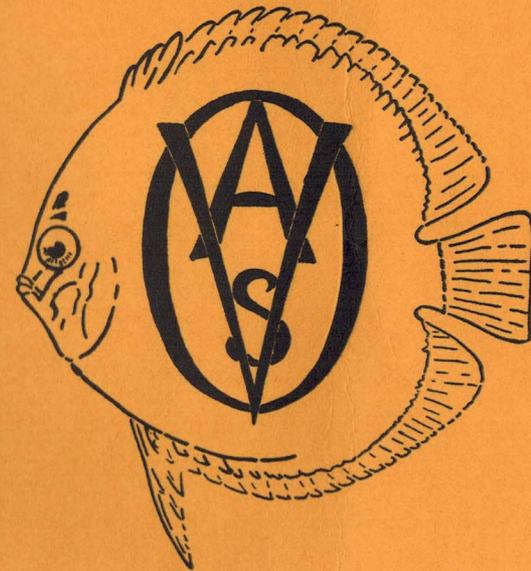


OVAS NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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



THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

MEETINGS

Junior Society

Thursday, September 17th 7.00 PM
Thursday, October 15th 7.00 PM

Senior Society

Thursday, September 24th 8.00 PM
Thursday, October 22nd 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.

Editor: Harvey J. Wittenberg

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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 viewpoints expressed in THE OVAS NEWS are those of the authors and not the Society.

Advertising rates on request from Editor, H.J. Wittenberg, 125 Crerar Ave, Ottawa.

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

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

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Secretary: Graham Conway
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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 Bowle
Area No 3 Mr Ken Craig
Area No 4 Mr Jack Dirks

TIFAS REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Barbara Johnson

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

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

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

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

Most fish breeders before this have already given their summer crop of young a careful scanning, and have placed the more

(Cont'd page 5)

promising specimens in those tanks where the opportunity for growth is greatest. However, there is still time to do this, so that they will yet have the advantage of several weeks of balmy weather, especially those which have been bred and kept outdoors.

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

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

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

ICHTHYOPHTHIRIUS

(White Spot)

Reprinted from "The Canadian Aquaria".

The disease "White Spot" or "Ich" is probably the most prevalent, particularly amongst beginners, chiefly because of their lack of understanding of the necessity of maintaining an even water temperature in the aquarium.

Although parasitic in origin, Ichthyo-
(Cont'd page 6)

phthirius is the result of fish suffering sudden chill, thereby causing the non-functioning of the fish's glands which provide the slimy nucous covering over its' body. This condition allows the parasites present in the water to attach themselves to the fish and burrow through the scales to the fleshy tissue underneath. Wherever one of these parasites attacks and imbeds itself there appears a white spot, from which the disease has been given its most common name.

The more readily available treatment and, possibly, the best medication for this disease is Quinine Hydrochloride, purchased in five grain capsules from the local druggist.

These capsules are dissolved in warm water and transferred to the aquarium in a ratio of one capsule for each ten gallons of water content in the aquarium.

Daily observations of the progress of the treatment should be made, and if improvement is not discernible, the dosage should be repeated three days later. When the disease has been brought under control, remove three-quarters of the water and replace with fresh from the tap, usually care to see the added water is of the same temperature as that removed, so that the water temperature is the same after as before the water change. This is highly important, otherwise the fish will again be chilled and the disease will break out again.

When white spot is noticed, there should be no delay in treatment. Delay not only permits the spread of the disease to the other occupants of the aquarium, but should fish recovering from an attack be again infected, it is invariably fatal to the fish and costly to the hobbyist.

(Cont'd page 7)

Care should always be taken to assure the temperature of the water being constant. Wide variations leave the fish prey to this disease, with constant loss of prized fish and expense to the aquarist.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Note from Editor - Harvey J. Wittenberg.

No Senior Society committee reports were received, however I shall make an attempt to provide you with information which I think may be of some interest to you:

Show Committee - Mr Ben Davis, Director

...no report received...

Home Aquarium Show - The report on this show was given at the Senior Society June meeting. For the members who were absent

(Cont'd page 8)

and the Junior Society members - Mr. Don Thompson was the winner. I understand Mr. Thompson's entry was excellent. The second and third prize winners are not known.

