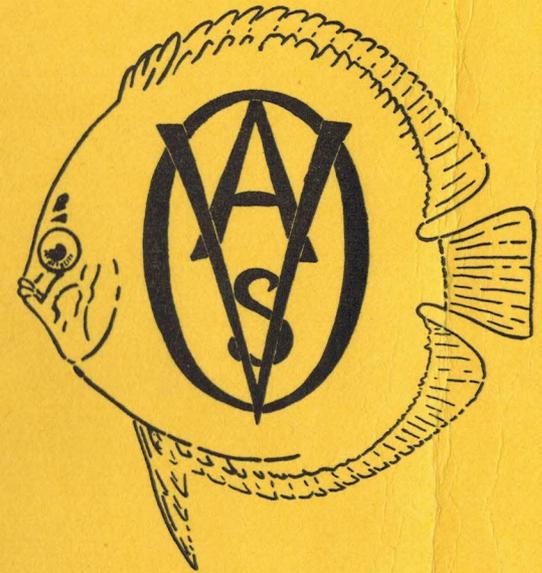


# OVAS NEWS

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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

<u>Junior Society</u>		
Thursday, March 17th	.....	7.00 PM
Thursday, April 21st	.....	7.00 PM
<u>Senior Society</u>		
Thursday, March 24th	.....	7.45 PM
Thursday, April 28th	.....	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]).

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS  
SENIOR SOCIETY

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Mr. Herbert Axelrod, Jersey City, USA.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

Father Romeo Legault, OMI, University  
of Ottawa.

President: Mr Wilf Doucette  
Vice-Pres: Mr Don Thompson  
Secretary: Mrs Thelma Williams  
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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)  
Librarians: Mr Bob Naylor

TIFAS Rep: Mr Don Thompson

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY CONSULTANTS

Area No.1 Mr Edgar Parisien  
Area No.2  
Area No.3  
Area No.4

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 is a Charter Member of The International Federation of Aquarium Societies, (TIFAS).

1954 - 1960  
OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM  
SOCIETY SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

Each year, for the past five years, we have published the complete history of our Society commencing with our first meeting, Thursday, March 11th, 1954. This history has now grown to some thirty-five pages which does create some difficulty for our OVAS News; therefore, the complete history will not be published in this issue but will be published as a supplement at some later date (finances permitting). However, I certainly will not let this opportunity pass without mentioning a few words to mark our Sixth Anniversary.

Being one of the original members, I can take you back to the first two meetings which were held in a real estate office, 270 MacLaren Street, Ottawa, where some thirty enthusiastic tropical fish hobbyists were determined to form a society. At these two meetings the necessary plans were made and officers elected. Mr. Otto J. Flegel was elected President.

Incidentally, it was quite a surprise to me, and no doubt will be to many of you, to learn that there was an aquarium society formed in Ottawa some thirty years ago. The name of the society is not known. We were informed by one of the members that a number of meetings were held but the society did not meet with any success. It was also stated that we would fail.

Being very determined that Ottawa was going to have an aquarium society, all necessary plans were completed and the first official meeting of The Ottawa Valley

Aquarium Society was called on Thursday, March 11th, 1954. The meetings were held in the Ottawa Teachers College, Lisgar and Elgin Streets.

During the first and second year, we were confronted with many problems - some we did not know existed. The fact that we were holding two meetings each month did present a problem for programme material, not to mention the business of a society which was in its infancy. Then there was the attempt to write our Constitution and By-Laws. As a result we did lose many of the original members who were responsible for the forming of the Society. A Junior Society was formed on April 14th, 1955.

Today we have a small number (only six), of the original members who are with us today: Mrs. Flo Philips, Mr. Ed Parisien, Mr. Phil Curry, Mr. Otto J. Flegel, Mr. Jack Dirks and yours truly.

A note of interest here is the fact that Ottawa, at that time, had one pet shop which was selling tropical fish - "Dickson's Pet Shop". Today we have four excellent pet shops; Aladdin Pet Shop, two Kar Vel Pet Ranches and Dickson's Pet Shop - all members of our Society. In addition, we also have many other stores in Ottawa who are now selling tropical fish - a remarkable change in six years.

Through the years we have seen the Society grow and grow. We have come through many storms and today the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society is second to none.

It is my opinion that there is no other Aquarium Society which has obtained the success that we have in such a short time. We are well organized, we have a very large membership, excellent facilities for meetings, a Junior Society we can all be proud of, we have made a number of contributions to the community and we have

(Cont'd page 5)

received the highest praise from a great many societies, friends and visiting speakers.

