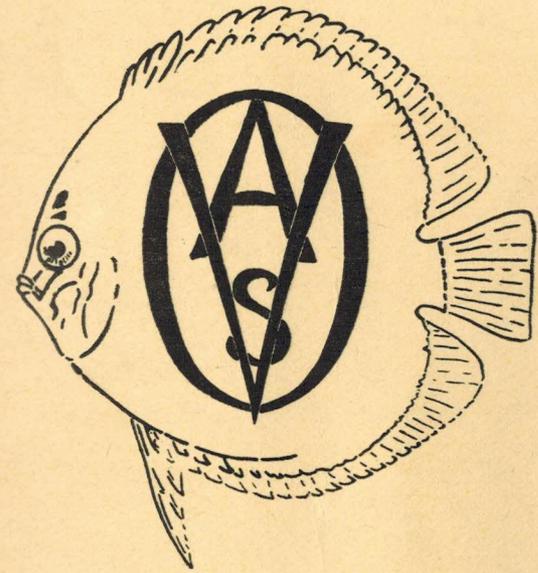


OVAS NEWS

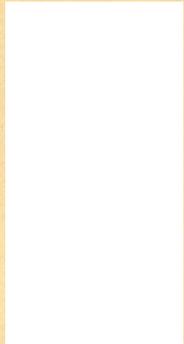


OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY
AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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



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The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society is a member of The International Federation of Aquarium Societies. It is a non-profit organization solely for the advancement of the hobby of tropical fish keeping.

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JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE JUNE

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

JUNE - is the month for outdoor activity. If you did not build an outdoor pool a few months ago, by now you are really 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 to 90 degrees, almost any of the tropic-als will thrive outdoors. With such con-ditions 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 for weddings for humans, fishes too are moved to amorous

actions. How often aquarists are surprised to find a pair spawning right in the community tank. If the fishes 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 JULY JULY JULY JULY JULY JULY

JULY - is the month in which 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 off fish containers. Any opaque shade will suffice for this purpose.
2. Glass covers should be removed and replaced by screens. 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.
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 AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST

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 packages 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 can 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 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 the 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? Or better still - what about a donation for the Junior Society? Many a hobbyist has been initiated through the kindness of a friend.

Towards the end of the 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 AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST AUGUST

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS TO THIS MEETING, THE DRAW WILL BE HELD AT APPROXIMATELY 10.00 P.M. IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THE MEETING, YOU CAN MAIL YOUR TICKETS AND MONEY TO MR. DAN JEFFREY [redacted] OTTAWA 4, ONTARIO. TO MAKE THE RAFFLE A SUCCESS SELL ALL THE TICKETS YOU HAVE!!!!!! IF YOU NEED MORE CALL DAN AT [redacted].

JOE SMITH'S FAREWELL COMMENTS
Chairman 1961 Membership Committee

It is with extreme regret that I bid the Executive and all the members of the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society a fond farewell. My wife and I will be leaving for England shortly to take up residence.

Although I am a comparatively new member of the Society, I was honoured by being asked to serve as Chairman of the Membership Committee for 1961. I strongly recommend that anyone who is asked to serve on the Executive or as a member of a committee, accept the appointment. I cannot think of a better way to get to know your fellow members. Also you will see just how much work your executive puts into trying to make the monthly meetings the success that they are.

Your Society membership now numbers very close to 100. It will be over this figure by the end of June. YOU have every right to be proud of your Society. But, every member should take an active interest in the Society and endeavour to make it grow by advertising its merits. Remember --every little bit helps!!!

With these pearls of wisdom (?) I again say good-bye and good luck. I wish the Society every success in the years to come. I can assure you, that the OVAS will be out of sight but not out of mind. I will appreciate hearing from any member of the Society and will try to answer promptly. I will forward my address as soon as it is available.

