



GEORGE TAYLOR

THE CANBERRA AQUARIUM SOCIETY

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NEWS BULLETIN
of
THE ANTWERP AQUARIUM SOCIETY

"G U P P"

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The Author of each article is responsible for the
facts and opinions recorded.

NEXT MEETING will be held at 2 Cockle St., O'Connor on October 4th; at 7.30 p.m. SHARP.

- Programme:
- 7.30 Opening and Business
 - 8.00 "Naturalist Aquarium", the 5th lecture about aquarium by Wim.
 - 8.45 Coffee break.
 - 9.00 "Have a location aquarium, similar to a swamp in Sumatra, or a jungle-type of Malaya". The 6th and last lecture of a series about aquarium by Wim.
 - 10.00 Question time.

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At the next meeting Wim will give a talk about a naturalist aquarium. This means a naturalist aquarium as an aquarium or as a paludarium. This last type of aquarium is only 2/3 covered with water so that there are some plants growing above the water surface.

He will also talk about the use of wood, Corkbark and peat in this type of aquarium.

Wim will give some suggestions on the location aquarium, which means that an aquarium has all the plants and fish from one location: (as mentioned above; Malaya, Sumatra and Ceylon).

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There are no questions this month printed, but we hope that every one has some questions during the meeting.

HOW TO MOVE AN AQUARIUM (or how not to do it)

A few weeks ago we had to move from one house to another. The first thing that came into my mind was 'how are we going to move the aquarium'.

We let it go until the last minute and borrowed a utility truck from a friend. I spent about half an hour to catch the fish, but all I achieved was a lot of muddy water and most of the plants uprooted. So the next best thing I could think of was to empty most of the water out of the aquarium and leave the fish in. It still weighed very heavy, but with the help of a friend we finally got it into the truck.

When we got it into the new house and on the stand all I could see was a lot of mud.

A couple of hours later it started to clear and after counting the fish we found that we hadn't lost any. At night we proceeded to fill the aquarium by jugs of heated water and mixing it with cold water in a bucket until it reached 75 degrees.

All night we left the under-sand filter going and by morning it was as clear as crystal and the fish were happily swimming around.

Since then we have had quite a number of young guppies and they are keeping themselves alive by hiding in the topweed.

This might not be the correct way to move an aquarium but as we didn't have much time on our hands it seemed the only way out.

So you see, there is only one way to keep fish alive and that is to bring them up tough!

Chris Ludé.

HAVE A DIFFERENT SHAPED AQUARIUM

A short review of the lecture given by W.J.M. Vestjens at the last meeting.

A. TRIANGLE AQUARIUM.

Sometimes it is very hard to find a good place in the room without moving the furniture around. So, a corner can be used. With this aquarium you fill the whole corner and the largest side (the front) is facing towards the room, so that you get the best view of the aquarium.

Two different designs were given. One in which rocks were used without terraces and an other without a rock background. In both cases the plants were arranged in such a way, that in the middle a funnel between the plants was used that ended somewhere in the 90° corner in the back, which would give a lot of depth to the aquarium. Plants needing a lot of light should be planted in a position where they can get daylight from a window. In an aquarium such as this *Cryptocoryne* will be very useful. *Vallisneria* is a plant that needs a lot of light.

In a terraced aquarium hairgrass could be used for the background. In the front of the hairgrass low terraces could be placed and three globes are used to light up different areas.

B. AN AQUARIUM WITH FIVE SIDES

Most people have rectangular aquariums. If placed in a position where they can be viewed from the whole lounge area they take up a lot of space. So why not use the corner? A five-sided aquarium is an ordinary aquarium with a triangular one on the back of it. That way you fill the whole corner and an enormous depth effect is achieved.

No terraces are used and the bottom is kept flat. A lot of plants are used (hairgrass is most important) and a solitary swordplant can be hidden behind some loose rocks. The best result of depth in the aquarium is obtained when the plants are planted in a way that two

funnel shaped channels are kept between them. Plants needing a lot of light should be planted in the foreground. Pigmy chain swordplant could cover a nice area in the foreground without blocking the two entrances of the channels. The lighting is similar to that mentioned about the triangular aquarium.

