

# DELTA TALE

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Issue 5

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 show, and promoting good fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to Secretary, P.V.A.S., P.O. Box 6219, 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. All materials for inclusion in the DELTA TALE must reach the editor no later than the Saturday after the monthly Monday meeting.

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Co-Editors:

Ruth Brewer

Susan Sprague

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Treasurer	Gene Aldridge	Recdg. Secy.	Ruth Brewer

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

John Jessup	Susan Sprague
Heinz Lenzen	Warren Garner
Pat Mahoney	Mark Prendergast
Steve Siska	Diane Nixon
Craig Tingen	Pat Tietjen

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The cover drawing is a tracing by Michael Sprague of a slide by Ruth Brewer. It is a seahorse.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The Board of Governors met April 5, 1977 at the home of Steve Siska with seven members present. Mike Sprague reported that invitations to the judges for the Spring Show had been mailed and that notices had been sent to TFH and two other hobby publications. It was agreed that flyers would be sent to all our exchanges as well as to the show mailing list. The Treasurer reported that we had a balance of \$428.06 with approximately \$125 in bills outstanding. After a lengthy discussion concerning the stands for the Spring Show, Mike Sprague and Steve Siska agreed to get estimates and have a further discussion of the project at the regular meeting on April 11.

Since Pete Tietjen has resigned as President, Dave McInturff will serve as both President and Vice President through May. Pat Tietjen was appointed an ex officio member of the Board. It was also agreed that Susan Sprague and Ruth Brewer would co-edit the Delta Tale and that Ruth would replace Susan as Recording Secretary for the balance of this year.

Mike Sprague announced that he now had the FVAS library and was interested in suggestions and help in cataloging the exchanges.

The next meeting of the Board will be held May 3 at the home of Gene Aldridge.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Brewer  
Recording Secretary

BOWL SHOW  
May 9, 1977

<u>CICHLIDS</u>	<u>OTHER EGGLAYER/LIVEBEARER</u>
Angelfish	Sharks/Loaches
Tilapia/Serather.	Catfish, non-corydoras
Other Rift Lake	Guppies

1977 BOWL SHOW CATEGORIES

<u>CICHLIDS</u>	<u>OTHER EGGLAYER/LIVEBEARER</u>
June Haplochromis	Tetras
Mbuna, non-pseudotropheus	Characins
Open	Open
July Cent. & S.A. Large	Bettas
Pseudotropheus	Corydoras
Asian	Goldfish/Koi
Aug. Cent. & S.A. Medium	Barbs
Julidochromis	Anabantoids
Discus	Guppies

# MEMBERSHIP and THINGS

By Mike Sprague, PVAS  
Corresponding Sect'y

Welcome to May and finally some warm weather. No time for rambling on this month. Right to business!

At press time the following memberships which expired in April had still not been renewed;

Haas  
Long

Tietjen  
Young

The following memberships expire in May, 1977:

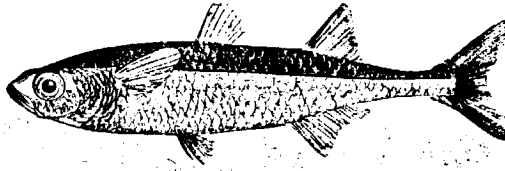
Fewell  
Hall, Jr.  
Harrington  
Lenzen  
Mahoney

Mark  
Meyer  
Nixon/Lassell  
Summers  
Wittman, Jr.

On behalf of all the members of PVAS, I would like to welcome as new members:

Sam Dickens - a junior member and  
John Trocki - an individual member who has been in the hobby for 15 years and works with livebearers and egg-layers.

Hope to see you all at the meeting.



IT'S SHOW TIME AGAIN!

The Memorial Day weekend (May 28 and 29) will be a busy one for us: the Spring Show on Saturday, followed by our auction on Sunday. This means lots of opportunities to meet with our fish friends from outside this area, but it also means lots of work for all of us. Dave McInturff will welcome all the help he can get -- if he hasn't already called you, please volunteer.

While we're thinking about it -- the treasury will need a little help, too. How about offering to donate a plaque? See Gene Aldridge for more information, but dig down deep and help out in this very important part of the Spring Show.

