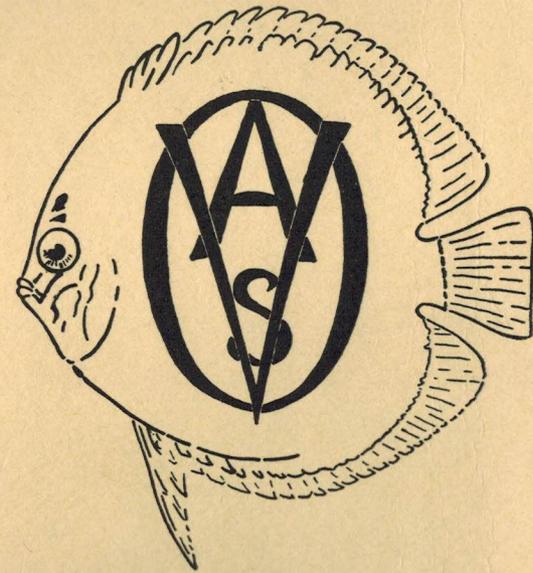


OVAS NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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



JUNE, JULY,
AUGUST 1959. OTTAWA, CANADA. VOL 5 No.5

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

MEETINGS

Junior Society

Thursday, June 18th 7.00 PM

Thursday, September 17th 7.00 PM

Senior Society

Thursday, June 25th 8.00 PM

Thursday, September 24th 8.00 PM

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

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MAILING ADDRESS

Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society
Post Office Box 1135,
OTTAWA 4, Ontario, Canada

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 independtly. 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

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

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Membership: Mr Dan Jeffrey
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Show: Mr Ben Davis
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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 (Picnic area towards highway - follow signs)

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 marshmallows, corn, and making popcorn. Soft drinks will also be served.

WHAT TO BRING:

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

Alan Griffin
Social Director

.....

OUR BIG SHOW AT THE "EX"

by Ben Davis, Director, Show Committee

Well, it will soon be Exhibition time again. Central Canada Ex, that is, and that means the busiest time of the year for us OVAS members. Let's see what has to be done.

First, we must get an entry form, fill it out and mail it as directed. (These will be available at this month's meeting, or by phoning me or Doug Young at CE3-6889). Then we must carefully plan exactly what we are going to show - which aquarium, fish,

(Cont'd page 5)

plants, etc. If any of these involve new items, better get them right away - putting it off may be too late. If you achieve a certain scaping effect which you particularly like, make a rough sketch of it before you tear it apart for transportation to the Ex. If you don't, you'll never arrange it exactly as it was, and this can be awfully annoying.

A word or two about that transportation chore - especially for the inexperienced. Perhaps the best way is to procure two large plastic bags - the pet shops usually have them. They are used together - one inside the other - for obvious reasons. After putting in your water, fish and plants (nothing hard, like gravel), just tie a single loop knot in the free end of the bags - both together. Provided there is no leak in the outer bag, a cardboard carton - rather small in area, but deep - is as good as anything to carry your fish in. In this way you can keep them in their own water, which means you will not have to add very much at the Ex.

The approaching vacation time often presents a good opportunity of finding attractive rocks or driftwood which you may wish to add to your aquaria.

One little point to keep in mind (especially for anyone exhibiting for the first time) is that our show is open to the public, which means that our aquaria will be seen by thousands of people. Therefore, we all - both individually and collectively - strive to make everything just as beautiful and attractive as possible. This impresses the viewers with our hobby, some of whom are encouraged to try their hand at it, and some are even moved to join our Society. (It was at the Ex two years ago that this writer first learned of OVAS and was persuaded to join).

So much for the propaganda! To get on with more serious matters - at this month's meeting I will be asking all of you to volunteer your

(Cont'd page 6)

assistance at the Ex, to help out in some way or other. So please think it over after you read this, and please volunteer. (No, not the way we do it in the RCAF!).

Finally, I hope every member in the Society will enter an aquarium in this year's show. No matter how many there are, we'll make room for them all. And PLEASE try to let us have your entry forms (filled in, of course - either the upper or lower half, or both) by the FIRST OF AUGUST.

For the benefit of those who have never seen our beautiful trophies (and those who would like to see them again), they will all be at our meeting on the 25th.

See you at the EX!

.....

DURING...JUNE...JULY...AUGUST

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WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOUR SOCIETY?

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

JUNE - June the month for outdoor activity! If you did not build an outdoor pool a few months ago, by now you are wishing you had. In June a pool really begins to come into its own.

The beauty of outdoor pools is of course the prime reason for their existence, but there are a number of secondary values. Perhaps the most important of these is the opportunity for raising tropical fishes under spacious conditions. If the water temperature stays between the extremes of 68 and 90 degrees, almost any of the tropicals will thrive outdoors. With such conditions they require little or no attention, even when it comes to feeding. The live-bearers do especially well out-doors in thickly planted pools. The pool is an ideal place for fishes when the owners go away on vacations, as they generally find enough food to sustain themselves.

