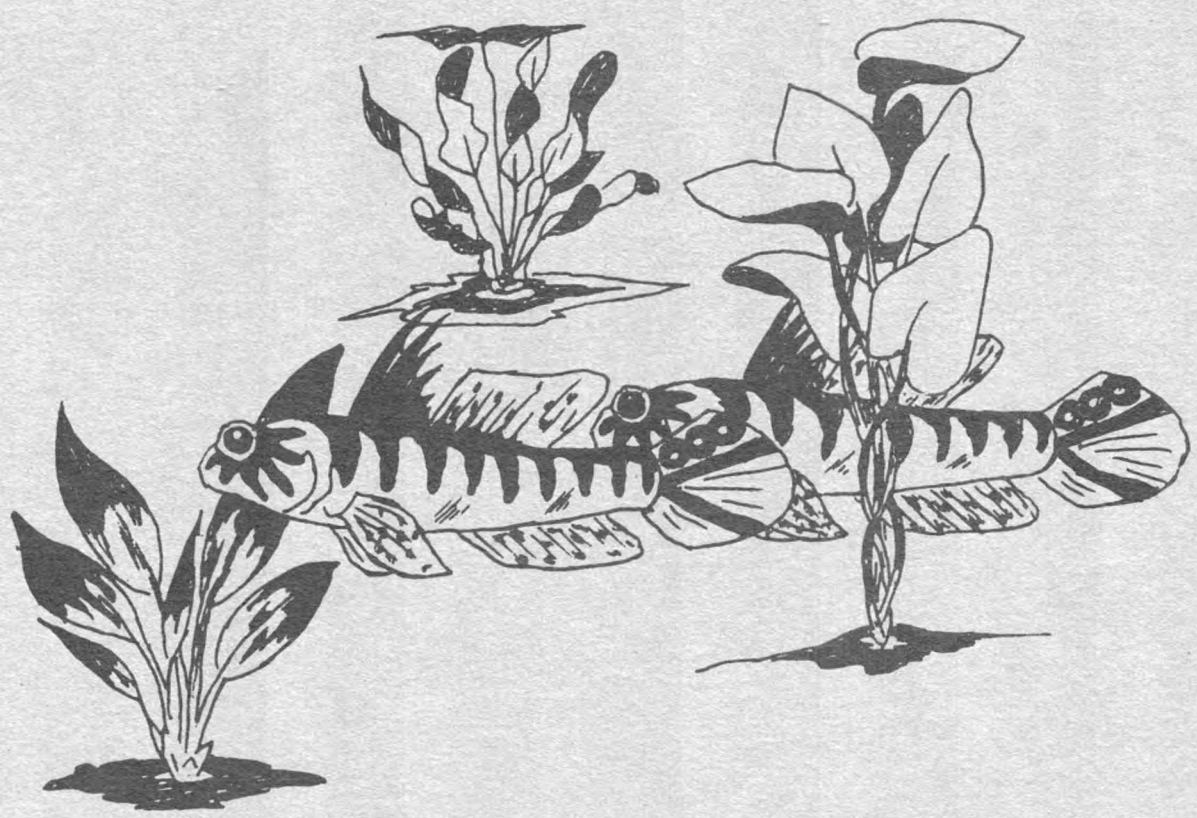


Oct., 1917

THE

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DARTER



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

October, 1977
Vol. 3 No 10

President's Message	Dave Masters	6
October Meeting Notice		
Coming Events		
September General Meeting Minutes	Sharon Masters	8
September Executive Council Minutes	Sharon Masters	9
Editor's Message	Carol Willemmin	10
Siphoning the Exchanges	Ken Keim	13
September Bowl Show Results		
Some Tips For Winning at Bowl Shows	Nikki Rollensen (Reprint)	15
The Native Corner	Rick Smith	16
Missouri Masterpiece	Rick Smith	18
A Society's Publication And What It Means To A Club And The Hobby	Ken Keim	21
Cartoon	Larry Marshall	22
Book Reviews	Marilyn Waterston	23
Damselishes	Len Kuzmicki (Reprint)	26
Kansas City Revisited	Carol Willemmin	28
What's New With Livebearers	Cris DuBois (Reprint)	31

** ** ** ** **

EXCHANGE PUBLICATIONS: The Darter will exchange with other club's publications. Please send exchange publications to;

THE DARTER - M.A.S.I.
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Brentwood, Missouri 63144

Failure to receive three consecutive issues of a club's publication will be considered as a termination of our exchange with that club, unless advised to the contrary.

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** ** ** ** **

Monthly issues of The Darter are part of membership consideration.

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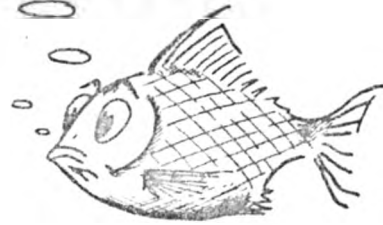
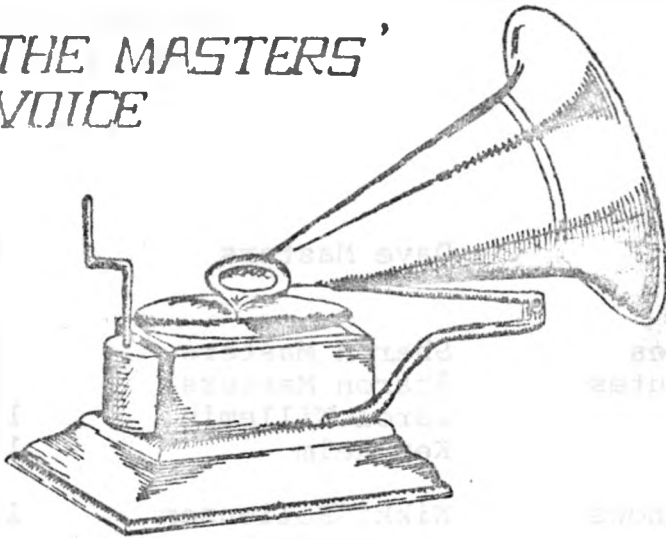
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THE MASTERS'
VOICE



PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE

I hope we will have a great turn out for the Super Bowl at the October General Meeting. The more fish entered the better.

