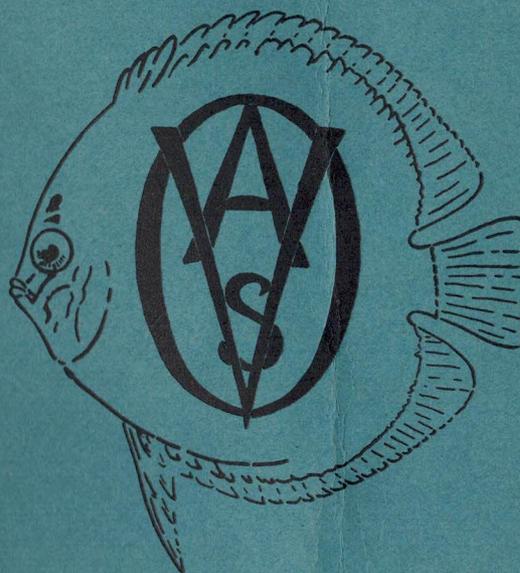


OVAS NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 343 STN. "C"
OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA



THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS

Junior Society

Thursday, May 19th 7.00 PM
Thursday, June 16th 7.00 PM

Senior Society

Thursday, May 26th 7.45 PM
Thursday, June 23rd 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)

HONORARY MEMBER
Mr. Herbert Axelrod, Jersey City, USA.

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

Membership: Captain Jack Fraser
Programme: Mr Dan Jeffrey
Social: Mr Gerry Lalonde
Magazine: Mr Harvey Wittenberg
Show: Mr Charlie Anderson
Junior Soc: Mr Harvey Wittenberg
Librarians: Mr Bill Naylor

TIFAS Rep: Mr Don Thompson

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

Father Romeo Legault, CMI, University
of Ottawa.

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY CONSULTANTS

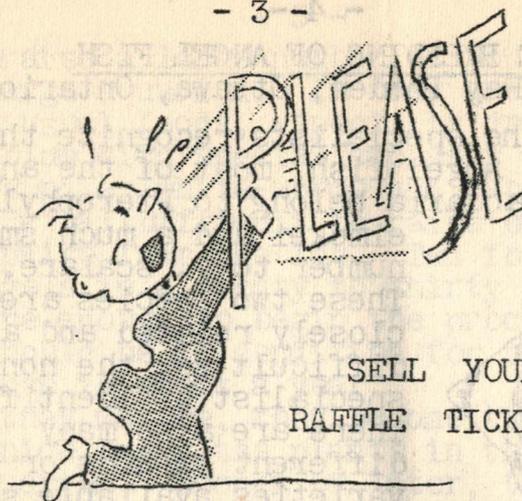
Area No.1 Mr Edgar Parisien
Area No.2 Mr Peter van der Brugh
Area No.3
Area No.4

The OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY was founded on the eleventh day of March, nineteen hundred and fifty-four.

The object of the 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, (T.I.F.A.S.).

Membership is open to all persons wishing to acquaint themselves with this hobby.



SELL YOUR
RAFFLE TICKETS

THIS IS YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY.
DRAWING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE
SENIOR SOCIETY MEETING MAY 26TH.

All Tickets, ticket stubs and money should be turned in to Mr. Dan Jeffrey at the Senior Society meeting, May 26th.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, your tickets, ticket stubs and money, may be mailed to Mr. Dan Jeffrey

[Redacted], Apt [Redacted],
Ottawa 4. Phone [Redacted].

(NOTE: Tickets and money should be in the mail no later than MAY 21ST to insure they are received in sufficient time for the draw).

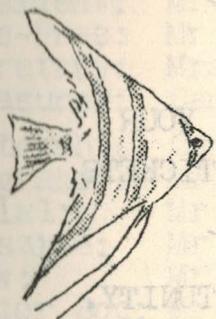
THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR
SOCIETY TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE

"WE ARE DEPENDING ON YOU"

THE BREEDING OF ANGEL FISH

By Doctor Ray Bowden, Ottawa, Ontario.

While the specialists recognize three species of Angel fish, most of the angels raised in aquaria belong to *Pterophyllum eimekei* and a much smaller number to *P. scalare*.



These two species are very closely related and are difficult for the non-specialist to identify.

There are also many different strains or varieties available such as the all-Black Angel, the half-Black Angel in

which the hind portion is black and the fore-portion lightly pigmented, the Lacetail, and the Veiltail in which the dorsal and anal fins are more elaborately developed.

It is not my intention to dwell at length on the classification of angels but the point that I want to emphasize is that if one wishes to breed angel fish, it is essential to decide what kind of angels and then to proceed according to some plan. The simplest choice would be to try to breed a strain with well-developed fins and with prominent vertical black markings. It is also possible that much success would result from crossing two strains.

