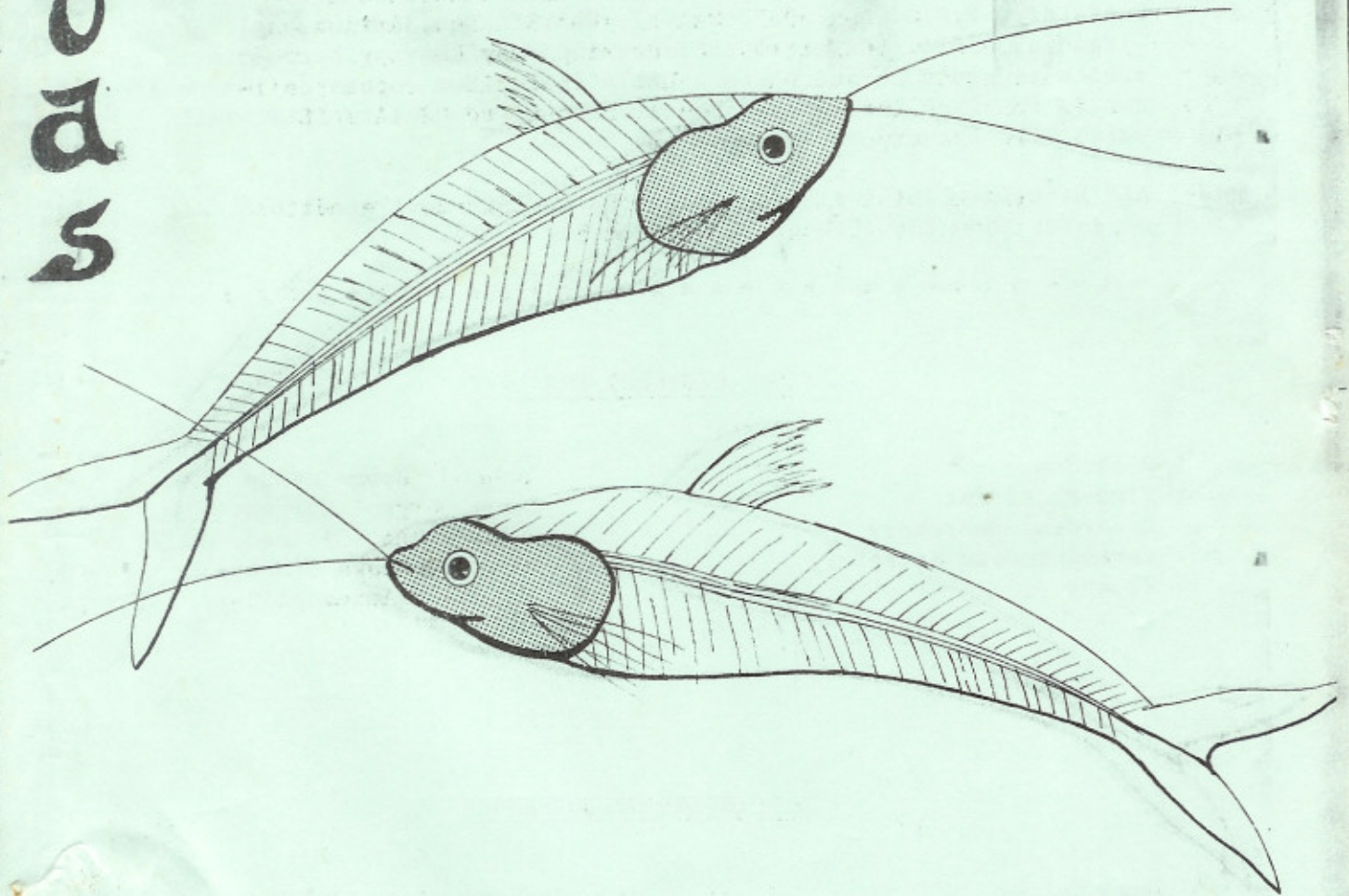


DELTA TALE

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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, and promoting good fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to Secretary, P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6067, Shirlington Station, Arlington, Virginia, 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.

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1973 MEETING DATES

Jan 8
Feb 12
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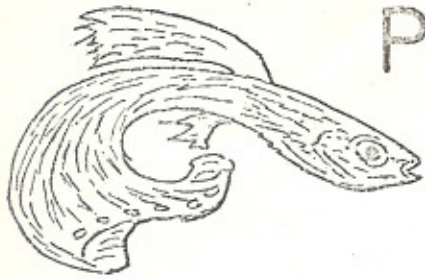
Apr 9
May 14
Jun 11

Jul 9
Aug 13
Sep 10

Oct 8
Nov 5
Dec 10

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POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was gratifying to be asked to serve another year as the President of the P.V.A.S. I faced the request of the Nominating Committee with mixed emotions as it is a time-consuming and sometimes unrewarding task. Time-consuming in the sense of it takes more time than I can give to the office and unrewarding in that all of the goals set at the beginning of my tenure last year have not been met. The next year presents a unique challenge in that I must accomplish what is not yet done and that which the new Board of Governors has determined to be next year's program.

Right now, however, our immediate goal is to prepare for a suitable Christmas party for the membership. I hope to see all of you at that time. If perchance you cannot attend, then let me wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.


JOHN E. JESSUP JR.

SECRETARY'S LETTER

Congratulations and a big thanks to all who helped with the dirty work of putting the Fall Show in operating form and a special thanks to Chairman John Wolcott and to Wendell Poulsen and Pat O'Meara from all the Society. The show was a success, and there was the added good news that we broke even.

For all new members, a warm welcome. We are glad to have you, and look forward to getting to know you better. Membership cards will be available soon, and old members are reminded that their dues should be paid on the anniversary month of their previous dues.

The main item of business of the November meeting was the election of officers. The Nominating Committee's recommendations were voted and accepted as presented. Good luck to our next year's officers who are

President: Dr. John Jessup
Vice President: John Wolcott
Corresponding Secretary: Dick Eaker
Recording Secretary: Linda DeRoze
Treasurer: Gene Sergent
Board Members: Gene Aldridge and Ken Raab

Dr. Jessup stressed that we need the participation of ALL members on the various committees or at least on one or the other of the sub-groups within the Society so you can have your ideas incorporated into the club rather than leaving it all to the dictates of the Board. We've gotten many new members lately and new people mean new ideas. Let's hear from you about the improvement of your Society. What types of programs would you be interested in hearing? How can we improve the Spring Show? the Delta Tale? the guppy sub-group? the cichlid sub-group? the monthly bowl shows?

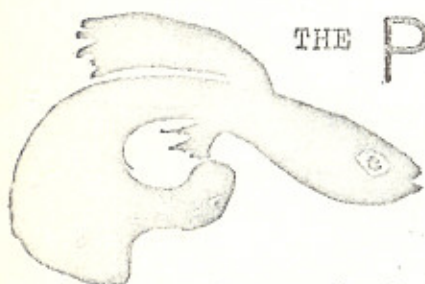
The December 11 meeting will be a party promising fun, prizes, awards, good food, PLUS a 30 gal. tank to be given away. To have a successful Christmas party, however, there must be good planning. Sue O'Meara needs your help. Please contact her at 522-5202 if you can help decorate, bake, arrange for refreshments or otherwise lend a hand.