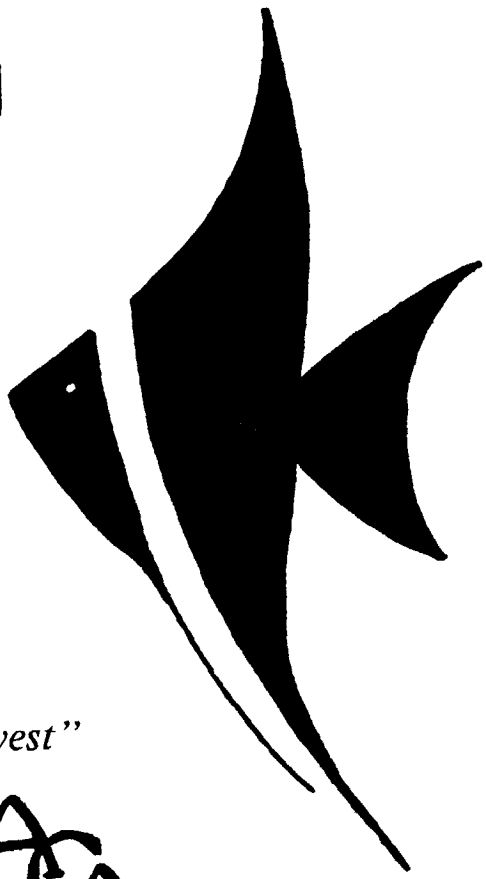
**JULY 29, 30, 31**

announcing . . .

the **1977**  
**AMERICAN**  
**CICHLID**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**CONVENTION**  
in  
**CINCINNATI, OHIO**

*"The Queen City of the Midwest"*

**The Drawbridge Inn**  
I-75 at Buttermilk Pike  
Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky  
(5 minutes from downtown Cinci)



The speakers list is just beginning . . . Pierre Brichard, Ross Socoloff,  
Paul Loiselle, James Thomerson . . .

**WATCH IT GROW!**

**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!**

Hosted by the *Greater Cincinnati Cichlid Association*

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*For information write: Jim Woolridge, P. O. Box 42307, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242.*



## WAVES FROM THE CORAL REEFS

By Ann Garner, PVAS

Life with Lucy, or living with an octopus, Lucy came into our lives after watching her every evening for a week. She had arrived, been acclimated and remained hidden in her tank at the fish store for a couple of days before deciding to take a look at her new surroundings. Each evening we made our trip to the store to watch her. She actually was very unremarkable in actions--she sat in a corner looking us over. However, she was eating! A goldfish or two a day and seemed to be suffering no ill effects from her capture and shipment. Finally, she was netted, very carefully, placed in a large plastic bag, paid for, and away she went to her new home.

Her new home was a 20 inch hexagon with undergravel filter covered with two inches of mixed crushed oyster shell and dolomite. Specific gravity was 1.022 and temperature was 72<sup>0</sup>-74<sup>0</sup>F.

We had placed two large conch shells in the tank so she could have a choice of living quarters. She quickly chose the smaller and disappeared from sight - except for the underside of a tentacle which seemed to be used as a shield.

For the first week or so, she only came out of her haven when she sighted her daily shrimp or goldfish. After she became accustomed to our routine and her surroundings, Lucy became a little more sociable. She became extremely active late in the day (after our usual arrival home from work) and waited impatiently, flashing her colors, for Warren to bring her dinner. She inked every time I approached the tank until I started feeding her, too.

We once bought four small crabs for a treat. Knowing she had already had dinner, we put them in her tank so she could eat when she was hungry again. The next morning, all four were gone. She decided not to wait.

We enjoyed Lucy for over three months when suddenly food or Warren's hand would no longer bring her completely out of her shell. Upon close examination, we were able to determine she had laid eggs.

Within a couple of weeks, she died. We were later told if we had immediately separated her from the eggs, we might have saved her. The eggs, of course, were infertile. It is my understanding that in nature once the eggs are laid, the female quits eating and dies soon after the eggs are hatched.

Lucy was an extremely interesting pet. We did get another octopus after losing Lucy but were not successful in keeping it. We purchased it immediately upon arrival and could never get it to eat.

