

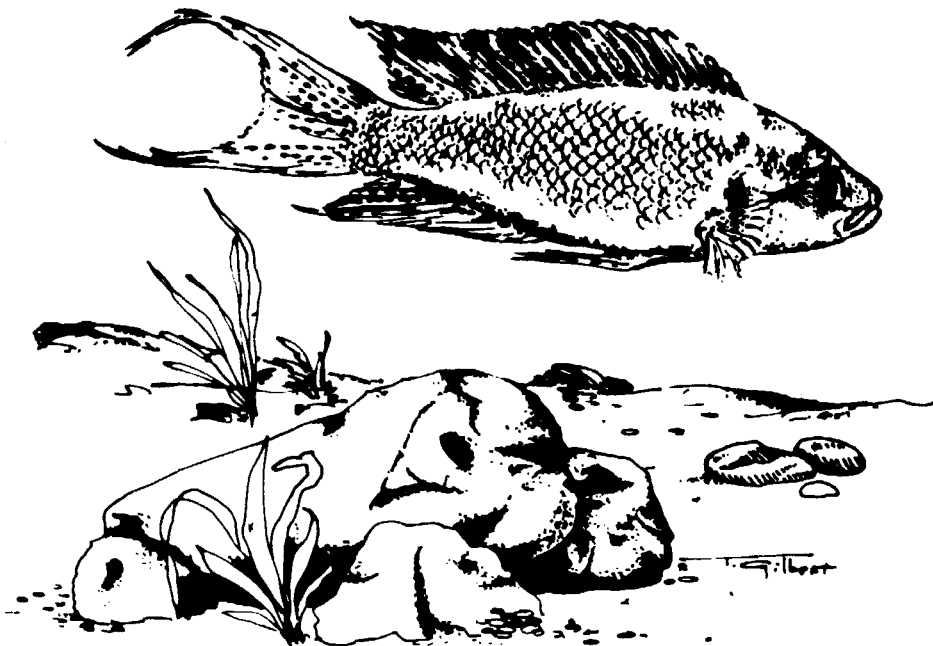
# \* DELTA TALE \* NOV., 1978

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

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OFFICERS FOR 1978

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Heinz Lenzen, Bill Trout, John Jessup, John Terwilliger, Dave McInturff

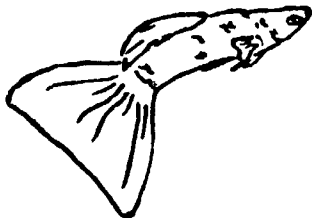
COMMITTEE HEADS

Auctions - S.Siska	Breeders Prog. - Dave McInturff
Library - Sue & Mike Sprague	Monthly Bowl Shows - J. Terwilliger
Programs - S. Sprague, G. Hoffman	Membership - Bev. Fazil
Ways & Means - Nancy Reynolds, Woody Griffin	

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COVER PICTURE: Lamprologus brichardi, Ted Gilbert

## MINUTES OCTOBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The October meeting of the Board of Governors of P.V.A.S. was held on Monday, October 2 at Dana Best's. The meeting opened at 8:00 p.m.. Present were Pat and Maggi Mahoney, Dana Best, Bill Trout, Kenny Warren, Bev Fazil, Gene Aldridge, Dave McInturff, John Jessup and John Terwilliger.

The major topic of discussion was the upcoming annual Fall Banquet and Auction on October 21 and 22. Pat presented the board with the schedule of events for that weekend. Our speaker, Stu Wheeler, will arrive on Friday, October 20 and be met at the airport by either Pat or Maggi Mahoney. The Program chairmen will meet with him at the Mahoney's to discuss the exact nature of his presentation. He will be the Mahoney's houseguest for the weekend. On Saturday morning, Dana Best will pick Stu up and take him to the Smithsonian for a day's tour. Saturday night Pat and Maggi will arrive at the Black Angus, the restaurant where the banquet will be held, to set up the door prize -- an 18 gallon woodgrain tank with wood stand and hood, donated by Home Aquarium. They will be there in time to welcome guests, pass out door prize tickets, be sure facilities are in order. After dinner Stu will speak on catfish and oddballs.

