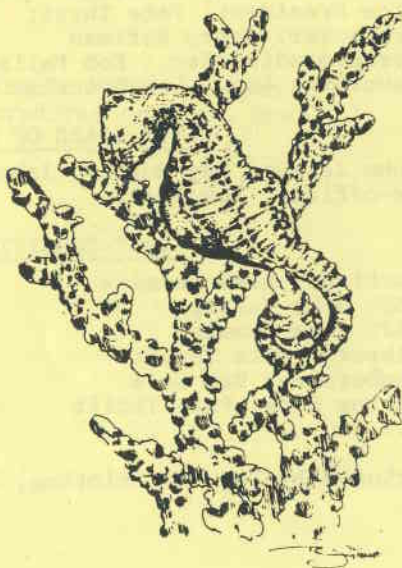
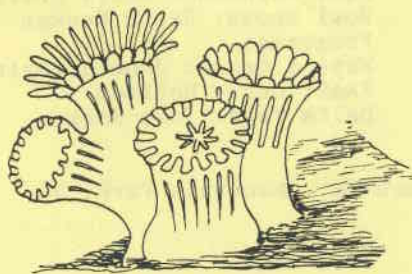
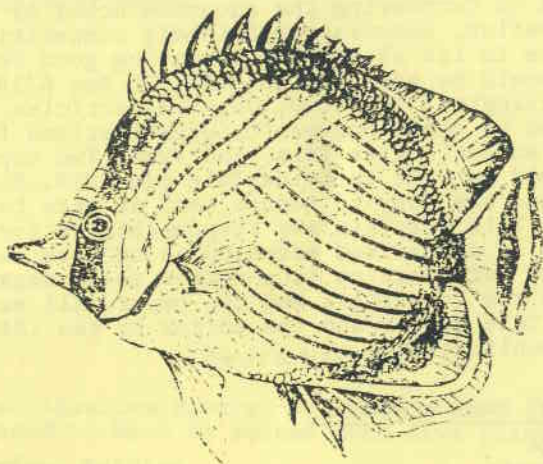


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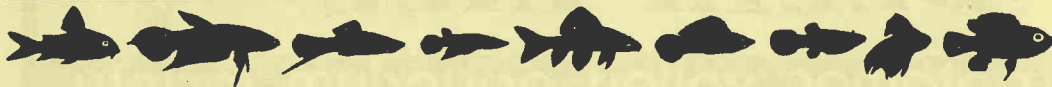
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POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY, inc.



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Delta Tale is published for the benefit of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society Inc., a non-profit organization, established in 1960 for the purpose of furthering the aquarium hobby by dissemination of information, encouraging friendly competition, soliciting participation in its shows, and promoting good fellowship. Correspondence should be addressed to PVAS, PO Box 6219 Shirlington Station, Arlington, VA 22206. Original articles and artwork may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations if credit is given to the author, Delta Tale, And PVAS. Two copies of the publication should be sent to Delta Tale c/o PVAS. Please place the authors name on one copy to insure that it gets to him/her. PVAS and Delta Tale disclaim any responsibility for content or availability of advertised merchandise or services in these pages. Customer satisfaction is a matter to be worked out exclusively between the advertiser and the buyer. All material for inclusion in Delta Tale MUST reach the editor by the 18th of the month prior to publication.

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FrUm ThE eDiToRz DeSk

The Spring Show and Auction are now history. Everyone that helped throughout the weekend (and all the stuff that lead up to it) can be very proud of your part in it, especially show chairman Pete Thrift. As for the rest of you... where were you!!! PVAS currently has over 140 members but only 15 bothered to participate in the show. Over half of the entrants in the show were non-members. If people were able to bring fishes from as far away as North Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Raleigh, what's your excuse for not bringing some from Falls Church, or Arlington, or even from Maryland?

After that what else can I say?
Until next month...

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Program: Aquarium Plants, by Gerry Hoffma and Jim Long. Everything you need to know to succeed with live plants.

Door Prize, Raffles

Mini auction

Bowl Show: Cichlids- New World Large, Riftlake Mbuna, Open.
Egglayer/Livebearer- Anabantoids, Corydoras catfish, Open.