Sincerely,

J.W. Smith
J.W. Smith

MONTHLY JAR SHOW

The winners of the May Jar Show which was for a male and a female all red swordtail were:

- 1st.....George Bowie
- 2nd.....Bill Grundy

The Senior Society Jar Show standings to the end of May are:

- George Bowie.....13
- Flo Trottier..... 9
- Jack Fraser 9
- Bill Grundy..... 8
- Michael Hughson..... 7
- Lorne McLachlan..... 5
- Charlie Anderson..... 4
- Diane Fraser..... 3
- Marnie Bowie..... 3
- John McDiarmid..... 1

THE FISH-OF-THE-MONTH FOR THE SENIOR SOCIETY FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE IS:

NEON TETRA - Male or Female

DON'T FORGET

THERE ARE NO REGULAR MEETINGS DURING JULY OR AUGUST

BUT THE ANNUAL TROPICAL FISH SHOW IS ON FROM AUG. 18th TO 26th. GET YOUR ENTRY IN.

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THESE MEAN EXTRA REVENUE FOR YOUR SOCIETY.

FISH-OF-THE-MONTH
NEON TETRA

Condensation from Encyclopedia of Tropical Fishes by H. Axelrod & W. Vorderwinkler

Hypphessobrycon innesi is the famous Neon Tetra. This fish created a furore in aquatic circles after its introduction, not only because of its spectacular colors but because of the difficulty in breeding it. We have since learned a few things which make the task a much easier one.

This fish occurs far up the Amazon River beyond the Peruvian border. These waters seem to be lacking in mineral content to an unusual degree, and are made up mostly of rain water. The fish is small attaining a size of only $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The back is olive green, and a stripe of very brilliant greenish blue runs upward from the upper part of the eye to a point on the back halfway between the dorsal fin and the tail. The belly is white; between it and the caudal base the entire area is bright red. Fins are colorless.

Breeding this lovely fish was at first considered to be a virtual impossibility; not long ago several discoveries were made which have simplified spawning them. One is that our little friend is very finicky where water is concerned. Although the Neon Tetra will live quite as well in hard as well as soft water, the water which is provided for spawning must be very soft, no more than 3 degrees of hardness, as well as definitely acid, pH 6.5. Besides the water has to be clean, which means the tank must also be clean. A 3 to 5 gallon aquarium is preferable. The usual clump of bushy plants is required. The temperature is brought to 74 degrees and the aquarium is ready for occupancy.

(cont'd on page 14)

OVAS
ANNUAL
RAFFLE

HAVE YOU SOLD YOUR
TICKETS YET?

REMEMBER THE DRAW
IS BEING HELD AT THE
JUNE MEETING
STUBS & MONEY MUST BE
TURNED IN TO DAN JEFFREY
BY 9:00 PM. JUNE 22ND

As for the breeders, we come to another discovery which has been made in recent years. The Neon Tetra, in spite of being a rather hardy fish, is sometimes the victim of a devastating disease which is caused by a sporozoan parasite, Pleistophora. Neon Disease is characterized by a wasting of the tissues. One of the first symptoms is a lightening of the red area of the body; later, two yellow spots appear at the tail base.

Sexes of adults are not too difficult to distinguish. Even half-grown male specimens will show a perfectly straight blue line, and the females are slightly bent. Condition them until the female is well rounded, and then place them in the breeding tank. Do not feed them while they are in the breeding tank; remember, it must be kept clean. If there is no spawning in two days, take them out, feed them well for a few more days, then try again. Sooner or later your fish will spawn. When this takes place, remove them and keep the tank in complete darkness by covering it for 24 hours, and then shading the tank from direct light until the fry are free-swimming. At this point it is best to feed with newly-hatched brine shrimp, which will contaminate the tank less than any other food.

THE NEON TETRA IS THE SENIOR SOCIETY FISH-OF-THE-MONTH FOR JUNE. GET YOUR BEST NEON READY AND BRING HIM OR HER TO THE JUNE MEETING. ENTER YOUR FISH IN THE JAR SHOW. YOU MAY BE A WINNER. BE SURE THAT YOUR ENTRY IS IN A SQUARE GLASS JAR AND THAT THE WATER AND THE JAR ARE CLEAN. YOU CAN HELP MAKE THE JAR SHOW A BIG SUCCESS.

