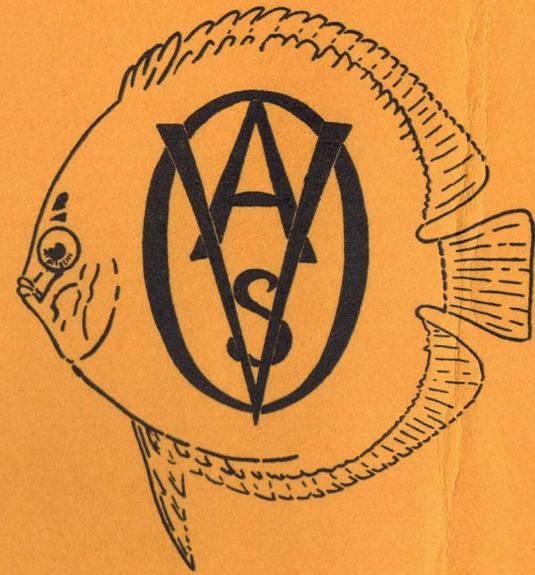


OVAS NEWS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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



THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS

Junior Society

Thursday, September 15th 7.00 PM

Thursday, October 20th 7.00 PM

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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EDITOR: Harvey J. Wittenberg.

OTTAWA 3. ()

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OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY
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(SENIOR SOCIETY)

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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.

1960 OVAS TROPICAL FISH SHOW

The OVAS Tropical Fish Show was, once again, a very big success. We manage to present a bigger and better show each year which is something that we should all be very proud of.

We must congratulate Charlie Anderson, Show Director, the members who entered their aquaria and fish, and those who served as attendants and assisted the committee in setting up the stands. I do believe that a special thanks should also go to two of our members - Diane and Captain Jack Fraser. Diane and Jack gave many long hours concerning the administrative details in addition to many other jobs.

Congratulations go to the OVAS members who won first, second and third in the various classes in competition. They are:

CLASS A - Egg Layers

First - Gary Zumar with 85 points.
Second - Muriel & Weldon Hodges, 84 points.
Third - Edgar Parisien with 82 points.

CLASS B - Live Bearers

First - Muriel & Weldon Hodges, 88 points.
Second - Harry Griffiths with 87 points.
Third - Diane & Jack Fraser with 86 points.

CLASS C - Community

First - Muriel & Weldon Hodges, 87 points.
Second - Geo Bowie with 86 points.
Third - Edgar Parisien with 76 points.

CLASS D - Junior Society

First - Ron Ensom with 92 points.
Second - Larry Neumann with 91 points.
Third - Lyn Fraser with 79 points.

CLASS E - Open (novelty) Total 140 points

First - W.F. Ledoux with 129 points.
Second - Diane & Jack Fraser, 127 points.

CLASS F - Bettas (total 40 points)
 First - Larry Neumann with 40 points.
 Second - Geo Bowie with 36 points.
 Third - Bruce Lecompte with 35 points.

CLASS G - Dealers
 First - Dickson's Pet Shop, 85 points.

"GRAND CHAMPION OF THE SHOW"

Muriel & Weldon Hodges

We have two additional trophies which will be presented this year. One for the Junior Society, which was kindly donated by two Senior members. This trophy will be known as "The Edgar Parisien Trophy". The second trophy was kindly donated by The Aquarium Supply Co Ltd, St. Thomas, Ontario, and will be awarded to the "Grand Champion of the Show".

We were very fortunate in obtaining Mr. C. Kok, of Toronto, to judge the show. I am sure you will all agree that Mr. Kok did an excellent job.

At our next meeting we hope to show you the slides of the Show and also hear a short talk by Mr. C. Kok regarding the judging.

.....

A pet store received a call from a customer stating she had a pair of siamese fish that she wanted to spawn - she wanted to know where she could buy a bubble nest for them.

In the San Diego Aquarium Society publication, "The Tropical Breeze, 'Mr. Guy D. Jordan says, 'It's easy to sex live-bearers. The females don't signal when they turn!'"

WATER TEMPERATURE

By: Mr. Edgar Parisien, Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society

The subject of temperatures is one that is highly misunderstood. In my opinion, the reason for this is that most beginners do not fully understand when they read in an aquarium book that a certain fish has a temperature tolerance of 45 - 90 degrees or 68 - 85 degrees F. They seem to think that if a fish can tolerate 85 degrees, it should be kept at that temperature 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I believe, not only in setting up an aquarium to look as natural as possible, but also in maintaining temperatures as natural as possible. Everyone knows that in nature temperatures vary. We can't condemn the average hobbyist for misunderstanding this fact because scientists make the same mistake.