This success through the years is the result of many members working together as a team, for the hobby and the Society. Yes, we can still do better. There are fields that we have not touched as yet. We can further the aims and purpose of our Society - which has no end - and we can do it with continued effort by every member, Junior and Senior, helping each other to enjoy our hobby, meet new and old friends. YES, we are even helping to make this a better world to live in, BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

*Harvey Wittenberg*

PROGRAMME - MARCH 24TH MEETING

At our March 24th meeting we will celebrate our OVAS Sixth Anniversary with a special programme.

We are very happy to announce that we will have as our guest speaker, Mr. W.L. Whitem, F.Z.S., from Toronto. Mr. Whitem is a Consultant, Artist, Author, Lecturer, in all phases of Tropical Fishkeeping.

Mr. Whitem will speak on "Dry Food Feeding", which will include a coloured film showing his personal aquaria and fish.

The new dry food being introduced is known as "Dart" Tropical Fish Food, by the Quaker Oats Company. Two small samples will be given to each member present at the meeting.

The remainder of our programme will consist of a fun night, refreshments, including a birthday cake.

Dan Jeffrey  
Programme Director.

### THE COMMUNITY AQUARIUM

Reprinted from T.I.F.A.S. Digest & Report

Every fancier, be he novice or advanced fancier, establishes a community aquarium at some point in his experience. Very often the community aquarium is the first effort of the novice. And...if our opinion carries any weight, we recommend the community collection, not only because it provides multiplicity of interest, but because it can be made a most attractive ornament in a home as well as merely an aquarium stocked with various kinds of fishes.

The community tank presents an interesting and varied spectacle but it is not usually suited to the propagation of fish. That being the case some aquarists use only male fishes in mixed collections as their coloration is usually more brilliant and conflicts due to mating are eliminated.

To those who are contemplating community tanks, I recommend a depth of at least sixteen inches and preferably, eighteen. For large tanks, even twenty or twenty-two is not too much. If the width can not be increased in proportion, aeration will be necessary, but with the present efficient and moderately priced pumps this is no drawback.

Although it is not suggested that the only way to create a spectacular aquarium is to keep mixed species (anyone having seen a shoal of neons swimming against a background of red slate and green plants, would deny this) it is a very satisfying way. However, variety is the spice of life. A good community aquarium is a matter of some thought, for after all, fishes can not be mixed indiscriminately. Here are some basic principles, if followed, will surely bring good results.

(Cont'd page 7)

1. Use only fish that have similar food and temperature requirements.
2. Choose tropicals that are neither shy in the presence of company nor those that are aggressive.
3. Species that attain similar adult sizes should be selected.
4. Make sure that species using all levels of the water are present.
5. Always start the aquarium with young specimens let them grow up together. When possible add them all at the same time to prevent the first inhabitants developing superior attitudes towards the late comers. New fishes are best introduced at night, just before "lights out".
6. At least two fish of each species (trios are better) should be used.
7. Never stock the aquarium to its full capacity. Leave room for the fish and plants to grow.

Before closing this article let me say that the number, combination and arrangement of plants for a given tank will depend largely on the size, proportion, depth, amount of light and the preferences of the owner. About the only rules that can be laid down are that the taller plants should go in the rear and the smaller ones in front, and that each plant should be allowed room to grow. As regards the type of fishes best suited this is again mostly a matter of taste of the individual. There are, of course, dozens of species suitable for a community group.

.....

WHY NOT ENTER YOUR AQUARIUM IN THE HOME  
AQUARIUM SHOW - Closing date for entries is  
March 31st. Phone: Charlie Anderson, Show  
Committee Director, [redacted]

.....



If you will phone [redacted], Dan Jeffrey, or [redacted] Harvey Wittenberg, we will be pleased to arrange for your mailman to deliver additional raffle tickets....

We have 450 books of tickets on hand ... 450 x \$3.25 would give us a total of \$1,462.50. This is what you can do for your Society.

We can make this the most successful raffle ever held if each member in the Society will make an effort. Ask your friends, relatives, etc, to sell a book for you.

**DON'T WAIT - DO IT NOW**

Sell your raffle tickets and turn in your money, and ticket stubs, to Mr Dan Jeffrey at the regular meetings as early as possible. Junior members will turn in their money and ticket stubs to Mr Harvey Wittenberg, or Mr Dan Jeffrey, at the Junior Society regular meetings.

**THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HELP YOUR SOCIETY**

MY EXPERIENCE IN SPAWNING THE TIGER BARB  
By Mr. Edgar Parisien, Ottawa Valley  
Aquarium Society

(written as an easy guide for spawning)

NAME OF FISH - Puntius Tetrazona. POPULAR NAME - Tiger Barb.

FORMERLY KNOWN AS - Barbus Sumatranus, Barbus Tetrazona and Tiger Barb.

LOCATION OF FISH - Sumatra, Malay to Borneo.

FAMILY - Carps. The carps from the largest family of fishes known. Nearly all have scales, but none has teeth in the jaws. In place of jaw teeth, they have curved pharyngeal bones in the throat which bear grinding teeth. Many carps have barbels (whisker-like structures about the mouth) but only a few rare ones have more than 2 pairs. No carp ever has an adipose fin, and no carp ever occurs naturally in South America or Australia.

LENGTH: 2 inches.

TEMPERMENT - Peaceful - but sometimes very playful.

SEX DIFFERENCE - Male has cherry nose and very brilliant. Female quite bulky with row at spawning time.

SPAWNING AGE - Approximately one year.

CONDITIONING FOR SPAWNING - Separate sexes and feed liberally on fresh liver and any live food you have on hand.

WATER - pH 6.4 to 7.0. DH not important.

TEMPERATURE - 72 to 76.

EQUIPMENT - None required other than aquarium plants.

(Cont'd page 10)

TYPE OF PLANTS - A well planted aquarium is preferable but a bare tank containing a large bunch of anacharis or myriophyllum will do.

METHOD OF SPAWNING - Pair will chase each other for awhile and then take side by side position among the plants (repeated several times).

EGGS - Eggs are adhesive to glass, plants and stones.

TIME OF SPAWNING - Usually in the morning when the sun strikes the aquarium.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING - Light should not be too bright and a sudden change from dark to a bright light will frighten them so much that one can not expect a spawn.

REMOVAL OF ADULTS - Remove adults from spawn.

LIGHT AFTER SPAWNING - After pair have been removed, lights should be turned out for 48 hours.

HATCHING TIME - 24 to 36 hours.

FEEDING THE FRY - Green water should be introduced 24 hours after the fry absorb the yolk-sac. In three days start feeding infusoria. If fry appear to be active try brine shrimp for a week then they are ready for micro-worms. When they start getting the dark markings like the adults then alternate feeding with fine dry food.

REMARKS - To force growth, 24 hour lighting is an advantage. A bare aquarium is also an advantage when feeding the fry as the micro-worms can not hide for long and you can see if the fry are eating the food.

NOTE FROM EDITOR: A new series of (Cont'd page 11)

articles on the spawning of various species of our tropical fish will be a monthly feature. This type of article will be in the simplest form possible, and at the same time providing the important information.

Our reporters (Mr Ed Parisien and Miss Muriel Hodges) may ask you to complete one of the pro-formas on the spawning of your fish. This is your opportunity to contribute something to your OVAS News.

.....

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Winter is still here with snow and ice  
A chair near the fireplace does sound nice  
But March 24th you should rise and shine  
COME TO THE MEETING - AND ARRIVE ON TIME.

----REMEMBER OUR ADVERTISERS----

SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT

By Mr Charlie Anderson, Show Director

The Fish of the Month chosen for our Jar Shows for the next four months will be:

- MARCH: Black Tetra (male or female)
- APRIL: Giant Danio (male or female)
- MAY: Three Spot Gourami (male)
- JUNE: Betta (male).

Remember, when you enter your best fish in the Jar Show: only one fish, square jar, no gravel or plants.

Jar Show Standings todate are:

Charlie Anderson	5 points
Ed Parisien	4 points
George Bowie	4 points
Alan Griffin	3 points
Wilf Doucette	3 points
Al & Norman Johnson	2 points
Claire & Heinz Kroeger	2 points
Diane Fraser	1 point
Alice Neumann	1 point

Everyone has a chance to win. One entry could very easily place your name at the top of the list. Points awarded are: First 4 points, Second 3 points, Third 2 points, and every member entering the show receives 1 point.

The Home Aquarium Show is now in progress. Closing date for entries is March 31st.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED  
IN HELPING THE SHOW  
COMMITTEE

...PHONE [redacted] ....

Charlie Anderson

OUR COFFEE URN

TOTAL NUMBER OF CANADA PACKERS LABELS  
REQUIRED FOR PAYMENT OF OUR COFFEE URN  
IS 6,000.

