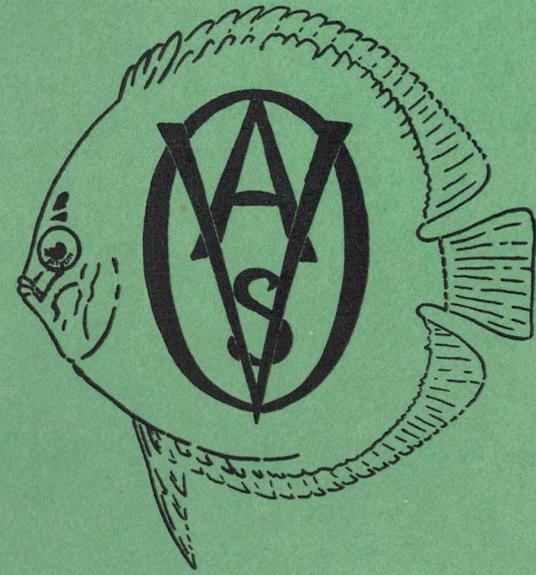


OVAS NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 3143 STN. "C"
OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA



THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS

Junior Society

Thursday, February 18th 7.00 PM

Thursday, March 17th 7.00 PM

Senior Society

Thursday, February 25th 7.45 PM

Thursday, March 24th 7.45 PM

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

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MAILING ADDRESS

Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society, Post Office Box 3143 Station C, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

EDITOR: Harvey J. Wittenberg, [redacted], OTTAWA 3. ([redacted]).

MEMBER OF TIFAS. CONTENTS MAY BE REPRINTED

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Senior Society Officers

President: Mr Wilf Doucette
Vice-Pres: Mr Don Thompson
Secretary: Mrs Thelma Williams
Treasurer: Captain Jack Fraser

Senior Society Directors

Membership: Captain Jack Fraser
Programme: Mr Dan Jeffrey
Social: Mr Gerry Lalonde
Magazine: Mr Harvey Wittenberg
Show: Mr Charlie Anderson
Junior Soc: (to be appointed)

Senior Society Librarians

Mr Bob Naylor
(assistant to be appointed)

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Secretary: George Ward
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Membership: Larry Forrest
Programme: Ian Woods
Social: John Manchester
Magazine: Larry Neumann
Show: John McKinlay-Key

Junior Society Librarians

Larry Neumann
(assistant to be appointed)

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY CONSULTANTS

Area No 1 Mr Edgar Parisien
Area No 2 (to be appointed)
Area No 3 (to be appointed)
Area No 4 (to be appointed)

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

Father Romeo Legault, O.M.I.

TIFAS REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Don Thompson



SO SORRY.....

WE JUST CANNOT AFFORD TO SEND YOU
ANY FURTHER COPIES OF OUR OVAS NEWS
UNTIL WE HAVE YOUR RENEWAL OF
MEMBERSHIP

Senior Members

You may pay your membership fee to
Captain Jack Fraser, Treasurer, or mail
to Captain Fraser at [redacted]
[redacted], OTTAWA 2. ([redacted])

Junior Members

You may pay your membership fee to
Frank Jones, Treasurer. or mail to
Frank Jones, [redacted], OTTAWA
3. ([redacted])

On Thursday we hold a meeting
To meet our many friends
We talk about our hobby
Until the meeting ends.
We are proud of our Society
The members we have met
We don't like to say "remember"
Please - renew your membership.

Editor

THE PIRANHA - A MENACE?

by William Vorderwinkler, Editor, Tropical Fish Hobbyist Magazine.

Thanks to Mrs. Martin Bomar, of Cottage Grove, Oregon, we have a clipping from the Register-Guard, of Eugene, Oregon, which tells how the Lane Country Parks and Recreation Commission are worried now that they've seen a real, live Piranha for sale in one of the local store in Eugene. The Parks officials are afraid that if released into the local streams the Piranhas would multiply there and constitute a menace.

The Piranha species mentioned, *Serrasalmus spilopleura*, is well-known to most aquarium hobbyists and has achieved a grisly fame from stories told about how they congregate in huge schools in their native South American streams are capable of attacking any animal which enters their waters with their razor-sharp teeth and stripping its skeleton clean in a matter of minutes.

These stories are not just a lot of poppycock, although they are sometimes a bit exaggerated. It is true that a native where these fish occur would never think of washing his bloody hands in a stream after he has cleaned a chicken. He dips out a bucketful of water from the stream and washes his hands in that. Fingers have been lost by natives who were too lazy to take this precaution.