After a question-answer period Pauline Sergent reported on the delegate meeting and show of the INGA in Milwaukee to which she, her husband and John Wolcott

took entries and placed very well. Pauline took this opportunity to encourage ALL members to enter our own special fish in the bowl shows for judging. Although she stressed you guppy enthusiasts, I might add the same goes for all of us. Why is it that it's always the same names read for awards each month? Because you and I don't bother to bring in our own prized specimens. We leave it to others--but it's no fun without more competition. How about turning over a new leaf for the January bowl show and especially for the Spring Show, May 19-20!

Have a happy Thanksgiving and see you at the Christmas party on December 11 at 8:00.

Linda DeRoze



THE POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

is holding their annual Christmas meeting and party for members and their families on Monday night, December 11, 1972, at 8:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Room of the Coca-cola Bottling Plant. All members are urged to attend.

There will be a Christmas bonus drawing for a nice new 29 or 30 gallon all-glass tank with cover and stand which some lucky member will take home.

Each family member attending is requested to bring a small present (an aquarium related item, not fish) for exchange, or pay \$1 in lieu of gift.

Annual and quarterly trophies will be presented to the bowl show winners of 1972. Newly elected officers will be installed.

Refreshments will be available: a gala cold buffet will be served (cookies, candy canes and balloons for the kiddies, also).

Hope to see all of our members there. If you are planning to attend, please R. S. V. P. by calling Sue O'Meara at 522-5282, or Vivian Poulsen at 451-7294.



EDITOR'S NOTE

In a plea addressed mainly to old-timers in the hobby, Mr. Frank Fuqua asks members of our society for contributions of old fish magazines. Mr. Fuqua contends that these magazines, by virtue of their articles and advertisements, serve as a unique written history of the hobby, and he has begun a campaign to assemble and preserve this record of tropical fish collecting in the United States. He is convinced that many of the older publications--there have been some forty magazines published in the United States since the late 1800's--are being lost by persons who simply discard them as worthless. This isn't a charity deal. Mr. Fuqua is willing "to negotiate any reasonable arrangement" for the magazines including a trade-off for his surplus copies. So look through your old files and write Frank Fuqua, 22330 James Alan Circle, Chatsworth, California, 91311.

We owe our thanks to the talented Catherine DeLucien for another of her fine cover illustrations. Cathy does these exceptional sketches from life while attending meetings of our Cichlid Club meetings.

This is my last month as editor of the Delta Tale. I have enjoyed this increasingly lonely and time-consuming job, but I'm looking forward to getting back to my own tanks for a while. And let this serve as a warning to those members who parade up to get the winning ribbons month after month: there's going to be some new competition in town next year.

Hope to see everybody at the Christmas Party where any talk about hard and soft will refer to the drinks and not the water.

M. MacGregor

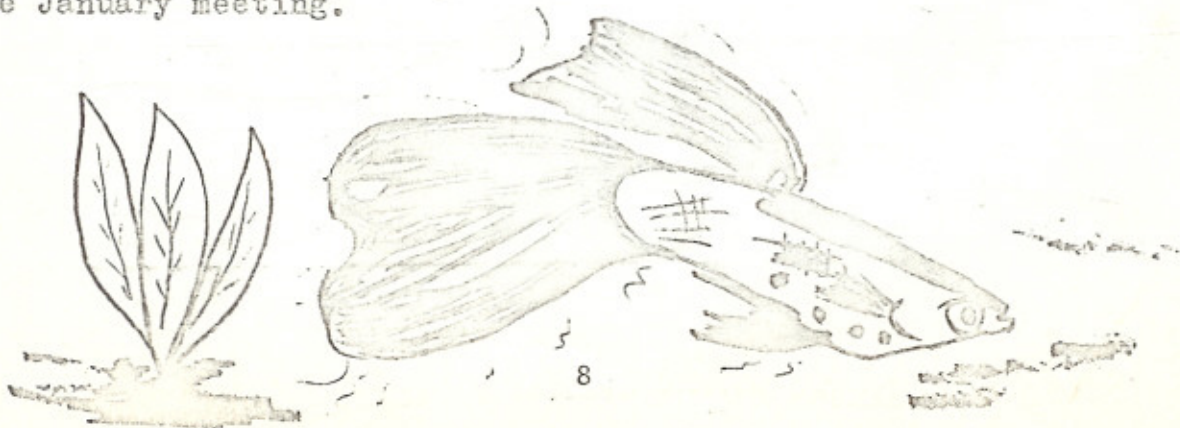
DO IT YOURSELF

by Susan P. O'Meara

There are many aspects of this aquarium hobby that can be found ready-done, all packaged in styrofoam and plastic and cardboard, a la Madison Avenue, from complete set-ups in big fancy boxes, to intricate gadgets which cost a small fortune. Perhaps these do fill a need in today's busy society. Let the factories do the job for us; perhaps they know better than we what we want and need. And just perhaps they don't. Or let those other people do the busy-work involved in keeping our aquarium society growing and active. Why stick out your neck and get caught volunteering? Perhaps they know better than we what we want and need and how we think; and just perhaps they don't, unless we show and tell them ourselves.

Whatever has happened to the immense self-satisfaction a country child received from watching his collection of polliwogs developing in a mason jar, or the fun a city kid got with minnows found in the creek in the park which he housed in jars from the delicatessen? Each was doing it himself, his own thing, improvising, as it were. Granted this example is limited, but you can look into further ways of doing it yourself today.

When I read Mr. Kotowski's article, Try Something New, this summer, it really set me thinking. (See it printed elsewhere in this issue) For example: you could consider building your own tank, whether it be a small all-glass one for brooding females or isolation, or one large enough to house a whole collection. There are members in our club with large plywood and glass tanks custom built at home. I know a petshop owner who plans a large (170-200 gallons) triangular shaped tank destined for a corner of his living room as soon as he works out the stress factors. See Mr. O'Meara's article, Making An Aquarium, elsewhere in this issue. Also, the Dow Corning Company puts out a nicely detailed booklet entitled Custom Build Your Own Aquarium. The club has some copies and these will be available at the next regular meeting. Members may call the club secretary to request a copy, if needed before the January meeting.



Another "do it yourself" project is the cultivation of live foods. Many of our club members raise brine shrimp to feed their fish. Mosquito larvae are easy to get during the summer and fall months. A pail of rainwater left in the backyard will soon have lots of wrigglers. Guppies and bettas and other small fishes eagerly eat these. Earthworms make an excellent live food for your fish, if purged, then chopped (or blended, several of our club members have suggested). Native fishes and many cichlids eat these worms with gusto, often slurping the worm down whole, if available. Earthworms can be found easily after a good rain under the mulch pile. They can be propagated in styrofoam boxes in the basement year round, I'm told. For yet another idea in live foods, see: Want To Grow Your Own Tubifex Worms? (elsewhere in this issue).