Let me refer you to our June meeting and Father Legault's talk. He mentioned temperature several times, quoting from scientific papers. Invariably, the papers read "...at a given temperature the Betta will spawn more frequently than at a lower or higher temperature...". Their conclusion was that this temperature is the optimum for the Betta. However, they fail to tell us at what temperature they maintain the fish between spawnings.

I have found that fish kept at 70 degrees F. are more likely to spawn when the temperature is raised to 74 than fish kept at 74 all the time. The resultant fry in the first case are usually stronger and healthier. If a pair of fish is kept at 80 for a long period and their temperature tolerance is 85, what will happen when you want the fish to spawn? If you raise the temperature to 85, the fish will become weak and uncomfortable.

(Cont'd page 6)

They can not be expected to spawn under these conditions.

Biologically speaking, if the fish is kept at 78 - 80, the male is incapable of producing sperm in less than seven days. But I have had fish spawn four times in two weeks at temperatures of 72 - 74 after being kept at 68 all winter.

You may argue that your guppies are kept at 78 - 80 and they are doing well, but live-bearers are different. They do not spawn, but breed like warm-blooded animals, however temperature makes a difference in their case too. For instance, at 72, the gestation period is as long as 45 days and, at 80, as short as 28 days. At the higher temperature, the young are not as healthy or as strong.

The theory I try to follow is to keep the fry at the temperature they were hatched in until they are at least half grown, and then to decrease this slowly until they are accustomed to 70 or even less. I do not try to tell you that all fish should be kept at less than 70 all the time. I have found this to be a happy medium for most fishes. I also believe that a variation of a few degrees is good for the fish, as this occurs in nature.

When buying fish, temperature is also important. Give them a small bare tank and maintain the same temperature as the dealer did for five or six days and then gradually adjust it to your aquarium temperature.

.....

Coral placed in a fresh water aquarium without properly treating it by boiling and sunning it thoroughly, will foul the water and kill your tropical fish in short order.

.....

THE PLECOSTOMUS

Reprinted from The Boston Aquarium News

As fellow aquarists most of us maintain some type of community aquarium. This presents a common problem of keeping the aquarium "balanced" and thereby providing a healthy environment for the fishes and plants. WE also try to create a beautiful and pleasant underwater panorama.

To these ends, most aquarists would agree that a scavenger is beneficial, if not essential, in helping to promote a clean tank. Hence, at one time or another, most of the common varieties of Catfish could be found in my aquariums; but of them all I have found the Plecostomus most suitable as well as most entertaining.

It would be difficult to describe the color of this fish as it has the chameleon characteristic of camouflaging its appearance according to the surrounding environment. It varies at times from a light grey with blackish spots to a light brown with darker brown spots. Quite often vertical pigmented streaks may appear similar to a shadow falling across the body, or it may assume a dark solid color. This ability to camouflage itself is seemingly less evident in the younger fish.

Under light, the integument of the Plecostomus glistens and appears soft and smooth. Actually, the skin feels, as rough as sandpaper similar to that of the shark. The large dorsal, caudal, and pectoral fins which give the fish a weird aspect enable the Plecostomus to glide as it moves about in search of food, though if the occasion arises the Plecostomus will move with lightning-like rapidity.

The Plecostomus has a voracious appetite and will consume live food such as white worms dried foods, dead fish, and algae, with

(Cont'd page 8)

a special fondness for algae.

One of the principal reasons that I find this fellow so valuable is its ability to combat the algae in my tanks. I have a large fifty-gallon tank which receives several hours of sunlight and would readily gather algae on the sides and upon the plants and rocks if it were not for this fish. For several years now I have not had to clean algae from the sides nor from the plants. That in itself has been a big help in keeping the aquarium clean.

I once placed a Plecostomus in an eight-gallon tank so exposed to the sunlight that the water was green and the aquarium sides were solidly coated with a thick mass of algae. In a matter of a few days, maybe a week, the sides were clean and the water nearly free of algae. As long as the Plecostomus remained in the aquarium the water, plants, and the sides of the tank kept free of algae. Upon removal of the fish, however, the aquarium soon reverted to the green mess it was originally.