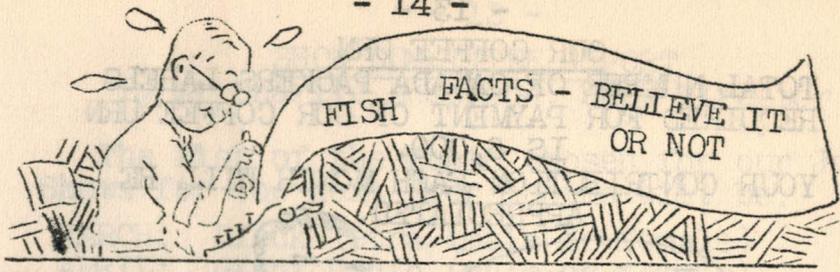
YOUR CONTRIBUTION EACH MONTH WILL BE  
APPRECIATED.



These are the labels

MAPLE LEAF SMOKED MEATS, WIENERS (also DEVON). MAPLE LEAF CHEESE FURTERS, MAPLE LEAF BAR BQ FRANKS (bacon - top of packages, others - cello wrapper). MAPLE LEAF SAUSAGE (also DEVON & JUBILEE (front of package). MAPLE LEAF SAUSAGE MEAT (cello wrapper). MAPLE LEAF COOKED MEATS (whole label). HEAD CHEESE (plastic top). MAPLE LEAF CANNED COOKED HAMS, YORK CANNED MEATS & KLIK & KAM (key strip or label if paper) MAPLE LEAF LARD, DOMESTIC SHORTENING, SNOW-FLAKE SHORTENING, MARGENE MARGARINE, TULIP MARGARINE DINETTE SPREAD, TULIP SPREAD (top of package with tuck-in flap). MAPLE LEAF EGGS (top of carton). MAPLE LEAF BUTTER, MAPLE LEAF CHEESES (whole label). MAPLE LEAF MINCEMEAT (whole label). MAPLE LEAF POULTRY (plastic wrapper). YORK PEANUT BUTTER (lid or label) YORK PEANUTS (label or cello bag). MAPLE LEAF FROZEN PIES (whole wrapper). MAPLE LEAF SOAP PRODUCTS (Flakes - top of box, Beauty Soap - wrapper). MAPLE LEAF LIQUID DETERGENT (bottle cap) CHUM DOG FOOD, ZIP DOG FOOD (whole label). (when in doubt - bring the whole label)

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By your OVAS Reporters  
Muriel Hodges and Ed Parisien

You will remember, a few months ago, reading an excellent article by one of our Junior members, Ronald Ensom, titled "FINNY PANORAMA". Ronald's article was reprinted in the "Nebraska Tropical Topics, February issue, published by the Nebraska Aquarium Society, Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A.

Last month we were happy to report that Diane Fraser had spawned her Corydoras Catfish. Diane now reports:

I placed two Corydoras Catfish in a 15 gallon tank with some swordtails when cleaning the tanks. I left them for three or four days and then moved one of them into a 5 gallon tank with some adult guppies.

A few days later, when feeding the guppies before breakfast, I found about two hundred small white eggs attached to the front glass of the tank and also on the heater.

The guppies were immediately taken out of the tank and then I patiently waited for the eggs to hatch. No luck! They all fungused.

Now that I know I have a female Corydoras Catfish I will try and see if my luck will be better next time.

The water in the 15 and 5 gallon tank was about 75 degrees. The eggs were about

(Cont'd page 15)

1/8 inch in diameter, white, and when they were finally removed from the tank it was found that the egg covering was pliable and fairly tough. Other fish would find it most difficult to take these eggs off the glass as they are firmly stuck.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has successfully spawned, hatched, and raised the Corydoras Catfish, so that I may have additional information available the next time my fish spawn.

Marcel Leduc reports that his mouth-breeders spawned. After carrying the eggs for 26 days they finally spit them out, in apparent good condition, and then died the next day. How shall we explain this?

Many calls are received from members asking how to spawn egg-laying fish in a community tank. It just can't be done unless that one community aquarium is the size of a small lake.

Charlie Anderson reports that his African Mouthbreeders are algae eaters and have now taken over the job of his Plecostomus.

One of our members of the fairer sex was pleasantly surprised to find a spawning of those little beauties "Pelmatochromis Kribensis" in the aquarium the other day. Although they are cichlids the young fry are free swimming and approximately 1/4 inch long when found. How about a further report K?

Did you know that some fish eggs can be shipped dry by mail anywhere in the world and still retain their viability.