If you are one of the few who has difficulty raising snails, try them out-doors. In the average pool they are even more prolific than in an aquarium.

There are a number of pool enemies that must be watched. The most destructive of these are fish-eating birds, frogs, dogs (the ones that like to sit in water on a hot day), fishing cats, water beetles and children. Children are mentioned last, not because they are least, but rather so that they can be emphasized. Few creatures can do more harm to a pool than youngsters with an ample supply of stones or with a big "stirring" stick.

Just as June is the month of weddings for humans, fishes, too, are moved to amorous actions. How often aquarists are surprised to find a pair spawning right in the community tank. If the fish are valuable, quick action

is necessary to save the eggs. Bubble-nesters are easily removed by carefully placing a bowl under the nest and lifting the whole thing out. If the spawn has been deposited on plants, remove the whole plant to another tank. With very valuable fish, the best solution is to quietly remove all the breeders from the tank.

.. .. .

JULY - Each July we warn our readers that excess heat is harmful and often fatal to fishes, and each July a number of our readers fail to heed our plea. The fact of the matter is that any time water temperature goes above 80 degrees, most fishes are uncomfortable. When the temperature exceeds 85, all fishes suffer. The chief cause for this distress is that warm water hold less oxygen than cold water. Beyond 80 degrees the oxygen supply is likely to be dangerously low.

There are several steps that can be taken to minimize the danger:

1. Keep sun entirely off fish containers. Any opaque shade will suffice for this purpose.
2. Glass covers should be removed and replaced by screens or nothing. Glass covers slow down evaporation, an important means of cooling water.
3. Strong aeration. This is the most effective means of reducing the danger of heat. In most cases it solves the problem very well. But many aquarists do not have a large enough air supply to aerate all tanks. Hence, the mentioning of other aids.
4. Keep fewer fishes per tank. Spread them out to as many tanks as possible.
5. Partial changes of seasoned water every other day or so are beneficial.

As daphnia diminish, the supply of mosquito larvae fortunately (for aquarists)

(Cont'd page 9)

increases. We have previously mentioned that mosquito larvae are second to none when it comes to nutritive value, but they have two other advantages that are pertinent during the hot months. Since they must go to the surface for air, they do not compete with the fishes for the dissolved oxygen in the water as do some other live foods (daphnia, for instance). Since warm water is already low in oxygen, this is an important point. Second, they stay alive until eaten, whereas daphnia and most food worms do not live well in an aquarium.

.. .. .

AUGUST - During this month of vacations, the problem of feeding fishes always comes up. Several references to this problem have been made in our pages recently, but it will do no harm to summarize it briefly again here.

Fishes are capable of living for long periods of time without food - providing they are in good condition at the start of the vacation.

Some aquarists make up packets containing just enough food for one day, to be dispensed by a friend. This usually works well, but things do sometimes go wrong, and if the friend is a complete novice, he will go merrily on with the feedings, unaware of condition changes. The result will be foul water and dead fishes. Unless the friend is familiar with the principles of aquarium management, no feeding at all is the smaller risk.

A pleasant vacation pastime is a hunt for rocks suitable for aquarium use. Over various parts of the country there are to be found minerals of great beauty. Unless the actual composition is known, there is considerable danger in just putting them in with fishes. If there is the slightest doubt about a rock, or any ornament, for that matter, it should be placed in a container with some inexpensive

(Cont'd page 10)



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fishes for about two weeks. If these fishes suffer no ill effects, it is safe to place the material in an aquarium.

A surplus of fishes often becomes a pleasant problem about this time of year. While most aquarium stores are anxious to buy up good locally raised stock, why not reserve a few of them to be given away to someone who is not yet an aquarist? Many a hobbyist has been initiated through the kindness of a friend.

Toward the end of this month is the time to thin out plants. There is still quite a bit of growing time left before the plants go into their winter rest, but if they are thinned out now, the old plants and the removed ones have a chance to become re-established before the rest period.

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Society will close for the summer months of JULY AND AUGUST. No issue of the OVAS News will be made during these two months.

DON'T FORGET OUR ADVERTISERS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

"MY HOBBY"

by Edgar Parisien, OVAS Senior Society

In the past few months I have had plenty of time for reading and have made good use of that time, at least the majority of it, reading about our hobby of Tropical Fish.

There are two books I am thinking of in particular. One is entitled "1001 Questions answered about your Aquarium", by Ida M. Mellen and Robert J. Lanier. This book contains just about everything from soup to nuts about the aquarium, including terrariums, gold fish, lizards, turtles, and outdoor pools. It is really worth reading, or having for reference.

The other is "Breeding Aquarium Fish", by Julius Machstedt and Hans Tusche. This book deals with the problems, methods of spawning, of many of the so called problem fishes. I would recommend it to anyone interested in learning something as to how the German breeders go about doing things consistantly, which we seldom duplicate except by chance or just sheer luck.

