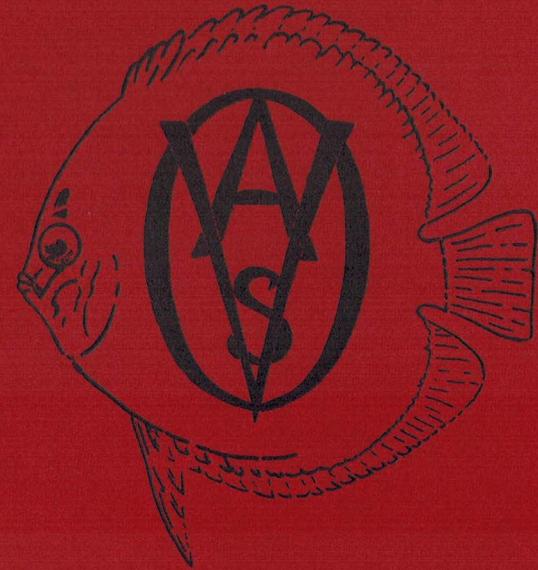


# OVAS NEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

OF THE

OTTAWA VALLEY  
AQUARIUM SOCIETY



NOVEMBER 1951 OTTAWA, CANADA VOL. 7, No. 4  
DECEMBER  
THE OTTAWA VALLEY AGGRIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS



It's a very happy season  
That comes around each year,  
With its mistletoe and holly  
And best of all - Good Cheer!

And we're glad because it brings  
again

The time to wish for you,  
A very Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year, too!

The Officers and Directors,  
Junior & Senior Societies.

NOVEMBER 1961 OTTAWA, CANADA VOL 7, No 4  
DECEMBER

THE OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY MEETINGS

Senior Society

Thursday, December 28th.....7.45 P.M.

Junior Society

Thursday, December 21st.....7.00 P.M.

Regular meetings are held in the Chemistry Building, Room 37, University of Ottawa, 365 Nicholas Street, Ottawa, Canada.

CONTENTS

Contents.....	1
Officers & Directors, Seniors.....	2
Senior Society, President's Letter..	3
IGA Cash Register Tapes.....	4
Aquarist's Calendar, November.....	6
American Guppy Association	
Fancy Guppy Standards, (Cont'd)..	7
Aquarist's Calendar, December.....	15
Fun Nite.....	16
Editor's Letter.....	16
Gift Exchange.....	17
Officers & Directors, Juniors.....	19
Junior Society, President's Letter..	20
Mollies by Wayne Moore, Juniors....	23
Junior Society Jar Show Standings..	28

The Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society publication "THE OVAS NEWS" is published by the Society, a non-profit hobby organization, and copies are made available to all members. Subscription rate for non-members is \$2.00 per year.

The opinions, statements and view points expressed in the OVAS NEWS are those of the authors and not the Society.

OTTAWA VALLEY AQUARIUM SOCIETY

Officers and Directors  
(Senior Society)

Honorary Member: Dr. Herbert Axelrod,  
Jersey City, U.S.A.

President: Mr. Wilf Doucette

Vice-Pres: Mr. Jack Fraser

Secretary: Miss Diane Fraser

Treasurer: Mr. Gary Zumar

Membership: Mr. M.R. Hughson

Programme : Mr. Edgar Parisien

Social : Mr. Terry Wilkie

Magazine : Mr. Jack Fraser

Show : Mr. Conrad Rock

Junior Soc: Mr. J.G. McManus

TIFAS Rep.: Mr. Don Thompson

Librarian : Mr. R.W. Naylor

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.

As a project of the Society we maintain aquaria at the following institutions:

- Rideau Health Centre, Ottawa;
- St. Laurent Sanitorium, Hull;
- Protestant Home for the Aged, Ottawa;
- St. Patrick's Home, Ottawa;
- Protestant Children's Village, Ottawa.

If you are visiting any of these institutions, please check the aquarium and report its condition to the Show Director.

The Society also provides for an annual bursary to be awarded to a deserving Biology student at the University of Ottawa and at Carleton University.

PLEASE PATRONIZE YOUR ADVERTISERS

SENIOR SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Members:

As the end of 1961 draws near, the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society can look back at a most successful year. Your officers have tried to give you the type of Society you wanted.