Supposing a pair of these fish somehow got into an Oregon stream and decided to raise family after family there? Other communities, some of them even in Canada, have been worrying about this. All right, let's suppose that someone with a grudge against the human race paid \$15 each for a number of them and dumped them into a

(Cont'd page 5)

lake somewhere. The primary requisite for their continued health is warm water. In their native lakes, this would be about 80°. On the hottest summer days, the water temperature in most places would not go above 70°, except possibly in the warmest parts of our southern states. If the shock of the cold water did not kill them at once, our Piranhas would certainly not be comfortable, and would probably be dead within a day. Canadian waters would be still colder, and do a faster job on them. As far as propagating goes, the Piranha has never been spawned in captivity, but it can safely be assumed that its native temperature of 80° is required. Again we would have to travel far south in the summer. A Piranha would have as much trouble surviving the climate of our North American waters as a bathing beauty would have in the interior of Alaska.

It was even stated that there were reports that the Piranhas are causing problems in Canadian streams and "are quite a menace now." This sounds like something the Russians would be saying about us. DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT!!

Note from OVAS Editor

I presume, from the above article, that the Register-Guard of Eugene, Oregon, stated that the Piranhas are causing problems in Canadian Streams and "are quite a menace now". This editor has never heard of such a ridiculous statement and would welcome anyone to provide sufficient proof as being correct.

.....

ATTENTION OVAS MEMBERS

Your editor would like to obtain the following copies of the OVAS News: Vol 1 No 1 (Apr 54) No.2 (May 54), Vol 2 No.3 (Sep 55) No.4 (Oct 55) and Vol 5 No.8 (Nov 59).



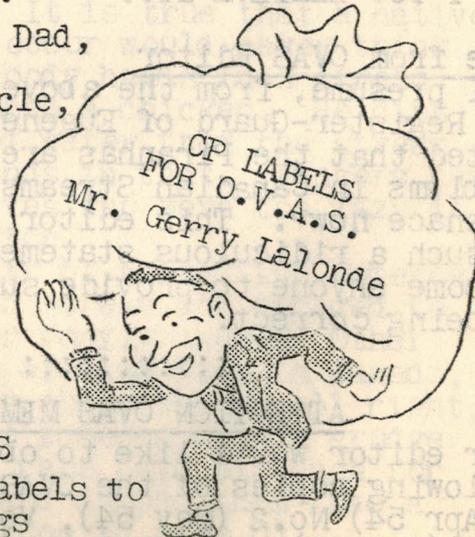
We now have one large (85 cup) electric coffee urn which can be the property of our Society.

The Social Committee, Mr. Gerry Lalonde, Chairman, has made arrangements with Canada Packers Ltd to obtain a coffee urn, free, for which we will collect a total of 6,000 (six thousand) labels bearing the CP (including York Brand products). The six thousand labels must be collected in one year - WITH YOUR SUPPORT we should have no difficulty.

The coffee urn will be quite a financial saving for the Society and will also be very helpful to the Social Committee in preparing the refreshments at our meetings.

The coffee urn will be available for our next meeting.

Ask your Mother, Dad, Sister, Brother, Cousin, Aunt, Uncle, Grandmother, Grandfather, and YES your many friends to save Canada Packers labels for O.V.A.S.



Remember...

EVERY LITTLE LABEL HELPS

Bring your CP labels to the meetings

NEW BLUE DISCUS ELECTRIFY AQUARIUM WORLD
by Earl Lyons - Reprinted from TROPICALS Magazine

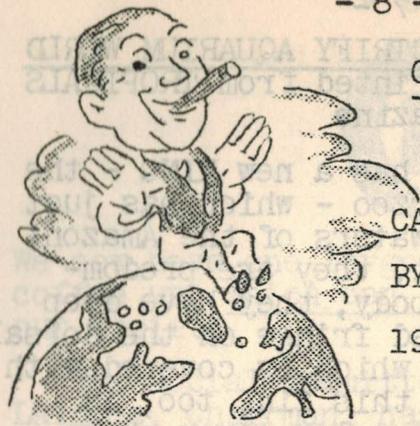
The aquarium world has a new KING - the Symphysodon discus Tarzoo - which has just arrived from the headwaters of the Amazon! Unbelievably beautiful, they are predominantly aqua-blue in body, they have deep red ventral fins, a red fringe on the dorsal fin, a large anal fin which is covered with bright red dots...and this fin, too, is edged in red! Our two-color cover photo - the first ever taken of these new discus does not do them justice. (see copy of "TROPICALS" Magazine Holiday Issue - 1960 in our O.V.A.S. Library).

Aside from their beauty, of great importance to hobbyists is the fact that these new discus seem very hardy, are not shy, and so will probably be much easier to spawn from other discus!

This is not an aquarist's dream, but is a reality. These fish are in Chicagoland now. Ninety-two of them arrived in excellent shape on the first shipment, and many more are on the way. The ones we saw and pictured are at least 7 inches high.