In feeding, particularly on the bottom, the Plecostomus uses its rigid pectoral fins as limbs upon which it crawls about both forward and backward, and when alerted will rise up on them about half an inch.

It was rather surprising to me to find a species of Catfish that could be so aggressive. When feeding, the food which falls to the bottom in the cleared area in front of the aquarium becomes his domain, and he does not hesitate to chase off all comers who easily elude his clumsy attempts.

From my experience, I would not recommend that other Catfish be kept in the same aquarium. Originally I introduced two young Plecostomus to the aquarium. About

(Cont'd page 9)

a week later I noticed one chasing the other and I assumed they might be attempting to mate. Such was not the case, however, as they were fighting and one eventually killed the other. On another occasion I put in a large Corydoras aeneus which soon suffered the same fate. It either was not necessary to remove either fatality as both were consumed in short order by the remaining Plecostomus. For this reason I seldom bother to remove the infrequent fish which sickens and dies. Other than showing a dislike for other scavengers, the Plecostomus seems suitable for the community aquarium.

It is claimed that the Plecostomus in its natural habitat will grow to a sixteen-inch length. In the reduced environment of an aquarium and outdoor pools they grow considerably less. One Plecostomus that I have had for three years in both a large aquarium and an out-door pool has attained a length of about five and one-half inches. Others in smaller aquariums have failed to approach this size.

.....

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

by H.T.E.K.

...I don't like to mention Christmas at this time of the year ...however...DON'T BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS until you hear from the Executive at our next meeting...rumours are that

the Society will be selling Christmas cards this year in an effort to help increase the treasury...if this project is successful it is possible that a raffle in 1961 will not be required.....

...if you would like to receive expert instructions on how to cook tropical fish ask Marcel....

...The Senior Society welcome the following members who recently joined the Society: Mr. J.G. Patterson, Mr. Willis Murphy, Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. T. MacMurray, Mr. & Mrs. W. Boyle and Miss Pat McGee....

...our CONGRATULATIONS to Gordon Cutler. Our brave friend got married....

...If you would like to obtain a copy of the TIFAS Digest and Report see our TIFAS Society Representative, Mr. Don Thompson... they are free...after this issue the charge will be .20¢ per copy. If you would like to subscribe to the TIFAS Digest the cost is \$1.00 for six issues...this is an excellent magazine and one that you should not miss reading...

...what is the tastiest fish in the
(Cont'd page 11)

aquarium? This question was recently asked at a Junior Society meeting. The quiz panel, not having tasted tropical fish, stated that they did not know the answer. The ten year old lad stated "the chocolate Gourami".....

...if you require a truck to get your CP labels to the next meeting just call Gerry Lalonde....

...our hats are off to Muriel & Weldon Hodges after taking second prize in egg-layers, first in live-bearers, first in community A N D The Grand Champion..... CONGRATULATIONS Muriel and Weldon - this is a record for our Society.....

...very sorry to hear that our good friend Phil Curry is ill. Hope you are in real good health very soon....

...Do you know what happened to my waterproof, shockproof, rustproof, unbreakable anti-magnetic watch?...."I lost it.".....

.....

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MY EXPERIENCE IN SPAWNING THE CHERRY BARB

By: Mr. Edgar Parisien, Ottawa Valley
Aquarium Society

(written as an easy guide for spawning)

NAME OF FISH: PUNTIUS TITTEYA. Popular
name: Cherry Barb.

The Cherry Barb has a black horizontal stripe which runs from the chin to the tail base. The back is brown; the lower area and head of the male are deep cherry red. His fins are bright red. The female is a drab creature by comparison; her fins are without color, and the area below the horizontal line is chocolate brown.

LOCATION OF FISH: Ceylon.

FAMILY: CYPRINIDAE (pronounced Sy-prin'i-dee). The Carps form 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. No Carp ever has an adipose fin, and no Carp ever occurs naturally in South America or Australia.

GROWTH OF FISH: 1½ to 2 inches.

TEMPERMENT: Peaceful.

SEX DIFFERENCE: Male has cherry red fins and more colourful than the female. Female has a fuller body.

SPAWNING AGE: 1 year old preferred for good fertile spawn.

CONDITIONING FOR SPAWNING: variety of live food required.

WATER: PH 6.5 - 7.0. DH is not important. Water should be about 48 hours old and clear.