The programmes at the monthly meetings have been most interesting with something of interest for everyone. They are made possible through the hard work of the Programme Director, Edgar Parisien.

This year our Annual Tropical Fish Show was the biggest and best show to date. The standards set by the winners, especially Muriel and Weldon Hodges, will be hard to top in 1962. I would like to thank all those who had entries in the Show and the Show Director Conrad Rock.

This year I was fortunate to have working with me an energetic group of officers and directors who worked long and hard for your Society. On your behalf I would like to thank them for their hard work. They are:

- Terry Wilkie - Social
- Mike Hughson - Membership
- Jerry McManus - Junior
- Con Rock - Show
- Ed Parisien - Programme
- Diane Fraser - Secretary
- Gary Zumar - Treasurer
- Bill Naylor - Librarian
- Don Thompson - TIFAS Rep.

I personally wish to thank Jack Fraser for the fine job he did in carrying on while I was sick. Jack also worked very hard all year editing and publishing the OVAS NEWS.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all, a Merry Christmas and the very best for 1962. I am sure that 1962 will be a good

year for the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society. All my best wishes to the new executive.

Sincerely

*Wilf Doucette*

Wilfred Doucette,  
President, Senior Society

IGA Cash Register Tapes

This request is a bit late, but with the usual response from all the members of both the Junior and Senior Societies we can accomplish our goal. The executive and directors have decided that our Society should have tables of their own for the regular meetings. To this end money has been allotted to purchase tables. But we can get a special price on the tables if we turn in IGA Cash Register Tapes. This offer is only good until December 31st, 1961. SO, let's all scurry around and collect as many of these tapes as possible and bring them to the December meeting. You will be able to turn them in to Gary Zumar at this meeting. Junior members are asked to turn any tapes they can get to Frank Jones. He will see that they get to Gary Zumar.

THE BIG PUSH IS ON!!!!

.....

SENIOR MEETING  
FOR 207-2111

DECEMBER  
IS ON  
28<sup>TH</sup>

DON'T FORGET TO BRING A GIFT

NOVEMBER NOVEMBER NOVEMBER NOVEMBER

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR  
"The Aquarium"

NOVEMBER - Your aquaria should be exposed to more daylight (or artificial light) as the power of the sun's rays diminish. However, if they are placed nearer the daylight, avoid opening windows as a quick chill for your fish will surely result. In fact, opening windows anywhere in the room should be avoided since the cold air settles in a layer from the floor upwards. Considerable heating and time are necessary to return the room to its normal temperature. By then the damage may have been done.

Now is the time to "weed out" your tanks. All yellowish or weal-looking plants should be removed. Summer growth has probably increased the plant population considerably. Many of these new healthy ones should be removed. Most people greatly over-estimate the plant requirements of an aquarium.

November is probably the most difficult month for aquarium fishes. The ones which have been brought in from outdoor pools are still making an adjustment to cramped quarters and less oxygen. Extra aeration is an aid in helping the fishes make the most of their new conditions.

Most of us are reluctant to turn on our heating systems early in this month. As a result the temperature of our homes is likely to fluctuate considerably. The fish will suffer unless heaters are in good condition and in use.

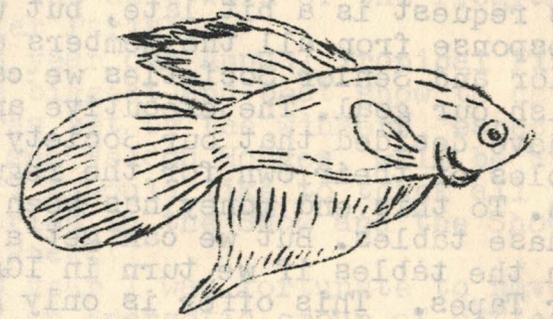
There are numbers of excellent commercial dry foods on the market, but a large percentage of aquarists prefer to mix their own -- at least occasionally. It's fun.

NOVEMBER NOVEMBER NOVEMBER NOVEMBER

KAR VEL ÷ PET ÷  
RANCH ÷

KEN CRAIG, PROP.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON  
" " " " " "



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CANARIES, FINCHES, HAMSTERS,  
GUINEA PIGS, WHITE MICE AND

TROPICAL FISH.

