that pair of Kribbs you got last week are now sporting their spawning suits and have claimed the entire left half of the tank as their own. This leaves the right side for the other 15 fish to crowd into, and remember, they have to put up with that by now thoroughly obnoxious shark. By this point in time, Multitankitosis is irreversible and you will bring home tank two, or tank two and tank three as it happened in our case. We started with a single ten gallon tank, then we aquired a 30 gallon at a yard sale which just so happened to have a ten gallon tank that came along with it. This meant we could uncrowd our overpopulated original tank now that we had three. But most importantly, it meant we had room enough so that we could buy more fish!!

From then on more tanks will come creeping in, slowly at first, then one day you will realize that through your desire to make all of your fish happy and healthy, and perhaps trying to breed a species or two, that your fish room has taken over a disproportionate amount of your living space. See how easily we made the transition from fish tank to fish room? Frightening isn't it!

It seemed to me that overnight we had in excess of 20 show tanks all of which are fully stocked with fish, aquatic plants, and a occasional newt, lining our living room walls - kind of like a living wall. The never ending variety of activities going on around the room constantly distracts us from our daily routine, however, I find it most gratifying to be able to keep these aquatic curiosities alive and healthy for Lea and I and our friends to appreciate.

With some willpower this disease need not take over your life (and your wallet) but it can induce you to desire the best possible living conditions for your fish and have long and healthy lives. Take heart, if you contract this disease you are not alone. Most areas have societies for infected persons who get together (some-what like A.A.) and discuss our problems, successes, discoveries and frustrations.

MULTITANKITOSIS, Cont'd.

The only disadvantage of belonging to one of these societies (such as the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society) is that you may find yourself dragging home yet more fish and equipment which you obtained at the monthly mini-auction or you can even experience a major flare up of the disease at it's most contagious state - the Spring and Fall auctions. If you have enough self restraint to control yourself throughout the fever pitch of the auctions, just maybe you can find a way to live with Multitankitosis rather than having to cure it!

TYPIST'S NOTE: The actual tank count now stands at 24 - it appears that another half dozen tanks crept up on us inbetween the time John originally wrote this article and I got around to typing it!

TRADING POST

Ads for the Trading Post should be sent to Tom Hetzel, 5601 Seminary Rd. #1702, Falls Church, VA 22041, by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

The Trading Post will be back in business next month. Please note the new address to send your ads to and the new deadline. Tom must receive your ads by March 15th if you want it in the April issue.

Carolina Aquarium Workshop

Sponsored by the Raleigh Aquarium Society

March 20 - 22, 1987

Howard Johnson's - Crabtree Valley, Raleigh, NC

Speakers, Auction, Raffle, Native Fish Collecting Trip
Attendance is open to everyone interested in Aquarium Fish

Schedule of Events

All events are at Howard Johnson's - Crabtree Valley

Friday, March 20, 1987

- 1 - 5 p.m.: **Native Fish Collecting Trip**
(meet at Howard Johnson's to leave)
8 - 10 p.m.: **Mini Reef Demonstration with George Smit,**
Fishnet Demonstration with John Benn

Saturday, March 21, 1987

- 8 a.m.: **Registration, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Speakers**
7 p.m.: **Buffet Banquet (Cash Bar Social @ 6 p.m.)**

Sunday, March 22, 1987

- 9 - 12 noon: **Registration of Auction Items and Demonstration**
of Mini Reef and Fishnet
12 noon - 5 p.m.: **Auction of Fish and Aquarium Items**

For Information Call: Neil Frank @ (919) 848-3763 or
David Herlong @ (919) 467-7459

----- (Detach and Return) -----

Carolina Aquarium Workshop Registration Form

Pre-registration (before Mar. 6): _____ @ \$ 8.00 / person = \$ _____
Late registration (after Mar. 6): _____ @ \$10.00 / person = \$ _____
Buffet Banquet (3 entree): _____ @ \$15.00 / person = \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I am interested in: Freshwater _____, Marine _____, Both _____

Send to: Walter Compton, 4604 Limerick Dr., Raleigh, NC 27604

Workshop Speakers

John Benn (Florence, AL) - Fishnet on Compuserve

Sally Boggs (Pittsburg, PA) - Success Breeding Difficult Fish

David Herlong (Cary, NC) - Malawi Cichlids

**Paul Loiselle (Jersey City, NJ) - The Cichlid Aquarium, and
Managing the Nitrogen Cycle in Aquaria**

Michael Quentin (Springfield, GA) - Raising Aquatic Plants

George Smit (Netherlands) - The Marine Mini-Reef Aquarium

Accomodations

Rooms are available at Howard Johnson - Crabtree Valley at the intersection of US 70 and US 1/64 for \$39.00/night double or single. Contact them directly at (919) 782-8600 for reservations. Be sure to mention the Workshop when calling.