This brings us to the next step, which is obtaining the parental fish. The easiest way is to buy a pair of guaranteed breeders. These are likely to be expensive. The second method is to watch the tanks of angels in the pet shops. Quite often it is possible to notice a pair spawning without the dealer noticing them. A word of caution, however, sometimes two females will lay eggs together. The third method

(Cont'd page 5)

is to raise a large number of young angels in a large aquarium. If they are fed well on the usual foods, especially dried shrimp and pabulum with special emphasis on fresh foods such as white-worms and daphnia, it is not at all difficult to raise one or more mated pairs from the lot. Ten four month old angels in a twenty to thirty gallon tank are enough to begin the procedure. The fish should be in condition for the first spawnings in about a year.

As they mature, they become timid and often hide among the plants in the back of the aquarium. Sooner or later, two of the fish will pair off. They lock jaws and seem to be trying to hurt one another but, if they are a compatible pair, this activity soon ceases. The male is usually the more aggressive. The pair tries to mark off the portion of the aquarium for their breeding area, chasing any other fish away. Some enthusiasts think that it is best to remove a potential pair of breeders but I prefer to remove the other fishes and leave the pair. For spawning areas, broad leaf plants such as the Amazon Sword and *Cryptocoryne*, glass or slate can be used. A large mature fish will lay between 800 and 1400 eggs.

Once a pair of angels has spawned, the next question is how to hatch the eggs. If two females have spawned, the eggs will not hatch. A young pair of angels may have infertile eggs at first, and then in later spawnings, the eggs will become more and more fertile. There are two methods used in hatching. If the tank is large and the water clean and well aerated and the parent fish seem to be compatible, they can be left to raise the young themselves. At first, they will fan the eggs gently with their fins to create a gentle current over them. Then when the eggs hatch after 24-48 hours and the young emerge, the parents will

(Cont'd page 6)

transfer them to freshly cleaned leaves. At intervals, they take a mouthful of the young, which are called alevin at this stage, and blow them back on to the leaf. Each alevin consists of a large yolk mass with a tiny head-like portion, containing two dark eye spots, and a hind portion which is the tail. At the head end, there is a sticky thread which keeps the alevin attached to the leaf.

With this method, there is always the danger that the parents will eat the whole spawn or even the young fish. I prefer to remove the leaf or leaves with the eggs attached and place them in a shallow plastic or glass container, with holes in the bottom, that fits inside the top of the aquarium. In this way, the eggs will be in very shallow water, about two to three inches deep. A carefully regulated air stone is placed alongside the eggs so that a gentle current can be maintained. The eggs will hatch in 24-48 hours and, at this time, I use a clean pipette to transfer the alevin from the leaf to the bottom of the plastic container. The leaf should be removed together with any debris. I mentioned that the container should have holes in the bottom. If the holes are larger than the eggs or alevin, a layer of material should be placed over them. On several occasions, I used a thin layer of glass wool and found this to be very good because the sticky threads at the head and of the alevin stuck to the glass wool strands and allowed good circulation of water. The alevin is continually alternating periods of resting and periods of wiggling. Some will not be vigorous enough and die or become covered with fungus. These should be removed immediately. Whitish eggs not hatching should also be removed.

(Cont'd page 7)

Once the young are in the vigorous wiggling stage, they should be left in the container for a week or ten days. There will be enough food in the yolk to last for this time. The alevin become more and more buoyant as the body grows and the yolk is absorbed. They raise themselves off the bottom but are still held by the sticky thread. This disappears and they gradually become free-swimming. For the first transfer, I recommend an aquarium with the same water temperature about two or three inches full. Then as the young grow, the water can be slowly raised. The temperature used throughout the spawning and hatching should be between 80° and 86°F.

Once the young have reached the free-swimming stage, they should be fed infusoria for several days, followed by live brine shrimp. The young angels will grow quickly and can soon be fed the usual foods.

From the twelfth to the twentieth day stage, the young fish do not look much like angels because they have long narrow bodies. By the twenty-eighth day stage, the bodies begin to deepen and the dorsal and anal fins grow larger. By the thirty-sixth day stage, they are recognizable as angels. When they are about four months old, they should be the size of a fifty cent piece.

I feel sure that any aquarist can easily raise angel fish if certain simple steps are followed and the basic biological principles involved are known.

.....

The Executive, Directors and Members of the Society wish to extend their deepest sympathy to Mr. Otto J. Flegel in the recent passing of his Mother.



JAR SHOW
STANDINGS
as of April 28th

Charlie Anderson	12 points
Al & Norman Johnson	8 points
Wilf Doucette	6 points
Ed Parisien	6 points
Diane Fraser	5 points
George Bowie	4 points
Alan Griffin	3 points
Claire & Heinz Kroeger	2 points
Alice Neumann	2 points
Marcel Leduc	1 point

ENTER THE NEXT JAR SHOW. LET US ADD
YOUR NAME TO THE LIST.