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American Guppy Association Fancy  
Guppy Standards

(Continued from October Issue OVAS NEWS)

The Veil Tail Guppy

This tail type was considered to be the last word in caudal fin development twenty years ago; today too many of the entries in this class are culled from Delta Tail strains. Most of these fishes exceed the width requirements for a Veil Tail and cause much controversy as to whether they are superior Veil Tails or poor Delta Tails.

It has been suggested that the name "Veil Tail" be dropped in favour of "Wide Tail". The members of the Standards Committee feel that Wide Tail would be equally applicable to Veil and Delta Tail types and therefore is not an acceptable name.

Body - The proportions of the body to the caudal fin shall be in the ratio of 1 to 1; that is, the length of the body shall equal that of the caudal fin (See Figure 4).

The ratio of length to depth of the caudal peduncle shall be 3 to 2; that is, strong enough to carry the caudal fin (See Figure 2 in Oct Issue).

The body must be well-rounded and neither hump-backed or flat-headed.

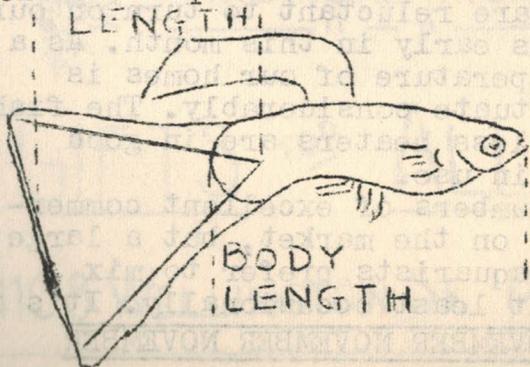


Figure 4

This figure shows the method used in measuring the length of the body and the caudal fin to obtain proportions.

Dorsal Fin - The dorsal fin shall approximate a parallelogram (See Figure 5). The ratio of length to depth shall be 3 to 1. The posterior margin is seldom even; it is usually fringed.

Caudal Fin - The caudal fin shall approximate an isosceles triangle (See Figure 5). The posterior margin of this fin should be even. Very few mature male guppies display an even margin; most are frayed, scalloped or fringed. In addition, nearly all Veil Tails have rounded corners. This fin must be spread and carried erect at all times.

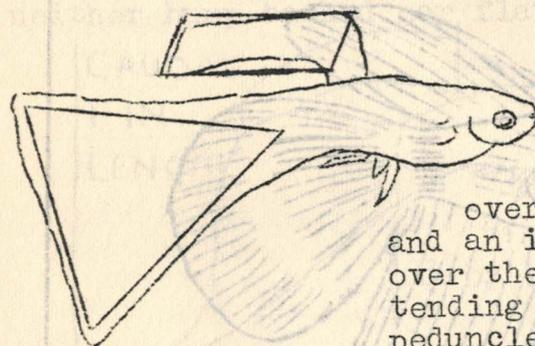


Figure 5

This figure shows a parallelogram superimposed over the dorsal fin and an isosceles triangle over the caudal fin, extending into the caudal peduncle.

Color - Both dorsal and caudal fins should be entirely colored, with color in at least half of the body itself. Some strains show color in the pectoral and anal fins, but the pelvic fins are seldom, if ever colored.

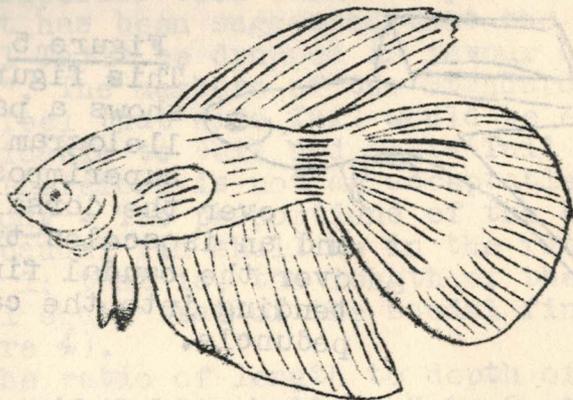
SWORD TAIL GUPPIES

Prior to the development of the Veil and Delta Tail types, the various Sword Tail types were very popular with guppy breeders. Although they have fallen off sharply in popularity since the advent of the wider tail types, they still rank far ahead of the many other tail types that have been exhibited.

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-10-

Here again, many of the Sword Tail Guppies exhibited are culls from Delta Tail strains; they tend to have club-shaped rather than sword-shaped caudal fin ray extensions.

