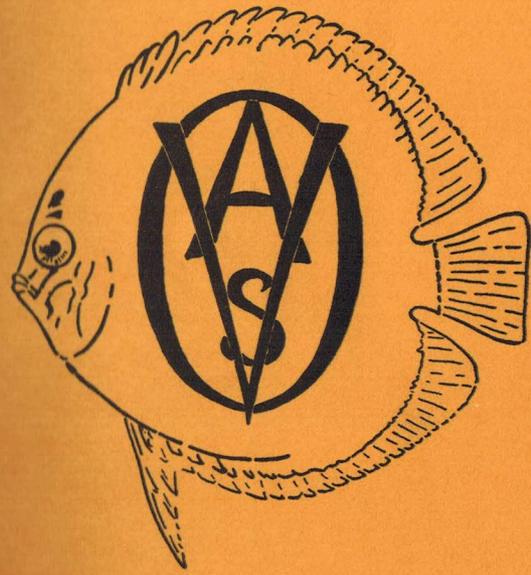


O V A S NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
OTTAWA 3,
ONTARIO, CANADA



THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

MEETINGS

JUNIOR SOCIETY

Thursday, September 18th 7.00 PM
Thursday, October 16th 7.00 PM

SENIOR SOCIETY

Thursday, September 25th 8.00 PM
Thursday, October 23rd 8.00 PM

Regular meetings are held in the Medical Building, University of Ottawa, Room 237, Nicholas and Somerset Streets, Ottawa.

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NOTE:

MR GEO BOWIE, SHOW DIRECTOR, [redacted], WILL GLADLY ACCEPT ANY DONATIONS OF SURPLUS FISH FOR PLACING IN OUR HOSPITAL AQUARIA.

This is your SOCIETY...attend meetings... offer to help your committee chairmen.

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society was founded on the eleventh day of March, nineteen hundred and fifty-four.

The object of this Society is to further the study of aquarium life, the spreading of information regarding it, and the promotion of good fellowship among fanciers of aquarium life.

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society consists of two bodies, a Senior and a Junior Society, each operating independently. The Junior Society was founded on the fourteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and fifty-five.

Membership is open to all persons wishing to acquaint themselves with this hobby. Each person may attend two meetings and on the third meeting, application for membership, accompanied by the membership fee, shall be made to the Membership Committee.

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society publication "THE OVAS NEWS" is published by the Society, a non-profit hobby organization, and copies made available to all members. Subscription rate for non-members is \$2.00 per year.

The opinions, statements, and view points expressed in THE OVAS NEWS are those of the authors and not the Society.

Advertising rates on request from Editor.

UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE CONTENTS OF THE OVAS NEWS MAY BE REPRINTED PROVIDING CREDIT IS GIVEN TO THIS MAGAZINE AND THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE.

This Society is a member of The International Federation of Aquarium Societies (TIFAS).

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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Junior Society Librarians

Joe Marshall
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Area No 1 Mr Edgar Parisien
Area No 2 Mr Geo Bowie
Area No 3 Mr Ken Craig
Area No 4 Mr Jack Dirks

TIFAS REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Edgar Parisien

OVAS FIFTH TROPICAL FISH DISPLAY
by Geo Bowie - Show Director

According to all the comments received our Fifth Tropical Fish Display was a great success. The success of the display is the result of the Society members who entered their aquaria, helped in erecting and dismantling the stands, the attendants Junior and Senior. My thanks to everyone.

This year we had an increase in the number of aquaria entered and the number entered in competition. I was also very happy to see a great many members complete the entry form.

Once again our very good friend, Mr Lyle Hayter of the Montreal Aquarium Society, accepted our invitation to judge the display. Mr Hayter did an excellent job and found that the judging was far more difficult this year.

We also have Mr Hayter to thank for the Nothobranchius rachovi which he kindly donated to the Society. You may have had an opportunity of seeing them on display during our show. The Nothobranchius rachovi (one male and two females) are a rare fish, quite expensive, and not to easy to obtain. For this reason it was decided that Mr Ed Parisien would be the custodian and attempt to spawn them with the idea of giving members an opportunity of obtaining a pair. With what experience is obtainable from Mr Parisien we may be able to spawn the young fry.

The pamphlets which were distributed to the public were given to the Society by The Canadian Aquarium Supply Company, St. Thomas, Ontario.