The attendance at our meetings have been unusually low, so the Executive Council has decided to start running an add in the Sunday Post the week-end before our Monthly General Meeting in attempt to increase our membership. The Executive Council has also decided to prepare a hand out sheet for use at our auctions and other M.A.S.I. functions.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the October Meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Dave Masters, President

OCTOBER MEETING NOTICE

Time and Date: 8:15 P.M. Wednesday, October 12th

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

Bowl Show: SUPER BOWL '77 - See September Darter for
Rules and Entry Form

Program: LETS TALK FISH! Mini-Workshop. Pick a
category (Saltwater, - Livebearers -
African Cichlids - Egglayers - Beginning
Aquarists) for an informal discussion
session to exchange ideas and information.

COMING EVENTS

October 12th - M.A.S.I. SUPER BOWL '77 - General Meeting,
Prudential - 8:15 P.M.

22nd - Executive Council Meeting - Keim's - 8:15 P.M.

23rd - Gateway Guppy Auction - Newport Hgts. Memorial
Hall - (Delor, East of Gravois) - 1:30 P.M.

November 9th - M.A.S.I. General Meeting - Prudential - 8:15 P.M.

19th - Executive Council Meeting - Simmons' - 8:15 P.M.

December 4th - M.A.S.I. Auction - Holiday Inn North

14th - M.A.S.I. General Meeting - Prudential - 8:15 P.M.

17th - Christmas Party - Pozaric's - See Notice
in this issue for further information

July - 1978 - July 28, 29 and 30. M.A.S.I. hosts the 1978
American Cichlid Association Convention -
Red Carpet Inn - St. Louis, Missouri. Now is
the time to start making plans to attend and
participate in this National Event.

GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 1977

The general meeting of the Missouri Aquarium Society was called to order by President Dave Masters at 8:27 P.M.

Dave welcomed all guest and new members.

Approval of the last general meeting minutes and treasurer's report was given.

Dave asked for approval from the membership on the three men selected by the Executive Council for the A.C.A Convention for 1978.

They are Richard Crabtree, Chairman - Ralph Wilhelm & Mike Heinemier Co-Chairmen. Approval of the membership was given.

Paul Powell gave a brief report on the M.A.S.I. 1978 workshop progress, and asked that we remember the meeting of classes on the 28th.

Richard Crabtree asked all members to be thinking of speakers that they would like to hear speak at the ACA Convention.

Everett Gold President of Gateway Guppy announced that they would be having a auction on October 3rd, at the Newport Heights Memorial Hall. Check the Sunday paper for time.

We received a letter from Jack Daniels that is interested in getting several types of fish from our members.

There was an auction of the breeders award fish and an announcement of the bowl show winners.

The Executive Council is the 24th of September 24th at the Willemin's.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Masters
Secretary

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 24, 1977

The Executive Council meeting for September was called to order by President Dave Masters at the home of the Willemin's. Council members present were the Masters - Powell's - Willemin's - Tom Hopfinger Keim's - Frank Simmons - Ralph Wilhelm - Crabtree's.

There was approval of the last executive council meeting minutes, and a treasurer's report was given.

Richard Crabtree announced that Elvis Bryant has taken the job of treasurer for the A.C.A. Convention.

Rich also said that we were in need of some more Breeders Award sheets with a few changes.

Dave asked that Ralph try to find out why we are having low attendance at our general meetings. A Motion was made that a add be put in the Sunday paper before each monthly general meeting. Also we will be making up a flyer type circular that tells all of the clubs actitives to be given out at auction, etc.

Ralph and Ken Keim will take part in up-dating the Monthly Bowl show for 1978. Ken will check back into it as he has done before.

Dave said that he will have the Auction rules ready for the November bulletin.

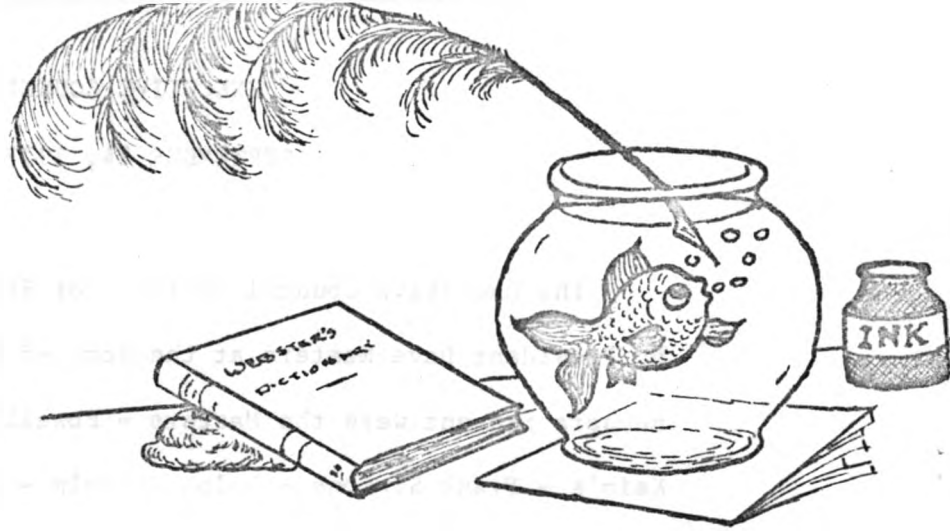
We have purchased some supplies from D & E that we will give to the Lamplighters for the tank at the Cardinal Glennon Hospital.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Masters
Secretary

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Super Bowl time is here, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone's entries. Joe doesn't understand what I get out of just looking at fish, and when I say I'd like to go to one of the shops "just to look" he always reminds me that I have lots of fish to look at at home. But I think you can see something new or different just about every time you go looking. Seeing other members prime specimens in the bowl shows and at Super Bowl is something I really enjoy.

Speaking of enjoyment, I've had several members ask me "Well, how do you like being Editor?", and I must confess that I'm always a bit stumped for an answer. I really can't imagine anyone doing this job who didn't enjoy it, because it involves such a great deal of time and effort. Working with words is fun for me, and there's a real feeling of accomplishment in having assembled all those little bits and pieces of information, ads, and articles into some kind of a cohesive unit for publication.

