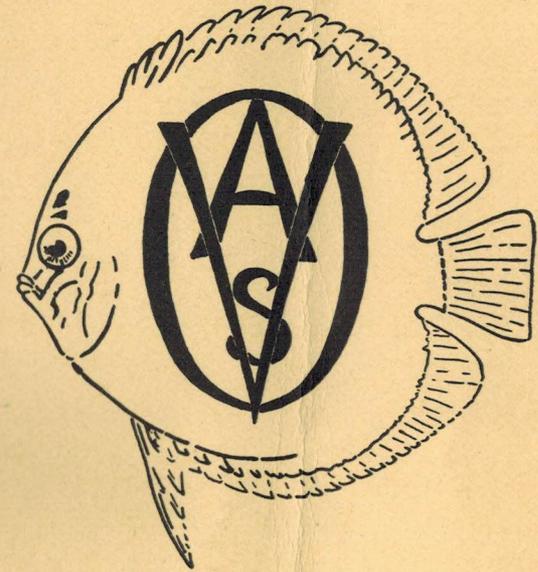


# OVAS NEWS

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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



WORLD REF  
YEAR  
REMEMB  
AND CIV

JUNE/JULY  
AUGUST 1960 OTTAWA, CANADA. VOL 6 No.3

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS

Junior Society

Thursday, September 15th .... 7.00 PM  
Thursday, October 20th .... 7.00 PM

--NO MEETINGS HELD DURING JULY/AUGUST--

Senior Society

Thursday, September 22nd .... 7.45 PM  
Thursday, October 27th .... 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]).

CONTENTS MAY BE REPRINTED

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS  
(SENIOR SOCIETY)

HONORARY MEMBER

Dr. 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, OMI, 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.

OVAS TROPICAL FISH SHOW

By: Charles Anderson, Show Committee Director

The 1960 Tropical Fish Show of The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society will be held in the Horticultural Building, Lansdowne Park, during the Central Canada Exhibition Friday, August 19th to Saturday, August 27th.

The rules and classes for entries in the Show are in this issue of the OVAS News. Please look for them and read them. NOTE the new rules and classes. Entry forms will be mailed to all members of the Society with the Notice of the June meeting. Additional entry forms will be available at the June meetings and also from Mr. Charles Anderson, Ottawa 1,

Here are some of the dates you are asked to remember:

THURSDAY, June 30th - You must be a member of the Society in good standing by this day, before you can put an entry in the Show for competition.

MONDAY, August 1st - You must hand in your entries and entry fees to the Show Committee Director before this date.

SUNDAY, August 14th - Show Committee to prepare stands and transport equipment to the Horticultural Building at Lansdowne Park.

MONDAY, August 15th - Show Committee to set up stands, etc.

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, August 16th and 17th - Show entrants may set up their aquaria.

THURSDAY, August 18th - Fish must be placed in aquaria not later than 9.00 PM. Show Committee will complete decorations, etc.

FRIDAY, August 19th - Show officially opens at 10.00 AM.

SATURDAY, August 20th - Aquaria and fish

will be judged before the Show opens.  
Building will be open to the public at 10.00 AM.

SUNDAY, August 21st - Exhibition will be closed. Members with passes may enter the building to feed their fish and service aquaria.

MONDAY to SATURDAY, August 22nd to 29th - Show will be open to the public from 10.00 AM to 10.00 PM.

SUNDAY, August 30th - Aquaria will be emptied and all stands cleared by 2.00 PM. The Show Committee will assume no responsibility for aquaria on stands after 2.00 PM. After this time, the Show Committee will dismantle stands and return to storage.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL BE OF VALUE TO ALL MEMBERS:

Display Space for Exhibits - Space for each aquarium will be clearly marked with your name and number.

Attendants - There is a requirement for a great number of members to act as attendants while the show is open. This is not a difficult job and you can help greatly by volunteering for duty. Your duties will include:

1. Ensuring that no one touches the aquaria.
2. Answer questions regarding the Society and the hobby to the best of your ability (YOU DO NOT have to be an expert).
3. Obtain the names and addresses of any prospective members.
4. A member of the Senior Society should be on duty at all times while the Show is open.
5. The suggested time schedule for attendants is:

(Cont'd page 5)

- 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM (morning)
- 2.00 PM to 7.00 PM (afternoon)
- 7.00 PM to 10.00 PM (evening)

6. Attendants are asked not to leave the Show until their replacement arrives and takes over.
7. Attendants will come under the direction and supervision of the Show Committee.

