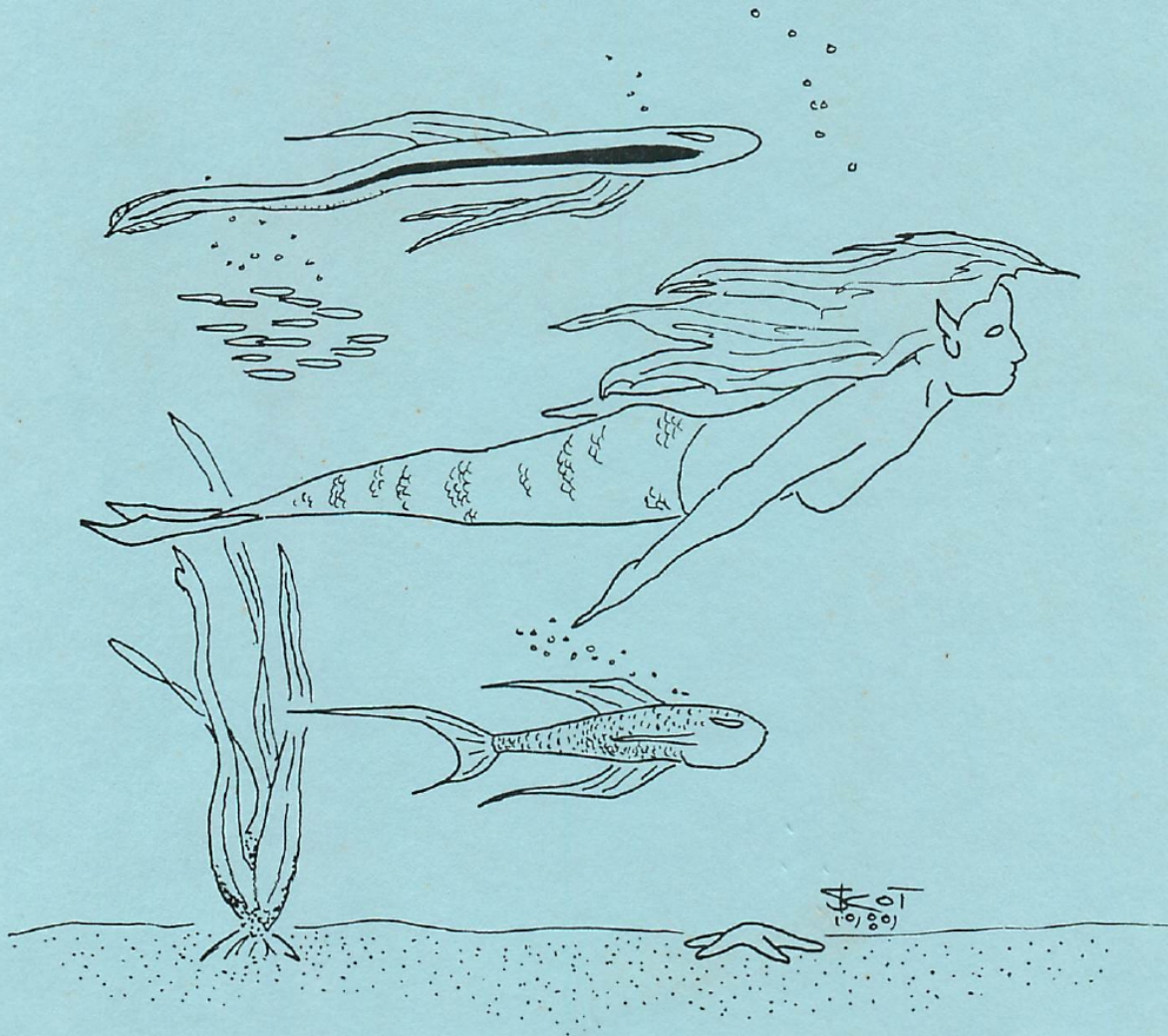


**THE
DARTER**

July/Aug '89



**PUBLICATION
of the**

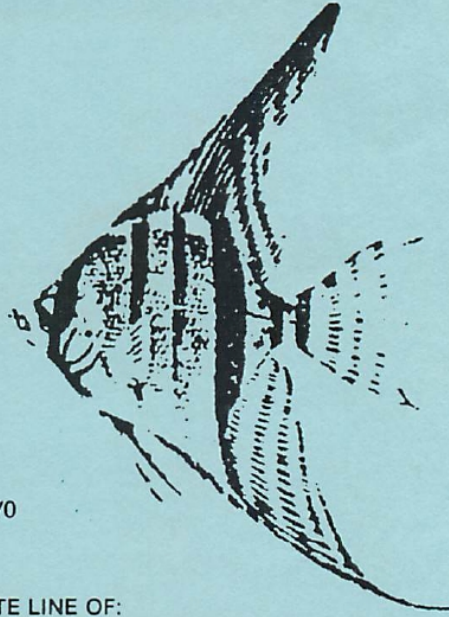
MISSOURI AQUARIUM SOCIETY, INC.

BELDT'S AQUARIUM

7029 Howdershell Rd.
Hazelwood, Missouri

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1 mile west of Lindbergh and I-270



HOURS

Mon. - Fri.	9 to 9
Saturday	9 to 6
Sunday	1 to 6

COMPLETE LINE OF:

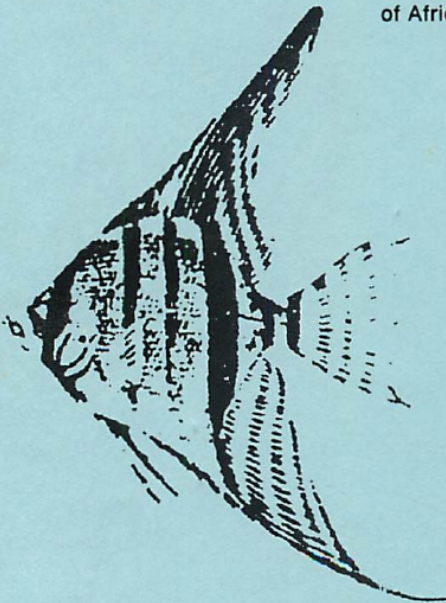
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SHOW OFF - SIGN OFF

Jim Mueller

After reading my last Show Report, I realized that I must have been in quite a hurry to complete it, and I guess, I may have been anxious to put the show behind me. There were quite a few thanks that I had left out.

I will try to convince you that I had, at least partially, thanked many of the people who were from out of town by including them in my thank you to the show entrants, but there were many more.

First. I should have never overlooked the efforts of Dr. Paul Loiselle and Pat Hartmann for serving as speakers and judges. The judging, once again, took a long time, but they persevered and still presented their talks. Dr. Loiselle even had to provide the late show after the banquet.

Second, we had a strong contingent of other judges from beyond the St. Louis area - Al Anderson, Charlie Grimes, Vern Parish, Darrell Ullisch, Gary McKee, Jim Gaisor, Ron Coleman, and Klaus Schoening. Dr. Tomerson is from Edwardsville and John Allen, Elvis Bryant, Jim Thale, and Reet Thomas, all locals, helped to judge.

Third, Mardel Labs provided the First Place trophy for the Aquarium Beautiful Class. Hopefully, I'll have more time next year to go after that trophy again.

Fourth, I must recognize the part Tetra International played in subsidizing the cost of having Dr. Loiselle as a speaker. Tetra is demonstrating their strong commitment to the aquarium hobby.

Last, let me repeat my thanks to the Show Committee, the local specialty groups, and everyone with the smallest part in the weekend's activities.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIAM

I've also realized that I have failed to recognize the loss of a strong MASI member, Kenny Cope. You'll find his name missing from the roles of committee chairpersons, but I will miss him much more than that. Kenny's dedication and skills convinced me that I could make trophies almost as good as the ones he made. I'll always treasure those that I have. He's left a part of himself with us.