No one knows as yet whether these discus are a new variety or a new species. Their coloring is very different from those which are found near Belem, Paraqua, and Santarem, Brazil - the latter location being over 1,200 miles from where this Blue Discus is found. The name used in this story - Symphysodon Discus Tarzoo - is unofficial, but undoubtedly will be recognized scientifically when the proper authorities have completely examined them. This name does give proper credit to Mike Tsalickis' Tarpon Zoo, which is very appropo, because Mike was the person to locate them in the headwaters of the Amazon.

.....



ON TOP OF THE WORLD
YES
THAT IS WHERE YOU
CAN PUT YOUR SOCIETY
BY MAKING AN EFFORT
IN SELLING OUR
1960 RAFFLE TICKETS

Raffle tickets (pull-type 1 to 25¢) will be available for distribution at the February meeting. Books of tickets will be mailed to Junior and Senior members who are unable to attend the meeting.

Raffle Committee

- Mr Dan Jeffrey - Chairman [redacted]
 - Mr Harvey Wittenberg- Member [redacted]
 - Mrs ? ? ?
 - Mr ? ? ?
- (we would like to add your name here - Phone [redacted])

In the past, proceeds from this raffle were used to set up an aquarium in an institution. This year, in addition to establishing an aquarium, we will be giving a prize to the University of OTTAWA and another to CARLETON University, each prize to be awarded to a deserving biology student. We feel that in this way, the Society will really be contributing to the community through education and charity.

The raffle will be held Thursday, May 26th, at the Senior Society regular meeting.

.....

OUR SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

At our January meeting we had the pleasure of honouring our very good friend Rev. Father Romeo Legault, O.M.I., with the presentation of a scroll, honorary membership and the appointment as our Society Scientific Advisor.

In accepting the scroll, Father Legault said:

"If I understand this Honorary membership, it is a gesture of gratitude from the OVAS for the encouragement and help given to the Society by the authorities of the University of Ottawa. In all this question of providing facilities for the OVAS, I have acted more like a liaison officer. I must say that the authorities of the University of Ottawa were at all times very understanding and conscious of their obligation toward the general public. On their behalf and mine, I wish to thank you for this permanent recognition of our help to the Society.

The appointment as Scientific Advisor I take as a more personal tribute. Ever since my first contact with the Society I had one thing in mind: To offer to the amateurs the knowledge of the professional biologist. Your reaction was more than enthusiastic. The trend is now firmly rooted in the life of your Society and I would say you have there one sure guarantee of a long and healthy future for your Society. If I am not mistaken you are the first group to recognize officially the role of a professional biologist in its organization. Here again you are setting the pace. I would not be surprised if other groups would do similarly.

There are other reasons to be proud of your Society. For instance the installation and maintenance of aquaria in hospitals, orphan homes etc; the fact that year after

(Cont'd page 10)

year you have been able to find in your midst, outstanding officers to carry on the programme of the Society; the fraternal atmosphere of your meetings; the determination to give a try to any initiative connected with the hobby, and sometimes to initiatives which, to the unaware, are not connected with the hobby. For instance the grants offered to needy biology students of both the University of Ottawa and the Carleton University.

These are some of the reasons why I appreciate so much your gesture. I wish to thank the former executive for voting this motion and the present one for putting it into effect. From what I gather, the scientific advisor is expected to suggest appropriate scientific topics for the meetings, to make sure the speakers will forget their professional jargon, to suggest means for stimulating intellectual curiosity among members, to advise the executive or its committees on problems with a scientific angle.

I will be happy to perform these functions to the best of my ability. In concluding I would like to congratulate the former executive for its achievements during the past year and wish the best to the new executive in its efforts to foster the hobby in the Ottawa Valley".

.....

DID YOU KNOW??

Your undergravel filters will hamper the growth of the plants if they run constantly.

Baby guppies can be sexed at the age of 10 days. Female guppies will usually have youngsters at the age of 3 to 4 months.

.....

FOODS FOR TROPICALS

Reprinted from "Fins 'n Boners",
The Aquarium Society of Wichita, USA.

Frozen foods are convenient and inexpensive. They are available year round and are a wonderful supplement for dry food.

Adult Brine Shrimp are about 1/2 an inch in length and are excellent food for medium and large fish.

Baby Brine Shrimp are essential for fry. Small fish enjoy baby shrimp. Adult shrimp are quite a mouthful for the small species.

Daphnia also is considered a fine food for our fish.

Worms provide a variety of food. Your fish consider them to be quite a delicacy.

Angle Worms are an excellent source for food, fine for fish if one is careful to chop them finely with a razor blade. It is quite easy for a small fish to choke, if you haven't provided fine pieces. One should also be careful to collect them from good peat humus soil.

Tubifex are red in colour, about 1 1/2 inches in length and the diameter of horse hair. To keep them alive you must provide cool running water. They will reproduce in these conditions.