There is, however, one unpleasant facet of being an Aquarium Society Editor. In my opinion, it isn't really part of an Editor's job, but it seems to be expected of all of us; that we constantly nag, plead, beg, and bludgeon members for articles for the monthly bulletin. Admit it, friends, when you read the Editor's Message, you fully expect me to tell you how badly we need articles, etc. etc. etc. You would probably be surprised if it wasn't there. Yet none of us is surprised that the unwritten articles remain unwritten, and the same, faithful contributors continue to do their share. Since all the constant editorial pleading seems to have no effect, perhaps I'll try a little reverse psychology in the future, such as....."Please; the Editor is swamped with articles from the membership....more than we can possibly publish in the next 20 issues....so hold back those articles for later." Do you think that could possibly work?

The Darter needs two staff writers to take over the "Just Down the Street" and "Visiting the Members" columns. These need not be done on a monthly basis; how about every other month? If you'd like to contribute, but really don't feel that you have anything to say, how about taking on one of these regular columns? The framework is there; all you need to do is fill in the blanks. I'd be glad to help you get started; just let me know if you'd like to give one of these columns a try.

Carol



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SIPHONING THE EXCHANGES

By Ken Keim

THE FISH FANCIER - June '77 (Houston Aquarium Society, Inc.) A fine reprint about "Making Your Rockwork Work" by Larry W. Martin. It's 10 pages long, and very heavy with information....an excellent article on decorating your tank.

THE AQUARIAN - June '77 (Tacoma Aquarium Society) William Glenn talks about "Hole in Head Treatment and Prevention". Also, take a look at "Pseudotropheus Socoloffi" by Mary Pat Norman. She lets us in on her experiences with this beautiful cichlid.

PLECOSTOMUS - July '77 (Blackhawk Aquarium Society, Inc.) Richard VanHyfte's "Of Moss and Mops" is about peat moss selection. It's Part One, and deals with explanations and tests for different types of moss and their suitability for the aquarium.

THE VALLEY STREAM - June '77 (Edgewood Valley Aquarist Society) "Breeder's Digest-1, Spawning the Corydoras Paleatus" by Patty and Pat Keith. O.K., catfish lovers, "spice" your brain with this breeding report on the "pepper" corydoras!

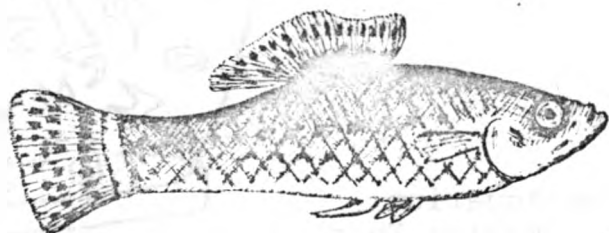
YOUNGSTOWN AQUARIST - July '77 (Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society) "Ken's Korner" (Ken and Sue Kapalko) gives us a report on "Hoplosternum Thoracatum" (Hoplo cats). Seems to be well written, well researched, and well worth reading. Before setting aside this fine publication, check out "Paradise Fish" by Judy Ayres. Although I've never had luck with this beautiful fish, its name correctly describes it, and Ms. Ayres' article does it justice.

THE CALQUARIUM - July '77 (Calgary Aquarium Society) A dwarf cichlid with a name larger than it is, "Apistogramma Wickleri" is covered by Ron Kobe in a mighty fine piece of writing. Since I'm not familiar with this species, and I'm 1,000 miles away from my reference books, I'll pass it along to you in case it strikes your fancy.

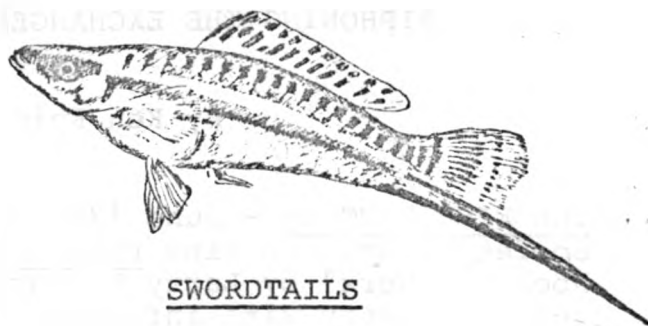
NOTICE TO READERS!

The exchanges reviewed above will be on the Library table at the October General Meeting, for those of you who would like to read these fine articles.

SEPTEMBER BOWL SHOW RESULTS



MOLLIES



SWORDTAILS

Novice - (no entries)

Hobbyist - (2 entries)

1st Ralph Wilhelm
2nd Alden Joyce
3rd

Novice - (no entries)

Hobbyist - (1 entry)

1st Ken Sommerhauser
2nd
3rd

* * *

OPEN

* * *

(4 entries)

1st Ralph Wilhelm - (Aphyosemion australe)
2nd Ken Sommerhauser - (Dwarf Pencil Fish)
3rd Rick Smith - (Red Horse Minnow)

September Bowl Show Judges - Elvis Bryant and Paul Powell

October: SUPER BOWL '77

November: Platies or Moons
Guppies - 2 matched males
Open

December: Barbs - all varieties
Tetras or Rasboras
Open

MEMBERS: BRING YOUR ENTRIES! SUPPORT OUR MONTHLY BOWL SHOWS!

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

-SOME TIPS FOR WINNING AT BOWL SHOWS-

By Nikki Rollensen, HAC

I hope the title "Some tips for winning at bowl shows" is not too presumptuous on my part. However, bowl show competition is one function of the club that I particularly enjoy. It is very gratifying to take home a blue ribbon for your fish room, and I thought that I would share some of my best kept secrets with you.

Proper purchasing is your first step in the right direction. Make sure to pick your future show fish from a full tank of fish. This way you can compare one fish against another. There always will be several that are more brightly colored, and probably more active (remember department counts). If you see one that is colorful, lively and just a bit larger than the others, by all means purchase that fish. It could grow to be a champion. Always keep in mind that it usually takes many months of conditioning to reach this illustrious goal.