Membership Fees - New members may obtain membership in the Society for the balance of the year, 1960, by paying the following fees:

Senior Members	-	\$1.00
Married Couples	-	\$1.25
Junior Members	-	.25

Passes - Attendants and members entering aquaria in the Show will be provided with passes to enter the Exhibition Grounds.

Electrical Outlets - Outlets will be provided for each aquarium. A cover, and a reflector with light bulb are necessities.

Filters/Aeration - Filters and Aeration are permitted.

Heaters - It is advisable to provide your aquarium with a heater in the event a great variation in temperature takes place.

Feeding the Fish - You must supply your own fish food. You may feed your own fish or leave instructions for feeding with the attendant.

Water - Tap water is available. If you wish to use aged water this must be provided by the member.

Transportation - If you require assistance in transporting your aquarium and equipment to the Show, please contact a member of the Show Committee.

THE SUCCESS OF THIS SHOW DEPENDS ON YOU

.....

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NOTE: Now available ... for .25¢  
a CATALOGUE with complete listing  
of pets and supplies including  
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and plants will arrive every week,  
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members entering the Annual Tropical  
Fish Show

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OVAS STANDARDS FOR TROPICAL  
FISH AQUARIUM SHOWS

(The following was approved by the Execu-  
tive Officers and Directors on June 8th,  
1960, and will be known as "The OVAS  
Standards for Tropical Fish Aquarium  
Shows).

Members of the Society wishing to enter  
their aquaria and fish in the OVAS Trop-  
ical Fish Show shall be required to enter  
in one of the following classes:

CLASS A - Egg-Laying Fish: showing of one  
or more species of egg-laying  
tropical fish (entry fee: \$1.00  
per entry).

(Cont'd page 7)

CLASS B - Live-Bearing Fish - showing of one  
or more species of live-bearing  
tropical fish (entry fee: \$1.00 per  
entry).

CLASS C - Community Aquarium: showing of  
any varieties of tropical fish  
(entry fee: \$1.00 per entry).

CLASS D - Junior Society: Open only to  
members of the Junior Society. Any  
size aquarium, species of fish and  
plants (entry fee: \$1.00 per entry).

CLASS E - OPEN: novelty aquarium or arrange-  
ment of aquaria - any aquarium or  
aquarium arrangement not covered in  
the above classes (entry fee: \$1.00  
per entry).

CLASS F - Male Betta Splendens (Siamese  
Fighting Fish): one fish per con-  
tainer, no plants or gravel.  
(entry fee: .50¢ per entry).

CLASS G - Dealers Aquarium: showing of fish  
with opportunity of advertising.  
Advertising sign not to exceed  
4 x 6 inches (entry fee: \$2.50 per  
entry).

RULES

1. Entry in any class (except Class G -  
Dealers Aquarium) are open to members of the  
Junior and Senior Societies only.

2. All entries (except Class G - Dealers  
Aquarium) are restricted to paid-up members  
of the Junior and Senior Societies as of  
June 30th, 1960.

3. Entry forms and entry fees must be  
received by the Show Director not later than  
August 1st.

4. Entries for Class E - OPEN, may be  
accepted up to August 12th.

(Cont'd page 8)

5. There are no restrictions on the number of entries of aquaria and fish that may be entered in competition.
6. Only tropical fish and tropical plants shall be entered in competition, i.e., NO COLD WATER FISH OR PLANTS ARE PERMITTED.
7. All fish and plants entered in competition shall be the property of the member.
8. The standard size aquarium 12 x 15 x 24 inches is preferred, but other sizes will be accepted. Junior members may enter any size aquarium in Class D - Junior Society.
9. Display containers will be supplied by the OVAS for all entries in Class F - Male Betta Splendens.
10. Each aquarium entered shall have a cover and a reflector with light bulb.
11. Any type of essential equipment, such as filter, heater, air-stone, thermometer, etc., may be used.
12. Each entrant is responsible for their aquarium and shall not obtain assistance in setting up the aquarium if entered in competition.
13. The OVAS or Show Committee will not assume responsibility for any loss of fish or equipment, or accidental damage to the aquaria.
14. All aquaria shall be set up by 9.00 AM on August 19th, the day of the official opening of the Show, and shall be left untouched until after the judging has been completed.
15. Name tags showing name of competitor, and types of fish, will be supplied by the Show Committee. (Cont'd page 9)

16. Entrants may care for their own fish personally or leave instructions with the attendants for their care and feeding. Should a dead fish appear in any aquarium, the attendant may remove it, but will retain it in a jar to show the owner. Fish food must be supplied by the individual entrant.
17. The Show Committee is the responsible authority for the Show.