THE 1987 SPRING SHOW CHAIRMAN SPEAKS FOR HOPEFULLY THE LAST TIME

WHEW!!! What a weekend! From the set-up Friday afternoon, on through the New Jersey and Philadelphia invasions Friday night and the confusion over the status of Ed Taylor's flight into National (whaddaya mean, "Diverted"?), on through a hectic Saturday morning registration and over three hours of judging, and on through a very long Sunday auction that ended after 10 PM when I bolted the back door and turned off the lights, it was quite an experience. I hope everyone who participated in our annual spring madness found it satisfying and enjoyable. I did!

Many, many thanks are in order. First, THANKS to all the club members who worked so hard to bring the weekend off. I don't want to list individual names for fear of not mentioning someone, but you all know who you are. Great job, people!

THANKS to all those who entered the show. Although the number of entries and the PVAS participation percentage were both down this year, all entries were of high quality and made an excellent impression on judges and visitors alike.

THANKS to our five judges - Bob Goldstein, Dave Herlong, Gerry Pottern, Dave Shaw, and Ed Taylor. Why fine people such as these come to Virginia at their own expense to perform the utterly thankless job of show judging is completely beyond my comprehension.

THANKS to our sister clubs for their fine turnout - Raleigh, Tidewater, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Delaware, and North Jersey. Without their tremendous support (Philadelphia had to rent a U-Haul trailer to carry their stuff down here!), the show would not have been the success it was. And I am going on record now: Chuck Davis should be invited to our fall workshop to speak on "Humor in Fish Auctioneering".

THANKS to both Rick's Fish and Pet Supply and Bailey's Pet Center for their stunning marine dealer tank entries. You could find people staring into these tanks all weekend, completely captivated. Beautiful work, guys!

THANKS to the "old hands" who had to endure my idiot ideas, dumb questions, and panicky phone calls at all hours as I learned how a fish show is organized. I'm afraid there were more than a few things I never did learn!

THANKS to my beloved/accursed discus, who were feeling none too keen all through the show weekend, but at least had the decency not to die on me.

And finally, a very special THANKS to Ruth Ann, Deborah, and Ben Thrift, who had to put up with me these past several months, and only saw me during the show weekend as a shadowy, mumbling figure in the early AM hours. I solemnly promise not to use the words "show" and "auction" in any conversation in our home for the next four months. Then, gang, it will be time to get the Fall Workshop rolling! As Mr. Bill used to say,

OOOOOOOOOHHHHHHHHHH, NNNNNNNNNNOOOOOOOOOO!!!!



1987 SPRING SHOW RESULTS

 * BEST IN SHOW - Chris Edler RESERVE IN SHOW - Manny Prieto *
 * Red Devil Crenicara filamentosa *
 * FAAS Medallions to Chris Edler and Rick Bell *
 * TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES: 197 (Includes IX,X) TOTAL PVAS ENTRIES: 101 *
 * TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRANTS: 38 TOTAL PVAS ENTRANTS: 15 *

<u>I. Livebearers</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Third</u>
a. Guppies	Kerrinckx		
b. Mollies	Edler	Edler	Pettinato
c. Swordtails & Platies	Jessup	O'Bannon	
d. Goodeids	Mangan	Mangan	Mangan
e. Other Livebearing Fish	Mangan	Mangan	Rockwell

BEST OF CLASS - LIVEBEARER: Mangan (Goodeid)

<u>II. Egglayers (Non-Cichlid)</u>			
a. Catfish, Corydoras	Wilson	Jessup	Rockwell
b. Catfish, African	Pitts	Cohen	
c. Catfish, All Other	Pallansch	Crockett	Kooken
d. Betta Splendens	Kritsatakis	Starkski	Starkski
e. All Other Bettas & Anabantoids	Bell	Low	Low
f. Sharks & Loaches	Edler	Unk's Fishroom	Edler
g. Characins, Under 3" Mature	Hoffman	Stieringer	Mangan
h. Characins, Over 3" Mature	Unk's Fishroom	Pallansch	Bailey's Pet
i. Barbs	Hoffman	Unk's Fishroom	Unk's
j. Goldfish & Koi	Crockett	O'Bannon	Kerrinckx
k. Danios, Brachydanios, & Rasboras	Bell	O'Bannon	Stieringer
l. Killifish	Stieringer	Stieringer	Stieringer
m. North American Native Fish	Jessup	Crockett	Pottern
n. Other Non-Cichlid Egglayers	Unk's	Edler	Unk's

BEST OF CLASS - NON-CICHLID EGGLAYER: Stieringer (Killifish)

III. <u>Cichlids</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Third</u>
a. New World Large (Over 7" Mature)	Edler	Edler	Rockwell
b. New World Med (4" to 7" Mature)	Young	Clapper	Carlo
c. New World Dwarf (Under 4" Mature)	Prieto	Kooken	Carlo
d. Angelfish	Carlo	Kooken	
e. Rift Lake, Malawi	Pitts	Sullivan	Carlo
f. Rift Lake, All Other	Pitts	Pitts	Sullivan
g. Discus			
h. Non-Rift Lake African	Kooken	Crockett	Young
i. Cichlid Pairs	Cohen	Kooken	Carlo
j. Other Cichlids			

BEST OF CLASS - CICHLID: Edler (Red Devil)

IV. Marine

a. Fishes	Bell	Bell	
b. Invertebrates	Bell	Crockett	

BEST OF CLASS - MARINE: Bell (Moray Eel)

V. Family of Fishes

O'Bannon

VI. Plants

O'Bannon

Cohen

VII. Set Tanks

VIII. Dealer Tanks

Rick's Fish
and Pet Supply

Bailey's
Pet Center

Bailey's
Pet Center

IX. Photography

a. Photographic Slides	Aldridge	Davis	Aldridge
b. Photographic Prints	Kaves	Pitts	Pitts

X. Arts and Crafts

Aldridge

Crockett

Crockett

FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF PVAS

During the past months, PVAS has solicited over 50 hobby manufacturers and dozens of local shops, asking for donations for our show and workshop raffles, our monthly raffles, and our monthly doorprizes. The firms below decided to support us. Shouldn't we decide to support them?:

Manufacturers

Aquarium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Brampton Company
Eugene G. Danner Manufacturing, Inc. (Supreme)
Finny Products Company
Freshwater and Marine Aquarium Magazine
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Lustar Products
Marineland Aquarium Products
Perfecto Manufacturing Company
San Francisco Bay Brand, Inc.
Sanders Brine Shrimp
Tetra USA
TFH Publications, Inc.
Wardley's, Inc.

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Tyau Tropi-Care
Tyson's Pet Mart
Wilson's Parrots and Marine Life

Maryland Stores:

Animal Exchange
Aquarium Center
Fish Factory Aquarium
Gaithersburg Pet Center
Glenmont Tropicals
Petland
Pet Mart Rockville
Rick's Fish and Pet Supply
Showcase Aquarium
Tropical Lagoon

The PVAS Board of Directors and the 1987 Show Committee would also like to express our deep appreciation of all the support G & G Aquatics has provided to our club over many years.

Julie Savers and Other Plastic Tricks--Part II

by George White, PVAS

Protecting fish who lose fights. One of the fascinating, yet irritating characteristics of cichlids is their political behavior--they grab territory faster than a greedy politician. In nature this practice enables the strongest and brightest of the males to control the best feeding and breeding areas, promoting the survival of the fittest. (sounds nice in theory).

Unfortunately, such behavioral patterns often have deadly consequences in the confines of an aquarium. An aquarium prevents the loser in a territorial struggle from signaling that the fight is over by using body language, i.e. by removing his or her body from the war zone. Brichard and a number of the experts who have observed cichlids in Lake Malawi and Lake Tanganyika report a notable lack of the deadly aggression often commonplace in aquaria.

The fight over territory in a tank will sometimes continue to the bloody end as long as the loser remains in the sight of the victor. One way to halt the internecine warfare is, as every good cichlid breeder knows, to pack the aquarium with stacks of rocks and other materials to create ample hiding places. An interesting and highly effective variation on this is to cut some three inch square plastic raingutter downspout into pieces six to eight inch long and attach them to the back of the aquarium just below the surface of the water. Synthetic yarn can be strung through them and then taped to the back of the aquarium or tied to the rear legs of an aquarium stand.

These hiding places of last resort offer several advantages over hiding places on the bottom of the tank. Aggressor fish usually patrol only the substrate of the tank when seeking out rivals to eliminate, seldom thinking to look up. In addition, you can fit a large net over the six to eight inch pieces of downspout and net out the injured losers without the chaotic chase that usually ensues when you lift up the rocks or hiding places on the bottom of the aquarium. This method of protecting losing fish works especially well with Lake Tanganyika substrate spawning cichlids like Julies or Lamprologus species that pair up quickly.

Breeding traps. The raingutter downspout can also be used to construct breeding traps for egglayers. First cut a piece slightly shorted than the endside depth of the sides of the breeding aquarium. Then slice it in two lengthwise. Next cut a rectangular piece of plastic "eggcrate grid" (which comes in two by four foot sections to be used with ceiling fluorescent light fixtures) to fit over the bottom of the breeding aquarium. Next cut a piece of 1/8 inch grid plastic screen (used to make bird cages or in aquaculture) to fit over the "eggcrate" and glue them together with aquarium sealer. After this has dried two days it can be placed on the downspout pieces. (I offer this last idea on the condition that it not be used to contribute to the spread of goodieds).

Ed. Note- Goodeids are smart enough to tell the difference between their fry and food, so they don't need breeding traps.

OBSERVATION IS IT'S OWN REWARD

Brian Groover

You know, it can be very frustrating when your fish aren't spawning when you want them to, or when they do, the fry all die, or eat each other, or get eaten, or meet another untimely end. (I am becoming convinced that there is a gremlin hiding in the bottom of my gourami tank, which comes out at night for the sole purpose of devouring gourami and betta fry--a gremlin with an insatiable appetite.) But, despite these frustartions, fish provide us with enormous pleasure, even when the little so-and-sos decide to eat each other instead of making more little so-and-sos. Why?

It can't be just the challenge. Driving home through rush hour may be a challenge, but it just doesn't give one a thrill of satisfaction. Completing a major project on our own gives us a real sense of accomplishment, just as spawning a new species does, but there is something more in a tankful of fish than the potential for accomplishing "breeding success". The fish are fun to watch.

Now, I know that sounds trite, but it's true. Admit it. If you don't realize this fact, you're missing a lot. The behavior of various species presents a fascinating show for us, whether we are into cichlids or killies, catfish or guppies, goldfish or gouramis, freshwater or salt. It is amazing to watch the way a female betta moves around the tank, lithely twisting around plant roots as she searches for food. Or to see a Madtom catfish (*NOTURUS insignis*) searching for his dinner when he can smell it but can't see it. Or to watch the group dynamics of several young cichlids as they begin to pair off.

I've heard it claimed that the presence of an aquarium in a room tends to result in lower tension and anxiety levels, and I believe it. There are few things more peaceful and relaxing than sitting in front of an aquarium, just fish-watching. My wife and I often sit on the floor in front of our tanks late at night, when all lights in the house are out, except those over the aquaria. We talk about what the fish are doing, and what we would like to do with the tank, and what needs to be done with it (there's always something), but we usually end up talking about just about anything and everything, while sitting there watching the fish.

If your sole purpose in keeping aquaria is to spawn fish, then you are missing this whole aspect. I'm not saying that we shouldn't be trying to spawn fish whenever we can, or encouraging and helping others to spawn successfully--we should do both of these. But observation is its own reward, and the joys of simply watching the fish are easily overlooked.

Besides, it helps to remember the brighter side when the male just mangled the female instead of spawning, and you're having thoughts of

Cichlasoma fillet for dinner; the so-and-sos really are beautiful, even when they don't spawn (and tear up your plants). Next time frustration set in, set yourself down in front of some fish, and let them help you unwind. Who knows? By observing, you may even learn what it takes to spawn them.

Reprinted from the CAROLINA AQUARIST, The Raleigh Aquarium Society,
Raleigh, North Carolina, May-June 1985.



A lucky night for Goldy

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.

FOR SALE: Perfecto 55 gallon tank, full hood, and cabinet stand. Tank is plate glass, not tempered glass. Tank and hood have never been abused and are in perfect condition. Custom cabinet stand is far above what is available in any pet shop. This set-up will be the center of attention in any room. \$165. May consider selling separately. Pete Thrift, 971-0594

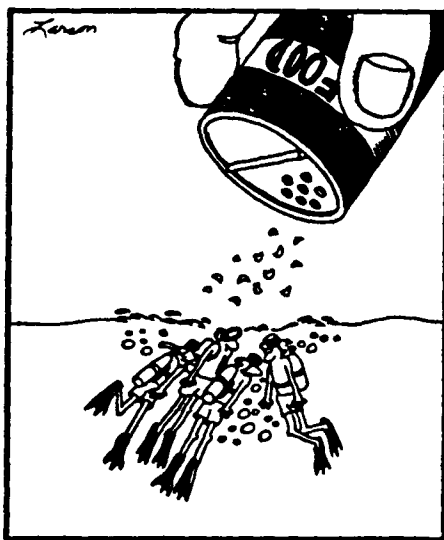
For Sale: Several 55 gallon setups. Contact Kenny Warren 378-8838.

For Sale: Belonesox fry \$2 ea.; Backissue aquarium magazines- send SASE for catalog. John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave, Vienna, VA 22180.

Q & A

Questions on any aspect of fishkeeping can be sent to Rick Bell, 1785 Hill Meade Sq. Frederick, MD 21701.

ed. note- the Q & A column is now back in business. Send your questions to Rick at the address above and he will answer them in this column.



BOWL SHOW REPORT FOR

May

CICHLIDS

New World Mouthbrooder

1st ~~none~~
2nd NO
3rd Entries

Pseudotropens

1st
2nd No
3rd Entries

Open

1st Marble Angel - J. Bennet
2nd Marble Angel - J. Bennet
3rd Marble Angel - J. Bennet

EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

Goldfish, Koi

1st Black Moor - J. Bennet
2nd
3rd

Characins

1st
2nd No
3rd Entries

Open

1st Whip Tail Cat - J. Bennet
2nd
3rd

Judges Choice - Black Moor

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
J. Bennet	3	8	8
D. Sun	0	3	3
R. Hughes	0	2	2
D. Mann	0	2	2
J. Kooken	0	1	1
N. Manwary	0	1	1
J. Long	0	1	1
K. Ruseau	0	1	1

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
J. Bennet	0	5	5
R. Hughes	0	0	0
J. Stinger	0	1	1
D. Mann	0	0	0
C. Carter	0	0	0

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.

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PET MART ROCKVILLE
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Gaithersburg Md 20877
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Eve. (703) 6713

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3527 S Jefferson
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931-1400

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Square Centre
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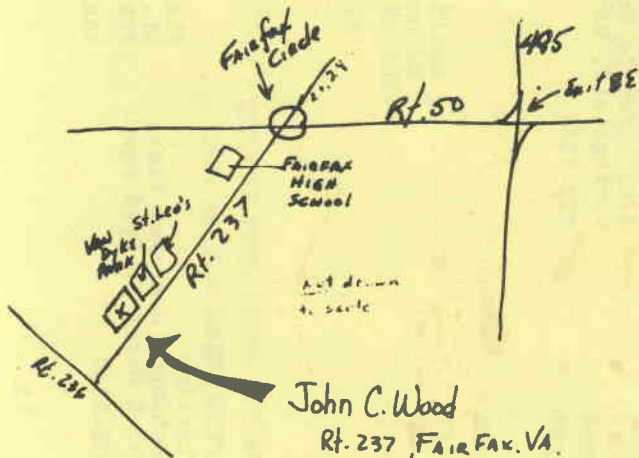
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Springfield, VA 22150
922-7358

Alexandria
Mt. Vernon Plaza
7688-B Richmond Hgwy.
768-2200

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



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Penn. Fish Culturists
1823 Dudley St.
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.