My own spawning programme got off to a good start this year which my daphnia culture, used sparingly during the winter months, helped considerably. I managed to accumulate sufficient daphnia to condition my breeding stock early.

I spawned my blue Gourami three times in two weeks, and used some of the young for feeding, thereby stretching my live food supply. By Easter I had a large batch of Pentius Tetrazona, a good number of Blue Gouramis, and about "200 Nannostomus Anomalus". At this time I had to go to hospital and leave the care and feeding to my good wife, who is not too enthusiastic about tropical fish. You have probably read in last months OVAS News as to what happened to all these small fry. In addition to feeding them

micro worm medium, my wife put half a cup of milk in each tank - my instructions were a few drops every day. Anyhow, on my return from hospital, there were several tanks void of young fish. To make a fresh start my biggest job was the cleaning up of my tanks and then I started spawning the Gouramis.

My daphnia cultures look pretty sick now and have not been able to find any new source of supply. To my dismay I found that my favourite pond was filled in by tons of earth.

My Nannostomus Anomalus are spawning every day. I can not understand why more people are not interested in this beautiful little fish. They are so easy to spawn! I'll give you a brief outline of how I raise them. First, I give them (6 or 7 pair) a tank of their own because they are a rather timid little fish and if placed in a community tank they usually don't get their share of food. When I want to raise a new stock of fry I lower the water level to about 5 inches, in a tank 12 x 24. I feed them as much live food as possible, and spawning continues day after day, week after week. They eat both eggs and young, so that accounts for lowering the water level. In regards to plants, I usually keep a tangle of bladderwort or some similar plant just under the light. In addition to this I cover the surface with floating water sprite. The water should be a little acid PH 6.6 or 6.8 (soft). I usually add rain water in their tank when I have a supply. Every few days I harvest the eggs, or newly hatched fry, which come to the surface by simply bailing water out with a small jar into a gallon jar. The eggs fall to the bottom and the water is syphoned back into the tank. When I have enough eggs or young, I raise the water level again.

The young fry are very small and they have small mouths for their size. I don't know if

(Cont'd page 13)

I make myself clear, but compared to a newly hatched barb or tetra, N. Anomalus have much smaller mouths, so in addition to infusoria a few drops of Homo. milk should be fed. Once they have past the infusoria stage they will take micro worms and anything small enough to swallow. They reach maturity in about 10 months and will not grow over 1 1/2 inches, which make them an ideal aquarium fish, not to mention their beautiful colours and graceful movements.

.....

REPORT ON MAY MEETING

by Barbara Johnson, Secretary, OVAS
Senior Society

The regular meeting of the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society, was held in the Auditorium of the Medical Building, Ottawa University, Nicholas at Somerset Street. The meeting was opened by the President, Mrs. Kroeger, followed by Gary Zumar's talk on the Fish of the Month, the Serpae Tetra. The Programme Director, Wilf Doucette, introduced Mr. Herbert Axelrod, our most distinguished speaker of the evening, who gave a short talk on TIFAS.

The winners of the swap sale entries were Mrs. M. Langlois and Mrs. Kroeger. After the intermission, Mr. Axelrod gave a most interesting talk on his trip to South America. I am sure that all who were present, enjoyed it immensely, as Mr. Axelrod is not only the most well-informed man in his field but also a brilliant speaker. The colour slides which accompanied his talk brought envy to the hearts of all tropical fish hobbyists. Father Legault thanked Mr. Axelrod on behalf of the Society. Dan Jeffrey then came forward to present

Mr. Axelrod with a scroll which signified him to be the first Honourary Member of OVAS.

Ben Davis gave the results of the Jar Show entries. The best entry was George Bowle's with 87 points. Secondly, Wilf Doucette's entry with 85 points and thirdly the Kroeger's entry with 83 points.

The winning names for the evening's draw were: 1st - Weldon Hodges, who chose the two baby discus; 2nd - Mrs. Bea Carroll, who chose the jar of six cardinal tetras; and 3rd - Mr. Edgar Haase, who won the red-tailed shark.

The meeting was closed by the Junior Society President, Ian Woods.

Although attendance was not what we had anticipated, I know all present had a most enjoyable evening. We certainly hope that more will attend the next time we are honoured by the presence of Mr. Axelrod. Bye 'till next month.

.....

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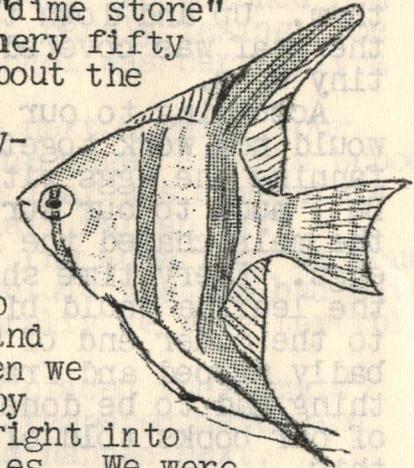
COME IN AND BROUSE AROUND

.... Otto Flegel, prop

BREEDING ANGELS

by Gladys R. Jerome. Reprinted from The
Aquarium, May, 1959.