Points awarded: First 4 points, Second 3
points, Third 2 points and every member
entering the jar show receives 1 point.
Prizes are awarded to the three members
obtaining the greatest number of points.

FISH OF THE MONTH FOR 1960

- MAY Three Spot Gourami (male)
- JUNE Betta (male)
- SEPTEMBER Scissor Tail (male or female)
- OCTOBER Neon Tetra (male or female)
- NOVEMBER Guppy (pair in one jar)
- DECEMBER: Winners announced
- JANUARY Zebra (male or female)

"HELP YOUR SOCIETY - SERVE ON THE SHOW
COMMITTEE"

1960 TIFAS CONVENTION
By Harvey J. Wittenberg

The International Federation of Aquarium
Societies Fifth Annual Convention, held in
Chicago, was very successful and well
attended by hobbyists from Canada and United
States.

I know that you will be very happy to
hear that Rev. Father Romeo Legault, OMI,
was appointed as a member of the TIFAS
Advisory Council. Also, our friends in
Regional Group 20 succeeded in obtaining a
unanimous vote for the 1961 Convention to
be held in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The elected officers for TIFAS are:
Chairman, Mr. Harvey J. Wittenberg. Vice-
Chairman, Mr. Ben F. Ramey of Newark,
Delaware USA, Secretary, Mrs. Doris Barnes
of Apalachin, New York, USA, and Treasurer
Mr. Adin Lewis of Newark, Delaware, USA. A
total of 36 members were elected to the
Board of Governors of which 10 are from
Canada. The Advisory Council consists of
13 members of which we have 1 from Canada -
Father Legault.

It is a great honor for me to serve our
Federation as Chairman and will make every
attempt to carry out the duties to the best
of my ability. I am well aware that the job
is not an easy one and that there will be
many hours each day that will be necessary
to devote to the Federation. However, I
shall also make every effort to continue my
work for our Society.

TIFAS has a great future, a future that
you as a member will be sharing in the
benefits - and there are many. This natur-
ally takes time, and work, requiring the
assistance of every member society in the
Federation.

The Host-Society for the convention was
the Mid-West Aquarium Society of Chicago.
This Society presented a well planned and

(Cont'd page 10)

enjoyable programme. They certainly did not have an easy task and their contribution to the Federation is one that will remain with the delegates for some time.

The programme featured such professional speakers as: Mr. Herb Axelrod, speaking about "The Discus", Mr. William Vorderwinkler "The Value of Tropical Fish In The Home", Mr. Paul Hahnel "100 Years Of The Guppy", Dr. Eduard Schmidt (from Germany) "Experiments with Cancer on Bettas", Mr. Cleon Sanders "Brine Shrimp and The Great Salt Lake" and Mr. Lawrence Konig "The Guppy".

Honor Awards were presented to Dr. Eduard Schmidt of Frankfort Germany, Mr. Albert Greenberg of Florida and Mr. Paul Hahnel of New York City.

There was a great number of prizes given away each day of the convention.

The famous Shedd Aquarium was a treat to see and this is one place every hobbyist should visit when in Chicago.

The Guppy Show was something out of this world and it would be impossible to describe the number of famous strains of guppies that were on display. Each 3 gallon aquaria contained two pair of guppies that were outstanding.

I was very happy to receive four pair of "Burkes" guppies which are 3 months old. It is understood that the "Burkes" guppies are famous for their size and the number of prizes awarded. These guppies will be on display at our next Senior meeting.

.....

Help YOUR Society - sell your raffle tickets. Bring a prospective member to the meetings. Offer to serve as a member on one of the committees.

.....

LETTERS TO OVAS

Carleton University
Biology Department
10 March, 1960.

Dear Mr. Doucette:

On behalf of the Department of Biology I wish to thank you most sincerely for your generous donation of a prize of Fifty Dollars. We propose to award this to the student in the pass course who is proceeding into his or her last year. We already have a somewhat comparable prize for an honour student, and yours will be a most welcome addition, as we realize that many of our pass students need recognition as much as our honour students, and are going on to teaching and research positions.

I would be pleased if you would convey to the members of your Society our sincere thanks and good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

H.H.J. Nesbitt
Professor of Biology

University of Ottawa
April 5, 1960.

Dear Mr. Doucette,

Thank you for your letter of April 2, 1960, in which you let me know officially that your Society will, this year, give a prize of fifty dollars (\$50.00) to a student in Biology of our University. I also gathered, from your letter, that such a gesture is to be repeated each year, the yearly amount to be determined by the

(Cont'd page 12)

finances of your Society.