Working out dry or frozen food formulas can be a rewarding experience in a number of ways. To see your fish grow well and spawn readily on a food you've formulated to fulfill their special dietary needs brings much satisfaction. Imagine the ego boost when your friends in the hobby pass on your secret recipe telling everyone how the fish thrive on it. For further information see: Food For Thought-Experimenting With Edible Foods (elsewhere in this issue). Also see: My Special Food: A Secret Formula?, by J. Jessup; March '72 issue of the Delta Tale. I feed this food myself with excellent results!!

Or talk to our own Hirschman brothers about the dry food formulas they've concocted. I've tried both their salmon meal food and their high protein blend which my cichlid fry eat eagerly.

Can you come up with any ideas for improvisations in the areas of filtration systems, air supply, heating or cooling? Here's one idea: "Need an inside filter that's attractive, handy, and cheap? Buy a four ounce plastic funnel and a small square plastic refrigerator box with a snap-on top (or use one of those plastic quart containers that your ice cream is sold in). Drill a lot of 1/16th inch holes all over the bowl of the funnel and all over the lid of the container (or use a leather punch). Drill or cut out a hole for the stem of the funnel to fit through the center of the lid of the container. Set the funnel upside down in the center of the container...but first, put a length of air line through the center hole in the lid, then through the upside down funnel and then put an airstone on it to hold the air line down in the center of the container. Now put the funnel in the container.



Add some filter wool, some charcoal, some more wool, then snap on the lid. Fasten the other end of the air line to an air pump and you have an efficient and very cheap inside filter. If you want to get fancy you might buy some hard plastic tubing and fabricate a proper air outlet and fasten it to the stem of the funnel. This idea was submitted by Ron Maleika, but he says he saw something similiar in the tanks of guppy breeders in Los Angeles last December, so the idea isn't original, just good.*
(reprinted this idea from Wyo. Aquar. Soc. Newsletter, Aug. '72)

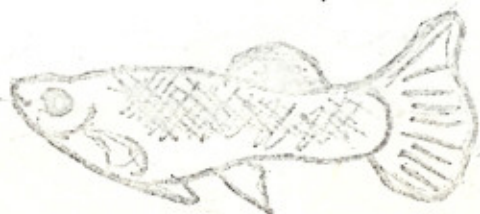
Also, instead of filter fluff (which surely was a great improvement over that prickly glass wool I so disliked handling!!!), which is only economical if you buy 10 lbs. @ \$16.50, (a closet-full!!!), you can use 100% polyester fiber found locally in sewing supply stores @ \$1.49/lb.. I've been using this polyester fiber for eight or nine months now and have had good results with it in my filters.

Another helpful hint for beating the high cost of pre-packaged supplies (why pay extra for special discardable wrappings?), is this. Last year one of our members had the diatomite filter powder used in swimming pools analyzed (important to note: be darn sure it is the kind without chlorine added!). He found it to be exactly the same type as the filter powders sold in pet stores for \$1.49/lb.. Last winter I was able to purchase a 50 lbs. bag of "diatomite filter powder for swimming pools" for \$7.99, which means a cost of about 16¢/lb.; imagine the savings! And I must have 25-30 lbs. remaining.

Another tip (first discovered by accident) to help keep your aquarium water sparkling clear and colorless, when changing your filters, both box type and outside filters, put tufts of filter floss or polyester fiber into a small paper bag and add some diatomite powder. Shake as for sugaring doughnuts...sure works well in the filter.

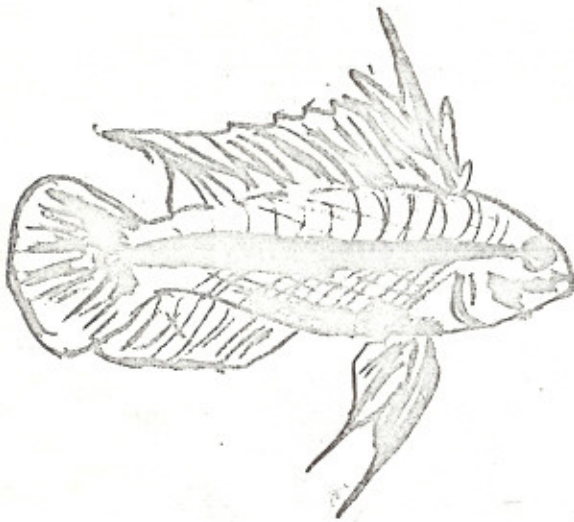
Two more ideas for "doing it yourself" are to begin collecting your own specimens or to raise some on your own for exchange with other breeders for some of theirs.

Collecting native fishes found in our local waters can be lots of fun. In the sweltering heat of a Washington summer, imagine going out to the country-side, taking the kiddies for a picnic and letting them fish along with Dad, using tiny hooks or non-barbed hooks (to spare the fish), to acquire some aquarium-sized specimens. You may also need dip nets, plastic

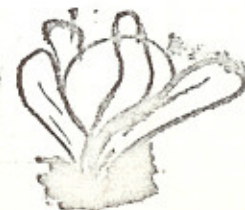


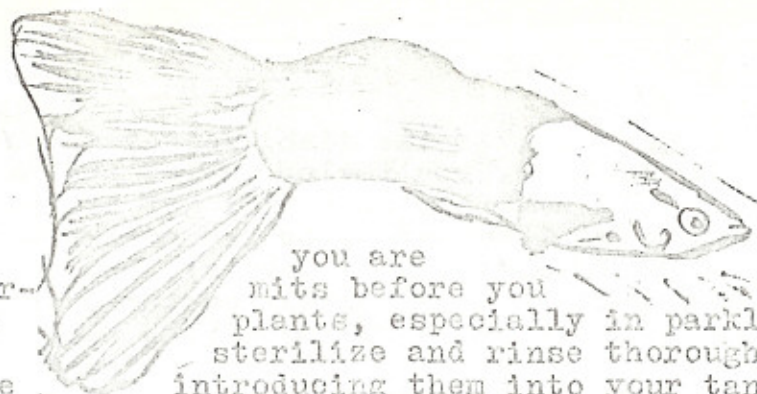
bags, and styrofoam boxes, so the fish won't get overheated. (Also so the fish and water won't slop out of the pail all over your trunk.) The kids probably will get all muddy and somewhat wet (don't let them wade into the creeks barefoot around here...danger of stepping on debris), but they really have fun. So does Dad. And personally captured specimens get special attention from youthful aquarists when put into aquariums back home. All kinds of fishes and semi-aquatic creatures are brought home to our house. It can be quite an educational experience for the entire family involving trips to the library for reference material for identification, as well as for maintenance. An excellent source for the identification of native American fishes is How To Know The Freshwater Fishes, by Samuel Eddy, which can be found in the Arlington County public libraries. This is a good-sized spiral paper-back which keys most down to the individual specie, with many drawings of the fishes.