Fifteen months ago we bought two angel fish, one in our local "dime store" and the other in a hatchery fifty miles away. Each one about the size of a quarter. We placed them in our fifty-gallon aquarium, where they thrived and grew quite large. The angels were wonderful pets; they would come up to the top of the tank and eat from our hands. When we started to feed them baby guppies, they would go right into the net to eat the guppies. We were very proud of our beautiful angels. "We" consists of my husband, my son Larry, and myself. We are amateur fish hobbyists.



One evening we noticed the angels acting in a strange manner and at first thought they were fighting. Having read books on the care of tropical fish, we soon realized that our angels were not fighting, but courting. Up to that time we had no idea of their sex; in fact, never gave it a thought.

Now here they were, locking lips and chasing each other around the tank. Having an available twenty-gallon aquarium, we quickly prepared it and placed the two angels in it. Larry adjusted the pH of the water to 6.8 and slowly raised the temperature of the water to 81 degrees. After a few days, they became adjusted to their new home and started to clean off the leaves of the plants.

Never having had any success at breeding other egg-layers, we were very excited and interested in the angels. Finally choosing

(Cont'd page 16)

a broad leaf, the female began to lay the eggs and the male fertilized them. This took well over an hour, and we watched them, fascinated. The female would go slowly up the leaf, depositing her eggs, and then the male would follow after her, to fertilize them. Up and down they went, until finally the leaf was covered with perfect rows of tiny eggs.

According to our books, the proud parents would now work together, taking turns at fanning the eggs with their pectoral fins. But, much to our surprise and consternation, the male chased the female away from the eggs. Every time she would try to get near the leaf he would bite at her and force her to the other end of the tank. Soon she was badly nipped and frayed. We realized something had to be done. But what to do? None of our books told of any such development as this.

Since the male seemed so determined to take care of the eggs by himself, we decided to remove the female. We put her back in the community tank. The male worked very hard, fanning the eggs, taking them into his mouth in order to remove all foreign particles, and tenderly replacing them back on the leaf.

On the second day we noticed that some of the eggs had fungused. After consulting our books again, we added four or five drops of methylene blue to the water. No more eggs became fungused. Now, we thought, we have everything all set for a successful hatching.

The third morning was a very happy one! The eggs were wiggling! On looking closely, we could see that tiny tails had protruded from one side of the eggs and tiny heads from the other side. The little tails were moving back and forth and that was causing the wiggling.

"Daddy" angel was very busy and very

(Cont'd page 17)

proud. Some of the fry would fall off the leaf and he would go to the bottom of the tank and get them in his mouth and carefully replace them on the leaf. As soon as he replaced the fry, more would drop, and back down he went to the rescue. We watched him and his progeny all day, barely taking time out for meals. Daddy angel was certainly a very devoted parent.

When we awakened the next morning, our first thought was for the angel and his brood. We went to look and the leaf was completely empty. Had the babies all fallen off? Searching the bottom of the aquarium, we found nothing. We had to conclude that he had eaten the entire batch. Naturally we were terribly disappointed.

After a few days, we placed the female angel back with her ill tempered mate, and waited to see what would happen next.

The male angel was still mean and would take an occasional nip at his mate, but not too badly, and we left them together. Since they had had no chance to choose their own mate from among other angel fish, they seemed to dislike each other; but, having no other choice, decided to make the best of things. At least, that is the conclusion we came to.

In about four weeks, we saw them cleaning off the leaves again. Soon they chose a leaf and began to lay and fertilize the eggs as before. After all the eggs were laid, the male started to bite at his mate and chased her away from the eggs.

But we had decided beforehand that we would reverse the procedure and remove our cranky "daddy" and give "mama" a chance to take care for her eggs, and perhaps get a successful hatching. This we did, and the female seemed very happy to be rid of him. She took very good care of the eggs, and in three days they were at the wriggling stage. Now the crucial time had come. Would she be tempted to eat

(Cont'd page 18)

them, as he had? That night we left a soft blue light burning near the tank, thinking that possibly the light would somehow deter her from eating her fry. We had previously left daddy angel in darkness and now decided to do differently.

All was well the next morning. When the wriggling fry fell to the bottom, "mama" took them in her mouth and, choosing a leaf on the opposite end of the tank, placed her fry there. Finally she had moved them all to the new leaf. Now she refused to eat live guppies, which was her accustomed food. Perhaps she was afraid she would eat one of her own babies by mistake. We tried to give her other kinds of food, but she refused all of it; Larry had some small snails in another tank, and, taking one, he broke off the shell and offered that to our temperamental angel. We were happy to see her eat it, and gave her several more. Then I took a baby guppy, and holding it by the tail, offered it to "mama", and she ate it. Now we had the feeding problem solved.

