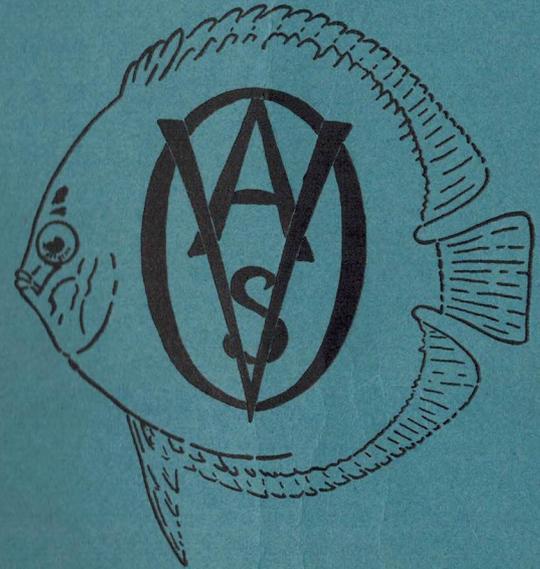


OVAS NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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



AWA-01

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

MEETINGS

Junior Society

Thursday, May 21st	.....	7.00 PM
Thursday, June 18th	.....	7.00 PM
Thursday, September 17th	.....	7.00 PM

Senior Society

Thursday, May 28th	.....	8.00 PM
Thursday, June 25th	.....	8.00 PM
Thursday, September 24th	.....	8.00 PM

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

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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 Claire 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 Ben Davis
Magazine: Mr Roger Trottier
Social: Mr Alan Griffin
Junior Soc: Mr Gerry Lalonde

Senior Society Librarians

Mr Ed Ledoux
Mr Gordon Croll
Mr Jean Duguay

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 (to be appointed)
Area No 2 Mr Geo Bowie
Area No 3 Mr Ken Craig
Area No 4 Mr Jack Dirks

TIFAS REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs Barbara Johnson.

OVAS PICNIC

DATE: Friday, June 19th - June 26th,
if the weather is wet.

PLACE: Britannia Park.

TIME: 6.30 PM.

INVITATION LIST:

All Junior and Senior Members
and members of their families.

PROGRAMME:

Bring your own picnic lunch
(to be eaten on arrival).
There will be games for the
children, a sing song, and later
a huge fire for toasting marsh-
mallows, corn, and making pop-
corn. Soft drinks will also be
served.

WHAT TO BRING:

Lunch, corn-poppers, toasting
gadgets of any kind...AND CHAIRS.

Further information will be available in
a special notice to be mailed to all
members.

Alan Griffin
Social Director.

ATTENTION ... ALL MEMBERS

Read the special programme
notice. Page 21, 22, 23
and 24.

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

THE AQUARISTS'S CALENDAR
"The Aquarium"

MAY - Don't take the heaters out of your
tanks yet. This is the month of surprises,
when they may be much needed.

Don't postpone that trip to the ponds.
Daphnia and other live food organisms can
be found in unsuspected places this month,
often in great numbers. Plants are not at
their best for transferring to the aquarium.
While on the subject of plants, be sure to
order a few surface plants if you have an
aquarium or outdoor pool that receives
moderately strong light. They make a
pleasant appearance in groups in one or
more corners. Such plants as water fern,
water lettuce and water hyacinth are out-
standing and they multiply rapidly under
good conditions. Water hyacinth has the
extra feature of beautiful lavender flowers,
a single stalk of which lasts only one day.
Fishes enjoy hiding and playing among such
plants.

If you are fortunate enough to own an
outdoor pool, try placing a sizeable portion
of live Daphnia in it. By the time the
weather is sufficiently warm to permit the
placing of fishes, there may be enough "bugs"
to last the fishes several weeks.

Fishes may be fed a little more heavily
now, provided the never-to-be-forgotten rule
is applied, which tells us that all meals
should be small enough so that no crumbs are
left on the fish table after five minutes.
Feeding twice a day, when done in the right
way, is not at all too much through the
warm months.

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

"REMEMBER TO BUY FROM OUR ADVERTISERS"

A LETTER TO OVAS MEMBERS

Dear Friends!

I want to express my appreciation for all the kind wishes and concern for my welfare while in hospital.

These are little things which make life worthwhile and friends worth having. I want to thank all of you more than words can express.

Ed Parisien

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

NEW MEMBERS

by Ed Parisien, OVAS, Senior Society

While lying on my hospital bed a few days before my discharge, I suddenly thought it might interest the members of The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society to know how it is possible to end up the year with 300-400 or even 500-600 members. Not to mention many other benefits, it would mean better programmes because we would be financially able to invite more guest speakers.

I know that this may seem like a dream, but really it could be a reality. Your next thought may be that Dan Jeffrey prompted me to write this as a kind of membership drive, but this is wrong.

Did you ever stop to think how many stores are selling tropical fish in Ottawa? I'll bet you will run out of fingers and use up most of your toes if you count them all. Now figure it this way. If they were not selling enough fish to make it worth while they would soon empty their tanks and use the space for more profitable

(Cont'd page 7)

stock. Now you know as well as I do that the few members we have in our Society do not buy all those fish. Therefore, it is fair to assume that there are 10 to 15 times more hobbyists in this city than the number we have attracted to our Society. I really think that this estimate is very conservative. I feel sure that if each member brought a new member each month or even two or three each year, 400-500 members is not impossible.

Now I'll tell you what made me think of this. While in hospital, without getting out of my bed once, I made the acquaintance of nine people who have from one to four tanks. Several others said that they had friends who have tropical fish. Not one of these people knew that we have an aquarium society in Ottawa. I think it is fair to assume that the members of our society do not talk enough about their hobby and their Society.

You do not have to climb on a soap box and preach tropical fish. I had, on my table, a few books with pictures of fish on the cover. That usually starts a conversation. The rest is easy and those who are within hearing distance become interested. Another good method is, when some one starts talking about fishing as a sport, to make a statement that goes something like this: "I like fishing for a sport, but, I get as much or more pleasure out of keeping fish alive". That is an entry which usually starts a conversation about tropical fish.

We all know that in order to get the most pleasure from any hobby, we must share it with others. How about it?

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Have you read pages 21 to 24 inclusive?

DAPHNIA

By WT Innes "Exotic Aquarium Fishes"

Daphnia are the best known of the living foods. They are of almost universal distribution. However, one can not go to any body of water anywhere and get what the fish might describe as a delicious dish of Daphnia. It is not as easy as that.

While it is true that this little aquatic crustacean (about the size and general shape of a flea) occurs in fresh water almost everywhere, it only appears in concentrated numbers in a comparatively few places - rather unpleasant places, as a rule.