This is very good news for our Department and for our students: incentives of that sort for Biology students have too often been neglected and I only hope that your generous gesture will eventually prove to have been the "activation energy" that started the chain reaction of analogous decisions from other societies, agencies and individuals.

I suggest that you send the prize money to the Secretary General of the University, Father G. Gagnon, O.M.I. The prize should be given to the chosen student or students (the procedure to be followed will be decided soon) at the General Convocation of the University and hence should receive the publicity that it deserves. It will also be listed in the Calendar of the Faculty.

In the name of our Department, I wish to express to you and to the members of your Society our most sincere thanks and deepest gratitude and assure you of our desire of continuous collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

L.P. Dugal

Professor of Biology and
Chairman of the Department.

.....

Ottawa 1, Ont.

4 April, 1960.

The Executive and Members of
The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society,

It meant so much to John and me to have your card of sympathy. We deeply appreciate your kindness.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Argue

MY EXPERIENCE IN SPAWNING THE
"CICHLASOMA NIGROFASIATUM"

By Mr. Edgar Parisien, Ottawa Valley
Aquarium Society

(written as an easy guide for spawning)

NAME OF FISH: Cichlasoma Nigrofasiatum

Pronounced: Sick'la-so'ma

ny'gro-fas'see-ay'tum. Popular name Zebra
Cichlid.

LOCATION OF FISH: Guatemala - El Salvador

FAMILY: Cichlidae, pronounced Sick'li-dee.

The Cichlids are spiny-rayed fishes agreeing with the Pomacentrids in having only one nostril on each side of the snout, instead of the usual two. The Cichlids differ from the Pomacentrids in lacking the shelf of bone which supports the eye socket in the latter group. In general the Cichlids are the big fishes of the aquarium. Rather long fishes with slightly flattened, moderately deep bodies. The head, generally of good size, is armed with a strong, jutting lower jaw, well suited not only to battle, but to the requirements of their remarkable habits in breeding. While a few of the Cichlids are peaceable citizens, most of them fight, especially with members of their own species, and more especially with those of the opposite sex. These battles mostly occur during courtship.

GROWTH OF FISH: In nature 6 inches. In aquaria approximately 3 inches.

TEMPERMENT: No a good community fish when large.

SEX DIFFERENCE: More red in female at breeding time. Female also has more rounded body. Male has longer pointed dorsal.

SPAWNING AGE: About one year.

(Cont'd page 14)

CONDITIONING FOR SPAWNING: Will eat anything. Should be fed earth worms and pieces of meat.

WATER: Water condition is not important.

TEMPERATURE: From 70 to 75 for spawning.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR SPAWNING: No equipment required.

TYPE OF PLANTS: No plants required.

METHOD OF SPAWNING: They lay adhesive eggs on glass or stones and sometimes in depressions in the sand.

EGGS: Transparent and very adhesive.

TIME OF SPAWNING: No special time of day or season.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING: Not important.

REMOVAL OF ADULTS: Adults can be removed after a week but they are good parents and can be left with the fry.

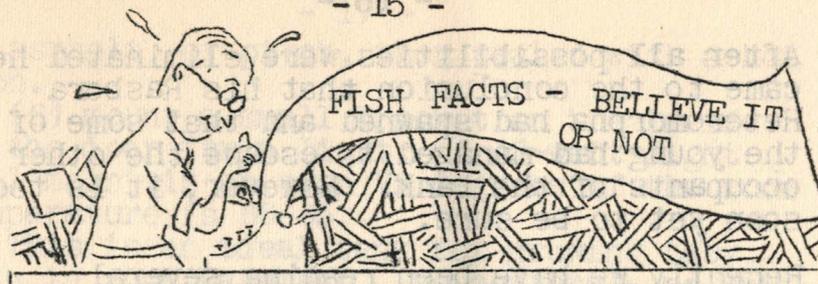
HATCHING TIME: 3 days at 74°

FEEDING THE FRY: Infusoria, algae and anything offered will be accepted.

REMARKS: These fish are easily spawned. Just give a pair an aquarium of their own and feed them worms. They will spawn and raise a large family without any trouble, providing they are not disturbed. If such a condition is not possible, take out adults about a week after the fry are free swimming. If there are plants in the tank they will uproot them, so do not place anything in the aquarium except sand and stones.

::::::::::

A female guppy will usually have at least 5 broods with one fertilization.



By your OVAS Reporters
Muriel Hodges and Ed Parisien

Did you know LEURESTHES TENUIS depends on great tidal waves to carry them far up on shore to lay their eggs in the beach sand. When the fry are ready to go to sea another tidal wave carries them to their watery home.