White Worms are a very rich food and should only be used as a supplement. A culture may be purchased for about \$1.50. They are kept in a peat or humus soil and fed bread and milk or oatmeal. Opportune temperature is

(Cont'd page 12)

65°. To separate them from the soil, place a pan of water below the pan and heat above it.

Microworms resemble a thread and are 1/8 of an inch in length. They are easy to raise in a mixture of three parts Pablum or Oatmeal to 1 part yeast. A small casserole is fine for this culture. To remove worms from culture, arrange a crosswork of water-logged sticks. The microworms will crawl onto the sticks and can then be rinsed in a jar of water, ready to be fed to the fish. They make an excellent food for fry, if caution is used in feeding. If the worms are over-fed to the fish they will crawl into the gravel and foul your aquarium. Keep your culture at "worm temperature", 60-65°.

Commercial Foods are good and very convenient. There are many kinds available. One of the newest and most controversial is "color-food". This and most other kinds will be found in three different sizes; fine, medium, and coarse.

Infusoria is available in tablets which dissolve in water. Caution should be exercised in feeding. Don't dissolve the tablets directly in the aquarium; use a jar and feed from this. Crushed lettuce, in water, can be used for infusoria, but the odor is very unpleasant.

Spinach cooked, unseasoned, is a tasty treat for mollies and platies. You can go to the "baby food" department of a grocery store and buy strained spinach. Freeze it and feed as you would any frozen fish-food. This makes an excellent supplement for the fry of all live-bearers.

(Cont'd page 13)

Egg Yolk can be fed to fry, if one is cautious not to overfeed. Strained egg yolk can be purchased at the grocery store.

Frozen or Canned Shrimp, cooked, can be tied to a string and dropped into your aquarium for about an hour. Your fish will love to pick at it.

Sea Foods can be scraped and fed in small quantities, e.g., scallops, crabs, clams, etc.

.....

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FOOD AND ACCESSORIES FOR ALL PETS

(For your convenience KAR VEL PET RANCH, 1108 Wellington, is OPEN every FRIDAY evening)

"The Scalare" tells us that: When you point your finger accusingly at someone else...remember...you have three fingers pointing at YOU!

When are you going to write that article?



HOME AQUARIUM SHOW
by Charlie Anderson, Show
Director.

The Third Annual "HOME
AQUARIUM SHOW" is now open
to ALL Members (Senior and
Junior).

Important dates to remember are:

1. Show commences March 1st and ends May 31st.
2. The closing date for all entries will be March 31st.
3. Aquaria will be judged during the months of April and May.
4. Winners (First, Second and Third) to be declared at the Senior Society meeting, June 23rd.

If you are interested in entering the Home Aquarium Show you are asked to phone Charlie Anderson, _____, or complete the application form that will be made available. REMEMBER - All entries must be in by March 31st.

Two judges will visit your home to judge the aquarium of your choice. Those entering the show will be advised as to date, and time, of the visit by the judges.

This is your opportunity of receiving first hand information, suggestions and comments that will be helpful to each member regarding the hobby, shows, judging of aquaria, fish, plants, etc.

The rules are as follows:

1. An entry fee of .50¢ shall be made in order to help towards the expense of prizes. A trophy is awarded for first prize and is



(Cont'd page 15)

returned to the Society when a new winner is declared.

2. Only ONE aquarium shall be entered in competition. This aquarium shall not exceed the dimensions of 15 x 16 x 30 inches.
3. Any species of tropical fish may be entered.
4. The following shall be judged in accordance with our OVAS Standard Show Rules:



FISH

POINTS

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) Size (according to normal size of fish growth. Fish should be of maximum size to obtain full points..... | 10 |
| (b) Colour..... | 10 |
| (c) Fins and Scales..... | 10 |
| (d) Health (general appearance, diseases, etc)..... | 10 |

PLANTS

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) Size (according to size of plant growth)..... | 10 |
| (b) Colour (health of plant)..... | 10 |
| (c) Planting (correct individual planting)..... | 10 |
| (d) Water Scaping (general layout of plants only)..... | 10 |

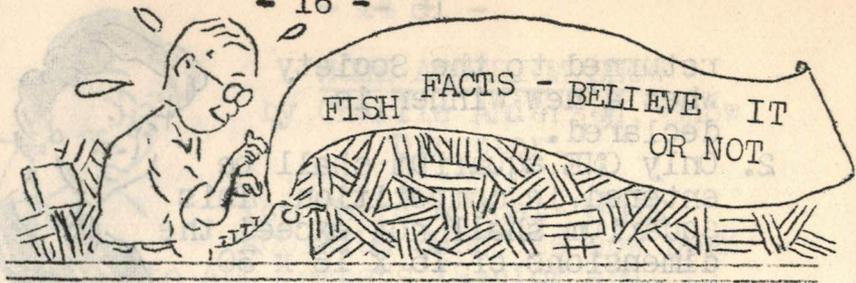
AQUARIUM

- | | |
|---|----|
| (a) Water Scaping (artistic effect, sand, rockery, driftwood, etc)..... | 10 |
| (b) Cleanliness (plants, bottom of aquarium, glass)..... | 5 |
| (c) Clarity of water..... | 5 |