#### TROPHIES AND PRIZES

1. CLASSES A (egg-laying), B (live-bearing) C (community) and D (Junior Society) will receive the following:

FIRST: Trophy (and suitable prize for retention).  
SECOND: Prize ribbon.  
THIRD: Prize ribbon.

The first place trophies are the property of OVAS and will be held by the winner for a period of one year.

2. CLASSES E (open) and F (male Betta) will receive the following:

FIRST: A suitable prize.  
SECOND: Prize ribbon.  
THIRD: Prize ribbon.

3. A prize ribbon will be awarded to the best entry in Class G - Dealers Aquarium.

4. A GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP RIBBON will be awarded for the best aquarium in the Show which will be selected from the winners in CLASSES A, B, C and D.

#### JUDGING

1. The judges decisions are final.
2. CLASSES A (egg-laying), B (live-bearing) C (community), D (Junior Society) and G (Dealers aquarium) will be judged as follows:  
(Cont'd page 10)

<u>FISH</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
(a) Size (according to the 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

<u>PLANTS</u>	
(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

<u>AQUARIUM</u>	
(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

3. CLASS E - OPEN, will be judged for originality and attractiveness.
4. CLASS F - Male Betta Splendens; Fish only will be judged.

**DON'T FORGET**

Entry forms to Charlie Anderson (also attendants form) no later than August 1st.

Support your OVAS - Enter an aquarium in the Show.

**HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST???**



...the Senior Society now has a total membership of 93... this is a record for the Senior Society at this time of the year. We welcome two new members who joined during the May meeting: Mr.

Harry Griffiths and Mr. Hans Spekkens. Mr. Griffiths was a member of our Society back in 1954...

...can you top this one?..Mrs. B. Carroll turned in 276 CP labels at the May meeting..

...If you don't have everything you want, be thankful for the things you don't have that you didn't want...

...this year we have no excuse to enter an aquarium or fish in the OVAS Tropical Fish Show...there is a showing of bettas and all you require is the betta and water.... then their is an OPEN Class...a Junior Society Class...what more can you ask for. I wonder if it is going to be the same this year - a handful of volunteers to serve as attendants???????

...Have you seen the tropical fish calendars? They are being sold by Mr. Gary Zumar at the swap sale...you pay \$2.00...50¢ will go to our Society treasury and .50¢ to TIFAS..... here is an opportunity to help TIFAS and our own treasury...they will cost you \$2.50 if ordered through TFH Magazine...

...the annual raffle was very successful - thanks to you...

(turn the page)

...our CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Herbert Axelrod, our Honorary Member of OVAS, on receiving his Doctorate degree...

...our first family membership, Wing Commander and Mrs. Murry Fitzgerald, Patsy and Teresa, are moving to France this month...we send our best wishes and do hope to hear from you once you are settled in your new home...

"The Bird and the Beast"

written by an eight year old boy ....

The Bird that I am going to write about is the owl. The owl cannot see at all by day and at night it is blind as a bat.

I do not know much about the owl so I will go on to the beast which I am going to choose. It is the cow. The cow is a mammal. It has six sides - right, left, an upper and below. At the back it has a tail on which hangs a brush. With this it sends the flies away so that they do not fall into the milk. The head is for the purpose of growing horns, and so that the mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with and the mouth is to moo with. Under the cow hangs the milk. It is arranged for milking. When people milk the milk comes and there is never an end to the supply. How the cow does it I have not yet realized but it makes more and more. The cow has a fine sense of smell - one can smell it far away. This is the reason for the fresh air in the country. The man cow is called an ox. It is not a mammal. The cow does not eat much but what it eats it eats twice so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it moos and when it says nothing it is because its inside is all full up with grass...

...have a good summer holiday...don't forget the B I G S H O W...

.....

MY EXPERIENCE IN SPAWNING THE BLACK TETRA

By: Mr. Edgar Parisien, Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society  
(written as an easy guide for spawning)

NAME OF FISH: *Gymnocorymbus ternetzi*  
Pronounced: Jim'no-ko-rim'bus ter'nets-eye.  
Popular Name: Black Tetra.

LOCATION OF FISH: Paraguay.

FAMILY: Characidae.

GROWTH OF FISH: Some authorities say it grows to 3 inches. I have never seen one that large. They rarely reach 2 inches. After the fish attains a length of 1½ inches its chic black markings progressively pale as the fish gets bigger.

TEMPERMENT: A fair community fish but should not be left with small neons or anything smaller.

SEX DIFFERENCE: Female is always larger than the male. Male is more slender when looking at it head on.

SPAWNING AGE: About one year old.

CONDITIONING FOR SPAWNING: Will eat anything offered but to condition for spawning live food is necessary. Liver or lean meat is very good.

