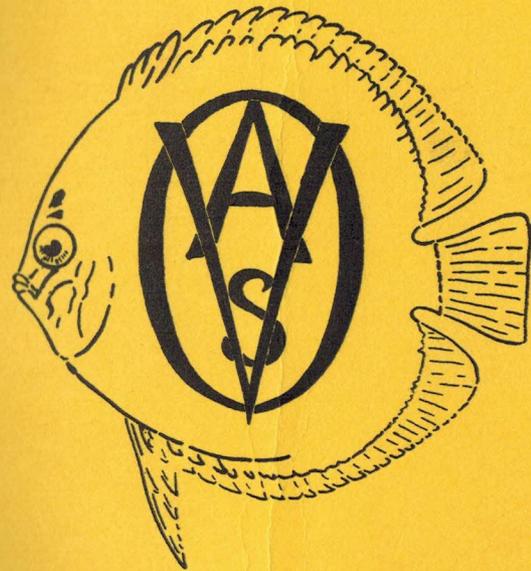


OTTAWA VALLEY NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1135, OTTAWA 4
ONT., CANADA



THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Meetings

Junior Society

Thursday, March 19th	.....	7.00 PM
Thursday, April 23rd	.....	7.00 PM
Thursday, May 21st	.....	7.00 PM

Senior Society

Thursday, March 26th	.....	8.00 PM
Thursday, April 30th	.....	8.00 PM
Thursday, May 28th	.....	8.00 PM

Regular meetings are held in Room 37, Chemistry Building, University of Ottawa, 365 Nicholas Street, Ottawa.

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The deadline for all articles, reports, etc, is the LAST DAY OF THE MONTH.

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
1959 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Senior Society Officers

President: Mrs Clare Kroeger
Vice-Pres: Mr Roger Trottier
Secretary: Mrs Barbara Johnson
Treasurer: Mr Phil Curry

Senior Society Directors

Membership: Mr Dan Jeffrey
Programme: Mr Wilf Doucette
Show: Mr Doug Young
Magazine: Mr Roger Trottier
Social: Mr Alan Griffin
Junior Soc: Mr Edgar Parisien

Senior Society Librarians

Mr Wilf Ledoux
(to be appointed)

Junior Society Officers

President: Ian Woods
Vice-Pres: Patsy Fitzgerald
Secretary: Graham Conway
Treasurer: Richard Brown

Junior Society Directors

Membership: Burton Grundy
Programme: Chipper Vickers
Show: Gordon Wordon
Magazine: Larry Neumann
Social: Andrew Holdham

Junior Society Librarians

Larry Neumann
Robert Boyle

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY CONSULTANTS

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

1959 OVAS RAFFLE

The lucky winners of our 1959 Raffle were:

- First: Mr Doug Young
[redacted], Ottawa.
- Second: Mr Bill Lamb
[redacted], Hull.
- Third: Mr Les Badham
[redacted], Ottawa.
- Fourth: Mr R. Loken
[redacted], Ottawa.

The members selling the greatest number of tickets:

- Senior: Mr Fred Stewart
- Junior: Larry Neumann

The thanks of the Raffle Committee is extended to all who contributed towards the success of this raffle.

Dan Jeffrey
Chairman

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Senior Society

Each year the Society tries to set up and maintain at least one new aquarium in a Hospital or some other institution. To date we have received two very good suggestions for the latest aquarium which will soon be purchased. These are the St. Laurent Sanitarium in Val Tetreau and the St. Therese Orphanage on the Aylmer Road. Anyone wishing to make a further suggestion for consideration, please notify Heinz Kroeger as soon as possible.

The Juniors have asked our help in

(Cont'd page 5)

augmenting their Library. We are asking that all members donate some periodicals or books (new or used) on Tropical Fish.

We were very fortunate in obtaining Roger Trottier as our new Magazine Director. Since this is a difficult assignment he urgently needs volunteers for the Magazine Committee.

Last year's consultants have volunteered to serve in 1959. If you have any problems or worries about your fish, call Ed Parisien [redacted], Geo Bowie [redacted], Ken Craig [redacted] or Jack Dirks [redacted]. The areas will be fully outlined in the OVAS News next month.

Thanks for bringing fish for Father Legault. It's a wonderful way to show our appreciation for all he has done for the Society.