Spawning and raising your own fish is a pleasant achievement. See back issues of the Delta Tale for a number of first-hand accounts of spawnings by members of our club. If your results haven't been mentioned, perhaps it could be because you have not written an article to tell us. I know the hard-working editor of this publication would be glad to assist you and to accept your finished article for inclusion in our club magazine. Remember, that although we are not all experienced hobbyists yet, there is always some experience we can share with other fish-keepers. We can learn from each others failures as well as from successes; passing on what not to do may help another avoid the same trouble. Don't always go out and buy new fish for excitement. Try raising your own. No need to start with adult pairs; get six or more young of a specie and grow them up to adult size at home. They will choose their own partners, usually, and you can trade excess for other kinds.



In conjunction with collecting your own fish, or as a separate expedition, consider collecting (where permitted) and/or raising your own plants for the aquarium. Cabomba, vallisneria, hornwort and anacharis can be found in this area.





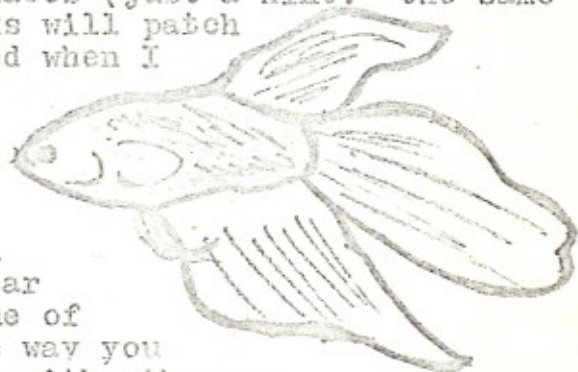
Find out if you are required to obtain per- mits before you begin collect- ecting water plants, especially in parkland. And be sure to sterilize and rinse thoroughly all plants before introducing them into your tanks, to kill all parasites and diseases. There is a product called "sterile dip" available in pet shops which will rid plants, as well as aquaria and equipment, of all kinds of parasites, including those pests in the aquarium-the pond snails. Be sure to use this chemical only as a sterilizing agent as per directions on the jar. Do not add to tank water; it is lethal to fish also.

Still another idea for a worthwhile project along these same lines is to undertake a study of plants in your aquaria. Determine which plants do best at your water temperature, pH level and with the amount of light you have available. What are the physical requirements of the various plants you grow? What changes will they tolerate? With which fish you raise will your plants thrive and multiply? Some of my cichlids will either uproot or infest every plant available. Let us hear your findings.

A challenging possibility in tank decoration or in providing the proper aquarium environment (as my husband looks at it), especially for those of you who dislike plastic as unnatural, is for you to collect your own tank decorations such as sand or gravel, rocks, driftwood, shells, etc.. (See Naturally, by K. Wales, elsewhere in this issue.) Remember that some of these affect pH and hardness levels so be careful what you use. I wish we had coconut shells in this area; somewhere I read they make good shelters for spawning fish.

For collecting your own sand you might look at the stuff sold for use in children's sandboxes. Don't get it too fine, though, or it will tend to compact. Another way, if the source can be located, would be to use "5-Q rock" like that used on golf courses in sand traps. As I remember, it came from somewhere in West Virginia in huge dump truck loads-certainly not an economically feasible way for an amateur aquarist to get gravel for his tanks; but it bears looking into. Of course, you should always sterilize all gravel with clorox or salt and rinse thoroughly before using. We find the smell test after rinsing with plenty of hot water will indicate if your gravel is sufficiently rinsed. If you can still smell clorox, rinse again. Or perhaps you could collect and sieve your own quartz gravel, especially where brown and natural gravel is desired.

Utilizing clay flower pots in various sizes (one slightly larger than the fish you intend to inhabit it) can prove efficacious in providing variety in cave structures within your tanks. Certain cichlids love flower pots for spawning; others, for shelter. Ream out the hole in the bottom so the fish can pass through. On end, small end up; or on its side, for easier viewing by the aquarist; or with a hole cut into one side, like a birdhouse are several of the many ways these pots can be put to use in the aquarium. Even broken pots can be utilized along with tuffa rock and slate and other rocks in making caves for hiding places (just a hint: the same silastic sealer used to repair tanks will patch flower pots which enthusiasm damaged when I tried to make entry holes.



One more aspect in the area of "do it yourself" I feel bound to mention is in the area of showing your fish. (Rules for bowl show and classes for 1973 will appear in the January or February '73 issue of the Delta Tale) It's the only sure way you have of comparing the fish you have with others. The bowl shows are open to all members. The big club shows do involve a lot of planning and work, but the satisfaction of competing for and maybe winning a trophy or ribbon is certainly worth the effort. And to be really "in", a real part of the action, all you have to do is volunteer for some part of the operation, in some area which you have interest or talent and could help.

This really should be a "do it yourself" hobby. You only get out of any thing what you put into it. Anyone can go out and buy a set-up and fish; but it is the interest you put into the hobby that shows results. Get into the mainstream and take an active part in your hobby and in your aquarium society. Add your own personal touches.

Offer suggestions. Volunteer for whatever you see needs to be improved. Ask questions. Pitch in and do it yourself. Your membership in the society is only as meaningful as the part you play in making the society work to help other hobbyists like yourself. You learn more by doing than by sitting; besides, all the fun you miss by not participating is incalculable.

Join the special sub-group of your choice, or start a



new special interest "club" with a few other members (see the society president for information). We are learning a lot from each other at these informal sessions, getting to know other members and to see their fish. It is well worth your while to be active.

By "doing it yourself" in one phase or another of this hobby, you may have more fun doing, the satisfaction of having made the effort, saved yourself a little money, and the pleasure of helping another hobbyist do his own thing, as well as a well-deserved pride in your very own accomplishments. So why not give it a try and see just what you can do yourself to help your fishkeeping be more rewarding and enjoyable. Let us hear what you come up with.

* * * * *

MERRY

CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY

NEW

YEAR

At this time I feel it might be a good idea to promote the "do-it-yourself" aspects fo our hobby. With prices continuing to climb, it becomes more and more difficult to work with tropical fish. Fortunately, this hobby lends itself well to this idea.

How many of you have actually built your own tanks? Not many, yet it is a simple task, not requiring more than an hour or two of your time. I won't go into construction methods at this point (that's another article) because my main concern here is to gain your interest in such a project.

How about cultivating your own live foods, such as: daphnia, brine shrimp, white worms, meal worms, microworms, fruit flies, etc. This is another area where a small amount of your time and money will reap great rewards for you. Here again the job is a simple one, requiring very little space, and the benefits of live foods will be obvious to anyone with more than a passing interest in fish.