It is always difficult to tell a person what Daphnia look like and how to gather them, but let us try. The one best shortcut to this knowledge is to go out once with an experienced collector. Daphnia vary in colour through green, gray and red. We like them red - the redder the better. We always hope to find them in colonies sufficiently thick so that the mass colors the water. From a few feet away, if red, they look like a dull red or rusty cloud in the water. Perhaps the cloud will be only 2 inches across. If we are lucky, it will be 2 feet; or, if luck is running high, the whole surface of the water will be red with them, "like liver," as the Daphnia hounds gleefully describe it.

The cloud formation is not unusual, but often there are plenty of "bugs" with none in sight, and again there really are none. The Daphnia gatherer provides himself with a special kind of net, made of cheesecloth or medium-fine Nylon. It should be about 10 inches wide, 14 inches deep and of seamless pattern, with rounded bottom. Some are made with a seam and pointed at the bottom like a foolscap, but this design injures the Daphnia by concentrating their

(Cont'd page 9)

weight into a ball, if the catch is a good one. For convenience in carrying, the net should be attached to a stout, jointed pole, usually to be had in sporting goods stores or departments. A 9-foot length in 3 sections is about right.

The net is dipped into the pond and its contents reversed into a large carrying pail of water, which should be liberally iced if the weather is hot. If the Daphnia are in sight in masses, the net need only be dipped, but usually a little gentle churning is necessary. The net is moved in a figure 8 at the surface of the water for perhaps a half minute. If the Daphnia are at the bottom, this brings them up.

The uncertainty as to whether Daphnia will be found, and where, is both the vexation and fascination of the collector. Ponds go through cycles. They may be good for a time and then die down, to again ripen later. When, none can predict.

Daphnia need a fair amount of oxygen. Like fishes, when it is deficient, they rise to the surface. This is apt to be the case in hot weather or on humid days. Early morning, before the wind has started to stir, also finds them at the top. When Daphnia are overcrowded they will come to the surface, no matter what the weather. Where collecting competition is sharp, the true fish fanatic starts out for live food at day-break.

Water conducive to the production of Daphnia in quantity contains active organic decomposition. From the human standpoint it should be bad, but no too bad. City aquarists usually seek out ponds at the "dumps" on the fringes of their towns. Rural collectors may find a good culture in fishless dirty water in an old quarry, or in a pool getting drainage from a barnyard.

Again, like fishes, Daphnia should be

(Cont'd page 10)

given as much air surface to their water as possible. They should also be kept as cool as possible - best in the family refrigerator. If not overcrowded they will last several days in a cool cellar.

Daphnia, named for a beautiful Greek goddess, receives blind homage by many aquarists. It is considered to be the one perfect food, and the more of it that can be fed, the better. In riding a theory, as well as a hobby, it is well to keep the eyes open. Daphnia is truly an important fishfood, but it is not magical, nor without defects, nor even dangers. Owing to its soft but insoluble shell it acts as a laxative, and too much laxative produces a fish which is not plump. This tendency can be overcome by alternating with fishfoods containing starchy substances, such as wheat or oatmeal. Occasionally fishes die from gorging on Daphnia. This can be true of other foods, but it is more likely to happen with Daphnia, for they are excessively fond of them. As has been pointed out, fishes may be robbed of necessary oxygen by the presence of an excessive number of Daphnia.

The most serious objection to Daphnia is the company they keep. In those pools, feeding on the Daphnia, are many enemies of fishes. They are mostly larvae of small size, impossible to detect, but which grow apace when feeding on valuable aquarium fishes. In recent years we are observing more and more of strange maladies attacking our exotic fishes: lumps on the body, open sores, bloody excrescences, worms emerging from the bodies of eyes. Possibly some of these distressing (and as yet incurable) maladies are brought in with the fishes from some ripe Daphnia pond where thousands of forms of life swarm. In the majority of instances where these rare diseases appear,

(Cont'd page 11)

Daphnia are being fed to fishes. Having pointed out the disadvantages of Daphnia, the fact remains that their merits far outweigh their faults.

Artificial Propagation of Daphnia

While Daphnia are raised in large quantities by wholesale breeders having outdoor pools, and although we sometimes hear claims of persons who have raised enough in a tub to supply their fishes over winter, it may be put down for a fact that with our present knowledge of the subject it is not possible to breed enough in a tub, either summer or winter, to satisfy an average amateur's collection of fishes, even though they were fed 50 per cent on other food. It would be quite an achievement to comfortably feed a pair of 2-inch fishes for a year entirely on Daphnia grown in a tub. If we do not look for too much and are satisfied with an occasional light feeding, it can be done and is interesting to try. An old wooden tub or trough is best. It should be in a bright light.

The best food for Daphnia is green water. This can be produced in unlimited quantities when not wanted! However, slightly alkaline water, plenty of light and a little sheep manure mixed with rotted leaves will produce either green water or other conditions favorable to the growth of Daphnia. Water lightly clouded by yeast feeds them well.

Open Daphnia ponds may be enriched by the decomposition of almost any vegetable or animal substances.

Wholesale breeders requiring large quantities of Daphnia often have several culture ponds for the purpose. They are approximately 2 feet deep and have soil bottoms. Average size, about 50 feet square. In order to be assured of a constant supply, they are

(Cont'd page 12)

fertilized and used in rotation. The dry soil is heavily fertilized with liquid manure and soy bean flour. This is exposed to the sun until dry, thus eliminating most aquatic enemies. The pond is then filled. If Daphnia have previously been in the pond, they will soon start breeding again. If not, a few breeders should be introduced as soon as the water has turned green. Multiplication will be rapid. Ponds may be fertilized with stable litter and dead leaves, partially covered by earth.

Daphnia introduced into a duck pond usually do very well.

Drainage from a barnyard or pig-sty emptying into a pond produces a rich culture medium for Daphnia.

Midsummer heat is hard on Daphnia. Some protection from it would be an advantage. A source of fresh water to be used during dry periods is desirable, as the water becomes too "thick" at times.

In the Fall dark frost-resisting egg capsules form on the bodies of the females. They drop off, and in spring they hatch. Summer females are born fertile, and deliver their young alive. Males appear in the fall.

EXCHANGE MAGAZINES IN OUR LIBRARY

by Dan Jeffrey, OVAS, Senior Society

Did you ever stop to think why your Society maintains a Library? Well, I never thought much about it myself until I was asked by our editor to look over some of the publications of other Tropical Fish Societies and see what they are offering their members.

Consequently, I picked three publications at random, i.e., "The Scalare", published by the Aquarium Society of Dallas, Texas;

(Cont'd page 13)

"The Monthly Publication" of the Tacoma Aquarium Society, and "Tank Talk", published by the Midwestern Aquarist Club of Omaha, Nebraska. These three magazines are received regularly by our Society in exchange for our own OVAS News, and all of them are worth the time of any of our members.