WATER: PH or DH is not important. Fresh water from 24 to 36 hours old is important.

TEMPERATURE: Approximately 76 at spawning time.

TYPE OF PLANTS: Any bushy plants will do but a well planted aquarium is better.

SPAWNING: Introduce female to spawning aquarium one day before male. Eggs fall to the bottom of the aquarium.

(Cont'd page 14)

EGGS: Small and not adhesive.

TIME OF SPAWNING: Any time of day but usually in the morning.

REMOVAL OF ADULTS: Adults must be removed or they will eat the eggs.

HATCHING TIME: About 36 hours.

FEEDING THE FRY: First food is infusoria and green water followed by brine shrimp and micro-worms. Fry are not difficult to raise.

REMARKS: Some claim that this fish does not do well below 70°. My Black Tetras are seldom kept above 67, except at spawning time. They are at their best (colour wise) when they are about 1/2 inch long. Adults tend to fade to a dark gray.

.....

DICKSON'S PET SHOP -----

Special shipments of tropical fish and plants, aquaria and accessories, will be available for the 1960 OVAS Annual Tropical Fish Show.

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Foods and Accessories for all pets  
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AQUARIUM BACKGROUND

By: Mr. Terry Wilkie, Ottawa Valley  
Aquarium Society

A beautiful aquarium cannot be found that doesn't have either a rock formation or a driftwood display as its background. What many people do not realize is that a lovely creation can be made up with a bit of ingenuity and a couple of hours of enjoyable work.

Almost any type of stone can be used that does not have a large mineral content. The first step in the procedure for treating these rocks, before entry into the aquarium, consists of a thorough scrubbing-down with a brush and plenty of hot water. This removes any of the loose dirt, bacteria etc., that is clinging to the stone.

The next step is to boil the rock for at least one hour to remove any chemicals or displeasing odours from it.

The process for cleaning driftwood is something the same. It is to be carefully scrubbed and boiled until such time as you are satisfied that you have removed any poisonous effects that may harm your fish. After this has been done, the next step is to drill several holes in the bottom of the wood and hammer lead weights into the holes. This will prevent your driftwood from floating around in the aquarium.

Now your masterpiece is ready to submerge into the aquarium for all to see, and it wasn't hard, was it?

.....

IMPORTANT NOTICE

There will be no meetings or OVAS News during the months of July and August. Don't forget the show.

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL RAFFLE

By Dan Jeffrey, Chairman Raffle Committee

Our 1960 Annual Raffle took place at our regular monthly meeting, May 26th, and the lucky winners were as follows:

First Prize (\$50.00 Canada Savings Bond)

Mr. Joseph Labelle, [redacted],  
Hull, PQ.

Second Prize (\$35.00 Electrical Appliance)

Mrs. H. Worden, [redacted], Ottawa.  
(Mrs. Worden's son is the Vice-President of the Junior Society).

Third Prize (\$25.00 Photographic equipment)

Miss Anne Rivington, [redacted],  
Ottawa.

Fourth Prize (\$15.00 LP Records)

Mr. Terry Wilkie, [redacted],  
Ottawa. (Terry is a member of the Senior Society).

Congratulations to all of the winners.

The \$10.00 prize offered to the Juniors for the largest sales was divided evenly between Larry Neumann and Donna May Janzen.

A full financial report will be presented at the Senior Society meeting, June 23rd.

The thanks of the Executive is extended to all who worked so hard to make this venture a success.

Dan Jeffrey.

.....

During the summer holidays don't forget to collect the Canada Packers labels

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF AQUARIUM CLUBS  
(REGIONAL GROUP 20) CONVENTION -  
NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO

By: Jack Fraser, Treasurer, O.V.A.S.

I have attended my first large tropical fish show. Believe me, I have had my eyes opened. The show was excellent, the convention programme was good, and my travelling companions (with one exception) and the people at the convention were first class.

The Tropical Fish Show which was organized and conducted by the Niagara Falls Aquarium Society was held on the ground floor of the Museum in Niagara Falls. The displays were excellent. The accommodation was well located, although a bit crowded. There were over one hundred tanks in the show ranging from one-quart glass bowls to display bettas, to 25 gallon tanks.

Every club in the region had an entry in the "Aquarium Beautiful" class. These tanks were all of uniform size and the individual tanks were a "club" effort. The fish and the plants in these aquaria were excellent.

The various other classes were well patronized as far as entries were concerned. There was a family class in which the parent fish were shown with their young.

There was also a class confined to members of the Junior Society. There was no limit on the size of tank, or the type of fish in this class.