These two different shaped aquariums would be very useful in small living rooms. For those who will build their own home and who would like to make something special (it will take a lot of time too), this would be the ideal thing:

C. THE SCUTTLE-PORTR AQUARIUM

When in May 1948 the speaker went down in a diving-bell at Surabaya (Java) he saw the under-water-world through a round window. Later on, back in Europe, he wondered if the same effect could be achieved in a special shaped aquarium. A drawing was shown of an aquarium with a round window which was 2' wide and 2' high. The aquarium itself was 2' x 2' wide in the front, 2'6" deep and the length of the back 6'. The plants and rocks were put that way that above each plant group another plant-group or some rocks were seen. The bottom could be kept flat or going up in the back, but then only for 2". For rocks, slates should be used. The background must be of cliff-forming rock, and may be seen. In the middle an open space is kept. A lamp is placed in the back in such a way that the light is hidden so that the lightbeam drops between the plants or in the open space that is kept in the whole depth of the aquarium, except for a low solitary plant. Some places of the aquarium will never be seen. The back and both sides are useful for growing some new plants. The plants that could be used are several: Crypto's, Vallisneria, Eleocharis, Myriophyllis and echinoderus. Daylight will not penetrate this aquarium, so artificial light will be needed more than in other aquariums.

The space in front of both sides will be used for a store-room of aquarium equipment or a small bookshelf and be built in.

Those who are interested in building one of these aquariums are getting something special and the results are worthwhile.

Anyone who needs help, Wim is only too glad to help them in any way possible.

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UP TO THE COMPETITION

We won't need any copy for next month's magazine as it will be filled mainly with drawings of different aquarium designs mentioned at previous meetings.

The reason for this is that anyone can use the designs in their own way.

In the October issue you will find a form which can be used by those interested in entering their aquariums in the competition. Mr. G. Reyn and Wim Vestjens will form the committee which will judge all the aquariums at your own home. Any one can take part with one or more aquariums, except the committee. Each participant will receive a results list and there is a possibility that the best participant in a certain kind of aquarium will receive a prize. How the committee works will be told at the meeting in November.

After the next meeting (4 October) there will be about six weeks before the competition week (20-26 Nov.). Until the end of October the committee will help anyone wanting advice.

We hope that everyone will enter in this competition. Three weeks after this a show will be held and we are again asking for your support.

This show must be held at least a fortnight before Christmas.

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BY AIRMAIL

Some of us will remember the question "Do guppies lay eggs?".

This question was asked after my lecture in April of this year about breeding *Lebistes reticulatus*.

In "Guppy" Vol. I. No. 3. I mentioned on page 10 that I was putting the question to the experts.

Our secretary has written to the editor of T.F.H. William Vorderwinkler, and his answer is printed below.

Win.

T.F.H. PUBLICATIONS, INC.
TFH BUILDING. 245-247 Cornelison
Avenue, Jersey City 2. N.J.

25-7-1960

Dear Miss Meeny,

Guppies do not lay eggs. The eggs are retained by the female in the body and fertilized by the male who inserts his pointed anal fin or gonopodium into her genital opening. The eggs develop within the female's body and the perfectly formed tiny babies are released when they have developed fully.

It's a pleasure to answer an easy question like yours once in a while.

My regards to the Canberra Aquarium Society,

Sincerely yours,

(sgd.) William Vorderwinkler
EDITOR.

FOR SALE:

Mr. Mackenzie, 13 McKinlay St., Narrabundah, has some Pearl Gouramies for 10/ of which 2/ will go towards the club. He promised to bring some to the next meeting, so those who are interested may bring a jar. The fish are bred by Mr. Mackenzie himself and selected, so that you will receive the best fish.

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TUBIFEX

Wim Vestjens, 43 Sherbrooke St., Ainslie, has tubifex worms available now. Members are invited to obtain these worms on Saturday or Sunday morning (before 11.00 a.m.) because he is likely to go out later on in the day.

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FROM THE EDITORS:

Many thank to those who have kindly donated fish to members starting their aquarium.

Some money was received towards the club fund. It seems we are going in the right direction.

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Members who have suggested to write to other aquarium societies would you please bring along the addresses to the next meeting. Our secretary will only be too pleased to contact these societies.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please let us know your change in address.

It would be a lot easier for the editors if they know where to deliver your magazine.

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"SUGGESTIONS FOR A SPECIAL AQUARIUM"

A short review of the lecture given by Wim Vestjens at the last meeting.

General:

We can have special aquariums for : Guppies, Angel fish Discus fish, Dwarf Cichlids, Larger Cichlids, and others.

In designing a special aquarium we try to give the fish an ideal home: by putting only one or two kinds of fish in an aquarium. The behaviour of the fish will be very pure. There will be no interruption of other fish (no enemies either). What these fish need is an aquarium with plants to hide-place to play and a safe place to lay their eggs or put their young ones.