LOOK AT THE ADS --THEN BUY THERE!!!

THE ART OF LANDSCAPING AN AQUARIUM

By Jim Elson

Reprinted from the SAS News

First let me state that whether a person is interested in breeding tropical fish or in just having a beautiful conversation piece in the living room, it does not alter the fact that an aquarium should be set up correctly.

A correctly aquascaped aquarium requires:

1. A completely clean aquarium.
2. The correct amount of gravel and rockwork.
3. The right number of healthy plants.
4. Proper light.
5. Clean water.

Different people may have their own ideas on setting up an aquarium. The following are mine:

1. A completely clean aquarium means just that. First, wash the sides and bottom of the aquarium with warm water, (I put about one tablespoon of ordinary salt in a gallon of warm water) and use a clean cloth or sponge. Do not use liquid detergents. After your aquarium has been thoroughly cleaned place it in the spot where you wish the aquarium to permanently rest. Check the table or whatever it stands on, to make sure it does not rock, and make sure that all four corners are firmly supported. It should not be moved when filled as the weight of the water will either crack the glass or warp the frame.
2. The correct amount of gravel and rockwork Use approximately 12 lbs. of gravel per square foot of aquarium base. Roughly you would need:
 - 8 lbs. of gravel for a 5 gal. tank
 - 16 lbs. of gravel for a 10 gal. tank
 - 24 lbs. of gravel for a 15 gal. tank

30 lbs. of gravel for a 20 gal. tank. The choices of sand or gravel are numerous, but care should be taken in selecting the right material. Don't have it too fine as this tends to pack tightly thus preventing the growth of plants by restricting the movement of the roots. Also, not too coarse, as this allows particles of food to lodge in crevices and these soon foul the water. The correct size should be gravel about 1/8 to 1/4 inch in diameter. The rockwork should be granite, slate or any natural stone, but make sure it is not limestone or any other soft rock, as these stones will dissolve and probably contain some injurious metal which will kill both plants and fish. Wash the gravel in an enamel or plastic bucket, filling it half full with gravel and then with warm water. With your hands, dig right down to the bottom of the bucket and stir the gravel for a minute or two, then slowly pour the dirty water away. Do this until the water poured off is quite clean. Repeat this process until all the gravel necessary is washed. Then start on your rocks. I put all the rocks or stones into a bucket half filled with water and then add one tablespoon of salt and boil for five minutes. Allow to cool and then rinse with cool clear water. They are now ready to be put into your aquarium. Never put rocks haphazardly into the aquarium. Place them in and try to make it look as natural as possible.

First, I put about half an inch of gravel in the aquarium, then a row of rockwork about three inches from the front leaving a trough next to the glass. Any sediment will collect in this trough making it easy to remove with a dip tube. Behind the rocks I fill up entirely with gravel

until it is level with the top of the rocks. Now, behind the front step you can put another row of rockwork not necessarily the full length of the aquarium. You may like to curve this row towards the rear of the aquarium. Make sure that the rocks lean slightly backwards to increase their stability. Then fill in with gravel as before. You now have three steps or levels and if you have done your work properly only two faces of rock should be seen from the front of the aquarium.

3. The right number of healthy plants.

The plants you use in your aquarium should be a healthy green with good white roots. Wash them well before planting and if you wish to disinfect them and make sure they are free of snail eggs, germs or bugs, soak them for 15 minutes in concentrated lime water. Use one cup of Hydrated Lime (can be purchased from any seed or garden supply store) to six cups of water. Lime water is the clear liquid left after mixing the Hydrated Lime with water and the sediment has settled to the bottom.

Pick tall plants for the back of your aquarium, medium for the middle and small for the front. Leave about two-thirds swimming space for the fish. You may like to put one large centre plant in your aquarium for variation. (Amazon Sword Plant, Spatterdock, etc.)

Some people recommend putting about one-third of the water into the aquarium and then planting, but I always place my plants (still soaking wet) into position, spread the roots on all fairly large plants and bury them to the crown. The crown of a rooted plant is the part where the roots join the leaves. To plant bunch plants, (Anacharis, Cabomba, Myrophyllum, etc.) take the piece of lead off the

bottom (this is usually on when you buy them at the store) and clean all dead leaves up to about one inch. Then replace the lead on the bare stalk. When all the plants are in the aquarium to your taste, then is the time to put in the water.