The results of the judging, in the three classes, are as follows:

EGG LAYERS (CLASS A)

FIRST (92 points) MR ROGER TROTTIER
(Cont'd page 5)

SECOND (91 points) MR and MRS PHIL CURRY
THIRD (87 points) MR WELDON HODGES
HON MENTION (74 points) MR ED PARISIEN

LIVE BEARERS (CLASS B)

FIRST (88 points) GARY ZUMAR (Junior)
SECOND (73 points) MRS FLO TROTTIER
THIRD (63 points) LARRY NEUMANN (Junior)

COMMUNITY AQUARIUM (CLASS C)

FIRST (86 points) MR ED PARISIEN
SECOND (84 points) MR GEO BOWIE
THIRD (78 points) MR WILF DOUCETTE
HON MENTION (73 points) MR MARCEL LEDUC

We expect to have the trophies available for the September meeting.

The photo slides of the display, which you will see at this meeting, were taken by Wilf Doucette who deserves a vote of thanks for his excellent photography and many hours of work.

My thanks to everyone for your fine support.

Geo Bowie
Show Director

.....

NOTHOBRANCHIUS RACHOVI
by Ed Parisien - Senior Society

The OVAS owes a hearty vote of gratitude to Mr Lyle Hayter for judging our 1958 aquarium display at the Central Canada Exhibition. Those of us who have had the pleasure of meeting Lyle are impressed by his personalty and general knowledge of the hobby.

I am doubly thankful to him for his kind donation of three Nothobranchius Rachovi (two females and one male). The reason I say doubly thankful is because I have the honour of being their custodian. These

(Cont'd page 6)

fish were donated to the Society to do what they thought best with. Your Show Committee seem to think that, at least for the time being, I should look after them and attempt in spawning and raising some offsprings.

These fish are rare beauty in the raw and they are not ordinary cheap pets. The parent stock were purchased for \$16.00 per pair so there is a present worthy of appreciation.

If I am successful in raising some of these rare beauties I shall have my compensation in personal satisfaction and I shall keep you posted on their development.

Ed Parisien

.....

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The Editor is waiting for your article
??? WILL YOU GIVE IT A TRY ???

LET'S TURN ON THE HEAT

by Pat Schneider - Valley Aquarium Society, Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

If you are all the procrastinators that I am, this article may reach you in time to do some good. All you old hands may know all about the subject but some of our newer members may like a little help along the way.

Of course, we all know that most of our fish come from areas in which the water temperature does not drop below 72°. When the water in the tanks is allowed to drop below that point we are either going to lose fish directly from the cold or we develop "Ich". The fish will at best be uncomfortable and be obviously distressed. Unless the room in which the tanks are set up is kept at an even temperature of around 80° constantly the best method of keeping the temperature right for the fish is by use of thermostatically controlled heaters.

All thermostats are rated as to wattage. More than one heater can be used with one thermostat as long as the combined wattage of the heaters does not surpass the wattage rating of the thermostat. In other words, a 150 watt thermostat could take two 75 watt heaters or three 50 watt heaters or any combination of heaters so long as the wattage did not amount to more than 150 watts.

The size of the tank to be heated determines the size of wattage of the heater to be used. Five watts per gallon will give the proper results. If too small a heater is used the heater will be on all of the time and the life of the heater will be greatly reduced. If too large a heater is used the thermostat will be overworked shutting the heater on and off and will burn out. There are two types of heaters

(Cont'd page 8)

in popular use, the submersible and the non-submersible. The submersible is placed in the bottom of the tank in a horizontal position ON TOP OF THE SAND - never buried. The non-submersible type is suspended from the frame of the tank with the top of the heater above the water. Both types are satisfactory and some aquarists use both types of heaters in one tank to cut down on stratification.

The thermostat is always placed in the smallest tank to be heated since the temperature fluctuates more rapidly in the smaller tank.

Set the thermostat so that it will turn on the heaters when the temperature drops to 72°. The different manufactures of the various types of thermostats furnish instructions for setting their product at the pre-determined temperature desired. Those with outside knobs for adjustments are the easiest to use. Some even have built in pilot lights so you can tell when the heaters are in operation. If no pilot light is furnished, any light can be used by plugging it into one of the outlets of the thermostat.

After the thermostat and heaters have been placed in the tanks, watch the temperature closely for several hours to be sure everything is working properly.

.....

At Barnes Green, England, the winner of a contest to name the "most useful gadget in the home" was a woman who produced her husband.

.....

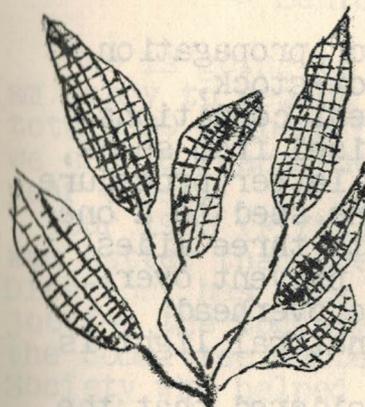
Before marriage you should keep your eyes wide open. Afterwards, keep them half shut.