Clare Kroeger
President

AN AQUARIUM STAND

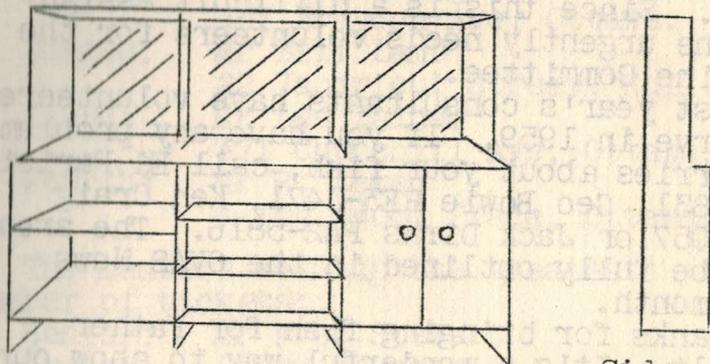
by Dr. Robert Jackson, Ottawa Valley
Aquarium Society, Senior Society.

Are you tired of having your aquariums spread all over the house? My wife and I were, and so we designed an aquarium stand to suit our particular needs.

Because aquariums placed close to the floor are too hard to see into, we decided to use the lower portion of the stand for storage of aquarium supplies and for books. The lower row of aquariums stands 30 inches from the floor, and the upper row 54 inches from the floor. I can just reach the bottom of the top aquariums. The stand will hold six 24" x 12" x 12" aquariums. The total weight of the stand, aquariums

(Cont'd page 6)

and books is about 800 pounds. I have placed it by an outside wall at right angles to the crossbeams in the basement.

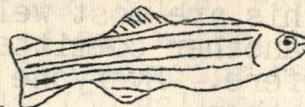


Side view

The total cost was \$107 - about \$50 for the materials and the rest for labour. My carpenter was Mr Sidney Hipkins of 23 Clegg Street, Ottawa, (CE6-1549). The overall length is 78", the height is 54", the width of the lower half is 18" and of the upper half 12". Except for 1/4" plywood on the back of the lower half, 3/4" fir plywood was used throughout. The lower half has three units (see drawing), two containing shelves for books and one for storage of aquarium supplies and toys. Note that the lower unit is 4" off the floor to permit easy cleaning. In the upper section, there is a six-inch space behind the lower aquariums; this leaves room for pumps, wires, etc. My wife painted the stand off-white, with the doors of the cupboard section bright red.

WHAT IS YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE OVAS NEWS????????

WEST END



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Ken Craig, prop. PA9-2057

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

by Roger Trottier, Chairman

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 2nd, 1959.

Time: Starts 8.00 PM Sharp. Ends 10.30 PM Sharp.

Where?: 63 Fifth Avenue, Ottawa. (North side of Fifth - East of Bank mid-way to O'Connor street).

NEEDS:

- A. VOLUNTEERS FOR READING.
- B. VOLUNTEERS FOR TYPING.
(Typewriters supplied at meeting, no worries about penmanship as work is already typed. Maximum amount of work 1 hour and on that evening only).
- C. VOLUNTEERS FOR IDEAS
CREATIVENESS AND OPINIONS.

(Cont'd page 8)

You who read this are most welcome. If you belong to another committee, this will not interfere. Everyone enjoys himself. See you then.

CORRESPONDENCE

Articles, Letters to the Editor, Want Ads, Exchange Information, Correspondence, anything and everything should be forwarded to this address ONLY:

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1135, Ottawa 4,
Ontario, Canada.

Starting in April, an editorial will appear. Also anyone wishing to write a signed letter expressing views, opinions etc, should send such to the above address.

Your Magazine Committee

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR
"The Aquarium"

MARCH is a busy time for the aquarist. It is the month to clean house and get ready for late spring and early summer breeding. Aquariums are usually in semi-dirty condition by the end of winter. Because of the high winter evaporation rate, aquarium water becomes pretty concentrated. A gradual complete change of water often results in increased vitality of the fishes. The best way to go about this is to remove from a quart to 2 gallons (depending on the

(Cont'd page 9)

size of the tank) daily, replacing with an equal volume of new water, until twice the gallonage of the aquarium has been exchanged. In large tanks (30 gallons and up) the new water can be taken directly from the tap without harm, but in smaller ones, the water should first stand for 24 hours.

Breeding fishes should be bought now. This gives them a month or so to adjust to new conditions before being put to work. New tanks and other equipment should be purchased now also.