## LAKE NABUGABO, UGANDA

By Eugene T. Aldridge, Jr.

The material for this article has been extracted from an article "The Cichlid Fishes of Lake Nabugabo, Uganda", by P. H. Greenwood in the Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Zoology, Volume 12, Number 9, London, 1965.

Lake Nabugabo is a small body of open water within an extensive swamp on the western shore of Lake Victoria. The lake is roughly pear shaped with a 5 mile long axis and a width of about 3 miles. This lake is about 4,000 years old and prior to this time it was a bay on the shores of Lake Victoria. An eighteen mile long sand bar was created somehow across the front of the bay. I would imagine that wind and wave action created the sand bar. Figure 1 shows the size and shape of Lake Nabugabo and the surrounding swamp land.

The lake and its surroundings present some very interesting contradictions. One, the water of Lake Nabugabo is more alkaline than Lake Victoria, with the Lake Nabugabo pH at 8.2 while the pH of Lake Victoria is only 7.8 and the surrounding swamp pH is 5.35 to 6.0. Two, the salt content of Lake Nabugabo is one quarter that of Lake Victoria. Three, there are several visible sources of inflow: the Jima River, the Lwamundo Swamp, and underground springs, but no visible outflow. The only answer is that the water seeps down and out to Lake Victoria. Four, Lake Nabugabo and the Lwamundo Swamp are 50 feet above Lake Victoria. No complete hydrological examinations were made of the waters involved, they must be true. I agree some of the data in items one and two may be incomplete and/or wrong but it is all we have. The political situation in Uganda is such that this type of research is not possible.

Figures 2 and 3 shows the general area of Lake Nabugabo to the total of Lake Victoria. As we all know, Lake Victoria is one of the largest lakes in the world. The fact that Lake Victoria is 50 feet below this lake has prompted a great deal of thought on my part. There does not appear to have been any geological activity sufficiently strong enough to raise or lower the area by 50 feet, so the only logical conclusion is that Lake Victoria has evaporated in the last 4,000 years until it is 50 feet lower than Lake Nabugabo.

Lake Nabugabo is a shallow lake with a normal depth of 5 to 12 feet and an occasional dip to 15 feet. The lake is slowly being overgrown by the swamp grasses.

The original fish collections were made in the 1930's by the Cambridge Expedition to the East Africa Lakes. These fishes were not described for many years, consequently colors descriptions do not exist. The fishes were just caught and pickled. I have heard of some very crude capture methods, like dynamite. In 1962, a new group of Cambridge students offered to collect specimens for the British Museum. In addition to collecting specimens, notes on living colors, breeding colors, habitats, etc. With this additional information, P. H. Greenwood was able to de-

## Lake Nabugabo (cont'd)

scribe two new haplochromis species and to redescribe six other cichlid species. This new material adds greatly to the old descriptions. This kind of information comes from very careful observation and extensive note taking.

Six of the recorded haplochromis species are endemic to Lake Nabugabo, and two other species: Hemihaplochromis Multicolor and Astatoreochromis alluaude are found in many places. Wading through P. H. Greenwood's discussion gives some interesting thoughts and ideas. The Haplochromis species of Lake Nabugabo must have come from Lake Victoria 4,000 years ago. A certain amount of speciation has taken place during this period, so that each Haplochromis species is a separate species from its ancestors in Lake Victoria. All the Lake Victoria Haplochromis species are not represented in Lake Nabugabo, so we must assume that they were not capable of making the changes required when the lake was finally cut off from Lake Victoria by the sand bar. As indicated earlier in this article, Lake Nabugabo has some very distinct water features that the fishes had to cope with. There are many non-cichlid fishes that still exist today with little or no speciation.

Reading the original article by Greenwood gives you some interesting insights. It covers about 45 pages and gives some excellent descriptions. You are given a real feel for the fish.

Do we really know what happened. What really caused the drop of 50 feet between the two lakes. Will we really ever know?