I will deal with "The Scalare" first. By it's size I judge that they have a large membership and I would be interested in knowing if their membership is larger than ours, since we have 133 members and are the largest society of its kind in Canada.

While I will not attempt to reproduce any article in full I would like to draw to your attention two well written articles. One is titled "Spawning from Badis badis", while the other is entitled "Fish Breeding by the Barometer". This latter is an exhaustive and well authenticated account of an interesting experiment. I am sure there are many who will find therein listed some of the very things which they themselves have observed, without taking the trouble to do some research along the suggested line.

I would like to see someone - Dr. Wray Bowden perhaps - do some work along the lines given in this article and report on its authenticity at some future date. The articles to which I refer are both contained in the issue of February, 1959.

The Tacoma Aquarium Society publication has not yet become a very large magazine, but still big enough for the society which I believe is still fairly small in members, as it is noted that they can still be accommodated in private homes.

Since this Society is trying to get members to attend the meetings, it reminds me of our own society some five years ago when we were lucky to get twenty members per meeting. They seem to have the spirit necessary to carry on and I am sure they will survive and

(Cont'd page 14)

expand rapidly. They can't fail if they all have the humorous outlook of Jack Rummel who describes himself as a budding journalist and who has written an outstanding and enlightening article entitled "Ichthyophthirius Multifiliiis For Fun and profit". I commend this article as profitable reading on dull evenings and you might find the way to make a fast buck.

This article may be found in the January issue of The Tacoma Aquarium Society Magazine.

"Tank Talk", published by the Midwestern Aquarist Club of Omaha, Nebraska, indicates that their Society is in a healthy state as to membership and finance.

The February, 1959, issue contains some interesting articles on "Planting Technique", "Temperature", "Lighting an Aquarium" as well as "diaper news" and "Fishy Facts". This last item I heartily recommend.

This review covers only three of the many magazines in our Library and in future issues I will try to review a few more. I would like the publishers of all these magazines to know that their efforts are being examined carefully and are in demand by our membership.

XXXXXXXXXX

OUR "FISH OF THE MONTH" JAR SHOWS
by Ben Davis, Director, Show Committee

During the first four months of last year, there were 34 entries in the Jar Show from fifteen different members. So far this year, there have been only 30 entries from twelve members. This should not be so, with a larger membership than last year, so let us all try to get our favorite fish in the Jar Shows.

(Cont'd page 15)

Up to now Wilf Doucette is leading the race for total points during the year with 12, while Betty and Phil Curry are close behind with 9. (Last year Claire and Heinz Kroeger amassed 16 points to nose out Roger Trottier, who collected 15). Let's all get in there and give Wilf, Phil and Betty, a run for their money??? No money, but there will be prizes for those finishing first and second.

I am wondering how many Serpae Tetras we will see in this month's show - last year there were only two. Finally, if any of you have any ideas regarding these shows, don't be afraid to put them in the Suggestion Box. Happy Showings!

XXXXXXXXXX

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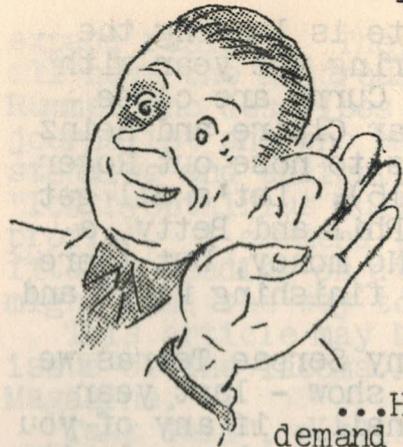
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PHONE..(open Friday 9.00 PM)..PA9-2057



HAVE
YOU
HEARD
THE
LATEST????

...Hi! ...by popular demand I have returned with both ears tuned to AM and FM to give you the latest....

...This is not very funny but rather amusing to me...It seems that Ed Parisien had 3 large tanks containing hundreds of young fish and had given instructions to Mrs. Parisien to feed the young fry some micro worms each day...A few days later, Mrs Parisien reported to Ed in the hospital that there were no fish in the tanks. After many questions, it came as a shock to Ed to find out that his good wife was feeding the micro worm culture to the fish instead of the little worms found around the sides of the container... no fish...no micro worms...yet Ed had a good laugh...

...our CONGRATULATIONS go to Mrs. A.R. Cobill, member of the Senior Society... First Commissioner to be appointed for the Ottawa Valley Girl Guides is Mrs. A.R. Cobill of Aylmer. Commissioner Cobill whose new appointment has been announced by Quebec Provincial Association, will have under her Guiding eye, Aylmer, Shawville, Hull, Gatineau, Buckingham and Thurso. This means 31 Guiders in charge of eight Brownie Packs and seven Guide companies

(Cont'd page 17)

will come to her for advice...Mrs. Cobill has been in one phase or another of Guiding all her life. "I was a Brownie, Guide and Ranger in England as a girl and I never learned anything that hasn't proven useful in my life," she declares. "I believe that the Girl Guide Association is one organization that really cares for the girls and gives them an excellent training for life." ...Mrs. Cobill gives full credit to her wonderful mother-in-law. With three active children and a full time Ottawa office job, she wouldn't have time to take on the extra duties of Girl Guide Commissioner if it weren't for Mrs. Cobill Sr...Both the Commissioner and her husband are tropical fish enthusiasts, too, and belong to the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society...

...Crazy Hits...the latest on the Hit Parade. The Sidewalks of New York...A Bicycle Built For Two...In The Good Old Summertime... may be sung together with good results... real crazy...a good one for Phil Curry, Geo Bowie and Jack Dirks to sing at our picnic...

...At the last meeting the Senior Society was honoured with a visit by Mr. Chartrand and Mr. Pat Lucas, President of the Pembroke and District Aquarium Society, Pembroke, Ontario...we certainly hope that it will be not too long before they honour us with another visit...

...SEE YOU AT THE BIG SHEW - MAY 28TH...

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Surely you could write something to fill this space.....

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER
 Senior Society

We are very pleased to announce that Gerry Lalonde has agreed to assume the responsibility of replacing Mr. Ed Parisien as Director of the Junior Society. Mr. Don Thompson has kindly expressed his willingness to aid him, as Assistant Director.

The Show Committee is very disappointed in having to announce that, to date, there have been few entries in the Home Show, which commenced on April 15th. Please enter your best tank tonight, or phone Ben Davis at [redacted]. This is your opportunity to show your tank with full-grown plants, and fish which haven't been disturbed by being transported to an exhibition.

We have recently heard from the Central Canada Exhibition Committee informing us that we will again have space in the Horticultural Building at the Exhibition commencing on August 21. Last year we had 25 tanks in our display. Let's strive to make it a bigger and better effort in 1959.