Thelma. take care and come see us, you're still part of the MASI family.

HAVE EGGS - WILL TRAVEL

By - Charlie Zesch

This story is about a breeding pair of bristle nose cats. I have a 20 gallon long aquarium with a divider in the middle, and a pair of breeder angels on each side. There is a slate on each side, slanted against the back and also an inside filter. The algae grew very thick in this tank, and I decided to add the bristle nose, one to each side, with the female on the left.

The algae was gradually disappearing. One day when looking in the tank, I noticed both bristle nose on the right side. I just thought that the female had run out of algae and climbed over the divider, which is a little lower than the sides of the tank, but one inch above the water.

A couple more weeks went by and there she was on the right again. I saw the two of them interacting, or doing a little hanky-panky! Peggy Scott stopped by later and I told her about the wandering bristle nose. I turned the slate to see if there were any eggs on the back. No, but there were two clumps on the back wall, which I put into a separate container with Marvel Med to hatch. I didn't leave them in the tank because the angels would eat the eggs, or the young when they hatched. The male chased one of the angels, and was around my fingers when I removed the eggs.

The next morning I went to move the female, but she was already back on the left side! No more hanky-panky for awhile. Someday I might be lucky enough to see her actually making this move. It would be nice to know how she does it for sure!

TREASURES

By Robert (Bob) Huels

Having recently moved into my first home with sufficient space for a fish room, I began to realize just what all I needed. The corner of my familyroom in our old house seemed to be overflowing, but the 1/2 basement I now allow the fish to call home is quite empty and if you have ever bought a new home you know my wallet is also empty. One fine Saturday morning my wife suggested we go to some of the garage sales around town. I was amazed at all the fantastic treasures. Imagine a 15 gallon aquarium with some gravel and hood for only \$ 4.50 and some airpumps or heaters for ¢ .50 each.

Sure we found these very obvious items of grandeur, but with a little bit of imaginative thinking we see an old washtub for \$ 2.00 that could easily hold 30 to 40 gallons of water and 40 to 50 young gouramis as a brooding tank. At the next stop a plastic 55 gallon drum, when cleaned becomes a vessel with which to hold and age water, also a few pieces of floor tile from some-ones new kitchen floor would make a great spawning platform for my gold angelfish. There is a guy at the flea market who wants ¢ .25 for his 1 gallon pickle jars that any betta would happily call home. The \$ 3.50 plastic wadding pool could easily be made into a small goldfish pond with a little time and landscaping. Good, clean, 5 gallon buckets are always in demand and so are one and two quart canning jars.

Now lets get real imaginative, another booth at the flea market is asking \$ 15.00 for the two pumps out of an old soda fountain machine, and they could work great for pumping water up from the pond to the top of a waterfall or to move some water from the ageing tub to our aquarium without spillage. If you really listen hard to those clear plastic sweater boxes they seem to say "guppy show tanks" to you. Then there is the ultimate in imagination, a long handled bathroom tub and tile scrubber that would finally make it possible to get the 45 gallon hex tank clean.

Well, I could go on and on but I bet you get the idea, there are many uses for almost every item out there. I don't think you should become a total junk collector, but one persons junk is often the aquarists dream come true.

THE LABYRINTH'S LAIR

Fred & Sue Cotterell
Missouri Aquarium Society

EXPERIENCE WITH THE SPIKETAIL PARADISE FISH

We always look for different and unusual Anabantoids. We spotted some Spiketail Paradise fish at the Pet Palace in Arnold. There was some discussion as to the whether these specimen were *Pseudosphromenus dayi* or *P. cupranus* (We us the "P." as the genus name is too long.) These fish turned out to be *P. cupanus*. Jorg Vierke, in his book "Bettas, Gouramis and Other Anabantoids - Labyrinth Fishes Of The World", (TFH #TS104), points out some differences. One difference was clearly demonstrated during a recent spawning, our first. The *Cupanus* female approaches the male in a typical Anabantoid fashion, head down, while the *Dayi* raises its head.