In setting up new tanks, go easy on the sand. Most aquarist use at least twice as much as is necessary. One and one-half inches at the deepest is plenty. Part of the secret of clean, odorless sand is a constant slight circulation of water through it. That's why very fine sand is not recommended, as is not too deep sand. The normal circulation is impaired.

Watch for the increased intensity of natural light. Tanks that were receiving just the right amount in February will be turning green in March, unless carefully checked. It is much easier to prevent green water than to cure it. Most hobbyists find that once an aquarium turns green, the only solution is to tear it all down and start again. Though rather unsightly, green water is ideal for most fishes.

March is the month for breeding preparations. The most likely breeding specimens should be removed and placed in tanks of their own. Or perhaps even better, the unlikely ones should be removed, leaving the best ones in their original tanks. At any rate, prospective breeders should be given plenty of room.

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

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SHOW COMMITTEE

Mr Doug Young, Chairman

Home Show - 1959

Date: April 15th (Wednesday) to
May 15th (Friday) deadline.

Applications, with entry fee, must be sub-
mitted no later than April 30th, 1959.
Rules and regulations are to be published
in the next OVAS News.

Jar Shows - 1959

The fish of the month, for March to
November, will be:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>True Name</u>
March	Zebra	Brochydanio-rerio
April	Tiger Barb	Puntius Tetrazona
May	Serpae Tetra	Hypheosbrycon cal- listus

(Cont'd page 11)

June	Angel	Pterophyllum scalare
September	Molly	Mollienisia (velifera latipinna)
October	Catfish	Corydoras (anyone of Aenus - Hastatus - Myersi - Nattereri - Paleatus and Rabauti)
November	Swordtail (male)	Xiphophorus Helli

NOTE: Unless sex is indicated either
Male or Female may compete. Only those
fishes listed under the "True Name" class-
ification will be ruled competitive.

Hospital Tanks

The Society has provided an Aquarium in the
following hospitals/institutions:

1. Protestant Home For The Aged,
Bank Street (facing Coliseum)
Ottawa 1, Ontario.
2. St Patrick's Home
Children's Division,
279 Gloucester Street,
Ottawa, Ontario.
3. Veterans Health and Occupational
Centre,
355 Smythe Road, Ottawa, Ontario.
(2 aquaria)

Next month a detailed report will be given
as to the location, stock and details of
these aquaria.

Fish Census

The fish census that started in December
has given some startling information,
watch for revelations next month.

Your Show Committee.

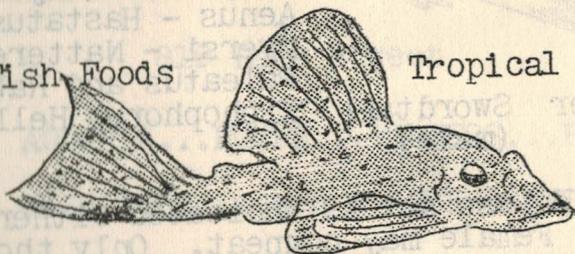
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Mrs W.I. Dickson, prop..... Phone: CE2-7586

THE CUBAN NEON

by James Churchill Hopgood, Director-Editor of "Aquario" magazine. Reprinted from The Aquarium News Letter, Tacoma Aquarium Society.

Sure enough, you all have seen how a neon bulb looks like, well, that is how the cuban zebra or cuban neon (common and popular name they have in Cuba) looks like, especially when the direct reflection of a light is thrown against them. You can collect them in great abundance in the province of Pinar del Rio, although they can also be found in the various rivers towards the south coast of Havana province, above all around Batabano Bay.

It's color in general is not much to be raved about, having the body of a sort of grayish olive green, reaching in (Cont'd page 13)

its native grounds about 1½ inches in length. Horizontal dark lines go directly from the tail to the eyes. In between these lines there are numerous small dots with coloring of a metallic turquoise-blue, which upon the reflection of the light get illuminated as neon bulbs, from which it gets it's popular name of "Cuban Neon". Of course, this brilliance is more outstanding in the males.

For those who always like to see some interesting points in the tropical fish, they can find it in the breeding habits of this fish. From a very thin thread the female suspends a bunch of eggs (in the same form of a bunch of grapes), that might reach in number sometimes up to six, which breaks off upon entangling with any of the aquarium plants. This you can see very clearly in the excellent photo on page 281, by Dr. William T. Innes, in his "Exotic Aquarium Fishes" (fifteenth edition).