To do this you require a good sized jug a saucer and a jam jar. Do not pour the water directly into the aquarium, as all the time and trouble you have taken in setting up the aquarium will be wasted by the force of the water scattering gravel about and uprooting plants. Set the saucer on the gravel at the front of the aquarium and set the jam jar in it. Then aiming carefully, slowly pour water into the jam jar. This will fill quickly, spill over the saucer (which breaks the force of the water falling) and the water will trickle over the edge. Continue pouring until the saucer is covered, after which time you may pour faster as the curved lip of the saucer directs the water upwards. Fill the aquarium to within one inch of the top.

4. Proper light. Both plants and fish require light in order to live, but they should have the right kind of light. To place your aquarium in a window in direct sunlight is inviting trouble. First, the aquarium will get overheated, or you will have an overdose of algae, resulting in either green water or a green mossy coating on both plants and glass. Two or three hours of sunlight with a certain amount of shading will sometimes do, but I prefer artificial light. Artificial light has one great advantage. You can control it, and so it is easier to give the right amount of light for the growth of the plants and the welfare of the fish. The electric light should be placed directly over the aquarium or as close as possible. The amount

of light which is good for your aquarium is roughly as follows:

- 5 to 10 gals.....25 watts for 8-10 hrs.
- 10 to 15 gals.....40 watts for 8-10 hrs.
- 15 to 25 gals.....60 watts for 8 hrs.
- 25 to 50 gals.....75 watts for 10 hrs.

5. Clean water. This is the most important. A crystal clear aquarium is a joy to behold, and now-a-days this is no problem. I use a small inside bottom filter in a 5 to 10 gallon aquarium and outside filters for larger aquaria. Some people will think this is a lot of trouble having to change charcoal and glass wool, but if a person is really interested in tropical fish he will not mind undertaking this small task,

For one or two aquaria, a vibrator pump is quite satisfactory, but for those with more, it is better to buy a piston pump. A piston pump costs twice as much as a vibrator pump but is worth 25 times as much to the tropical fish hobbyist.

We now know how to keep the aquarium clean. Water gets dirty from overfeeding, pollution caused by dead plants, fish or snails, and too much light. The light is easy to control; dead fish and snails can be removed with a net; and the filter will take care of the rest.

ADDRESS FOR THE SOCIETY

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FACTS OF INTEREST TO EVERYONE

In many cases, speedy growth of plants is deterred by excessively rapid circulation of water. Keep circulation speed only to that necessary for balanced aquarium operation.

The Archer Fish can shoot from its lips small pellets of water to a distance of over ten feet, although it is only 4 to 5 inches in length at full maturity.

The Mud Skipper (periophtaimidia family) endowed with both air breathing apparatus and pectoral fins that enable it to "walk" on land, must only return to water to keep its body moist.

A snail commonly known as the "Japanese Livebearing Snail" bears its young completely developed and alive. The young are about 6 mm. in diameter.

It was reported by THE CANADIAN AQUARIUM that the water in one aquarist's tank was so hard that his swordtails are now swimming backwards, cutting a path with their tails.

Co-operate. Remember the BANANA. Every time it leaves the bunch it gets skinned.

If your vibrator pump seems to be too noisy and yet you are not overloading it, try wrapping a piece of Scotch tape tightly around it.

LOOK TO CASCO

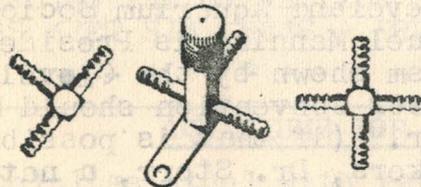
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TIFAS CONVENTION 1961

The 1961 Convention of The International Federation of Aquarium Societies was held at Niagara Falls, Ontario over the May long week-end. It was an excellent show. The hosts, the Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs (CAOAC) and the Niagara Falls Aquarium Society really went "overboard" to make the Convention a success. And they did.

