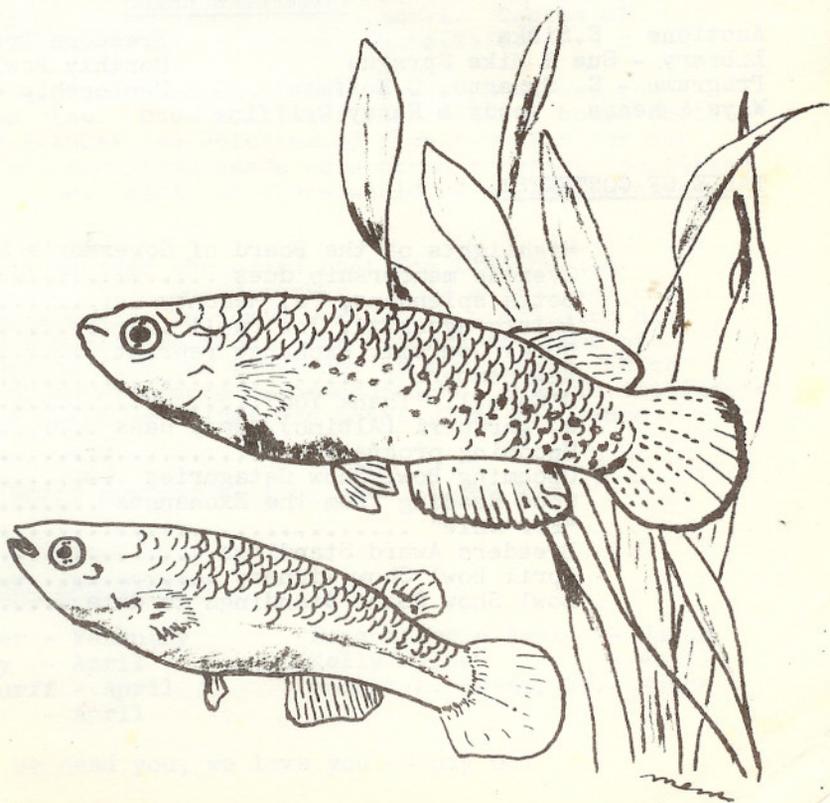


# DELTA TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF P.V.A.S.

MAY, 1978

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Volume 9, Issue 4

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

EDITOR: M.E. Mahoney

OFFICERS FOR 1978

President:	Pat Mahoney 534-0006	Corresponding Sec.	Dana S. Best 960-1686
Vice President:	Steve Siska 621-7923	Recording Sec.	Pat Tietjen unlisted
Treasurer:	Gene Aldridge 931-7426		

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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

COMMITTEE HEADS

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

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING

Tuesday, April 4, 1978 at the home of Pat and Maggi Mahoney.

**Treasurers Report:** Gene Aldridge indicated that there was \$78.36 in the bank with no current outstanding bills.

Woody and Nancy Griffin, the Ways and Means Co-Chairmen, are preparing to send out letters to manufacturers asking for donations for the monthly meetings and for door prizes for our big show and auction, June 3 and 4. Letterhead stationery was provided the Griffins by Dana Best.

Regarding the annual show and auction, Dave McInturff will be in charge of the show (including set-up and break-down). Steve Siska will be in charge of the auction on the second day. Woody Griffin volunteered a truck for moving the show equipment to and from the Mahoney garage where most of it is stored.

Letters to the judges have been mailed. Posters and fliers have been printed and will be ready for distribution to all fish shops in the area by 22/23 April. Copies of the flier will be inserted in the May Delta Tale.

Maggi Mahoney volunteered to head a group to feed the judges and show crew. Dave McInturff informed the board that Joan Glasscock (AANCA) has volunteered five trophies for our show awards. All committee heads were urged to start recruiting for show/auction help early so there would be no last minute positions to fill.

Pat Mahoney advised the board that Tom Lighton had officially resigned as a board member. This action was necessitated by a change in Tom's work hours precluding his attending future board meetings. Pat offered the name of John Terwilliger to fill the remainder of Tom's term. With no objection and no alternate recommendations, John Terwilliger's appointment was approved. (Editors Note: John has since accepted.)

The next Board Meeting will be held at Bev Fazil's.