Placing the fish in a proper sized tank is very important. Cramping a fish in too small of quarters can cause stunted growth, and in the case of angel-fish, can cause bent fins. A good rule to follow is to always give a fish more room than you think he needs.

Proper diet is a must for good health, color, and growth. Force feeding (small amounts of food - fed often) is an effective way of stimulating growth. Remember, if two equally good fish are shown, the larger one will win.

Careful maintenance is a real necessity. Even a slight case of fungus can cause everlasting damage. This can best be prevented by proper water changes, and by making sure that no uneaten food remains on the bottom of the tank. Also be sure to separate your fish at the first sign of fin nipping. A fish with a bad disposition can leave the worst kind of permanent scar on your prized beauty.

Now it's time for the competition and you must decide which fish will show the best. Make sure the fish that you choose is of maximum size for that species. As I mentioned before, size is important. Secondly, a fish will react differently in a bare drum bowl than it did in its decorated tank. Some fish take on "fright stripes", while others may fade of all color. A fish that is likely to lose color should be placed in the bowl early in the day to allow it to become used to the small confines and regain color. On the other hand, a fish that turns dark in color when placed in the bowl should not be taken out of the tank until the last possible minute; this usually will look like a very striking specimen.

At last it's judging time, and you have pampered your radiant beauty to the point where it has enormous size, fantastic fins, and glorious colorand you probably will win!

Reprinted from THE HUB BUBBLE, Feb., 1977
published by Hub Aquatic Club, Crown Point, IN



THE NATIVE CORNER

By Rick Smith

FRESH WATER ECOLOGY - PART 3

We are now ready to discuss the organisms which inhabit lakes and ponds. Let's begin at the littoral (shallow) zone. Because of the high productivity in this zone, we will start with the producers (plants) that live here. There are two main groups of plants: Spermatophyta, which are seed bearing plants, and the Phytoplankton, which are free-floating plants. Most of the phytoplankton are forms of algae (earth's main producer).

Spermatophyta inhabit the littoral zone. As the water deepens, plant forms change. These "zones of change" are called concentric zones. The first concentric zone is the zone of emergent vegetation. The plants in this zone obtain their carbon dioxide from the air and obtain their essential nutrients from the water. An example of this plant type is the cattail. By obtaining nutrients from the water, these plants help reduce the threat of over-fertilization.

The second zone is called the zone of rooted plants with floating leaves. Water lillies fall into this category. This zone is like the zone of emergent vegetation, except that it is in deeper water and provides shelter for animal eggs.

The third concentric zone is the zone of submergent vegetation. It contains plants which are usually submerged totally. These plants exchange nutrients through the water with their thin, divided leaves. These are the plants which are commonly sold as "aquarium plants". In the South, such plants create a nuisance for people who "enjoy" the water by using their noisy outboard motors, and merrily tossing trash overboard as they zoom by at ridiculous speeds. So to solve this "problem" we try to destroy these plants by using weed killers, etc., ignoring the fact that if certain types of plants were harvested, they could be used as food, because they have a high nutritional value.

Phytoplankton: Algae is found in both the Littoral and Limnatic zones. Most of the algae which is attached to an object is found in the Littoral zone. There are three types of algae:

- 1) The Diatom: Diatoms have silica shells. Their green chlorophyll is hidden by yellow or brown pigment in their chromatophores.

Continued.....

"The Native Corner".....continued

2) Green Algae: These bright green (floating or attached) algae have many different forms; the filamentous (hair algae); desmids (single celled algae), and colonies (floating) are the three groups in this class.

3) Blue-green Algae: Blue-Green algae lives in either single or colony form. Their green chlorophyll is masked by blue-green pigment (not concentrated in their chromatophores). Large amounts of this algae type may indicate pollution in the pond or lake.

Consumers of the Littoral Zone:

The Littoral zone contains more animal forms than any other zone. All five "life habitats" are present. Most of the fresh water phyla are usually present. Horizontal zonation is more suitable for dividing groups of animals in this habitat. Because of the absence of plants, periphyton are common in this zone. Examples are pond snails, dragonfly larvae, rotifers and hydra. Both primary and secondary consumers are present.

Below the silt and debris is another group of primary and secondary consumers. Examples of these are crayfish, Ephemeroptera (which extend a body part to the mud surface for respiration, or dig and maintain burrows), clams, and again, snails.

Diving beetles (larval form and adults) are just one example of the richness of life in the nekton group. Amphibians also thrive in this area. "Herps" (amphibians or reptiles) in this area are primarily littoral zone occupants. Fish move freely through the littoral and limnatic zones.

Zooplankton which inhabit the littoral zone are heavier and less buoyant. These crustacea cling to objects during their resting habits. Waterfleas, some types of Daphnia, and simocephalus are examples of these zooplankton.

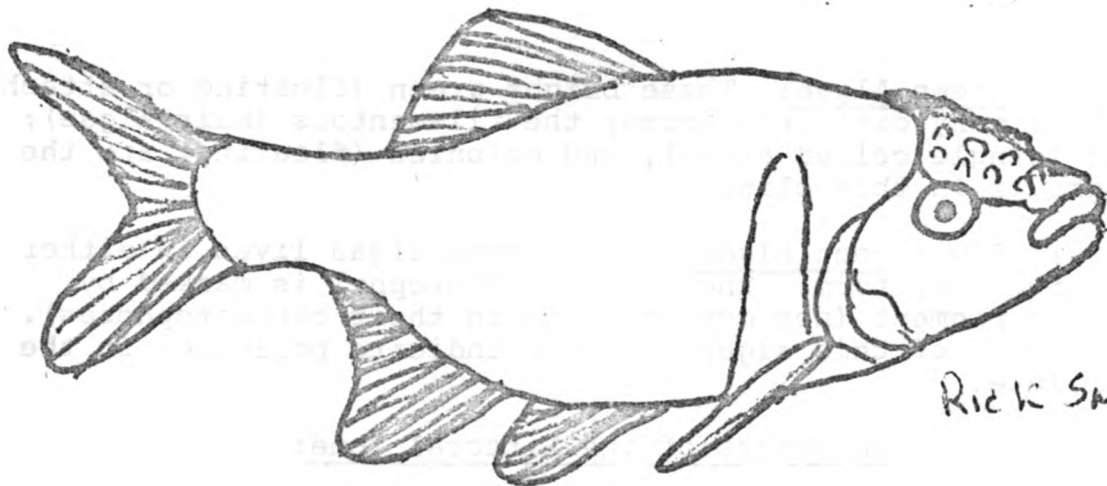
Littoral zone animals which live in a neuston form are water striders, whirligig beetles, and smaller water striders.