One good thing about the Cubanichthys (Eigemann 1902) as it is known scientifically is, that the fry are not eaten by their parents, and grow very rapidly if fed artemia from the first day they are born, afterwards, any dry commercial food is good enough. Lettuce leaves should be fed often, they will appreciate it very much, as in the wilds one generally sees them eating algae on the banks of the rivers. They are indeed peaceful fish and a group of them travelling in a school, makes for quite a remarkable sight in the aquarium, naturally much more if a direct light falls on their flashing bodies.

Could you write something to fill this space?

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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE
 by WILF Doucette, Chairman

April Meeting - Our speaker in April will be

DR WRAY BOWDEN

Subject: "On Breeding Angel Fish"
 quote ...books, pamphlets, and circulars are to say the least, MISLEADING ... unquote.

The Committee asks:

ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE MEETINGS?
 HAVE YOU ANY IDEAS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED?

Your suggestions and comments are welcome. You can also help the Committee by volunteering - we require 4 assistants.

OVAS TREASURY REPORT
 by Mr Phil Curry - Treasurer

We are pleased, at this time, to report that seventy-four OVAS memberships for 1959 have been received. This is a

(Cont'd page 15)

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You can help your Society by paying your fees - serve on a Committee - write an article for the OVAS News

substantially greater number than we have ever had, at such an early date. This fact is gratifying not only from the financial aspect but because it shows enthusiasm on the part of our members to support their Society. At this rate we may look forward, with confidence, to an even larger membership than in our record year of 1958.

Some other financial undertakings of our Society for 1959 appear to have reached or surpassed expectations. This encouraging situation answers, to a large extent, the successful implementation of our plans, that fall within the framework of the 1959 budget.

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AQUARIUM SOCIETIES (TIFAS)

by Mr Ed Parisien, OVAS TIFAS Representative.

The 1959 TIFAS Convention is to be held this year in BINGHAMTON, New York. The first question to one's mind is HOW FAR?

Route A - starting at the Thousand Island Bridge via Route 180 then Route 12 to Watertown - 26 miles

Route B - starting at Ogdensburg via route 87 then route 11 going by Gouverneur, Antwerp and Watertown - 66 miles...

then Route 11 from Watertown to Syracuse to Cortland to BINGHAMTON - 149 miles.

(Thousand Island to BINGHAMTON - 175 miles)
(Ogdensburg to BINGHAMTON - 215 miles)

The dates for the TIFAS Convention are April 10th - 11th and ending Sunday, April 12th at 1.00 PM. The place is the ARLINGTON HOTEL, BINGHAMTON, N.Y., U.S.A.

Programme

Friday, April 10

10.00 a.m. Opening - Registration.
Golf - guided trip through ANSCO, including lunch. This will be of interest to photographic hobbyists.

12.00 noon Lunch

2.00 p.m. Guided shopping tour of the Binghamton stores...informal meeting of committees of the Board of Governors.

3.30 p.m. Board of Governors meeting.

6.30 p.m. Dinner

8.30 p.m. Informal Get-Together Party at ANSCO Lake Club House to meet the officers and Board of

(Cont'd page 17)

Governors. Bring your camera-prizes awarded for the best pictures of the aquarium... color film on spawning of Angel Fish...refreshments served all evening and a buffet will be provided at 11.00 p.m.

Saturday, April 11

8.30 a.m. Opening of Registration booth.

8.30-9.30 Board of Governors meeting.

10.30 a.m. First General Business Session.

12.30 p.m. Lunch

1.30 p.m. Second Business Session.

2.30 p.m. Guided tour through Slocum's Water Gardens and Rainbow Aquarium.

6.00 p.m. Adjournment of Second Business Session.

7.00 p.m. Social gathering.

7.30 p.m. Banquet - speakers: Mayor Burns (others to be announced) Presentation of awards by Mr H.R. Axelrod.

Sunday, April 12

8.30 a.m. Board of Governors meeting with newly elected members.

10.00 a.m. The welcoming Committee will post a list and provide transportation to churches in the area.

11.00 a.m. Third General Business Session.

1.00 p.m. Finale.

A tropical fish display will be set up in the lobby of the Arlington Hotel.

The Arlington Hotel, located in the center of the city at Chenango and Lewis Streets, has been completely redecorated and has a beautiful lobby, free parking,

(Cont'd page 18)

and it is very convenient as you can drive in through their garage and unload your baggage at the rear entrance.