Sunday morning Dave McInturff's set-up crew, with Joe Paull and his pickup truck, will move necessary items from the Mahoney's to the Jefferson Vol. Fire Department for set up. Dana Best's registration crew will be ready to open registration at 11:00 a.m. Loretta Herrell and Anna Whitesell will be ready to sell soft drinks before the auction starts. They will pick up ice at Giant, Bill Trout having made arrangements for us to get it free from their ice machine. John Jessup's auction crew will be ready to open the auction at 1:00 pm. After the auction is over, the clean up crew will return the hall to its original condition in order that we may get our \$25 deposit check back.

Final assignments and volunteers will be made and asked for at the October open meeting, Monday the 9th.

Discussion of the December Christmas party was tabled until the next board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Dana Best  
Acting Recording Secretary

## LAMPROLOGUS BRICHARDI

By: Joe Paull, PVAS

Lake Tanganyika provides numerous species of cichlids that make interesting aquarium fish. Lamprologus brichardi is perhaps the most desirable of these. Unlike the Julidochromis species, this fish remains out in view, displaying its attractive finnage and swimming gracefully about its domain. In their natural habitat brichardis congregate in large schools over rocky areas; in the aquarium more than two adult individuals (or even one) will seldom coexist peacefully. Perhaps if the tank were large enough (500 gallons?) a school of adults could be possible. This is one of my dreams for when I own a house with a fish room in the basement (or a basement in the fish room).

Although the waters of Lake Tanganyika are extremely hard and alkaline, with a pH of 8.6 to 9.2, it is not necessary to duplicate these conditions for maintenance and breeding of brichardi. My fish did very well in slightly alkaline (pH 7.4) and fairly soft (DH 6) water. When I purchased five one inch fry, the delight in finally acquiring this desirable fish at a reasonable price moved me to provide the best of care; this included frequent water changes, live foods such as tubifex, grindal worms, and daphnia, and an attractive ten gallon tank with lots of rock work and plants. In six months time I had two near adult sized fish in a dirty, unlit tank in a corner. In the process of growing up, the nasty beasts had assassinated three of their siblings, several Corydoras cats, and my interest in Lamprologus brichardi. This is not a community fish. Brichardis must be kept with something equally aggressive, such as Julidochromis species, or else by themselves. Since I had nothing compatible to add to their tank, I demoted my remaining pair to obscurity, where water changes became infrequent and feeding devolved into flake once a day.

Two months later I checked them carefully only because someone had expressed interest in taking them off my hands, and Lo and Behold, they had become parents! I found a dozen fry approximately three weeks old swimming through the garbage on the bottom. A water test showed a pH of 8.4 and DH of 25. The tuffa rock and lack of water changes had wrought a slow but dramatic change in the water conditions. Anyway, my interest immediately recuperated and everyone was soon moved back into attractive quarters. The parents completely ignored their fry and soon produced another batch of sixty, whereupon everyone was moved again to a twenty gallon tank. One month after the second spawning, a third spawn of thirty or so appeared; in another month they spawned again for an additional twenty or so fry. Three weeks after the fourth spawning, the first two spawns were removed just in time for another batch. The newly free swimming brichardi also took flake food immediately, which certainly made feeding more economical with that many youngsters competing for food. Instead of a mixed community tank containing brichardi, I soon had a community of brichardi, with two adults and several sizes of fry.

Parental care was extended mostly to the eggs and very young fry. After several days of free swimming the youngsters were completely ignored by the parents. Surprisingly, the older fry, which had reached a size of three quarters of an inch, also ignored the newcomers. After becoming a month old the fry would bicker among themselves, but their aggressiveness was never extended to any but their own age group.