TEMPERATURE: I have found the best optimum temperature to be 76°. (Cont'd page 13)

TYPE OF PLANTS: Anacharis (or any other bushy plant will do).

METHOD OF SPAWNING: The method I use is simple. First, put about 5 inches of water in a 12 x 12 x 24 aquarium. Second, take a bunch of anacharis and weigh down with stones or glass rods in the centre.

EGGS: Eggs are very small.

TIME OF SPAWNING: Spawning takes place at any time of the day.

LIGHTING: A weak light should be used - not more than 25 watt.

REMOVAL OF ADULTS: The Cherry Barb is an avid egg-eater. Parents must be removed when spawning is finished.

HATCHING TIME: about 40 hours at a temperature of 76°.

FEEDING THE FRY: Infusoria should be fed after 3 days and until they are about 3 weeks old. The fry are very small and not very active until three weeks. Once they are able to eat micro worms and brine shrimp they grow very rapidly.

REMARKS: The female should be introduced to the spawning aquarium at least 24 hours before the male. Aquarium should be covered as they sometimes jump out of the aquarium when spawning.

.....

SYMPHYSODON DISCUS

Reprinted from Boston Aquarium News

Symphysodon discus takes the spotlight again, this time in the May, 1960 issue of National Geographic magazine, page 675. An eight-page article written by Gene
(Cont'd page 14)

Wolfsheimer is illustrated with eight excellent photographs, one in color, taken by the author. The story describes the manner in which the discus spawns, and the writer explains why it is necessary to leave the very young offspring with the parents during the first free-swimming days. Dr. Wm. H. Hildemann, "currently of the University of California at Los Angeles's School of Medicine" has examined scales and slime from specimens of non-breeding and breeding discus and has found a "whitish secretion on the skin of the breeder." Dr. Hildemann is continuing his analysis of the "milk" as to its food value. It is quite evident that the baby fish need this natural food to survive.

In the same issue of the Geographic, there is a fascinating story for those of you who enjoy reading about deep-sea diving. "Thirty-three Centuries Under the Sea" tells about the oldest shipwreck ever found - off the coast of Turkey.

.....

-KAR VEL PET RANCH-

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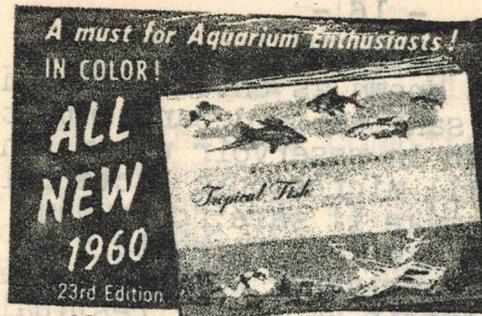
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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Would you please tell me if keeping a properly-balanced aquarium in a sunny bedroom is unsanitary or in any way injurious to the health of the person who occupies the room?

A. On the contrary, an aquarium in a bedroom is beneficial to the health of the person in the room. Most air in winter is too dry, and the small amount of moisture which comes from the aquarium is beneficial. Any doctor will tell you this.

(Reprinted from the Filter)

Q. What is meant by aquarists when they mention "aged water"?

(Cont'd page 16)

A. Our city tap water contains varying amounts of a gas known as chlorine which is put there by sanitation departments to kill any bacteria in reservoir water. This chlorine will kill microscopic bacterial growth and thus make it safe for human consumption. In order to be certain of the purity of our drinking water officials insist upon a certain amount of residual chlorine in the water. This residual chlorine is understandably dangerous to our fish and must be removed before being put to use in our aquaria.

Several methods may be employed, but the simplest would consist of placing the tap water in an open vessel and allowing it to stand for 48 hours. Since chlorine is a gas it readily escapes from the liquid into the surrounding air. Heating will hasten the process, but boiled water is very "flat" and should be aerated to restore the normal balance of gases before using it for fishes.

One could aerate water over night to hasten removal of chlorine in an emergency.

All experienced aquarists keep on hand, quantities of aged water for use in emergencies and for replacing siphoned water when doing their weekly cleaning of tanks.

.....

"First aquarist admiringly, 'Gee, that's a beautiful Guppy."

Second Aquarist, 'Yeah, I got it for my wife.'

First Aquarist with awe in his voice,

'Boy, where did you ever get a trade like that.'

Quote from a young boy: "To raise Guppies, get a male and a female, keep damp, and remove young."