The 1959 Tropical Fish Show - I personally would like to offer my congratulations to the following winners of our 1959 Show:

Class A (Egglayers)

- First - Mr. Wilf Doucette
- Second - Mr. Gary Zumar
- Third - Miss Diane Fraser

Class B (Livebearers)

- First - Mr. Neville Poy
- Second - Larry Neumann (Junior)
- Third - Mrs. Flo Trottier

Class C (Community Aquarium)

- First - Mr. Geo Bowle
- Second - Mr. Marcel Leduc
- Third - Larry Neumann (Junior)

The names of the members who received fourth (or consolation prize) are not known.

Hospital Aquarium Fund - An aquarium is to be presented to an institution in Hull PQ, date, time and place not known.

Programme Committee - Mr Wilf Doucette

...no report received...

I do know that our October meeting should be of interest to every hobbyist as we will be honoured with a speaker from the United States, Mr. John Haas, Chairman of The International Federation of Aquarium Societies (TIFAS).

TIFAS has come up with a good suggestion regarding the method of presenting the "Fish of the Month". This may be introduced at our September meeting.

(Cont'd page 9)

Membership - Mr. Dan Jeffrey, Director

...no report received...

The members who joined our Society during the exhibition show are not known, but I do know that there are some 40 prospective members for the Senior Society and 27 for the Juniors who are interested in attending the September meeting. They will be receiving a notice of the meeting and it will be up to us to welcome them to our Society.

Mr. Lorne Benthon, writer of the RA column appearing in the Ottawa Citizen, will be visiting our society at the September meeting. Mr. Benthon is attending the meeting to obtain information and material for an article "The Tropical Fish Hobby", which will appear in the RA Column of the Citizen and the RA News (Civil Service paper).

Social Committee - Mr. Alan Griffin, Director

...no report received...

Annual Picnic - the picnic which was held in June was very successful although the attendance very disappointing. A very good time was had by those present and many prizes were given away.

Magazine Committee - Mr Roger Trottier

Mr Trottier did give me an article from Dr. Bowden, however this article will not appear in this issue as it requires typing in draft form, etc, and will most likely appear in our October issue. This committee had no other material to offer for the OVAS News.

Library - Mr. W.E. Ledoux

...no report received...

There are some very interesting articles in our exchange magazines which I am sure you will enjoy. (Cont'd page 10)

Secretary's Report - Mrs Barbara Johnson

...no report received...

An executive officers meeting was held at the home of Mr. Dan Jeffrey, Thursday, September 3rd.

TIFAS Representative - Mrs Barbara Johnson

...no report received...

Briefly, I will report on The International Federation of Aquarium Societies (TIFAS).

The Regional Groups are now being formed and the first to be formed in Canada is in the Toronto Area, to be known as Region No. 20, Mr. Raymond E. Taylor being appointed as Sub-Chairman, pro-tem. The Regional Groups will assist the member societies of TIFAS in the exchange of speakers, programme material, films, shows and will be the answer to many difficulties now confronting the various aquarium societies...the first issue of the TIFAS Digest was received and copies are available for members (at a small charge). There are many interesting news items and articles in this TIFAS Digest and suggest you obtain a copy...TIFAS Program and Assistance Committee is making great progress and have already issued material for the aquarium society programmes. The idea regarding the "Fish of the Month" will benefit everyone in the hobby...an insurance scheme officially approved by the Federation (at NO COST to you) will insure every member against liability and property damage resulting from broken or leaking aquaria. Later, this policy may be increased to cover aquaria at shows etc. More information on this insurance will be available to you soon... Research on a number of problems with the hobby are being conducted and we will be receiving reports in the next month.

(Cont'd page 11)

The International Federation of Aquarium Societies (TIFAS) is doing everything possible to assist the aquarium societies. Let us show our appreciation to the Chairman, Mr. John Haas, when he attends our October meeting.