The tank is now fairly crowded and spawning seems to have ceased. The female stays on one side of the tank while the male (identifiable by his longer fin extensions) minds his own business on the other side. I don't dare remove any fry because the parents might get back together to make replacements.

#### UPCOMING BOWL SHOW CATAGORIES

<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>CICHLIDS</u>	<u>OTHER EGGLAYER/LIVEBEARER</u>
	Central & S.A. Dwarf	Tetras
	Pseudotropheus	Characins
	Other	Other

REMEMBER: NOVEMBER IS DOUBLE POINT MONTH -- YOU LAGGARDS CAN MAKE UP A WHOLE BUNCH OF POINTS BY ENTERING AND WINNING IN NOVEMBER.

#### NOVEMBER PROGRAM:

November is election month - so come and cast your vote for the officers you want to run P.V.A.S. next year. The nominating committees slate was published in the October issue -- other nominations may be made from the floor.

Because of double point bowl show and elections, we will have an abbreviated program in November. Ruth Brewer will present a slide program fish quiz. You can impress us all with your knowledge. These are always fun programs and you can even learn something.

The December meeting is, of course, the Christmas party. For those of you who have not been in the club since last Christmas -- it consists of a pitch in supper - a gift exchange by everyone who comes -- usually about a \$2 minimum hobby related item. Lots of food, lots of good conversation and friendly Christmas cheer. (Some of the good Christmas cheer, too in the form of a couple of kinds of punch.) We have no program or business meeting, unless there is something vital to be discussed, and no bowl show.

For those of us who enjoy cichlids and prefer not to have large goldfish gulpers or aquariums filled only with gravel and rocks, there are several groups of fish that will fit in well in the community aquarium or heavily planted set-up. Africa has given us the *Pelvicachromis* genus most often represented by the familiar *kribensis*. South America, too, offers a variety of dwarf fish that are just as attractive if not more so than anything from the Dark Continent.

If I were to mention the genus *Apistogramma*, some of you would say "What kind of fish are they?." If I said Rams, everyone would say "Oh, yes, they sure are beauties." Rams have all the colors that glitter and shine plus a nice small size that lets them fit in most any community tank. Now you think hard and remember their full name is *Apistogramma ramerizi*, so they are the type of fish I am talking about. Well, not quite, because Rams don't fit in neatly with other Apistos and most probably should be in a genus all their own, *Microgeophagus*. But they do well to illustrate to the uninformed what most Apistos are all about in color and behavior.

Perhaps their greatest asset to me as a cichlid lover is their size. I like 'em small and few *Apistogrammas* will reach 3-inches; most are smaller, especially the females. Their finnage can be absolutely striking, too, with dorsal spikes, flowing streamers, lyre-tails, spade shaped tails, round tails and extended pelvic fins not unlike the Betta. Colors are like fireworks on some, while others can be as drab as a dirty rug. A common characteristic of most are the blue lines around the eyes and cheeks which I like to call sparkles.

Plants are safe from nibbling and uprooting, although they may prefer the inside of a flower pot and slowly spit out gravel and soil while preparing to spawn, thus uprooting your favorite sword plant.

Behavior is quite characteristic of cichlids, with territories and spawning courtships. Being small, they appreciate hiding places such as little caves or overturned flower pots, but once well established they will use these nooks and crannies for retreats if frightened and not as a permanent stake-out. Other fish get along well with these little fellows, except when spawning and everyone, father included, had better stay away from the female in charge. I've had reasonable luck obtaining different species and with good conditioning can talk about some of these gems.

#### 1. *Apistogramma agassizi*

The Aggie is thought of as one of the most striking Apistos and once seen with fins erect and colors ablaze, no one will doubt that fact. My original fish came from a small tropical fish store in New Jersey and were hardly more than fry at the time. Since I could hardly wait to see them develop, they got the best of foods and grew fast. As it turned out, I had three males and one female. But that didn't stop her from choosing the nicest, largest male as her mate and one morning she had turned that characteristic bright yellow that spawning females get.