### THOSE WHOSE DUES ARE OVERDUE:

Willie N. Baker - February	Dana Skibbie Best - March
Jerry Donnelly - April	Kelly Mills - April
D. & J. McInturff - April	Robert L. Smith, Sr. - March
John Trocki - April	

C'mon folks - we need you, we love you -- pay up!

## SPAWNING REPORT---BETTA SPLENDENS

Pat Mahoney  
P.V.A.S

Like all fish hobbyists, I eventually came down with a mild case of Betta Splendens disease. While visiting an Annandale fish shop, I spotted a beautiful Cambodia Red male incarcerated in a small glass bowl. Anything that beautiful, I rationalized, deserved larger quarters.

At home I put him in a twenty-nine gallon community tank until I could decide what to do with him. Months past before I spotted an intensely red female in another shop and, remembering my celibate male at home, arranged his betrothal.

I had an extra ten gallon tank set up in the garage and knowing of the males reputation, placed a glass divider in the tank which was fully four inches above the water line. The water in the tank, originally set up for killis, was slightly acid (pH 6.8) and the temperature was about 76°. Both sides of the tank were heavily planted with home grown water sprite.

On placing the Betta's into their new home, the male went into his act. Fins extended to their maximum, jowls flared. He consistently banged into the glass divider trying to get to the female. She, on the other hand, played hard to get and completely ignored her would-be spouse.

Being new to the ways of Bettas, I "planned" to remove the glass barrier in about a week. Two mornings after setting them up, I went out to the garage with their morning meal of brine shrimp and lo and behold, both were swimming about on his side of the divider -- she, the pursued, he the pursuer. Her fins were a mess. I dipped her out and replaced her on her own side of the tank.

The next morning the same thing happened. And the next. That hussy was either a finny-nympho or had a death wish.

On the fourth morning I tired of replacing her and removed the glass divider. She made a bee-line for a small cave in the rocks while himself went to work on the bubble nest. I raised the temperature a couple of degrees and left them to their fate.

During the next week the papa-to-be was hovering beneath the bubble nest with mama staying close to her cave. When the first free swimmers were spotted, she was removed to the community tank and papa became the sole baby sitter.

By Betta standards it was a small spawn -- only thirty nine, of which twenty seven reached maturity. Of these, only four were males.

I gave some to Bonny Libatore, the Betta Lady of Fairfax, and they, too, proved to be females. Others were given away and I now have one male and five females left from the spawn. Both parents have since gone to that great rice-paddy in the sky.

Apisto agassizi

Joe Paull  
P.V.A.S.

Apistogramma agassizi, or "Aggie", is one of the most attractive of the Apistos, or of any dwarf cichlid, for that matter. Of course, you can't expect its beauty to be without a few drawbacks, for this is probably the least hardy Apistogramma and one of the more difficult to spawn. However, try your luck with this gem, if you can find some, they're well worth it!

General care is not too difficult as Aggies will adapt to most "normal" conditions, normal being a pH of slightly acid to slightly alkaline and hardness not too outrageous. These are shy fish that prefer a number of hiding places and a few "idiot" fish, such as tetras, to make them feel secure. They eat all normal aquarium food, although they dislike going to the surface for something that won't sink (mine just stare hopefully.) Beware of overfeeding! This is not a greedy species and a foul tank is almost sure to kill them. In dirty water A. Agassizi quickly develops "the bloat", body ulcers, gill infections and other hard to cure ailments that seldom strike hardier fish. As long as the tank remains clean, however, problems seldom arise. Please note that a fish's definition of clean does not necessarily match its keeper's. My own fish like a dirty looking tank with mulm, decaying plant leaves, etc. Slowly decaying dirt merely supports a harmless infusoria culture, whereas overfeeding quickly upsets the nitrogen cycle, decreases oxygen and debilitates the poor fish.

Spawning is a simple procedure. Put a male and a female in a tank with many caves, flowerpots or similar hidey-holes, feed them well and pray. Water changes and rising temperature produce colorful, active Aggies and, once in a great while, a spawning. This fish will spawn, but never to order. My own experience is having the female spawn by herself, no doubt due to lack of interest on the part of the male. Perhaps the two sexes need to have their spawning urges synchronized by some trick in conditioning before being placed together.

