

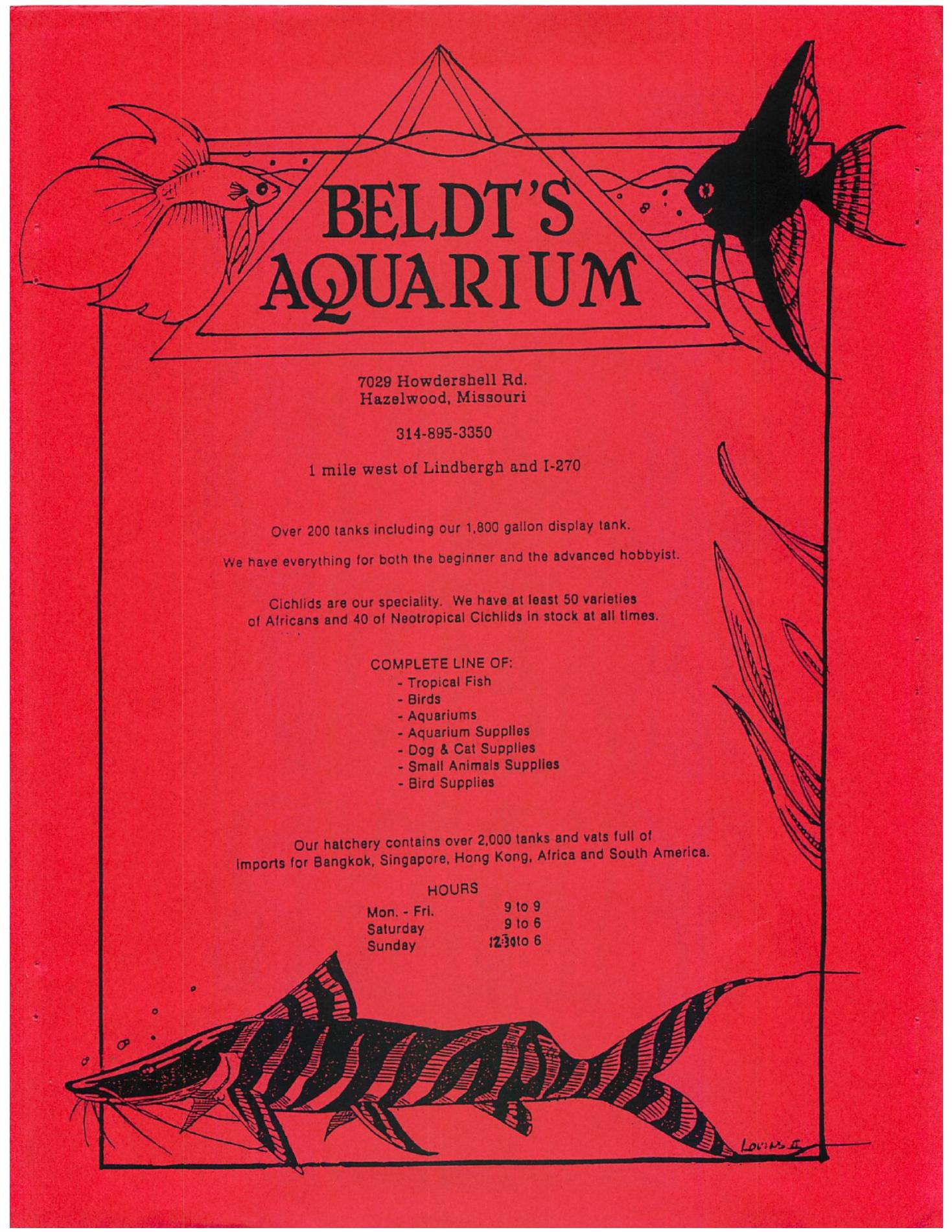
THE
DARTER

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
1990

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

PUBLICATION
of the

MISSOURI AQUARIUM SOCIETY, INC.



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LOVINS II

ROBERT'S REPRINTS AND REVIEWS

Bob Huels

A couple of months ago, I was given the really great job of Exchange Editor. Well, I was not sure how to start, but I did know I had a lot of reading to do. I began enjoying my first three inch stack of pure tropical fish gold. The first thing I noticed was the different approaches from our own "DARTER". Many of the articles are original, like ours, but a large amount of them are reprints from other society publications. This first attempt will be quick overview of the publications from some of the societies we exchange with. The future will be condensed versions of different articles, reprints of some articles and scientific reports, and news from various BAP reports. I hope to keep my reports as diverse as possible and remain interesting to all of our members. From time to time, I hope I will spark an interest in some part of an exchange publication, and as long as there is no other need, I will catalogue them and have them available for the future.