MADAGASCAR LACE PLANT
(*Aponogeton fenestralis*) reprinted from
The Canadian Aquaria

The *A. fenestralis* is probably one of the most beautiful of aquarium plants, a slightly more costly plant, and one which the average amateur hobbyist finds very difficult to grow in the home aquarium.

This factor of being unable to maintain or sustain such a beautiful plant can be easily directed into one channel of reasoning and that is, lack of knowledge of the requirements necessary for success.

The Madagascar Lace Plant requires very



special attention to several vital necessities, not only to water conditions, but actual aquarium environment. For assistance and guidance, the following details should be carefully studied: The Madagascar Lace Plant will flourish and grow magnificiently if the aquarium has subdued

lighting, therefore, it is practically useless to endeavour to grow this plant in the aquarium, unless the two side glasses and back glass are masked with showcard board.

The natural, or artificial, light that seeps through the side and back glasses is far too much for this plant. The lighting in the canopy should also be very subdued, otherwise the plant will inevitably rot away.

Another important factor is that it required a very rich loam for growth, and this should be a minimum of six inches, covered with at least two inches of sand.

Undoubtedly, the unique feature of this

(Cont'd page 10)

plant is that is leaves, about four inches wide and twelve to fifteen inches long, consist of a very fine lattice work of fine nerves and cross veins. There are instances when in healthy condition, the spaces between these are sufficient to permit a small fish to swim through them.

There cannot be any doubt, but that this plant is one that offers a great challenge to all those in the hobby who delight in experimentation, otherwise, it is strictly a plant for the specialist.

The water should not be more than 6.8 (slightly acid) and around 6° of hardness, with an average temperature range of between 70° and 75°F.

The normal procedure for propagation is by severance at the root-stock, although it can, under ideal conditions of water and light, be raised from seeds, which are available. The latter procedure is best accomplished if one seed to a one-gallon jar is planted, with three sides of the jar painted out to prevent over-abundance of light, and no overhead lighting. Normal room - natural light is all that is needed.

However, it may be considered that the high cost of a growing plant is too great a risk to play with.

.....

A speaker, paying his respects to the fair sex, pointed out that they were rapidly adventuring into fields once held sacrosanct to the male. "Today," he said impressibly, "we have women doctors."

At this point, an inebriated gent in the rear of the hall got laboriously to his feet with a cry of, "Hurrah for wom'n doctorsh!"

Unperturbed, the speaker proceeded,
(Cont'd page 11)

"...and women lawyers."

Again the drunk arose, with a cheer for the women lawyers.

"In fact," said the speaker, continuing with grim determination, "today we find that between men and women, there is very little difference."

With a supreme effort the inebriate once more hoisted himself to his feet, with a feebly but earnest cry, "Hurrah for that little difference!"

.....

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Senior Society

Who is going to be the 100th member? I am happy to report that our membership now totals 89 members in the Senior Society and we should reach the 100 mark before the year ends.

Our 1958 (Fifth) Tropical Fish Display was better than ever and Geo Bowie, Show Director, has once again done an excellent job for the Society. My thanks Geo and to the Committee members and members of the Society who helped to make our Fifth show a great success.

We have Mr Lyle Hayter, Montreal Aquarium Society, to thank for an excellent job in judging our display and also for his kind gift of Nothobranchius Rachovi (one male and two females). I was very happy to meet Lyle once again and have extended an invitation to attend one of our regular meetings. During the display we were also honoured by a visit from the President and his wife, Montreal Aquarium Society, Mr and Mrs Hayward.

During our next two meetings you will most likely meet a great many new friends interested in our hobby, and the society, as a result of our recent tropical fish

(Cont'd page 12)

display. Let us make these people feel they are one of us and help them in every way we can.

Our picnic did not come off as planned, one of the reasons being the change in weather for September.

See you at our September 25th meeting.

Harvey J. Wittenberg
(Harvey J. Wittenberg)

.....

THE BLOODFIN

(Aphyocharax Rubripinnis)

by Ruth Jones "Nebraska Tropical Topics"
Nebraska Aquarium Society, Omaha, U.S.A.

These little beauties of the Characin family have many characteristics to recommend them. They thrive even where the temperature goes below 60 degrees, are active and long-lived, peaceful, and will eat most anything in the way of food.

They have a decided preference for alkaline water; in fact this seems to be necessary to develop the spawning urge. Sex is hard to distinguish, since both sexes have variable shades of deep red in the fins and tail; the female usually has a noticeably fuller body if in spawning condition.