Anyway, my male developed a bad case of popeye and, evidently feeling his mortality, finally decided to perpetuate the species with one of three available females. This was the first fertile batch of eggs presented to me in some six or seven tries. When I noticed the male doing his bit at guard duty I quickly removed the eggs - I was positive that I would not eat them! Out of approximately 100 eggs, sixty or so made it to free swimming. The fry did well on baby brine & micro worms, with flake being eaten after three weeks. Like most Apisto's, Aggies grow slowly until they are 2-3 months old, then suddenly start putting on size. They are sexually mature at about five months, but do not reach full size and finage until 18 months old. Breed them young!

Full adults spend all their time looking pretty and not spawning. I suppose their hormones grow old and tired.

As a last remark, my older male's popeye cured itself. I had assumed he was a goner so I quit feeding for several days to reduce any bacteria population in the tank and prevent spreading the disease. He has reached his full growth now and spends his time looking gorgeous, while a younger male chases the females.

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FROM "Ken's Korner"

The Youngstown Aquarist  
Vol. VI, Issue XII-Dec, 1978  
Ken and Sue Kapalko

If ever you walk into a fish store and see a tank full of drab, greyish yellow, 1-inch or smaller fish with a dark horizontal stripe from the snout to the tail tagged "honey gouramis", don't shrug your shoulders and walk on by or you'll be passing up one of the prettiest little fish there is. I have never seen a honey that departed well in the dealer's tank. Fear not, it will change after you buy a pair and take them home. Set them up in a five gallon tank with a little bit of gravel, a plant or two and before the day is over you won't believe that it is the same fish.

The *Colis chuna*'s native home is in the Ganges Valley of India. Imported specimens can reach a length of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, but tank raised honey's are rarely that large, usually  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches at most. They are sexually mature at the length of 1 inch. They are similar to the Dwarf Gourami, *Colis lalia* as far as head and fins but it is not as high bodied and more elongated. The basic color of the male is a honey orange. The dorsal fin leading from the top of the head to the point is bright yellow. The lower jaw, throat and anal fin to the point is black. What makes these colors so striking is that they don't blend from one color to another, but are very distinct, as if he's been painted. Females are slightly larger and have some of the coloration of the males at spawning time only, except the colors are paler, usually cream to honey colored with a brown horizontal stripe from the eye to the tail.

Their home waters are somewhat soft, neutral to slightly acid, but most Honey's offered for sale are tank raised and do quite well in water which is harder and more alkaline.

We kept one pair in a four gallon long tank, undergravel filter, gravel and a couple of pieces of water sprite, both planted and floating. Water in the tank is dH 14 and pH 7.4 and usually runs around  $76$  to  $78^{\circ}$  F. They are fed 2 to 3 times daily. Their diet consisting of live baby brine twice a day and either frozen adult brine, beef heart or occasionally tetramin or white worm.

They spawn in the typical anabantid fashion, building a somewhat small bubble nest of very fine bubbles, but don't be surprised to look in their tank and see small yellow colored eggs floating on the water's surface, as from the ten or so spawnings we've had, only twice was a nest present. The male will guard the eggs and fry and keep the female at bay. Usually both are removed and the fry are raised in the spawning tank. The eggs hatch in about 24 hours and are free swimming in two days. First foods are liquid fry and powdered dry food which is fed for the first week, although live baby brine is started at 3 days for those big enough to eat it. Beef heart, frozen brine and flake foods are started when the fry are able to handle it. Our fishes spawns are approximately 60 eggs although we have never raised more than 14 from any one spawn, usually less than this. They are very, very slow growing.

An extremely colorful, favourable little fish that doesn't take up too much room or demand too much of your attention ... why not try this one in the Breeder's Award Program?

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME!

We must have hit an all time high at the April meeting for signing up new members at any one time. There were nine singles or families that joined. Larry Freedman of Wheaton, Md.; Margie Henderson from Falls Church; Carl and Floreta Herrel of Alexandria; Robert Herrel and family of Arlington; Mark Merrell, also from Arlington; Mark Walters, Arlington; Neal Welch from College City, Md.; Glen and Anna Whitesell of Alexandria. Also, when Mark Pendergast renewed his membership, he also signed on his soon-to-be wife, Ruth Markmann. A hearty welcome to you all -- you're just in time to help with the big June 3-4 show and auction.