* * * * *

In the next article, we will finish discussing pond life and begin discussing the river or stream habitat.

*

Missouri Masterpiece #1



Rick Smith

Notropis lutrensis
Red Horse Minnow

* * * WELCOME NEW MEMBERS * * *

We are pleased to welcome the following persons as New Members of M.A.S.I. Let's all do our part to make our New Members feel WELCOME!

Norman F. Slachman
8892 Red Oak Drive
Crestwood, MO 63126
843-0181

Catherine Soffer
7310 Dorsett Avenue
University City, MO 63130
727-3116

* * * M.A.S.I. AUCTION * * *

Just a reminder that M.A.S.I. will hold its next auction on Sunday, December 4th, 1977, at the Holiday Inn, North, I-70 at Lindbergh.

This will be a great opportunity to help fill in the gaps on your Christmas Shopping list (surely, your Fishroom needs a Christmas present, too!), and to help M.A.S.I. in the bargain.

Keep an eye on the Darter for Auction Rules and Regulations; there will be some revisions!

SIEBERT PET SHOP

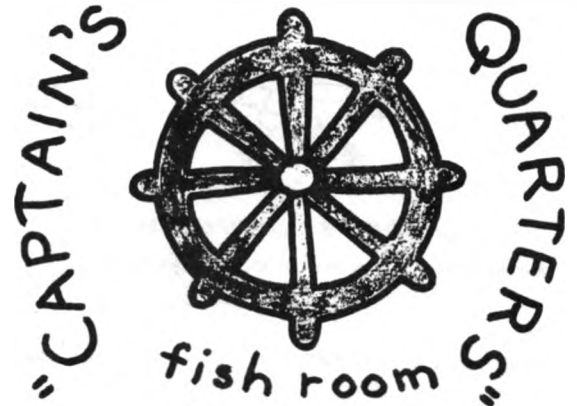
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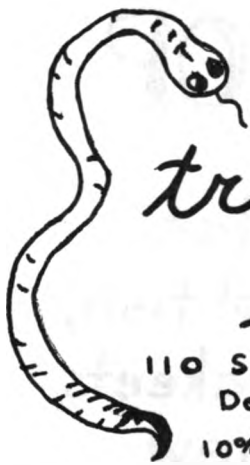


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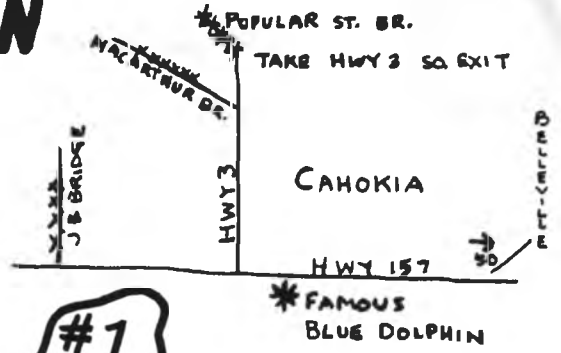


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A SOCIETY'S PUBLICATION
AND WHAT IT MEANS TO A CLUB AND THE HOBBY

by Ken Keim

Oftentimes, I believe we all overlook the importance of our monthly bulletins. While everyone usually reads it (and screams when it isn't there on time) most of us must plead guilty to not actively supporting it. The reasons for not writing are many, and are often justifiable. "I can't find the time." "I'm not a writer." "I don't have anything to say", and so on. Well, I wouldn't argue with any of the explanations for not taking pen in hand, but if you allow me a few minutes, I'd like to put forth how I view the relationship between a society publication, and the society and hobby itself.

The hobby uses a society publication in a diversity of ways. When the government threatens to maim the hobby, cries for help are sent throughout the land in monthly publications. From California to Florida, knowledgeable hobbyists raise their pens to point out deficiencies, and, more often than not, sensible legislation is passed that is helpful instead of destructive.

New ideas that advance the state of the hobby abound within the pages of society publications. From loosely written scientific experiments (breedings) to highly technical explanations (diseases), they're all there, providing the hobbyist with a correspondence course in fish education.

There's little doubt that the hobby would survive without society publications, but I seriously question whether it would have reached its present state without a means for hobbyists in Texas to learn from other hobbyists in Canada, and vice versa.

What does a society's publication mean to the society itself? One simple answer is to imagine what things would be like without it. I'm willing to bet that you get as much information from its pages (about your club's future activities, information about other clubs, valued opinions of other hobbyists, and more), as you do at the monthly meetings. Our members may be the heart of the society, but our publications are the reins that transport information to its different branches.

Ever hear of a nationally known club that didn't have a first-class publication? Neither have I, because it's rather difficult to give recognition to a society that's a thousand miles away, when all we know about them is information based on the contents of their publication. Like it or not, right or wrong, a society is often judged by the quality of its bulletin. I've heard it a dozen times..."What's happened to that club? Its publication used to be first class."

Continued....