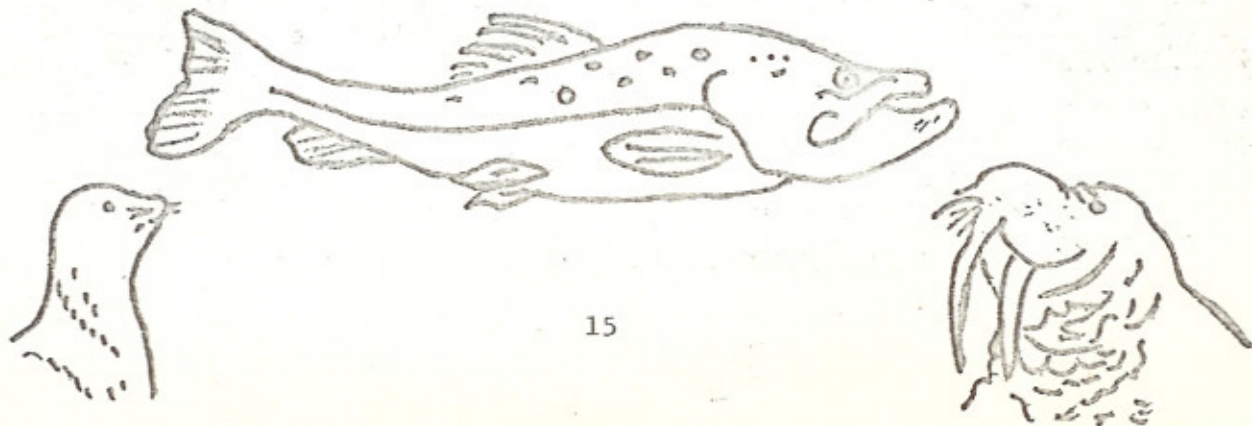
Many of these same benefits can be had by working out your own dry or frozen food formulas. Some hobbyists have spent years mixing their own fish foods, trying hundreds of ideas in an attempt to improve upon what is available commercially. It can be done, and with surprising ease.

I'd be willing to bet that more than one of you has had an idea concerning a different filtration system or air supply or maybe a new method of heating or cooling your tanks, etc. Have you ever attempted any of these ideas? It can't really hurt, but it sure could pay if it worked.

Collecting locale specimens can be a very exciting phase of the hobby, but is attempted by fewer than one in a thousand hobbyist. The identification of, and raising and breeding of these fish can be just as much fun as any tropical venture.

Breeding our common egglayers is undertaken by a surprisingly small segment of our membership. Here lies a project that can be tried by all. Don't be afraid, it just doesn't hurt. Try your luck on some of your favorites.

I've been trying to show some different sides to our hobby with these few ideas to improve the interest and activity of our members, and to remove the aquarium from the decorative or animated picture status. If you have questions on any phase of fishkeeping bring them to the meeting, or (heaven forbid) send them to the Club. The purpose of a society is to help its members and chances are someone will have the experience to help you.



MAKING AN AQUARIUM

by Patrick J. O'Meara

For an interesting project, and just to say you can do it, try making an aquarium. It's easy and may be useful especially if you have a pet project which requires a special design.

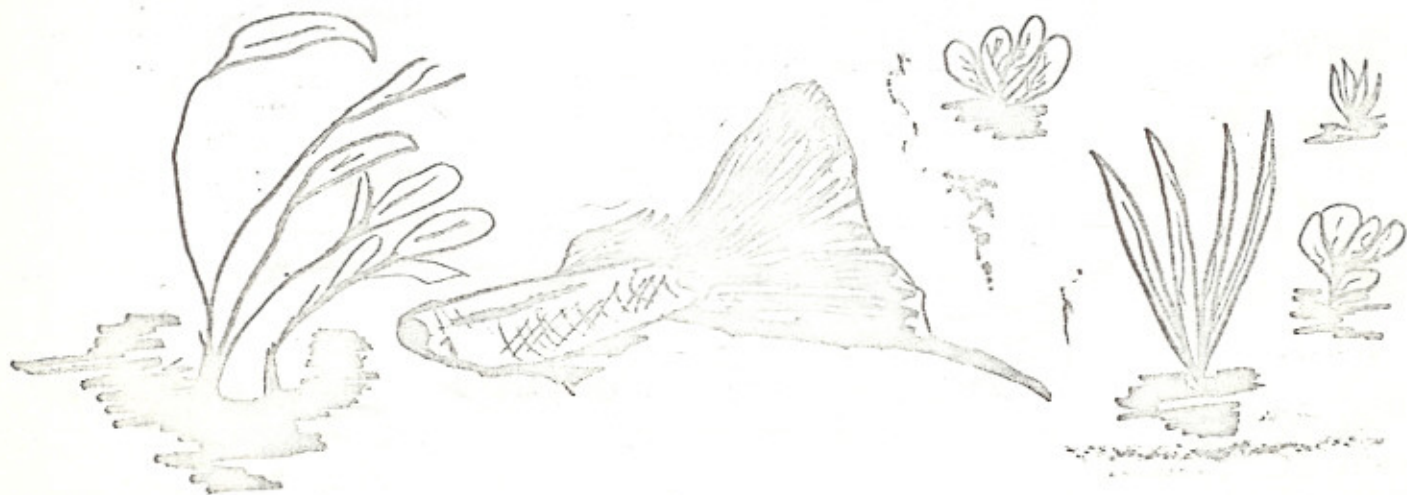
The ingredients are simple: window glass can be used for tanks up to five gallons, plate glass for larger tanks; Dow Corning aquarium sealer; masking tape; alcohol; and possibly some wood. I like a wooden frame top and bottom to hold the glass together.

All glass is washed thoroughly with alcohol, taped together and made secure by the frames. Dow Corning sealer is forced into all seams. Let it cure for two days, then remove frames and test. If you have a leak, remove the sealer with a knife, clean with alcohol, dry and seal.

Here are some examples of special use: I made a double tank completely separated by glass--it uses one heater and light, but can contain two different water conditions; Fish Limited in Annandale has a terrarium with a water tower in which tropical fish are kept; an aquarium for photographic use which directs flash away from the camera can be built by sloping the glass in at the bottom.

How about it? It's not much harder to build a tank than to repair one. Maybe you have a new idea?!

(reprinted from Dec. 1971 issue-PVGC Delta Tale)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT - EXPERIMENTING WITH EDIBLE FOODS
by Tony Abela

Let me begin by mentioning that these different types of food that I'm experimenting with are my own idea. It might not work as well for others as I feel it is working for me.

One day while I was on Jury Duty and on my lunch break, I happened to pass a vitamin food store. That very moment a funny feeling came over me to stop and look around. I thought of all the natural organic foods that they had to offer. At that moment I got the idea to conduct a certain experiment on my guppies. I looked around until I found the name brand food called "Protein From the Sea". The real clincher to this food was that it was over 90% protein. It also had a wide selection of organic foods gathered from the bottom of the sea and made into a fine powdered edible food.

Hoffman's "Protein From the Sea" is a natural organic blend of animal proteins (fish) and sea vegetation. It contains wheat germ, caseinate of milk, organic meat and brewer's yeast, in biological value the percentage of absorbed protein, retained for growth and maintenance. Little thought is given to the vast wealth of the nutritional treasures that are hidden in the sea. Let me emphasize that this food is for human consumption.

I also purchased a bottle of beef liver pills which had to be crushed by hand and then strained into a fine powder. I then mixed these two highly nutritional and body building foods together to form a good combination for my experiment.

The actual test was made on a batch of young guppies about 3 weeks old. They were all from the same female and were about the exact size at this age. In my past experiences with guppies, I have found out that the females grow faster and bigger than the males. This was the point I wanted to change, with the hopes that I could reverse the situation. I separated the males from the females and placed them in about 30 gallons of water each. There were 35 males and 40 females that I used to conduct this experiment.