What we would like to have is a nice aquarium. A special aquarium is not natural: Guppies for example are found in dirty places with cloudy water full of green and brown algae. Examples were given of three special aquariums:

Guppies
Angel fish
and larger Cichlids.

This is because the two first mentioned fishes are common in Canberra, the third because of one or two cichlid tanks in Canberra.

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SPECIAL AQUARIUM: GUPPIES

The Aquarium size was given for a tank of 2'x1'x1'. It was suggested to put only males in the aquarium. The plants, only hairgrass with in one of the corners a terrace without any plants and also a rock in the foreground. Both, terrace and rock are used only for decoration. Wim suggested that females could be put in the aquarium, but only one male to every ten females.

SPECIAL AQUARIUM: Angel fish

Only a few good fishes are found in Canberra, because we find these fish in community tanks where sometimes fins are eaten by fish such as Barbus, Rivulus and Pristella.

In nature eggs are found on Vallisneria, Cryptocoryne, Sagittaria and sometimes on rocks. So we try to copy the natural conditions.

The aquarium size was given as 4' x 2' x 2' but we could have a smaller one (3'x2'x1½'). The background could be cemented with 3 or 4 lower clifflike rocks which are in the front of the background, or top of (which is a space that is kept open) some Crypto's could be planted. Riccia will grow on the surface of the cemented background and will hang down in the water. Further rocks that are used should have a rough surface. Somewhere in the middle some groups of Vallisneria or Bacoba could be used which plants are surrounded by rocks. Plants that are suggested for the centre: Vallisneria-Eleocharis-Bacoba-Cryptocoryne nevellii. The bottom should be sloping down towards the front window with a difference of 4" over the whole area. Daylight from the sides would not be appreciated by the Angel fish. They will not swim straight by side light and are hiding until daylight is gone.

The plants that are used are similar to the appearance of the fish. Several of the mentioned plants need a lot of light. A light between the cliff-like rocks would be necessary and also underneath a pit in the bottom somewhere between the front window and one of the rocks.

SPECIAL AQUARIUM; CICHLIDS.

Cichlids are fishes that are very difficult to keep in anice aquarium. We could put these fish in three groups:

- a. Diggers
- b. Fish that are diggers and also damage plants
- c. Fish like a + b and also eat
The plants

To know the behaviour is very important. Cichlids will fight with each other in the time between copulation and egg-laying. They will have a territory and they will watch this from certain corners. When the breeding time starts, fish will look everywhere in the aquarium for the best place to lay the eggs. The strong ones will take a territory. Territory holders will kill other fishes and the speaker found once a fish half eaten.

Wim mentioned an aquarium for group C.

The aquarium was divided into two parts: A with rough rocks. B with smooth rocks. The B part takes 2/3 of the aquarium and a high border of rocks is between the two parts with only one or two holes in it. The A part has some rocks with among them some plants, which are different for plant- and non plant eaters. Place A with the plants is kept darker than normal in the breeding time; the fish will move towards B, there the territories will be taken and the other fish are safe in A. The territory fish will find the smooth rocks of which some have artificial breeding places.

Some places are provided for moving sand without disturbing too much of the aquarium.

Five fishes of two different species could be put together, some have to be removed in breeding time. Only fully developed plants should be used.

Feed algae or lettuce in the breeding time. A filter is necessary.

Don't frighten the fish. Switching the full light on outside the aquarium or slamming doors could be fatal, not only for the breeding but also for the fish themselves, who could die of shock.

Drawings of all these aquariums will be given in the next issue.

SPECIAL
FROM THE EDITORS

When the aquarium Society was formed at the beginning of this year, we started off with about eleven Dutch members.

It was decided that in case we would get English speaking members we would naturally speak English at all meetings. And so the first English speaking member came and later on more.

To them our English sounded like double Dutch but still they understood that this was only a matter of time and patience.

We have noticed that at the meetings little groups are formed and too much Dutch is spoken. I think it is understandable that the English speaking members will get a very bad impression about this Society.

Come now, there are 2) or 30 days on which you can speak Dutch if you like, so keep the meetings a real English one.

On the other hand, sometimes there might be a word you can't translate. If this happens I'm sure that the other members will only be too pleased to help you with this little difficulty.

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Part of the "Behaviour of Fishes" could not be placed nor the list of plants (or drawings) this month. We hope to bring these in one of the following numbers.

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