On the seventh day the baby angels were free-swimming. They were like a cloud around their mama, as they followed her about the tank. We fed them freshly hatched brine shrimp, and they were a fine, healthy batch of little angels.

In the meanwhile, what had happened to cranky "daddy" angel? Back in the community tank, he sulked and went on a hunger strike. We coaxed him with baby guppies, daphnia, and the kind of snails that "mama" liked, but he would eat none of them. Naturally we were very concerned about him, for he is a beautiful fish, and we were fond of him. Evidently he wanted to be with his mate, even though he fought with her when they were together. On the other hand, mama was perfectly happy with her babies, and I wanted to leave her with them a little while

(Cont'd page 19)

longer.

Then we put Daddy back with his mate and he began to eat once more. Also he would take a tasty nip out of long-suffering "mama" at times, but she didn't seem to mind. After a couple of weeks of feeding him back to his former beautiful self, we saw the two angels cleaning off the leaves once more.

Angels, anyone?

.....

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Sterilize your aquarium by rubbing the entire insides with moist table salt. Wash the salt away after allowing it to soak for a few hours.



HAVE
YOU
HEARD
THE
LATEST??

...If you did not attend the May Senior meeting you missed one of the best programmes ever presented by the Society. Mr. Herbert Axelrod's talk was excellent...

...The Society is honoured by having Mr. Herbert Axelrod as the first honorary member of the Society...

...Have you heard that a washing machine wringer is a part of the OVAS Magazine Committee equipment...I am told that the folding of your OVAS News is done by the washing machine wringer...what next...

...CONGRATULATIONS go to Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Trottier...winner of a "Tea For Canada Week" contest - the prize being an automatic frypan...AND...a consolation winner of the Irish Sweepstakes - prize approximately \$280.00...

...The Senior Society members who joined the Society at our May meeting are: Mrs. J. Sarrasin, Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Carson... Renewal of membership: Mrs. Flo Philips and Mrs. and Mrs. J.H. Marshall... a hearty welcome to everyone...

...There have been many questions about cross breeding...here is something to make you wonder...Mrs. Claire Kroeger, President

(Cont'd page 21)

states that, to her surprise she found that her lovely male JEWEL FISH, who had been in wonderful spawning color for some weeks, had spawned with a female JACK DEMPSEY FISH, which was recently acquired. The fish laid a very large batch of eggs on a flat piece of driftwood, which they had painstakingly cleaned. The aquarium sand had many holes which had been excavated for future care of the babies should any hatch. At last report many of the eggs had fungused and were being carefully picked out by the female. Both fish were fanning the eggs and taking turns guarding them. Two severum, which were the only other two occupants, were practically killed by the breeding pair...have you ever heard of a Jewel Fish and a Jack Dempsey fish spawning?

...Luck of the Irish...or was it fixed?... Weldon Hodges wins the two discus and I also understand that he received a gift of a Red Tail Shark...this is not any ordinary Red Tail Shark because this one, I am told, has the initials K.W. on the tail?...

...enjoy your holidays but don't forget the Society annual tropical fish show in August.

.....

OVAS CLASSIFIED SECTION
A service to the member

LOST -- FOUND -- HELP WANTED --
ARTICLES FOR SALE -- WANTED -- PERSONALS
TANKS TO LET

WANTED

I have lost my male Tetrazona and looking for one about 1½ inches long. Ed Parisien,

(Cont'd page 22)

SITUATIONS WANTED

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

FOR SALE

Two aquariums 30 x 12 x 12...Stand 35 inches...covers and reflectors...heaters. Harvey Wittenberg, [redacted].

WANTED

If you have moved the Senior and Junior Membership Committees would like to obtain your address and phone number.

...James Churchill Hopgood, Director-Editor of ACUARIO Magazine, Havana, Cuba, is anxious to obtain back issues of our OVAS News, Vol 1, 2 and 3 (from 1 to 11)... contact Harvey Wittenberg, [redacted].

...Articles for the OVAS News. Any size shape or form. Send to OVAS, P.O. Box 1135, Ottawa 4.

NOTE: This is a free service to you (Senior and Junior). If you would like to take advantage of this classified section just phone [redacted].

.....

YOUR MAGAZINE COMMITTEE IS ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN MEMBERS FOR:

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O V A S

JUNIOR SOCIETY

SECTION

Editor:
Larry Neumann

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Junior Society

I would like to thank all of the Junior members who helped to represent the Junior Society by attending the meeting honouring Mr. Herbert Axelrod. I am sure that those who attended will agree that this was a most interesting meeting.

At our last meeting we had a good number of entries in the Jar Show. I hope it will remain the same at the next meeting when the three spot Gourami will be the fish of the month.