I have always used a large variety of high protein dry foods in the past so I continued to feed the same. I also use fresh frozen baby brine shrimp which I freeze myself, and the most important of all foods is, live baby brine shrimp. I will single out the two major foods that I base my experiment on. These two foods that I used are a high protein dry food called "Top's". It contains about 70% protein. Then there is "Protein From the Sea" with beef liver added. This contains over 90% protein with a full body building ingredient.

I would feed my fish early in the morning (between 2 and 3 times) before I left for work. These foods would consist of crab meal, beef meal, trout meal, shrimp meal, and a couple of other combinations. I also use a frozen baby brine shrimp in the morning. They would not get a feeding again until I returned home in the evening. When I returned home I fed them a generous portion of TetraMin in a very fine form. Later on, in about 1-1/2 hours, I would feed them live baby brine shrimp. Then maybe a few

hours later, I might give them a little sprinkle of one of the other foods.

The major portion of the experiment would deal with the 11 p.m. feeding. The males would get the "Protein from the Sea" (only); the females would get "Top's" (only). I kept this method of feeding for 8 weeks. The outcome of these two different foods for the 8 weeks was more than I expected.

The females, after 8 weeks, were about one-half inch or a little better. The males, on the other hand, after the same period, were better than 3/4 to one inch long, in the same amount of time. The males showed nice sturdy bodies, good finnage with bright colors, and seemed extremely active and very healthy in every way.

In connection with my feeding program, I also made frequent water changes ...every other day. The water that I use is straight from the tap. The small amount of chlorine that is put into the tank is actually beneficial to your fish as it helps to keep the bacteria count down. This would also include putting back the same amount of salt that I would have drained out while making my water change.

I have since started to feed the females this "Protein from the Sea" combination. The females have shown a remarkable improvement in body size and are showing quite a bit of color. I have only been feeding the females this combination for the past two weeks.

I will continue to work with this food and I expect to go further by experimenting with other high quality edible foods. The truth is in the pudding; if you want good, large, healthy and active fish, you must treat them well. They will reward you a thousand times over. The truth of this point is that my own guppies have won the East Coast Guppy Championship for 1972. ##

(reprinted from "Brooklyn Aquarium Society Newsletter", June '72)

Want to grow your own Tubifex worms? David Tellier in XIPHOPHORUS (Sept. 1970) tells of his system of raising tubifex. Equipment recommended: a 3-gallon container, alfalfa pellets (rabbit pellets), an airstone and a starter lump of tubifex worms.

The method: Fill the container almost to the brim with tap water. Add about 100 pellets and set airstone to steady bubbling. Temperature can range into the low 80's but temperatures in the 60's are closer to their native habitats. After a few days of bacterial activity in the water, add the lump of tubifex. Feed a small handful of pellets daily...the water will be brown or green, depending on the lighting, and smell slightly.

Two or more weeks later the farming can begin. Remove a large ball of muck from the bottom and allow to drain. Place in a straight-sided container and nearly fill with water. The worms will cluster to the sides. Every few hours remove worms to clean container. After about 24 hours they should be clean...and can be fed to the fish. Yield: approximately 2-3 ounces of worms can be harvested every two or three days. (The author has fed these home-bred worms as the sole diet to his fish and has experienced no disease problem.)

(reprinted from "Guppy Roundtable", August 1972)

"NATURALLY"

REPRINT FROM:
PLECOSTOMUS APRIL 1970

By;
KAREN WALES

Have you noticed as I have the marked increase in the use of large river rocks and driftwood in the decor of aquariums? These two items are Mother Natures contribution toward providing a picturesque and beautiful, yet natural background to any aquarium. To me, seeing such a tank is always fascinating and leaves the impression that somehow I just had a private peek into a section of Natures underwater world. Its like becoming a trespasser in a watery world of wonder and beauty. But then, why not? After all, rocks, driftwood, and aquatic life, plus a few big handfuls of dirt constitute the basic requirements of every pond, lake, and stream where tropical fish are found.

Since I strive for the natural look when decorating a tank, I decided a switch to rocks and driftwood would be just the thing. Now the immediate problem was: Where am I going to get the necessary decorator items? Then a prayer was sent heavenward for "Old Mother Nature" who, bless her aquarium loving heart, had the goodness to place the Mississippi and Rock Rivers within my fishy grasp. We, for the other half gets into the picture now, have found the banks of the Mississippi to be the best place to find rocks, while the Rock River yields nice pieces of driftwood. If you are willing to work for them.

Actually, it isn't work at all, its a lot of fun. All you have to do is get your feet wet, and I mean that literally, for wading in the Rock River (Heaven forbid, don't try it in the Mississippi) will present the ambitious aquarist with a high percent of usable driftwood. Besides, the river isn't very accessible by any other means, unless you happen to be half fish.

There isn't much one can say about collecting rocks, except to be careful to select only those which are classified as "mineral hard", and to pick rocks for their natural charm. I insist on calling this 'charm' a rocks personallity. Believe me, some of them have it and some of them don't. A mineral hard rock is one that will not deteriorate in your tank, releasing minerals or converting to chemical gasses which could kill your fish. One of the easiest methods that I know of for testing the hardness of the rock (not Ph), is to take a nail, icepick or similar item, and give the rock a hard blow. If the result is a powderery scratch, discard the rock, and select another. A mineral hard rock will either chip, crack, or possibly do nothing, in which event the rock is generally safe for use. Here I must point out, I say generally, for we all know there is an exception for every rule.

After collecting the rocks comes the easy part. Clean them with a salt water solution, the same as used for cleaning a tank, and a stiff brush, Rinse it off and let it set in a pan for about two weeks. If, at the end of two weeks, the water has become murky or cloudy, discard it, if not, it should be ready for aquarium use.

Generally, the wood used in the aquarium is referred to as driftwood. Of course, this isn't always true. The wood you select may be wet or dry. A great many people prefer to use the knarled woods from desert trees, needless to say, this is not driftwood.

If the piece of wood selected is dry, the first step in curing the wood is to clean it. Curing is simply the process of getting the wood waterlogged and completely clean. The cleaning must be thorough to the point of seeing to it that all foreign objects and materials have been removed from the wood. Thereby rendering it for safe use.

To cure the wood:

Scrub with a stiff brush, an old toothbrush is ideal, removes and loosens all the dirt and minerals present on the surface. Let the wood soak under salt water for a week to ten days. This will kill any insects or parasites. It also starts the process of getting the wood waterlogged. Either put the wood in a pot of salt water and boil for ten to fifteen minutes, or bake it in the oven for twenty minutes at 200 degrees. If the wood has not yet become waterlogged, return it to a container, and soak it until it sinks without the use of weights.

If on the other hand, you choose real driftwood, the battle is won. For the river wood will already be waterlogged and that is the biggest chore. All that remains is to clean the wood and boil it. Oh yes, do test it first, regardless from whence it came.

We have found tho, that less time is wasted with wood from the river. Some woods become soft and mushy when waterlogged and are therefore useless. Driftwood must be firm and solid, when hunting in a river, the soft pieces can be discarded at once. I've always had good luck with these two methods and I wish you the same.