---

April 8, 1978

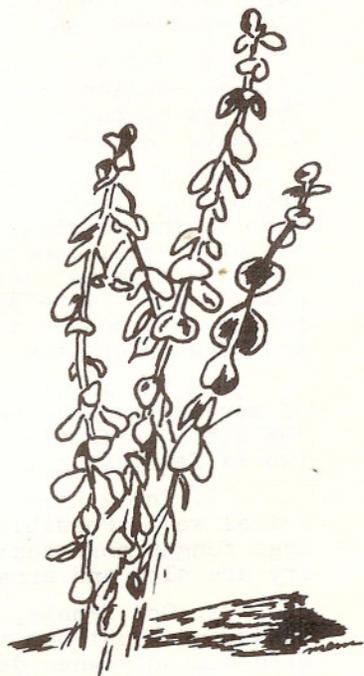
Potomac Valley Aquarium Society  
P.O. Box 6219  
Shirlington Station  
Arlington, VA 22206

To the PVAS,

The O'Connell Aquarium Society would like to express its thanks for your donation of a twenty gallon all - glass aquarium for the use of our raffle. Thanks to donations from fellow hobbyists like you, the OAS is able to hold its shows successfully year after year. Our show on April 1 & 2 was a success.

Many thanks.

Yours truly,  
*John R. Terwilliger*  
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President  
O'Connell Aquarium Society



*Bacopa monniera*

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The *Colis chuna*'s native home is in the Ganges Valley of India. Imported specimens can reach a length of 2½ inches, but tank raised honey's are rarely that large, usually 1½ inches at most. They are sexually mature at the length of 1 inch. They are similar to the Dwarf Gourami, *Colis lalia* as far as head and fins but it is not as high bodied and more elongated. The basic color of the male is a honey orange. The dorsal fin leading from the top of the head to the point is bright yellow. The lower jaw, throat and anal fin to the point is black. What makes these colors so striking is that they don't blend from one color to another, but are very distinct, as if he's been painted. Females are slightly larger and have some of the coloration of the males at spawning time only, except the colors are paler, usually cream to honey colored with a brown horizontal stripe from the eye to the tail.

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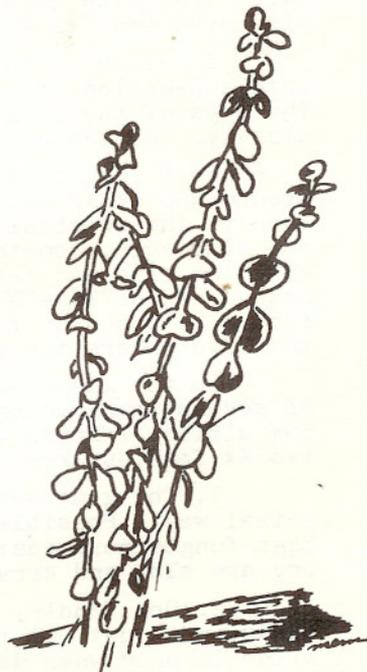
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*Bacopa monniera*

A. gardneri (Albino)

Gary Hass  
Journal of the American  
Killifish Assn. Jan/Feb. '78

My very first killifish was a huge male A. gardneri (Akure aquarium strain), bought at my very first fish club auction about two years ago. He was beautiful and I bid \$2 for him, prepared to go as high as \$5 or \$6. I found out later I probably could have got him for 25¢, but he was the first I'd ever seen swimming. Joan Glascock, who had donated the fish, had no extra females, so a few weeks later when my first JAKA came in the mail, I called Walt Bott, who lived a hop, skip and jump away and found that HE kept A. gardneri - seventy tanks worth. On a subsequent visit, Walt gave me a female (or maybe two) and I learned how to build a spawning mop.

Several months later I had a few dozen A. gardneri, two dozen tanks and a few species of killifish. I was also developing an interest in obscure small-to-medium sized cichlids. The offspring of my original gardneri were taking up a lot of valuable tank space and I began selling them off (the parents had died of various unnatural causes). The last batch of 60 or so eggs had resulted in about 40% "funny-looking" fry -- pale, with eyes that were hard to see. I placed all the fry into a 5½ gallon tank and sold off the last of the parents.