Auction

There is no charge to attend the auciton of fish and aquarium related items. Anyone may sell items in the auction. The seller will recieve two-thirds of the selling price, with one-third going to the Raleigh Aquarium Society.

Raffle

There will be a huge raffle of aquarium products as well as the Grand Prize of a complete 55 gallon set-up. Raffle tickets will be dtrawn for prizes both Sat. and Sun. The Grand Prize will be awarded Sun. during the Auction.

Banquet

The Saturday evening Banquet will be a buffett with 3 entres and is open to anyone. Following the Banquet, George Smit will give a short slide show of mini-reef marine aquaria that we all wish we owned.

BOWL SHOW REPORT FOR

February

CICHLIDS

New World Medium

1st
2nd No entries
3rd

Haplochromis

1st H. wingati - J. Bennet
2nd
3rd

Open

1st Krib. - R. Hughes
2nd L. fuliberni - J. Bennet
3rd

EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

Guppies

1st Electric Blue - R. Hughes
2nd
3rd

Barbs

1st
2nd No entries
3rd

Open

1st Bleeding heart - J. Bennet
2nd A. marginadam - R. Hughes
3rd Cat. J. Bennet

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
J. Bennet	2	2	2
R. Hughes	1	1	1
N. Manwary	0	1	1

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
J. Bennet	4	4	4
R. Hughes	1	4	4
C. Carter	0	1	1

March Categories

Cichlids

New world Dwarf (4")

Riftlake, Non-Mubuna (except nap.)

Open

Egglayer/Livebearer

Killifish

Catfish, Non-Cory.

Open

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

DATE _____ 19 ____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE H _____ W _____

OCCUPATION _____

Where did you hear about PVAS/get this application? _____

Number of tanks _____ Time in hobby _____

What can this club do for you ? _____

What do you want to do for the club ? _____

Membership dues for the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society are:

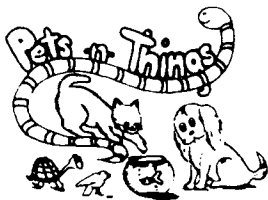
Family: \$12.00

Corresponding: \$7.00

Individual: \$10.00

Junior (under 18) : \$5.00

Please send application and check for dues to address above.



**Bill, Ruth, John
Mangan**

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Fairfax, Virginia 22031
Telephone: 573-4400

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MON. - SAT. 10-8
SUN. 12-5

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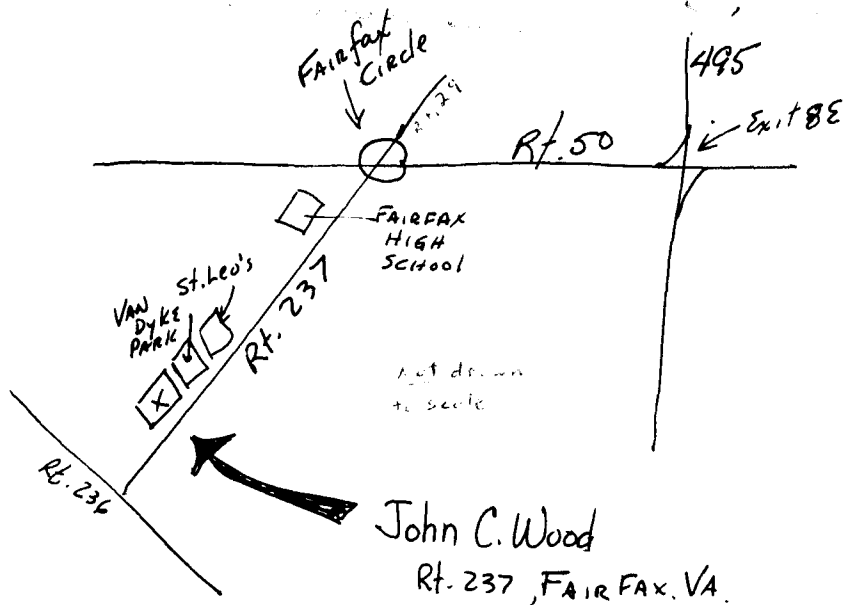
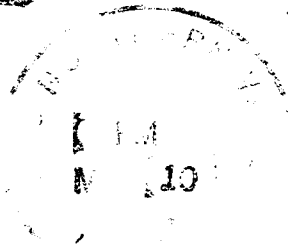
Service and Rentals

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A Retail Public Aquarium
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Freshwater
Saltwater

11248 11250 Triangle Lane
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

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



01780
PENN. FISH CULTURISTS ASSOC
1823 DUDLEY STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19145

The Potomac Valley Aquarium Society will meet on the following dates in 1987:

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

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