A Society's Publication.....continued

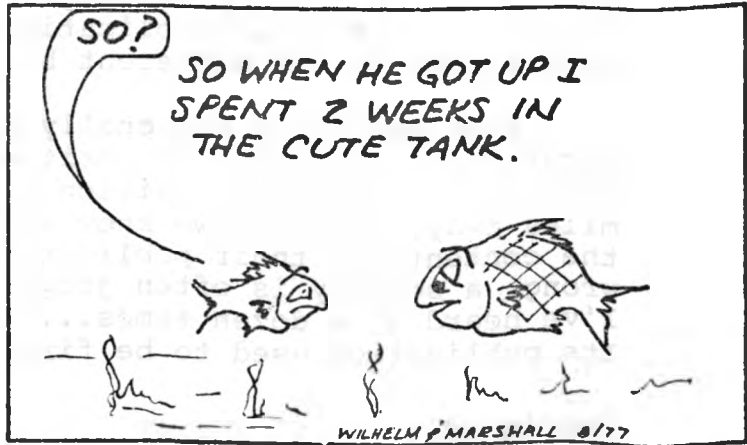
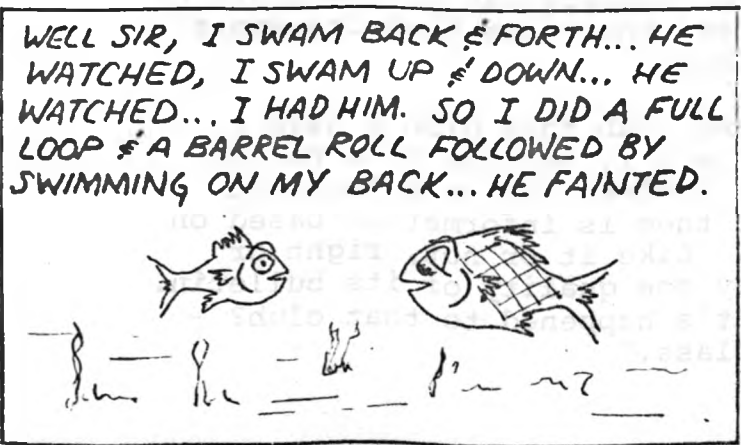
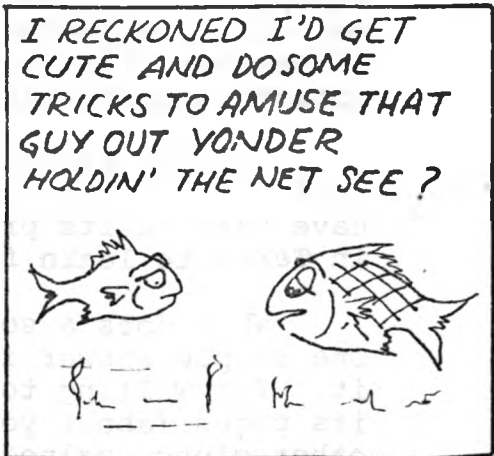
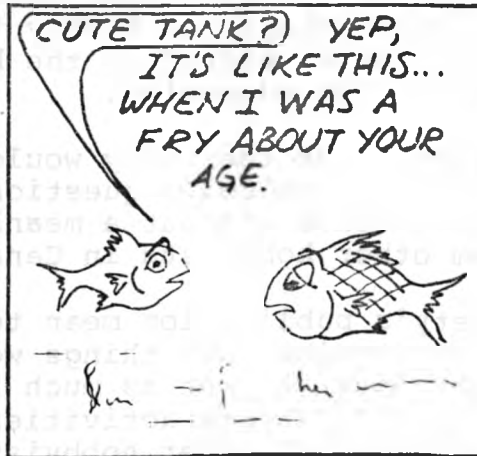
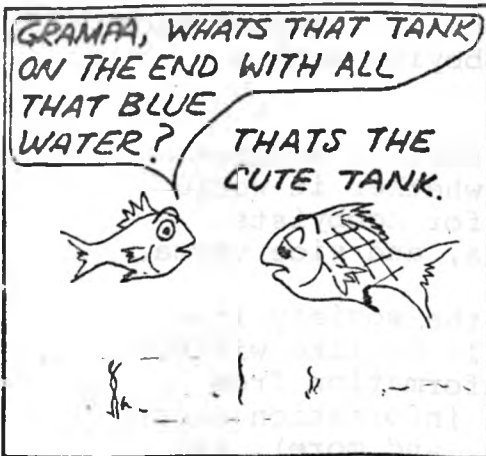
Well, maybe nothing happened to that club. It may be just as dynamic as ever, but not many know it because its written publication is no longer advertising that fact.

You might say "So what? It doesn't matter what the rest of the country thinks our club knows." Well, it is important to me, and I guess to a lot of other members, to have something we put so much effort into held in high esteem by others. It's nice to hear hobbyists from all over the country say "You're part of one of the best."

It's so simple for you to help your society to reach national recognition by just writing for your publication. Come on, friends, you don't have to be Mark Twain to write! You have the most important things already; ideas and knowledge. So what, if you can't spell? All we want to know is how to care for, raise and breed that fish!

Give us a break and share yourself and your hobby with us. We'll love you for it.

* * * * *



Book Reviews

by Marilyn Waterston

Although Handbook of Tropical Aquarium Fishes was published in 1955, it still holds a lot of valuable information that the newer books have omitted. I suppose the newer books are attempting to cut down on the terrible redundancy of printed matter in the aquarium trade, or they feel it doesn't sell. Whatever the reason, I feel that some of this information is important and interesting enough to be sought after. (Handbook - Axelrod and Schultz; McGraw Hill, 1955)

The first part of the book is very informative and is titled "Ichthyology". Among other things, it analyzes the anatomy of fish. This chapter alone is worth a trip to the library. Many other books, and I sometimes find it surprising, do not even have a simple diagram showing the parts of the fish, or the skeletal structure. If you have any curiosity about the structure of fish, this book puts it in a simple and concise form.

Of course this book has the usual reference section with 500 pages dealing with individual fish. The information is clear and concise, although some of it is a little dated.

This book also contains a rather extensive glossary concerning fish. The glossary makes it very easy to find the meanings of unfamiliar terms. Beginner and seasoned hobbyist alike could benefit from a perusal of this list.

This book is available from the County Library.

* * * * *

I wish to remind my readers that along with the fine libraries, St. Louis City Library, County Library, and University City Library, our club has a library of its own. In fact, when it comes to books on our fish hobby, M.A.S.I.'s selection of books is the finest, rivalling even the huge City Library. So, since the best is at hand, take advantage of the use of our many fine books.

* * * * *

(Editor's Note: Just a reminder that the Exchanges reviewed in this month's Darter will also be available at the Library table at this month's meeting, in addition to the usual fine selection of books, so there's no shortage of good reading materials for M.A.S.I. members!)