Claire Kroeger
 (Claire Kroeger) President

MEMBERSHIP JOTTINGS
 by Dan Jeffrey

Last month's effort, while carrying this writer's "by-line", was not written by me but was something substituted by a ghost-writer without my prior knowledge. But more of this later.

We are pleased to report that Ed Parisien came home from hospital some days ago and is feeling very much his old self again but the Doctor, God bless him, has ordered Ed to take it easy and we must all see that the orders are lived up to by not allowing him to get involved in any of the cares or worries of our Society.

The sympathy of the Society is extended to Mrs. George Spence who was recently bereaved by the death of her brother Mr. Sydney Cluff.

We also wish to welcome as new members Mrs. Lorna Olley and Mr. Gordon Hillman. We are also pleased to note that membership renewals were received from Mr. and Mrs. Murray Fitzgerald and Mr. C.C. Bucklee. Did you know that the entire Fitzgerald family are registered members, the daughters Patsy and Teresa being members of the Junior Society of which Patsy is Vice-President.

Some members have not yet renewed their membership and this is regretted as the Society will soon be obliged to stop the mailing of meeting notices and, I believe, in these cases the magazine has been discontinued. Please send in, or better still, bring in your membership fee and get back into good standing. If transportation is keeping you away I can only repeat that transportation will be arranged if you will get in touch with me at [redacted].

I am sure that you will agree that last month's meeting was an excellent one and that everyone enjoyed Dr. Wray Bowden's
 (Cont'd page 20)

address on "Breeding Angel Fish".

Now to the question as to what happened to last month's article for this corner.

I had the temerity to criticize the Executive Officers for not getting meetings started on time but the article was intercepted and came under the scrutiny of the Magazine Committee who promptly set themselves up as Censors and scrapped my puny effort. The Editor substituted an innocuous little script purportedly written by me, but I can assure you that it was nothing like the original and should not have carried my "by line".

Note from Editor

The article referred to by my good friend Dan Jeffrey was, in my opinion, an item for discussion and necessary action by the Executive Officers and Directors at an Executive Officers meeting. This was done and action taken to correct errors which Dan brought to light. This was no puny effort, although out of place in our Society magazine.

As the editor of The OVAS News I decide on what will be printed, how it is printed, and try to do the job to the best of my ability. Being only human I have made a number of errors, but, I do believe that the steps I took regarding this article was correct. However, I do apologize for substituting an "innocuous little script" which carried the "by line" of Mr. Dan Jeffrey.

Harvey J. Wittenberg
(Harvey J. Wittenberg)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

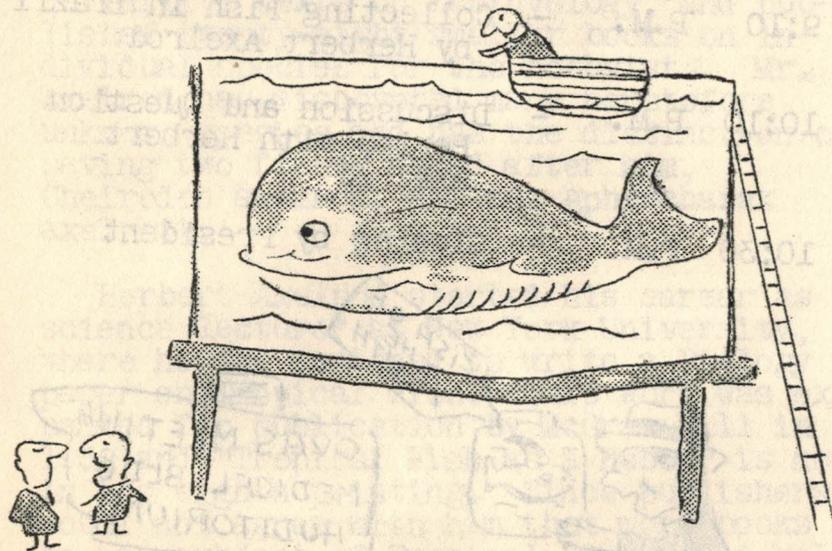
REMEMBER to mention the OVAS News when you buy from our ADVERTISERS

MAY 28 MEETING

TIME : 8 P.M. SHARP
PLACE: MEDICAL AUDITORIUM
UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
MCDUGAL STREET
(for this meeting only)

Special Invitation

The OVAS Junior Society, The Kingston Aquarium Society, The Montreal Aquarium Society and The Pembroke and District Aquarium Society have been invited to this meeting to hear Herbert R. Axelrod speak on "Collecting Fish in Brazil".

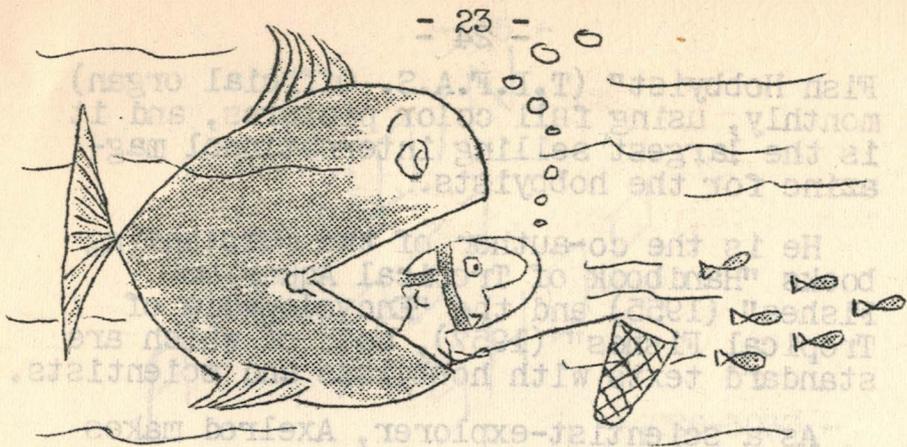


This one was a bit of a problem!
Tropicals grow big in Brazil!



PROGRAMME

- 8 P.M. SHARP - Opening by President
- 8:05 P.M. - Fish of the Month Talk
"Serpae Tetra"
- 8:10 P.M. - T.I.F.A.S.
by Herbert Axelrod
- 8:40 P.M. - Intermission
- 9:10 P.M. - Collecting Fish in Brazil
by Herbert Axelrod
- 10:10 P.M. - Discussion and Question
Period with Herbert
Axelrod
- 10:30 P.M. - Closing by President



BIOGRAPHY OF HERBERT R. AXELROD, B.S., M.S.

At 31 Herbert Axelrod is undoubtedly the youngest, as well as the best known tropical fish expert in the World. As author, college teacher, lecturer, explorer, adventurer, scientist and publisher, he has already written six definitive texts on Ichthyology, and published twenty-eight smaller books on individual species for the hobbyist. Mr. Axelrod has discovered many heretofore unknown species and has the distinction of having two fishes named after him, Cheirodon axelrodi and the Aphyocharax axelrodi.