A few weeks later, I noticed three 1/2" fish that stood out from the rest -- they weren't olive colored, they were very light pink. A suspicion dawned in my mind. I isolated the three, remembering all the pale fry I had started with and because of their runty size. The three 1/2" fish became two adult male A. gardneri; a white fish with pink eyes and red and yellow markings.

I delivered one albino male to Walt and plopped the other male into a 5-gallon tank with two sisters (or half sisters or cousins.) The eggs of the other fish of the same generation were also monitored closely. Months passed; no albinos from either set-up.

So I took my albino male to a show, figuring he was the only one around and other people might be intrigued seeing him. On his return to the original tank, he and his ladies proceeded to cover the mop with eggs. Something like 70% fungused (opposed to less than 20% when the trio was left together,) but I got three albinos. A month passed and no more albinos (by this time I could spot an albino in egg form,) so I pulled the ladies out. My albino male found the hole in the cover where the air hose came in. So it goes - back to scratch.

In the meantime, I began to wonder why I got three albinos out of several hundred eggs, when probability would predict 0%, 25% or 50% albino offspring, assuming two XX females, one XX and one Xx, or two Xx females, respectively. Two possibilities seemed probable.

1. The gene weakens the fish and/or the egg in some potentially lethal way. Possible, as my luck in raising albinos has been poor. Eggs fungus more easily, mortality of the fry has been high and the fry are slow and erratic growers.

2. One female, an XX, spawned readily with my male; the other, an Xx, was just not turned on by his washed-out colors and would spawn with him only when deprived of other normal colored males. Probably both factors come into play, plus the possibility of reduced fertility in fish afflicted with the gene.

As luck would have it, the good news was that the three albino fry turned into a trio and the bad news was that I moved and took on a much more demanding life-role (in an area with rotten water and no commercially available live food) just as the fish reached maturity. So six months later I have three adults and three fry and six weeks worth of uncollected eggs (all albino.) The fertility problem seems abated in these fish, though a change to Ringer's solution as an incubation fluid could affect results. The fry do not survive in numbers, but my lack of time and subsequent intervals between water changes (plus a hydra problem) played a great role in this. I have saved half a dozen brothers and sisters of Xx configuration in hopes of checking out the ratio of their albino offspring, but again lack of time has prevented this experiment.

If I can keep the strain going through the next few years, hopefully I can start producing them in enough quantity to make this subtly beautiful fish a common aquarium strain, at least as common as the albino *Cynolebias shitei*. I already have the fish-room laid out in my mind .....

EDITORS NOTE: Thought you all might like to hear from Gary again, if only through the national Killifish Journal.

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#### MAY MEETING - PROGRAM ON "JULIES"

Our speaker for the May 8 meeting will be our own Susan Sprague. She'll be speaking on the beautiful "Julies", or *Julidochromis* genus of cichlids, from Lake Tanganyika, Africa. She'll be giving tips on maintaining and spawning these beautiful fish as well as others from the same area.

Other upcoming programs are going to include slides and script on goldfish; salt water aquarium maintenance and set up; and our program committee has succeeded in getting Mr. Al Lebatrau to agree to come speak to us on fish photography. You'll remember him as the hand behind the slide when his wife, Sue, gave us her extremely interesting program on Bettas in April.

---

#### UPCOMING BOWL SHOW CATEGORIES:

<u>May</u>	<u>Cichlids</u>	<u>Other Egglayers/Livebearers</u>
	Mouthbrooder, New World Haplochromis Open	Barbs Goldfish/Koi Open
<u>June</u>	Central & S.A. Dwarf Pseudotropheus Open	Tetras Characins Open

EXCHANGE ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

- "Live Food - Good or Bad" - Brooklyn Aquarium Soc.  
October, 1977 Edition
- "I became Involved with Jacques Coustou" - recounting her experiences  
with one of his "Involvement Days".  
- The Narrows Aquarist Assn.  
Soundings, Dec. 1977
- "Fooling Around Will Get You --- 10 points" - an outdoor pool experience  
with rain water and native and aquarium fish.  
- Ruth Evans  
Tropical Fish School  
December, 1977
- "Keeping Fish Alive" - All kinds of tips from pH to temperature to mix  
of breeds in a tank.  
- Abe Kaplen  
Edgewater Valley Aquarist Soc.  
The Valley Stream, Dec. 1977
- "Stress - Does it Really Affect the Health of your Fish?"  
- Linda Miller  
Brooklyn Aquarium Soc.  
November, 1977
- "Beginners Start Here" - Part #1 of an intended series on general breed-  
ing habits.  
- Larry Desiano  
Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Soc.  
Youngstown Aquarist, March, 1978
- "Killie Konnection" - Also #1 in a series for Killie enthusiasts - or  
those who think they might be.  
- Dennis Price  
Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Soc.  
Youngstown Aquarist, March 1978