They are not as difficult to spawn as some of the other tetras; the challenge seems to be in keeping the very, very small babies well fed until they reach a stage where they can graduate to micro-grain and then brine shrimp. They require a very minute size infusoria, in fact, green water is supposed to be the best food media for the brand new babies, also egg infusion.

(Cont'd page 13)

You may pick your own method for spawning bloodfins - they will spawn readily in a breeding trap, or in a well-planted aquarium; use alkaline water that has been aged 48 hours. The eggs are non-adhesive, and if you have a well conditioned pair and are lucky enough to see the actual spawning, you will be amazed at the shower of eggs that are scattered helter-skelter among the plants. If you use a breeding trap raised slightly above the glass bottom of your breeding aquarium, most of the eggs will eventually land on the clear bottom where they can be readily seen. They are very small and very transparent, as are the babies, which will hatch in 32 to 72 hours at 80 degrees.

Spawning will last from 2 to 4 hours; afterwards the pair appear to be exhausted, but if not removed, will soon recuperate and eat any eggs they can find.

The newly hatched fry are so transparent that not even the little black eye markings show until about the second day and they do not become free-swimming for several days; but when they do, they are really out there scouting for food; and even at the tender age of one week they seem to prefer swimming about in a school. Occasionally one will stray from the group and feed in an almost motionless head-down vertical position, looks like a "dead Duck" for sure...until suddenly you will see him jump at some invisible water life. If you can give them enough green water and small infusoria to get them past this stage and big enough to eat brine shrimp, your problem is over.

Why don't you try spawning this little "cool water" exotic? A school of adult bloodfins in the proper setting is a beautiful sight.

.....

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IN MY OPINION

by Ed Parisien - Senior Society

Outdoor Ponds - Those of you who have fish in outdoor ponds this summer should have them back in the aquarium by now. If not, get busy and catch them. This has been a cool summer, however, I have had reports of success and phenomenal growth, even though some mornings the temperature was as low as 42 degrees.

I am sorry for slipping up on some sound advice concerning the return of fish from pond to tank. I should have told you to fill your tank with pond water before catching the fish and then changing the water gradually over the next month or so in order that they will become accustomed to aquarium water.

If you still have fish out doors don't
(Cont'd page 15)

stretch your luck...get busy.

Dew Worms - This is the time of the year to get in a supply of dew worms to feed the larger fish during winter. If you wait any later they are hard to get.

Earth worms are a good food so start a box of them for winter. Mix garden soil and black muck. Dampen the earth and put in plenty of worms. A box 24 x 16 x 8 should hold several hundred.

Daphnia - This is the time for a second crop of daphnia. They seem to disappear during the hot weather but the spring eggs hatch now and they should be plentiful for the next two months...if you are lucky enough to find a good spot.

Rocks - Gravel - Those who like to do a little cleaning and decorating during winter and those who got some new ideas at our show, would do well to look for some real nice rocks before the winter. This is also a good time to store a good supply of gravel. Wash it well while the garden hose can still be used outside and then store the gravel when dry. The wife does not appreciate washing gravel in the sink and you will save the chore of cleaning out the sink trap.

Electrical Equipment - The possibilities of your fish getting ich is greater at this time. You can protect your fish by checking and testing all heating and lighting equipment.

Leaking Aquarium - Don't try and stop a leak from the outside of your aquarium, it sometimes works but not for long. Dry out the tank and cut away any cement that may be on the inside. Clean all joints with steel wool and apply several coats of liquid cement, which can be bought at any Pet Shop (our advertisers).

.....

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WHAT IS A FISH?

by Dr. G. Clifford Carl. Reprinted from "Fin-Fare", The Victoria Aquarium Society, Canada.

So you know what a fish is? Here you have been looking at them for weeks, months, and maybe years as they carry on their life activities in your tanks until you can see them with your eyes shut but I'll bet you can't give a definition of a fish. Want to try?

So you say "A fish is an animal that lives in the water." So does the whale but it isn't a fish. So does a starfish, a jellyfish, and a shellfish but they are not true fish. You will have to be more specific; try again.

"A fish is an animal that lives in water and is covered with scales." Nope won't do!

There are a number of fish that have no scales, catfish and sticklebacks for instance both lack scales though some members do have bony plates covering part of the body. Several other fishes or groups of fishes completely lack scales, often having in their place a thickened skin. So you have to accept

(Cont'd page 17)

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OF
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SEPTEMBER

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MORPHA"

male
OR
female

the fact that scales do not make the fish. "Well then, a fish is an animal that lives in water..." Hold on there, not all fish live in water, at least not all the time. Mud skippers of Africa, Asia, and Australia regularly leave the water and skip about on land. Admittedly, they return to it periodically but never the less they are not confined to water. Then there are the lung fishes which merely roll up and go to sleep in a ball of mud during the dry season when there is no water, existing in this way for months at a stretch with no moisture but a slimy coat. The climbing perch and some of the gouramis also do without water by burying themselves in mud until rains once again fill their ponds.