Herbert Axelrod started his career as a science lecturer at New York University, where he was assigned to write a Biology paper on Tropical Fish. This work was expanded for publication by McGraw-Hill in 1952 and "Tropical Fish as a Hobby" is now in its eighth printing. Since publishers would not agree with him that more books on the subject of Tropical Fish would sell, Axelrod began to publish his own soft cover editions. He now publishes the "Tropical

(Cont'd page 24)

"Fish Hobbyist" (T.I.F.A.S. Official organ) monthly, using full color pictures, and it is the largest selling international magazine for the hobbyists.

He is the co-author of two outstanding books "Handbook of Tropical Aquarium Fishes" (1955) and the "Encyclopedia of Tropical Fishes" (1957), both of which are standard texts with hobbyists and scientists.

As a scientist-explorer, Axelrod makes regular trips to the far corners of the World, and has collected in every continent to bring back rare specimens which he donates to the United States National Museum in Washington, D.C.

Many of his specimens that are brought back alive, are put into the hands of picked breeders, and have become international "best sellers" as they become available.

On a trip to the Belgian Congo, and Central West Africa, he brought back scores of new species plus a Calamoichthys, a rare snake-life fish rarely seen except as a fossil impression in rocks. His last expedition was made into Brazil, where he and Harald Schultz, a world-famous Ethnologist, connected with the Museum in Sao Paulo and also interested in fishes went to the little-travelled interior of this huge country.

Mr. Axelrod has contributed greatly to The International Federation of Aquarium Societies (TIFAS), and serves the Federation as an Officer on the Board of Governors.

Mr. Axelrod is married to the former Evelyn Miller, a pet expert in her own right and the author of several books on birds and dogs. When not travelling all over the World looking for tiny aquarium fish, they live in Jersey City, New Jersey.

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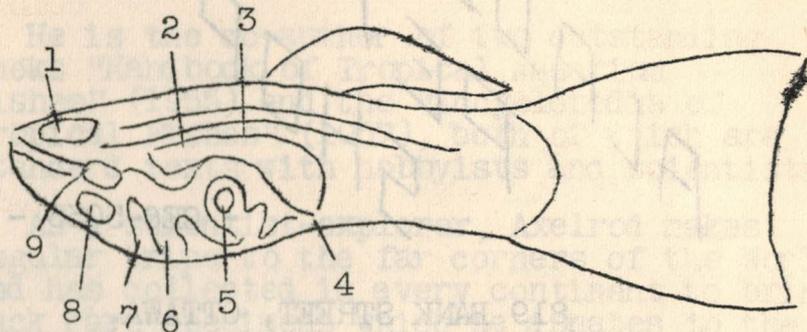
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THE GUPPY

Reprinted from the "Colorado Aquarist" The Colorado Aquarium Society, USA.



- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. Brain | 6. Stomach |
| 2. Air Bladder | 7. Liver |
| 3. Intestine | 8. Heart |
| 4. Spermaries | 9. Gills |
| 5. Fat Mass | |

Circulatory System

The heart of a guppy is different from that of a man. It has two compartments instead of four. Blood is forced from the ventricle, when it contracts, to the gills, where it picks up oxygen and gives up carbon dioxide.

Gills, which serve as lungs, because of their exposed position, are subject to diseases. Each gill consists of a bony arch which has on its front surface teeth-like structures called gill rakers, and on its rear or posterior surface, gill filaments which are always bathed by a stream of water passing from the mouth out beneath the operculum.

The air bladder is what the guppy maintains its balance and position in the water with. Many blood vessels line this bladder wall, and help maintain the gaseous content, regulating the amount of oxygen. The air

(Cont'd page 27)



TROPICAL FISH HANDBOOK CATALOG

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bladder helps to furnish a storage reservoir for air, as well as acting as an organ of maintenance of volume to assure the fish replacing an equal weight of water.

When you see your fish starved for oxygen, they will come to the surface, exposing their bodies, leaving only their tails submerged. This act is made possible by the swim bladder.

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

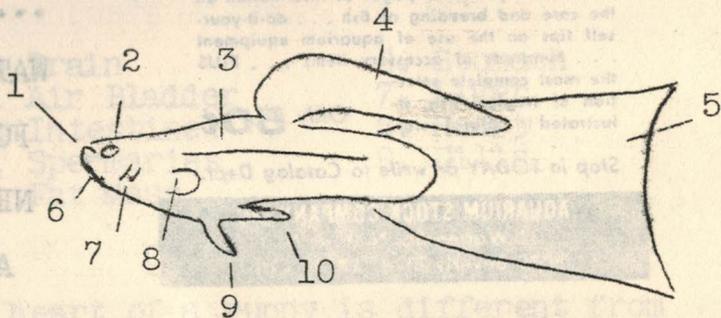
Guppies have teeth in their jaws, and in the roof of their mouth as well. In the mouth there is a tongue. Behind the tongue is the pharynx, and on each side of it we find gill slits, which allow water to pass into the gill chamber. Leading from the

(Cont'd page 28)

pharynx to the voluminous stomach is a short gullet or esophagus. From the stomach, the intestine moves food being digested, in a curved route, to the anal opening, just in front of the anal fin.

The guppy has a liver which manufactures bile for digestion. It also has a spleen which helps purify blood. Digestion is rapid, as witnessed by the large amount of food which can be handled by a guppy in a day.

EXTERNAL STRUCTURE



- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Mouth | 6. Chin |
| 2. Eye | 7. Operculum |
| 3. Lateral Line | (Gill covering) |
| 4. Dorsal fin | 8. Pectoral Fin |
| 5. Tail, or caudal fin | 9. Ventral Fin |
| | 10. Gonopodium |

The above descriptions, and locations of parts are applicable to all fish. It is because of slight differences, or typical arrangements, that Ichthyologists are able to identify the many fish that are being discovered each day.

Have you any BEEFS about your Society?
FOR ACTION use the SUGGESTION BOX.

THE 1959 TIFAS CONVENTION
by Bill Forward, Junior Society, Wilf
Doucette and Harvey Wittenberg, Senior
Society, O.V.A.S.

Thursday, April 9th, about 10.30 PM, we arrived at the Arlington Hotel, Bingampton, New York. The hotel clerk stated that there was a suite available and that there would be no charge for Bill as he was under 14 years of age. The hotel clerk got a shock when Bill said, "I am 15 years old".

During the remainder of the evening we met a great many delegates and members of the Board. Canadian representation consisted of delegates from: Canadian Aquaria Society, The Aquarists, Toronto, The Toronto Aquarium Society, Niagara Aquarium Society, Winnipeg Aquarium Society and THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY.