The Greater Detroit Aquarium Society's TROPICAL TANK TALK offers a majority of articles seeming to be reprints from other society publications. However, they did come up with some very informative original works, for example, "Spawning Labeotropheus Fulleborni" in the July, 1989 issue, or "Melanochromis Johanni" by Alan Garrett in the same issue. Even though I have only just started reading the exchanges, I look forward to the highly informative and sometimes controversial column named "Pulp From The Hammer's Mill" by James K. Langhammer.

CICHILAE COMMUNIQUE from the Pacific Coast Cichlid Association has much to offer the cichlid enthusiast from both original articles like "A Tanganyikan Jewel (Lamprologus Multifasciatus)" by Kurt Zadnik, or "Papiliochromis Altispinosa, The Bolivian Ram - Its Convoluted Path Into The Hobby" by Mike Wise, and summarized versions of articles written and published in other publications. At this time, I only have two issues of this bi-monthly periodical, but I hope to review more when available. A possible reprint from this publication is being considered.

GRAVER GOSSIP from the Diamond State Aquarium Society is a monthly newsletter that has information on foods and products as well as reprints from other societies and original works too. One article found to be especially informative was by Ron Clark, "Paramecium By The Millions".

THE FISH FANCIER from the Houston Aquarium Society had among other bits of information a fantastic article by Suzy Andress entitled "Mouthbrooding Cichlids" in which she described a method of retrieving the eggs from the mouth of the female within minutes of her capture and replacing her to the community tank quickly, so she need not be faced with the ordeal of working through the tank's pecking order again.

See BOB'S, Page 13

*
* SOUNDS FROM THE SOUTH *
*
* Bob Reich *
* Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc. *
*

Well, it's another installing of my bi-monthly installments for THE DARTER. And what is he going to write about this time, you ask. Well nothing more than what I promised you all in my first installment - more about the "Taboo Ten Gallon Salt Tank".

First of all, let's start this one off with what is resting inside the tank itself. Besides the necessary undergravel filter, crushed coral, salt, and heater, I've indulged in a small fortune of different types of corals. The one that I like the best sits in the front right hand corner of the tank, and is described as Poca (as in that dance that is called the Polka). This particular little devil looks just like a small head of lettuce, only different. Sitting directly behind the Poca is a the staghorn, which in height is a little over half way to the top of the waterline, so sometimes it is closer to the top than other times. Situated behind the Staghorn (Forgive me, I forgot to capitalize Staghorn the first time.) is a semi-small, but not little, piece of Pyramid. Oops! After further investigation, I seem to have added another semi-small, but not little, piece of Pyramid; so instead of one semi-small, but not little, I have two. This amount of Pyramid takes the space of two to three inches from right to left of the back right corner. To the left of all this, but not yet to the middle of the tank, is what seems to me to be the pointed end of a semi-large shell that I will get to into a little bit. Behind that is a medium-small piece of, shall I say, Brush. I could be wrong, but that's what it looks like to me. By the way, we are going from the front of the tank to back. So, with that our of the way, let us continue.

Behind the Brush is another piece of Staghorn. Now this Staghorn doesn't look like the other piece of Staghorn, so either I don't know what Staghorn looks like or the place I got it from doesn't know what it looks like. Oh well, if you don't tell anyone, I won't tell anyone. Well, we're back to the front again, and what do you know, we're in the middle of the tank going from right to left, that is. At this precise spot in the aquarium is the Lace, a rather.... No wait a minute, it looks more like what my coral chart describes as Island. (As stated before, a rather peculiar piece that I have, but it would be favorite piece.) A "leaf" of Caribbean Lettuce lays behind that, and since that was one of the first pieces I had in the tank, it looks just like a piece of "algaefied" bottom structure. To the left of both of the last two pieces of coral sits the semi-large shell that I mentioned earlier. The outer portion of the "lid" has been removed or broken off to create a tunnel so the fish would be able to swim through. As of this date, to the best of my recollection, I have yet to see one do just that. On the left of the shell, I have laid in rather strategic fashion other "leaves" of Caribbean Lettuce to give the remaining five to six inches of tank sort of a staggered look. (Boy would my sixth grade teacher like this paragraph. Let's begin another one.)

Like I said a while back, a small fortune. But, I like what I have done to the bottom of this so-called "Taboo" tank. It sounds like I have everything "stuffed" in, but when placing all the different corals and what have you in the tank, I left gaps and alley-ways so my Moray Eel, Royal Gramma, and other bottom fish would have a place to swim and dart around in.

Next time, I will go over what I have been able to successfully maintain in the area of fish. Until then.....