She was excited and was holding her ground around a driftwood log. Under a cranny was a batch of eggs, almost too many to come from a fish so small, it seemed. Knowing that first time spawners are apt to devour their eggs or fry, I decided to pull the log and artificially hatch the eggs in a separate tank, using the same water from the spawning set-up, a touch of acriflavin for fungus control and an airstone to create sufficient water movement. Normally, the female maintains cleanliness by mouthing the individual eggs and occasionally fanning them by creating water movement, using her pectorals. Once the eggs were removed, she looked bewildered, trying to find them and yet peck at her tankmates to keep them at bay.

This time I was fortunate, for the majority of the spawn was fertile. Since this initial mating, the female has produced several other times, and a good number have been without the aid of a male. This tends to occur with these fish with some frequency. On the other hand, I have let the female raise her own fry when the pair was set up to spawn in isolated conditions and the newborn seem to achieve a faster initial growth spurt when allowed to school with parental guidance. But these fellows did well on microworms and baby brine shrimp, and at 60 days they numbered more than thirty. Slow growth appears to be characteristic of these dwarfs and it takes quite a while to get them up to a decent size. Once their colors shine, though, you'll agree they're worth the wait.

## II Red and Brown Apisto

Consistent with unidentified or little seen species, a common name is attached before a scientific name is -- and a lot of Apistos are called by what colors are predominant. The Red & Brown is a lovely fish that is as graceful as any, with its full, flowing finnage. The body is mainly a brownish color with overtones of red and blue, and the tail is bordered with red or orangish bands on the top and bottom, which is quite common in a particular subgrouping of Apistos. When spawning, the female turns from dull brown to bright yellow with black markings.

My pair was isolated in a divided 20 long and under a piece of slate rock cave the female began digging a nest. Dense floating water sprite was shading this tank, making a nice isolate area. For a few days the female was not to be found and I hoped she was guarding eggs. Having spawned before, I was going to let her care for the developing babies. Thinking that she hadn't mated yet since the male was still allowed to swim about unbothered, I shined the flashlight in the cave only to see my male peering out and several wiggling fry outside in the gravel. He was gobbling them up and swimming around spitting them all over the tank. One look at his extended finnage and erect body told me who was the boss and I'd better find the little woman. There she was, cowering in a corner with the water sprite. So out she came and I reluctantly allowed the male to guard the nest and scattered fry. Each day he grew more colorful and was even herding the free swimming babies around the tank in search of food. It is generally unusual for the father to assume total care in raising a brood, but sometimes both parents contribute equally. Possibly this fish was something special, or

it is a characteristic of this species. I'll try leaving them both together next time and see who takes over. All of the young were removed after two weeks and continued to grow well without the help of either parent.

### III Red and Blue Apisto

This is another variation on the same theme. A lot of these fish belong to what used to be called the "Pertense" group. There are several closely related species and they may be simply regional varieties. This fish resembles the Red & Brown as well as the Red & Yellow, "Meteor", "Canoga Park" and others in general body configuration but varies in coloration. Numerous red "freckles" on the flank and cheek give this relatively large fish its red name in addition to a bluish tinge to the scales. The female of this pair is as large as some of my other males, so her spawn on the rear of a flower pot gave me too many fry to handle. Again, I pulled the eggs to artificially hatch and a wise decision, for the next time she spawned she had a nice meal. Nothing like fresh eggs to build protein for producing more eggs! Maybe it wasn't a wise choice to remove the eggs, because the fry are crowded in a small tank, while they receive first foods. And it takes several months to arrive at a nice size for sexing and selecting the best for future breeding. If they are 1/2 inch at 60 days, that's great.