The convention itself which was held at the King Edward Hotel was well conducted and most instructive. Mr. Doug Martin, Chairman of CAOAC, handled all matters very smoothly and the speakers were excellent. The highlight of the convention was the banquet on Saturday evening followed by an address by Dr. Herbert Axelrod. Dr. Axelrod had had his Doctorate degree conferred upon him a few days before the

(Cont'd page 18)

convention, and he was the recipient of many congratulations. His charming wife was also a guest at the banquet. Dr. Axelrod's address covered his 1959 trip to the Amazon and his coloured slides left nothing to the imagination. After the lecture, Dr. Axelrod kindly answered a wide variety of questions asked by the members.

It was announced that the TIFAS Convention for 1961 would be held in Niagara Falls, the first TIFAS convention to be held outside the United States. The dates of the convention will be May 19th, 20th and 21st.

The TIFAS Chairman for 1960/61, Mr. Harvey Wittenberg of the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society was introduced to the convention. His travelling companions, Miss Diane Fraser, Mr. Weldon Hodges, Mr. Gary Zumar and myself were also introduced.

The attendance at the convention was good. From approximately 95 people for lunch on Saturday the attendance grew to over 135 by banquet time in the evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate CAOAC for their excellent convention, the Niagara Aquarium Society, and members of CAOAC for the tremendous amount of work that was put into the Show, and to all concerned for the hospitality which was extended. I would particularly like to thank Bert Steenhuis and Jim Bazely for their hospitality to our Ottawa contingent.

Best of luck and thanks to all who had anything to do with the show and convention. There will certainly be a good representation from the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society at the TIFAS Convention next year.

Oh, and by the way, I was able to get the aquarium, Harvey Wittenberg won at the

convention, back to Ottawa without having to ship Harvey by express!!

.....

LOACHES

Reprinted from Tropical Topics and The Dallas Aquarium Society.

Among the best scavengers in the aquarium are the loaches. From the so called "old world" of fish these interesting little creatures are fairly common nowadays and can be found in most dealers' shops.

Most popular of these is the beautiful clown loach (*Botia Macracantha*) a few years back these fish cost 20 dollars each and were very scarce. Today's market has sold them for 5 dollars to 7.50.

By nature loaches generally avoid the light and prefer to hide beneath rocks, or clumps of plants and even bury themselves completely in sand or gravel. However, when its "chow time", they manage to become first in line. Some of the loaches take the form of long eel-like fish, but upon inspection one finds that they have pectoral, dorsal, anal, etc., fins the same as most fishes seen in the aquarium. Among these are the Kuhlii (*Acanthopthalmus semicinctus*) which is a beautiful pink and black combination, about 4 inches long, the spotted dojo (*Cobitis taenia*) a buff coloured fish with pretty black markings also 4 inches, and the larger Japanese weatherfish (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*) grows to about 8 inches. This one is used by some of the Japanese people as a barometer, as the weather changes this loach whips himself across the tank in a frenzy, back and forth, whipping up the sediment in the tank to practically a state of suspension.

This fellow likes to bury himself up to  
(Cont'd page 20)

his neck (and sometimes completely) in gravel and just lay there and blink his eyes. There are many other types of loaches but not seen too often in this area. *Botia Horae*, *Botia Pulchripinnis*, and *Botia Modesta* are 3 of which a few specimens have drifted through here. But, generally, these are the exceptions rather than the rule. The *Kuhlii* loaches and the *Kojo* and the *Weatherfish* generally are in good supply and are priced at approximately one dollar each. If you wish to observe some quaint little diminutive fish and at the same time add some excellent scavengers to your tanks go the loach route.

.....

ALADDIN PET SHOP-----

Drop in and see our special stock of aquaria, accessories, exotic tropical fish and plants.

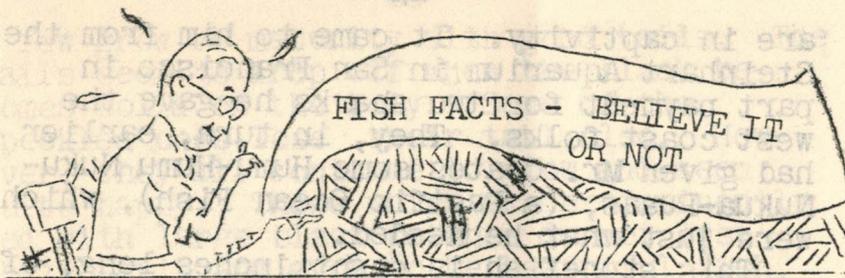
FISH AND PLANTS THAT WILL TAKE FIRST PRIZE AT THE OVAS TROPICAL FISH SHOW

"Best wishes to all OVAS members. I do hope your 1960 Show will be very successful"

Otto J. Flegel.