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* * * CHRISTMAS PARTY * * *

Many thanks to Steve and Barbara Pozaric, who have again graciously volunteered to host our 1977 Christmas Party at their lovely home at 404 Gabriel Drive, Kirkwood, MO. The date for this year's party will be December 17th, Saturday evening. Cost will be \$5.00 per person, to cover expenses for meat, ice, set-ups, etc., plus one dish per couple. (B.Y.O.B.) There are also items that non-cooking singles may bring. Contact Barbara at 965-4078 to see what you should bring to round out the menu.

Plan now to attend this annual, gala event - a good time is in store for all members at the 1977 Christmas Party.

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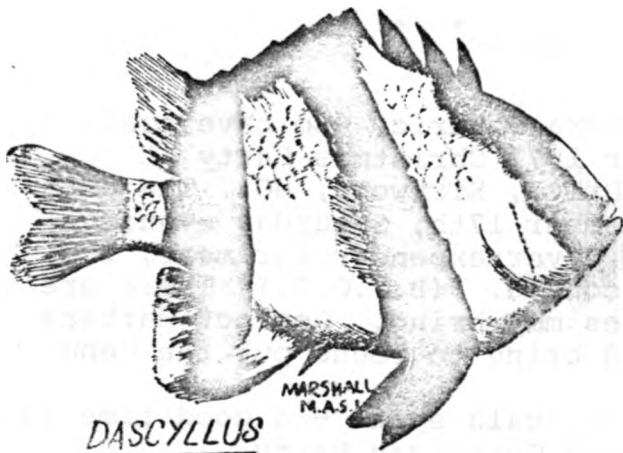
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* * * A U C T I O N * * *

Gateway Guppy Associates will hold an Auction on Sunday, October 23rd, at 1:30 P.M. at Newport Heights Memorial Hall, on Delor, East of Gravois (behind Bohemian S & L). For further information, contact Paul Powell at 644-3812.



DASYLLUS
ARUANUS

(WHITE-TAILED DAMSELFISH)

DAMSELFISHES

by Len Kuzmicki (E.V.A.S.)

Illustrations by Larry
Marshall, M.A.S.I Staff

In my opinion (and that of many others, I'm sure), Damsels are one of the best fish to start with in a marine aquarium. The reasons being that they are very hardy, cheap (about \$3.00 to \$5.00), are nicely colored, easy to feed and fairly peaceful. Damsels usually remind one of cichlids, which is no wonder because Damsels and cichlids are very closely related. They differ mainly in the fact that Damsels have an internal bony shelf which supports the eye socket.

Damsels are territorial and will try very hard to defend their area of the tank. If coral is kept in the tank for the fishes to hide under, fighting is kept to a minimum.

The Damsels (family Pomacentridae) are composed of a large group of fishes, so only a few can be described here. My favorite, the Black Velvet Damsel (Abudefduf oxyodon), has a color combination of jet-black, white and electric blue. One strange thing about these fish is that they are not common, but they are not very rare either. Mine is very peaceful and thrives on frozen brine shrimp and flake foods. Keep these little beauties (if you can find them) at a salinity of 1.020 to 1.022, a temperature of 70 to 74 degrees F, and a PH of 7.5 to 8.0.

One of the most popular and common Damsels is the Black and White Damsel (Dascyllus aruanus). Care is the same as for the Black Velvet, but this one might be a bit nastier.

The Three-Spot Damsel (Dascyllus trimaculatus) is colored all black with a white spot on each side and one on the forehead.

Another very common Damsel is the Blue Devil (Abudefduf cyaneus). Contrary to its name, it is fairly peaceful. It is colored electric-blue over the entire body.

Continued.....

Damselfishes.....continued..

As far as breeding these fish is concerned, I haven't tried. It is supposed to be very hard, time consuming, and costly. Raising the fry (if you get any) is supposed to be "really fun"! For example, feeding the fry and two hours later making a water change. What a hassle - for me anyway!

I remember reading a book (I forgot the name) that said never keep a Damsel of the genus Dascyllus (Three-Spots, Black and Whites, etc.) with Damsels of the genus Abudefduf (Blue Devils, Black Velvets). This seems to be true in some cases, but not all. A friend was telling me how his Three-Spot killed his Blue Devil by chasing it until it was exhausted, then biting its fins off.

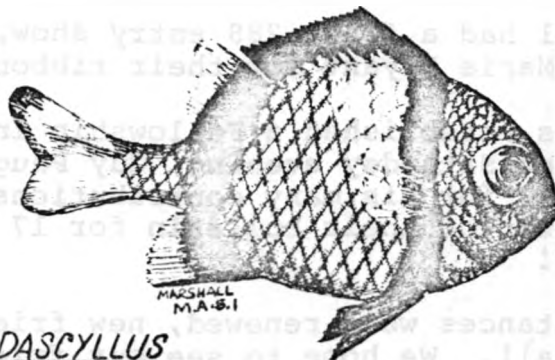
All of the fishes mentioned grow to the size of 2 to 3 inches and are easy to keep providing the chemical balance of the tank (salinity, PH, etc.) is right, that there is no over-crowding and that there is proper aeration. So if you're thinking of a fish to start a marine tank with or just an addition if you have a marine tank already, try a Damsel...any kind, they're a real asset to the aquarium.

NOTE: If you see a Damsel not discussed here and you want to buy it, feel free to do so. Most Damsels have the same needs. The easiest way to tell Abudefduf from Dascyllus is Dascyllus have rounder bodies than Abudefduf.

* * * * *

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ILLUSTRATIONS: Larry Marshall (M.A.S.I. Staff)



DASCYLLUS
RETICULATUS

(RETICULATED DAMSELFISH)

KANSAS CITY - REVISITED

by Carol Willemin

Despite the fact that Mother Nature tried her best to turn all of Kansas City into a giant aquarium just a week before their Annual Show, the Heart of America Aquarium Society recovered in time to present another fine show this year. M.A.S.I. members in attendance were Tom Hopfinger, Frank Simmons, Ralph Wilhelm, yours truly and hubby, Joe.