A TRIBUTE

By: the late Mr. L.P. Fitzsimmons

Hats off to the Show Committee, they really should be proud,
 Their fine, untiring efforts warrant praises long and loud.
 Without them there just could not be a show as fine as this,
 Resulting in a grand display which really couldn't miss.

It almost seems impossible that so much could be done,
 And proves we need the full support of each and every one.
 We're still just in our infancy, with so far yet to go.
 Let's back our group with all we've got, forget how to say "No".

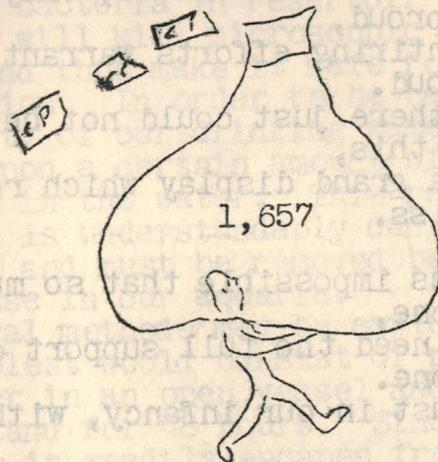
The fish themselves deserve a pet, they surely did their best
 To fascinate the public, who forgot to even jest
 About what meagre meals they'd make, or dropping in a hook.
 We showed them things they'd heard about or read in some strange book.

From Discus to exotic Scat, Monodactylids and Swords,
 From Guppies to the rarer types, so many there aren't words
 To describe them all in detail or tell how they did their part
 In proving an aquarium could be a work of art.

.....

The OVAS News requires articles - any size, shape or form. Why not help your own Society publication?

CANADA PACKERS LABELS
TOTAL AS OF 30TH JUNE



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

Don't forget to bring your CP Labels to
the next meeting. We must collect 6,000
labels to pay for our coffee urn.

Gerry Lalonde
Social Director.

.....

SENIOR SOCIETY FISH OF THE MONTH FOR 1960

- 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).

Enter the next jar show. Remember: square
jar, no plants or gravel. 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.

.....

O.V.A.S.
JUNIOR
SOCIETY



Editor:

Larry
Neumann

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- 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: Mr. Harvey J. Wittenberg

NEW MEMBERS

We are very happy to welcome nine new
members who joined our Junior Society
during the Tropical Fish Show at the Ex.
They are: Frank BELLOW, John CAMPBELL, Ray
FINE, Lee GILLESPIE, Brian MALLON, Jim
OFFICER, John PINDER-MOSS, Robert SEGUIN
and John WILSON.

1960 OVAS TROPICAL FISH SHOW

The members who participated in the show by entering their fish, and who served as attendants, are to be congratulated on a very fine effort. Ron Ensom won the Junior Society Trophy and Larry Neumann won the prize for the Betta Show.

We thank the members who entered the show, Stuart Butts, Eric Bawden, Lyn Fraser, Greg Wall, Ron Ensom, Larry Neumann, Jack Keaney and Bruce Lecompte.

A total of 10 entries in the various classes is a record for the Junior Society.

.....

JUNIOR SOCIETY FISH OF THE MONTH FOR 1960

- SEPTEMBER - Fancy Guppy (male)
- OCTOBER - Leopard Catfish
- NOVEMBER - Red Sword (male)
- DECEMBER - Zebra
(winners announced)
- JANUARY - Scissor Tail

Enter the jar show at the regular meetings.
Remember: square jar, no plants or gravel.

.....

THREE SPOT GOURAMI

Reprinted from "Brant Aquarium Society"

Three Spot Gourami - Trichogaster trichopterus. Blue Gourami - Trichogaster Sumatranes. Both these fish are identical except for the hazy coat of whitish blue that covers the Blue Gourami, but neither fish seem to notice the difference as I have spawned Blue and Three Spots together several times.

(Cont'd page 21)

The Three Spot Gourami has the wrong name unless you count the eye as a spot, for they have only two spots.

They grow to a length of four or five inches. They are quite peaceful, they don't seem to bother the smallest fish. They are native to India and Malay Peninsula and they do their best at a temperature from 75 to 79 degrees. Their color is silvery blue and sometimes almost black with faintly marbled lines sloping back at the top. Its ventral fins are slender feelers which are always moving. These fins will grow again if broken off. When they are ready to breed they can sometimes cause trouble, they chase each other and any other fish regardless of size.