We would like to see the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society represented. If you are planning to attend and you require transportation, or if you have a car and able to take a passenger, please call MR EDGAR PARISIEN -

This is also your opportunity to meet many of our Eastern Canadian hobbyists from the Montreal Aquarium Society, Montreal, Quebec, Nova Scotia Aquarium Society, Halifax, N.S., Kingston Aquarium Society, Kingston, Ontario, London Aquarium Society, London, Ontario, Niagara Aquarium Society, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Preston and Galt Aquarium Society, Preston, Ontario, Hamilton and District Aquarium Society, Hamilton, Ontario, The Pembroke and District Aquarium Society, Pembroke, Ontario, the Canadian Aquaria Society, Toronto, and The Toronto Aquarium Society, Toronto, Ontario, and last but not least our many American hobbyists.

EXCHANGE MAGAZINES

by Mr W.E. Ledoux, Librarian

The following is a list of some of the monthly magazines which are available in our Library:

1. The Tropical Breeze. Publication of the San Diego Tropical Fish Society.
2. The Boston Aquarium News. Publication of the Boston Aquarium Society, Inc.
3. Tank Talk - Publication of the Mid-western Aquarist Club, Omaha, Nebraska.
4. The Scalare. Publication of the Dallas Aquarium Society, Dallas, Texas.

(Cont'd page 19)

5. Tropical Fish Hobbyist. TIFAS official organ.
6. Fin Fare. Publication by the Victoria Aquarium Society, Victoria, B.C.
7. The Aquarium. An Innes Publication.
8. Nebraska Tropical Topics. Publication by the Nebraska Aquarium Society.
9. Aquarium News Letter. Publication by the Tacoma Aquarium Society, Washington.
10. Colorado Aquarist. Publication by the Colorado Aquarium Society.
11. What's On In Ottawa.

MEMBERSHIP JOTTINGS

by Mr Dan Jeffrey, Director Membership and Publicity.

Your membership committee has been asked to contribute monthly a section of the OVAS News and it is only fitting that we should tell you briefly what you may expect in this regard. I said "expect" but I am only too well aware that expectations so often exceed accomplishments. I can only say that we will do our best to live up to your expectations and we hope that you will be tolerant if we fall short in our endeavours.

In this corner of your magazine we will attempt to present a readable account of the doings of the membership as a whole and if you suddenly find yourself in the "news" remember that you, and you alone, are responsible, as we will try to record what goes on so if you find yourself in the midst of it don't blame us.

We will discuss anything from the svelte beauty of our lady members to the portly unattractiveness of the male fish fancier, so if you know of any interesting goings

(Cont'd page 20)

on just contact any member of the membership committee and watch for the next issue of your magazine.

We will attempt to carry on a free-swinging un-inhibited discussion and will print anything that is printable and some that is not, be it truth, half-truth or downright lie, so be prepared.

We will try to run feature articles on such subjects as the unattached girl, the eligible bachelor, the fat man, the thin man, short shorts and how you look in them, and we will also discuss the "industrious" member and the "lazy" member, so if you are not already active on some committee you better get busy and volunteer for some work right away as most committees are short of members. Your help will be appreciated.

Let this be our BIG YEAR and let each member concentrate on bringing in one new member. There are scores of people in this city who are tropical fish fanciers but who are not yet registered in our Society and who, in some cases, are not even aware that there is a tropical fish society in the city.

Remember, we are watching you so you should also watch us. April is the month in which we will cut loose so see that your casualty insurance is in order.

We welcome the following new members who joined the Senior Society at our last meeting: Capt J.H. Fraser, Mr and Mrs R.W. Naylor, Mrs Enid Scott, Mr Don Thompson, Mr W. Warwick and Mr and Mrs Grant Williams. The membership now totals 74, a record for the Senior Society at this time of the year.

REMEMBER OUR ADVERTISERS.....



O V A S

JUNIOR SOCIETY

SECTION

Editor: Larry Neumann

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Junior Society

I am happy to report to you that the Junior Society now has a total membership of 33. If everyone trys to bring a friend or try to encourage some of your pals to join we could double the present number by the end of the year.

The winner for selling the most raffle tickets in the Junior Society was Larry Neumann who received a \$5.00 cheque. Congratulations Larry. The raffle was a great success and it was noted that the Junior members made a good effort in selling the share of tickets.