(Cont'd page 18)

So you can't define a fish by it's habitat. Have another shot.

"A fish is an animal that usually lives in water and breathes by gills." Now we are getting somewhere but not close enough yet. This definition eliminates whales (which breathe by lungs), jelly fish (which have neither gills or lungs) but still doesn't exclude starfish, shell fish and several other "fish" that have various types of gills for respiration.

"OK. Then, a fish is an animal with a backbone and gills for respiration".

Aha...now we are getting somewhere but it's not quite good enough yet because frogs, salamanders and sea squirts each have young stages in which a backbone and gills are present yet they are not fish. So we have to be even more specific to exclude these types of animals (aquatic).

You might say then, "A fish is a vertebrate (back-bones animal) with gills for breathing and fins for swimming." Not quite. Because if you look again at tadpoles (young stages of frogs and toads) or at baby sea squirts you will see that these creatures have fins all right but in each case it is a single fin running along the back and around the tail yet they are not fish, remember. So you will have to make one last stipulation to be absolutely correct. Ready?

"A fish is a vertebrate with gills for breathing and paired fins for swimming." Now we are "on the nose" for no other animal has a back-bone, gills and paired fins. Any creatures with these three structures must be a fish. Of course the paired fins called the pectorals and the pelvics or ventrals, vary greatly in their position in the various kinds of fish. For example the pectorals may be almost under the throat or high up on the

(Cont'd page 19)

shoulder, while the pelvics may be away aft under the rear and of the body or moved forward under the head as they are in the gouramie. The pelvic fins may be modified into a sucker (as in the lumpsucker, cling-fish and some gobies) or into "claspers" (as in the male livebearers, and in some male sharks and rays) or these fins may be completely lacking (as in the true eels, pipefishes and some blennies). The pectorals however, are always present.

So you see it isn't easy to define accurately even such a common thing as a fish. A person may easily recognize such a creature at sight and may have no trouble distinguishing it from other animals but when it comes to words it is a different matter.

.....

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HAVE YOU an article for the OVAS NEWS?



HAVE YOU

HEARD

THE LATEST?

by Mr I. Whonoseall.

...On Sunday, September 7th, Mr and Mrs Ed Parisien started out on a six week vacation (second honeymoon Ed says)...

...The President of the Senior Society had a little bad luck in transporting aquaria from the exhibition...smashed his glass aquarium cover and put a hole in the side of Gary Zumar's aquarium. Gary did not feel too bad as he had a spare tank, however, after setting the spare tank up the bottom glass cracked...

...I am told that Geo Bowie is experimenting with a new type of cement for aquaria. According to the claims made by the company you can do away with the frames...just stick the pieces of glass together and you can build a house on top of it...when will we get your report Geo?...

The Senior Society welcomes the following new members: Mrs Mary Garvin; Mr & Mrs Donat Lajoie; Mr Bill Leedham; Mr Albert Boisvert, Mrs TM Learmont; Mr LE McIntaggart; Mr Walter Palen; Mr Raymond Platiau; Mr & Mrs Lou St.Amand. Renewals: Mr Otto J Flegel and Mrs Flo Fitzsimmons...The Junior Society welcome the following new members: Suzanne Arbour; Eric Bawden; Susan Cruikshank; Ronald Enson; Frank Jones; Richard Lascelles; Robert Proulx; Ronny Stuart; Geo Ward and Andrew Holdham...

...sorry to hear our friend Dan Jeffrey is ill in Hospital. Hope you are in the best of health very soon...

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

SEPTEMBER...Let the calendar say what it may September (to aquarists) is hardly fall. It is more truly the end of summer. Yet we must begin to make plans for the indoor season.

This reminds us of an observation which continues to surprise us, in spite of its timeworn repetition, year after year. It is the fact that the winter, and not the summer, is the aquarist's big season. Certainly in winter all of our difficulties are increased. Live food is scarce, daylight is weak (and short), water is cold, surcharged with oxygen and smelling of chlorine. Perhaps we enjoy surmounting these problems, installing temperature controls, seasoning water, to say nothing of keeping a magnifying glass handy for the discovery of "ich." Although the breeding of fishes in summer has every advantage, we are of the belief that many aquarists give their hobby a rest in summer because other outdoor interests crowd it out. In winter when so much of Nature is frozen, we turn to the sport of keeping some of it alive indoors.