The Membership - Senior Society

What have YOU contributed to the OVAS News during this year? With the exception of articles from Mr. Edgar Parisien (our faithful member), Mrs M.B. Carroll, Mr. Dan Jeffrey, Mr. Jean Duguay, Mrs Lorna Olley and Dr. Robert Jackson, I have received very little assistance. A Committee was formed but has met with little success todate. There is a requirement for:

- a. Members to serve on the Magazine Committee to assist in editing, typing, publishing, advertising and reporters to obtain items of interest.
- b. Every member (includes officers and committee chairmen) to contribute at least one article.

This problem is now in your hands - what do YOU intend to do about it?

Harvey J. Wittenberg
(Harvey J. Wittenberg)
Editor

((()))

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THE KILLIFISHES

by Mr. Edgar Parisien, Senior Society
Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society.

Our hobby is by far the most interesting in the whole wide world. With between six or seven hundred species of fishes already known and more being discovered every week, the field of interest has no limits. It is not likely that anyone will live long enough that he could not find a challenging fish to play with.

In Europe, the hobby is much better established than in America because long ago hobbyists approached the whole subject scientifically and made a real study of aquarium life rather than just keeping fish as an ornament. Recently, many aquarium societies have been organized in America
(Cont'd page 13)

and have done much to spread information about fish. Now that T.I.F.A.S., is on solid ground we can expect our hobby to grow by leaps and bounds. But let me remind you that even though we have men like Mr. John Haas, Mr. Herbert Axelrod and others looking after the affairs of T.I.F.A.S., we as individuals must contribute our share to the success of the Federation. Without the cooperation of all member societies and individual members, your executive council can only attain limited success. If you have any good constructive criticisms or suggestions, write to your liaison officer and let him know what is on your mind. If you have any interesting information, why not write about it and let others share your knowledge. Let me remind you again that the more you put into any hobby, the more you get out of it.

What I started out to write about is a group of fish known as CYPRINODONTES or KILLIFISHES. Fishes included in this family are: Cynolebias, Aphyosemion, Aplocheilichthys, Pterolebias, Rivulus, Nothobranchius, and Procatopus, among others. Some of these have been recognized by advanced aquarist in America but most of them have been by-passed because little is known about them on this continent. Many of the species in this family group have been popular in Europe for fifty years or more and have been propogated with encouraging success.

The Killifishes are wide-spread throughout the tropical and semi-tropical world. Most of their popularity is negative among beginners because these fishes are a challenge even to the advanced aquarist. Their varied breeding habits make them interesting.

Some are free egg-layers and some lay eggs that attach themselves to plants by long filaments rather than by a sticky substance. Others lay eggs in mud or moss. In nature,

(Cont'd page 14)

many of the fish die after spawning because they live in areas where ponds and streams dry up completely during the dry season. The eggs are peculiar in that they can stand drying until the next rainy season brings them to life. They hatch and the fry develop rapidly, maturing in a few short months to lay the spawn for the next generation. Such misfortunes as a short rainy season or excessive dry heat which would mean the end of the species in that area are provided for in an interesting way. These fish lay three different types of eggs.

Type one starts to develop soon after spawning and stop when the water evaporates. These are called resting fry (R.F.).

Type two will start to develop only after they have been dried once. These are called resting eggs (R.E.).

Type three are the same as type two except that they may require several dryings and wettings before they become live swimming fry.

By this you can see how the species are preserved even if there are several seasons that are too short for their life-cycle. If you are one who thinks he knows fish, I suggest you try your hand at spawning one or more of these species.

If you remember the pair of Nothobranchius rachovi we got from Mr. Lyle Hayter, our judge in 1957 and 58 at the Exhibition, you will no doubt recall that the Show Committee entrusted them in my care. They spawned in the tank at the show but I was not successful in raising any fry. I now believe that if I had not been so impatient, I may have had some luck. They spawned in gravel and it was impossible to find the eggs. After one drying (60 days), I wet them with rain water and after waiting for three weeks

(Cont'd page 15)

and seeing no sign of life, I threw the whole mess out. There may have been many good eggs still in the gravel. The parents died (one in December and the other in January). However, I hope to have the opportunity to give you an accurate report, in October or November, on some eggs I am experimenting with now.