ELECTION OF SOCIETY OFFICERS

At the meeting on November 6, the P.V.A.S. elected its officers for 1973. The following members will assume office at the meeting on January 8:

President	John E. Jessup, Jr.
Vice President	John Wolcott
Recording Secretary	Linda DeRoze
Corresponding Secretary	Dick Baker
Treasurer	Gene Sergent
Board Member	Gene Aldridge (2 yrs)
Board Member	Ken Raab

WENDELL POULSEN
Chairman, Nominating Committee

TABLE SHOW RESULTS & STANDINGS

NOVEMBER 1972

◇ GUPPY	a. H/Blk AOC	1st SERGENT WOLCOTT SERGENT	2nd SERGENT SERGENT WOLCOTT	3rd WOLCOTT PLATT SHIFLETTE, N
	b. Female			
	c. AOC			
◇ CICHLIDS	a. So. Am Under "5"	HIRSCHMAN, E	HIRSCHMAN, E	-
	b. Riftlake	TIE { HARDY, C LENZEN	HARDY, C	-
	c. Other			HARDY, C
◇ OTHER	a. Sharks & Loaches	RUSHTON	FERGUADY	HIRSCHMAN, A
	b. Catfish (Other than Corydonas)	HIRSCHMAN, A HIRSCHMAN, A	FERGUADY SHIFLETTE, A	GARGANT PLATT
	c. Other			

POINT COUNT

GUPPY	NOVEMBER	ANNUAL	CICHLIDS	NOVEMBER	ANNUAL
SERGENT	14	130	JESSUP	-	85
WOLCOTT	11	95	HIRSCHMAN, E	8	51
SHIFLETTE, N	4	29	LENZEN	4	27
HULL, A	-	17	HARDY, C	11	26
JOHNSON, M	-	16	SHIFLETTE, J	-	25
KEPLINGER, N	-	16	ALDRIDGE	-	15
OLIVER	-	11	HAMMOND	-	12
Walsh - 8; Shiflette, J, Poulson, W-6; Platt-5; Thomas-4; Cunningham, Ganslen, Hirschman - 3; Johnson, A.J., Keplinger, D, Keplinger, M, Norbu, Patterson, Jessup, Julie, Rushton - 2/1			O'Meara, Pipkin, T, Goodman, - 6; Stampler-5; Royal, K., Hirschman, A., Adams - 3; Hardy, B., Hardy, M., Hardy, D., Pettingill and June Jessup - 1/2		

ANNUAL AWARD

★ GUPPY	-	Pauline Sergent	★
★ CICHLID	-	John Jessup	
★ OTHER	-	Al Hirschman	★

OTHER

HIRSCHMAN, A	12	68
FISHER	-	50
RUSHTON	4	27
SHIFLETTE, D	-	12
LENZEN	-	11
WALSH	-	11
GOODMAN	-	9
OLIVER	-	9
GARGANT	2	9
SHIFLETTE, A	3	8
WHITTMAN	-	8
HULL, S	-	6
O'MEARA, S	-	6
SHIFLETTE, J.	1	6
FERGUADY	6	6

DECEMBER 11, 1972

NO BOWL SHOW

LET'S HAVE A PARTY

Aldridge, Platt -4; Pipkin, T.,
Hirschman, E., -3; Pipkin, M.,
Pipkin, J., Toro, Royal - 2/1.

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

FALL FISH SHOW

OCTOBER 28 & 29 1972

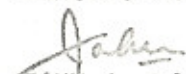
Having reached 31,000 feet and in level flight, with some prize guppies resting comfortable on the seat next to me enroute to Milwaukee (IFGA), I found the necessary time to write a few words about last weeks show.

Our fall fish show, although severely damped by Mother Nature, can be determined as successful. Successful meaning, excellent judging in all classes of fish, good cooperation by all participants, a fine crowd on Sunday and a break-even in the costs.

In looking back and accessing the total happenings, I would have to say the publicity department needs some improvement. There was a good "flyer" covering the show, however, we were only able to print 450 copies. They were distributed two weeks in advance, but the flyer was not printed in the Delta tale. I will present my recommendation for better publicity at the first meeting of the Show Committee. Thanks to Mr. Hardin & Weaver for mentioning our show on their morning program.

One point worthy of note was the excellent scrub down of the show area accomplished by Wendel Poulsen and Pat O'Meara after the Show.

To all the folks that helped put the whole show together, I wish to extend my sincere thanks - - -


JOHN A. WOLCOTT
Show Chairman

P.S. I took a 1st and 3rd in the Milwaukee IFGA Show.



The 1973 Tropical Fish Show is scheduled for May 19 & 20 at the Coca Cola Plant. Anyone that desires to be a member of the Show Committee, please give John Wolcott a Call.

★ THANKS FOR THE WONDERFUL RAFFLE PRIZES ★

- ✓ Wendel & Viv Poulsen
Silent Giant - Supreme Heater - Fish Food
- ✓ Aquarium Supply, 5119 Lee Highway, Arlington
29 Gallon "All Glass" O'Dell Tank and top with stand
- ✓ Fathoms Unlimited, 2225 Belpre Road, Wheaton
Aqua-King Filter
- ✓ Wallys Aquarium, 4405 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington
6 Oz. Tetramin
- ✓ Landmark Pet Shop, 5877 Duke Street, Alexandria
70 Gallon All Glass Tank
- ✓ Fish Ltd, 7123 Little River Turnpike, Annandale
Automatic Baby Saver
- ✓ Pisces & Aquarius, 2721 S. Wakefield Drive, Arlington
53 oz Brine Shrimp
- ✓ Mr. & Mrs. Carl Hardy
10 Gal All Glass Tank



TROPHY DONATIONS

J. JESSUP
P & S O'MEARA
W & V POULSEN
P & G SERGENT
J. WOLCOTT

TROPIES FROM SEK TROPHIES, ODENTON, MARYLAND

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

FALL FISH SHOW

OCTOBER 28, 29, 1972 RESULTS

I. GUPPY 38 ENTRIES

	<u>RED</u>	<u>BLUE</u>	<u>GREEN</u>	<u>MULTI</u>
1st	W. POULSEN	P. SERGENT	P. SERGENT	J. WOLCOTT
2nd	L. BIAGBURN	P. SERGENT	P. SERGENT	-
3rd	P. SERGENT	P. SERGENT	P. SERGENT	-
	<u>AOC</u>	<u>H/B RED</u>	<u>H/B AOC</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
1st	C. HALL	H. LENZEN	J. WOLCOTT	M. JOHNSON
2nd	-	T. OLIVER	P. SERGENT	M. JOHNSON
3rd	-	-	J. WOLCOTT	M. JOHNSON
	<u>2 MATCHED MALES</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>SNAKESKIN</u>	
1st	P. SERGENT	P. SERGENT	NONE	
2nd	P. SERGENT	P. SERGENT	NONE	
3rd	H. LENZEN	M. JOHNSON	NONE	