# bap REPORT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Susan & Mike Sprague	155**
Ruth Brewer	240**
Gene Aldridge	80
John Jessup	55*
Diane Nixon	70*
Pat Tietjen	15
Jan & Dave McInturff	365***
Jerry Donnelly	10
Gerry Hoffman	10

- \* Breeder Award
- \*\* Intermediate Breeder Award
- \*\*\* Advanced Breeder Award

Spawnings:  
Hoffman - Rusties

Dave McInturff  
BAP Chairman



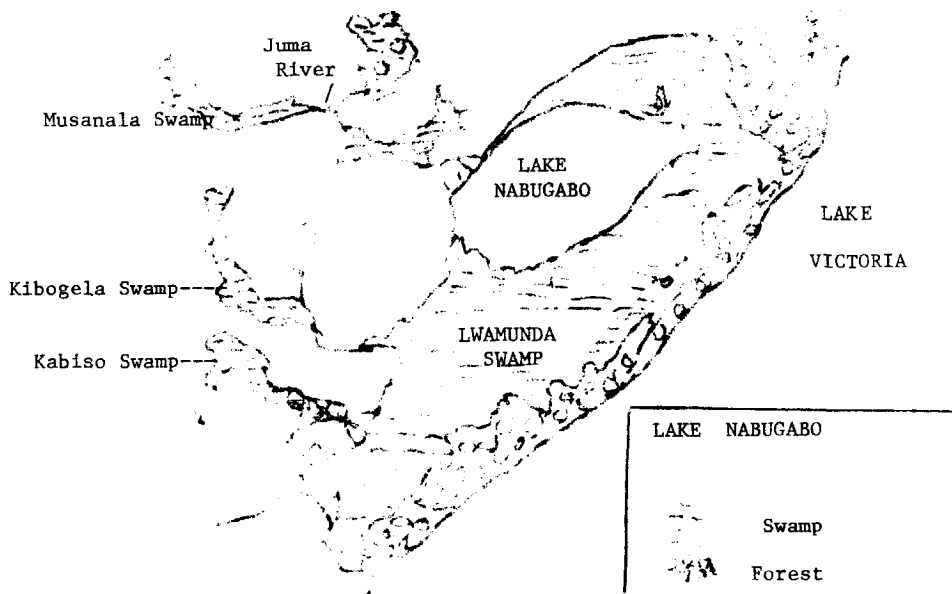


FIGURE 1

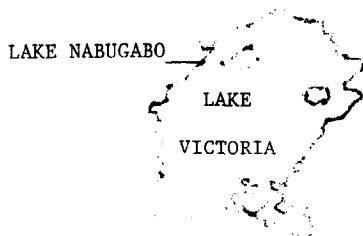


FIGURE 2

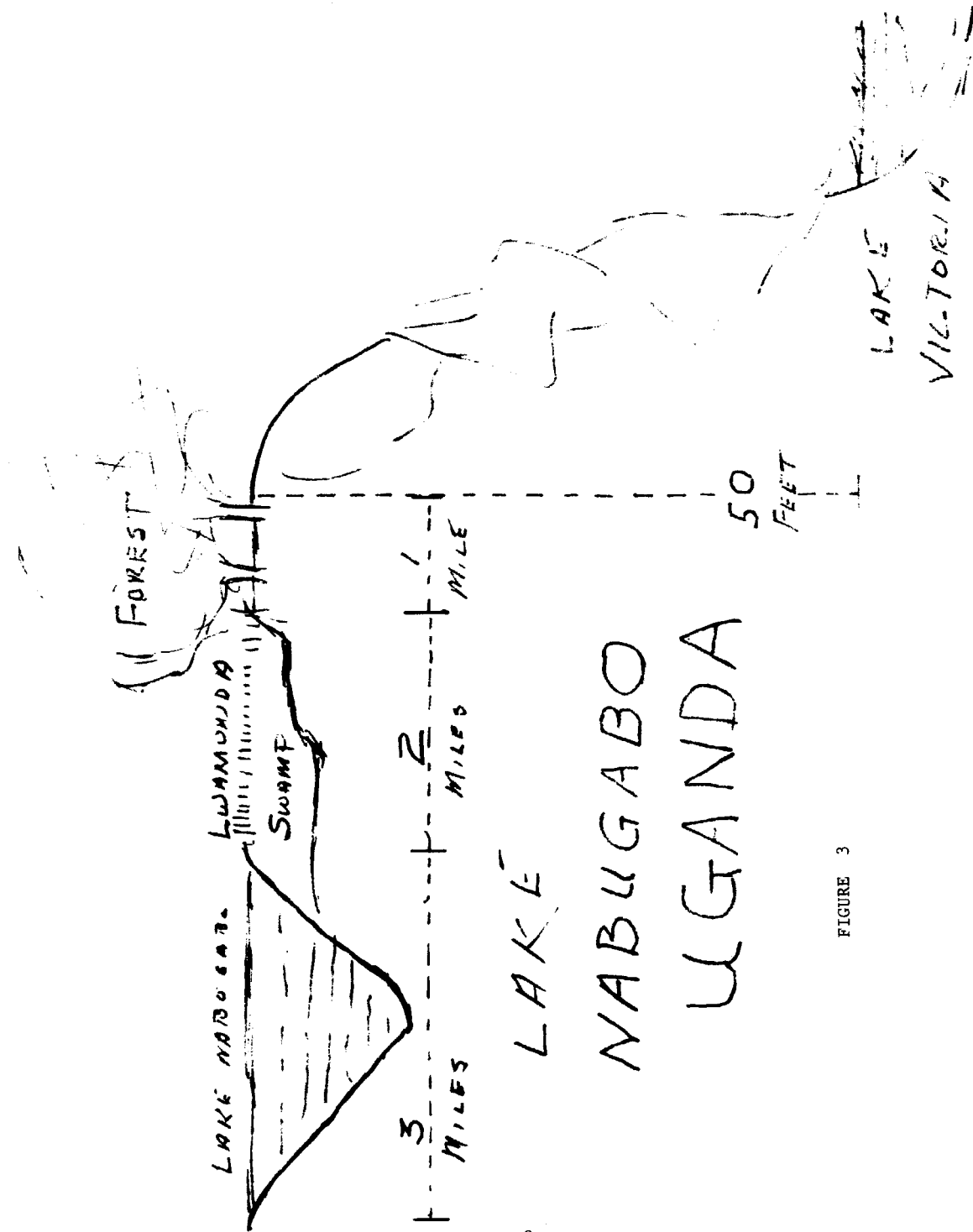


FIGURE 3

## CRYPTOCORYNE I

Aquatic plants of the genus *cryptocoryne* have gained tremendous popularity among aquarists over the last few years. With fifty-one recognized species and at least a dozen subspecies, *cryptocoryne* contains more members than any genus of aquarium plants, and today's aquaculturists can obtain all but the rarest forms from commercial growers.

The genus name itself is pronounced KRIP-TO-KOR-I-NEE (five syllables, please) and with this small tidbit of information you already know more than aquarists about this misunderstood plant family.

*Cryptocoryne* species are rooted plants native to Ceylon and Southeast Asia, and display a wide variety of colors and leaf shapes. Many species are only semi-aquatic, living bogs where they occasionally emerge above water level. They have long been lauded for their ability to grow under low intensity illumination although my personal experience indicates that most species require at least moderate light intensity. *Cryptocoryne* members reproduce by sending runners and favorable conditions can be quite prolific.

Correct species identification among aquatic flora has always been a great (problem, ed.) due to inadequate or incorrect descriptions in what small amount of literature is available. However, the problem is compounded for *cryptocoryne* members since most species exhibit two completely different leaf forms depending on whether the plants were grown above or below the water level (emergent or submergent). An excellent example of this is *C. petchii* in which the emergent and submergent forms are seemingly different plants (see May, 1976 issue of TFH, page 59).

Another distressing peculiarity about these plants is their tendency to suddenly die for no apparent reason, often just falling apart in a matter of hours. I recently had an entire tank of *cryptocoryne* literally disintegrate before my eyes in only two or three hours after transplanting. It seems that most *cryptocoryne* are extremely sensitive to being moved and should be undisturbed for as long as possible.

Despite the problems in growing and identifying these plants, there are hobbyists who refuse to use any other genus but *cryptocoryne* in their tanks. The more hardy species reasonably common and inexpensive although for some reason very few find their way into the Madison area shops.

by Roger Mellenberg  
Reprinted from Super Fish  
al Notes, Sept. 1976