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BRINE SHRIMP

by J. White, reprinted from "Fins'n Bones",
The Aquarium Society of Wichita, U.S.A.

Would you like to have some live food for some of your choice fish? If so, here is the recipe for Adult Brine Shrimp. First assemble these items: measuring cup, measuring spoon, long handle spoon and a large bowl. A plastic bowl or even a large plastic waste basket would be just fine.

Now for the recipe:

- 1 gallon water ($\frac{1}{2}$ should be old tank water
 - $\frac{1}{3}$ aged algae water. Add enough tap water to make one gallon).
 - 2 tablespoons Epson Salts (Brine or pickle salt will work).
 - 1 tablespoon Baking Soda.
 - 8 drops liquid plant food.
 - $\frac{1}{5}$ tablet of Aquarium Plan-tabs.
 - Algae scraping.
 - Small piece of lobster shell (I sometimes omit this and still have good results).
 - $\frac{1}{3}$ teaspoon yeast dissolved in small amount of brine water.
 - Very small pinch of white sugar.
- Mix above ingredients well and then add:

(Cont'd page 16)

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1 teaspoon newly hatched brine shrimp. Set the container where it will get plenty of light. Put an airstone in it to keep the brine circulating.

Once a week add $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon yeast and also a pinch of powdered milk. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon newly hatched brine shrimp two or three times a week.

In three or four weeks, the larger shrimp are ready to be used for food. Five drops of plant food added twice a month helps. The brine should have a yeasty odor and be milky in appearance.

Some of the shrimp may die but this merely adds food to the brine. If for any reason this does not work, throw it out and start all over again. This procedure works for me and my brine shrimp has been going for two months. This amount will enable you to feed about six Bettas twice a day every other day.

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(Cont'd page 17)



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WHAT IS YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE OVAS NEWS?



HAVE
YOU
HEARD
THE
LATEST????

...was rather disappointed when I did not win the dream home at the Ex after making plans as to where

I was going to place my aquaria. I was very interested in another dream home at the exhibition - the property of Captain Jack Fraser. This was Jack Fraser's 150-year-old grandfather's clock which he turned into a showcase aquarium...

...Ian Woods, Junior Society President, has made an aquarium which he says is large enough to take a bath in...at the present time it is the home of 6 black lace angels...

...Mr. G.W. Hayward, President of the Montreal Aquarium Society, was the judge for our 1959 Tropical Fish Show. I am sure everyone agrees that Mr. Hayward did an exceptionally good job in judging our entries...

...did you ever see the bottom of an aquarium drop out...this happened to Neville Poy (the guppy expert) when the tank was removed from the stand at the Ex. All the guppies had been removed before the accident. There was a number of guppies born on Saturday night but I understand that they were not a good size so they are to go down the drain...I did my best to find out what drain but no luck.

(Cont'd page 19)

...if you have approximately 100 feet of Dexion steel which is the property of OVAS would you tell George Bowie...George mislaid it somewhere...

...the following is a letter from a Brick-layer to the firm for which he worked:
Respected Sir,

When I got to the building, I found that the hurricane had knocked some bricks off the top. So I rigged up a beam with a pulley at the top of the building and hoisted up a couple of barrels full of bricks. When I had fixed the building, there was a lot of bricks left over. I hoisted the barrel back up again and secured the line at the bottom, and then went up and filled the barrel with extra bricks. I then went to the bottom and cast off the line. Unfortunately, the barrel of bricks was heavier than I was, and before I knew what was happening the barrel started down, jerking me off the ground. I decided to hang on and halfway up I met the barrel coming down and received a severe blow on the shoulder. I then continued to the top, banging my head against the beam and getting my fingers jammed in the pulley. When the barrel hit the ground it bursted its bottom, allowing all the bricks to spill out.

I was now heavier than the barrel and so started down again at high speed. Halfway down I met the barrel coming up and received severe injuries to my shins. When I hit the ground I landed on the bricks, getting several painful cuts from the sharp edges.

At this point I must have lost my presence of mind, because I let go the line. The barrel then came down giving me another blow on the head and putting me in hospital.