819 Bank (corner Fourth) CE6-5033

How about writing an article for the OVAS News this summer.



By your OVAS Reporters  
Muriel Hodges and Ed Parisien  
Mrs. Flo Trottier came across this interesting article about a Stonefish. Make an effort to see this fish if you are in New York this summer.

KILLER FISH RECEIVED AT NEW YORK AQUARIUM  
by John G. Rogers, "Gazette"

New York, May 8. The most horrible thing arrived Thursday at the New York Aquarium in Coney Island. It was a stonefish from the South Pacific. On its back are 13 spines and each one is fed by two sacs containing one of the most deadly poisons in the world.

"Touch that thing and you're likely to be dead in an hour," said Christopher W. Coates, aquarium director.

The malignant stone fish doesn't even fight fairly, even though the odds are loaded in its favor. It lies on the bottom in shallow water, assuming the color of its surroundings. Somebody comes along and steps on it and - curtains.

Prof. J.L.B. Smith, South African fish expert and one of the few known survivors of a stonefish prick, said that 80 days later his hand was "weak, swollen and painful," and his general health was poor.

Awful as it is, Mr. Coates was delighted to receive the stonefish because not many

(Cont'd page 22)

are in captivity. It came to him from the Steinhart Aquarium in San Francisco in part payment for two sharks he gave the west coast folks. They, in turn, earlier had given Mr. Coates some Humu-Humu Nuku-Nukua-Puaas, (a Pacific Ocean Fish), which were just what he needed.

This stonefish is eight inches long, of blunt formation, ugly as a nightmare. It eats small fish and its mouth is so big that it looks like a landing craft opening up. Chances are its ovoviviparous (produces eggs which are hatched within the body).

It arrived by air mail encased in many layers of water and plastic bags, so that if its spines broke through one, others were in reserve.

Mr. Ed Parisien reports: Usually I am not too interested in live bearers but at present I am trying to develop swordtails that are black with red heads. Don't laugh - I have developed a few. However, there are a few stumbling blocks in trying to develop these swordtails.

First, as most of you know, black swords are always affiliated with tumour growths which present an unsightly appearance. Well, mine are not so afflicted but they show this growth in a different way - the caudal fin seems to disappear. The fish seem in good health and they grow normally. Maybe our scientific adviser, Father Legault, can tell us something about the difficulties in developing these swordtails? So far I have not been able to raise a pair that can be relied upon to deliver young who will all have the same markings. About 40% are predominantly red, 20% are speckled black and red and 40% are born with the same speckles but develop black bodies and red heads. Of these only

(Cont'd page 23)

a few grow to maturity with good tails. The tails seem to drop off when the black becomes solid on the body. Some of the speckled ones lose their tail also. However, they all continue to grow and seem quite happy. Those which are predominantly red with large black patches do not lose their tails and grow to be beautiful fish, although not what I was trying to develop.

Doctor Myron Gordon developed what he called "jet swords" several years ago and I am sure he must have encountered this same trouble. They were half black (rear), and half red. The growths always appeared on the black near the tail fin but never on the red portion of the body. Dr. Gordon developed jet swords by crossing different hybrid helleri but as they did not breed true they disappeared from the tropical fish market.

I am trying to establish these red headed blacks by selective breeding. I started with two males and four females of a strain which was popular several years ago. They were red and black with no set pattern and sold under the trade name of painted swords. They seldom develop tumours but some how they went out of style and a good pair could not be found for years. However, about 10 months ago I did manage to find six good ones.

I am still hoping to develop swordtails that are black with red heads. How long that will take will be anyones guess.

It may be of interest to some that I received another package of dried eggs since the last meeting. This shipment contained Pteralebia Peru, Cynolebia Whitei, Nothobranchius Walkeri and Cynolebia Bellotti.

The latest gadget for the aquarium - the "BEER BOTTLE". Mrs. Flo Trottier now uses a beer bottle (the dark green one) for her

(Cont'd page 24)

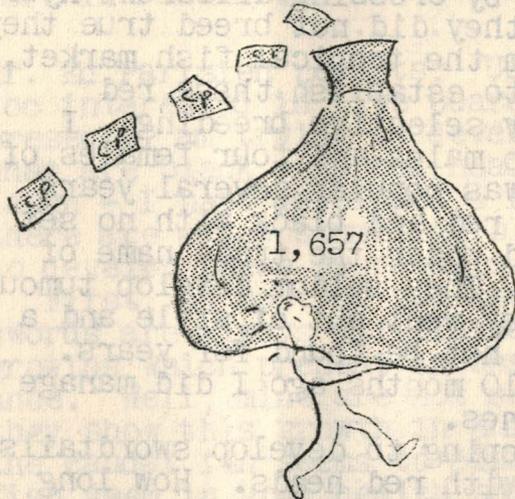
angel fish to place their eggs on. This has proven to be very successful - just make sure the bottle is empty.