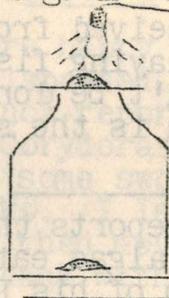
(Cont'd page 16)

Grant and Thelma Williams suggest the following method for collecting white worms:

One of the problems of feeding white worms to your fish is the separation of worms from the culture medium. By experimentation, we have developed the following method which we hope will be of interest to others:

1. Take a large bottle and fill it with cold water.
2. Place a piece of net or screen on top of the bottle.
3. Put a little of your culture on top of this and then place a small light over the bottle and leave it for about fifteen to twenty minutes.

You will now find a ball of white worms at the bottom of the jar, clean and ready for your fish. See diagram below:



Now is the time to condition your fish for spring spawning.

Mr Parisien reports that the beautiful CYNOLEBIA WHITEI which he raised, after liberating it from its egg shell with the aid of tweezers last November, died yesterday from a gill infection.

Phone [redacted] Muriel Hodges or [redacted] Ed Parisien if you would like to contribute to "FISH FACTS - BELIEVE IT OR NOT"

NOW is the time to buy your Tropical Fish and Plants for the HOME AQUARIUM SHOW at

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THE MYSTERY

Reprinted from "Het Aquarium" - Translated from the Dutch by Mr. Pieter van der Brugh O.V.A.S.

After a busy day I went out to gather, as usual, the daily food for the inhabitants of my aquarium. It had been very warm that day. After a quarter of an hour of biking and perspiring I reached a good spot to catch daphnia. I saw them, swirling through the water in beautiful red clouds and I had only to scoop and gather in the harvest. Until suddenly...now what was that? A very large daphnia? Hey! How curious! I had never experienced that before. What I got in my net looked like a chicken's egg. Not one with a hard shell, but with a rubbery, light blue skin, and...it moved, too. I could see the shell going slowly up and down. (Cont'd page 18)

Cautiously I took the "egg" out of the net, put it in my daphnia pail and bicycled home with care. Arriving home I said nothing to my wife but craftily smuggled it to my breeding shed. There I immediately prepared a large tank, raised the temperature to 25°C and put the "egg" in it carefully. It was still moving, just as if there was something in it which wanted to get out. But I couldn't see what it was because the skin was not transparent.

It seemed to me that this must be something very special. Slowly I raised the temperature...30°...35°...38°...yes, even to 40°C. And then? Yes, at that moment the miracle happened: the skin burst, a tear appeared in it. Who can describe my amazement when I saw a very tiny little hand come out. I couldn't contain my excitement. In the warm breeding shed I was covered with perspiration. There was no time to think about it because, slowly, I saw the other little hand emerge, too, as if looking for the surface.

I saw myself already the centre of interest of the club, the press, the radio, and even television. Slowly the tiny hands and arms made swimming movements and steadily the little body grew. I saw a small, lovely head come out of the shell with beautiful, coal-black eyes. They looked at me approvingly as if trying to thank me for the good care. Suddenly, the rest of the cover slipped away completely and I perceived the mystery, this great wonder of nature - a lovely, small, dwarf mermaid!

She swam for a few moments along the front of the tank and then dived down behind a few watersprite. In my nervous condition I tapped against the glass and winked at her. She seemed to understand me

(Cont'd page 19)



*Golden Anniversary*  
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of tropical fish, beautifully illustrated  
Completely revised, and just printed, this  
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If you are painting always keep your tanks tightly covered and do not aerate or filter.

Mollies should be fed lightly and often.

for she smiled very kindly and waved to me from behind the plants.

I had never experienced anything like this before and suddenly I realized what a revolution it would cause in the aquarium world, what a sensation, what new aspects for van Nieuwenhuizen (famous photographer of fishes). I wanted to go and phone the president but I couldn't pull myself away from the tank. I started to cover the tank painstakingly with newspapers...Imagine! My wife! If she should see it, that would be the end of my hobby! No, for the time being I must keep it to myself, give it no publicity, only...enjoyment.

I stepped up on a chair for a moment to  
(Cont'd page 20)

get the pump ready because I realized that this little creature would need much oxygen. Then suddenly...I slipped...I just managed to catch myself on the edge of the tank which spilled over on top of me.

As in a haze I saw a pair of little hands wave as if they wanted to help me. But it was too late to have any effect now! ...Sneezing and dripping with perspiration, with the blankets over me, I woke up on the floor.

.....



HAVE YOU HEARD  
THE LATEST?

...our good friend Weldon Hodges is still on the sick list. Hope you are in good health very soon Weldon...