The *Cupanus* is an interesting fish. At first glance, it looks to be a bit drab, but the color comes out as the fish reaches sexual maturity. The female turns black/brown while the male develops a definite point to his caudal fin and a brick-red cast to his fins.

We house our pair in a square breeder tank of twenty gallons that Sue calls her "Pond". The water is soft and acidic, 90-100 ppm and 6.8 pH. We use a water softening resin in an outside filter that is attached to a home-made sponge filter. We keep the temperature at 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Our pair spawned in the typical labyrinth fashion. They built a nest under a floating leaf about the size of a half-dollar. Both male and female gathered the sinking eggs. One note is that the male *Cupanus* was a total gentleman - the female did not suffer a split or a tear. The fry hatched in about twenty-four hours and they were free-swimming within another twenty-four. We fed newly hatched brine shrimp and finely powdered flake food.

We hope that you'll try something new. It doesn't have to be rare or exotic. Just make sure it's an Anabantoid! We're sure you'll enjoy them.

Miscellany #1 - A short book review.

Some time ago, Sue and I reported on H. J. Richter's Anabantoid book, "Gouramis and Other Anabantoids" (TFH #PST874). Well, now there is a new one - Jorg Vierke's "Bettas, Gouramis and Other Anabantoids - Labyrinth Fishes Of The World", (TFH #TS104). It's concise and well written, listing the various genus by geographical area - from the *Ctenopmas* to *Trichopsis*. The color photos are well executed. As soon as we obtained our copy, it became our "Wish Book" - "Gee, I wish that fish was available!!

Mr. Vierke covers in some detail habitats, spawning behavior and aquarium set-up. We are amazed at the number of species he has personally discovered and identified. He has the distinction of finding and

identifying some of the more unusual bettas. His writing style his simple and even I can understand his taxonomic key, listed at the beginning of the species section. This section covers aquarium set-up, maintenance, breeding and availability.

On a scale of 1 to 10, we rate this book a 10! Get it and read it.

Miscellany #2 - Anabantoid Interest

Recently, during MASI's annual show weekend, fellow GBBA member, Gerald Griffin and I discussed the formation of a specialty group interested in the keeping, breeding, and showing of the labyrinth fishes - AANA, the Anabantoid Association of North America. We invite all interested parties to drop Gerald or myself a line.

* * * * *

SHOW CIRCUIT

- AUG 4 - 6 Greater Akron Aquarium Society Annual All Species Show
Summit County Fair Ground
Info: 216-456-3601 or 216-848-3856
- AUG 10 - 13 International Cichlid Conference
Hyatt Orlando, Kissimmee, FL
Info: 419A Hiden Brook Dr., Glen Burnie, MD 21061
- AUG 16 - 20 Southwestern Michigan Aquarium Society 10th Annual Show
Southland Mall, Kalamazoo/Portage, MI
Info: S.M.A.S., P.O. Box 3175, Kalamazoo, MI 49003
- SEP 1 - 3 Tri-County Tropical Fish Society 21st Annual Show
Twin Towers Mall, Peoria, IL
70% / 30% Auction
Entry Deadline: August 9, 1989
Info: Roger Hallen, 301 Baylor, East Peoria, IL 61611
- SEP 8 - 10 Greater Cincinnati Killifish Association "Killie Revue '89"
Drawbridge Inn, Fort Mitchell, KY
Info: Mark DelRaso, 113 Broadmeadows, Columbus, OH 43214
- SEP 15 - 17 Greater Fairfield County Aquarium Society Fintasia '89
River Valley Mall, Lancaster, OH
Info: 614-687-5889
- SEP 29 -
OCT 01 1989 FAAS & American Liverbearer Association Convention
Newmarket Hilton, Canton, OH
Info: 216-454-7722
- OCT 14 - 15 Illinois Cichlids & Scavengers 5th Annual Bowl-A-Thon
Holiday Inn, Midway Airport, Ford City, IL
Info: 312-452-1988

MISSOURI AQUARIUM SOCIETY, INC
BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAM

I. PURPOSE:

To encourage members of the Society to breed fishes and to assemble information concerning their spawning and rearing, thereby making available to the hobby a wider variety of fishes; to recognize achievements by members concerning the breeding of fishes; to promote greater participation by members in the activities of the Society.