A tremendous amount of business was completed during the three days, Harvey Wittenberg was re-elected to head the Federation for a further two years, as President. Don Thompson and Jack Fraser were elected to the Board of Governors, Don as Chairman of the Sales and Promotion Committee. The numerous amendments to the Constitution were approved by the General Session. Lastly, the 1962 Convention was awarded to The Cleveland Aquarium Society of which Mr. Emanuel Manning is President. From the enthusiasm shown by the Cleveland delegation, the 1962 Convention should be "bigger and better." (if that is possible)

The guest speakers, Dr. Storr, a native of Ottawa, now of the University of Buffalo, Mr. Harold Schultz of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Dr. Herbert Axelrod, an honorary member of our Society and Editor of "The Tropical Fish Hobbyist" were excellent.

At the close of the CAOAC meeting on Sunday, Mr. Harvey Wittenberg was presented with an "Award of Merit" by Mr. Doug Martin, President of CAOAC, for his outstanding contribution to the hobby. Everyone felt that this honour was richly deserved.

The following members of the OVAS made the trip to Niagara:

Sherry Bourdon
Diane Fraser
Jack Fraser
Harry Griffiths
Muriel Hodges
Weldon Hodges
Linda Paack

Harvey Wittenberg
Edgar Parisien
Don Thompson
Wayne Warwick
Gary Zumar
Terry Wilkie

Besides these members, Mrs. Parisien and Wayne Rowe attended from Ottawa.

Ottawans did very well on the many drawings held over the week-end. Mrs. Parisien won an automatic feeder, Harvey-a vibrator pump, Harry Griffiths-a filter, and Ed Parisien, Wayne Warwick, Muriel Hodges and Jack Fraser all won fish food.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL MEMBERS OF OVAS TO START PLANNING TO ATTEND THE 1962 CONVENTION IN CLEVELAND. MR. MANNING, THE CLEVELAND SOCIETY PRESIDENT, HAS ASSURED EVERYONE THAT HE WILL GREET EVERY PERSON ATTENDING THE CONVENTION PERSONALLY. LET'S MEET HIM. HE'S A PRETTY GOOD FELLOW.

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- 1 Stainless steel with reflector
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37 X 15 X 16½..... \$35.00
- 1 Galvanized iron,)
30 X 12 X 15)
- 1 Galvanized iron,) With stand \$35.00
20 X 11 X 12)

For further information please call Mr. Al Johnson:

At home: Stittsville

At office: PA 8-1911 Local 274 or 226

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AUGUST 18TH TO 26TH

1961

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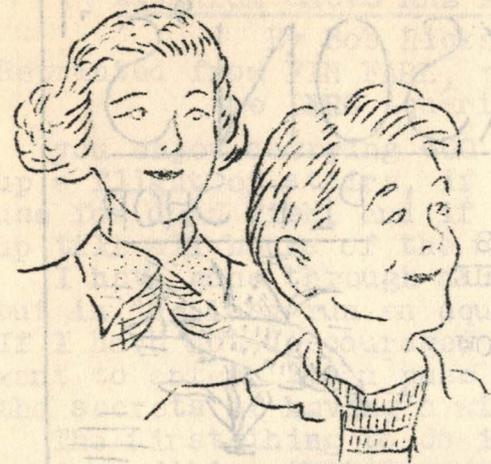
Operators

JUNIORS!! ANNUAL RAFFLE TICKETS JUNIORS!!

BE SURE TO BRING YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS, STUBS AND MONEY TO THE JUNE SENIOR SOCIETY MEETING ON JUNE 22nd. IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND SEND YOUR RETURNS BY MAIL TO DAN JEFFREY, [REDACTED], OTTAWA 4, ONTARIO.

The draw for the Annual Raffle will be conducted at this Senior meeting at about 10:00 P.M.

There are also prizes for the Junior member selling the most tickets. If you need additional tickets to sell yourself, just call Dan Jeffrey at [REDACTED] and he will see that more books of tickets are mailed to you at once.