Fish Facts - Believe It or Not - reports on the following fish story...A member of the OVAS (Senior Society) states (with a straight face) that his 6 inch Plecostomus is taken out of the aquarium and placed on the floor -- this plecostomus, believe it or not, walks.

.....

CANADA PACKERS LABELS

TOTAL AS OF 31ST MAY



LET'S SEE HOW FAST WE CAN MAKE THIS BAG GROW

Don't forget to collect your CP labels during the summer. We must collect 6,000 labels to pay for our coffee urn.

Prizes for the three Junior members who collect the greatest number of labels. Gerry Lalonde Social Director.

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OUR HOSPITAL TANKS

By the Editor

Do you know that we have a total of four aquaria (and a further one to be installed) in various hospitals, institutions, etc, located in Ottawa and Hull?

Do you know that these aquaria, fish, plants, accessories are presented to the various institutions by YOU - a member of the OVAS?

Do you know that the aquaria require certain attention and that we, THE HOBBYISTS, consider this as our responsibility?

Do you know the enjoyment that the

(Cont'd page 26)

aquaria bring to the sick, aged people, orphans etc?

Do you know that a very small lad, (an orphan in St. Patricks home) 9 years old, is trying to look after the aquarium YOU presented to these orphans some two years ago?

It appears that very few members in our Society are aware of the little responsibilities we do have. Many times I have heard requests for volunteers to take care of an aquarium - which only requires a visit once or twice a month - to see that everything is in order. What response is there? You know the answer - we have only one member of the Society who is looking after an aquarium.

You only have to visit these institutions to see what happiness and enjoyment these people derive from such a small donation you have made. You only have to take on the responsibility of looking after one aquarium to see what a happy task this is. Why not volunteer - certainly one does not have to be asked to do something like this?

If we have no further inclination to take care of the aquaria we have donated, we should drop this project.

To date you have kindly donated an aquarium to:

St. Patricks Orphanage Home - Gloucester Street, Ottawa.

Rideau Health and Occupational Centre - Smythe Road, Ottawa.

The Protestant Home for the Aged - Bank Street, Ottawa.

St. Laurent Sanitorium - Hull, Quebec.

AND ONE AQUARIUM NOW BEING DONATED TO:  
The Protestant Childrens Village - Carling Avenue, Ottawa. (Cont'd page 27)

YOU have the answer to this problem. Let's do something about it - one way or the other.

*Harvey J. Wittenberg*  
(Harvey) J. Wittenberg  
Editor

.....

THE ANGEL FISH

By Mrs. Lorna Olley, Ottawa Valley  
Aquarium Society

We worship the Angel although he's no angel  
An epic of splendor is he.  
With bright eagle eyes he watches each day,  
For any young fish a comin' his way.  
He glides like a yacht caught in a breeze,  
But the bright glint of silver won't put  
him at ease.

As we look through the glass of our  
favourite tank,  
Our hearts full of pride suddenly sank.  
From out of the plants a red flash doth  
appear,  
As stealthy now an Angel draws near.  
With one quick move he's up for the kill,  
As now we feel so suddenly ill.  
A live food diet we know he requires,  
But on eating our neons he never quite tires.

Then as we think "Is it really worth while",  
We gaze again at magnificent style.  
Body with stripes so gayly bedecked,  
Fins held always so smartly erect.  
So, as he swims away from his snare,  
We know we still love that lovely Scalare.

.....

WHY PAY MORE WHEN YOU CAN GET RESULTS BY  
ADVERTISING IN THE OVAS NEWS?



JAR SHOW

STANDINGS

as of May 31st

Charlie Anderson	15 points
Al & Norman Johnson	9 points
Diane Fraser	9 points
Wilf Doucette	7 points
Ed Parisien	7 points
George Bowie	6 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

- 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"



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

Our next meeting will now be held 15th September as we close for the summer months (July and August). During our summer holidays I would like to see all members make a special drive to collect as many CP (Cont'd page 30)

labels as possible.

We should not forget the Annual Tropical Fish Show which is being held during the Central Canada Exhibition, August 19th to the 27th. In addition to the many classes that you may enter your aquaria and fish in, there is now - for the first time, a special class for Junior members only. You can enter any size aquaria, fish or plants, in this Junior competition. I am also happy to announce that a trophy has been kindly donated by two Senior Society members for this class.