The day after the last Junior meeting one of the boys, Wayne Moore, telephoned to ask if fairy shrimp were good for tropical fish. The answer is yes. Fairy shrimp are considered second to Daphnia. The reason they are second is because medium sized fish have to pick them apart to eat them, and they can only be swallowed whole by the large fish. The only reason we do not mention fairy shrimp for our tropical fishes is because they are so difficult to find. Wayne Moore stated that he knew where there was some fairy shrimp so Wayne, Dan McLean and I started out the next morning and were able to catch a fairly good supply of them. A few were fed to my fish and the remainder were planted in ditches, not too far from home - in hope that next year I will not have to go so far. I placed a few in a tub and for the first time I actually watched them spawn.

The grapevine has it that Don Thompson discovered some small fry swimming near the surface of one of his community tanks.

(Cont'd page 16)

After all possibilities were eliminated he came to the conclusion that his Rasbora Heteromorpha had spawned and that some of the young had managed to escape the other occupants of the tank. However, it is too soon yet to be sure.

Recently we have been reading several articles that mention refrigerator liners and their use as aquaria. Some tell how to prepare a refrigerator liner at a cost of \$3.00, and others just mention such an item for the raising of tropical fish.

Maybe I am just different in my thinking but I like to be practical so I don't think of the liner as such. To me the refrigerator is an ideal insulated aquarium which is practical and of a size which makes it ideal for raising small fry.

Why go to all the trouble of tearing down a perfectly good insulated aquarium, then go to the expense of placing a heater and light reflector to make it suitable for the purpose when you have everything you require to begin with?

I will tell you how I do it and just see if it is not a practical and more economical way to make use of a refrigerator:

(1) you can usually obtain an old refrigerator just for the trouble of carrying it away.

(2) cut the cabinet just above the space where the mechanism was placed.

(3) cut two pieces of lumber as long as the width of the refrigerator. Place them across the piece you cut off the refrigerator.

(4) turn the storage space of the refrigerator on its back, across the two pieces of lumber, with the door facing up.

(5) all small bolt holes can be sealed with tar paper nails, and a small amount

of asphalt, or pitch, then sealed with a hot iron.

(6) mount a small bracket on the inside of the door for a light. A 40-watt light will maintain an even 72 degrees if the room temperature is 60-65.

This is an ideal tank for growing baby fish in your basement. No heaters - no sand stones or plants are required.

Have you noticed that Muriel Hodges has a new pet? They tell me that it is a cross between an angel fish and a betta.

With the summer heat upon us again, pay particular attention to the water in your aquarium. Remember, heat drives oxygen out of the water. Here are some timely tips from the experts:

1. Increase the aeration.
2. Frequent changes of 1-2 degrees cooler water.
3. Avoid crowded aquarium.
4. Substitute screen covers for glass covers on tanks.
5. Leave aquarium light on for shorter periods.

.....

THE ROSY TETRA

(*Hyphessobrycon Rosaceus*)

By Mrs. Lorna Olley, Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society.

Certainly here we find a fish whose colour and finnage at maturity are only exceeded in brilliance by its brother, the Neon. Yet it does not enjoy the popularity it rightly deserves because of the fact that it is not strongly coloured until it reaches the length of one inch or more.

The Rosy Tetra is a very hardy, long lived fish. The whole body is covered in a

(Cont'd page 18)

deep rosy pink contrasted by the upper and lower margins of the tail being edged in bright red. The ventral and anal fins are also red but edged in white with the first rays of the anal fin elongated in the male. The dorsal fin, held erect and proudly spread, is magnificent, especially in the full-grown male. The upper half is sometimes one inch in length. In the female, the fin is considerably smaller but shows a bright red tip above the white edging.

The length of the fish at maturity of less than two inches makes it a choice specimen for the collector who likes the smaller tropicals. Its extremely peaceful nature is a trait not found in too many of our favourably coloured species.

The rosy tetra readily accepts any kind of food, dry or live, with great enthusiasm.

Its natural habitat is British Guiana and the lower Amazon basin.

Not being an easy fish to breed, the rosy tetra constitutes a challenge. An eighteen to twenty gallon tank is required. Temperature should be 80°F. The eggs hatch in 72 hours. The fry should be given infusoria for seven to nine days and then larger live food can be fed.

The rosy tetra, in all, a fish of extreme merit well suitable for community tank life.

.....

As rescuers untangled a motorist from the wreckage of a jalopy, telephone pole and wires, he reached out feebly, fingered the wires, and murmured, "Thank heaven I lived clean. They've given me a harp".

.....

Sign on a country road: "Drive carefully. There isn't a hospital within fifty miles".

ALADDIN PET SHOP

"PLAN AHEAD"

Now is the time to buy your exotic tropical fish, plants, aquaria, heaters, etc, for the OVAS Tropical Fish Show, August 19 to 27.

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FOODS"

(come in and browse around)

819 Bank (corner Fourth) CE6-5033



HAVE YOU HEARD
THE LATEST?