...news of interest from Senior Society February meeting: Professor Hillman gave a very interesting talk on "You and Your Fish", although at times the Professor forgot himself and gave forth with the professional jargon...our new coffee urn was not available but you will see it at our March meeting...the membership agreed (by a vote) to set up a University Prize Fund. This will be a yearly contribution to the Universities providing funds are available...Wilf Doucette read a letter from the St Laurent Sanitorium thanking us for the aquarium...if you know of a hospital, orphanage home, etc etc, where the Society could set up another aquarium you are asked to contact Mr. Charlie Anderson, Show Director...the results of the vote  
(Cont'd page 21)

regarding the care of the aquarium in the Biology Building was very close, however, a further vote is to be taken at the March meeting as there appeared to be a number of guests who voted - contrary to our rules... once again the LUCKY Hodges won the raffle ...Canada Packers Labels are coming in - don't forget we must collect a total of 6,000. If you have too many labels to carry to the meeting phone Gerry Lalonde...Gerry will arrange to have a van pick them up..... WELCOME TO OUR SOCIETY Mr. Gerry Guzzo; Mr and Mrs. H.C. Lloyd; Mr. and Mrs. J.G. McManus; Mr. N. Olley; Mr. K.H. Schroeder and Mr. R. Znamirovski; our new members.....

...FLASH! Message just received...latest information on the Piranha's investing the Canadian streams...STOP...it is now reported that they have advanced to the rivers and great lakes...STOP...man reported unable to take bath as piranha's coming through water taps...STOP...women reported swallowing young Piranha when drinking glass of water... tonsils lost...STOP...Prime Minister declares national emergency...STOP...PURPLE EATING PIRANHA'S TAKING OVER...H E L P...(I hope the "Register-Guard" of Eugene, Oregon, USA, like this one)...

...the executive are very interested in your absence from the regular meetings...Jack Fraser has asked that you call him at SH6-1477 concerning any bereavements, or illness...

...TIFAS Convention will be held May 6, 7 & 8, in Chicago, USA. More information in our next issue....

...Out for a drive one Sunday afternoon with my wife, I pulled to a stop at an intersection and, unable to see to the right with all this snow, asked her if any cars were coming. "No," she replied and, as I proceeded into the highway, added: "Just a truck."

THE "OVAS NEWS" STAFF

The Director, and Editor, is Harvey J. Wittenberg. Harvey is responsible to the executive, organizing the committee, editing the OVAS News.

The Assistant Editor is Gary Zumar. Gary edits the articles which you write for the OVAS News (how about giving him some work to do).

The typists are Diane Fraser and Wayne Warwick. Diane and Wayne read the exchange magazines and pick out the articles which they think will be of interest to you. The articles are typed and forwarded to the editor. They also address your OVAS News. (we reprint articles as it is impossible for all members to get the opportunity of reading our exchange magazines).

Our Reporters are Muriel Hodges and Ed Parisien. Muriel and Ed collect information from you, and the difficult job of trying to get you to write an article is their headache.

The publishers, Fred Gault, Terry Wilkie, Gerry Guzzo and Gary Zumar, assist in the printing, do the collating, stapling, licking the stamps and folding your copy of the OVAS News. (if you are missing a page or a 2 cent stamp you know who to blame).

Our Junior Society Editor is Larry Neumann. Larry is responsible for collecting articles from the Junior members for their section of the news.

THE OVAS NEWS STAFF WELCOME ANYONE WISHING TO JOIN OUR HAPPY FAMILY - NO FEES, NO MEETINGS ---A N D --- WE HAVE FUN IN MAKING ERRORS IN SPELLING, TYPING, AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, SO YOU WILL TALK ABOUT YOUR OVAS NEWS.

.....



O.V.A.S.  
JUNIOR SOCIETY  
SECTION

Editor:  
Larry Neumann

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- President: Chipper Vickers
- Vice-Pres: Gordon Worden
- Secretary: George Ward
- Treasurer: Frank Jones
- Membership: Larry Forrest
- Programme: Ian Woods
- Social: John Manchester
- Magazine: Larry Neumann
- Show: John McKinlay-Key
- Librarians: Larry Neumann  
(one to be appointed)

JUNIOR SOCIETY COMMITTEE SUPERVISORS

- Director: (to be appointed)
- Assistant: Mr. Harvey J. Wittenberg.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At our April meeting we will celebrate the fifth birthday of the Junior Society. Plans are not complete as yet so if you have any suggestions please pass them on to the executive.

(Cont'd page 24)

Mr. W.L. Whitem, of Toronto, will be speaking to the Senior Society members at the March meeting regarding a new dry fish food. This talk will be given to the Junior Society, by a Senior member, at our April meeting. Samples of the food will be distributed to each Junior member present.