The Junior Executive has asked that the Library books all be returned to the Librarians. The Library will then be sorted and new books added to it. So if you would all bring in any library books at the next meeting we would appreciate it very much.

As some of the older members know the Senior and Junior Society hold a Competitive tropical fish show at the Central Canada Exhibition each year. Once again, during August 21 to 29, we have been given a location in the Exhibition where we can display our fish. We have always had very good shows and recruited a number of new members.

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There are various classes into which you may enter your fish, however, more will be said about this at our June meeting.

The Society closes for the months of July and August and our next meeting will be September 17th, which reminds me to wish you all a happy vacation.

Ian Woods
Ian Woods, President

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EXECUTIVE-DIRECTORS REPORTS

Library - Larry Neumann and Robert Boyle

In order that the library may be rearranged during the summer holidays, July and August, we ask that all members return their library books at our June 18th meeting. It is planned that a number of books will be purchased which will be available in September.

Magazine - Director, Larry Neumann

Once again I would like to thank Graham Conway for such a fine article that appeared in our section of the OVAS News last month. Many compliments were received. This month we have a very good article written by Gordon Worden, Show Director.

Programme - Director, Chipper Vickers

I am sure you will agree that the programmes presented for the first part of the year were very good. Later this month the Junior Society Committee, Junior Executive, and Directors, will be meeting to discuss plans for the remainder of the year. Now is the time to give us your suggestions and comments so that they may be considered at this special meeting.

Social - Director, Andrew Holdham

Don't forget our picnic to be held Friday June 19th.

Membership - Director, Burton Grundy

We welcome George Stairs, 23 Dunvegan Road, who joined our Society at the May meeting. Total membership as of May 21st is 44 members.

During the Society Tropical Fish Show at the Exhibition, we will have a very good opportunity of increasing our membership. If you are serving as an attendant during the week of the show you will have a good chance to speak to people who are interested in the hobby - here is our opportunity to encourage these people to become members of the Junior Society. Let us try to increase our membership to 75 members.

Show - Director, Gordon Worden

Last month our Jar Show (Neon Tetra) was very successful. I am sorry to say that one entry was disqualified because there were two fish in the jar - remember: one fish, no gravel or plants.

Your attention is drawn to the article by Mr. Ben Davis, Director, Show Committee, of the Senior Society, regarding our Tropical Fish Display to be held in the Horticultural Building during the Exhibition, August 21st to 29th inclusive. I hope that the Junior membership will help to make this 1959 show a great success. We can help in many ways - serving as attendants, setting up the stands and assist other members in transporting aquaria and fish. Most important is to consider entering a tank in the show. Everyone has a chance to win and if you think that you can not compete against the Senior members don't give it a second thought.

Since the Society's first show, in 1954, the Junior Society has taken the majority

of the prizes. The Junior Society members can assist the Society greatly by serving as attendants during the day, as the Senior members are at work and unable to attend the show until the evening. If you would like to help please contact me at the meeting or phone [redacted].

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IDEAS ON FEEDING FISH

by Larry Neumann, Director Magazine Committee, OVAS Junior Society.

In the March issue of the OVAS News I wrote about the feeding of tropical fish. I would like to add some additional information which may be of interest.

When my Mother has some fresh white fleshed fish in the house, I chop a little up into very small pieces, washed thoroughly, and feed in small portions to insure that all has been eaten. If care is not taken you will find that the food which is not eaten will quickly pollute the water. Fresh ground beef is found to be excellent food but insure that it is not fat.

One thing my fish really like is fresh cooked green peas. We use frozen peas and cook them about five minutes without salt. The way to feed the green peas is to squeeze the inside pulp out of them. Do not put the shell part of the pea into the tank as the fish will not be able to eat this shell. I find that my mollies are really crazy about them and after they have eaten their portion they are quite busy looking for more.

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TANKS THAT CATCH THE EYE
by Dr. Carl, "Fin-Fare", Victoria Aquarium Society, Canada.

For a public display, the goal of each exhibitor should be to set up a tank that will catch the eye - one that both commands attention and gives pleasure. His task then, is to create an attractive picture. Just as the Artist places paint on canvas following certain principles (sometimes obscure to the beholder!) so the aquarist uses fish, plants and accessories within the confines of the tank. Although the hobbyist is working with living things and in three dimensions, he should follow the same rules

(Cont'd page 28)

of colour combination and composition as are followed by good artists.

While fish are an important part of the picture, they are by no means the most important part. Plants, sand, stones, and other accessories are equally important and therefore all must be combined in the proper way to get the maximum effect. Here are a few hints:

1. Select plants and accessories according to the size of the tank to be used and also according to the fishes to be displayed.
 - (a) Plants which are too large for the tank give a crowded look and dwarf the fish.
 - (b) Plants that are too few in number leave too many empty spaces.
 - (c) Avoid large shells or rocks which may dominate the picture.