★ BEST OF SHOW J. WOLCOTT - H/B AOC ★

III. EGGLAVERS 47 ENTRIES

	<u>CATFISH CORYDORAS</u>	<u>CATFISH OTHER</u>	<u>ANABANTIDS</u>
1st	G. RUSHTON	G. ALDRIDGE	B. KOLLING
2nd	A. HIRSCHMAN	G. ALDRIDGE	B. KOLLING
3rd	G. RUSHTON	J. JESSUP	G. RUSHTON
	<u>BETTA</u>	<u>SHARKS & LOACHES</u>	<u>CARACINS, BARBS, TETRA</u>
1st	A. HIRSCHMAN	N. SHIFLETTE	J. JESSUP
2nd	D. SHIFLETTE	G. RUSHTON	A. HIRSCHMAN
3rd	D. SHIFLETTE	D. WOLCOTT	B. KELLY
	<u>KILLIFISH</u>	<u>NATIVE AMERICAN</u>	<u>OPEN</u>
1st	F. COWHERD	P. O'MEARA	J. JENKINS
2nd	J. JESSUP	P. O'MEARA	N. TSE
3rd	A. HIRSCHMAN	P. O'MEARA	H. LENZEN

★ BEST OF SHOW J. JENKINS - OPEN ★

IV. CICHLIDS 42 ENTRIES

	<u>CENT & SO AM (LARGE)</u>	<u>CENT & SO AM (MEDIUM)</u>	<u>CENT & SO AM (SMALL)</u>
1st	J. JESSUP	D. WOLCOTT	J. JESSUP
2nd	K. O'MEARA	J. JESSUP	E. HIRSCHMAN
3rd	F. CRAWFORD	E. HIRSCHMAN	-
	<u>ANGELFISH</u>	<u>AFRICAN RIFTLAKE</u>	<u>AFRICAN TILAPIA</u>
1st	C. HARDY	S. O'MEARA	S. O'MEARA
2nd	F. COWHERD	G. ALDRIDGE	-
3rd	T. OLIVER	J. JESSUP	-
		G. ALDRIDGE	-

OTHER

1st	J. JESSUP
2nd	B. KELLY
3rd	G. ALDRIDGE

★ BEST OF SHOW J. JESSUP - OTHER ★

II. LIVEBEARERS 1 ENTRY

	<u>MOLLIES</u>
1st	A. HIRSCHMAN
2nd	-
3rd	-

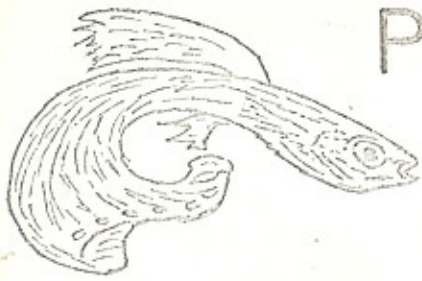
★ BEST OF SHOW A. HIRSCHMAN ★

V. SET TANKS 2 ENTRIES

G. ALDRIDGE	E & A HIRSCHMAN
-------------	-----------------

VI. DEALERS TANKS

FATHOMS UNLIMITED
WHEATON, MD.



POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT, NOVEMBER 1972

CASH IN BANK LAST REPORT \$560.61

INCOME:

Show:	Entry fees	\$149.00	
	Raffle	93.25	
	Auction	33.63	
		8.81	
	Trophy donations	40.00	
Memberships:		35.00	
		<hr/>	
		\$359.69	\$920.30

EXPENSES:

Show:	Trophies	\$206.96	
	Ribbons & rosettes	40.98	
	Sawhorses	59.10	
	Labels	1.50	
	Truck rental	49.03	
<u>Delta Tale:</u>	Staples	2.80	
		<hr/>	
		-\$360.37	\$559.93

CASH IN BANK, NOVEMBER 6, 1972 \$559.93

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM

by Alan Levitt

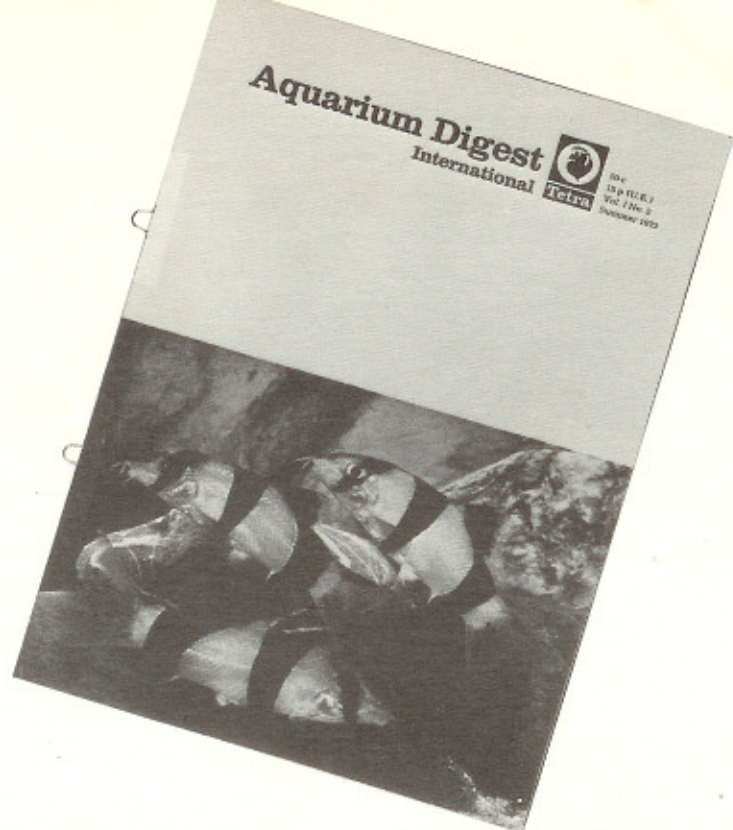
Last month Acting Director David Allen attended the annual conference of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums in Portland, Oregon. Dave presented two papers, his own on aspects of sulfathiazole sodium and biological filtration and one about our educational programs by this writer. While out West, Dave also toured a number of aquariums including Sea World, Scripps, Marineland, Steinhart, and the Sonora Desert Museum.

The 2,500 gallon predator tank was broken down and set up again. We took out the large snakehead and three 24" *Synodontis* catfish and thinned out excess South American Cichlids. It had gotten so that fish below 5" introduced into the tank were immediately eaten by the 20" snakehead. A 16" Arowana was obtained from a local hobbyist and is now also in the display.

Other new additions include blind albino cave crayfish, walleye, a spiny eel, and two orange auratus from Lake Malawi, an octopus and garibaldi (in same tank), a number of Catalina gobies, and assorted coral reef specimens from the South Pacific (including an Emperor Angel). All are on exhibit in appropriate displays.

Spawnings included the Tomato Clowns, Rift Lake cichlids, assorted livebearers, and fish in the parental care tank.

The National Fisheries Center and Aquarium which was to be built at Haines Point was officially abolished as of October 20, 1972. The money for the project has been frozen for the last four years. The National Aquarium will remain open under the Division of Fish Hatcheries of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.



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