II. ADMINISTRATION:

- A. The Breeders Award Program (BAP) shall be administered by a Breeders Award Program Committee (BAPC) consisting of a Chairperson appointed by the President, and 3 to 5 additional members appointed by the Chairperson.
- B. The BAPC Chairperson shall set up and maintain a record system containing all pertinent data, along with a file of spawning reports submitted. He/She shall be responsible for preparation and presentation of awards, and for sub-mission of information to the editor for publication.
- C. The BAPC shall be responsible for the placement of fishes into point classifications, and shall maintain and distribute to members a list of these classifications. From time to time, it may be necessary to reclassify certain fishes. In case of higher classification, all previously reported spawnings shall receive the additional points. In the event a classification is lowered, only future points will be affected.
- D. Any member may request that the point classification of any species be either raised or lowered; any member may also request that a point classification be made for any species not included on the current list.
- E. Any changes or additions to the classifications shall be published in the society's publication, and, as deemed necessary by the BAPC revised lists shall be distributed.
- F. All decisions of the BAPC relative to this program shall be final and binding.
- G. The BAPC Chairperson shall keep a record of participating members points totals, to be published in the Society's publication at least twice a year.

III. GENERAL RULES:

- A. Participants must be MASI members in good standing.
- B. All fish entered by a member into the BAP must be conditioned and maintained in his/her own tank. The breeding of the fish and raising of the fry must be done in the same manner.

BREEDERS' AWARD PROGRAM (contd):

- C. Points will be assigned in the names of couples (i. e. John and Mary Doe), in the name of a family (i. e. Doe family), or in the name of an individual (i. e. John Doe).
- D. In order to be credited with spawning any species, the member must spawn and rear to at least 60 days of age at least 10 fry. The fry shall be displayed at the first general meeting following their having reached 60 days of age, EXCEPT where noted for classes "D" and "E", in which case special rules apply. (NOTE: Participants are encouraged to donate fry or fish to the BAP auction.)
- E. All spawning reports must be submitted upon approved BAPC forms. After being verified and signed by the BAPC Chairperson, a copy shall be returned to the member submitting the report.
- F. In the GENERAL BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAM, points will be awarded only once for any species, regardless of variety. Sub-species and color varieties will be awarded credit in the SPECIALTY BREEDERS AWARD PROGRAM as detailed in paragraph VI.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR SPAWNING CREDIT ACCORDING TO CLASSIFICATION:

Species will be classified according to five levels of difficulty, Classes A, B, C, D, and E. Requirements for receiving credit for spawnings from the various classes are as follows:

CLASS A (five points) General Rules apply.

CLASS B (ten points) General Rules apply.

CLASS C (fifteen points) General Rules apply.

CLASS D (twenty points) General rules apply. In addition, the participant must write an article for the Society's publication, and/or present a 5 minute talk on their experience spawning this species. In addition, a member of the BAPC must be notified and given the opportunity to witness the spawn and spawning conditions within two weeks after spawning. If the breeder does not wish to bring the fry to the general meeting after they have reached 60 days of age, the BAPC Chairperson must be notified and given the opportunity to witness the fry again after they have reached the age of 60 days, and no more than 90 days.

CLASS E (thirty points) General rules apply. Additional requirements same as Class D apply. In addition to the requirements of Class D, a member of the BAPC must be notified within 72 hours of the spawning.

NOTE: In all Classes, the date of spawning shall be considered to be the date the eggs hatch, and the date of birth for livebearers.

BREEDERS' AWARD PROGRAM (contd):

V. ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS - GENERAL BAP:

GENERAL BAP RULES APPLY TO ALL LEVELS:

NOVICE BREEDER - This award will be presented ONLY to NOVICE MEMBERS. Novice members must breed any three species, subject to the following requirements: At least three different genera must be represented; both egglayers and livebearers must be represented.