Body - The proportions of the body to the caudal fin shall be in the ratio of at least 2 to 3, and preferably 1 to 2 (See Figure 6).

The ratio of the length to the depth of the caudal peduncle shall be 3 to 2; that is, strong enough to carry the caudal fin (See Figure 2 in the Oct Issue).

The body must be well-rounded and neither hump-backed nor flat-headed.

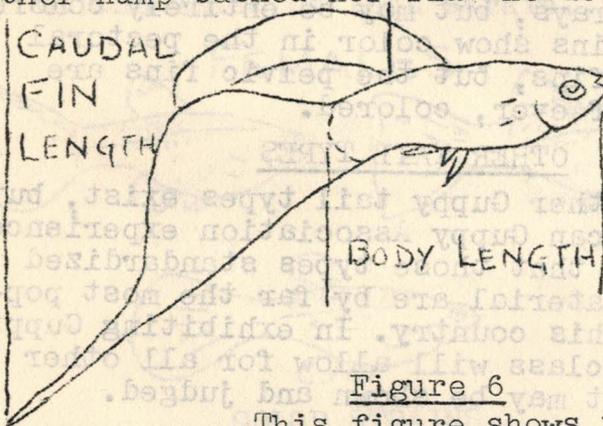


Figure 6

This figure shows the method used in measuring the length of the body and the caudal fin to obtain proportions.

Dorsal Fin - The dorsal fin shall be long and narrow, extending well beyond the caudal peduncle. The ratio of length to depth of this fin shall be 5 to 1. The posterior margin is seldom even; it is usually fringed.

Caudal Fin - Top Sword - The upper rays of the caudal fin shall be elongated into a sword-like extension.

Caudal Fin - Bottom Sword - The lower

rays of the caudal fin shall be elongated into a sword-like extension.

Caudal Fin - Double Sword - Both the upper and lower rays of the caudal fin shall be elongated into sword-like extensions of equal length.

On all Sword Tail types, the fin ray extensions are usually club-shaped rather than sword-shaped. Breeders should strive to attain an evenly tapered sword-shaped caudal fin ray extension.

Color - The dorsal fin for all Sword Tail types must be colored entirely. The caudal fin is usually clear except for the extended rays, but may be entirely colored. Some strains show color in the pectoral and anal fins, but the pelvic fins are seldom, if ever, colored.

OTHER TAIL TYPES

Many other Guppy tail types exist, but the American Guppy Association experience has shown that those types standardized in this material are by far the most popular in this country. In exhibiting Guppies the open class will allow for all other types that may be shown and judged.

FEMALE GUPPIES

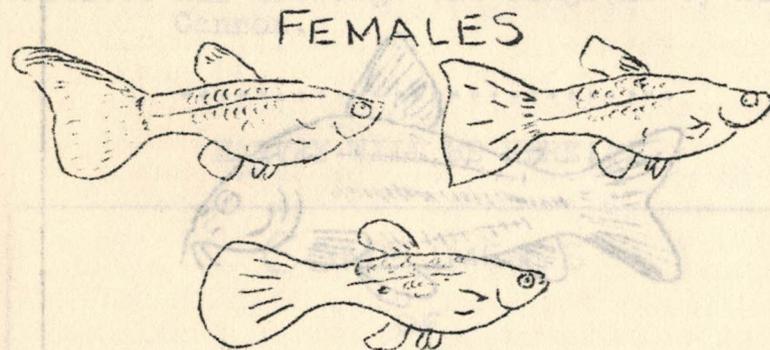
Female Guppies are much larger and less colorful than male Guppies. Many varieties of female guppies exist, but as they are not judged under American Guppy Association rules, no standards have been set for them at this time. The following outline could be expanded into a set of standards if the need were to arise.

Body - The body of the mature female Guppy is larger than the male. The proportions are 6 to 5 in overall length and approximately 3 to 1 in volume.

Dorsal Fin - The dorsal fin of most female guppies is small and rounded, although some strains show elongated dorsals.

Caudal Fin - The caudal fin of most female guppies falls into three main types, as shown by the figures on this page. These tail types are not necessarily indicative of the caudal fin type of males from that strain, i.e., round-tailed females occur in many Delta Tail strains.

Color - Female guppies may or may not show color in the dorsal and caudal fins, or elsewhere on the body or other fins. The color shown is not necessarily indicative of the color of the males of that strain.



COLOR STRAINS

Color strains refer to the background color of the body of the guppy. The three main color strains are:

- Grey - the color of the wild type of guppy.
- Gold - a mutant color, almost butter yellow.
- Albino - true albino, with pink eyes. An open class for color strains will include blonde, bronze, etc.

COLOR VARIETIES

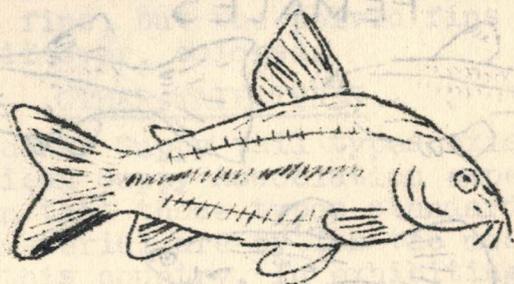
Color varieties refers to the color of the caudal fin of the male guppy. In all cases except Multicolor, the color should be pure, and usually extends well into the body and

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into the dorsal fin. The recognized color varieties are:

- Blue,
- Black,
- Red,
- Green,
- Multicolor.

All colors occur in various shades, with preference usually being given to the most intense shade shown. An Open class for color varieties will include colors not specifically mentioned here, such as yellow and purple.

Credits: All drawings and diagrams by Bill Cannon.

.....  
HARVEY WILL BE HERE!!!

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OF  
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DECEMBER DECEMBER DECEMBER DECEMBER

THE AQUARIST'S CALENDAR

"The Aquarium"

DECEMBER - We have now reached the beginning of a long season in which we cannot freely do some of the things that were proper to do during the summer. One of them has to do with adding fresh water to the aquarium. In the warmer months in some localities, it is safe to replace 25% of aquarium water directly from the tap. This would now be dangerous. It should be seasoned at least 24 hours before use. Preferably it should be drawn hot. The heat speeds the elimination of noxious gases, especially chlorine. Naturally the seasoning should take place in a vessel which could have no bad effect on the water. Two of the most common dangerous containers are galvanized iron and wooden buckets. The drawn water seasons more rapidly if air can be pumped into it. Some aquarists imagine that the elimination of surplus air from new water is the reason for seasoning. This is not true. An unknown ripening action continues which makes the water better for fishes. Water which is fresh or only partly seasoned develops a decidedly unpleasant smell after a few days use by fishes. A week's seasoning in winter is none too long. One of our most successful aquarists maintains a succession of glass jugs so that no water is used before it has stood for one month.

Keep a close watch on your plants these days. If they are not thriving, either remove them or see that the aquarium gets more light. It should be remembered that dying leaves not only are of no benefit, but are an actual detriment.

DECEMBER DECEMBER DECEMBER DECEMBER

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This will be the last issue of the OVAS NEWS that I will be able to publish. I regret very much that I will be unable to find time to devote to the magazine. Your 1961 executive is leaving no stone unturned to secure a new editor but to date we have been unsuccessful. If anyone is interested, please contact any member of the executive as quickly as possible.

This magazine published under present conditions takes a terrific amount of time. This issue will take upwards of twenty-seven hours of hard work to publish. I can now appreciate the time and effort that my predecessor, Harvey Wittenberg, put into this magazine. He published it for five years.

I would like to thank all the members who were so patient in waiting for the magazine to appear each month. I could not get an issue out for November, so I have combined it with this one.

Here's hoping someone will feel that they have the time to devote to this magazine. Let's hear from you NOW.

.....

FUN NITE

Senior Society

Our December meeting will take the form of a FUN NITE. Those of you who have been members over the years will know the fun we have at these events. During the first part of the meeting the various Committee Directors will each give a short report on the year's activities. These reports will be followed by the election of the executive of the Society for 1962.

Then the FUN begins. There will be games for everyone and prizes too.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING

GIFT EXCHANGE

It has been the custom at our December meeting to exchange Christmas gifts. This year will be no exception. Although Santa Claus will have returned to the North Pole by the time we have our next meeting, we will exchange gifts. Everyone attending the meeting is asked to bring a gift, suitably wrapped, not exceeding the value of \$1.00. The ladies are asked to bring gifts suitable for a lady and the gents one suitable for a man. In this way we will be assured of having a gift for everyone present. There will be two tables at the meeting room, one for ladies and the other for gentlemen. You are asked to place your gift on the appropriate table when you arrive at the meeting. Gifts will be distributed just before refreshments are served. **AND PLEASE REMEMBER --** Guests are most welcome.

.....  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If any member of the Society moves to a new location, either in or outside the city, please let the Membership Director or the Society Secretary know at once. This is the only way we can be sure that you will receive the notices of the meetings and also your copy of the OVAS NEWS.

.....  
We have learned that two of our members have had sojourns recently in the hospital. Our best wishes to Mrs. Flo Trottier and Wayne Warwick. Here's hoping they both have a speedy recovery and that they will both be at the December meeting.

.....  
Membership dues for 1962 can be paid at the January meeting. Please have them ready.



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JUNIOR

SOCIETY

NOTES

Officers and Directors  
Junior Society

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

Membership : Danny McLean  
Programme : Jerry McMullin  
Social : Daid Barron  
Show : Bill Latimer  
Librarian : Wayne Moore

FISH-OF-THE-MONTH

Sumatras Barbus  
THE TIGER BARB

Male or Female

Bring your entry on the 21st

Junior Society President's Letter

Our November "Parents Night" was a great success in spite of the weather. A great many parents turned out and enjoyed an excellent programme. Many compliments were handed out on the manner in which the meeting was conducted. A vote of thanks goes to our Programme Director, Jerry McMullin, who prepared many interesting programmes since taking over his position.

Welcome to the new members who joined our Society at the last meeting. They are: George Pudsuaie, Ross Munro, Ron Ostler and John Ross.

As many of you will remember when I took office as President, I asked for your support in boosting the membership to 100. You did not fail me. The membership is now 108. This is an increase over last year and is something of which we can be proud.

The December meeting promises to be the best of the year. A panel quizz, introduction of the 1962 officers, a talk on the Tiger Barb, presentation of the Jar Show prizes and a Bingo game are a few of the highlights of our Christmas Party. Let's have the biggest turnout of the year at this meeting. Remember it is on December 21st at the regular time and place.

Alas, it has finally arrived -- the time to say goodbye. The December meeting will be the last over which your present executive will preside. The past year is one which we officers will look back upon with warm memories. Many friendships have been formed among us which will last a lifetime. We have gained confidence in public speaking, an intimate knowledge of the proper method of conducting a club and have also gained from various

Other experiences too numerous to mention here. These are all things which one cannot learn from books. I urge you all to take an active part in our club activities. Not only will you serve the Junior Society but you will serve yourself.

Now, on behalf of the officers, directors and myself, I thank you all for your support during the past year. We wish you well and hope that you will continue to show interest in our Society. The new executive is one to be proud of; give them your support as you did us and our Society will always be the biggest and best in North America.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

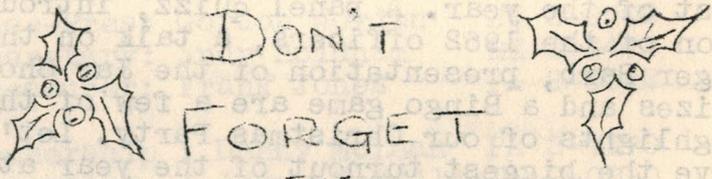
*Ron Ensom*

Ron Ensom,  
President, Junior Society.

.....

DON'T FORGET THE JUNIOR MEETING FOR DECEMBER

ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> 7.00 P.M. SHARP



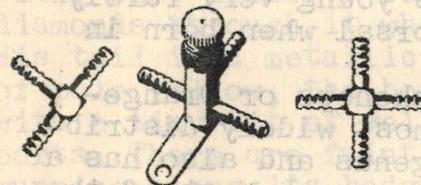
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JUNIOR SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST

Prize-winning Essay by Wayne Moore

"MOLLIES"

There are a variety of species in the Mollienisia family. I want to do a quick, but what I hope is, a thorough synopsis of the family.

First, the Mollienisia velifera. This is generally known as the Yucatan Sailfin and as its name implies comes from the Yucatan Peninsula. It has a huge sail-like dorsal fin with about eighteen rays. A full-grown specimen will be about five inches long. The young are quite large when born (nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$ " ) and the broods can run up to 100. The fish has a golden-olive overtone with a deep-coloured, almost brassy stomach. One strange thing about this fish is that its young very rarely have the sail-like dorsal when born in an aquarium.

The Mollienisia sphenops or Orange-tail variety is the most widely distributed species of the genus and also has a most confusing colour range. Most of the Mollies of this species have orange crescents at the base of the caudal fin, but this does not always hold true. The young are small and I have seen up to 50 born at one time.

The Black Mollienisia (Sail-fins) were bred from black "freaks" which originate from the Latipinna variety. These blacks look very nice in a large community tank and create a pleasing contrast in colour with the other fish. There is a strain which is born black and stays black, but this is the exception rather than the rule. Most are born black, turn gray and then black again later in life.

The Liberty Molly is a member of the

sphenops family, but is quite different in colour. The fins are a deep red with two rows of black flecks (on caudal and dorsal fins), The body is a metallic blue on the top and an olive colour on the under parts. The female is lighter in colour than the male. This fish does not have the bright hues it had when Sternke brought them to Florida because of steady breeding with other members of the sphenops family. A good pair is very hard to find.

The Mollienisia latipinna is a beautiful unforgettable fish with a huge dorsal fin. The male is most beautiful when he is showing off for a female or when he is faking a fight with another male. His fins seem to quiver with excitement as he shows off his colour. His dorsal is a very pale blue with, what looks to be, little sparkling diamonds through it when the light is good. His tail is a metallic blue with a centre of pale yellow, the body colour is olive with a tiny bit of yellow in the foremost parts. There are faint horizontal bars running along its body. The female is not as colourful and has a much smaller dorsal fin. A full-grown molly of this type can reach a length of  $3\frac{3}{4}$ ".

In the way of breeding, the mollies require more care than other Gambusinos, but this attention soon pays off. When the female is showing signs of being pregnant, remove her and put her in a small well-planted tank. Feed her as you prefer, but, I would suggest that you feed her some finely-chopped lettuce or make sure there is a good supply of algae in the tank because this fish is a vegetarian. When the female has "let her babies go" remove her to another tank and feed the young mollies baby daphnia. (Cont'd on Page 25)

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SMALL IMPORTED RED WORMS FOR LARGE TROPICALS

To every new family membership for the OVAS signed in our presence we will give 2 8oz. glasses of white worm culture FREE

Phyllis and Clifford Anderson  
Owners Operators

Only females????? Yes Mollienisia formosa are just that. Really it is a cross between M. Latipinna and M. Sphenops but for some unknown reason all the young are females. How do they breed? They breed with either of the above species.

Editor's Note

Wayne Moore is a 14 year old member of the Junior Society of the Ottawa Valley Aquarium Society. He has been very active in all club matters and is at present Junior Society Librarian. Wayne will be presented with his prize at the December meeting of the Junior Society by the donor of the prize. Congratulations Wayne.

JUNIOR SOCIETY JAR SHOW STANDINGS  
as at December 1st.

Robert Seguin	-16	Diane Cummings	- 2
Pat Tripp	-14	Richard Saville	- 2
Brian Mallon	-13	Jimmy Inglis	- 2
Jerry McMullin	-13	David Barron	- 2
Larry Neumann	- 6	Norm Wilson	- 1
Chris Greenwood	- 5	Howie Barends	- 1
John Wilson	- 5	Danny McLean	- 1
David Saville	- 5	Wayne Moore	- 1
Neil Thompson	- 4	Ron Ensom	- 1
Larry Hanlan	- 3	Ross Munro	- 1
John Thompson	- 3	Bruce Stewart	- 1
Phil Janzen	- 2	Bob Fanning	- 1
Andy Holdham	- 2	John Murphy	- 1
		Greg Wall	- 1

NOTES FOR JUNIOR SOCIETY

The prizes for the members finishing first, second and third in the Jar Show standings will be presented at the December meeting.

Name tags are to be turned in to the Membership Director, Danny McLean, at this meeting.

PLEASE RETURN ALL LIBRARY BOOKS.

Come to the meeting prepared to ask questions on the Tiger Barb. If you can stump the panel with a question you will win a prize.

PLEASE PATRONIZE YOUR ADVERTISERS AS THEY ARE THE ONES WHO HELP MAKE THIS MAGAZINE POSSIBLE -- YOU CAN HELP BY DOING THIS.