Although entries were down somewhat from last year, the show was another beautiful one, in the H.A.A.S. tradition of presenting an all aquascaped show. The award for Best Aquascaping went to Carol Kuhns-(H.A.A.S.) for her beautiful Characin class entry of Congo Tetras. Best of Show was won by Harold and Mary Foster (H.A.A.S.) for a truly excellent trio of Albino Tiger Barbs (also a beautifully aquascaped entry).

Among the particularly interesting entries that we saw was the BIGGEST Black Shark any of us had ever seen. We didn't know they ever got THAT big. There was also a very nice entry in the Livebearer class...ordinary, common, Blue Platies, but there was nothing ordinary about their size or condition. They were just beautiful! Unfortunately, they lost to some fancy swordtails that I didn't find particularly good at all.

Although Ralph Wilhelm contends that there is no such thing as 2nd or 3rd Best of Show, H.A.A.S. disagrees, and they award trophies for 2nd and 3rd Best of Show, based on the Judges' Choice. Barb and Guy Paugh (H.A.A.S.) received 3rd Best of Show for their Saltwater Community entry. What a gorgeous Lionfish they have! My own Anabantid class winners - a school of Chocolate Gouramies - received the honors as 2nd Best of Show. (Gee, Ralph, are you sure there's no such thing as 2nd Best? I'd sure hate to have to give back that beautiful trophy!)

Bettas Royal had a fine, 288 entry show, and congratulations go to Elvis and Marie Bryant for their ribbon-winning Betta entry.

H.A.A.S. has established a Fellowship in their society, and at the Banquet Saturday evening, Guy Paugh was named First Fellow of H.A.A.S. for his many contributions over the years. Guy has been Editor of their bulletin for 17 years, and that's a feat in itself!

Old acquaintances were renewed, new friends made, and a good time was had by all. We hope to see our friends from Kansas City here at our Annual Show next April.



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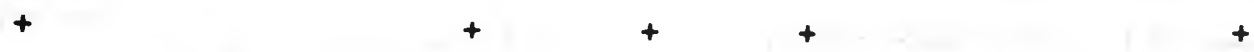
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WHAT'S NEW WITH LIVEBEARERS

By Cris DuBois, HAC

Reprinted from the Dec. 1976 issue
THE HUB BUBBLE published by
Hub Aquatic Club, Crown Point, Ind.

New in the world of livebearers and gaining in popularity every day are the Goodies. What exactly is a Goodie? It's any of several fishes belonging to the family Goodeidae. In his book Livebearing Aquarium Fishes, Jacobs gives 6 genera of Goodeids. However, more recently there are 20 recognized genera containing a total of 40-45 species.

All Goodeids are livebearers. Gestation time can vary from 30-97 days depending on the species. Some species apparently have only one brood each season while other species will have more than one. However, the female must be fertilized for each brood. This differs from the Poeciliids (guppies, mollies, etc.) where multiple broods are the norm from a single fertilization. Another interesting facet of the reproduction of Goodeids concerns the way in which the young are nourished. Rather than just absorbing food from an egg sac like most livebearers, developing Goodeids receive nourishment directly from the female via "placenta-like" adaptation called trophotaeniae.

According to Dolores Lyons of the University of Michigan, individual broods have ranged from 2 to 54 young. Upon dissecting one wild caught specimen, she found 167 young.

Goodeids are not being imported from Mexico for commercial gain and at this time it appears unlikely that any but a few species will ever get into the aquarium hobby. I have seen only 8 species in hobbyists tanks and have heard of no others that are being kept.

The 8 species currently in the hobby are listed below. Where known, common names are given. Jacobs' book seems to be in conflict in most instances with accepted names and the drawings he includes. Lyons is currently working on the family and hopefully names and species and pictures will be better identified in the near future.

Xenotoca elseni is surely the most widespread and well known of the Goodeids...the infamous Redtail. It's a stocky, active little fish with a nasty reputation as a fin nipper. I've kept this species for over two years and find them friendly little fish. But, please, don't keep them with smaller or slower fish or fish with long flowing fins. Ours do quite well with South American cichlids, sharks and loaches.

(Continued)

Livebearers - Continued

Xenotoca variata, the Jeweled Goodeid, is another fish I have recently begun to work with. It's not quite as stocky as the Redtail and doesn't seem to grow as quickly. Shape is similar to the Redtail and it has a speckled appearance. Males have a creamy colored tail and our large male also has a black band on the inside (which I hear is not common to all). Not a showy fish.

Ameca splendens, Butterfly Goodeid, is similar in markings to the variata and grows to a larger size. A nice looking fish. Reportedly have large (almost an inch) fry and are peaceful.

Goodea atripinnis, Black-fin Goodea, is a fish I kept for several months with little success. I found the male to be very mean to the female and also to any other fish kept in with him. They were basically silver, slender fish and reminded me a little of minnows.

Characodon lateralis, Rainbow Goodeid, is in my opinion one of the prettiest of the Goodeids. The only ones I saw were in Detroit and one male was a lovely red color. Reportedly hard to maintain. May need hard, alkaline water and frequent water changes.

Ataemlobus toweri, Blue-tailed Goodeid, is the most primitive of the Goodeids and the only one lacking the trophotaeniae. Also a hard to maintain species. I found them to be a pretty blue fish when seen in reflected light. Not at all common.

Xenoporphus captivus, Green Goodeid, is another reportedly hard to keep species. They were in this area several years ago, but as far as I can tell, they have died out. Stock is still being maintained in Detroit. A rather dull looking fish.

Zoogoneticus quitzeensis, Picotee Goodeid, is my newest addition. As I've heard before, "It's not even as long as its name." It grows to only 40mm (not quite 2 inches) and a pretty little fish. The body of the fish is marked with large dark blotches with the female being a little more colorful. Males have a nice reddish-orange edge to the dorsal fin. Peaceful. Can't comment on spawning them...yet!

Generally speaking, I've found the four Goodeids I've kept easy to maintain. They will eat any foods and plenty of it. They don't seem to bother their young, but have been known to eat or kill them in some instances. When males (of the Redtails at least) get older, they become infertile or otherwise quit spawning. This group of fish is interesting and offers hobbyists the opportunity to work with something new and make their own observations.

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