Although warm weeks are still with us, it is not too early to look over our mechanical equipment, particularly in reference to seeing whether electrical heating apparatus is in order, especially contact points in thermostats. They should be bright and clean. If not, they should be either scraped or taken to an expert for overhauling.

Most fish breeders before this have already given their summer crop of young a careful scanning, and have placed the more promising specimens in those tanks where the opportunity for growth is greatest. However,

(Cont'd page 22)

there is still time to do this, so that they will yet have the advantage of several weeks of balmy weather, especially those which have been bred and kept outdoors.

By having these selections made in good time, it avoids the necessity of later doing it hurriedly when the first nip of cold weather surprises the procrastinator. In the ordinary course of events more fishes are bred outdoors than can conveniently be housed indoors. Obviously this means we must carefully pick and choose those specimens which are likely to give the most satisfaction in the aquarium, in the show and in the breeding tank. There is every advantage to having these selections completed early, for it is during their first weeks and months that fishes derive the greatest advantage from adequate space and good food.

The fishes are not the only living things in an aquarium that have been busy increasing their kind. By the end of the summer plants are generally so thick that they cannot do their best. Thin them out. Trade them off, give them away or sell them to a local fish dealer.

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

Psychological Approach

The young man looked at the high prices on the night club menu and then said to his date, "What will you have, my plump doll?"

Wrong Decision

Policeman: "Can you describe your assailant?"

Victim: "That's what I was doing when he hit me."

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O V A S

JUNIOR SOCIETY

SECTION

Editor:
Joe Marshall

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Junior Society

With September upon us once again, it is time to clean out the old aquaria, stock up on some new fish and start attending Society meetings. If you were at the September meeting, and we hope you were, you might have noticed something different in the programme.

Over the summer we were sorry to lose our programme director, Terry Wilkie, to the Army (he joined of his own free will, the programme job wans't that hard). Consequently, we had to ask the assistant Director to take over and, therefore, until January Chipper Vickers will be the new programme director for the remainder of the year. We also managed to arrange the programme for the remainder of the year and I can truthfully say that they will be most interesting.

During the Exhibition the Junior Society was again able to capture some prizes in our display even though we had only four entries. Larry Neumann received a third prize in the Livebearer class, I managed to place first in this same class although I

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owe most of the honour to Mr Geo Bowie who should have been a Driftwood sinker rather than an electrician.

The Show Committee Director, Richard Brown, would like to thank all the members who acted as attendants during the show.

Gary Zumar
Gary Zumar

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SOME HOUSEHOLD ITEMS WHICH ARE USEFUL IN
THE AQUARIUM

by GM O'Connor, "Water Lines", St. Louis
Junior Aquarium Society, Inc., U.S.A.

Many of the household items commonly used in the home today can also be utilized in aquarium keeping. The use of these items can save the aquarist a considerable amount of time and money. In this article we will list some of these items and attempt to describe how they may be used by the aquarist. All of them have been successfully used by the author.

The items are:

1. Razor Blades
2. Rubber bands
3. Light bulbs
4. Mason jars
5. Vegetable grater
6. Windex Window Cleaner
7. Aluminum Clothes line
8. "Coke" bottle
9. Enameled Dishpan
10. Flower pot

A razor blade makes a very good aquarium scraper. It will remove all types of algae from the glass of the aquaria and its cost is only a fraction of the cost of scrapers which are purchased. When using a double edge razor blade as an aquarium scraper, it

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is wise to put a piece of tape over one edge. This simple precaution will prevent the user from being cut. In addition to their use as a scraper, the razor blades can be used as plant trimmers.

Occasionally one finds a need for an extra "C" clamp. When this need arises, the humble rubber band can be used very effectively. The pressure can be adjusted by tightening or loosening the band. A rubber band can also be used in conjunction with weights to sink plants which tend to float.

A light bulb suspended half way in a breeding tank or refrigerator liner will serve a two fold purpose. Not only will the bulb furnish an abundance of light, but also supply a considerable amount of heat to the tank. This extra boost will render the water ideal in temperature for most baby tropicals. Make sure the bulb is cool before placing it in water. NEVER PLACE A HOT BULB INTO THE WATER. If this is done the bulb will almost always crack.

The author has found quart mason jars to be very useful for the raising of bettas. These fish can live and grow in a very small space. The problem of keeping male bettas separated is also solved by the use of these jars. Mason jars can also be used as a means of transporting fish. Another use for these jars in the breeding of bettas has come into prominence. The female is placed into the jar and the jar floated in the breeding tank.

The best way to feed frozen foods such as beef heart, shrimp, and liver is in the grated form. The ordinary vegetable grater is best. It grates the frozen foods to a small size which can be easily eaten by the tropicals. Such graters are easily cleaned after use.