BOB'S

From Page 11

THE DAPHIAN, the bulleting of the Boston Aquarium Society, has (among other things) a wonderfully interesting column called "Fishy Trivia" by Dr. Peter Anthony Lewis.

THE CALQUARIUM of the Calgary Aquarium Society is my next reviewee. This publication may be the most often reprinted or quoted publication I reviewed. Articles from its montly columns are often reprinted in other publications, and I believe we will also begin borrowing from these aquarists. One of the most published and re-published is Dlae Spiers, the Exchange Editor as well as the author of usually at least one breeding artical or a history based article. Besides Dale's, severals of the articles I read were outstanding and ranged widely in topics.

Kitsap Aquarium Society's THE KITSAP AQUARIAN is a montly publication that is literally packed with original "How To" articles. The breeding articles are most interesting and would be most helpful to an aquarist attempting to spawn a species.

The Illinois Cichlids and Scavengers' newsletter is full of original articles like the one by Mike Barbazette, "Aequidens Awani", or "Pseudocrenilabrus Philander Dispersus" by Jim Lovill.

* REMINDER * REMINDER * REMINDER * REMINDER * REMINDER * REMINDER *

Membership in the Missouri Awuarium Society, Inc. is on a calendar year basis. All dues for 1990 must be paid before February 14, 1990, if you wish to continue receiving THE DARTER. This will be the last issue you will receive, if your dues are not paid by the February General Meeting.

Melanotaenia duboulayi from the Burnett River -- by Gary Lange

This is a quite handsome rainbowfish from the eastern coastal region of Australia. It is one of a few rainbowfishes that we have been able to successfully obtain through the egg listings of ANGFA via Ron Bowman. It is one of the first species of "fluvie type" that we can say for certain does not contain anything else that is, that we know hasn't been crossed. Many dealers and hobbyists through their own ignorance or even on purpose have hybridized the common fluvies we have seen in the United States. Even though there are several fluvie types (colors) being sold in the U.S. we really don't have any idea of their origins. Somewhere around 1986 the scientists decided that what was originally a sub-species, that is *Melanotaenia splendida fluvialis*, had enough differences to be recognized as a separate species. This was something that most hobbyists had already assumed. The fluvie types have always been a much more slender type of rainbowfish while the *splendens* variety, the one commonly sold as "Australian Rainbow" had a much fuller body. A full grown *M. splendida splendens* will almost be twice as wide (from dorsal to anal fin) as an adult fluvie. They also decided that there actually were two types of "fluvies" that were essentially separated by a mountain range/drainage. So the western variety of fluvie was renamed *Melanotaenia fluvialis* and the eastern group was called *Melanotaenia duboulayi*. When you are trying to decide what variety yours are for those BAP points please defer to the *M. fluvialis* name unless you specifically know that they are *M. duboulayi*. There have been so many bad calls on species identification listed in the FAAS BAP over the last few years so let's not add to the problem by guessing with these.

The *M. duboulayi* as well as the *M. fluvialis* have several different color types so it is imperative that you remember the river strains. During Dr. Allen's Australian talk he showed a slide of a yellowish color duboulayi. Hopefully in the future we will be able to obtain some of the other color strains from Australia.

The Burnett river variety is a very pleasing deep sky blue color. Both sexes have the characteristic red cheek patch, hence the common name of crimson spotted rainbowfish. The males are much broader than the females as well as having the longer dorsal and anal fins. The males, typical of rainbowfish, also contain the most color. The dorsal and anal fins of the males are also handsomely etched in black with hints of red trailing back toward the body. It is this feature that makes the young juveniles fairly easy to sex. Even though the young females have a very slight black edge on their fins the males display it much more prominently. It's probably the easiest juvenile rainbowfish to sex. If only *Melanotaenia lacustris* were so easy!

I have spawned these fish using a floating mop in a 10 gallon (37 L.) tank. These are fairly big bows (SL 2.4", 6 cm) so they really prefer to be kept in roomier quarters. Like many rainbows if they aren't happy with their surroundings they probably won't spawn. If you are using a bare tank don't forget to paint the underneath of the tank (black) and if possible cover the ends and sides of the tank with a dark color. If you feed them well with frozen brine shrimp and bloodworms in addition to a staple flake you will keep the female in constant breeding condition. A little green in their diet is also beneficial so most of my tanks contain water sprite for them to nibble. As with all rainbowfishes you must keep them separated from other species of rainbowfishes and color varieties as they are very cross-fertile. The tank temperature is usually around 78-80 degrees F and the pH is somewhere between 6.8 and 7.2. If you do your weekly water changes to keep them healthy there should be no need to ever separate the pair. As with most rainbowfishes you cause more problems by moving the adults from tank to tank. Often you will upset them and they end up not laying any eggs until they have acclimated to their