I respectfully request sick leave.

...Don't forget our meeting September 24th. Bring a friend...will give you more of the LATEST in the October issue (I hope)...



O V A S

JUNIOR SOCIETY

SECTION

Editor:
Larry Neumann

PRESIDENT'S LETTER
Junior Society

The holidays are over, school is open, and the most important - we will be giving a little more attention to our hobby. I do hope that everyone had a good summer and now anxious to attend our first meeting, September 17th.

On behalf of the Junior Executive, I would like to thank the members who assisted in our annual exhibition show as attendants, entering aquaria and fish and assisting the show committee. Our 1959 show was a great success and congratulations go to Larry Neumann, Junior Society, who took a second and third prize. I would also like to thank Eric Bawden and Gregory Wall for very good entries in the show.

As a result of the show we have recruited a good number of possible new members who will receive an invitation to attend our next meeting. Our membership fee for the remainder of the year is now only .25¢.

Ian Woods
Ian Woods, President.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee - Burton Grundy

The total membership for our Society is now 45 members. If every member would make an effort to bring a friend to the meetings it is possible to increase our membership to 100 before the end of the year - lets give it a try.

Every member must obtain a name card at the meetings. The name cards enable the officers to distinguish the members and is also your identity card in order to obtain library books from our Library.

We welcome Dave Hooper, 54 DeGaulle Blvd, who joined our Society during our Tropical Fish Show.

Are you moving? Have we your correct name and address?

Show Committee - Gordon Wordon

Our 1959 Tropical Fish Show was very successful with Junior Society entries from Larry Neumann (2 entries), Eric Bawden and Gregory Wall. Once again the Junior Society was able to take two awards which were both won by Larry Neumann in Class A and B.

The Home Aquarium Show, which ended in June, was won by Mr. Don Thompson, our Assistant Director of the Junior Society Committee.

Programme - Chipper Vickers

The film "The Aquarium" to be shown at our September 17th meeting was obtained from The International Federation of Aquarium Societies (TIFAS). This is an excellent film - one that you should not miss seeing.

An auction will be held at our next meeting. Any donations for this auction will be appreciated.

(Cont'd page 22)

Social Committee - Andrew Holdham

The meeting room must be kept in good order. You can help by insuring that there are no accidents with soft drinks.

We had a very nice picnic on the evening of June 26th. The only disappointment was the attendance. The picnic was well planned and included a number of games, prizes, and later a fire to roast marsh-mellows, popcorn and weiners, which everyone enjoyed. It was rather disappointing for the committee to see such a small turn out, so lets hope that the next get together everyone will make an effort to attend.

Magazine Committee - Larry Neumann

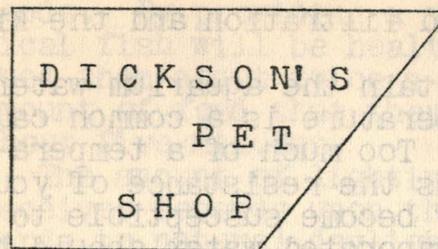
I am sure you all have a pen or pencil at home and could spare a little time to write an article for the OVAS News. I am pleased to say that a number of members have written articles and these articles were very good. If you have difficulty in writing an article I am sure that your Father or Mother, Sister or Brother, would be happy to give you some help.

Library - Larry Neumann

I am very pleased to say that I have obtained a number of new books for our library. Many of these books are of considerable value and every care should be taken to insure that they are not defaced in any way. Members who return books which are defaced will be required to pay for any necessary repairs, or replacement.

There are still a number of books out on loan to the members which should be returned at our September meeting. All library books are to be held for one month only. Only members of the Society are permitted to take home library books and the name of the member and book must be registered with the Librarian or Assistant.

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PRACTICAL AQUARIUM MANAGEMENT
by Patrick F. Iwick, Mid-West Aqua-Notes.

Many tropical fish hobbyists maintaining home aquariums encounter numerous problems and difficulties in the management of their aquariums. Trying to follow all of the hard and fast rules laid down by the more exacting hobbyist usually causes more confusion and bewilderment without getting to the cause of the problem.