Friday morning we registered, received a very attractive folder containing the convention programme, copies of various magazines, literature on fishes and samples of fish food. Later in the morning Harvey attended the Board meetings and Wilf and Bill took in the guided tour through ANSCO, which included lunch. This tour was of special interest to photographic hobbyists.

During the evening we were together again and attended an informal get-together party at AnSCO Lake Club House. Here we met the officers, members of the Board, heard an informal discussion on photographing home aquariums, and the showing of a film titled "Spawning of Angel Fish". Refreshments were served and two raffles were held: one 30 (plus) gallon aquarium and a 20 gallon aquarium with stand etc. Wilf won the 30 gallon aquarium which immediately started a discussion as to how we were going to get it home, then, the second number was drawn and

(Cont'd page 30)

the 20 gallon aquarium, with stand, etc, was won by Harvey. We were going to have problems, but they are the kind you don't mind too much.

It was rather late when we got back to the hotel. We were enjoying a good restful sleep when it was shattered by the phone, about 6.30 AM. This phone call was for Harvey to attend Breakfast with the Board members (this happened each morning).

The next day we attended the General Business Session and then a special luncheon. Another raffle was held and this time Bill was the proud owner of one 5 gallon aquarium and 3 large sea horses, including 25 to 30 young fry. We were now wondering where we could get a trailer.

Shortly after this luncheon, Mr. Jon Groetzinger gave a very interesting talk on "Salt Water Aquarium Fish". There was a display of marine fish that was just out of this world. The colour of these fish are just impossible to describe and impossible to compare with our tropicals. Did you know that there are marine fish named French Angels, Cowfish, Blueheads, Porkfish, Hermit Crabs, Trunkfish, File Fish, Spiny Box Fish, Slippery Dicks, Porcupine Fish, Butterflies of all kinds, Hi-Hats, Pipe Fish, Squirrel Fish, Grunts and many more queer names. The shape of some of these fish are very odd, however, the colour puts our tropicals to shame.

The nomination and election of officers were held, resulting in three Canadians being elected to the TIFAS Board of Governors:

Western Canada - Dr. Albrecht, Calgary.
Central Canada - Mr. Robert Curry, Winnipeg.
Eastern Canada - Mr. Harvey Wittenberg,
Ottawa.

The Chairman of TIFAS is Mr. John Haas, of Rochester, New York. (Cont'd page 31)

A guided tour was held through Slocum's Water Gardens, Rainbow Aquarium and Conklin Sullivan Seeds and Pets. Prices for their fish averaged much the same as our own pet shops. Slocum's Water Gardens consisted of many large hatcheries. The gardens would certainly be something to see about the month of June or July.

A banquet was held, welcome speech by Mayor Burns of Bingampton, presentation of awards, and an exceptionally informative and interesting talk, with slides, by Mr. Herbert Axelrod and Mr. Harold Shultz, on their recent trip, "Collecting Tropical Fish in South America". This was, in our opinion, one of the highlights of the convention. The door prize was won by Harvey (members were wondering if this was fixed) which was a copy of the Revised Encyclopedia of Tropical Fishes, and autographed by Mr. Axelrod, Mr. Vorderwinkler and Mr. Harold Shultz. (Incidentally, Mr. Shultz travelled from Brazil to attend this convention).

On Sunday, the third general business session was held with the installation, presentation of proposed plans for 1959-60, and the selection of next year's convention site. It was agreed that the next convention would be held in CHICAGO. An offer was made by members in Honolulu but due to distance and expense, Chicago was accepted.

The convention came to a close with a very interesting talk by Mr. Paul Hannel (guppy expert) on his recent trip to Germany, and visit to the many tropical fish societies in Germany. Mr. Hannel explained how the societies in Germany were organized and stated that there was 900 to 1,000 tropical fish clubs and more being formed each month. In comparison, the German Societies are so well organized that it does put our societies to shame. After this talk an open forum was held with Frank Alger, guppy expert, William
(Cont'd page 32)

Vorderwinkler, editor for TFH Magazine, and Fred Pieroni, Research TIFAS. This open forum was rather interesting, and was surprised to hear Mr. Alger talk about his green guppies, which according to the pictures, they are really outstanding. Mr. Alger explained that the all brilliant-green fancy guppy was actually not planned and that a great many had been destroyed before it was realized that an all-green guppy had been developed. Today, the green fancy guppy is in great demand, and of course, the price is rather high.

This ended the convention, with another prize being won by Wilf - a Drosophila fly culture.

On Monday morning we said good-bye to the few remaining delegates and proceeded on our way to Ottawa. On our way home we stopped in Syracuse and Watertown to visit some of the pet shops. One of the pet shops in Syracuse had a Discus, at least 10 inches in diameter, very colourful, and selling for ONLY \$75.00.

We had won so many prizes that we wondered if the custom people would believe us. When we arrived at the border, about 10.30 PM, the conversation went something like this:

"We have three aquariums and",

"AQUARIUMS"??????

"Yes, a square glass box that you put tropical fish in".

"You have fish"???

"No, they are at home...we have three dead sea horses".

We did not have to say anything more and were waved on our way.

The convention was a success. We would suggest that you make plans NOW to attend the next convention with Bill Forward, Wilf Doucette and Harvey Wittenberg in CHICAGO.

XXXXXXXXXX

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EVERYTHING FOR THE OVAS MEMBER

EXCHANGE MAGAZINES

by Jean Duguay, Magazine Exchange Reporter

The O.V.A.S. is now exchanging magazines with approximately 25 other societies across this Continent. This article, which we hope to bring to you every month, in the OVAS News, will list the articles from those exchange magazines which we think noteworthy and especially interesting to our membership.

To start with, let's look through "The Colorado Aquarist", in our opinion, one of the best Aquarium Society magazines that we have come across. In their March '59 issue, we suggest that you look up the following articles, "Feeding Fish During Absence", "Fish of the Month: The Guppies" and "Twelve Commandments". In the February '59 issue of the same magazine, some articles that might interest hobbyists of this society are:

(Cont'd page 34)

"Fish of the Month: Barbs", "Aquatic Plants Nitella", Ick and Fungus" and also an article entitled "Infusoria".

Finally, in "The Colorado Aquarist, January '59, these two articles should be interesting: "Fatty Degeneration of Internal Organs", for the more technically inclined enthusiast and "Fish of the Month: The Brachydanios".

In "The Scalare, March '59, "Hybrid Vigor in Fishes" by C.W. Emmens, an article which deals with the dangers of inbreeding, should be of more than passing interest to what we shall call the "professional" hobbyist.

"The Tropical Breeze", in it's March issue has a piece for beginners "From Live-bearers to Egglayers, The Easy Way".

"For Beginners Only" and "Finned Oddities: The Wrestling Halfbeak", are two articles featured in "Fin-Fare of March '59.