There will also be an opportunity to enter your Betta in the show. The Bettas will be judged and a prize will be awarded to the winner.

Lately I have been noticing that there are very few articles from the Junior members appearing in our section of the OVAS News. During the summer holidays we will have an opportunity to write an article - why not give it a try.

I would like to welcome John McClenann, 210 Knox Crescent, Ottawa 1, as a member of our Junior Society.

The Executive is happy to announce the appointment of Assistant Directors for the following committees:

- Membership: - Jerry McMullen
- Magazine: - Wayne Moore
- Social: - Laurie Walker
- Show: - Jack Keaney
- Programme: - Ron Ensom

Chipper Vickers  
President.

.....

Your baby guppies will have a very slim chance of survival with an assortment of fishes in the tank, even with floating plants. Sooner or later the bigger fish get them.

SHOW COMMITTEE

By John McKinley-Key Director and Jack Keaney Assistant Director.

Your attention is drawn to page 3 and 6 regarding the Annual Tropical Fish Show. Please make every effort to enter an aquarium in our Junior Society Class.

Attendants will also be required each day of the show, particularly during the morning and afternoon as the majority of Senior members are not able to serve as attendants until the evening.

The number of entries in our Jar Shows are increasing and the standings as of June 30th are:

- Larry Neumann - 8 points
- Eric Bowden - 7 points
- John McKinley-Key - 6 points
- Andy Holdham - 5 points
- John Manchester - 5 points
- Gordon Worden - 3 points
- Jack Keaney - 3 points
- Paul Francis - 2 points
- Shawn MacKenzie - 1 point
- Peter Rubec - 1 point
- John Janzen - 1 point
- Carl Juneau - 1 point
- Wayne Moore - 1 point
- Laurie Walker - 1 point
- Danny McLean - 1 point

It would be appreciated if members would not handle the entries in the jar show. This scares the fish and in many cases does result in the fish losing its colour, thereby losing a number of points when being judged. Every member will be given an opportunity to have a look at the fish after they have been judged.

.....

DON'T FORGET OUR ADVERTISERS

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

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

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

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

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

Just as June is the month of weddings for humans, fishes, too, are moved to

(Cont'd page 33)

amorous actions. How often aquarists are surprised to find a pair spawning right in the community tank. If the fish are valuable, quick action is necessary to save the eggs. Bubble-nesters are easily removed by carefully placing a bowl under the nest and lifting the whole thing out. If the spawn has been deposited on plants, remove the whole plant to another tank. With very valuable fish, the best solution is to quietly remove all but the breeders from the tank.

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

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

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

(Cont'd page 34)

5. Partial changes of seasoned water every other day or so are beneficial.

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

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

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

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

A pleasant vacation pastime is a hunt for rocks suitable for aquarium use. Over

(Cont'd page 35)

various parts of the country there are to be found minerals of great beauty. Unless the actual composition is known, there is considerable danger in just putting them in with fishes. If there is the slightest doubt about a rock, or any ornament, for that matter, it should be placed in a container with some inexpensive fishes for about two weeks. If these fishes suffer no ill effects, it is safe to place the material in an aquarium.

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

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

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

#### HINTS FOR THE SHOW

1. Plants which are too large for the tank give a crowded look and dwarf the fish.
2. Plants that are too few in number leave too many empty spaces.
3. Avoid large shells or rocks which may dominate the picture.
4. Lay out the tank so that there is a centre of interest - a stone, a group of stones, a clump of plants, as the focal point but avoid placing the centre of interest dead centre in the tank.

(Cont'd page 36)

- 5. Select fishes carefully - in a community tank don't succumb to the temptation to include as many species as the tank will hold. The result is confusing to the beholder.
- 6. Select species to be shown together on the basis of size as well as color and swimming habits.
- 7. Avoid including fish in poor condition. One sway-bucked guppy can spoil a tank full of prize fish.
- 8. Use proper light in proper place.
- 9. Make heaters, filters, etc, as inconspicuous as possible.

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Letter to Junior Society

17th June, 1960.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers, Directors and Members of the OVAS Junior Society for the very nice travelling case that was presented to me at the June 16th meeting.

The responsible party to have thought of this travelling case surely must be a mind reader as I was intending to buy one at a later date.

Once again, many thanks to everyone for this gift in recognition of my assistance to your Society. I sincerely appreciate your kindness.

Yours sincerely,

*Harvey J. Wittenberg*  
(Harvey J. Wittenberg)

.....

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW FOR THE 1960 OVAS  
TROPICAL FISH SHOW