JUNIOR
SOCIETY
NOTES

ATTENTION JUNIOR MEMBERS!!!!

YOUR JUNIOR MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 29th INSTEAD OF THURSDAY, JUNE 15th. THIS CHANGE WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE MOST OF THE JUNIOR EXECUTIVE AND MEMBERS WILL BE WRITING EXAMINATIONS AROUND THE 15th.

SPECIAL INVITATION

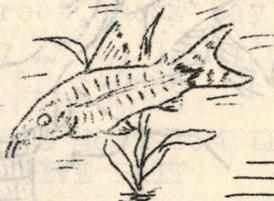
ALL JUNIOR MEMBERS WHO WISH TO ATTEND ARE INVITED TO THE SENIOR SOCIETY MEETING ON THURSDAY, JUNE 22nd AT 8:00 P.M. TO HEAR MR. CURT GRASS OF BUFFALO, N.Y. THE SUBJECT UPON WHICH HE WILL SPEAK WILL BE "PLANTS IN THE NATURAL AQUARIUM". HE WILL ALSO HAVE A HALF HOUR MOVIE ENTITLED "THE AQUARIUM."

ENTRIES FOR JUNIOR SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST CLOSE ON JUNE 30th. MAIL YOUR ENTRY ON THE TROPICAL FISH SUBJECT OF YOUR CHOICE TO THE EDITOR OF THE OVAS NEWS, [REDACTED], Ottawa 2, Ontario.

DICKSON'S

PET SHOP

WE WILL HAVE
FISH AND PLANTS
ESPECIALLY FOR THE
OVAS ANNUAL
TROPICAL FISH SHOW
IN AUGUST



"EVERYTHING FOR EVERY PET"
OTTAWA'S OLDEST PET SHOP

Mrs. W.I. Dickson Proprietor

190 BANK STREET

CE 2-7586

FISH-OF-THE-MONTH FOR JUNE JUNIOR SOCIETY

PLATTY - Any type - Male or Female

The number of Platties available are innumerable. Any platy constitutes an entry for the Jar Show this month. Why not try to get a Platty that you think is a bit different and put him or her in this month's Jar Show as your entry. Don't forget there are prizes for the greatest number of points obtained over the year in the Junior Society Jar Shows. Points are awarded each night on the basis of four points for first; three points for second; two points for third; and one point for putting an entry in a show.

AQUARIUM SHOWS ARE FUN IF ----

By Bob Rickard

Reprinted from FIN FARE, publication of
the LERC Aquarium Society

you enjoy carrying 400 pounds of tank up a flight of stairs, if you can find any use for dead fish, and if you like to stay up till all hours of the night.

I have gone through all these experiences but in the long run an aquarium show is fun. If I have not discouraged you and you still want to enter, I can pass on to you some of the secrets of having a winning display.

The first thing to do is have a tank in good condition that does not leak. Also you must have clean sand and clean glass in your tank.

The most important thing to remember when setting up your plants and rocks is that you cannot set anything up as perfect as nature itself, but follow nature's pattern as closely as possible.

The next thing on the list is eye appeal. Good eye appeal can be achieved with almost anything -- you can spend a lot of money or a little. You can use anything from marbles to air-driven gadgets.

Your planting can make your or break you. I have learned from experience that you must plant slowly and carefully for a number of reasons. One is that fish are likely to root the plants up and they will float at the top, a very unglamorous spot for an Amazon Chain Sword plant. Another reason is that the judges will usually knock off points for showing roots and brown leaves. The secret is to plant your plants in about four inches of water. Put the roots in the water and then pack them in and firm the sand around the base of the plant.

The size of the tank is not too important.

My 40 gallon tank has taken only one first, but one of my 5 gallon tanks has taken three firsts and a special. The size of the fish is important. Do not mix small and big fish together as the judges take off points for this.

Always check your heaters and thermostat. At the last show I cooked \$150 worth of fish including the rarest fish in the show.

If you use originality and some of these hints, you will have a winning display.