Finally, for the well to do aquarist, "Tropical Fish Hobbyist", for March '59. TFH has an article entitled "The Long Wait" by Carl Naja, which deals with the breeding of The Discus.

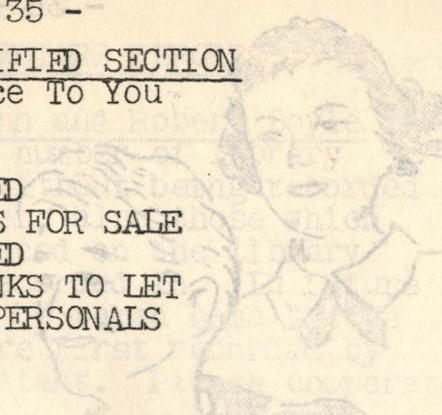
All the magazines mentioned above, and many more, can be obtained from your Society Library; one should consult these magazines in order to further his own knowledge with the experience of other hobbyists. If, in leafing through some periodicals you find an interesting feature not listed here, why not let us know so we can let other members of the Society profit by it.

We hope that this article has helped you in some small way and that we can look forward to the pleasure of seeing you all again next month.

DON'T MISS THE MAY 28TH MEETING

OVAS CLASSIFIED SECTION
A Service To You

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TANKS TO LET
PERSONALS



WANTED

...2 stainless steel aquariums, 24 x 12 x 12, complete with reflectors and tops. Phone Dr. Jackson at [redacted] in the evening.

SITUATIONS WANTED

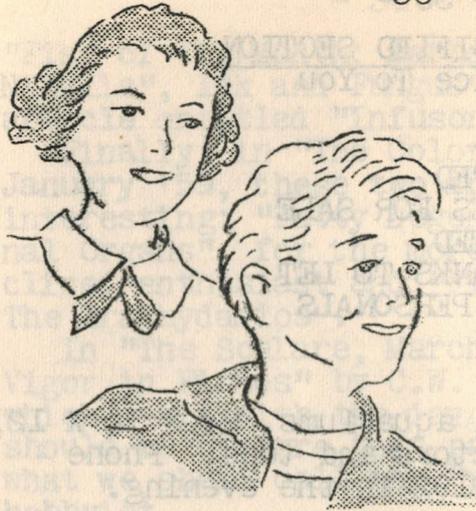
...students, members of your Society, are looking for summer jobs...contact Harvey Wittenberg, [redacted].

PERSONALS

...we all have beefs at one time or another but don't expect any action by telling them to the member sitting next to you...if you want action use the SUGGESTION BOX available at each meeting.

This is a service to you (Senior and Junior). If you would like to take advantage of this classified section just phone [redacted], Harvey Wittenberg. This service is free to members of O.V.A.S.

WHEN YOU POINT your finger accusingly at someone else...remember...you have three fingers pointing at YOU!



O V A S

JUNIOR SOCIETY

SECTION

Editor:
Larry Neumann

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Junior Society

As most of you know, our last meeting was Parent's Night. This meeting was very successful and my thanks go out to all who attended. We heard a very interesting talk by Mr. Pieter van der Brugh of the Senior Society and also a talk by the Vice-President of the Senior Society, Mr. Roger Trottier.

I have been informed that there are very few articles being received from the Junior Society for our OVAS News. I would like each member to write an article for our section of the news - with a little effort we can continue the fine efforts of other years.

I am very pleased with our membership and we have been recruiting new members at each meeting. However, if all the members would put forth a real effort I am sure we could bring in twice the number.

Our OVAS picnic is going to be held on Friday, June 19th - if raining it will be Friday, June 26th.

Ian Woods
(Ian Woods) President

EXECUTIVE/DIRECTORS REPORTS

Library - Larry Neumann and Robert Boyle
At our last meeting a number of library books were taken out without being recorded in our library register, also those which were returned were placed on the library table without being recorded in. In future no library books will be taken home by the members unless they are first recorded by the librarian or assistant. Please cooperate.

Magazine - Director, Larry Neumann
Many thanks to Graham Conway, Secretary, for his fine article on the Betta. When are you going to send in your article?

Programme - Director, Chipper Vickers
An invitation has been extended to all Junior Society members and friends to attend the Senior Society regular meeting, May 28th, at 8.00 PM, to hear a talk by Mr. Herbert Axelrod. This is one meeting you should NOT miss.

Your suggestions and comments regarding our programmes at the meetings will be appreciated.

Social - Director, Andrew Holdham
All members are asked to take greater care so that there will be less accidents with our soft drinks.

Mark the following dates on your calendar: June 19th, (if raining - June 26th) for our OVAS picnic.

Membership - Director, Burton Grundy
We welcome the following new members: Donnamay Janzen, Johnny Janzen and John Stairs. Our membership now totals 43. Don't forget to sign the attendance register at each meeting and pick up your name card. Name cards are to be returned after the adjournment of the meeting.

(Cont'd page 38)

Show - Director, Gordon Wordon

At our last meeting it was disappointing to see only two entries in our Jar Show. This month we have the Neon Tetra as our fish of the month. I am sure every member has a Neon, so let us make every effort to enter the jar show - you may be the lucky one to win the prize.

We should be making preparations to prepare our show aquarium for the annual society tropical fish display to be held during the Central Canada Exhibition. Now is the time to buy your plants and fish to give them an opportunity to grow and get accustomed to the show aquarium. There are many exceptionally fine trophies to be won.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

BREEDING THE SIAMESE FIGHTING FISH

(Betta Splendens)

by Graham Conway, OVAS, Junior Society

Many people who would like to breed fish, when looking for a fish to start on, will take one look at the betta in a tropical fish book and then turn the pages to the white cloud or zebra. This is because they see that the betta has a fairly complicated breeding procedure and, therefore, think that it will take an expert to breed them.

The first egg layers I bred were Bettas and I found it quite easy and extremely fascinating when a little care was used. I list this under the following headings:

Choosing the fish

When choosing bettas, get a young pair, not too small, but with good colour and fin formation, and it helps if the male is

(Cont'd page 39)

a little larger than the female.

Conditioning

After you get the pair home, do not try to breed them right away as this will not work. The pair should be introduced to each other in a tank for a few hours (a community tank will do) and then the female should be put in a pint jar, floating in the community tank at about 75°F. (It helps if she can see other fish). The male should be in the tank or in another jar.

For the next two weeks generous feedings at least once a day of white worms, chopped earthworms or chopped liver and steak should be given to both fish - this is especially essential for the female - until they are noticeably fat just after a feeding. After about 10 to 12 days the female should be bulging, even if she has not eaten for a day. When this is noticeable, they are almost ready to be bred.

The Breeding Tank

A tank of 5 to 15 gallons should be used and set up as follows: no gravel, five inches of slightly aged water, a bunch of plants at one end and a sprig of water sprite at the other end, opposite the bulb on the reflector. If the tank has a glass bottom, it is best to put a piece of dark cloth underneath so that the eggs that drop to the bottom during the breeding will be easily seen by the male.