A perfectly beautiful aquarium arrange-
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ment can be ruined by the presence of smudges and smears on the front and side glasses of the aquarium. Whereas an aquarium with clean glass enables the fish to be seen, definitely enhancing the beauty of the tank. A very good preparation, Windex Window Cleaner, does an excellent job of cleaning the glass sides of the aquarium. It is merely spread on and wiped off before it dries.

Aluminum clothes line, if cut to a length of 18" and bent at each end, can easily be flattened as shown in figures one and two. After the ends are flattened, one of the ends should be notched as shown in figure two. This simple piece of equipment serves a twofold purpose. It is used as a planter and also as a plant trimmer.

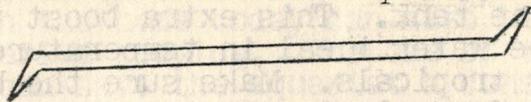


Fig 1

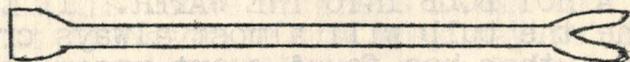


Fig 2

A "Coke" bottle used in conjunction with your piston pump will greatly increase its efficiency. A rubber cork with a hole in the center is fitted into the top of the "Coke" bottle, and a three-way "T" is then fitted into the cork. The air line should then be cut about one foot from the pump and the "Coke" bottle apparatus inserted. This arrangement will not only improve the operation of the pump, but also will prevent erratic operation of the air stone.

Flower pots can be used very effectively as planters for aquatic plants which require soil. They can also be used as egg depositories for many of the small cichlids. The pot is laid on its side in the bottom of

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the breeding tank. The fish usually spawn on the inside of the pot.

For the aquarists who wish to grow their plants in soil, but do not want unsightly flower pots in their aquarium, enameled trays are ideal. Enameled trays can also be used for plant storage, breeding purposes and for temporary hospital and isolation tanks.

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LET'S KEEP THEM ALIVE - BY USING A LITTLE PATIENCE

by Ruth Garrett. Reprinted from the May 1958 "The Fin" published by Corpus Christi Aquarium Society, Inc.

I have been asked to write an article for the Fin of my success or failure in raising some particular type of tropical fish, but after talking to some of the members of the Society, I have found a subject of more importance: Taking a chance on the quick changeover.

Many aquarists have become discouraged because after purchasing a fish from a friend or dealer, they take it home--and it soon dies, perhaps in a day or a week. Chances are it was placed directly in their aquarium without a slow change-over. Did you know that the water in which it was purchased is very precious? Save it!

Regardless of how seasoned the water in your aquarium, one should never net a fish and put it directly into a new change of water. Even fish have an internal adjustment to make, and if they are changed over slowly with a little patience, you will not harm them.

The author learned this the hard way. As most of us know, one seldom finds two aquariums with the same temperature, or even the same P.H. (acid or alkaline

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content). Therefore, the safest way to transfer fish is to float the plastic bag, or jar which contains some of their original water, in your aquarium for 15 or 20 minutes. If a plastic bag is used, this will give ample time for the slow temperature change; but if a jar is used, it will naturally take a little longer. Then gradually add a little of the new tank water, and wait a few minutes longer- do this twice more- and after adding the third portion, and with a few minutes wait in between, the fish jar or bag may be tipped slightly, and the fish allowed to swim out slowly on their own. This method might take a little longer, but it is the only safe and sure way to prevent shocking a fish.

Our beautiful aquatic plants play an important part in our aquarium, as they absorb a lot of decaying matter, and help to make it a well balanced home for our tropical fish- but, we should always sterilize these plants before adding them to our aquariums, as so many parasites and diseases are transferred on your plants. A simple method of sterilizing them is to place them in a pan of water and add a teaspoon of alum to each pint of water used. Let soak for at least five minutes - then rinse several times with cool tap water. This will not kill the pond snail, but let's not fuss about them as they may be crushed, and used as live food. It is also good to remember, it is better to not use any plants than to use sickly ones, as they can do more harm than good, they give off bad gases instead of oxygen.

Before closing, I might add: For those of you who like a less serious story, have you heard the Fish Fancier's Prayer? Well, stop me if you have heard it!
"Lord, give me grace - to have such a large spawning - that even I - when telling it afterward - may need never to lie!

AQUARIUM PUMPS AND THEIR CARE

by Don Baker, Boonton, New Jersey. Reprinted from "The Aquarium"

There are quite a number and variety of aquarium pumps in use today, but the present article deals only with those that are driven by fractional horsepower motors. Roughly we can divide these into two classes, those with reciprocating pistons in cylinders and those which operate diaphragms.