...the Senior Society welcome the following new members: Mr. V. Lotherington; Mr. and Mrs. G.L. Goodwin; Mr. and Mrs. D.J. Underwood; Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Whiting.

Renewal of membership: Mr. Terry Wilkie and Mr. C.C.

Buckle...Membership now totals 91. YOU can help to increase the membership to 100 at the next meeting by bringing a friend and prospective member to the meeting May 26th...lets try...

...name cards are very useful items and help us to get to know our friends in the

(Cont'd page 20)

Society. The elected officers have RED cards - Directors BLUE and Members WHITE. If you see a YELLOW NAME CARD it indicates that this person is a guest. YOU can help to make our guests feel at home by talking to them about the Society and the hobby.

...our last meeting was very successful - even if we did not start on time...this meeting was of interest to everyone as there was something for the beginner, the intermediate and professional hobbyist...

...a picture of our first aquarium show which was held in the Poultry Building at the Central Canada Exhibition was kindly donated to the Society by our good friend Mr. Jack Dirks. This picture will be framed and will be available for everyone to see at the regular meetings...

...it was good to see one of our 1954 members Mr. Harry Griffiths at the meeting.

...there are some new rules coming out for our annual fish show...will be in the June issue of the OVAS News...

...ARE YOU MOVING? Please notify Captain Jack Fraser, [redacted], Ottawa 2, by postcard or phone [redacted], of any change in your address. If this is done you are sure to receive your newsletter and copy of the OVAS News...AND...you will be helping the Postman, Membership Director, Magazine Director and the Treasurer...

...word has been received that Aleck and Betty Morrall will be leaving Ottawa in June. Aleck is being promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and is being moved to Kingston... CONGRATULATIONS Aleck and best of luck to both of you...

Cheers for now...see you at the next meeting.....



Golden Anniversary
TROPICAL FISH

HANDBOOK CATALOG

The most complete selection of tropical fish, beautifully illustrated. Completely revised, and just printed, this 60-page handbook is an encyclopedia of tropical fish information, includes breeding, care, do-it-yourself tips on use of aquarium equipment . . . Only **50¢** hundreds of accessory items.

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OBSERVATIONS PUT TO USE

By Mr. Edgar Parisien, Ottawa Valley
Aquarium Society

I once read a sentence which has been in my mind a long time, although I don't remember the author - quote Love Thy God By Loving Thy Fellow Man, unquote. This, you will admit embodies all the commandments. However, I would like to enlarge on this wonderful sentence by putting it this way - "Love Thy God By Loving All Creation".

Nature is certainly the most interesting study in the world. In fact there are very few studies which do not originate from nature. How much have you learned from

(Cont'd page 22)

nature that can be put to practical use?

Let us consider that just as we become tired and inactive regularly everything in nature does also.

When winter comes along and ice forms on our lakes and streams, nature is resting almost completely. For instance, fish do not move about as much when the water temperature is low because their metabolism slows to a point of semi-hibernation. They do not require as much oxygen or food.

Other forms of life are affected in the same way. Plants are at their lowest ebb at this time of year because there is not sufficient light to keep them alive and healthy. Therefore they deteriorate under the ice.

In this part of the world March is the month when the sun starts to wake up nature gradually. The snow starts to melt and water runs to the streams and lakes causing excessive currents which take away the decaying vegetation and wash it down stream. The stagnant water is changed for fresh, soft, well-aeriated water from the melted snow and rain. All these changes add up to a new season and a new cycle of regeneration.

All the debris left from decaying plants fertilize the waters and induce infusoria to grow. Cyclops and daphnia eat infusoria and plankton. Minnows and other small fry eat the cyclops and daphnia.

You may be asking yourself what that has to do with our hobby. Fish keeping is a study of nature. This can be applied right in your aquarium and must if we intend to spawn and raise another generation of our favourite pets.

Over winter, many plants do not do very well in the aquarium. This is the time to thin them out and leave only the healthy ones. Clean the aquarium generally by

(Cont'd page 23)

syphoning off 10% of the water every other day. Your fish will soon repay you by showing better colour and becoming more active. Extra feedings of live food will start them spawning. When this happens you have achieved nature's intention.

Nature contains all the answers but we have to train to observe and recognize them.

Now is the time to start your spawning programme for 1960. I have started about a month ago and already have several tanks of young fish - Black Tetras, Tiger Barbs, Nannostomus Anomalous and White Clouds.

Here is wishing you the same success.

.....