Well, the Apistos have been spawning lately and I've had fun raising the youngsters, but you have to know who to give them to later, or find a big, hungry Oscar. Not everyone likes these delightful dwarfs, and that's too bad. They're fun, peaceful and prolific.

bap

REPORT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Jan & Dave Mc.Inturff	415***
Ruth Brewer	280**
Joe Paull	215**
Gerry Hoffman	170**
Susan & Mike Sprague	165**
Bev Fazil	100*
Gene Aldridge	80
Pat & Maggi Mahoney	70*
John Jessup	55*
Pat Tietjen Fromme	15
Jerry Donnelly	10
Woody Griffin	10

\* Breeders Award \*\* Intermediate Breeders Award

\*\*\* Advanced Breeders Award

Recent spawning points presented:

Ruth Brewer - *Fundulus heteroclitus*

P & M Mahoney - *Melanochromis johanni*

Some good news on the Breeders Award Program front -- we finally actually have the award ready to be printed. There are a few details still to be worked out, such as parchment or paper -- gold seals on all, or special color seals for each different plateau. Hopefully all that will be ironed out in time to have them ready to award at the Christmas party in December. Bob Sarecky, who has done some of our recent covers for us, designed and put them together. No charge -- a great big thank you to Bob, whom some of you met at the October banquet.



## FALL BANQUET & AUCTION

Well, the 1978 P.V.A.S. Fall Banquet and Auction is now history. For all of the members who missed Stu Wheeler's presentation at the banquet, you really missed one of the finest presentations ever given under P.V.A.S auspices. It is easy to see why Stu is considered the authority on catfish in this country.

Financially, the fall weekend netted about the same as last year. Gene Aldridge will provide a detailed accounting at the November meeting. Suffice it to say, we didn't loose money.

I would like to thank all of the members who worked so hard to make the auction a success. They are too numerous to mention individually in the limited space your editor has alloted me here, however, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your time and efforts.

Finally, I would like to thank our Program Committee co-chairmen, Susan Sprague and Gerry Hoffman, for lining up such an outstanding speaker. Also to your Corresponding Secretary, Dana Best, who spent her Saturday squiring Stu Wheeler through the Smithsonian and National Aquarium. I extend a hearty "well done" to you all. Last, but not least, to your Delta Tale Editor (and my bride) Maggi, I give special thanks for having the good sense to volunteer the Mahoneys to serve as host for Stu Wheelers visit. It was a real pleasure for both of us.

Pat

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## AUCTION NETS NEW MEMBERS AS WELL AS \$\$ AND FISH!

Five new names have been added to the roster, either through interest generated at the auction or Delta Tale's and membership applications distributed to local fish stores. They are - in alphabetical order: Larry W. Bradshaw of Falls Church - he lists his main interests as angles, swords, oscars and guppies. Darrell Holman from Arlington is a cichlid and catfish man. Chryss Guiler of Bladensburg keeps cichlids and goldfish. Buddy Harris of Vienna is especially interested in live bearers, killies and Bettas. The Milton Wilson family has been on my roster for some time, but joined definatly at the auction. Didn't get a chance to ask what their main interests are.

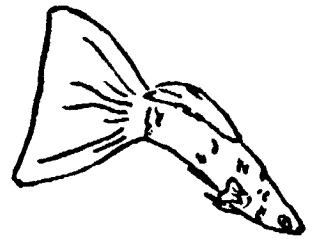
By the way - for new members or anyone interested in attending a meeting -- the place, dates and time are listed on the back - or address area of each Delta Tale. Believe it or not, a regular receiver of the D.T. asked me where that information could be found the other day, so I mention it here for anyone else who is not as observant as they might be.

Please welcome our new members -- hope you all come to our Nov. meeting on the 20th -- those of you whose interests are similar might step up, introduce yourself and help make these new folks feel at home.