2. Place plants and accessories to make a pleasing, well balanced picture. Set the stage for the fish, as it were:

- (a) Lay out the tank so that there is a centre of interest - a stone, a group of stones, a clump of plants, as the focal point but avoid placing the centre of interest dead centre in the tank.
- (b) Avoid seductive mermaids, bursting treasure chests and bright baubles which pull the eye away from the fish or the tank as a whole.

3. Select fishes carefully:

- (a) In a community tank don't succumb to the temptation to include as many species as the tank will hold. The result is confusing to the beholder.
- (b) Select species to be shown together on the basis of size as well as color and swimming habits.
- (c) Avoid including fish in poor condition.

(Cont'd page 29)

One sway-bucked guppy can spoil a tank full of prize fish.

4. Use proper light in proper place. Experiment to find the right amount of light needed and also the right position for the light. Improper lighting can spoil an otherwise good tank.

5. Make heaters, thermostats, filters, thermometers, etc, as inconspicuous as possible. Ideally they shouldn't show at all; they are not part of the picture.

Observe all these rules and the judges will have a tougher time than usual picking out the winners!

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MANAGEMENT OF THE AQUARIUM

by Gordon Worden, Director Show Committee,
OVAS, Junior Society

Green Water

One trouble that bothers many beginners is green water. This is described as a "soupy" green water which is caused by overcrowding of fish or too much sunlight. The remedy for overcrowding is easily accomplished by removing some of the fish. Too much sunlight can be prevented by putting cardboard on the glass of the aquarium, thereby cutting off sunlight.

Metal in Water

Another problem beginners have is metals in the water. About the only safe metals for the aquarium are block tin, stainless steel and lead. If you should happen to buy an aquarium with a steel bottom, it would be advisable to place a sheet of glass on top of the steel and cement it in place so to seal it off from the water. (Cont'd page 30)

Algae on the Glass

Another problem is "algae" on the glass. This is a green film on the glass and sometimes it also grows on the plants. Snails and fish help to keep down a soft species of algae, but later on this soft species becomes hard and neither fish nor snails can touch it. When the algae gets hard, the only cure is to scrape it off with a razor blade or steel wool. Sometimes a long, hard, hairy algae will grow on the plants. The only remedy for this is to destroy the plants, disinfect the whole aquarium and start all over again with new plants; and from then on use less light. To everything there is a bright side, and the bright side to algae is that when there is a strong light on the aquarium it will grow on the side that is facing the light, and in this way gradually reduce the strong light in the aquarium.

Cleaning the Tank

Scavengers and snails help to clean up the aquarium but the hobbyist also has to do some of the work. Covers are very useful on the aquarium because when fish are excited they tend to jump out. These covers can be made of glass or rust-proof screen. Another use for the glass type of cover is to keep in the heat.

Nets for Catching Fish

Catching fish sometimes bothers beginners, but one should approach this problem with determination to catch the fish so as not to destroy the plants. It is sometimes helpful to have two nets -- a large one to catch the fish, and a smaller one to chase the fish into the large one. Nets play an important part in the aquarium and should therefore be taken good care of. Nets should have square edges to prevent the fish struggling

(Cont'd page 31)

through a dent in the frame of the net. Nets should be handled carefully so as not to dent the frames, and they should be hung on a wall to dry to prevent rotting.

Problems

Newly-bought fish should be put on probation-- in other words, they should be put in a separate aquarium where they may be studied to make sure they have no diseases. When you have decided they have no diseases, they should be put in a jar and placed in the aquarium. When the temperature in the jar becomes the same as that in the aquarium, the fish can then be turned loose by tilting the jar and sliding the fish into the aquarium.

One thing many people do is tap on the glass to draw the attention of the fish. This is not very helpful, and just adds fear and confusion to the fish.

At one time or another we have difficulty with fish that tend to be bullies. This is mainly due to having a community aquarium with fish of all sizes, the bully naturally turning on the smaller fish. Two remedies for this are:

1. Destroy the fish.
2. Put them in an aquarium with larger fish.

One cruelty to fish is to put them in sudden light. This can be done by turning on the aquarium light at night or opening a container of newly-bought fish in the strong sunlight. This is hard on the fish and often causes blindness.

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A PURE INFUSORIA CULTURE
"The Canadian Aquaria"

A good infusoria culture may be developed by several methods, but, as most of them
(Cont'd page 32)

result in a foul smelling mixture, a method must be developed which produces a culture containing thousands of organisms per spoon or cupful, yet be crystal clear and sweet smelling.

The basis of all culture is, of course, some decaying organic matter in a quantity of water. Up to a point, the nature of this decaying matter is immaterial. Anything works, lettuce leaves, hay, potato peelings, earthworms, fish, etc. Lettuce leaves have been found to be the best. Others have been successful with some other matter.