GENERAL BREEDER - Member must receive credit for spawnings totalling at least 50 points, subject to the following requirements: At least two species must be spawned which are classified as Class B or higher; at least 2 different families must be represented.

ADVANCED BREEDER - Member must receive credit for spawnings totalling at least 100 points, subject to the following requirements: At least three species must be spawned which are classified as Class B or higher; at least 3 different families must be represented.

SENIOR BREEDER - Member must receive credit for spawnings totalling at least 200 points, subject to the following requirements: At least three species must be spawned which are classified as Class C or higher; at least 5 different families must be represented.

MASTER BREEDER - Member must receive credit for spawnings totalling at least 300 points, subject to the following requirements: At least one species must be spawned which is classified at Class D or higher; at least 5 different families must be represented.

GRAND MASTER BREEDER - Member must receive credit for spawnings totalling at least 500 points, subject to the following requirements: at least two species must be spawned which are classified as Class D or higher; at least 6 different families must be represented.

VI. ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS - SPECIALTY BAP:

"SPECIES" SPECIALTY BREEDER - Member must receive credit for spawning any 5 different sub-species or color varieties of any one species. (Example: *P. scalare*, *X helleri*, *B. splendens*, *L. reticulatus*, etc.) "GENUS" SPECIALTY BREEDER - Member must receive credit for spawning any 5 different species of any one genus. (Examples: *Aphyosemion* sp.; *Corydoras* sp., *Cichlasoma* sp., *Poecilia* sp., etc.)

"FAMILY" SPECIALTY BREEDER - Member must receive credit for spawning any 5 different species of any one of the following families. The BAPC may at any time add other families of fishes to this list at the request of members participating in the BAP.

BREEDERS' AWARD PROGRAM (contd):

FAMILY	EXAMPLES OF FISH IN FAMILY
ANABANTIDAE	Bettas, paradise fish, gouramis, etc.
CALLICHTHYDAE	Cordoras catfish, brochus catfish, etc.
CHARACIDAE	Tetras, hatchetfish, headstanders, pencilfishes, etc.
CICHLIDAE	Angelfish, discus, oscars, "kribs", dwarf cichlids, etc.
COBITIDAE	Botias, all other species of loaches
CYPRINIDAE	Barbs, rasboras, "sharks", goldfish, koi, etc.
CYPRINODONTIDAE	Killifishes, all species.
POECILIDAE	Guppies, platies, mollies, variatus, etc.

NOTE: General Rules apply to all levels of the Specialty BAP. Spawnings will be credited to all applicable specialty levels; i.e., *Xiphophorus helleri* (Swordtail, red) would be credited to the General BAP (Class A, 5 points), to the "Species BAP (*X. helleri*, red), and to the "Family" BAP Poeciliidae

Specialty BAP awards will be presented only upon request of the participant, who must notify the BAPC Chairperson when any appropriate level has been reached.

VII. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

BAP participants spawning species classified in categories D and E will be required to share their knowledge and experience by writing an article for the Society publication and/or presenting a five minute talk on their experience spawning that species. While not specifically required to do so, participants spawning species in categories A, B, and C, are also encouraged to share their experience in the same manner.

VIII. AWARDS:

All awards will be presented to recipients at the regular general meetings, and notice will be published in the Society's publication in recognition of the member's accomplishments. Awards for Master Breeder and Grand Master Breeder will in addition be recognized publicly at the Annual Show banquet.

Members qualifying for Novice Breeder Award will be presented a suitably inscribed certificate. Members qualifying to receive the General Breeders Award will be presented a plaque with a brass inscribed plate specifying the award and the date received. Upon reaching each successive level of the program, members will be presented a brass inscribed plate to be added to the plaque. Upon reaching the Grand Master Breeders Award, the member will be presented a trophy in addition to the brass plate. Members qualifying for each level of the Specialty BAP will be presented a plaque with a brass inscribed plate. Additional awards for each level will consist of a brass inscribed plate to be added to the plaque.