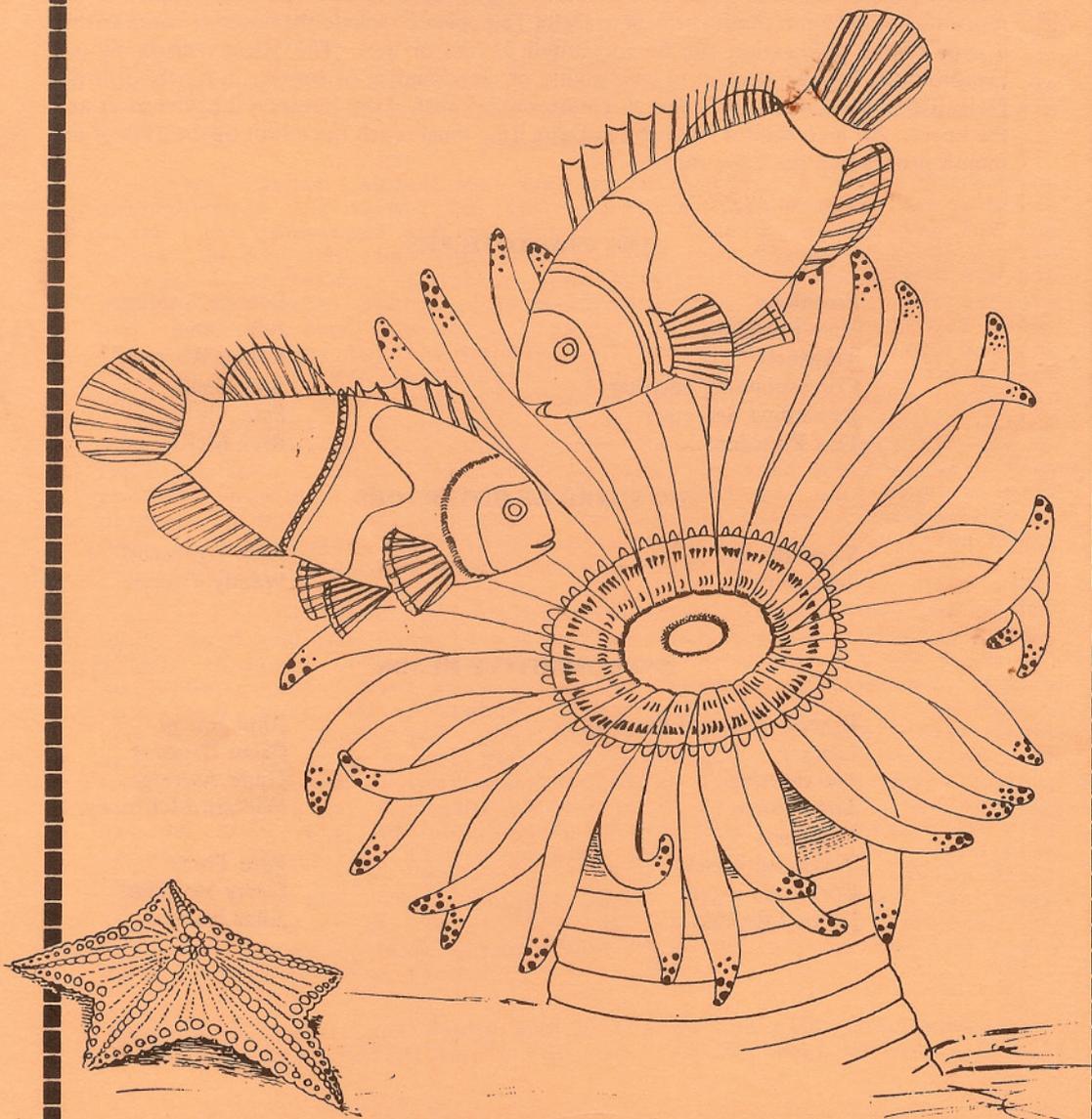


# \* DELTA TALE \*

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

potomac valley aquarium society



The Delta Tale is published for the benefit of the membership of the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society, Inc, a non-profit educational and social organization. The Society was founded in 1960 for the purposes of furthering the aquarium hobby by the dissemination of information and advice, and to the promotion of good fellowship among the membership by organized activities and competitions. All correspondence to the Society and to Delta Tale should be directed to Box 6219, Shirlington Station, Arlington, VA 22206. Original articles and artwork appearing in Delta Tale may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations if credit is given to the author, Delta Tale, and PVAS. Two copies of the reprinting publication should be sent to Delta Tale; please include the author's name so that a copy of the publication can be forwarded to him or her. The Society disclaims any responsibility for the content or availability of merchandise or services advertised in the Delta Tale. Customer satisfaction is a matter to be worked out between the advertiser and the buyer. All material for inclusion in Delta Tale must reach the editor by the 10th of the month preceeding the issue month.

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## A LETTER FROM THE "PREZ"

Hi Guys:

Well, I have been Prez for about 3 months now and I am really having a lot of fun. I feel as though I am getting the hang of it a little and I figure that I should be pretty good at this Prez stuff right about the time my term is up. Maybe I can get John Mangan - otherwise known as "ed." - to campaign for me again and I could go in next year knowing what I am doing. By the way, in my own defense, I suggested to John (ed.) that we slip away to Tahiti together and I am still waiting for his answer. \*

My latest adventure in the fish keeping world is raising earthworms!. I went to the infamous "Max Wonder" dirty movie store and newsstand and got a copy of "Field and Stream" for the 'Live Bait' ads in the back. Most of the worm farms are in Georgia and Texas. I called one in Texas first and asked him how his worms were doing. He said that they had had a lot of ruin and he had lost quite a few. "Oh, they drowned?", I said. "No..they just left!", he said. I ended up buying 5,000 bed run from a nice farm in Georgia. Bed run means that they just send whatever they get - all different sizes. The next week I ordered 2,000 breeders. A breeder is a worm that is banded with a clitellum. While all worms are both sexes (imagine!) they do have to have ..ahem..'contact' in order to make baby worms. They produce one or two egg capsules every month and each capsule will produce 2 to 20 little worms. The capsule takes approximately 21 days to incubate and the little guys will be banded and ready for "contacting" within approximately 90 days.