The most practical advice that could be given to the tropical fish hobbyist is that he should exercise common sense in taking care of his home aquariums. Most of the suggestions in maintaining clean and healthy tanks will boil down to using common sense; in regard to water used, type of plants placed in the aquarium, feeding your fish,

(Cont'd page 24)

use of aeration and filtration and the kind of lighting used.

Failure to maintain the aquarium water at a constant temperature is a common cause of your troubles. Too much of a temperature change weakens the resistance of your tropicals and they become susceptible to many diseases. Evaporated water should be replaced with aged water from the same source which is probably your faucet in your home. Sometimes if the fish are sluggish; try varying the temperature gradually and add about ten percent fresh water. Sometimes the water becomes stale as far as the fish are concerned.

There are two elements in water that cannot be overlooked. Namely, carbon dioxide and oxygen. The fish need oxygen to thrive upon and they give off carbon dioxide which is toxic and can be fatal to tropical fish if not eliminated from the water. This is where the plants come in.

Plants in the aquarium actually serve a two-fold purpose. Their primary purpose is that of oxygenators and secondly as a decorative medium, helping to make the aquarium surroundings as close to nature as possible. If the plants are not functioning properly or the tank is actually overcrowded, then filtration and aeration is needed to bring the tank into balance. By using a filter of which there are several different types (each type having its own advantages and disadvantages) and an air stone operated by either a vibrator or piston type pump, then another primary cause for tropical fish diseases and problems can be effectively eliminated.

Feeding your tropicals is one aspect of the hobby where you should let your common sense guide you. Provide a variety of foods to your fish, both canned and live

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foods. By providing a variety, your tropical fish will be healthier and more active. Feed them about twice a day, serving an amount of food that they can consume in about five minutes.

The amount of lighting your aquarium receives depends upon the location in regards to natural daylight. If the plants fail to grow and turn brown, then more light is needed. On the other hand, if there is an excessive amount of green algae on the plants and on the glass sides of the tank; then the aquarium is receiving too much light.

Common sense should guide you in establishing a routine in tank maintenance. Accumulated dirt on the bottom of the aquarium should be removed periodically in addition to the cleaning of the filter and rinsing of charcoal. Excessive algae should be removed as often as is needed.

Attractive and clean tanks with crystal clear water abundant with healthy tropical fish is the main goal of every hobbyist maintaining home aquariums. The enjoyment and satisfaction derived from this hobby is within your grasp. Understand what you are doing, let common sense guide you, and you will surely achieve your main goal.

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THE ANGELS SPAWNED

by Vera Wold. Reprinted from The Tropical Breeze, San Diego Tropical Fish Society.

"Now what do I do with the eggs?", wailed a friend with her first spawn of Angel Fish eggs.

Since all successful aquarists have their own personal hatching methods, let me say now, that there are many and varied ways of proceeding. Who's to say one way is right or

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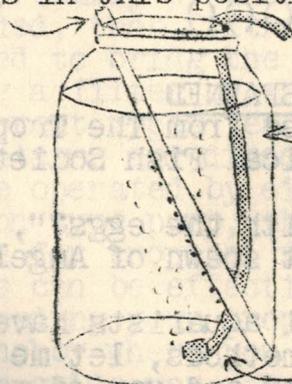
or one is wrong? To me, any way that is successful is right and the method that I will describe is most successful.

Remove the eggs from the parent fish as soon as they have finished spawning. Place the eggs in a gallon of newly aged water to which 6 drops of 5% aqueous solution of methylene blue has been previously added. Now take the gallon jar and set it in a 10 or 15 gallon tank that is about half to three quarters filled with newly aged water. The gallon jar should sit on the bottom of the tank, the water from the tank being shallow enough to allow the neck of the jug to rise above the surface of the water (see Figure B).

The tank should be equipped with a thermostatically controlled aquarium heater that is set to hold the temperature of the water at an even 80°. (Or it may be that the home is equipped with thermostatically controlled heat that is not turned down at night, if so then no heater is necessary).

FIGURE A

place spawning stick with adhesive eggs in this position.



newly aged water with 6 drops methylene blue added.

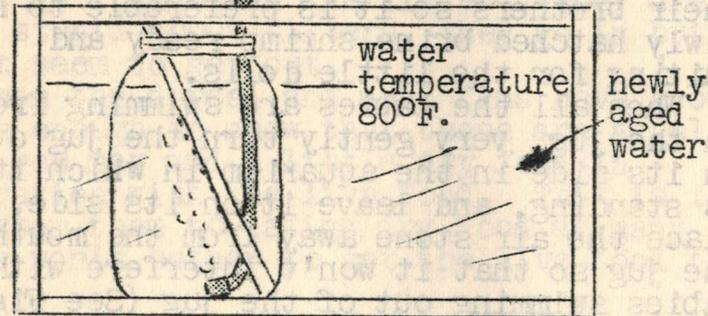
airstone at base of spawning stick to gently aerate eggs.

Now add an air stone to the jar containing the eggs. The airstone should be

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placed at the bottom of the jar where the air can flow very gently up passed the eggs (See Figures A & B)

FIGURE B



(tank with gallon jar and eggs added. Jar sits on bottom of tank).

Since no sand or plants have been added to the tank there is no need of artificial light.

The first signs of life appear in the form of minuet tails wagging vigorously from the eggs. (Be sure the air from the air stone is extremely gentle).

Next the newly hatched babies fall from the spawning stick and become a jelly like wiggling mass at the bottom of the jar. A few will hang from long thread like goop, but they too, will finally fall to the bottom. The angel babies heads are sticky and they stick to each other and anything else that they contact. At this point they are being nourished by their egg sack that appears as a long bulge on their tummy. As this bulge shrinks the babies start to take short, erratic swims and continue to stick to anything that they contact.

When the first swims are noticed add a tiny amount of newly hatched brine shrimp.

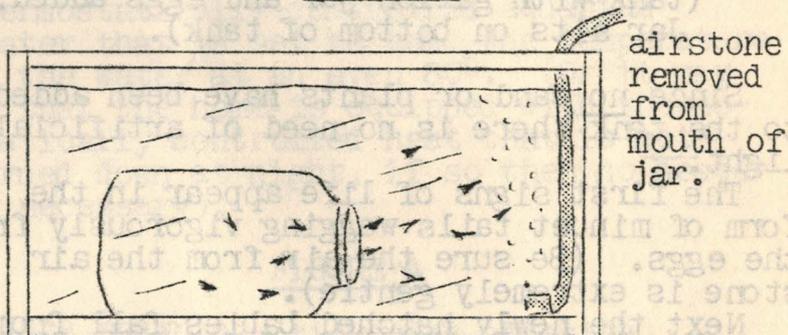
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(Hatching of the brine shrimp should be started not later than the appearance of the wiggling tails as they take 36 to 48 hours to hatch at 80°).

Some baby fish eat much earlier than their brothers so it is preferable to have newly hatched brine shrimp ready and waiting for the little dolls.

When all the babies are swimming freely in the jug, very gently turn the jug over on its side in the aquarium in which it is standing, and leave it on its side. Place the air stone away from the mouth of the jug so that it won't interfere with the babies swimming out of the jug (See Figure C).

FIGURE C



airstone removed from mouth of jar.

(Jar on side, baby fish swim out).

Leave the jug on its side till all the babies are out, then remove the jug very gently.

The babies should be fed newly hatched brine shrimp at least 3 times a day or so that their little tummies are fat and rosy red at all times. (The red color is caused from the shrimp showing thru the very thin skin of the babies).

Newly hatched or very small mystery snails may be added to the aquarium now to

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help keep any excess food from spoiling and fouling the tank. No catfish please! A bottom filter can be added very soon if you will first cover the whole filter with a section of nylon hose so that the babies won't get caught in the filter. They are real stupid about filters, they go in but can't seem to get out.

When the dorsal and anal fins have grown large enough to show that these are angel fish you may add a little dry food in alteration with the live food. This is to accustom them to eating dry food as many folks won't bother to get the live food for them.

However, if you prefer, you may feed the babies that you wish to keep exclusively on live food and they will really grow large, fat, and sassy in a hurry.

Frozen adult brine shrimp may be used as though it is live food and it is one of the very best foods for your fish.

If you wish to keep a mated pair of angels in spawning condition you should feed them exclusively on live or frozen food.

If a mated pair are spawning to often for your convenience a switch to dry food will slow them down.

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FISHERY FACTS

by Charle Hess, Midwestern Aquarist Club. Reprinted from "Tank Talk"

Fish which produce a marked electrical discharge are found among several different families in both salt and fresh water. Well developed electric organs are known in even very primitive fossil fishes. The Paleozoic cephalaspids apparently had a large electric organ located on the side of the head.

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Among living fishes noteworthy for their electrical powers are the Electric Eel, the Torpedoes or Electric Rays found in warm seas, as well as some other species of rays and skates. Some of the fresh-water Elephant Fishes of Africa, the Stargazers of the ocean bottom and the Electric Catfish, which is found extensively in the fresh-waters of Africa, also have electric powers.

The electric organs are mostly modified muscle tissue arranged in columnar tubes, each with its nerve connection. However, the organ differs in the Electric Catfish where it is a gelatinous layer extending almost entirely around the body and derived from the skin. In the Electric Eel, Elephant Fish, Rays and Skates, the electric organ extends along the side, although it is reduced to a small region near the tail in the latter two. In the Torpedo it lies between the head and pectoral fin, and it is on the head of the Stargazer.

The voltage produced varies, but is greatest above 500 volts in the huge Electric Eels, which have been shown in aquarium experiments to light a neon discharge bulb. The Torpedo can also cause a severe shock.

This remarkable adaptation is useful for protection and also in stunning their prey.

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PROPER PLACEMENT

Reprinted from "Fins'n Boners", The Aquarium Society of Wichita, U.S.A.

In setting up an aquarium it is discouraging every once in a while to notice that the filter, air releaser and gravel
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underdrain systems have apparently been located with no regard to their most efficient operation. A little thought given to the placement of these accessories will help them do their work to best advantage in keeping the aquarium clean and sweet.

The principal thing to realize is that very little of the aeration of water takes place with the air being bubbled through it. The purpose of aeration, of course, is to remove the suffocating carbon dioxide gas and substitute life-giving oxygen. Most of this exchange of gases takes place on the surface of the water. The only real value of air bubbling through the water is to set up a circulation, thus bringing all the water up to the surface where this exchange of gases can take place.

Therefore, position the air releasers in your aquarium so they help each other create this circulation. If, for instance, you have an inside filter at the left end of the aquarium, air rising from it tries to set up a clockwise circulation of all the water in the tank. An air releaser also in the left end of the aquarium will help this circulation, but in the right end, will fight it by trying to set up a counter-clockwise circulation.

To summarize, therefore, best use of the air can be obtained by locating all the air releasers in the same end of the aquarium. This may appear as though you are concentrating all the benefits in only one part of the tank, but actually, due to the water circulation set up, the other end will hold the sweetest water, and the entire aquarium will be benefited.

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WHEN YOU BUY
TRY OUR ADVERTISERS FIRST

JUST RAMBLING

by Rex Merritt, The Canadian Aquaria Soc.

Unless there is excessive overfeeding, the Barbs will do almost as good as job as Catfish.

If you can fish, and catch anything, feed the roe and liver, finely chopped, to your tropical fish.

Mosquito larvae are not only good for your fish, but are one of the few fresh foods that can be fed which is part of their natural diet.

Pick a different fish food each time you buy prepared food for your fish.

Ground dog-biscuits are the basis of many prepared foods.

Green water is healthy, but grey water is unhealthy. If your water is grey, draw off the bottom half of the water and feed your fish less thereafter.

When putting your fish in a salt bath, do not start them in the strong salt solution, but gradually add salt each day. The same thing applies to reducing the concentration before they are put back in the aquarium.

Always let your nets drain and dry, or they will rot very quickly.

Always sterilize your net after lifting a diseased fish, or else you are liable to spread the disease.

Do not use galvanized iron, zinc, copper or brass containers for your fish - not even temporarily.