All labyrinth fish are quite different from other fish as they have a labyrinth gland that enables them to breath oxygen from the air and also hatch their eggs in a nest of bubbles. The male builds the nest of bubbles, he gulps a mouthful of air and darts to the bottom and releases a bubble, this continues until their is a nest of bubbles. It is not hard to tell when they are ready to breed as the male starts building the nest and both male and female become quite brilliant in color and their fins stick straight up, they just seem to float through the water. They are quite beautiful.

.....

THE BLACK MOLLY

By: John Manchester, Social Director,
OVAS Junior Society

The black molly is really a salt-water fish and therefore must be kept in an aquarium in which there is some "sea salt" in the water. NEVER USE ORDINARY TABLE SALT. You should use approximately 1 teaspoon of

(Cont'd page 22)

sea salt for every five gallons of water in your tank. It is also advisable to have 1 teaspoon of epsom salts for every twenty gallons of water in your aquarium.

The mollies prefer warm water, between 75 and 82 degrees. You should have your tank where it will be sure to get enough light to supply some algae on the sides of your tank, as mollies need this in their diet. Another thing that the mollies like is some boiled spinach now and then. They also like a little of the yolk of a hardboiled egg and a little milk occasionally.

When a female is going to have young it is very unwise to move her; it might be the cause of premature births, still births or even the loss of your female. NEVER USE A BREEDING TRAP. It is best to use a well-planted aquarium - the more plants the better. It is also wise to have some floating plants in your aquarium.

If you have your mollies in a separate tank you are not liable to lose too many of the young as mollies do not tend to eat very many of their offspring.

The young are quite large when born and will grow rapidly if given a lot of room. The young also enjoy newly hatched brine shrimp.

The molly may obtain a length of 4 inches. The difference in sex is that the male has a huge dorsal fin.

.....

Any fish that shows signs of distress or acts in any unusual manner should be immediately isolated in a bare tank, kept there and treated until it is fully recovered, or expires.

.....

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY

The Aquarist's Calendar
The Aquarium

SEPTEMBER most vacations are over and summer activities are taking on less importance. There are plenty of interesting activities for the aquarist this month, as September is the time to close down summer projects and plan winter activities.

The most pleasant task for this month is undoubtedly the counting of "noses." Most of us have been carrying on some fish breeding activities, and many have been raising fishes outdoors. It is not safe to leave them out any longer. One cold night can destroy the fruitfulness of a whole summer. The catching of outdoor fishes almost invariably provides a pleasant surprise, as they have not been idling in the sun. They have been busy with the task for which they were created.

When the harvest is brought indoors, try to give the fishes more room than is normally prescribed. The adjustment to an indoor environment is a difficult one, and plenty of space makes it a little easier, aeration also helps. If you must leave fishes outdoors beyond the safe period, it is worth knowing that guppies are usually the first to die from chill.

The fishes are not the only living things in an aquarium that have been busy increasing their kind. By the end of the summer, plants are generally so thick that they cannot do their best. Thin them out.

Heating equipment should be over-hauled and put in tanks now. By over-hauling we mean a careful check to see that wiring insulation has not become brittle and cracked. Such units are unsafe.

AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER

DO YOU KNOW YOUR FISH?

Write down the name of the fish then check with the answers on page 25. 1 point for each correct answer. Results: 22 excellent. 18 very good, 11 fair and under 11 you had better get busy and read up on your tropical fish.

1. It can blow itself up Puffer Fish
2. Really a bold lover Kissing Gourami
3. If it was big enough you could ride it Sea Horse
4. Same name as animal from Africa Zebra
5. The Queen of the aquarium Angle Fish
6. Another Joe Louis Betta
7. A lively nipper Tiger Barb
8. From mountains in China White Cloud
9. A necessity on your car Head + Tail Light
10. Carries a rapier Swordtail
11. A famous boxer Jack Dempsey
12. A name of an insect Butterfly Fish
13. After a Greek sport Discus
14. A man eater Piranha
15. Always found in a circus Clown Barb
16. It could be used as a window Glass Fish
17. Better Robin Hood Archer Fish
18. Builds a nest like a bird Stickleback
19. The vacume cleaner of the aquarium Scavenger
20. A name given to something burning Flame Tetra
21. A luxury worn by most women Jewel Fish
22. From barb family found on trees, its a fruit Cherry Barb

DO YOU KNOW YOUR FISH?