DICKSON'S PET SHOP

Direct Importers of Tropical
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Order your tropical fish, plants,
aquaria, etc, for the O.V.A.S.
Tropical Fish Show, Central
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Largest stock of tropical fish
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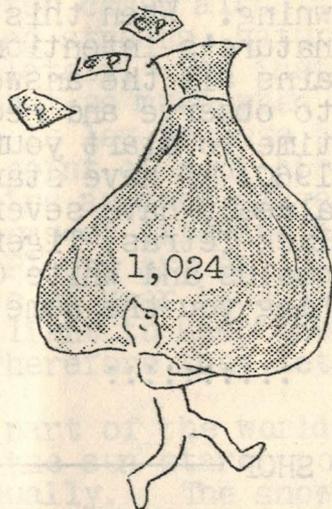
FOODS AND ACCESSORIES FOR ALL PETS

190 Bank (near Gloucester) CE2-7586

1st Grade 10 Boy - "How did you like that movie?" 2nd Grade 10 Boy - "It was okay. I shut my eyes during the kissing scene and made believe he's choking her".

DON'T FORGET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS

CANADA PACKERS LABELS
TOTAL AS OF 28TH APRIL



LETS SEE HOW FAST WE CAN MAKE THIS BAG
GROW

We have our first 1,000 - your efforts
last month was excellent. Just keep
this up and we will have our 6,000
labels by September - we hope.

Prizes for the three Junior Society
members who collect the greatest
number of labels.

Gerry Lalonde
Social Director.

.....

HOW ABOUT WRITING AN ARTICLE FOR
THE OVAS NEWS - SURELY YOU COULD
WRITE SOMETHING TO FILL THIS
LITTLE SPACE - GIVE IT A TRY



O.V.A.S.
JUNIOR
SOCIETY



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
Wayne Moore

JUNIOR SOCIETY COMMITTEE SUPERVISORS

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Junior Society Apr 21st meeting and
Fifth Anniversary celebration was a great
success with a record attendance, interes-
ting programme, games and prizes.

We thank the many parents and Senior
Society executive for attending this
meeting. We would also like to express our
thanks to Mrs. Alice Neumann, Miss Diane
Fraser, Mrs. W. Dickson, Captain Jack Fraser,
Mr. Ken Craig, Mr. Edgar Parisien, Mr.

(Cont'd page 26)

Wilf Doucette, Mr. Don Thompson, Mr. Gerry Lalonde and Mr. Harvey Wittenberg for their kind assistance and donations, and last but not least Mr. Dan Jeffrey for donating the very large birthday cake.

We have very little time remaining to sell our raffle tickets so lets make one real last effort. The raffle tickets, money, stubs, MUST be turned in to Mr. Jeffrey at our Junior meeting, May 19th, or at the Senior Society meeting, May 26th. If you are unable to attend the meetings you may mail your tickets stubs and money to Mr. Dan Jeffrey, Apt 4, Ottawa 4. Tickets and money should be mailed NO LATER than May 21st, in order to reach Mr. Jeffrey in time for the drawing. The drawing will be held May 26th at the Senior Society meeting and all Junior members are permitted to attend.

We welcome the following new members who joined our Junior Society at the April 21st meeting: Lin Fraser, Jerry McMullen, renewal of membership John Thompson and Neil Thompson.

Chipper Vickers
President.

.....

SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT

John McKinlay-Key, Show Director

Jar Show standings as of April 21st are as follows:

- John McKinlay-Key 6 points
- Eric Bawden 5 points
- Andrew Holdham 4 points
- Larry Neumann 3 points
- Paul Francis 2 points
- Shawn MacKenzie 1 point

Prizes are awarded to the three members obtaining the greatest number of points.

Junior Society Fish of the Month for 1960 are:

- MAY - Black Tetra (male or female)
- JUNE - Neon Tetra
- SEPTEMBER - Fancy Guppy (male)
- OCTOBER - Leopard Catfish
- NOVEMBER - Red Sword (male)
- DECEMBER - Zebra
- (winners announced)
- JANUARY - Scissor Tail

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15 gal galvanized
aquarium \$9.75.

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GOOD VARIETY OF PLANTS AND FISH

"BUY NOW FOR THE 1960 O.V.A.S.
ANNUAL TROPICAL FISH SHOW"

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EXPERIENCES WITH FISH

By Larry Neumann, Junior Society OVAS

I have a few adult sailfin mollies and more than one hundred babies. My mother says that if they all mature I will have to rent a small private lake in which to

(Cont'd page 28)

keep them. Some were born on Easter weekend - my Easter present from my fish.

I have been told by people that green mollies are difficult to raise. But, so far, mine are doing very well. They are very lively and seem to be growing.

I hope all our members have as much pleasure with their fish as I do.

.....

CRYPTOCORYNES BECKETTI

Reprinted from GCAS Newsletter. The Aquarium Society of Cincinnati, Ohio.

This Crypt, is the answer for the short dense covering needed to carpet the bottom front of an aquarium. While they do not reproduce rapidly, 10 or 12 Beckettii planted in an area 3" x 8", will in about 4 or 5 months start to fill up the blank spaces.