I tried once before to grow worms. I dug some out of the back yard and put them in a nice box with dirt and oatmeal. Poor little things. They were so unhappy that I finally let them all go. Now that I have read a bunch a books on the subject, I know why they were so miserable. First off they were not the hybrid red wigglers that you get from a farm, they were native night crawlers and they do not breed in captivity. They have a network of specific burrows that they establish for travel and nurseries, etc. and they won't establish in captivity. Besides, the messing around that the breeder/farmer does precludes burrow building anyway. Secondly, they need more moisture and smaller food than oatmeal. Oh well, live and learn. I am so far having great success with the "store bought" worms. I divided a box last week and easily saw at least 50 egg capsules. I feed very fine cornmeal among other things and have to recover the top every other day with fresh food.

\* Beverle- you distract Kenny and I'll grab the club checkbook, next stop Tahiti. "ed."(That's "Mr. ed." to the rest of you.)

cont. on page 7

Well, here I am again. Seems like I just finished putting the last issue together.

The Delta Tale Staff has been busy getting all kinds of new stuff ready. There are two new columns starting in this issue. Actually one brand new one and one that is the return of a column that we haven't seen in quite a while. I would like to ask for your help in getting yet another one started. I would like to have a question and answer column. I've tried this several times in the past with no success. Since we have a lot of new members and there has been a lot of talk about us needing to do more for beginners I will try one more time. Anyone having any aquarium related questions please send them in to me. You can find my address in the trading post column. No names will be printed with the questions so don't worry about asking a "dumb" question.

I think we're just about to the bottom of the PVAS election conspiracy (see the Jan. issue for details). Oliver Stone still isn't returning my phone calls but Delta Tale's ace team of investigative reporters are on to something. They took all of the petty cash from the office and rushed off to the race track saying something about a hot tip. They've obviously gone to pay off an informant, we should have this whole thing blown open by next issue.

The Delta Tale staff aren't the only ones that have been busy. The board has been busy preparing for our spring auction and has also begun working on a fall show and auction. This will be held the weekend of Oct. 10 & 11. Mark this on your calendar now and plan to participate. Club participation in our last show was a disgrace. The fish that were there were all excellent but there were very few of them brought by a small handful of people. If the same thing happens this time you may never see another PVAS show. A huge amount of time and expense goes into putting together a show. The least you could do is enter a fish or two. We used to have shows that would overflow the show stands. There's no reason why we can't do it again. You have over six months to get ready, and I'm going to remind you in every issue of Delta Tale, so you have no excuses.

That's all for this time. I need to finish up this issue so I can start on the next one. Speaking of which- I have no articles in my files for the next issue. Hint, hint, hint. It sure would be nice to have some brand new art work, poems, puzzles...

Until next time...



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

March 9- PVAS monthly meeting:

Speaker- Dick Ashbough of "Koi Unlimited".  
Bowl Show Categories- Dwarf Cichlids & Open.  
plus the usual door prize, raffles, mini auction.

April 13- PVAS monthly meeting:

All of the usual good stuff- speaker, bowl show (Barbs & Open), raffles, door prize, mini-auction. Come early, doors open at 7:30, and enjoy refreshments and witty conversation with fellow aquarists.



May 1-3- American Livebearer Association 1992 Convention. See the ad elsewhere in this issue or contact me (J.M.) for more information.

May 11- PVAS monthly meeting

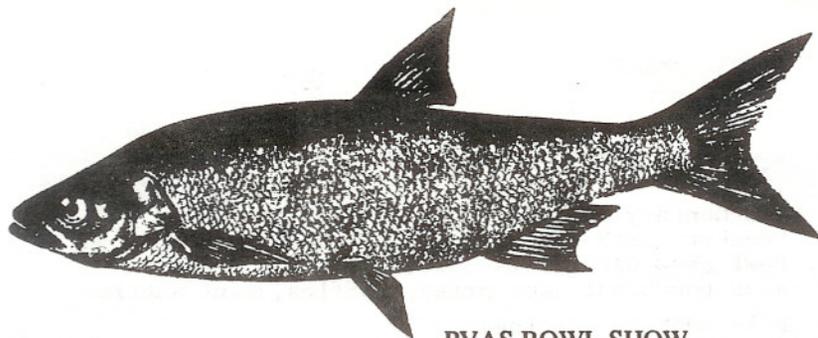
Oct. 10-11 PVAS Fall Show & Auction.

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## TRADING POST

Any PVAS member may place an ad in the trading post at no charge. Deadline for the next issue is April 13. Send ads to Delta Tale c/o John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave., Vienna, VA 22181, or see me at the monthly meeting.

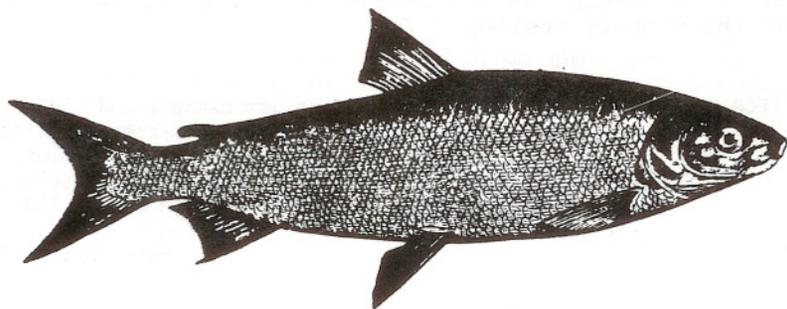
**FOR SALE:** - Perfecto 65 gallon tank, glass canopy, and fluorescent strip.  
Dimensions 36W by 24H by 18D. Perfect condition. \$135  
- Turquoise discus. 2" - 4". Healthy, good color. \$15 - \$25  
- Tetra Marine Aquarist Manual, 2nd ed. by Loiselle. New. \$12  
- FAMA magazines. 1990 complete. Good cond. \$10  
- Instant Ocean marine salt. 50 gallon size bags. \$9.50 each  
Pete Thrift (703) 971-0594