The first stage is that a large number of bacteria begin to feed and multiply on this decaying material, the bacteria being harmless to fish or man. The water now becomes fairly turbid, yellowish in colour, and may have an odour like that of rotting eggs. The type of smell depends on the bacteria thriving in the culture.

If the culture is set up in a tall, narrow container, overloaded with organic material, conditions are right for anaerobic bacteria (not needing free oxygen for growth). While if set up in a shallow container with a large surface, aerobic bacteria will thrive. Anaerobic bacteria produce a gas, the same as that issuing from rotten eggs or stink bombs. Such a condition is not favourable to the production of a rich culture, as infusoria needs oxygen.

Best results are obtained from the use of a shallow bowl, six inches deep, eighteen inches in diameter, or the equivalent. In this, place crushed lettuce and pour a kettle of boiling water over it. In half an hour, top off the bowl with tap water and place in a spot where the water temperature will remain between sixty and seventy degrees.

The water will become very turbid at first, because of the large number of

(Cont'd page 33)

bacteria developing from the rotting material, not because of infusoria. Spores of infusoria are in the air, and after settling on the culture, they emerge and begin feeding on the bacteria.

When enough infusoria develops, they eat up almost all the bacteria in the culture, with the result that the water again becomes clear and colourless.

A ripe culture has now been produced and it can be readily seen why the culture has little or no smell and is almost clear and without colour.

At this time, clouds of infusoria should be seen as they are drawn to a strong light like brine shrimp or daphnia. Except for a small amount of sediment, the water should be as clear as that in an aquarium.

It can also be readily seen that the foul-smelling, turbid mixture so often called an infusoria culture is actually a culture of bacteria and will furnish young fry with no food, but will kill them by fouling the tank water.

This culture can be kept for a year by adding fresh water from the tap as the culture is used up. Crushed leaves of lettuce should be added as the old leaves disintegrate and disappear.

Briefly the important points are:

1. Good water surface to avoid anaerobiosis, and
2. Correct temperature, as infusoria cannot flourish if kept too cold.

Numerous accidents will happen, such as inadvertently introducing daphnia or cyclops to the culture, or mosquito eggs developing just when the infusoria are needed for a newly hatched spawn of fish. An old furnished tank may be the answer as it may contain enough infusoria.

Stop the filter for an hour or so, then collect a jarful of water just under one of

(Cont'd page 34)

the light bulbs. If you are in luck, there will be sufficient infusoria to tide you over until new culture begins to thrive.

Do not depend upon an old tank for a steady supply of infusoria, as the quantity is insufficient for steady feeding of fry.

(An article, slightly revised, by Bill Brand in the Lockheed Employees Recreation Club "Fin Fun").

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REASONS FOR DETERIORATION OF
AQUARIUM PLANTS

by Bill Barham, "Waterlines" St Louis Junior Aquarium Society, Inc, USA.

There are many reasons for deterioration of plant life in the aquarium, but the two main reasons are (1) lack of good light, and (2) overcrowding of the plants.

In cases where the deterioration starts in a seemingly well balanced aquarium, one in which the light is right and plant life has been growing luxuriantly, it is best to look to overcrowding as a possible cause of trouble. Things seem to be the same, yet the plants are not doing well, the water is seemingly clear, but it is slightly off color.

This overcrowding can come about by a natural birth increase, as in the case of the prolific livebearers such as moons, mollies, swordtails, guppies, etc, whose young will survive in a well planted aquarium, especially if the other fish are well fed. Thus an aquarium intended for 25 to 40 fish, ends up with 75 to 100 of all sizes. This results in an unbalanced condition due to the excess fish leavings. The plants can no longer absorb the excess amount of fish

(Cont'd page 35)

excrement and the water becomes very acid with a concentration of many chemicals.

Filtration can be of help, but that isn't the whole answer. First, most plants do not like the strong acid concentration caused by too many fish and even those that do, can't stand the uneaten and fermenting food that often falls around their roots. Under the gravel type filters have a tendency to draw such uneaten food down into the gravel, and as such filters seldom have charcoal to counteract the bacteria, trouble is sure to follow. A good outside filter with charcoal can do a lot towards counteracting the over acid condition of the water. Clean and changing the filter charcoal often will be of help.

The most sensible thing to do in order to save the situation is to reduce the fish population of the aquarium. Then syphon off all excess food mulm drawing off about 1/3 of the water with it. Replace this water with tap water that has been standing about 36 hours. Also, carefully top the sand left in the aquarium with about 1/4 inch of well washed filter sand. By doing this, you may save your plants and counteract any possible trouble to both fish and plants because of strong chemical concentrations from the uneaten food and too much fish excrement.

The other main reason for plant deterioration is that you must always have a good light in order to do well by your tropical plants. This is very simple but very important. If your plants are not evenly lighted they will turn yellow, spoil, and off-scent your aquarium. If your plants have too much light, they will turn brown, black, and then will die and also off scent your aquarium.

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