I would like to say that I was very pleased with the participation in the Jar Show at the last meeting. Keep it up.

The Executive would appreciate it if you would please write an article for the OVAS News. Articles should be given to Larry Neumann or myself.

At the April meeting we will have our annual Parents night. I would like to see each member bring their parents to this meeting. In addition to our

(Cont'd page 22)

usual programme we expect to have a special film, raffle and door prize.

Jan Woods
President

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Burton Grundy, Director

We welcome the following new members who joined our Society at the last meeting: John Argue, Bob Dermer, Louise Lalonde, and Pierre Lalonde. Total membership 33.

Every member is asked to sign the register book at the regular meetings and insure that you receive your name card.

RAISING FISH AND HOW I FEED THEM
by Larry Neumann, Junior Society, OVAS.

Since I have no place to raise live foods for my fish, such as white worms, micro-worms and brine shrimp, etc, I have found it necessary to search for other foods to make up the difference.

I find that my fish like pablum and a great variety of foods found in pet shops. These can be fed separately or mixed as one food.

I give them cod liver meal, dried shrimp, crab meal, liver, beef, salmon eggs and many others. All of these foods can be found in our pet shops, in addition to many varieties of frozen foods, which help to take the place of live foods.

My fish are very lively and keep having young ones ever so often. This is a good
(Cont'd page 23)

sign and the variety of foods must agree with them.

My fish are always looking for something to eat but of course don't get fed every time I go near the tanks, however, they think they should. They all head for the feeders in the tank whenever we go over to look at them.

I like my fancy guppies very much and have a number of young.

INFUSORIA CULTURE

by Steve Godwin "Water Lines" St. Louis
Junior Aquarium Society, USA.

To the beginner, the word infusoria suggests a subject shrouded in mystery. To them an infusoria culture is a mysterious medium in which myriads of minute animals live. They will all know, however, that it is necessary for feeding some fry such as bettas, gouramies and most of the tetras. The culture seems to many of us to succeed or fail for reasons which are none too clear.

The term infusoria is, to aquarists, a number of small protozoa which are used as a first food for the smallest fry. Many of these have been isolated by scientists and named. We are not so much concerned with the names and body structure of these minute creatures, but we are most eager to know how to get them when we need them.

Let it first be understood that these organisms have the power of encystment at certain times in their life cycles and are capable of being carried far and near by the four winds. Seldom will a body of water be found without a few of these animals. For our purposes we want to
(Cont'd page 24)

make life easy for them, so that they will reproduce rapidly and appear in large numbers. Infusoria live by eating bacteria. Bacteria in turn live on the products of decay. In order to produce perfect conditions for infusoria, we must first in some way set up a culture in which active decay or organic matter is taking place. We are not interested in producing pure cultures, but this can be done. It is mostly carried on in biological laboratories where every factor is rigidly controlled.

CULTURE METHODS: For our purposes, we will set up our culture system something like this: Some old aquarium water is put in a gallon jar. To this we can add a number of organic materials. A few are: dried aquarium plants, bruised lettuce leaves, dried cream or even grass trimmings. When this material begins to decay we will note a film is formed on the surface of the water. This is called a bacteria film. When this is noted we are reasonably sure that bacteria are present. At this time we should inoculate the culture with water from a source known to contain infusoria of the proper kind. The jar should receive mild aeration to help keep the water sweet. Inoculation is not necessary if time is not of essence. A handful of bruised lettuce leaves placed in old aquarium water will produce a rich culture of paramecia in about four days. The animals settle on the water from the air and reproduce there.

As we all know, acid water makes life hard for paracites. Acid water likewise makes life hard for useful bacteria. We should be sure that our cultures are kept alkaline at all times. It will be noticed that as decomposition progresses in the

(Cont'd page 25)

water it will swing toward the acid side of the PH scale. This can be corrected by the addition of a small amount of bicarbonate of soda.

For proper feeding of young, culture jars should be set up in sequence so that a fresh culture teaming with infusoria is ready for use every day. It is far better to feed the fry a small amount of infusoria frequently than a large amount of infusoria once a day. Constant feeding of good infusoria to the young fry is one of the keys to success in breeding the egg layers.

Infusoria can be seen with the naked eye, but not without difficulty. For this purpose a low power microscope or a good reading glass is better. High power microscopes magnify too much and give us the belief that bacteria are infusoria. If a good culture is present it can readily be seen when placed on the glass slide over a black background. The infusoria will be seen as tiny specks of white dust swimming through the water. They will seem to swim with a jerky motion. One cannot, however, identify the various animalcules without the aid of a fairly good microscope.