TOTAL..... 100

.....



by your OVAS Reporters
Muriel Hodges and Ed Parisien

Many of us are aware that the turtle will eat up every snail you have in your aquarium. Now the question has been asked "Will the turtle eat the fish"? The answer is YES...the turtle can very easily take a bite out of your fishes tail when the lights are out and the fish are resting. It is suggested, to be on the safe side, that the turtle be removed from the aquarium before you turn out your aquarium light.

Educated Angel Fish - That's what Weldon Hodges says he has. It appears that Weldon has trained his young angel fish to eat their daily meal of brine shrimp from a saucer. Weldon has been very successful in spawning the angel fish and raising a great many young fry. However, the latest batch (approximately 175) look rather queer as about half of them have deformed pectoral fins. Our Scientific Advisor, Father Legault, is going to try a few experiments to find the cause of this deformity.

Marcel Leduc is having very good success with his mouthbreeders.

Diane Fraser has spawned the CORADORAS CATFISH. We do believe that this is a FIRST in Ottawa.

In the past two months many members have been reporting that their fish have ich.

(Cont'd page 17)

(the usual white spots but very small in number). This white spot is not ich unless their is a great number of spots which practically cover the fish. Success in treating this unidentified disease is the use of salt and raising the temperature.

The excellent article on Panchax Lineatus, written by Mrs. Allison Randall, was reprinted in "The Scalare" a magazine published by The Tropical Fish Club of Dallas, Texas.

Rumor!! ... One explanation on the sudden shortage of Plecostomus is that the U.S. importers were buying these so-called "Window cleaners" from individual sellers in South America, and the governments down there decided that such a good business needed an export tax. So, when the tax was levied, the importers were not quite in agreement. Then the governments came back and declared an embargo on shipments. Consequently, we are without these hard working cats, and it remains to be seen which side will give in first...from AQUA FOCUS, August, 1959.

Your OVAS Reporters are most anxious to receive information about your success or failure in spawning your fish, diseases, experiments, hints for the hobbyist etc, etc etc...Phone or write to:

Miss Muriel Hodges
[redacted], Ottawa 1

Mr. Edgar Parisien
[redacted]

OTTAWA 2. [redacted]

Because of its calcium content, coral should not be used in a fresh water aquarium. Besides, it doesn't look natural.

Blue Gouramis will begin to spawn at a size of about 3 inches. They are very prolific.

.....

THE JAR SHOW

by Charlie Anderson, Show Director

At each regular meeting (with exception of December) we will be holding a Jar Show.

This is your opportunity to bring the best fish you have to compete with other entries. Points are awarded as follows: First - 4 points, Second - 3 points, Third - 2 points and every member entering the show receives 1 point. The three members with the greatest number of points at the end of the year will receive a prize.

There are a few simple rules to be followed when entering your fish in the Jar Show:

1. Fish should be shown in a square jar.
2. When the sex of the fish is difficult to determine the member may enter a male or female.
3. The Jar Show entry will contain no gravel, sand or plants.

Fish of the month Jar Shows for the next three months will be:

- FEBRUARY - Tiger Barb (male or female)
- MARCH - Black Tetra (male or female)
- APRIL - Giant Danio

The standings todate are:

- George Bowie - 4 points
- Alan Griffin - 3 points
- Charlie Anderson - 2 points
- Wilf Doucette - 1 point
- Al & Norman Johnson - 1 point
- Alice Neumann - 1 point
- Claire & Heinz Kroeger - 1 point

You can add your name here by entering the Jar Show at the February meeting.

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WE WILL ORDER IT FOR
YOU

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FISH EVERY WEEK

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YOUR FISH

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COLLECTION OF TROPICAL
FISH BOOKS

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190 BANK STREET, OTTAWA
Phone.....CE2-7586



HAVE YOU HEARD THE
LATEST?

...we welcome the following new members who joined the OVAS (Senior Society) at our January meeting: John Argue and Bill Forward who transferred from the Junior Society; Mr. and Mrs. John P. Cuerrier; Mr. Al Johnson; Mr. Norman Johnson; Mr. Klaus Gottlob; Mrs. B.G. Lalonde; Major and Mrs. Aleck Morrall and Mr. K.H. Schroeder..... it is reported that a record number (total 52) members have renewed their membership as of this date...