FISHY FACTS

Reprinted from Tank Talk

The Pipe Fish is an oddity which should delight the heart of any aquarist looking for something different. A sea dweller by nature, yet when kept in brackish water, it can be changed directly to either salt or fresh water. They can't dart after food but must depend upon food coming within their reach. Neither can they dash away to escape an enemy but depend entirely on camouflage to escape detection.

One of the strangest things about the Pipe Fish, however, is their method of reproduction; for it is only in this group, that is, the Pipe Fish and various members of the Sea Horse family, in which live fry come into this world from gravid males. The female lays the eggs and deposits them in a pouch on the abdomen of the male, where the eggs are incubated. As the eggs develop into fry, his pouch expands, giving him a right strange look, at least for a male. When the fry have developed, they escape from his pouch and this gives the appearance of the male having babies. This should be just about strange enough for anybody.

JUNIOR SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST

So far, entries for the Junior Society Essay Contest have been very slow coming in. In fact, I have not received one entry to date. I realize that all the Juniors are studying for their June examinations, but I only hope that I will have YOUR entry in before the closing date which is June 30th, 1961.

Prizes have been put up in the age classes as per the May issue of the OVAS NEWS. This is your chance to write an article for the OVAS NEWS and at the same time win a prize. One of the tropical fish magazines from the States has offered to publish the article written by the winner along with his or her picture. How would you like to see your picture in one of these magazines?

PLEASE MAIL YOUR ENTRIES TO THE EDITOR OF THE OVAS NEWS AT [redacted], OTTAWA 2, BEFORE JUNE 30th.

SO TYPICAL!!!!!!!

Visitor to the Pet Shop: "I live up country and am interested in tropical fish. I got my rocks from the seashore, my sand from the back of my place, my plants and water from the dam on my property, yet my fish keep dying. Can you tell me why?"
(The answer was censored)

Small boy: "Hey mister, what makes fighting fish fight?"

Pet Shop owner: "Because they are always making faces at each other through the glass."

WHERE IS YOUR ARTICLE FOR THE OVAS NEWS?

SOME DON'TS

Reprinted from Fins 'n Tails
Kitchener-Waterloo Aquarium Society

- DON'T try to keep fish without reading up reliable literature on the subject.
- DON'T try to keep all kinds of fish at the beginning. Try one species at a time.
- DON'T antagonize your wife or family but persuade them to share your own interest in the hobby.
- DON'T knock your fellow fanciers or dealers, unless you are prepared to prove your assertions openly.
- DON'T permit your hobby to become a burden. Keep only as many fish and aquaria as you have time and space available for without being a nuisance to others.
- DON'T ever think you "know it all." You NEVER will. Absorb all the good information you can glean from those who have acquired practical experience and paid for it.
- DON'T worry if others knock you. We have had our share of knocks and have turned them into boosts.
- DON'T attempt manifest impossibilities, use common sense, cultivate it.
- DON'T keep rare "difficult" and delicate fish in a "Happy Family" tank or they may disappear or die. Give such fish a separate aquarium and observe them closely.
- DON'T keep any other fish with GOLDFISH.
- DON'T place fish in an aquarium in which there has been disease until you have emptied the tank, boiled the sand, scoured the inside of the tank with salt and thoroughly washed and disinfected the plants.
- DON'T suddenly change the temperature of the water, do it gradually if the fish are in it.

DON'T FIND FAULT -- FIND A REMEDY -- ANY-
ONE CAN COMPLAIN.

CARELESSNESS KILLS MORE FISH THAN EVER
DIED OF OLD AGE.

Just Rambling

The only way some people can make ends meet these days is to rumba on a crowded dance floor.

Often a beauty parlour is a place where the gossip alone is enough to make your hair curl.

The reason the Ram fell over the cliff-----he didn't see the EWE turn.

Conscience is what makes you worry about what it couldn't stop you from doing.

A friend is a person who knows all your faults --- and still likes you.

Then there was the little girl sardine who agreed to marry the little boy sardine when she found out his family was in oil.

Those who complain about the way the ball bounces are usually the ones who dropped it.

PLEASE PATRONIZE YOUR ADVERTISERS !!!!!

THE COLLECTING AND BREEDING OF MOSQUITO LARVAE

By Alan noon, London Aquarium Society

Mosquito larvae and daphnia are the finest live foods to be found in our Canadian ponds and streams.

The female mosquito is a little larger than her mate but she is the one most likely to bite you and draw blood. At dusk, the mosquitos come out on their mating flights and mate while in actual flight. When it is completely dark, the female mosquito will alight on the water and lay her eggs. They are black in appearance and are laid in the form of a small raft. These rafts resemble small specks of soot floating in the water. In about three days the young larvae hatch and immediately begin to feed on algae and debris they find in the water. They are air breathers and have an air tube protruding from the tail. On a quiet day they can be found hanging from the surface of the water in large clusters. Newly hatched larvae are an excellent food for young live-bearers and developing egg-layers, while the larger larvae can be fed to the other fish. The gouramis seem to enjoy the newly hatched mosquito itself, but these are hard and troublesome to obtain.

Collecting

On a quiet day the larvae can be collected by the thousands by drawing a fine muslin net over the surface of the water. Thousands of them can be placed in a small jar as they take all their oxygen directly from the atmosphere. Mosquitos will be found only where there is an absence of fish, for obvious reasons. The best time for collecting them is at sunrise or sunset as they do not like the direct rays of the sun and will retreat to the bottom of the pond.

Rearing

Mosquitos can be very easily raised in the back garden without much trouble. Small shallow dishes filled with muddy water and placed in the open somewhere, will attract the female mosquito. If the pans are left for several days they will be found to be full of fat wriggling larvae which can be strained off and fed to the fish. This form of "culture" will provide a constant supply of larvae in the summer but you might say, "Well what about the winter?" Here is the answer. The eggs of the mosquito may be removed from the water and dried like those of the brine shrimp. In the summer the eggs can be removed from one of the culture pans each day and stored in a cool place. When placed in water these eggs will hatch and develop into larvae.

(A word of caution from the Editor. Do not let the larvae develop into mosquitos in the house or you are in for trouble during the night. You will think you have been attacked by a swarm of bees.)

.....
DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR RAFFLE TICKET RETURNS TO THE JUNE MEETING. THE DRAW FOR THE PRIZES WILL BE HELD AT ABOUT 10.00 P.M. GET YOUR STUBS, MONEY AND UNSOLD TICKETS IN TO DAN JEFFREY BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS. IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING, MAIL YOUR RETURNS TO DAN JEFFREY AT 135 MacLAREN STREET, OTTAWA 4, ONTARIO TO REACH HIM BY THURSDAY, JUNE 22,

PLEASE PATRONIZE YOUR ADVERTISERS AS THEY MAKE THIS MAGAZINE POSSIBLE.

THEY WILL TREAT YOU RIGHT
SO BUY THERE

BORROWED TIME?

By Keith McKone

Reprinted from Winnipeg Aquarium Society

Since I first started in the hobby I have been adding to my equipment over the years. Like most of us, the more interested one gets, the more one can spend on various equipment relating to the hobby.

I have seen many fish come to be my guest some passed on due to "Ich", others died of old age, still others for reasons unknown to me decided it was time to leave their watery habitat and jumped out of the aquarium.

The first fish I started with was a Bronze Catfish and I am happy to still have him as No. 1 on my honour roll after six years as chief scavenger. Whether this is a record for these fish remains to be seen. This must be answered by our more experienced aquarists. However, this cat holds the record by a wide margin in my aquariums and I hope it's not on borrowed time.

"GOLDIE WINKED AT ME. I SAW HIM"

A fish has no eyelids and therefore cannot wink. However, fish do have eyeballs and when one of these is flicked downwards you get the impression of a wink. The lack of eyelids also means that whether the fish is awake or asleep, its eyes are wide open.

WANTED ----SPECS?

Fish do not have keen sight. The part of the eye that takes in light is round ----- whereas in animals it is flattened. Fish are near-sighted because of the shape of their eye lens.

.....
WEAR YOUR NAME TAG TO EACH AND EVERY MEETING