The average price of a Beckettii is about 35 cents which is considering their hardness, a good buy. I have kept a particular group of these plants for over 4 years. In this period, they have been moved no less than 7 times and allowed to float without being rooted, twice for periods of about 4 months. In 4 years, the number has increased from 8 to 19 large plants and about 15 more still joined to the parent plants. By the way, the two most common methods of reproduction are division of the root and by runners. The young plants form on the main stalk or root below the surface of the gravel and mature when 4 or 5 white rootlets start from the young plant. At about this time, you can either cut or snip the small plant from the parent or allow it to grow and form a denser growth. When a runner sprouts up, it is usually 1 or 2 inches from the main plant. Beckettii is a light to medium shade of green. It does well in

(Cont'd page 29)

both alkaline and slightly acid water. It grows well under fluorescent, incandescent and reflected daylight. In a 2 gallon photographic aquarium, 3 large plants thrived and multiplied in a kitchen with no direct light for 3 months. The overhead fluorescent light, and a window 8 feet away were the only light. You can see from this example, that very little light is required to maintain this Crypt. On the extreme side, Beckettii will do well in fairly bright light which makes it one of the hardest, adaptable and decorative of the Cryptocoryne family.

.....

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE AND LIBRARY

By Larry Neumann, Director Magazine

At the April meeting we had some new hard cover books. I hope that these will be well looked after by the members who borrow them. This privilege is there for you to make use of. These books contain information of interest to all. Therefore, I hope that you will not forget to return your books each month so others may borrow them also.

I have not been pleased with the number of articles submitted by Junior members. Even if you do not have very much time, a short article telling about your experiences with your fish, your breeding successes, or anything of interest to other members would be very much appreciated.

I was very pleased to see such a large attendance at our last meeting which was our birthday party. Wouldn't it be something if we had that many at every meeting? I hope to see this come about in the very near future. I also want to add my thanks to all who took part in making our party a success. Many thanks to Mr. Jeffrey for our birthday cake.

.....

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

THE AQUARISTS'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

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

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

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

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

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

"REMEMBER TO BUY FROM OUR ADVERTISERS"

NEON TETRA

Reprinted from Fin-Fare

The Neon Tetra was found in the Peruvian Amazon less than thirty years ago by Dr. George Myers. He named this beautiful little fish after his patron William T. Innes. These fish were introduced to aquarists in 1936. The Neon lives in clear jungle pools of soft and slightly acid water where overhanging foliage allows small amounts of light. The brilliant colouring and fast action makes the fish a welcome inhabitant of any tank. The fish is a silver grey with a greenish tinge, and an intense blue line runs from the mouth to the adipose fin. Beneath this is a bright red mark from the ventral fin to the tail. The fish is quite peaceful and has an average life span. The fish seldom exceeds a length of 1½ inches. Neons are middle feeders so food which sinks immediately is necessary in a community tank to prevent them from starving. They will eat any type of food but thrive on brine shrimp and daphnia. Neons are hardy fish but are still subject to disease. The Neon Tetra disease is quite common and is really a form of T.B. where the fish slowly wastes away. The disease, which can be identified by two yellow spots at the base of the tail, is cured only by costly drugs. Loss of colour is also common to Neons when conditions don't suit their fancy. Their colour leaves them entirely if they are maintained in alkaline water.

The Neon is the most difficult fish to breed and raise. The males have a slimmer and smaller body than the female. To breed these fish we must produce conditions similar to those found in their natural habitat. The first requisite is an immaculate tank of approximately 5 gallons,

(Cont'd page 32)

no sand is necessary and clean bushy plants should be weighted down. For this you might use Cabomba. Your water should be clean and very soft, slightly acid, about 6.8 and maintained at a temperature of 75°. After the tank is ready, introduce a well conditioned pair, only one pair is needed. Shading the tank with a piece of cardboard is very important. When the fish have spawned remove them at once but maintain the complete shade for 3 more days. Within that time the fry should hatch. When the fry is free swimming feed them infusoria and remove some of the shade so they can see their food, about 4 weeks later begin feeding them brine shrimp, then begin normal feeding when they reach a good size.

This is only a brief outline and if you try breeding them I wish you lots of luck.

.....

LIGHT

Reprinted from the Canadian Aquaria,
Toronto, Ontario.

When changing to fluorescent light, or changing fluorescent lights, hobbyists sometimes find shortly thereafter a deterioration in their plants. This is most probably due to using "cold white" or "cold daylight" types of lamps, which, while excellent for reading are not of the right type for growing plants. For this latter purpose, the warm white light is the best. Under the "cold" type, the plants will decay and lose their fresh green colour, even the fish may become listless, whereas the "warm" types bring along the growth and maintain the fish in a lively condition.

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