# thanks

... and much gratitude to Home Aquarium for the handsome donation as door prize for our Fall Banquet. We appreciate the cooperation Home Aquarium has always given the club and hope P.V.A.S Members reciprocate by taking their business there. Jess Mueller, the new manager intends to carry on Chuck Jones' generosity and good work toward the club. We want him to know that we all appreciate it and wish him all good luck with the shop. Winner of the beautiful 18 gallon high tank, wood stand and hood was Dan Fromme. Since Dan lives in New Jersey, this may not generate much new business, Jess -- but we'll all try to make up for it by shopping Home Aquarium.

## & thanks again



... to the following local shops and individuals who donated items toward our raffle on Sunday for the Auction:

Bailey's Pet Center - \$5. Gift Certificate  
Garland Neese - Pair of Malanichromis johanii, mated  
Glenmont Tropical Fish - Thermaflow Heater  
Holly's Fish & Pet Supplies - \$5 gift certificate  
John Jessup (Aquarium Supply) - miscellaneous in quantity  
Landmark Pets - 1 dozen tins Tetramin  
Most Incredible Pets - 10 gallon set up  
P.J.'s Pets - 10 gallon woodgrain tank  
P.V.A.S. - 30 gallon tank  
Showcase Aquarium, - Wheaton - Power 1 Filter  
Tropical Aquarium Displays - 10 gallon set up  
Tyson's Pet Center - \$25 gift certificate

Note: This is the first year we have had a raffle at the fall auction instead of just door prizes. A note in favor of raffles - we sold enough tickets to pay for Stu's ticket from Ohio. A note against - are we going to burn the shop's out when we ask for donations twice a year? Something to think about for the 1979 year.

PVAs BOwl SHOW RESULTS, OCTOBER, 1978

CICHLIDS

Mouthbrooder, New World

1st - K. Warren - G. jurupari  
 2nd -----  
 3rd -----

Haplochromis

1st - K. Warren - H. venustus  
 2nd - K. Warren - Peacock  
 3rd - K. Warren - H. ali

Open

1st - K. Warren - Ps. kenyi  
 2nd - K. Warren - A. jacobfreibergi  
 3rd - J. Garvey - Ps. livingstonii

Judges: Mark Prendergast  
 John Jessup

EGGLAYER/LIVEBEARER

Barbs

1st - J. Garvey - Rosy barb  
 2nd - B. Fazil - Cherry barb  
 3rd - B. Fazil - Cherry barb

Goldfish/Koi

1st - B. Fazil - oranda  
 2nd - M. Prendergast - oranda  
 3rd - B. Fazil - oranda

Open

1st - M. Prendergast - Bleeding  
 2nd ----- heart tetra  
 3rd -----

Judges: Pat Mahoney  
 Susan Sprague

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
Warren, K.	27	27	82
Fazil, B.	0	0	54
Neese, G.	0	0	17
Griffin, W.	0	0	16
Garvey, J.	4	4	14
Dickens, S.	0	0	8
Elko, V.	0	0	8
Mahoney, P.	0	0	5
Herrel, C.	0	0	5
Prendergast, M.	0	0	4
Whitesell, G.	0	0	2
Barry, K.	0	0	1

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
Fazil, B.	14	14	77
Prendergast, M.	10	10	32
Herrell, C.	0	0	31
Garvey, J.	6	6	26
Hoffman, G.	0	0	25
Elko, V.	0	0	25
Mahoney, P.	0	0	23
Griffin, W.	0	0	16
Trout, B.	0	0	12
Whitesell, G.	0	0	12
Lenzen, M.	0	0	10
Neese, G.	0	0	6
Whitesell, A.	0	0	6
Herrell, M.	0	0	2

Erratum: In the October, 1978 Delta Tale, the results for the Bowl Show read:

Egglayer/Livebearer

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
Hoffman, G. should read	0	12	23
Hoffman, G.	0	12	25
Whitesell, G. should read	0	0	6
Whitesell, A.	0	0	6