REPRINTS CREDITED TO THE DELTA TALE:

- "Waves from the Coral Reefs" - Gay Semans (Ex-P.V.A.S.)  
in Pisces Press, March, 1978

EDITOR'S NOTE:

As you know, we frequently reprint articles from other hobby publications. Each of those publications list names and author's who have been reprinted that month in exchanges. As you can see I am able to list only one reprint, and that from an ex-member. There are a lot of you out there that know a lot about fish -- about fish photography -- about plants and aquarium keeping. You run across new fish, spawn new fish, go on collecting trips. These are all things that other fish folk around the country are interested in. Let's get writing - and let's get the recognition that our knowledgeability in the field deserves.

WRITE -- DRAW -- CONTRIBUTE!!

FOR SALE:

Steve Siska has several 20 gallon tanks he will let go for \$8.00 each. He also has a 55 gallon stand at \$25. call him at 621-7923 if you're interested.

Bowl Show Report for April, 1978

CHCHLIDS

Anglefish

1st - Griffin, W - Marble Angel  
 2nd - Fazil, V. - Blushing Angel  
 3rd - Dickens, S. - Silver Angel

Other African

1st -  
 2nd -  
 3rd -

Open

1st - Fazil, B. - Apisto kleei  
 2nd - Garvey, J. - Ps. livingstoni  
 3rd - Pendergast, M. - Keyhole

EGGLAYERS/LIVEBEARERS

Sharks/Loaches

1st - Garvey, J. - Rainbow Shark  
 2nd -  
 3rd -

Catfish, Non-corydoras

1st - Fazil, B. - Porthole  
 2nd - Fazil, V. - Spotted Pimodella  
 3rd - Merrill, M. - Shovel nose

Open

1st - Garvey, J. - Red Serpae  
 2nd - Pendergast, M. - Koi  
 3rd - Pendergast, M. - Glowlight Tetra

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
Fazil, B.	10.	10	10
Garvey, J.	4	4	4
Pendergast, M.	2	2	2
Griffin, W.	6	6	6
Dickens, S	3	3	3

	MONTH	QUARTER	ANNUAL
Fazil, B.	11	11	24
Garvey, J.	12	12	12
Pendergast, M.	6	6	6
Merrel, M.	2	2	2
Hoffman, G.	0	0	13
Mahoney, P	0	0	13
Griffin, M.	0	0	10
Lenzen, M.	0	0	10

Judges: Long, J. and Siska, S

Judges: Lighton, T and Paull, J.

NAME	POINTS
Jan & Dave McInturff	405***
Ruth Brewer	270**
Susan & Mike Sprague	165**
Joe Paull	135**
Gerry Hoffman	115*
Bev Fazil	90*
Gene Aldridge	80
Diane Noxon	70*
John Jessup	55*
Pat Tietjen	15
Jerry Donnelly	10
Pat & Maggi Mahoney	10

\*Breeder Award

\*\* Intermediate Breeder

\*\*\* Advanced Breeder

Recent Spawnings:

Fazil - Likoma Island elongatus, blue gourami

POTOMAC VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 6219  
SHIRLINGTON STATION  
ARLINGTON, VA. 22206

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

1978 MEETING DATES

JAN. 9  
FEB. 13  
MAR. 13

APRIL 10  
MAY 8  
JUNE 12

JULY 10  
AUG. 14  
SEPT. 11

OCT. 9  
NOV. 20  
DEC. 11

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE COCA-COLA BOTTLING PLANT, 5401 SEMINARY ROAD, BAILEYS CROSSROADS, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA. MEETINGS START AT 8:00 P.M., BOWL SHOW REGISTRATION, 7:45 P.M.