BREEDING THE EGYPTIAN MOUTHBREEDER
from The Westchester Newsletter.

Here is a fish just two-and-a-half inches in size when full grown, but at the same time remarkable in its reproductive ability. It is a fish of many colors, predominantly hard greens, gold and blues crossed both vertically and horizontally with dark pigmented bars. In

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fact, its scientific name is Haplochromis multicolor, a fact revealing its discoverers' impression of its quick beauty.

The Egyptian Mouthbreeder is by no means a spectacularly colored fish; rather it attains true brilliance (like so many other tropicals) only at the spawning period. Identification of the male is possible only because his anal fin glows red at the tip when he's ready to breed. Otherwise, it requires a most expert eye to differentiate between the sex.

Like many egg layers, the Egyptian Mouthbreeder has easily identified breeding habits. It requires a 70 to 80 degree temperature for breeding and isn't too particular about the stage. About 80 square inches of aquarium surface covered with aquarium sand one to two inches deep and well planted will be quite ample.

Breeding begins as always with conditioning. Live foods, frequent feedings and breeding temperatures effect this. It begins in much the usual manner with the male scooping a small depression out of the sand. He gently urges the female toward it and if she is willing, she is guided quite readily. Once over the pit (sometimes they will appear to be actually in it), the male nudges the female repeatedly. In this manner, the female repeatedly drops some of her eggs which are immediately fertilized by the male.

Now the unusual in the performance begins. The female scoops the fertilized eggs into her mouth...and keeps scooping them in. Her egg output can exceed one hundred and she will pop every one into her mouth. Naturally enough, as her egg load increases, her mouth and throat get fuller, so much so she is unable to close her mouth.

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The male's part in this game of life is completely finished at this time. He can cause nothing but trouble during the next two weeks, so take him away and allow the mother to exist with her swollen and distended mouth. For at least twelve days, she will eat nothing; rather she will swim sluggishly about rolling the eggs and fry around in her mouth, but never swallowing them. This is all the more extraordinary because tropical fish prize eggs as food delicacies. The result of this forbearance in a fish as small as the Egyptian Mouthbreeder results in the mother becoming emaciated in body, yet remaining capacious in mouth and head outline.

During this period when no food passes her lips, the spawn become fry and the yolk sacs of the babies are fast absorbed. It is only then that the fry take their first excursion into the outer aquarium world. On first appearance, they hover around the mother's head and rush headlong back into her mouth at the slightest inkling of danger.

As the fry feast on infusoria and the prepared baby food you give them, their return trips to their mother's mouth become less frequent. As they grow, they soon discover they won't all be able to crowd in. This, after two weeks (give or take a day or two) find the mother changing in her selflessness. Once the fry aren't permitted back in the mouth, the mother reverts to cannibalism, so take her out of the tank as soon as you see the fry on their own.

Egyptian Mouthbreeders are quite hardy, so you shouldn't have difficulty bringing the fry to maturity. They'll eat anything and for the most part, make a fine community tank fish.

ITEMS OF INTEREST
(from our exchange Magazines)

...from Tropical Topics... One of the most common troubles of growing the Amazon Swords, is crown rot. If they are to be used in an aquarium with Miracle filters, they should be placed in a shallow earthenware cup so the roots can not penetrate the grids of the filter.

Light is of great importance. Too much front light will cause Amazons to grow short and bushy, and the leaves to turn yellow. The leaves will become a dark green when grown in a dark room, using overhead light only. Incandescent light is the best for swords...

...from Tank Talk, Midwestern Aquarist Club... Lake Aikan on the Island of Hokkaido, Northern Japan has one of the worlds strangest forms of algae. It forms in balls up to the size of tennis balls. The balls rise to the surface each day and sink to the bottom each night. They are bright green in color and most attractive. Some of these algae balls were exhibited at the Steinhart Aquarium in San Francisco some years ago. Lake Aikan is now a Japanese National Monument. It is against Japanese law to remove these algae balls from the lake, which is the only place in the world that they are known to exist... written by Charle Hess.

...from "Fin Fare", The Victoria Aquarium Society... TRUE??

There are three kinds of people
The few who make things happen,
The many who watch things happen
And then the big majority
who have no idea what has happened.

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN??