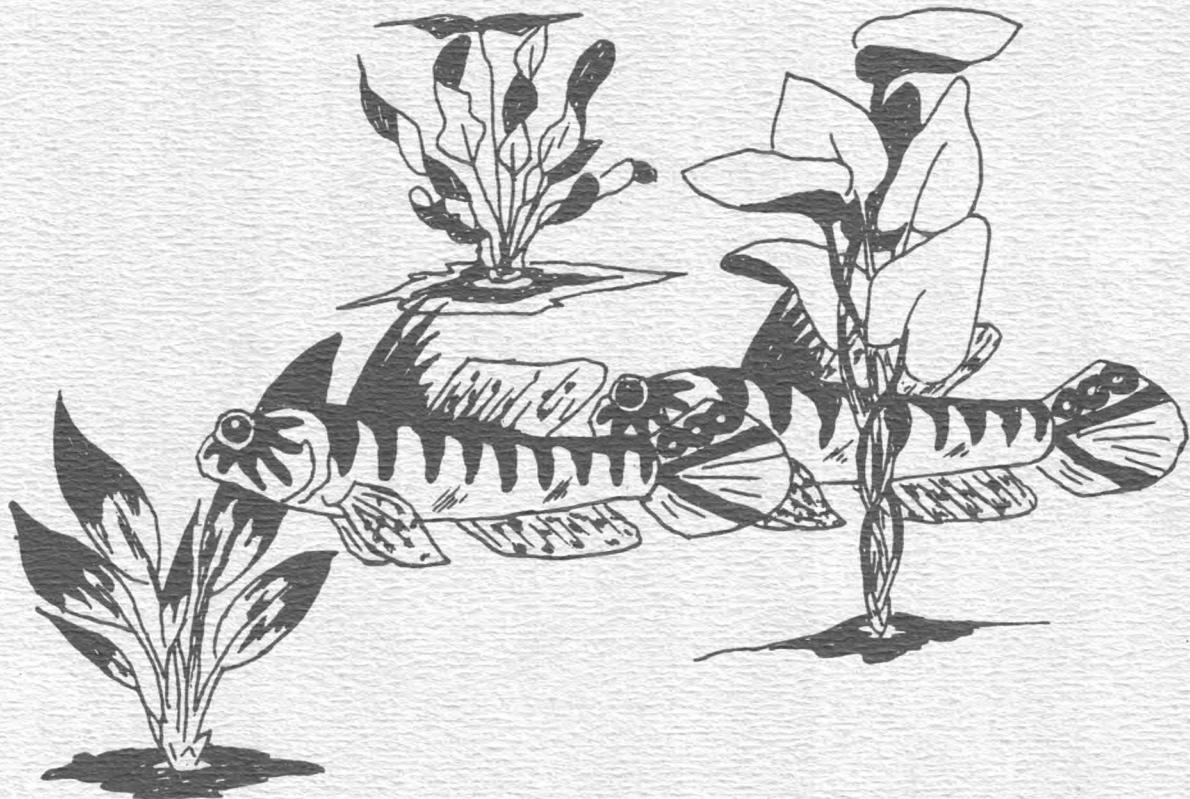


DEC., 1977

THE

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DARTER



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* * * * *

Monthly issues of The Darter are part of membership consideration.

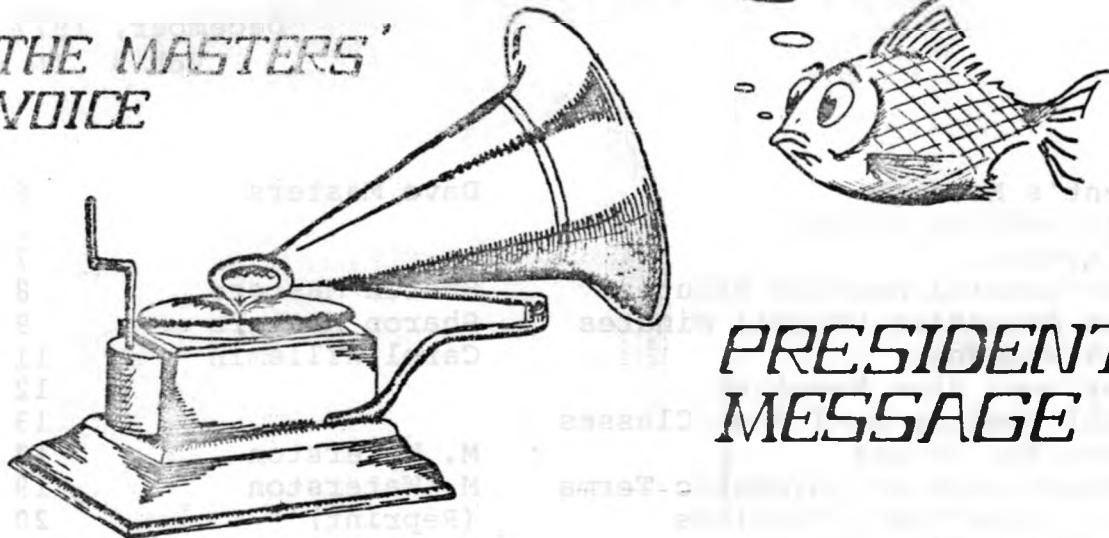
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THE MASTERS' VOICE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The end of the year is rapidly approaching and the Holiday season is upon us. I would like to wish all the MASi Members and friends a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

The presence of many new visitors at our November meeting is the results of our new advertising campaign in the Sunday paper and our business cards. It is my hope that our members will always make these visitors to our meeting feel welcome, as a great many of you did at the November monthly meeting.

I would like to remind all of you to check with our points tabulator, Joy Bogacki, at the December meeting to make sure your points are up to date for the end of the year awards.

I would like to congratulate the winners of the first round of the Fish Raising Contest. They were 1st - Carol Willemin, 2nd- Ray Kuster, 3rd - Ralph Wilhelm. I would like to thank all of the other members who brought their entries.

The Executive Council has approved the next years "Bowl Show List". I would like to thank Ken Keim for his outstanding job in reviewing and preparing this new list.

The MASi Auction will have come and gone by the time you read this message. I want to thank John Griffitts for all his help.

I would again like to wish you all Season Greetings and I am look forward to seeing all of you at our December monthly meeings and our Christmas Party.

Sincerely yours,

David Masters

DECEMBER MEETING NOTICE

Time and Date: 8:15 P.M., Wednesday, December 14th

Place: Prudential Savings & Loan Community Room,
6th Floor, 8020 Forsyth, Clayton, MO.
Park in garage - lower level.

Bowl Show: Barbs - all varieties
Tetras or Rasboras
Open

Program: ODDBALLS AND OTHER SPECIES: This 80-slide
selection of rare and unusual fishes will
entertain beginners and old hands alike.

Special Business: Nominations for Member of the Year - 1977

COMING EVENTS

December 14th - MASI General Meeting - Prudential - 8:15 P.M.
17th - Christmas Party - Pozaric's - 7:30 P.M.

January 11th - MASI General Meeting - Prudential - 8:15 P.M.
21st - Executive Council Meeting - Powell's - 8:15 P.M.

February 8th - MASI General Meeting - Prudential - 8:15 P.M.
17, 18, 19 - Winter Weekend Workshop, Mobile,
Alabama; Hosted by The Mobile Aquarium
Society and The Mobile Marine Aquarium
Society. Swap Room, Seminars, Banquet,
Breakfast and Auction. Further
information in next month's DARTER.

July - 1978 - American Cichlid Association Convention;
hosted by MASI at the Red Carpet Inn, St. Louis,
Missouri, July 28, 29 and 30. Arrangements for
Guest Speakers are nearing completion, so watch
future issues of The Darter for complete details!

November General Meeting

November 9, 1977

The monthly meeting of the Missouri Aquarium Society was called to order by President Dave Masters at 8:23 P.M., at the Prudential Savings and Loan Community Room.

Approval of the October secretary's report was given.

Ken Keim gave a treasurer's report and it also was approved.

Paul Powell said that if any one was interested in seeing the results of the October Super Bowl that they were here at the meeting. Also he reminded the members that the next Show Committee meeting was one week from tonight at the home of Vince and Clair Audrain.

Frank Simmons announced that we have some more new Cichlid book in the Library.

Richard Crabtree said that he had received a couple of letters for the speakers that the A.C.A. has invited to attend there show. Also he said that there were now new forms for the Breeders Award Program.

Another small discussion on the racks for the show, with a couple suggestions on how they might be made.

Mike Heinemeier announced that the Lewis & Clark auction will be held this Sunday.

John Griffitts talked about the Auction and said that he would give letters out for those planning to attend the auction.

Dave asked that we not forget that the Christmas Party at the Pozaric's was on the 17th of December. Barbara is here to collect the money for the meat, soda and ice. The charge is \$5.00 per person.

We had a Breeder's award auction.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Masters
Sharon Masters

NOVEMBER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

November 19, 1977

The November Executive Council was held at the home of Frank and Dorothy Simmons. Members present were, Dave and Sharon Masters, Richard Crabtree, Ken Cope, Frank Simmons, Paul Powell, Ralph Wilhelm, Carol Willemin, Carl Berry and Tom Hopfinger.

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Masters at 8:28 P.M.

Approval of the Secretary's minutes from October were given.

An update of the Treasurer's report was given and approved.

Paul Powell gave a Show Committee report. We are working on an incentive program to interest more MASi members as well as our out of town guest to enter the show. Notice of this program will be published around the first of the year.

Richard Crabtree announced that he has a few confirmed speakers slated for the A.C.A. convention next year.

There was a discussion on whether to use a Master Charge at the Auction in December. After much discussion it was approved.

Ken Keim made a re-cap of the Bowl Show showing for the past few years and presented the council with a list. The council made a few changes and the new list was approved.

It was suggested that in the Paper notice for the meeting, to put the wording Free to the Public.

There was more talk on the construction of the tables for the yearly show. Stuart Burstein will be building a sample table top stand for the council's approval in hopes that we have found the right design for them.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Masters
Sharon Masters

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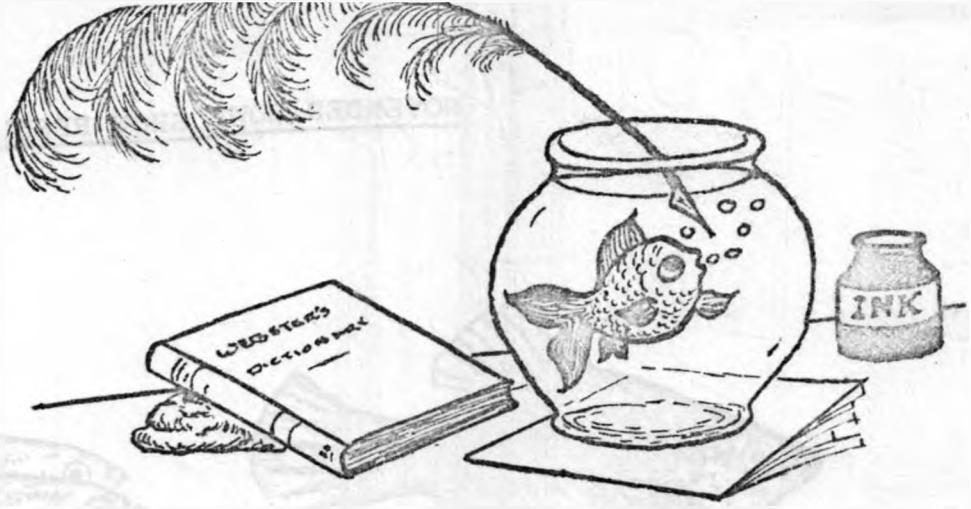


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EDITOR'S MESSAGE



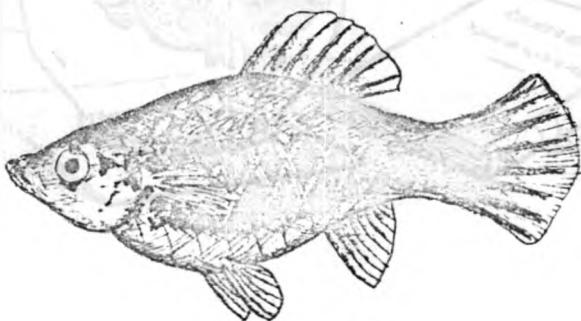
T'was the night before DEADLINE,
and throughout MASI-land,
Not a member was stirring,
to take pen in hand.

The Editor's mailbox was opened with care,
in hopes that an ARTICLE soon would be there.....

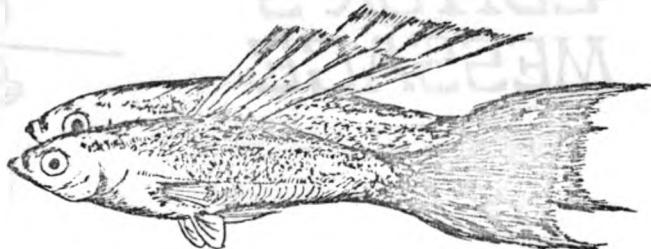
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
from the Editor & Staff of
The Darter!



NOVEMBER BOWL SHOW RESULTS



PLATIES



GUPPIES

(2 matched males)

Novice - (no entries)

Novice - (no entries)

Hobbyist - (1 entry)

Hobbyist - (2 entries)

1st Bill Miskelly

1st Carol Willemin

2nd

2nd Don Epple

3rd

3rd

* * *

OPEN

* * *

(7 entries)

1st Ken Sommerhauser - (Lionfish)

2nd Ralph Wilhelm - (Tiger Barb)

3rd Rich Crabtree - (Ps. microstoma)

November Bowl Show Judges - Elvis Bryant and Mike Heinemeier

December: Barbs - all varieties
Tetras or Rasboras
Open

January: Catfish - other than Corydoras
Anabantids
Open

February: Killifish
Sharks & Loaches
Open

ENTER***ENTER***ENTER***ENTER***ENTER***ENTER***ENTER***ENTER***ENTER

1978 MASI MONTHLY BOWL SHOW CLASSES

The following revised monthly Bowl Show classes were approved by the Executive Council at the November Executive Council Meeting. The former classes for Danios and 2 Matched Male Guppies have been dropped, livebearer classes have been consolidated, and several new classes have been added. In addition to the classes shown, we will continue to have the OPEN class each month. The OPEN class is for any fish a member may wish to show that month, provided it does not conflict with the monthly classes.

For newer members who may not be certain how the monthly Bowl Show works, here is some pertinent information:

Any Member of MASI may show fish in the monthly Bowl Show. Your fish are placed either in the NOVICE or HOBBYIST class, depending upon which classification you belong in. OPEN class is for both Novices and Hobbyists. Points are awarded as follows: First Place - 4 points. Second Place - 3 points. Third Place 2 points. Entry not placing first, second or third - 1 point. Only ONE ENTRY IN EACH CLASS PER MEMBER. At the end of the year, all bowl show points are totalled, and awards are given for BOWL SHOW NOVICE OF THE YEAR and BOWL SHOW HOBBYIST OF THE YEAR!

We have a whole new year beginning in January, so now is a good time to start bringing in your entries!

1978 BOWL SHOW CLASSES

<u>JAN.</u>	Catfish -(other than Corydoras) Anabantids Open	<u>JULY</u>	Angelfish Guppies - Female Open
<u>FEB.</u>	Killifish Sharks & Loaches Open	<u>AUG.</u>	Bettas - Female Cichlids -(Dwarf) Open
<u>MAR.</u>	African Cichlids -(Lake Malawi only) Fancy Livebearers -(other than Guppies) Open	<u>SEPT.</u>	Cichlids -(South American) Breeders Open - (Any Fish bred and raised by exhibitor) Open
<u>APR.</u>	Bowl Beautiful Saltwater Open	<u>OCT.</u>	SUPER BOWL 1978 (special rules apply)
<u>MAY</u>	Guppies - Male Bettas - Male Open	<u>NOV.</u>	Common Livebearers - (other than guppies) Goldfish Open
<u>JUN.</u>	Corydoras Catfish African Cichlids (<u>other than</u> Lake Malawi) Open	<u>DEC.</u>	Barbs - all varieties Tetras or Rasboras Open

N O T I C E

NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBER(S) OF THE YEAR - 1977

Nominations are made at the December General Meeting to determine who will be eligible to receive MASi's highest award, Member(s) of the Year. This award is given by a vote of the general membership at the January meeting. Any member may nominate the person(s) of his or her choice for this award at the December General Meeting.

The MASi information booklet states as follows:

"It should be remembered that this is the highest award our society can give, and persons should not be nominated on the basis of friendship, past performance, generally doing a good job, or just to increase the number of nominees. This award indicates performance above and beyond the normal."

"The person making the nomination is required to write a short article, not over one-half page, outlining his or her reasons for nominating their candidate, stating why their candidate is deserving of this award."

* * *

As Editor, I would like to remind all members that this award is for the entire year of 1977. Although the events of the latter part of the year are freshest in our memories, the performance of members of MASi during the first part of 1977 should also be taken into full consideration.

* * *

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Just a reminder that if you haven't yet made reservations for MASi's Annual Christmas Party, to be held at the Pozaric's home on December 17th at 7:30 P.M., please do so at once. \$5.00 per person, plus one side dish per couple, B.Y.O.B. A good time will be had by all, so DON'T MISS IT!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN JANUARY

Membership dues for 1978 will be due at the January Meeting: Individual Membership----\$7.50 Family Membership----\$10.00



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Just

Down the

Street

by M. Waterston

I would like to invite any adventuresome person to take over the authorship of "Just Down The Street". It was a rewarding article to write, and it gives the author a really good chance to talk with the owners of the area shops. If you don't think you can handle the article every month, I'm sure Carol will be happy if you write only one or two articles, and then turn it over to the next willing writer. (Editor's Note: The no-articles-from-members situation is so desperate right now, that the Editor has begun to consider the backs of her breakfast cereal boxes for reprints!)

Obviously I was not able to hit every shop in town. According to the St. Louis Yellow Pages, there are 29 pet shops in the area that carry fish. Some of these are brand new. Only 14 shops have been covered in "Just Down The Street".

Below I have listed all of the shops that have been reviewed in "Just Down The Street". As Carol said in the October issue of The Darter, the framework is there; all you have to do is fill in the blanks. If you have any further questions, or need help getting started, please feel free to ask.

Around The World Pets	Waterston	June '75
D & E	Pat Jones	July '75
Hagemeier Pet Shop	Waterston	Aug. '75
Aqua World	Pat Jones	Sept. '75
Rich's Pet Ranch	Waterston	Oct. '75
Siebert's Pet Shop	Waterston	Feb. '76
Sea Horse Pet Shop	Waterston	March '76
BayWay Pet Shop	Waterston	April '76
Bennett's Pet Shop	Waterston	July '76
Johnson's Tropical Fish	Waterston	Aug. '76
Acme Pet Center	Waterston	Sept. '76
Fenton Aquarium	Waterston	Nov. '76
Tropical World	Waterston	Jan. '77
Beldt's	Waterston	March '77, June '77, and once in 1975

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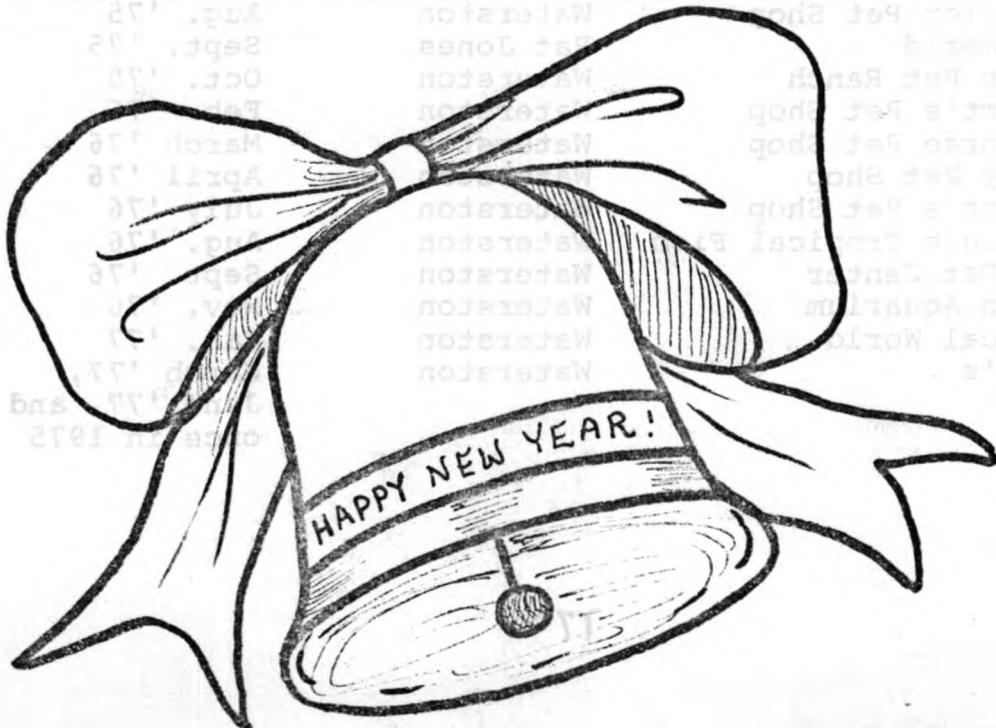
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Ralph Wilhelm
Carol Willemin

FISH RAISING CONTEST RESULTS

The results of the FIRST JUDGING of the entries in the Fish Raising Contest are as follows:

- 1st Carol Willemin
- 2nd Ray and Sue Kuster
- 3rd Ralph Wilhelm

Remember, this is only the first judging. Awards will be given on the basis of the average of points received overall, so YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE. Bring your fish in for the next judging at the FEBRUARY meeting.



A REFERENCE LIST OF ENIGMATIC TERMS

by M. K. Waterston

Recently I have discovered that some of the more informative books use a vocabulary that only a biologist could love. Unfortunately, I am not one of the above catagory, so I run screaming for the dictionary. So, since I have been sent running for the dictionary so many times, I thought I'd lay a few of these doosies on the poor unsuspecting readers of this publication. This is just a read and study list for the edification of myself as well as the readers. Hopefully, after I finish the series of articles, everyone will have a handy list that will be quicker and easier to use than a cumbersome dictionary. These are going to be the obscure ones, so if you miss a few, don't be too upset.

The vocabulary list will have four sections. The first will be a list of terms directly related to fish; the second will be a list of terms related to plants; the third is a list of invertebrate terms, and the fourth will be a list of biological terms that can fit plants or animals, and I've tossed in a few other terms that are generally useful.

Here goes:

Adipose fin - a usually rayless fin that is small and fleshy. It is to be found between the caudal and dorsal fin on some fish.

Axillary - having to do with the hind part of the pectoral fin.

Benthos - a group or complex of organisms that live on the ocean floor.

Caudal peduncle - the place where the fish's tail joins the body; the tail stalk.

Interoperculum - the bone between the preoperculum and suboperculum, in the gill cover of some fish.

Operculum - the bony gill cover of fish. It may also be the covering of the shell opening in gastropods.

Ovoviparous - producing eggs which are hatched, without the formation of a placenta, inside the mother's body.

Pelagic - living in the open sea, far above the sea bed.

Preoperculum - a bony plate at the front of the gill cover of most fish.

Suboperculum - the bony plate that is underneath the operculum on most fish.

Next month, "Plant Terms".

FOOD FOR ULTRA SMALL CICHLIDS

If you have a spawn of babies and are at a loss as to what to feed them, try boiled egg yolk. "How do you feed it without fouling the water?" you ask. "Easy. Just follow these simple steps."

1. Boil an egg about ten minutes.
2. Put egg yolk in a clean nylon bag or sock.
3. Put the sock in a clean baby food jar filled with water.
4. Shake vigorously.
5. Take three or four drops in an eye dropper.
6. Put in larger jar of water (1/2 cup approximately).
7. Shake vigorously.
8. Pour over complete surface of baby tank.

Now you have fed your babies a meal that is all protein. If care is taken not to overfeed, you should be prepared to have no problems about a first food. Every two or three days, a new egg yolk should be prepared to help protect against feeding bad food. This mixture should be kept in the refrigerator at all times.

Reprinted from the April 1976 issue of
VALLEY STREAM, published by the
Edgewood Valley Aquarist Society,
Melrose Park, Illinois - no author given

(Editor's Note: The above formula can also be used for other fry besides cichlids. I recently used it as a first-food for Pearl Gouramies, and it makes an excellent formula for tiny anabantid fry that stay among plants at the water surface, if you make the following modifications:

Stop after Step 4 above. Allow the mixture to settle for about a minute or two, until only the tiniest particles remain in solution (this will look more like a cloudiness than particles). Using an eye dropper, remove a few drops of this very fine solution from the top of the jar. Lay the tip of the eye dropper just at the water surface, and gently squeeze out a drop in several areas. Some of the very fine particles will float and some will settle on the plants and remain near the top where the tiny anabantids can find them easily.

Your fry should do quite nicely on this food until they are large enough to move up to finely powdered dry food for fry, or live baby brine.)



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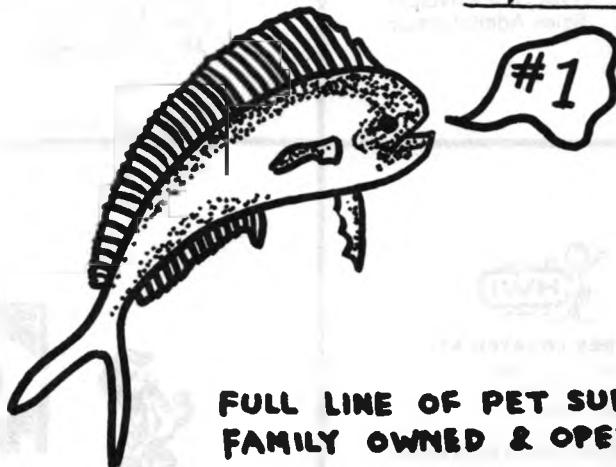
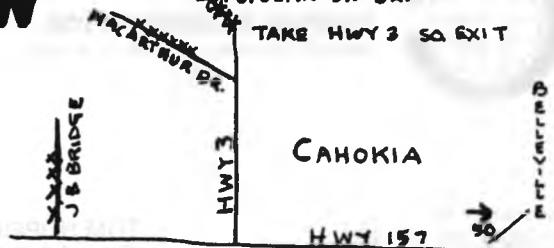
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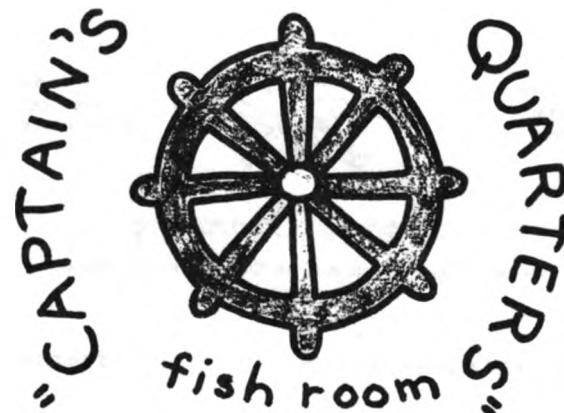
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WILL YOU HAVE TIME THEN?

by Carol Willemin

If ever living proof existed of the truth of the old adages, "Haste makes waste" and "Time is of the essence", such proof exists in the fishroom.

Being a Christmastime procrastinator, the last couple of weeks before the holidays leave me little time for anything, much less the fish. With several weeks remaining before Christmas, I've decided that this year I must get the fishroom into a state in which it can run smoothly for a couple of weeks with almost no care except feeding. If I'm sucessful, this will be the first time in four years that there will be no annual "Christmas Disaster" among my fish.

The first of such disasters occurred during Christmas of '74. I'd just gotten into fish, and had stocked my little old steel-framed 10 gallon tank with two of just about everything from the local fish shop. In a typical "beginners disaster", the tank clouded so badly that none of the fish could be seen. A little more "fish sense" at the time would have made it clear to me what was causing the bloom. The tank wasn't really overcrowded in "inches of fish", and if it had been left alone to cycle its bacteria, all would have been fine.

But I was determined to make that water clear, and I threw in everything in the book in an attempt to make it do so. I changed water, changed the filter constantly, changed the charcoal, and finally, in desperation used potassium permanganate (guaranteed to clear up cloudy tanks)...which only resulted in PURPLE, cloudy water. Needless to say, the swords leaped to their deaths, and everything else died, too, probably from the stress caused by all my additions and changes in water chemistry. If I had taken the time to READ before setting up the tank, or had taken the time to think about what was happening, it need not have happened.

Christmas of '75 found me with a little more knowledge. I was up to six tanks, and the pride and joy of my fishroom was a 29 gallon tank containing 8 Angelfish that I had raised from nickle size to beautiful young adults. If it's possible for a hobbyist to "love" fish, then I loved those Angels. Holiday "busies" had kept me from making the usual water changes, and about four days before Christmas I decided not to put it off any longer. The Angels, being my favorites, were first on the list to get a partial water change. Over the next few days, I watched them go from perfectly healthy specimens to slowly dying ones. There were absolutely no external symptoms of disease...they just sickened and died.

Searching for a clue to the cause of death, I finally decided what had happened. In my haste, I'd forgotten to "run the pipes" before using the water, and the Angels had gotten the first and worst of it. Copper poisoning! The last one died late on Christmas Eve, adding a sorrowful note to the holidays.

Last year's disaster involved a batch of *Aphyosemion gardneri* fry. There were about 50 of them in a 5½ gallon tank and I'd been "putting off" moving them to new quarters. These Killies can withstand some really lousy water conditions, but I pushed them beyond their limit. Each day at feeding time I'd give them the old "Hang in there, guys...I'm going to move you soon" routine. When I finally had time for them, only 8 or 10 of them had survived.

Some readers may be thinking, "Any hobbyist who really cared would MAKE time for their fish rather than let something like that happen." Perhaps that's true, but I can't help but wonder how many times something similar has happened in the fishrooms of other hobbyists who care about their fish, too.

There seems to be something about this hobby of ours that makes people expand beyond what they can reasonably take care of. More fish...more tanks...more equipment...bigger fish...bigger tanks...etc., etc. At first this expansion is a natural phenomenon of the hobby that results from really wanting to keep some of every fish one sees; to raise more kinds of fry.

But beyond that, there is the old STATUS thing. When a hobbyist first joins an aquarium society, perhaps he has a couple of tanks and is happy with just that. But as soon as the newcomer finds out how big an operation many of the other members have, he may feel he can't be a "real hobbyist" unless he, too, has a lot more fish, a lot more tanks....and a lot less TIME.

So the hobbyist E-X-P-A-N-D-S.

Unfortunately, the now E-X-P-A-N-D-E-D hobbyist may find that there is no longer enough time to really enjoy his fish. We've all seen that little paperback book series.... "Enjoy Your Fish"..."Enjoy Your (whatever)". Well, isn't that what it's all about?

Having found myself in the position where I can no longer enjoy my fish because of the work that needs to be done, the first impulse is to simply "cut back". A fellow hobbyist recently told me that he hated to see me cutting back, especially since I enjoyed the hobby so much. My only answer to that is, how can you enjoy something that 9 times out of 10 feels more like a burden than a pleasure?

The fish that catches your fancy on Saturday, and that you have lots of time for on Sunday, will still be there demanding care and TIME on Monday....and Tuesday....and Wednesday.... Will you have time then?

A FISH OF ANOTHER KIND

By Barb Schulz HAC

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Is a seahorse (*Hippocampus erectus*) a fish? Because it meets the following qualifications, it is so classed. It has a backbone to support its bony structure, fins to propel itself thru the water and gills to extract oxygen from the water it lives in. But that's where similarity ends. Its head is unique, being at a right angle to its body and attached by a neck-almost unheard of in fish. The snout-like mouth has 2 parts, upper and lower which he opens in order to gulp in food. He literally sucks the live food in (he accepts live food only). Having no stomach digestion, relies on a relatively simple intestinal system which probably accounts for the fact that he needs a steady supply of food. I feed mine 4 to 6 times a day depending on how fast they gobble up the live brine and if I watch, I can see them searching the bottom for food.

Contrary to most fishes, he moves entirely by finnage, a small dorsal which moves very rapidly and 2 tiny fan like pectorals. Very little remains of the caudal fin and the anal. The caudal may be used in creeping along the bottom to search for food. He does make use of his body and tail to move in a vertical pattern. Because of the very rapid movement of the dorsal and pectoral as well as the small size of them, it is necessary to have resting places for the horse to coil its tail around and regain its energy. If forced to swim continually, it can actually exhaust itself to the death.

The fish can change color apparently at will very rapidly. Mine, having a normal dark grey color, have changed to brown when in a tank against dark paneling, light grey to white to a mottled pattern when kept in a more lighted area. And when giving birth, flashes color on and off like a strobe light.

Although seahorses do have a few natural enemies, the most prevalent is man who collects these animals for jewelry and decorations since upon death, the body becomes very hard and will maintain its shape forever.

Sexing seahorses is no problem. The male has the incubating pouch. Viewed sideways, the female's belly rounds off at the belly bottom toward the tail, while the male, because of the pouch, gradually tapers toward the tail. Females will mate with any handy male forming no lasting friendship and may even use more than one male to receive her eggs.

It has a rather unique mating procedure. The female picks out a male when she is ready to lay her eggs, and then a special love mating dance begins that can last for days until she plants the eggs into his pouch for him to incubate. The dance is beautiful with cheek rubbing, tail holding and contortions that could be put to ballet music. Frequently they must part to rest a few hours and once the eggs are placed, they go their separate ways.

A Fish of Another Kind - Continued

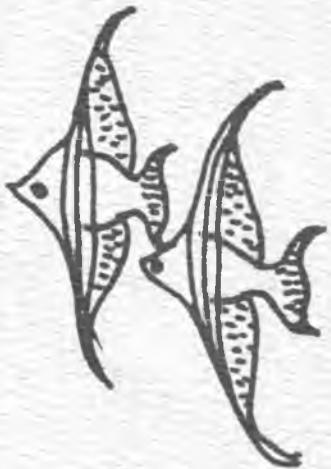
About 40-50 days later, as the male's pouch has swollen to unbelievable size, he begins labor pains. He twists his body and touches his head to his tail, then stretches the body full length, arching as far back as possible. After a few hours, suddenly the opening in the pouch expands and one to many living tiny copies of the adults are expelled. About 5/8" and thick as a heavy thread, they have not yet developed the characteristic head line and will swim in a horizontal line for a few days. Being so tiny and having such small mouths, it is hard to find small enough food to keep them alive. I lost my only spawn of approx. 250 after 2 weeks although I tried everything I could find small enough. A knowledgeable friend told me to try an infusoria for salt water fry. Put a chunk of rutabaga into a quart mason jar. Add hot water and cover. After 2 days scrape the infusoria from the sides of the jar. I haven't tried it, but am just passing it along for what it is worth. The fry grew rapidly so perhaps it was not for lack of food that I lost them. If I have a next time, I plan to divide the spawn and try different methods on several groups. Incidentally, remove the father after birth as he will cannibalize his babies.

Seahorses fall victim to several diseases. One of the weirdest in the home aquarium is the formation of air bubbles on its skeleton. This has a tendency to cause the animal to float. Putting the animal in a small bowl with just a enough tank water to cover it, we usually "operate" with a sterile needle, puncturing the bubble then gently squeezing the air out. Then we swab the puncture with a little iodine on a Q-tip. The animal does react to this generally and must feel pain, therefore it is wise to have someone assist you to keep its head in the water as it tries desperately to escape. However, returning it to its home tank, he will generally take a few hours to begin contracting its body again and shortly will be in as good condition as ever.

When purchasing seahorses observe the following. Watch for sores on the skin-almost impossible to cure. The horse should remain in an upright position unless he is seeking food. Any seahorse lying over on its side or on the bottom (unless there is no hitching post) is probably ill. Mine preferred a hexagon tank to a four sided, since when they decided to cruise they liked to circle. In the regular tank they kept bumping the sides of the tank. It is best to keep seahorses separate from other fishes as they move rather slowly for food and could well starve if housed with rapid moving fishes.

A final odd thing about this fish is its ability to make audible clicking sounds. We have personally heard this sound from a distance of 5 feet from the tank. It is caused by a snapping of the jaws due to the way the jaw is hinged, but research is being conducted as to whether it may actually be done for communication between seahorses or just something that happens.

So if you want to try salt water and want something that is spawnable and interesting, try Hippocampus erectus--the seahorse.



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