Answers to quiz on page 24

1. Puffer Fish. 2. Kissing Gourami. 3. Sea Horse. 4. Zebra. 5. Angel. 6. Betta. 7. Tiger Barb. 8. White Cloud. 9. Head and Tail Light. 10. Sword Tail. 11. Jack Dempsey. 12. Butterfly Fish. 13. Discus. 14. Piranha. 15. Clown Barb. 16. Glass Fish. 17. Archer Fish. 18. Stickleback. 19. Scavenger. 20. Flame Tetra. 21. Jewel Fish. 22. Cherry Barb.

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HOW TO BALANCE AN AQUARIUM

If your aquarium is properly balanced change of water is unnecessary. All you have to do is to add enough water to supply the evaporation which is usually about half an inch per week. The first requisite is a sufficient depth of gravel. This should be medium size gravel and not pebbles, as dirt collects between pebbles and fouls the tank. Besides, pebbles do not pack closely enough around the roots of your plants. Ordinary sand will not do, for ordinary sand is usually limestone formation and the water takes the lime into solution and becomes too hard for the fishes.

The sand at the bottom of your aquarium should be at least 2½ inches deep - more is better. The plants should be firmly planted into this sand so that they will take root and grow. Use a profusion of plants. It is better to have different varieties of plants, both for the appearance of the aquarium and because different plants are at their best at different times of the year. Therefore, by having several varieties you are assured of healthy growth and activity of some variety at all seasons.

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Arrange the plants according to your own idea as to what you want your aquarium to look like. Landscape it as you do your outdoor garden. A shrub here, a tree there, a group of bushes there, etc. However, in order to know the proper number of plants required you should have as many plants as would be needed to plant from one-third to one-half of your aquarium as thick as a young forest.

By having sufficient growing plant you will always have enough oxygen for the fishes to breath as plants throw off oxygen and absorb the poisonous carbon dioxide gas that the fishes exhale; so when you have the right amount of plant life you really have a miniature world which is self-supporting. In other words, the more plants you have in your aquarium the more fishes you can keep and the more successful you will be in keeping your fishes healthy and alive.

Feed sparingly each day. Just enough food so they will eat it up clean in three to four minutes. The water should never be milky, cloudy, or have any bad odor. Any of these conditions denote either that you are feeding too much or that some denizen of the aquarium has died and hidden in the plants, or some plant that failed to take root is decomposing. A healthy aquarium never has any odor and the water is always clear.

(an article by Putman's Gold & Tropical fish).

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DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT NAME?

ADDRESS?

PHONE NUMBER?

STRANGE FISH

Reprinted from Fin-Fare

OF ALL THIS WORLD'S strange creatures, non can compare with the finny folk of the water world. Fantastic, weird creatures that can live in scalding water, that can walk, climb trees, and fly are found in the waters of the world. Some can talk and communicate with each other. They make a variety of sounds from grunts to whistles. The trumpet fish toots like a horn and a thing called the yellow grunt croons like Crosby.

SOME MAKE SOUNDS by rubbing one surface against another, while several species make sounds by gritting their teeth. The taps and rolls of the drum-fish can be heard for fifty feet.

THE SHRIMP FISH AND THE SEA HORSE swim standing up while the needle fish, a funny fellow, swims while standing on his head. The catfish of the River Nile is the only known creature that swims on its back. Some fish come out of the deep and walk on land. A thing called the gurnerd has hands, feet, wings, and even skids and this freak can walk, trot, fly, and swim, as well as slide.

Another fish from the eastern world has a habit of leaving the water and running up and down the beach, often stopping to wriggle up a tree in search of insects. It can also wink.

The snake fish and the mud skipper also come out on land and stroll along the beach, sometimes sunning themselves on stones for all the world like bathing beauties.

THERE ARE PORCUPINE FISH which, whenever they are threatened with danger, blow themselves up until they are round as a ball and all the spines that cover them stick up like spikes. Some stories say that they sometimes overdo this performance, blowing

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themselves up so high that they burst.

Some travellers in South Africa - and this sounds like a tall tale indeed - have described certain natives catching a species of fish which they blow up like a rubber ball. They bounce this along the beach until they get weary, then throw the fish back into the sea again where it swims away happily.

THERE ARE many fascinating things in the world of nature which can be seen as close as your own backyard. Take a close look at the world around you and see if you can find something at which you can marvel.

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