...while we are on the subject of membership let us all make an extra effort to

(Cont'd page 20)

bring a friend (prospective member) to the meetings...an increase in membership means additional funds...additional money to spend on programmes...your benefit...

...sorry to hear that our young friend, Ian Woods, past President of the Junior Society is ill. Hope you will be in good health real soon Ian...

...we should take our hats off to our new Treasurer, Captain Jack Fraser, who set up his little office at the meeting for membership fees, issuing name cards, membership cards and signing the register.. all in quite a business-like manner.... typewriter included...

...we were honoured at the Senior meeting with a guest from the Montreal Aquarium Society - Mr. Leo Salmi...Mr. Salmi will be in Ottawa for a few weeks and we hope to see him attend our February meeting....

...well...you have read my line for the last time if you have not renewed your membership fee...this happens to be your last free copy of the OVAS News...don't let me down - I said every member would renew their membership this year...

...it sure is nice to see our Junior members transfer over to the Senior Society when becoming of age...they are excellent members who are always ready to help any committee...members such as Gary Zumar, Terry Wilkie, Fred Gault, Bill Forward and John Argue...

...the amendment to our Constitution and By-Laws had a very short life...this was the amendment whereby someone felt we required a second Vice-President...the amendment was ruled out of order as it was not presented in the proper form...

(Cont'd page 21)

...Charlie Anderson, Show Director, recently installed the aquarium in the St. Laurent Sanitorium, located near the Hull Armouries, Hull, PQ. Charlie is doing a very good job as our Show Director and is quite a man of action...the aquarium that was presented to the St. Laurent Sanitorium was a 1959 project ...Charlie reports that the aquarium presented is a 12 x 15 x 30, with stand, including all the accessories, plants and a variety of fish. Donations of fish, guppies and mollies, were received from Don Thompson and Weldon Hodges...The aquarium is set up in the sunroom of the Sanitorium on the 3rd floor of the mens ward...it is the usual practice to have one or two members drop in, once or twice a month, to see that there are no difficulties with the aquarium. If you are living in Hull you could help your Society greatly by volunterring to take on this small job - anyone in Ottawa wishing to help will be appreciated. Call Charlie Anderson at [redacted] ...

...at the Senior Society February meeting you will be asked to complete an "Information Card", name, address, type of employment, phone number, number of aquaria etc... there are only about 7 questions which, when completed, will be helpful to the Society...

...A milkman found this scribbled note waiting for him: "Dear Milkman: We don't want milk every day. We want milk like this. Today we want milk. Tomorrow we don't. And the next day will be just like the day before the day after tomorrow." ...

...If you want to make an easy job seem mighty hard, just keep putting off doing it.

...A henpecked weatherman claims: "My wife speaks 150 words a minute with gusts up to 180"....

Cheers for now... :::::

IF IT IS YOUR WISH TO SEE SOME
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HOBBYIST

Otto
Flegel, prop.

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NYLON SPAWNING NETS

Reprinted from "Tropical Topics"

Have you tried breeding tropical fish with the assistance of the spawning nets that are now on the market? If not you should try them. They are more roomy than the old style breeding traps, and the fish are less apt to injure themselves if they are frightened. The young of most live bearers can slip through the net and away from the often cannibalistic parent fish. The nets can be used to spawn many of the egg laying fish. Non adhesive, or semi-adhesive eggs will slip right through the net. With such a set up it is easy to keep a clean bottom before the eggs are layed. There is no problem of uneaten food becoming trapped in marbles, spanish moss, plants etc. All debris is easily

(Cont'd page 23)



Golden Anniversary
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seen and removed from the bare bottom. Another very distinct advantage is that the eggs are in plain sight, and still are protected from the parent fish. No need to get that bug eyed fish fan stare. The eggs are clearly there, on the bare bottom for the fan to observe and gloat over. Try it sometime. You can observe the whole spawning and hatching process.

The nylon nets are strong and durable and they are easy to sterilize. They can be cleaned and sterilized in the same way that you handle your catching nets. They come in various sizes and mesh sizes to accommodate your fishes particular requirements.

.....

THE MAGAZINE COMMITTEE
OVAS NEWS

Director & Editor: Harvey Wittenberg

Assistant Editor: Gary Zumar

Assistant Editor: ????????

Junior Soc Editor: Larry Neumann

Typists: Diane Fraser
Wayne Warwick
????????

Reporters: Muriel Hodges
Ed Parisien
????????

Advertising: ????????

Publishers: Fred Gault
Terry Wilkie
Gerry Guzzo
????????
????????

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP PRODUCE THE
OVAS NEWS? COULD WE ERASE THE
QUESTION MARKS AND ADD YOUR NAME?

Phone: [redacted] Harvey Wittenberg

PS - There are no meetings to attend.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Tiger Barbs are often nasty toward other
fishes. When they get that way, it is
best to separate them.

The best diet for all young live-bearers
is newly hatched brine shrimp.

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O.V.A.S.
JUNIOR SOCIETY
SECTION

Editor:
Larry Neumann

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At this time of the year it is of utmost
importance that every member renew his or
her membership at an early date. I ask
that you cooperate and also that each member
make an effort to bring a friend to the
meetings to help increase our membership.
If your membership fee is not paid to our
Treasurer by the end of February then your
name shall be removed from our mailing list
for the OVAS News and Notice of Meetings.

I am very pleased to report that Laurie
Walker has been appointed as the Assistant
Director for the Social Committee and Peter
Rail for the Membership Committee. Further
assistant directors are to be appointed for
Programme, Magazine/Library and the Show
Committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to
welcome five new members who joined our
Junior Society at the last meeting: Paul
Francis; Leonard Hibbert; Jack Keaney;
Wayne Moore and Leigh Warren.

At our Executive meeting it was agreed
that we would subscribe to the Tropical Fish
Hobbyist Magazine for our library. The
first issue should be available next month.

(Cont'd page 26)

New name cards are being prepared by Larry Forrest, Membership Director, and will be available at our February meeting. The new cards will be in large type; members - white cards, Directors - blue cards and elected officers - red cards.

Your attention is directed to pages 3, 6, 8 and 14.

Chipper Vickers
President

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THE JUNIOR SOCIETY JAR SHOW

by John McKinlay-Key, Show Director

Commencing with our meeting of February 18th we shall award points to our jar show entries as follows: First - 4 points, Second - 3 points, Third - 2 points, and every member entering the show will receive 1 point. At the end of the year the three members with the greatest number of points will each win a prize. IN ADDITION, we will continue to present the winner of the jar show with a prize at each meeting.

The fish of the month chosen for our Jar Shows are:

- FEBRUARY - Serpie Tetra
- MARCH - Tiger Barb
- APRIL - White Cloud
- MAY - Black Tetra
- JUNE - Neon Tetra
- SEPTEMBER - Fancy Guppy (male)
- OCTOBER - Leopard Catfish
- NOVEMBER - Red Sword (male)
- DECEMBER - Zebra
- JANUARY 1961 - Scissor Tail

(where sex is not indicated a male or female may be entered).

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FINS AND THEIR USES

Reprinted from "The Filter", Rochester Aquarium Society.

No doubt fish fins evolved for the purpose of aiding locomotion, but they are also useful accessories, and over a period of time, have been modified to take on new functions.

DORSAL FIN: The fin on the back of a fish acts primarily as a stabilizer - it keeps the fish upright and traveling in a straight line. Most fish have only one or two dorsal fins; some species have long back fins; some have a series of fins; and a few have none at all.

CAUDAL FIN: The tail fin's primary job is aiding propulsion and steering the fish, and comes in various shapes and sizes. In most fishes, it is symmetrical, and may be paddle-shaped, forked, rounded, or drawn out into a point. Some fish have multiple tails (fan-tail goldfish), and some have extremely large multicolored ones (Guppies).

ANAL FIN: Like the dorsal, this fin is primarily a stabilizer and may be arranged so it can be raised and lowered at will. In some fish it helps the fish move, and is completely absent in others.

PECTORAL FINS: The side fins are probably the most important fins from the standpoint of locomotion. Any of the other fins may be removed without seriously interfering with the fish's ability to swim, but removal of the pectorals would make it almost impossible for a fish to carry on. They are vital for quick starts and stops, and most necessary for sharp turns and general maneuverability. There are no species of fish lacking these fins, and some fish use them to "walk" on. They are usually in constant motion; even when the fish is stationary, the pectorals

(Cont'd page 28)

fan back and forth to counteract a tendency of the fish to move back and forth which is caused by water leaving the gills.

VENTRAL FINS: The ventrals are the most versatile of all the fins. They help to increase stability, are used by some fish to support them when resting on the bottom, or to permit them to cling to rocks or plants. In Gouramis they are drawn out into long "feelers", which apparently act as organs of touch. In many groups of fish, including the live-bearers, the ventral fins are modified into clappers to assist in the spawning act. However, the ventrals are entirely lacking in some groups of fish and have been removed experimentally without noticeably impairing ability to swim.

Fins are important features of fishes and paired fins are found in no other group or animals.

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PRINCIPLES GOVERNING A SUCCESSFUL AQUARIUM
by Mozelle Watson. Reprinted from the "Scalare", Tropical Fish Club of Dallas.

We must start first with size of the aquarium. It is very wise to choose as large as we can afford, rather than several small ones. Next, is good lighting.