Mr. Dan Jeffrey, Chairman of the Raffle Committee, will distribute raffle tickets at our March meeting. I hope that every member will make a real effort to sell at least 2 books. This is a very good way to help your Society.

There are certain rules to be strictly adhered to when attending the regular meetings in the Chemistry Building. These rules are:

1. Before the meeting, during intermission, and after the meeting, we are not permitted to run through the hallways as there are night classes in progress.
2. We are not authorized to use the elevator (except for the Librarian).
3. All members are required to sign the register book when entering and leaving the Chemistry building. The book is located on the second floor at the desk. This is in addition to our registry in the meeting room.
4. We are required to keep the meeting room clean. In order to do this it is necessary for everyone to line up for refreshments. This, I hope, will prevent any accidents with soft drinks etc.

I ask that every member cooperate in carrying out these simple rules when attending the meetings.

The Society has obtained a 72-cup coffee urn, from Canada Packers, for which the Society is to collect 6,000 labels by the  
(Cont'd page 25)

end of this year. Every member is asked to collect these labels. The Senior Society Executive kindly donated prizes of fancy fish to the three Junior members who turn in the greatest number of labels. A list of the Canada Packers products, showing the portion of the label to be saved, will be mailed to you with the notice of the meeting. All labels will be given to John Manchester, Social Director, at the regular meetings.

I would like each member to bring a friend to the meetings (a prospective member). Let us try to raise our membership to 100 - which will be a record for the Junior Society. Any suggestions as to how we can increase our membership will be appreciated.

We welcome the following new members who joined our Society at the last meeting: Susan Gordon, Robert Proulx, Bob Olson and Danny McLean.

Chipper Vickers, President.

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### BLACK MOLLIES

By Jack Keaney, Junior Society

The first Mollie was found in New Orleans by Le Seur in 1821. The range of this fish is from South Carolina to Florida and west to Mexico. The total growth is four inches. The dorsal fin has fourteen rays, the anal fin nine to ten rays, the pectoral fin thirteen rays, the pelvic fins six rays.

The short fin Mollies are not as popular or as valuable as the sailfins. They were first found in 1881 in the Rio Cauca and Venezuela by Dr. Steindachner. The basic colour of this fish is reddish purple with  
(Cont'd page 26)

reddish brown gill covers. It is only one and one-half inches long. It has a short dorsal, compared to the sailfin. They range from north Mexico to north South America. They eat vegetable matter, supplemented with daphnia, mosquito larvae, brine shrimp and liver. The fish is best maintained in old water.

The colour of the sailfin is 80% black with red or orange on the leading dorsal of the male. Their habitat is pure salt water to fresh water. Fresh water fish have slightly modified dorsals, while the salt water ones have large cape-like dorsals.

Algae is necessary in the diet of young mollies. They should also get a lot of attention and should be fed newly hatched brine shrimp. They are sensitive to temperature changes. Constant light is needed.

The three major diseases of the Mollies are ich, fungus and shimmys.

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STERILIZING PLANTS

By Lee Small - Reprinted from TROPICALS Magazine - from Midwest "Aqua Notes".

I have found that there are many times when you would like to put a plant into one of your tanks, but hesitate to do so because of the possibility of introducing disease. For the most part, plants which are purchased from a dealer have already been cleaned, although some might have been missed.

As a general practice it is a good idea to sterilize the plants no matter where they came from. In some instances - such as plants which you collect yourself or plants which are moved from a sick tank - it is absolutely necessary that some form of sterilization be used.

There are a number of good plant kits on the market. They are all excellent and will certainly do a fine job. But in case you need a quick sure method and do not have one of these kits on hand. I have found the following treatment very successful.

Four teaspoons of powdered alum - inexpensive and available at your neighborhood drugstore - should be added to one gallon of 70 to 80 deg. water (or any volume in a ratio of 1 teaspoon alum to quart of water). After the powder is completely dissolved, the plants can be placed in the solution for five minutes. This is the entire operation.

There are two points for caution: First, the plants should remain in the solution for only five minutes. If they stay in the solution for more than the five minutes they will become soft and soon die. Second, the plants must be completely rinsed before they are placed in the aquarium - alum is good for sterilizing plants, but is not good for your fish!

.....

DON'T FORGET YOUR CP LABELS

A PROBLEM

By Larry Neumann, OVAS Junior Society

I have been told by several people that when water sprite is put in an aquarium, there is soon too much of it because of its rapid growth. I have found a very good way to get rid of this problem. It was not what I had in mind at the time.