The diaphragm type are all driven at high speed with motors running between 1500 R.P.M. (revolutions per minute) and 1700 R.P.M. In the piston type pump we have a slow-speed variety and a high-speed type. The first is usually driven by a high-speed motor belted down so that the piston travels at slow speed, while in the second type the piston is driven direct from a crank attached to the motor shaft.

Regardless of the type pump, they all require a certain amount of care, and their life and efficiency depend upon the individual user for this care if they are to give satisfactory service. It must be remembered that these pumps are usually operated twenty-four hours a day and three hundred and sixty-five days a year at the hardest kind of service to which their motors are moving parts can be put.

With a piston pump there are three things that are important to take care of: First the bearings; second - the piston packing; third - the valve or valves.

In general, all bearings on motor shafts driven by motor and crank bearings, except cranks with sealed ball bearings, require the use of a No.20 S.A.E. motor oil which can be obtained at any service station or of the dealer from whom you purchased your pump. In case of doubt be sure to read the directions which come with your pump.

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Piston packing may consist of leather cup washers, flat leather washers, or rings. Here again remember to follow the recommendations of the manufacturer. The oil you use on motor bearings will not be satisfactory for leather pump packing. This is especially true in the direct-driven high-speed pumps, as their tendency is to get hot and dry out the washers.

A word of caution here. Only a couple of drops at a time, about once a month, is all that should be used on the piston washers. Using too much, it will tend to work up into the cylinder and eventually get to the valve and stop its proper functioning, necessitating a replacement unless you have a type of valve which you can take apart and clean.

Diaphragm type pumps usually have sealed ball bearings on their crank, in which case only the motor shaft requires oiling. The diaphragm type pump is recommended to all who have a number of tanks and especially where it is necessary to have oil-free air. Some have the opinion that these diaphragms are short-lived. The contrary is the case, if the diaphragms are made of neoprene instead of rubber. No trouble should develop with these under five or ten years or even more.

Whatever type pump you are using, unless it has a built-in relief valve, either purchase a commercial relief valve which can be preset to from three to six pounds pressure, or add a three-way valve in your line that can be used to bleed off any air that you are not using. Excessive back-pressure on your pump will materially shorten its life.

A fourth item. The diaphragm type pumps are (or should be) provided with an intake filter. The purpose of this filter

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is to strain out any lint or dirt or minute particles which may be in the air and prevent them getting under the delicate valves. They are usually made of absorbent cotton, felt or similar material. In case of cotton or felt, if they get damp enough or fill up with dust, the air supply will be cut off, and it is then necessary to renew them. KEEP YOUR PUMPS OFF THE FLOOR. Sweepings are readily sucked into the motor, get into the bearings and sometimes into the valves.

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FOR SALE

1 month old Skylark Piston Pump
 10 gal under-the-gravel filter
 Junior bottom filter
 Air tubing and valve
 ... \$26.00 ...

CALL [redacted]Pierre Gagnon

ANTI-AQUARIUM TAPPING CRUSADE
 from "Colorado Aquarist" The Colorado
 Aquarium Society, U.S.A.

Many of us like to tap on the aquarium to get the attention of the fish, and we give no thought to the effect it has on the fish itself.

In the Coronet Magazine article on Tropical Fish of August, 1950, there is an article about a member of the San Francisco Aquarium Society. His pet peeve had long been those individuals who tap on the sides of aquariums to attract the attention of the fish. He put 50 Dwarf Gouramies in one tank, and 50 others in a second tank. The

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first tank was tapped several times daily; the second tank was left undisturbed.

He found that after six months, the fish in the first tank showed signs of intense nervousness, while those in the second were "fat, sleek, and unworried".

At the end of a year, all the fish in the tapped tank were dead, while 47 in the other tank survived.

"If you want to know how a fish feels when a tank is tapped," says he, "put your head under water in the bath tub, and hit the sides with a hammer." This is very good advice, and perhaps many of us can profit by this experience.

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From "Water Lines", St. Louis Junior Aquarium Society, U.S.A.

Have you ever tried spinach as a fish food? It seems to be especially beneficial to the livebearers. Preparation is simple. Fresh spinach is brought to a slow boil and cooked just enough to kill and tenderize it. Salt is not used in the cooking. We see no reason why this food could not be purchased in some other form, however, and fed directly to the fish. Be sure that any prepared form you use has no grease in it. Feed it only as a supplement - a couple of leaves daily. Remove uneaten parts the following day. We have seen some really beautiful tank raised mollies which were raised on a diet consisting of spinach, brine shrimp, and assorted dried foods only. Mollies which are raised on these foods do not seem to have shimmies nearly as badly as others.

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HAVE WE YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS? PHONE NUMBER?