Use a good, steady, thermostatically controlled heater and hook it over the edge of a water-filled jam jar placed in the tank at all times and when it registers a steady 79° to 81°F, you are ready to start.

Breeding

Place the male and female in separate jars in the breeding aquarium and when the temperatures have equalized, tip the male

(Cont'd page 40)

gently into the tank but leave the female in her jar and remove the jar that the male was in. (You should now have two jars in the aquarium, one for the female and one for the heater, if you have any more, read this again).

Now leave the female in her jar and the male free in the tank until the male builds a bubble-nest of about two inches by two inches on the surface, probably around the piece of water sprite or a similar plant. (It might be several days before he builds a nest but keep feeding them on live foods).

When the nest is built, release the female and watch the pair closely; the male will come up to the female and spread out his gills and fins, swimming slowly towards her. At this point the female will either make a wild dash for the clump of plants in the aquarium, with the male in hot pursuit, or fold her fins closely against her body and do a kind of wriggling slow dance. When she does this dance, the male will lead her to the nest and breeding will begin. If they do not get this far the first time and the female tries to escape, separate them and feed them well for a few more days.

When I began to breed my pair, it took five times of putting them together, one or two days apart, to get them to breed. On the fourth time I put them together, they attempted to mate for about half an hour but no eggs came. Two days and about 30 white worms later they were successful. Do not be discouraged - after all most fish do not breed the first time they are put together, and if you keep trying and they keep trying, something is sure to happen sooner or later.

When they actually do breed, there will be a dance and show of fins under the nest, and the male will wrap himself around the

(Cont'd page 41)

female in an "embrace" for about 10 to 15 seconds. After about five embraces, eggs appear in batches of about five to thirty from the female's ovipositor (a small white tube that appears during conditioning). During the embrace, the male fertilizes the eggs.

This will go on for about two hours with the fishes picking up the eggs and placing them in the nest after each embrace, and in the end there will be over 200 eggs in the nest. With my pair the female picked up most of the eggs, but this is unusual.

When they are finished breeding, the male will chase the female away. She should be removed to another tank, leaving the male with the nest, washing the eggs in his mouth and rebuilding the nest.

Life With Father

In about 30 to 44 hours, if the temperature has stayed at 80°F and the light is kept on all the time, the eggs will hatch. (Both of these conditions are very important. If there is no light the male will go to sleep, and if the temperature varies too much the eggs will rot). All that you will see is a bunch of tiny hair-like things 1/16th of an inch long waving below the nest, and, every so often falling about 1/4 inch out of the nest and then darting back up again. If one does not make it back to the top and falls toward the bottom, the father will either catch it in mid-fall or on the bottom and place it back in the nest.

In two to four days the babies will leave the nest and the father will go frantic trying to keep them in. Now is the time to carefully remove him to another tank.

Feeding

As soon as the fish breed, or just before, is the time to set up infusoria cultures

(Cont'd page 42)

with lettuce leaves or infusoria tablets in jam jars, or, half a finely crushed tablet in the breeding tank. This is the accepted way of producing the tiny microbes called infusoria, but I and several other people in the society have found a better method: by adding one teaspoonful of pasturized milk (no cream but not skim), to every five gallons of water every day as soon as the Father is removed. However, there are two things to watch: (1) make sure there is no surface film on the water by using an air stone (no filter) in the aquarium; (2) never add milk until the last lot has disappeared and the only cloudiness in the water is small streaks of white infusoria readily seen with a magnifying glass.

In about two to four weeks the babies will be about three quarters the size of a baby guppy, and able to eat newly hatched or frozen brine shrimp (50¢ a package) or, if you can get it, they will eat live baby daphnia and micro-worms.

When they get about two months old, you may want to do what I am now doing, although I doubt it. Get a ball of about ten white worms, lay them on a piece of wood and chop them up into 1/8 inch pieces with a razor blade. Then feed them to the babies off a tooth pick. This really gives results, but if you are squeamish about performing the operation, more brine shrimp and fine dried food will do.

When the babies are three months old, you will find that, with luck, you will have about 50 left out of the 200 that hatched. You will not have any trouble disposing of them to pet shops and your friends.

Easy isn't it?

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

DON'T MISS THE BIG MEETING - MAY 28TH

RAISING DROSOPHILA

As Food For Aquarium Fishes
by Herald A. Burns, Southern Tier Aquarium
Society, USA.

The Drosophila fly is a fine supplementary live food for aquarium fishes and the following is an outline of how I have been able to propagate them.

Half-pint milk bottles are about the best size to keep these flies. I suggest you obtain a roll of inexpensive cotton for plugging the bottles. A tight cotton plug insures enough air will reach the flies and yet no flies can escape. To start a new culture I use the following procedure:

Dissolve a cake of fresh yeast in about three cups of water. Add a handful of agar-agar to the water and bring it to a boil. Then stir in a small jar of baby's banana food and two tablespoons of white corn syrup and boil for about ten minutes. Agar-agar is a white flakey substance and can be obtained at drug stores.

This culture medium should be poured hot into containers which have been sterilized; about 1/2" of medium in the bottom of the bottles is sufficient. Place a piece of stiff paper about 6" long standing up into this medium. This piece of cardboard provides a dry landing place on which the flies lay their eggs and live. The above mixture will be sufficient for at least a dozen bottles. For a constant supply I start them at various times, keeping the unused bottles in the refrigerator.

To start a culture transfer several of the flies into a new bottle and plug it with cotton. At comfortable room temperature and out of sunlight a new batch of adult flies should appear after ten days to two weeks and continue to emerge for two to three weeks. When the flies are to be fed to the fish,

(Cont'd page 44)

simply remove the plug and shake the flies into the aquarium. They float on top of the water and the fish have a great time snapping at them - fun, exercise and food for your fish!

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

ITEMS OF INTEREST

...From Tropical Topics...Fishy Fact - Anableps anableps, more commonly known as the foureye fish, which is found in northern South America, has good reason for its common name - foureye. The eyes are divided, horizontally into two sections. The upper is adepted for distant vision, while the lower section is near sighted for vision in the water. As the anableps swims at the surface of the water, it can watch for small particles floating at the surface and at the same time keep, "half aneye out", for danger below the surface.

...Did you Know -- that tinted glass will filter out some of the light reaching your aquarium and should not be used in the construction of tanks? That water from your aquarium is ideal for watering your potted house plants?

...It is best to introduce new fishes among others after feeding those who are already established in the aquarium.

...Strong healthy growing plants are just as essential to a well-managed aquarium as are good healthy fish.

...Place your aquarium where the temperature does not go to extremes and where there is sufficient light. NOT in the sun.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~