PVAS BOWL SHOW

MARCH	CHICLID- DWARF
APRIL	BARBS
MAY	SPRING SHOW AND AUCTION : CATFISH (non-corydoras)
JUNE	ANGELS AND DISCUS (no open class)
JULY	KILLIFISH
AUGUST	ANABANTOIDS
SEPTEMBER	TETRAS
OCTOBER	LIVEBEARERS
NOVEMBER	CORYDORAS
DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS PARTY

ALL MONTHS EXCEPT JUNE WILL HAVE AN OPEN CLASS.



I have a lot of ants and am undecided as to how I will eliminate them. Most baits are designed to be taken back to the nest and kill all of the ants and I am not prepared at this time to do that. They are a nuisance but they are not hurting the worms. I will look for a repellent. I am using styrofoam boxes with air holes in the top. I hot glued screen over the holes. I did this originally to keep out flying insects, but when I came in one morning and found over 50 dried worms on the ground I realized what the Texas guy meant when he said they "just left". They will crawl if it is dark, but as soon as they get dry they will die. I washed them off and cut them with scissors and fed them anyway. I haven't the fortitude to cut the live ones so dried wasn't bad at all. I think when the time comes, I will put them in the freezer and then cut them when they are frozen. These are very lively worms and just touching them sends them into frenzies of wiggling. Imagine scissors! Yuk!

The one thing I hadn't really counted on was that just like my fish, I have nurtured and cared for these worms and it is kind of hard to turn around and kill them. I guess as in all things I will become hardened to this too. I will be as humane as possible though, because the day that I decide a lowly worm is beneath my compassion is the day I give up my right to expect compassion from others.

I will continue my saga next month and maybe the month after I will have some to sell to anyone interested.

Later, Dudes!



"It's my collection of things I found under rocks."

from the Delta Tale photo archives:  
a rare photo of Beverle as a child.

ed. note: nice try Beverle but just because you wrote more than a page doesn't get you off the hook. A blank space is a blank space.

By the way- do the baits that kill the ants kill the uncles too? I tried calling some exterminators and asking, but I think there must be something wrong with my phone. We keep getting disconnected. How do I call the phone repairman if my phone is broken? Who needs you guys. I can start the question and answer column all by myself. All I need is some answers. Maybe I'll call information- as soon as I get the phone fixed. Wait! information could tell me how to get my phone fixed. But how do I call...

## BOOK REVIEW

by John Mangan, PVAS

### A COLOR ATLAS OF DANGEROUS MARINE ANIMALS by B.W. Halstead, P.S. Auerbach, D.C. Campbell

The title alone draws ones attention to this book. Who among us isn't fascinated by watching the "man-eating sharks" on the National Geographic Specials. This book contains quite a bit to satisfy ones morbid fascination with sharks but goes quite a bit further into the subject of "dangerous" marine animals. There are quite a number of animals that we keep in our aquariums that present danger to us in some degree, some minor, some serious. If you want to learn more about these animals, for your own protection, or just out of curiosity, this is the book for you. Although, at \$59.95 (plus shipping) it is a bit expensive for the casual fishkeeper it is well worth the price for anyone building a serious library. The book is loaded with color pictures, as the name suggests, and a mix of practical and just plain interesting information.

The book consists of seven chapters. The first six discuss the various types of animals and groups them together based on the type of danger they present.

Chapter one is "Traumatogenic Animals". These are animals that can cause some type of wound. There isn't a whole lot in this chapter that aquarists have to be concerned about. After all not many of us keep saltwater crocodiles or polar bears. A few people do have moray eels, however, which are discussed in this chapter. This is also the chapter where you can satisfy your morbid curiosity about sharks, not to mention giant clams (they really can close on your foot and cause you to drown, just like in the movies). This chapter would be of great interest to divers. Actually the whole book is.

Chapter two discusses "Venomous Invertebrates". This is the chapter of most interest to the marine aquarium keeper. In this chapter you will find information on such things as sponges, corals, anemones, bristleworms, starfish, urchins, and much more. Information on prevention and treatment of injuries is given for each group as well as a lot of interesting general information. More specific information is also given for a number of individual species. There's also lots of color pictures.

Chapter three is about "Venomous Vertebrates". This chapter is also of interest to aquarists and even more so to divers. The animals of interest to aquarists in this chapter include the rays, marine catfishes, lionfishes, stonefishes, and surgeonfishes (some apparently have some venom to go along with their spines). As in the other chapters information is given on each group and individual species.

Chapter four is titled "Invertebrates that are Poisonous to Eat". While most of us don't go around pulling stuff out of our tanks and eating it this is still an interesting chapter just for general knowledge.

As some of you may have already guessed, chapter five is all about "Vertebrates that are Poisonous to Eat". Again, few of us are going to pull something out of our marine tank and try to eat it. Some interesting reading though. Did you know that there was such a thing as "Ichthyoallyeinotoxism, or hallucinogenic fish Poisoning, ... Several different types of tropical reef fishes can produce hallucinations after they are eaten." There are probably a few of you out there now thinking "maybe this book is worth \$60 after all". Something else useful from this chapter- if your ever stranded in the arctic- don't eat the liver or kidneys of a polar bear. They may contain lethal levels of vitamin A. And if that isn't enough for one chapter you can also learn about "fugu".

Chapter six is about "Electrogenic Animals" or in simple terms thing that can shock you. Unfortunately since this book is about marine animals there is no information on the electric cat, which is the most common of this type of animals that is available to aquarists and can cause any harm. As with the other chapters it is still interesting, and useful if you dive.

Chapter seven is titled "Advanced Medical Treatment" and contains more detailed information than given in the previous chapters on treatment of bites, wounds stings etc.

While this book is not for everyone I found it to be interesting reading and a welcome additon to my library. I hope I never need to use any of the information contained in its' pages but I feel a little safer knowing that it is available to me .



Nature's subtle signs of danger

### White Worm Culture

compiled by: Tom Biery, respondents: Sallie Boggs, Tony Fitz,  
Jim Long, Alex Townsend

White worms are a great food for keeping and breeding our fishes. Rather than tell you my way of doing it, I felt this approach would offer much more. The following questions were independently posed to some PVAS club members. The results as you can see have little redundancy and in fact explain how to do it much better than I could alone. Thank you to the respondents.

What size/type container do you use to culture white worms?

Boggs: 1'x 1' styro

Biery: 10"x 16"x 6" Rubbermaid Keepers or styrofoam fish box

Fitz: plastic shoe boxes with lids

Long: plastic shoe box

Townsend: plastic, 16"x 10"x 3"

What medium do you use to culture white worms?

Boggs: worm dirt from Kmart

Biery: mixture of Hyponex topsoil, humus, composted cow manure, peat moss with a little vermiculite and baking soda

Fitz: 50:50 peat moss : potting soil

Long: 1/2 potting soil 1/2 peat moss

Townsend: 50/50 mixture of potting soil and peat, kept moist but not wet

What type of food and how often do you feed the white worms?

Boggs: cream of wheat (plain) cooked in microwave 1 min. and cooled in refrigerator. Spread on glass and put glass cereal side down in dirt

Biery: only Gerber baby oatmeal cereal

Fitz: Gerbers mixed cereal - would be best to feed lightly every day, but I'm lazy + just feed every 3-4 days

Long: Dry baby food - only feed again when it is completely consumed

Townsend: Gerbers baby oatmeal sprinkled lightly in narrow depression every 3-4 days, then covered in 1/4" of culture medium

What temperature do you maintain the culture at and how do you maintain this temperature?

Boggs: 60 degrees, in summer I add a freezer pack over the glass as needed

Biery: 53-65 degrees culture containers are kept on cold basement floor from september to april

Fitz: 16 hr @ 50-55 (timer on in refrigerator), 8 hr 55-65 (timer off, temp slowly goes up)

Long: Veg. tray in refrigerator - = 45-55 degree F, temps above 60 degree F are too high!

Townsend: About 65 degree in winter (moderate production), but starting to rise slightly over past month (feb.) with drop in productivity. Culture on cement basement floor.

How do you collect the white worms and how often do you feed them to your fishes?

Boggs: they gather under the cereal, I pick up clumps of them, sometimes I rinse them in a cup, special fish get worms about 1 time per week

Biery: scrape off clumps or mound up a few handfuls of media in soup bowl and submerge the bottom in hot water, my best cultures produce one tablespoon of worms per day, I feed discus white worms as often as possible every day is ok, if they know I am feeding white worms they practically leap out of the tank.

Fitz: A strong culture will "ball up" and the balls (up to 1/2-3/4 inches in diameter) can be picked off the surface with a knife. I only harvest when I can harvest a ball - a good culture will produce about 1 ball a week. I maintain 6-7 cultures.

Long: Small plates of glass on soil mix - worms crawl on to it.

Townsend: Scoop out with small spoon and rinse in fine net. During the coldest months was getting enough to feed about a dozen killifish once a week.

Do you have any additional pointers?

Boggs: mix dirt with dry leaves occasionally - keep moist - the white-dot-fleas can be drowned without killing the white worms and the wet mud that remains can be mixed with fresh dry worm dirt to dry it some what for the white worms

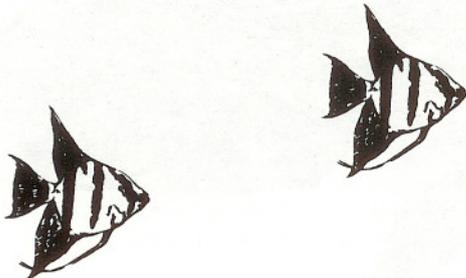
Biery: use a wooden kitchen match stick or wooden utensil to scrape worms off media, worms stick to the wood and the culture media tends not to

Fitz: Cultures are slow to grow. Be patient and only harvest when the culture is vigorous and balling up.

Long: Watch out for mite contamination.

Townsend: Temperature and moisture appear to be critical.

P. S. I certainly learned something. I hope you did. Next time microworms.



## THE MIRROR

This is the return of a long running column from Delta Tale's past. Its purpose is to give recognition, a pat on the back, an ego boost, or whatever you want to call it, to PVAS members who (or is that whom? whom really cares except english teachers) have had their work from Delta Tale reprinted or reviewed by one of our exchange publications. The title "The Mirror" was chosen by the late Pat Mahoney during his term as editor due to the fact that it was a reflection of how our club was seen by others, or something like that. It was a long time ago and I can't remember Pat's exact explanation, but it made sense to me at the time. I've kept the title during my terms as editor partly out of respect to Pat (I was going to mention that he taught me how to be an editor but you aren't supposed to speak ill of the dead) but mostly because I've never been able to think up a better one.

So get out your pens, pencils, crayons, whatever, and start writing articles. Maybe you'll see your name here.

The Nov. 1991 issue of the Kitsap Aquarian, Kitsap Aquarium Soc. reviewed the July/Aug issue of Delta Tale and specifically mentioned Pete Thrift's Eheim Filter Tips and Ron Burch's Rivulus marmoratus.

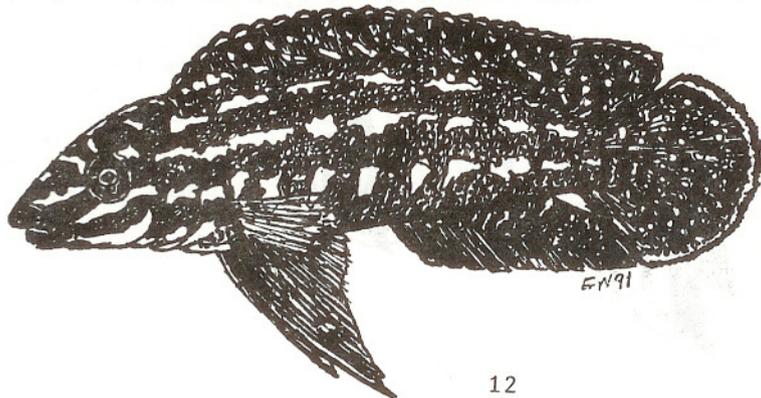
Sept. 1991 issue of The Nekton, Saskatoon Aquarium Soc. Reviewed Tony Fitz mosquito larvae article. (by writing for Delta Tale Tony is now internationally famous.)

Dec. 1991 FinFax, Delaware County Aquarium Soc. reviewed not one but two issues of Delta Tale. July/Aug: mentioned George White's Book review; Pete Thrift's Eheim tips; and Ron Burch's Rivulus. Sept. 1991: Ron & Jonathan Burch's Aphyosemion australe; Beverle Sweitzer's "More Basic than Basic".

Oct. 1991 WNYAS Gazette, Western NY Aquarium Soc. reprinted Pete Thrift's Eheim article.

Oct. 1991 SCAS Journal, Southern Colorado Aquarium Society. Reviewed John Mangan's "Everything you always wanted to know about getting ready for a fish show...".

That's it for this issue. Keep writing those great articles so I can put your name in the next installment of this column.



## Water Changes - Who Needs Them?

*Tony Fitz, PVAS*

High water quality is a basic requirement for maintenance of healthy tropical fishes. This basic concept is obvious to all of us, although some of us (myself included) do not always follow the practices that ensure continuation of high quality water. Basically, I hate making water changes, although for the fishes that I keep, 10-20% water change every week or two generally keeps them happy. In fact, I can't think of a single person who has ever told me that he or she enjoyed water changes, and for those of you who keep those exotic fishes requiring massive, continuous infusions of fresh water, I feel for you. For those of you who are unhappy with water changing systems, I will review in the following paragraphs several water changing regimens with which I have experience. For those of you who have settled upon a water change regimen that suits you perfectly, read no further.

The advent of the "wet-dry" biological filtration technique caused some rethinking of the concept that regular water changes were essential. As some proponents say, the biological filters make water changes obsolete, because bacteria on the filter bed metabolize the nitrogenous wastes to benign non-nasties. In my experience, I suggest that concept to be hogwash. After hearing about all the greatness of biological filters from the proponents, I set up biological filters on each of three 12-aquarium units. I calculated the volume of biological filtration material needed to purify my volume of water, doubled it to give a margin for error, and put a prefilter in line, just as the texts and articles dictate. With my biological filters in operation, I conducted business as usual, but without regular water changes. For several months, everything was OK. With increasing time after the first few months, indicators of water quality problems (fishes being stressed) became increasingly apparent. After re-instituting water changes in the system, the problem went away, and a good thing about having many tanks hooked in series to one biological filter is that a single water change serves all tanks in the system. It is my belief now, that biological filters may be a great advance, but they in no way obviate the need for regular water changes, unless the density of life in the aquarium is unusually low.

Faced then with the continued prospect of regular water changes, how can we do these with the minimum fuss and muss? When I was a teenager interested in fancy guppies, and blessed with an energy that has since evaporated, I didn't get too upset about the 90% weekly water changes in my several hundred gallons of aquaria. Looking back on those days of youth, I wonder how I ever did it, lugging around all of those 5-gallon water containers on a regular, continual basis. I also remember, without fondness, an appalling number of disasters produced while I was distracted while siphoning water from large aquariums into small containers. A better, easier system was clearly needed.

The Meridian water changer (about \$25 per unit) seemed to me at one time to provide the answer to water change problems. The Meridian changer involves two water lines to the aquarium. One line shoots water into the tank in a fine, forceful stream that supposedly releases the chlorine and gasses from tap water as it enters the aquarium, producing a vacuum that simultaneously siphons water from the aquarium through the other line. Within limits, the Meridian changer works OK; it will make a water change. However, it has problems:

1. It wears out. Although it has no moving parts, due I suppose to the gradual accumulation of deposits on the venturi that produces the vacuum and water removal effect, after a period of time the exhaust portion in the Meridian system ceases to function.

In my hands, the useful life of a Meridian unit is about two years.

2. It requires close attention. A number of things can happen while the Meridian is in operation, most of which translate into water on the floor. Plugging of the water exhaust by plants or debris, or splitting of a seam in the water supply, can rapidly cause catastrophe if the operator is not around to repair the situation. Also, the Meridian can overdose fishes with tap water; I lost a 20-gallon tankful of Gold Australes one time when I turned on the Meridian and forgot about it for several hours. Granted, the attention required by the Meridian system is still much less than the attention required using the old hose and bucket technique.

3. The Meridian system doesn't work well for tanks that are close to the floor. While the Meridian is supposed to function even when the aquarium water level is below the water exhaust level (e.g., it is supposed to be able to exhaust water "uphill"), in my experience that scenario doesn't work reliably. Translates into water on the floor.

4. The Meridian system becomes impractical for situations involving many tanks. The Meridian units can be hooked up in parallel so that more than one unit is operating simultaneously. I currently use four Meridian units connected together. However, multiple units means multiplication of all of the problems in Problems 1-3 above, and switching the units from tank to tank is more hassle than might first be thought.

Another mechanism for water changes is the Python water changer (around \$25). The Python system uses one long hose connected to a tube at the aquarium end, with a switching device for reversal of water flow (supply or exhaust) at the water faucet end. The Python is a reasonable system that will either exhaust or supply water at a pretty fast speed, but it also has problems:

1. It wears out. Being made of plastic with a valve and water reversal switch that are under high water pressure, the Python will eventually fail. The units are not cheap, although just the failed component part can be replaced instead of the entire unit. I keep a spare Python on hand for "parts."

2. Since the water supply is directly from the tap, provision must be made that the aquarium habitants are not murdered by a sudden influx of raw tap water. Water changes of no more than 20% are recommended by Python, and depending on your tap water, further provision may be necessary to neutralize the chlorine and other oxidants and/or the dissolved gasses in the tap water.

3. It plugs easily. Parts of the plumbing in the Python system have internal diameters of only about 1/4". While exhausting the tank, debris such as snails or plant parts (or small fishes!) can get trapped at one of the bottlenecks, which necessitates reversal of water flow to flush out the plug. Not a terrible problem (except to the fishes or snails that may be causing the plug), but a hassle.

4. Speaking of small fishes, they are readily swallowed by the Python, and unlike a quick trip through a simple hose which is seldom harmful, a trip through the Python is usually fatal.

Water changes may always be a distasteful part of our hobby. In my house, the hose-and-bucket system of water changes is still practiced, but its use is minimized whenever practical by the use of biological filters, Meridian water changers, and the Python. We can hope for technological advances that will make the job of water changes easier, but until that happy time, I suppose that we must content ourselves with the knowledge that water changes help maintain the ecological balance compatible with the survival and health of our aquatic pets.

This is a brand new column that will be appearing in Delta Tale on an irregular basis as I find enough material to fill up a page or two, or until they stop me.

The magnet in the title refers to my desk. It seems to be a magnet for all kinds of stuff. In this column I will share some of it, and my thoughts about it, with you. The subject matter will range from the very serious to the very stupid. I'll leave it up to you to decide which is which. The opinions expressed in this column are mine and are in no way sanctioned by PVAS or any of its' officers. So, if you get mad at something you read here, get mad at me, George White, not PVAS. See, I probably have one person mad at me already. This column is NOT being written by George White. I shouldn't pick on George. Being a cichlid keeper makes him enough of a social outcast as it is. More importantly, now that George is in Italy he just may make friends with the Pope and the two of them will plot my downfall. If your wondering what I'm talking about see the cover story of the Feb. 24 issue of Time magazine. It seems that the Pope and Ronald Regan became friends and helped cause the downfall of the Soviet Union. Really. I thought at first that I had picked up a copy of the National Enquirer by mistake.

Now that I've warmed up by getting George, cichlid keepers, Roman Catholics, and an ex-president stired up I'll get to my first serious subject.

I've come across quite a few articles in the past several months on a subject that should be of great concern to all of us in fish hobby. It seems that a number of airlines have taken it upon themselves to dictate international environmental policy by deciding to embargo the shipment of live birds. Apparently these airlines believe that they know more about this subject than the international group of environmental, animal rights, and hobby groups (not to mention scientists) who have spent the past several years studying this subject and working up a logical plan to promote captive breeding programs, sustained "ranching", and protection of the birds' natural habitats. Now all of this hard work has been in vain due to the work of a few extremist groups that have convinced the airlines to take the law into their own hands. Now, you may be asking "what the heck does this have to do with me and my tank full of fishes?". I'll let the following quote from the Oct. 1991 issue of Pet Business magazine explain:

"This is one of the most serious issues to face the pet industry since the 1970s, and it is setting a precedent for what will happen to the aquarium trade and the reptile trade," said Marshall Meyers, general counsel for the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC).

"This is Phase One. They've already told us they're going after fish and then reptiles," Meyers said. "The bird trade is their crusade, their target to start to shut down all the trade in live animals."

In other words- we're next. We need to make our voices heard now! Contact the participating airlines. Let them know your feelings. There are legitimate organizations such as CITES to regulate trade and to protect endangered species. It is not the place of airlines to make these policies. Below is a partial list of airlines participating in the embargo from the Oct. 1991 issue of Pet Business and the Feb. 1992 issue of Pet Age:

American Airlines, Robert Crandall, CEO, PO Box 619616, Dallas/  
Fort Worth Airport, TX 75261.

America West Airlines, Mike Conway, Pres, 4000 E. Sky Harbour Blvd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85034.

British Airways, 1850 K. St NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, 565 Taxter Rd, Elmsford, NY 10523.

Southwest Airlines Co, Herbert Kelleher, Chrmn, PO Box 36611,  
Dallas, TX 75235-1661.

United Airlines, Stephen Wolf, CEO/Pres, PO Box 66919, Chicago,  
IL 60666.

USAir Group Inc, Seth Schofield, Pres. 1911 Jefferson Davis Hwy.  
Arlington, VA 22202.

Also the following that I don't have addresses for:

Aerolineas Argentinas, Air France, Austrian Air, British West  
Indian Airways, Dan Air, Czechoslovak Air, Delta, El-Al Israel  
Airlines, Ethiopian Airlines, Federal Express, Iceland Air,  
Lufthansa, Northwest, Sabena, Singapore Airlines, Swiss Air, TWA  
Turkish Air, Virgin Atlantic Airways.

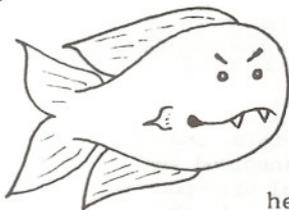
If you belong to any environmental or animal rights groups find out where they stand on these issues. There are many fine groups that deserve and need your support. There are also a handful of extremist groups that want nothing less than the total elimination of you right to have any type of pet, captive breed or not, even the family dog. If you know anyone that is into dog shows ask them about the time PETA "liberated" a number of show dogs from their cages at an outdoor show near a busy highway. (I hope somebody from PETA doesn't see this, I may get a pie in the face like Frank Perdue. If you see one coming at me please yell so I can duck).

Next topic- Congratulatlons to the Aquatic Gardeners Assoc. on starting the second year of their comeback. If you are interested in aquatic plants you should belong to this group. Dues are \$15, send your check to Dorothy Reimer, 83 Cathcart St., London, Ontario, Canada, N6C 3L9.

I'll conclude this instalment with a few words from that famous author Theodor Geisel, whose birthday I happen to be writing this on: "One Fish Two Fish, Red Fish Blue Fish..." and "I will not eat green eggs and ham, I will not eat them Sam I am." Words to live by if I ever heard them.

THE FISH IN THE BUCKET by Michelle Mangan

BEFORE...



There once was a fish from Nantucket,  
who spent most of his life in a bucket.

I bid on him with a holler,  
and bought him for only a dollar.

As I took him home from the auction  
the man said, "You'd better use caution!"

"This fish is a killer gourmet,  
he likes black molly fillets."

But I took him home anyway,  
and gave him a place to play.

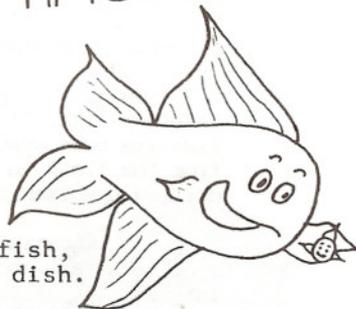
Once in a big tank  
he seemed full of thanks.

He swam round and round,  
from top to the ground.

He played with all of the other fish,  
and turned no one into a gourmet dish.

Now that he can really roam,  
he's the nicest fish in my home.

AFTER!!



note- it's about time I got some original poetry. I hope this will encourage others of you to give it a try. My files are pretty empty, so I'll print nearly anything. You don't even have to be related to the editor, although that never hurts.

Winston Snyder-Smythe III  
Delta Tale Poetry Editor

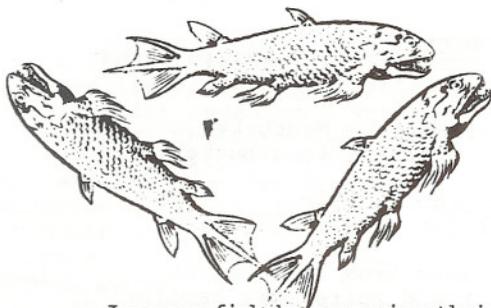


"All right! Rusty's in the club!"

Don't let Gene talk you into trying this. All you really have to do to join PVAS is to fill out the application on page 21 and send him a check.

## JAPANESE FISH ART

by George M. White, PVAS



Japanese fish keepers view their hobby as an art form, one of colors and images. Not surprisingly, fish have often inspired the Japanese hobbyists to try their hand at more conventional art—putting fish images onto paper. One of the more imaginative ideas is the "print of the actual fish," somewhat akin to the former Western practice of making death masks of famous individuals.

To make a "print of the actual fish" you need one or more lifeless fish. (The only people nasty enough to put paint on a live fish are some unscrupulous wholesalers of Glass Fish.) Dried fish from the floor in your fish room, a floater from your tank or a chilled specimen from the local fish market will do nicely.

Art materials, e.g. acrylics, oils, etc. can be obtained from your local art shop. Experimenting with various papers can be quite interesting. Rice paper or other textured, colored or plain paper, often add a special touch to such graphic art. The papers should, in any case, be fairly absorbent. (A word of caution: Don't tell the wierdo behind the art shop counter what you are up to. He or she will be likely to try to talk you into entering the next regional art show.)

Now with all the necessary materials at hand, lay out the dead fish on the table. (It is wise to use a table other than the kitchen table. Some husbands or wives reportedly cannot be considered art enthusiasts.) Brush natural or other colors on the fish. How about a dayglo Neon Tetra? The fins can be one color, while the body is another. Small fish can be used to create geometric patterns. You can create amazingly life-like prints or surrealistic images depending on your inclinations.

By the way, this is the only way Goodied hobbyists have been able to get their fish to color up. Weird bunch those Goodied keepers.

ed. note: being a cichlidophile (a polite term for cichlidiot) George evidently must have plenty of "subject matter" to try this on. I guess cichlids are good for something after all.

J.M.

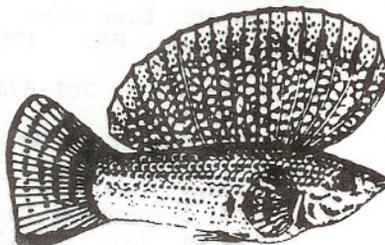
# 1992 CONVENTION

## AMERICAN LIVEBEARER ASSOCIATION

May 1-3, 1992

### Location:

Holiday Inn of Southfield  
26555 Telegraph Road  
at I-696 Freeway  
Southfield, Michigan



### Featuring:

All livebearer fish show  
Speakers Friday night & Saturday  
Saturday night banquet  
Sunday fish auction with many rare &  
unusual livebearers

### For additional information contact:

Rich Serva/Gina Tash  
216/650-4613  
5407 S. Celeste View Drive  
Stow, Ohio 44224

James K. Langhammer  
313/541-3292

MEMBERSHIP LIST ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS - 22 FEB 1992

Wallace Barron 301-868-7827 2\93  
Gloria Barron,  
61-01 Clinton Way, Clinton, MD, 20735

Hugh Carney 703-684-9016 2\93  
3004 South Hill Street,  
Arlington, VA, 22202

Thomas E Elder 703-803-9505 01\93  
6514 Haversack Road,  
Centreville, VA, 22020

Martin Ersts 401-758-0976 10/92  
Box 196,  
Church Hill, MD, 21623

Adam Hain 717-273-6238 2\94  
963 Mt. Zion Road,  
Lebanon, PA, 17042

Sheryl Katzman 301-871-5656 09/92  
Evan Cohn,  
3607 Pear Tree Court Apt # 11, Silver Spring, MD, 20906

Lee McCann 07/92  
5890 Bridgetown Court,  
Burke, VA, 22015

Robert J McManus 301-365-4926 2\93  
6737 Michaels Drive,  
Bethesda, MD, 20817

Nobel Nakagama 301-942-5271 2\93  
11101 Jolly Way,  
Kensington, MD, 20895

Barbara C Robinson 301-816-1198 2\93  
5706 Denfiels Road,  
Rockville, MD, 20851

Judy Rosenthal 301-424-2456 2\93  
882 College Parkway #203,  
Rockville, MD, 20850

George & Toni Simonis 301-598-6669 2\93  
15230 Baughman Drive,  
Silver Spring, MD, 20906

# POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY



POST OFFICE BOX 6219 SHIRLINGTON STATION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22206

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone H: \_\_\_\_\_ W: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional:

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/Individual: \$12/yr

Corresponding: \$ 9/yr

Junior (under 18): \$ 5/yr

Please send application and check for dues to the address above.

## SUPPORTING VIRGINIA SHOPS

### ANNANDALE PET SHOP

7406 Little River Turnpike  
Annandale, VA 22031  
256-2400

### AQUATIC ENHANCEMENTS, INC.

Aquarium Sales/Leasing/Service  
Box 22677  
Alexandria, VA 22304  
(703) 765-4620

### DISCOUNT PET CENTER

Manassas Shopping Center  
9028 Mathis Avenue  
Manassas, VA 22110  
361-7769

### BAILEY'S PET CENTER

Leesburg Pike Plaza  
35217 South Jefferson Street  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
931-1400

### BEACON MALL PET CENTER

Beacon Mall Center  
6776 Richmond Highway  
Alexandria, VA 22306  
660-6100

### NATIONAL PET AND AQUARIUM

Williston Shopping Center  
6168 Arlington Blvd  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
533-7828

### OAKTON PET SHOP

Oakton Center  
Rt 123 & Hunter Mill Road  
Oakton, VA 22124  
281-9622

### PET MART - TYSONS

8417 Old Courthouse Road  
Vienna, VA 22180  
281-8181

### PETS, ETC - ALEXANDRIA

7688-B Richmond Highway  
Alexandria, VA 22306  
768-2200

### PETS, ETC - CHANTILLY

Sully Plaza  
13932 Lee-Jackson Highway  
Chantilly, VA 22021  
378-2777

### PETS, ETC - HERNDON

Stuart Center  
462 Eiden Street  
Herndon, VA 22171  
437-0381

### PETS, ETC - STERLING

Hechinger Jamesway Plaza  
243-C Harry Flood Byrd Hwy  
Sterling, VA 22170  
430-9667

### PETS-N-THINGS

Pan American Center  
3081 Nutley Street  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
573-4400

### SUNSHINE PETS

7395-H Lee Highway  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
573-6946

### TANKS-A-LOT

Lee Center  
6635 Backlick Road  
Springfield, VA 22150  
703-866-1057

### WILSON'S PARROTS & MARINE

Shirley-Edsall Industrial Park  
5605-G General Washington Dr  
Alexandria, VA 22312  
922-7358

## SUPPORTING MARYLAND SHOPS

ANIMAL EXCHANGE  
765-A Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852  
424-PETS

AQUARIUM CENTER  
Liberty Road at Offutt Road  
Randlestown, MD  
301-521-4529

BROTHERS PETS INC.  
13810 Georgia Avenue  
Aspen Hill, MD 20906  
460-4600

CONGRESSIONAL AQUARIUM  
162 Congressional Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852  
881-6182

FISH FACTORY AQUARIUM  
582 North Frederick Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
881-6182

GLENMONT TROPICALS  
12345 Georgia Avenue  
Wheaton, MD 20902  
949-0344

HOUSE OF TROPICALS  
7389F Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
301 761-1113

MARINE CARE SPECIALISTS  
15820 Redland Road  
Rockville, MD 20855  
330-0720

MARYLAND TROPICALS  
11229A New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
593-1116

MONTGOMERY TROPICALS  
7845-G Airpark Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
670-0886

PETLAND  
13833 Outlet Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
762-3505

PFTLAND  
5268 Nicholson Lane  
Kensington, MD 20895  
231-5216

PET MART ROCKVILLE  
2230 Veirs Mill Road  
Rockville, MD 20851  
762-3505

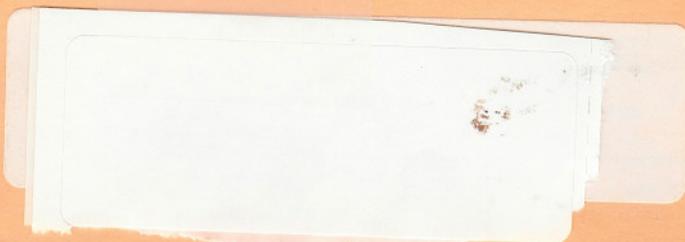
RICK'S FISH & PET SUPPLY  
1003J West Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD 21702  
301-694-9664 301-831-6866

SHOWCASE AQUARIUM  
11248-11250 Triangle Lane  
Wheaton, MD 20902  
942-6464

TROPICAL FISH WORLD, INC.  
16529 South Frederick Center  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
921-0000

TROPICAL LAGOON  
9439 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
585-6562

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 6219, Shirlington Station  
Arlington, Virginia 22206-0219



THE SOCIETY WILL MEET ON THESE MONDAYS IN 1992:

13 JAN	13 APR	13 JUL	19 OCT
10 FEB	11 MAY	10 AUG	9 NOV
9 MAR	8 JUN	14 SEP	14 DEC

Meetings are held at the John J. Wood Facility, Room 7, 3730 Old Lee Highway (Rt 237), Fairfax City, VA. Doors open at 7:30, and the meeting starts at 8PM. ALL ARE WELCOME!