We have some Albino Mollies and they are a very hungry bunch. No matter how often I feed them, they are always hungry. Because they eat their young, I put some water sprite in the tank to provide protection for the babies. They ate both the plants and young. They are too big for a breeding trap and I don't approve of them anyway.

I should like to know if anyone else has this type of fish and what is being done about this problem.

.....

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

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

(Cont'd page 29)

gallonage of the aquarium has been exchanged. In large tanks (30 gallons and up) the new water can be taken directly from the tap without harm, but in smaller ones, the water should first stand for 24 hours.

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

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

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

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

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

Most tropicals can stand the high temperature better than the lower temperatures and the rapid drop.

SEA HORSES

By John McKinley-Key, OVAS Junior Society

I think sea horses are very interesting. But, we often hear that they are difficult to keep. My opinion is that some of this may be true but I feel that you are being discouraged by people who don't know very much about them and are not brave enough to try to breed them.

Sea horses are the most well-known of the salt water creatures because of their unfishlike ways. Their heads are the shape of a horse's. Their tails are like the grasping tails of the monkey. They have pouches for carrying their young like the kangaroo. They have bony skeletons on the external side of their bodies like some insects. Their sex life is even more unusual, for sea horses, and their cousins the pipe fish, are the only creatures known where the males exclusively care for the eggs after fertilization and bear the young.

Because of their unfishlike upright manner of swimming, they are slow and would ordinarily be easy prey to the predators of the sea, but apparently their ability to exist depends partly on their bad flavor, and, to some extent, on their power of camouflage. They ship fairly easily and are found throughout the coastal waters of Eastern USA, and Florida.

In the aquarium, they are hardy and eat freshly hatched brine shrimp. The ease with which they propropagate is astounding. Raising the fry is not easy, you might even say that is a sea horse of another colour.

Two species are generally kept in aquaria; the dwarf sea horse, Hippocampus zosterae, found on the Atlantic coast of Florida and in the Gulf of Mexico. In deeper waters the common sea horse, H. hudsonius, is found from New Jersey South,

(Cont'd page 31)

with the sub species H.N. punctulatus being common in the southern region. The dwarf sea horse reaches a size of slightly greater than two inches and is generally considered to be the easiest marine fish to maintain. The common sea horse is larger, reaching about ten inches. The sub species seldom exceeds five and one half inches.

Sea horses are normally blackish to gray, though age darkens them. The dwarfs are anything from dead white through green or yellow to brown or yellowish black.

To maintain sea horses, you must provide places for grasping (usually coral), adequate food, and peaceful tank mates. Sea horses will eat only living organisms. Larger sea horses will eat newly-born live-bearers or similar sized fish or insects, or adult brine shrimp. The dwarf species will eat newly hatched brine shrimp throughout their life cycle.

The most frequent trouble with sea horses is gas bubbles, which can be punctured with a sharp sterile instrument and the gas pressed out.

If well kept, the large common horses will last two to three years, and the dwarfs somewhat less. They may not be the easiest to look after but I am sure you will agree with me that they are one of the most interesting.

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SCIENTIFIC NAMES

from T.F.H. Magazine

Your objection to the use of scientific names is a natural one. Some of the fishes so identified have not as yet become well-known and they do not have common names. By the same token, some very popular species are known by a number of popular names. Rasbora heteromorpha is generally known as

(Cont'd page 32)

"Rasbora" in USA and Canada. In England it is known as the "Harlequin". In Germany they call it "Keilfleckbarbe", which means "Wedge-Spot Barb." All are the same fish, and there is only one scientific name, recognized throughout the world.

Our only choice is to use a name which aquarists everywhere are most apt to recognize.

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GIANT DANIO

Reprinted from Brant Aquarium Society Magazine

The Giant Danio, *Danio malabaricus*, is a close relative of the Zebra Fish. This minnow comes from India and grows to a length of 4 inches. It is a fast moving fish always on the go. It can jump quite a distance so be sure that their aquarium is kept covered with a piece of glass.

They breed exactly as the Zebras and are as easily fed. They require a temperature of 75 degrees, but can stand a variation of from 70 to 85 degrees without showing any ill effects. Smaller specimens should be purchased as they are interesting to watch grow. This holds true for most fishes; buy them young as not only are older fishes more expensive but they will not live as long once you've purchased them.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Natural gravel, in most cases is the best choice.

Feed your Mollies algae, or in the absence of same, feed them shredded lettuce.

A Catfish would not fare well in a salted aquarium.

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