I have heard this expression so many times - "I'll buy more fish and add the light later on". Not realizing just how important light is to the plants and fish.

Then comes that ever faithful question - "Why do my plants die and my aquarium look so ugly?". It is not surprising that this hobbyist was short lived.

The principles governing successful aquarium maintenance are little understood.

(Cont'd page 29)

We realize a fish keeper's task is the maintenance of a highly artificial and restricted community of fish and plants, with a balance which can easily topple with disastrous results...such as over feeding, poor light or too many fish.

Yet a few fundamental facts are to be recognized and applied with common sense this problem will correct itself.

There may be decorative rocks. Be sure you know what type rock you are using for some are good and others are bad.

The chief decoration should be plants. They contribute more to the attractive appearance of any aquarium. What do plants and light do for our fish? is a question we should all stop and ask ourselves. The answer is one that we should all bear in mind -- Fish consume solid food and excrete solid feces. They breathe oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide, in total they tend to deplete their environment of oxygen and to foul it with carbon dioxide and excrement.

Plants also breathe oxygen, but in sufficiently good light they manufacture sugar, etc., from carbon dioxide taken from their surroundings, whether air or water, and they release pure oxygen. This is done in the leaves of the plants. They also absorb dissolved salts and use these together with carbon dioxide in building up complex organic compounds. Few plants can utilize solid or very complex organic compounds.

With adequate light plants tend to restore oxygen to the water. In poor light or in darkness they deplete the water of oxygen as fish do. It is only in the well lighted tank that they perform the complimentary function to fish. It is a very pretty sight to watch good, healthy plants release tiny bubbles of oxygen in sun light. Our aquariums are to be regarded by most of us as an artifact, not a mirror held up to nature.

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JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

The Aquarist's Calendar
"The Aquarium"

FEBRUARY - During winter months many localities treat their tap-water supplies with heavy charges of chlorine as a germicide. Although there are many ways to reduce the chemical from water to be used for the aquarium, the easiest of all is to simply take it out of the hotwater tap. If it is 130 degrees or more, it clears itself of the gas by the time it cools itself to room temperature, which generally means standing overnight. By morning it is ready to use.

February is also a good month in which to give most fishes a normal mid-year resting period. That is, by reducing their average temperatures of their tanks from approximately 78-80 to about 70-74, they can be carried along to gather strength and stamina for early Spring breeding, that can be quickly induced by bringing their tank temperatures up to the maximum again. Plants also do well with this short rest period.

Another word of caution during February is that should mechanical heating equipment fail for even a short period, and tanks become chilled, do not under any circumstances try to return them to maximum temperatures in a hurry. Take time, do it slowly, take two or three hours. Many fishes can take a slow chilling and a slow rise without harm. It is the sudden, fast and protracted changes that kill.

February is the month when you should start making plans for spawning.

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

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QUIZ

FOLLOWING ARE SOME NAMES OF FISH. THEY ARE ALL POPULAR. TRY TO UNSCRAMBLE THEM by Larry Neumann - OVAS Junior Society

(mark one point for each correct answer: 20 perfect, 15 good, 10 fair, below 10 poor).

1. mftthrouie firemouth
2. olmyl molly
3. abtet beta
4. brux
5. hitwe ouldc white cloud
6. rtgie bbar tiger barb
7. cenlip hfis pencil fish
8. usisdc discus
9. buel latpy blue platy
10. vsierl lload silver dollar
11. acklb etrat black tetra
12. eblu ouiamrg blue gourami
13. obeerdemthurs mouth breeders
14. sasgl tacishf glass catfish
15. siorasclsti scissortail
16. verstilpi silver tip
17. neegr laitwrds green swordtails
18. ulbe nomo blue moon
19. klbac glean black angel
20. cyfna yugpp fancy guppy

Answers on page 32 - Don't cheat...

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGE 31

1. Firemouth, 2. Molly, 3. Betta, 4. Zebra, 5. White Cloud, 6. Tiger Barb, 7. Pencil Fish, 8. Discus, 9. Blue Platy, 10. Silver Dollar, 11. Black Tetra, 12. Blue Gourami, 13. Mouthbreeders, 14. Glass Catfish, 15. Scissortail, 16. Silvertip, 17. Green Swordtails, 18. Blue Moon, 19. Black Angel, 20. Fancy Guppy.

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WANT ACID WATER CONDITIONS?
from Aquatic Life

One of the boys at a meeting recently said. "I do not worry about the pH of my breeding tanks. I put a couple of Mystery Snails in my tank and in a few days the water is 6.6, just what I want it".

In that sentence he told a story. Mystery Snails, beside being interesting and of great value as scavengers, create a slightly acid water condition where a natural alkaline water is available.

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If you have a pen, or pencil, and a piece of paper, you could help your OVAS News editor to fill this space.

WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY?