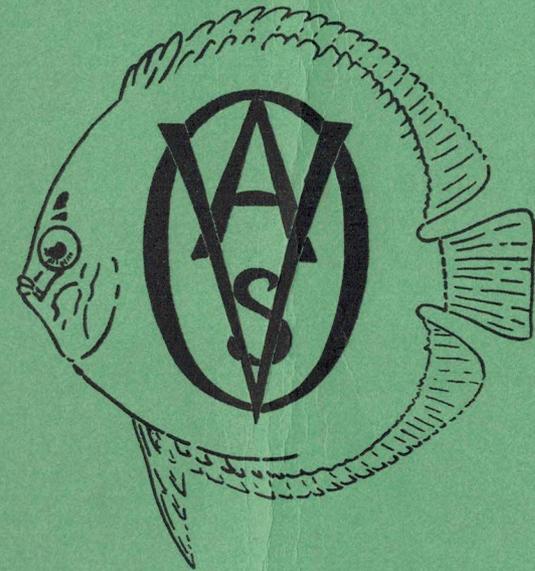


# OVAS NEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY  
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 542 STN. "B"  
OTTAWA, ONT., CANADA



FEBRUARY 1961 OTTAWA, CANADA. VOL 6 No. 9

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS

Junior Society

Thursday, February 16th.... 7.00 PM

Senior Society

Thursday, February 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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MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE!

See the treasurer at the meeting.

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

SENIOR SOCIETY

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1961

HONORARY MEMBER

Dr. Herbert Axelrod, Jersey City, USA.

President: Mr. Wilf Doucette  
Vice-Pres: Mr. Jack Fraser  
Secretary: Miss Diane Fraser  
Treasurer: Mr. Gary Zumar

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership: Mr. J.W. Smith  
Programme : Mr. Edgar Parisien  
Social : Mr. Terry Wilkie  
Magazine : Mr. Jack Fraser  
Show : Mr. Conrad Rock  
Junior Soc: Mr. Harvey Wittenberg  
Librarian : Mr. R.W. Naylor  
TIFAS Rep : Mr. Don Thompson

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

Father Romeo Legault, O.M.I., University  
of Ottawa.

Address for Society

Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society, Post Office  
Box 542, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

OVAS NEWS

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Advertising rates on request.

Editor: Jack Fraser, ,

OTTAWA 2, Ontario, CANADA.

Member of the International Federation of  
Aquarium Societies, (TIFAS).

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

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

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

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

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

Our Hospital Aquaria require some fish.  
If you have any surplus fish (young or  
old) contact ,

The many friends of Mrs. Dickson will be pleased to hear that she is now out of the hospital and recuperating at home. We all hope you will be at your usual stand in the very near future, Mrs. Dickson.

FISH - OF - THE - MONTH

Senior Society

Junior Society

BLACK

WHITE CLOUD

MOLLY

MOUNTAIN FISH

Mollienisia

Tanichthys

Latipinna

Albonubes

Male only

Male or Female

SPECIAL INVITATION

You as a Member

Are Invited

To Write an Article

(Any Article)

On Your Experiences With The Hobby

I Will Personally Reserve Space

For Your Article

The Editor

Deadline for Articles -

- The Last Day of the Month

YOUR OVAS NEWS STAFF

Harvey J. Wittenberg

As your outgoing editor I do want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Society who kindly gave their assistance in publishing the OVAS NEWS during my term of office.

We had our difficulties during the early days, however I can say that the 5 1/2 years as your editor have been very educational and enjoyable. I also hope that what we were able to offer was of some benefit to you.

Special thanks should go to four members of the OVAS NEWS staff who served with me the entire 5 1/2 years. Their assistance made it possible for you to receive a copy of the NEWS each month. They are: Gary Zumar, Fred Gault, Terry Wilkie and Gerry Guzzo. Last year we were fortunate in obtaining additional assistance from Diane Fraser, Wayne Warwick, Muriel Hodges and Edgar Parisien, who made our job much easier and helped to improve the magazine considerably.

I am very happy to see our good friend Jack Fraser as the new editor. I know that he will do an exceptionally good job.

There are a number of vacancies on the OVAS NEWS staff and I hope that you, as a member of the Society, will not hesitate to volunteer to help. One evening each month is all that is required.

To the OVAS NEWS staff, my sincere thanks. To Jack and the 1961 staff, my best wishes for every success in your new venture.

EDITOR'S LETTER  
By Jack Fraser

So you have a new editor for your magazine!!! On inheriting this not unpleasant chore from Harvey Wittenberg, I would like to tell all and sundry a few of the facts concerning the publishing of this magazine to date. Harvey took over the OVAS News and has been its editor since 1955. His efforts on behalf of the OVAS News have been tremendous. Even with his other duties with the Society, his duties as Chairman of TIFAS and his regular office duties, Harvey always found time to accept, edit and print many articles supplied by members of both the Senior and Junior Societies. And all this with a smile! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you Harvey, and I think I can speak for all members of the Society when I say you have done an excellent job.

My only hope is that in some small way I, as editor, can maintain the high standards you have set in the past. If I don't, please let me know-----but gently.

Wilf Doucette is now out of the hospital and I hope he will be back with us soon. Keep your chin up Wilf.

I won't bore you any longer. Cheers.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS,  
THEY HELP TO KEEP OUR NEWS ROLLING.

Sign In Store Window: HELP WANTED--  
Man to wash dishes and two waitresses!

MEMBERSHIP FEES

1961 Membership Fees are now due. If you were not at the January meeting you can mail your membership fee to:

Senior Society

Mr. Gary Zumar, [redacted], Ottawa 3, Ont.

Junior Society

Mr. Frank Jones, [redacted], Ottawa 3, Ont.

Membership fees are \$4.00 for Married Couples, \$3.00 for Single Memberships and \$1.00 for Junior Society Memberships.

Each 1960 member (Senior and Junior) will receive a copy of the OVAS News for the months of January and February. Members who do not renew their membership by the end of February will have their names removed from the mailing list.

Subscribers to the OVAS News are required to renew their subscription not later than February 28th. One year subscription \$2.00.

Cheques or money orders should be made payable to The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society. Please indicate Senior or Junior.

-----  
CONTENTS OF THE OVAS NEWS MAY BE RE-  
PRINTED IF PROPER CREDIT IS GIVEN THE  
AUTHOR AND THIS MAGAZINE.  
-----

Do you know that you can sell those extra aquariums, fish or plants by advertising in the Ovas News?

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As of the January meeting, the persons whose names are shown here joined the Society:

Dr. D. Andres, St. Louis de Montfort Hospital, Montreal Rd.

Mr. & Mrs. H. Bohl,

Mr. & Mrs. R. Hughson,

Rev. E. Lalonde, Notre Dame Basilica, 60 Guigues St.

Mr. John Manchester,

Mr. J. McDiarmid,

Mr. L. McLachlan,

Miss Linda Pack,

Mr. A.W. Peterson,

Dr. R.A. Ripley,

Mr. John Wallis,

May you enjoy the activities of the Society as much as we do!

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The 1961 TIFAS Convention will be on in Niagara Falls, 19th, 20th and 21st of May.

1961 TIFAS CONVENTION

By Harvey J. Wittenberg, Chairman TIFAS

The 1961 Convention of the International Federation of Aquarium Societies will be held 19th, 20th and 21st May 1961, in Niagara Falls, Ontario. This will be the Sixth TIFAS Convention and the first of its kind to be held in Canada.

The Host Society is the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs, TIFAS Regional Group 20, President Mr. Doug Martin. The TIFAS Convention Committee consists of Mr. Bert Steenhuis, Chairman, and Mr. Jim Bazely, Vice-Chairman, members of the Niagara Falls Aquarium Society.

An excellent programme has been planned, a tropical fish show, tours through Niagara, and you will meet many professional hobbyists who have been invited to the convention as speakers. There will also be various prizes.

The complete programme, cost of hotel accommodation, etc. will be published in our next issue of the OVAS NEWS.

This is a FIRST for Canada. We can give our support by attending the convention.

A Suggestion - we could charter a bus and go to Niagara as a group. This would mean a saving in money and you would have no worries about driving. Also it would mean that everyone would have a lot of fun. Let your executive officers know what you think of this suggestion.

Convention Dates - Friday 19th, Saturday 20th, and Sunday 21st May.  
NOTE: Monday 22nd May is a holiday in Canada.

MORE ABOUT THIS IN THE NEXT ISSUE

THE SHARKS

Reprinted from Boston Aquarium News

To paraphrase the words of Gertrude Stein who wrote, "A rose is a rose is a rose" one can say -- a shark is a shark is a shark, only when he is not talking about two of our finny friends, namely the Black Shark and the Red-tailed Shark.

When the *Labeo Chrysophekadion* was introduced to the American aquatic world, it somehow was given the popular name of Black Shark, perhaps because it always carries its dorsal fin in an erect position as does the shark. This name is quite unfair to the fish for, in truth, it is not even remotely related to the shark family, nor is its behavior vicious and deadly as we know the shark family. The fish was first introduced to this country in 1945 and received a great deal of publicity as true black fish are a rarity in the aquatic world. The first ones were highly prized and priced as well. \$1000.00 apiece was their valuation. Since then imports have brought the fish into the price range of most hobbyists.

The fish has very short barbels and quite large fins. He is an active bottom feeder, eating almost any type of food, but enjoying algae and occasional treats of cooked spinach. The Latin name *Labeo* means lips and refers to his sucker-type mouth, while *Chrysos* refers to the fact that as the fish matures his tail tends to have a golden sheen as does the underside of his body. As a young fish, the color is a true deep black, but this seems to fade somewhat as the fish gets older. However, at any age, and at any size, for they will grow up to 10 inches in length, the *Labeo* is a beautiful addition to any aquarium.

As with many fish, some will say he is a good community citizen, and this statement will invoke many stories to the contrary, saying that he is a troublesome character. On the whole, most reports are in his favor, though he is known to sometimes worry the larger fish by sucking at their sides. Angels especially seem to be the target of these unfriendly gestures. He spends most of his time lying on the bottom. When not at their best, their color becomes dull grey. There are no records of this fish being bred in captivity.

*Labeo bicolor* too is generally peaceful and a desirable aquarium inmate, in fact, it is even more shy than the Black Shark. This fish is usually found in about a 3 or 4 inch size, and a large tank will see them growing to about a 6 inch length. The deep black coloring of this fellow does not fade out as he grows older. The caudal fin and caudal peduncle are red, especially intense on the tips of the tail fin lobes and where the red and black colors meet on the peduncle. The underside of the body is pinkish and the roots of the pelvic fins are also reddish. Females tend to have a brownish overcast and a more yellowish-red fin coloring.

This species was first described in 1931 by Hugh M. Smith from specimens found in Northwestern Siam. The Siamese called the fish *Fla Song Kruand* which translated means "Friendship Fish". There is no record in America or England of this fish being spawned, but Professor C.W. Emmens, famous Australian aquarist, has recorded notes on the spawnings of the fish, although no hatchings were successful. During the spawning procedure, which is similar to that of the Barbs, a brown mass is exuded.

and on one occasion it was thought that small crystalline eggs could be seen in the matter. However, it was not truly decided that these were ova for they did not hatch.

Like the Black Shark, he is not fussy as to water requirements and is comfortable in temperatures from 74 to 82 degrees. He will sometimes swim backwards or rest in an almost vertical position, nose down. His shyness shows as he likes a rock shelter or inverted flower pot to rest under. He prefers live food, particularly white worms, but also enjoys algae.

(Editor's Note: Both of these fish belong to the family Cyprinodontidaw which puts them in with their proper relatives, the Carps. This is the largest family of fishes and in it you will find the Danios, the Rasboras, the Barbs and the White Cloud to mention a few.

-----  
"THINGS TO FORGET"

Reprinted from the Nebraska Tropical Topics

FORGET the slander you have heard,  
FORGET the hasty unkind word.

FORGET the quarrel and the cause,  
FORGET the whole affair because,

FORGETTING is the only way,  
FORGET the storm of yesterday,

FORGET the chap whose sour face,  
FORGETS to smile in any place,

FORGET to ever get the blues,  
BUT DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES

-----  
PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTIZERS, THEY  
HELP TO KEEP OUR NEWS ROLLING.

BE SURE YOU ARE AT THE  
FEBRUARY MEETING

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. DOUG. MARTIN

TORONTO, ONT.

PRESIDENT of C.A.O.A.C.

SUBJECT: CARE OF YOUR TROPICAL FISH

LET'S HAVE A CROWD.

WILL YOU BE THERE? I HOPE SO.

-----  
BURSARY FUND

DID YOU KNOW that the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society, during 1960, set up a Bursary Fund to provide a prize for the University of Ottawa and a prize for Carleton College to be awarded annually to a biology student at each school, adjudged by the faculty of that particular school, to be the most worthy. The Bursary Fund will be maintained from year to year and the amount of the bursaries will be dependent upon the financial state of the Society. This year's executive has budgeted for two bursaries of \$50.00 each, the same as in 1960.

-----  
Marnie: Did you change the water on the fish to-day?

George: No, certainly not. They haven't used all the water I gave them last Sunday.

-----  
GET YOUR ENTRY FOR THE HOME SHOW IN NOW



THE JAR SHOW

by Conrad Rock, Show Director.

At each regular meeting, with the exception of December, there will be a Jar Show. This Show is intended to encourage members of the Society to try to improve their own fish and to teach the individual the fine points of judging. The Show is open to any member of the Society. There are a few simple rules which must be followed:

1. All entries must be the property of the owner.
2. Fish will be shown in square glass jars.
3. No gravel, sand or plants are allowed in the jar.

Points are awarded at each meeting for each entry. The three members with the greatest number of points at the end of the year will receive prizes. Points are awarded as follows: First - 4 points, Second - 3 points, Third - 2 points, and every member entering the Show will receive 1 point.

The point standing at the end of January is:

- George Bowie 4 points
- Charlie Anderson 3 points

Don't let George do it!!!

Bring your fish along to the Show.

The fish-of-the-month for the next three months are:

- February Black Mollie (male)
- March Betta (male)
- April Platty Variatus (male)

MORE NEXT MONTH ABOUT THE JAR SHOW

-----  
More about this next month.



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8070 Beverly Blvd., L. A. 48, Calif.

ANNUAL HOME SHOW

APRIL MAY 1961

ENTER NOW

Did you know that if you have any blond Kissing Gouramis, you can visit their great grand parents at the Everglades Aquatic Nursery in Tampa, Florida. About 20 years ago, Dr. Stoye of New York sent a dozen blond kissers to a friend in Florida, and without a doubt they are the parents of all the blond kissers in this part of the world. They were about 2 years old at the time they were shipped, and all of them survived the trip. Certainly they are the oldest ones in the United States, and perhaps the oldest in the world, for they now would be 22 or 23 years old. They have grown to a length of between 8 and 9 inches and are still hale and hearty.

SOCIETY CONSULTANTS

The following members will assist you if at any time you are having difficulty with sick fish, spawning, plants, aquaria, equipment, etc.

Area No. 1

East of Tremblay Road, Rideau Canal and the City of Hull, Que.

Mr. Edgar Parisien Phone [redacted]  
[redacted], Ottawa.

Area No. 2

From Rideau Canal west to Bronson Ave.

Mr. George Bowie Phone [redacted]  
[redacted], Ottawa.

Area No. 3

From Bronson Ave. west to Churchill Ave.,

Mr. Ken Craig Phone [redacted]  
[redacted], Ottawa.

Area No. 4

From Churchill Ave. west to Stittsville

Mr. Alan Griffin Phone [redacted]  
[redacted], Bells Corners

The service of these members of the Society is available to both Junior and Senior Members. PLEASE!!! No phone calls after 11.00 P.M.

HELPFUL HINTS

White worms will live for at least 24 hours in the water, so do not be afraid of overfeeding.

White worms will thrive in a mixture of garden loam, peat moss and leaf compost.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER  
JUNIOR SOCIETY

Our January 26th meeting was very successful. I know everyone greatly enjoyed their trip to Father Legault's biology lab. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Father Legault for giving up his time to provide us with a most interesting and informative tour through the laboratory.

This meeting also saw a new record established--20 new members joined our Society. This means, that if most of our old members renew their memberships, the total number in the Junior Society will go over 100 for the first time. We welcome these 20 new members: Howie Barends, Michael Bissonette, Bob Cooper, Tom Clare, William Dendy, Lawrence Davis, Wayne Forrest, Steve Hardy, Philip Janzen, Bill Johnston, Brian Kerr, Brenda Mallon, Fred Murphy, Brian Parks, Philippa Smith, Derek Smith, Bryan Smallridge, Marilyn Thompson, Brian Thorson and Norman Wilson.

I would like to thank the junior members on behalf of the new executive and myself, for their support in the December elections. The new executive and directors will do their best to serve you in the coming year and we hope for your continued support.

*Ron Ensom*

PRESIDENT, Junior Society

-----

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

JUNIOR SOCIETY

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1961

President: Ron Enson  
Vice Pres: Gordon Worden  
Secretary: Andrew Holdham  
Treasurer: Frank Jones

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Programme: Jack Keaney  
Asst.: George Ward  
Membership: Danny McLean  
Asst.: John McClenahan  
Social: David Barron  
Asst.: John Thompson  
Show: Larry Forrest  
Asst.: Bill Latimer  
Magazine: Wayne Moore  
Asst.: Chris Pallet  
Librarian: Wayne Moore  
Asst.: Chris Pallet

Senior Committee Member  
Mr. Harvey Wittenberg

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\$1.00

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over.

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PEOPLE ARE FUNNY

(As told to Mrs. A. Neumann)

My father used to keep goldfish. One day he noticed that one of the fish was sick. So he decided to do something about it.

Being a firm believer in the powers of the aspirin tablet--it would cure anyone or anything--he decided to give the sick fish a tablet. He put the sick fish in a separate bowl of water and dropped in the aspirin. Then he sat up ALL NIGHT and nursed it. Every time the fish turned over on its side to die, he would take a spoon and turn it rightside up. He was quite sure that by doing this his fish would not die.

However his only reward was a dead fish. Such is LIFE!

FOR SALE

Two 15 gal. aquariums, galvanized, with reflectors and glass tops.  
 Two 7½ gal. aquariums, galvanized, with reflectors and glass tops.  
 One 2 gal. aquarium with reflector.  
 One pump -- Three filters -- Two heaters.  
 Cuppies, African mouthbreeders, plants and gravel. Reasonable price for the lot or for individual items.  
 Phone Burton Grundy [redacted], or see them at [redacted], Ottawa 3.

-----  
PIRANHA TEETH FEATURED IN PAPERWEIGHT AND LIGHTER

(Reprinted from Tropicals Magazine)

PLAYBOY magazine is running an ad which offers the teeth of the Piranha as part of a paperweight or a cigarette lighter. The piranha jaw is embedded in crystal clear lucite. Paperweight -- \$10.00-- Lighter--\$15.00. Both for \$22.50. Prepaid in USA. Write Piranha, Post Office Box 62, West Orange, N.J. Interested?

-----  
ALGAE REMOVER

Don Thompson, our T.I.F.A.S. representative comes up with the following hint. To remove algae from stones in your aquarium -- it's easy. Pour some JAVEX into an enamel bowl. Take the stone from the aquarium and after washing it off in water, dip it into the Javex in the bowl. Leave it there until all the algae disappears. Then let cold water run on the stone for at least two hours in order to remove all traces of Javex. Your stone is then ready to go back in the tank.

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"WE ALWAYS HAVE A GOOD SUPPLY OF FROZEN BRINE SHRIMP ON HAND"

COME IN AND BROWSE AROUND

SEE

OUR COMPLETE STOCK OF TROPICAL FISH, PLANTS, AQUARIA and SUPPLIES

"EVERYTHING FOR THE HOBBY"

-----  
THE BUMBLEBEE FISH

By Wayne Moore OVA3 Junior Society

Brachygnathus dorsalis, or as we know it, the Bumblebee fish comes from Borneo and attains a length of one and one-half inches.

The body colour is yellow with three black bands passing around the body. There is also a large black spot at the base of the caudal fin.

For breeding, an aquarium ranging from three to five gallons may be used. The tank must be well planted and have from two to four inches of gravel on the bottom. A small flower pot should then be placed on its side in a corner of the tank. Then, when the temperature of the water is 76 degrees, a well-conditioned pair of fish can be placed in the tank. When the pair has become accustomed to their new home, the female will turn over on her back and deposit a string of eggs on the underside of the flower pot. The male then loops up and fertilizes them. This procedure keeps

up until there are from 100 to 200 eggs. After the spawning is over the female should be removed as the male may turn on her and either cripple or kill her. The male then fans the eggs for the incubation period which may last for from 5 to 7 days.

The female may be recognized by her pale colouring and size.

Contrary to popular belief, this interesting little fish is not expensive. They may be obtained from the local pet shops for the reasonable price of from \$1.00 to \$2.00.

-----  
THE SEA HORSE

By Patricia Tripp OVAS Junior Society

The Seahorse looks like a character from a fairy tale or cartoon. In fact, many people believed it to be such until recent years and some still do.

This creature of the deep is dark brown in colour with a bony-like skeleton body. They move around by using the fin on the back just above the tail. This sea creature is the symbol of gracefulness.

The male of the species carries the young in a small leathery pouch that he has in his belly. Monsieur Seahorse collects the eggs and places them in his pouch where they are fertilized and hatched. When the young fish are born this pouch is their cradle and their refuge in time of danger.

These tiny creatures of the deep may be kept as pets but salt water is a "must". Their staple food is the small life in the water but they will also do well on young brine shrimp.