new surroundings. I remove the mop, never the parents, when raising any rainbows. Always remember to replace the mop with another one. The loss of a spawning area can sometimes cause an amorous male to become an aggressive male which results in a battered female. A pair of *duboulayi* can produce a hundred or more eggs per week so they are very prolific. The clear, round eggs are only 1/2 to 3/4 the size of *M. boesemani* or *M. herbertaxelrodi* eggs. This makes them a little tougher to pick if you are going to package them for shipment but like most rainbow eggs they are still quite hardy. Incubate the mop in a five or 10 gallon tank with just a slight stream of bubbles to break the water surface. The young hatch in the usual 7-10 day incubation time. Their first food should be something fairly small like Aquarian egg-layer or OSI brand APR (artificial protozoan rotifer). Delores Schehr, who advertises in the back of FAMA, sells APR in small containers if you are looking for a source. Since rainbowfish fry only seem to swim in the top 1/2 inch of water you only need to sprinkle lightly on the surface of the water. Vinegar eels also make an excellent first food. Don't forget to add a sponge filter and some snails to clean up the excess food. After about seven days the fry are usually ready to eat baby brine shrimp. If you do your water changes & feed them well you should have them to about 3/4 of an inch in 10 weeks. Enjoy!

BAP
From Page 9

SPAWNINGS VERIFIED IN NOVEMBER, 1989

PARTICIPANT	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	POINT VALUE	GRAND TOTAL
Nicole Tosie	<i>Poecilia sphenops</i>	Marble Molly	5	10
Pat Tosie	<i>Hemichromis lifalili</i>		*	10 780
Pam Yerkes	<i>Cichlasoma octofasciatum</i>	Jack Dempsey	10	
	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	Blue Metallic Guppy	5	15
* First MASI spawning				
** No points assigned - Species already spawned - Color Variety				
*** Points will be awarded upon submission of a written article or an oral presentation detailing the participant's experience in spawning this species.				

BAP AWARDS EARNED

LEVEL/SPECIALTY	PARTICIPANT	DATE
Master Breeder		
Jim Thale		11/89
Senior Breeder		
Blenda Godman		11/89
Genus		
<i>Cynolebias</i>	Jim Thale	08/88
Species		
<i>Xiphophorus maculatus</i>	Blenda Godman	11/89

ADVENTURES IN ASIA - THE ASIAN COMMUNITY TANK
PART I

Fred & Sue Cotterell
Missouri Aquarium Society, Inc.

The title of this piece is just what it seems - an adventure in aquarium set-up and the compatibility of certain Asian fishes. During the next few months, we'll discuss how to set up an Asian community tank and how to choose fishes that you can put together.

We learn through our mistakes, so it is said. We sure did!. We bought, over a year ago, some Hi-Fin Rosey Barbs, and we didn't want them to lose their nice long fins to some rather large Tiger Barbs in our twenty-nine gallon Asian tank. So, we placed them in our South American tank. In this tank were some Veil Angelfish of the Gold-Cap Marble variety. Soon these beautiful specimens resembled Mono Sebaes. This was the beginning of our search to discover how to choose compatible Asian fishes.

We turned to our "library" for help and found a lot of information on temperament and compatibility. Since we already had a number of Asian species and the desire to acquire other specific species, compatibility became our starting point.

With most Asian fishes, both barbs and Anabantoids, one must consider size. Just as in nature, larger fishes will dominate, subjugate, and ultimately, eliminate smaller fishes. We have discovered that large barbs tend to be quite aggressive, and will either bully or feast on smaller tankmates. A large *Puntius filamentosus*, the One-Spot Barb, is not a good choice to put with Harlequin Rasboras.

Through our research, we have developed a partial list of small and large Asian fishes.

<u>Small Fishes</u>	<u>Large Fishes</u>
Black Ruby Barb	Arulius Barb
Gold Barb	Clown Barb
Rosey Barb	One-Spot Barb
Tiger Barb	T-Barb
Betta imbellis	<i>Mystus</i> Catfish
Betta picta	Giant Danio
Betta smaragdina	Croaking Gourami
Skunk Loach (Botia)	Kissing Gourami
Zebra Danio	Moonlight Gourami
Dwarf Gourami	Pearl Gourami
Pygmy Gourami	<i>Trichopterus</i> Gourami
Harlequin Rasboras	Paradise Fish
Scissortail Rasboras	Red Scissortail Rasboras

These lists are incomplete, but should spark your thoughts. You'll note that the *Betta splendens* and the larger mouth-brooding bettas are absent. These fishes are best kept by themselves or in pairs.

Next time, we'll cover set-up and planting.