

GUPPY ASSOCIATES OF TORONTO  
"RAGGED TALES"

"RAGGED TALES" is the official monthly publication of GUPPY ASSOCIATES  
of TORONTO.

Guppy Associates of Toronto is a non-profit organization dedicated to  
the task of promoting interest in the breeding and raising of Fancy  
Guppies and to encourage and teach beginners and juniors first steps  
in the hobby.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of Every month at 8:30  
P.M. at the I.O.O.F. Hall, 319 Keele Street Toronto.

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EXECUTIVE (TO DEC. 31, 1971)

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1971 Committee Members Appointed by Executive

Bob Harris: Monthly Show Chairman.	Don Cook: Bulletin.
Gabrielle Harris: Serials, Correspondence and Typing	
El. Cook: Program Chairman.	Evelyn Taylor: Typing.

PREVIOUS YEAR PRESIDENT

Jim Greensboro: 24 Morgan Rd. Scarborough Ontario 759-0057

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MEMBERSHIP RATES

Single Membership: \$5:00 per yr.	Husband & Wife: \$7:50 per yr.
Associate Member: \$2:50 per yr.	Junior to age 16, Free.

The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and  
writers and do not necessarily state or express the views and opinions  
of "GUPPY ASSOCIATES OF TORONTO".  
Comments on articles will be produced, space permitting.

### Vice-President's Message

Sitting in my fish room trying to write something for the monthly bulletin is not a usual habit of mine, but it seems I'm supposed to do it again this month, so here goes.

Our last meeting was one of the most enjoyable nights for me that I've had this year. First, let me say that it was not because I had to fill in for the president. I had a lot of fun up there, but the main reasons are a good turnout and some very active debates. I threw a variety of topics open for discussion and the response was terrific. Perhaps we didn't come to any concrete conclusions on those topics, but at least the opinions of a very interested group of members were heard. I hope we can iron out our ideas in coming months.

One topic which was viewed with mixed feelings was the matter of Best of Show Trophy for the end of next year. Now of course we will talk about this more at the next executive meeting and also at the club, but I'd like to say a few things about it now. As was pointed out, a trophy of this nature could very well end up going to the winner of the Rainbow Challenge Trophy as well. One member could take all the trophies and leave the other members empty handed. Some feel that this is good for the club's enthusiasm, others say it is bad. Without taking sides, let me point out two ways of looking at the situation as far as its effects on the club are concerned.

If one member wins most of the top awards, then his fish are obviously top quality and he deserves whatever rewards he can capture. Other members would have a goal to achieve, that of equalling or bettering these fish. Competition of this nature should improve the quality of fish for all those who get involved. Keen competition and top notch fish at the monthly show give a person a much better picture of what to expect at an international show and also improves his chances of winning.

This is one way in which members could look at the situation. Here is another, completely opposite view of what might happen. If one member wins considerably more than the rest, then he could be considered out of their class and it is therefore unfair for him to compete against them. Club enthusiasm falls off. Power and fewer members show fish because they think it is of no use. Now whether or not it is right for people to think this way is not the point. The fact is that one member is indirectly causing a break-up of the club.

As I said before, I am not choosing sides as to whether this type of domination is good or bad for the club. It depends upon the club members, and how they will react. I'm certainly not suggesting that our club has this situation at present. If it does occur however, it will be up to each of us individually to decide how he or she will react.

Some of you no doubt have other thoughts to add. When the matter of Best of Show Trophy is brought up again, don't be afraid to speak up. It should be an interesting debate.

The fish are literally dying for something to eat, so I'd better stop. This month is election month and I hope to see every member present. Bye for now

C.L.

### THE SHOW GUPPY IN A NUTSHELL

(Yet another article which is re-printed from the August 1971 issue of GUPPY ROUNDTABLE, the monthly publication of Pan Pacific Guppy Association, Alhambra, California)

(No, no, no.....you don't raise the guppy in a nut shell .....tanks are so much easier for looking into when sexing fry.)

The Guppy itself: Most guppies are friendly and obliging things. Stick a guppy in a tank and it will obligingly grow, unless badly mistreated. Stick a couple of guppies in a tank and they will obligingly present you with litter after litter of offspring (providing, that is, that they find each other of satisfactorily different sexes). Ignore the guppies and they will obligingly feed themselves....relieving you of all those excess littlrs of fry at the same time. How obliging can a fish be?

Guppy Stock: Always look for the best strain available. Along about here money can be very useful stuff...but its still fun to look.

Water: pH, dH, foulness, etc.: Though the smell of the "just right" guppy tank is rather indescribable, just imagine for a minute a warm, spring day and the old fishin' hole where the granddaddy trout hangs out. If your guppy tanks give off the same delicious aroma, your nose will tell you that the pH, dH, etc., are just dandy and no foulness exists. You really need no fancier tools.

Salt in Guppy Tanks: The salt must do something, but there is great disagreement between authorities...however, it's the kind of tradition that one would rather have than not have.

Feeding: To tell if a guppy needs food, gently tap the front glass of the tank. If all the fish come rushing flatteringly over to meet you..feed them. If your tap gains you the open-hearted welcome of a typhoid carrier, don't feed...it serves them right.

Sexing: The male guppies have colors that are bright, splashy and of many rainbow hues. The females' colors are mostly 'blah', you can't miss them. The female also tends to be rather bulgy around the waistline....especially if you didn't discover her before the male did.

Size: Bigness seems to be an American institution in everything from buildings to cars...and the poor guppy is no exception. It would seem that if one wanted whales, the best bet would be to start with a pair of whales... but guppy breeders like a little more challenge so they start with the tiny guppy and work hind-end-to toward the whale goal.

Showing: When showing your guppies keep repeating "praise from others is nice but not necessary...praise from others is nice but not necessary...etc." It will help you keep from strangling that judge who so blithely put your pride and joy in last place. Another popular route to take is to leave all your fish at home.....it is a warm feeling to view the top place fish and smugly KNOW that you have bigger, better and more colorful ones in your own tanks.

Show Guppy....2

The main disadvantages being that no one believes you... and that you will have to buy all your own trophies (but they are cheaper in the long run than show entry fees anyway.) If, by chance, you should enter and win, be prepared for accusations that you cheated and started whale-end-to and bred back toward the guppy.....many breeders frown on such sneakiness.

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T O N I G H T I S E L E C T I O N N I G H T

The following Members were nominated at the October 21, 1971 meeting:-

<u>President:</u>	Chris McKay Cal Self Al Cook
<u>1st Vice-President:</u>	Doug Robinson Tom Cook Al Cook
<u>2nd Vice-President:</u>	Bob Harris Norm Hamilton Paul Sciberras Doug Robinson
<u>Recording Secretary:</u>	Mrs. Maggie Snell
<u>Corresponding Secretary:</u>	Mrs. Gabrielle Harris
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Frank Ryan Al Cook Art Taylor

Additional nominations will be accepted at the November 18, 1971 meeting immediately prior to the Annual Election.

EVERY REGULAR MEMBER SHOULD BE OUT AT THE NOVEMBER 18, 1971, MEETING to cast his or her vote for those of the above nominees he or she feels will give Guppy Associates of Toronto the BEST POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE for the year 1972.

## THE METHYLENE BLUE MYTH

by Joseph M. DEvlin  
Curator of the Museum of Pathology  
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

(The following article is re-printed from the August, 1971 issue of GUPPY ROUNDTABLE, the monthly publication of Pan Pacific Guppy Association, Alhambra, California, which was re-printed from "Fish Culturist" as per footnote.)

It is difficult to account for the current widespread use of Methylene Blue in the treatment of ailing tropical fishes. Now looked upon as a panacea, it appears to be used as a curative agent in almost any disease from algosis to zo-osis. Actually, methylene blue falls far short of its reputation as a miracle drug. Concisely, methylene blue is of doubtful value when employed as a therapeutic or anticeptic agent!

The author has conducted quite a number of experiments wherein various protozoa and fungi which attack fishes were cultured in media to which methylene blue was added in concentrations approximating dosages commonly used in the treatment of infected fishes. Most parasites thus tested were observed to grow just as well in the methylene blue as those (controls) grown in the same media without the dye. Fungi, in particular, thrived in the dye, thus methylene blue's value as a fungicide can be discredited.

Can anyone imagine the treating of tenacious fungus diseases, such as ringworm or athlete's foot in the human with a mild solution of methylene blue? All fungus diseases are insidious, and it takes powerful chemicals to kill the causitive micro-organisms. The problem is to destroy the parasites without injuring host tissue. In fungus diseases of the human skin this is difficult enough, but a fish under treatment must swim in its treatment; it must swallow it; and the chemical must come in direct contact with sensitive gills.

It might be argued that I have based my conclusions on astudy of fish pathogens grown under artificial conditions, which, to a degree, is true. However, some of the most common obligate parasites were studied in living hosts. My findings were invariably the same---no evidence that methylene blue was of any benefit to the diseased fishes.

Furthermore, methylene blue did not serve well as a 'preventive' medicine for fishes reared in it. When such fishes were fed tubifex and other 'wild foods', the incidence of disease was about equal to that observed in control fishes reared in ordinary aquarium water.

Why then is methylene blue so popular a fish remedy? I am convinced that it has become so widely used simply because it makes the keeper (not the fish) feel better.

## Methylene Blue....2

It cannot harm even the most delicate baby fishes, so the keeper feels that he has done something for his poor, sick charges. The water is blue...he can SEE that he has done something!

A most important use for methylene blue has been completely overlooked; the dye makes an excellent algaecide! It does not kill the algae by direct contact, but rather it starves the algae by screening out the red rays of the light spectrum which are needed by all green plants if they are to carry on the important life process called photosynthesis. Perhaps this is why we so often hear that 'methylene blue does no harm to fishes, but is hard on aquarium plants.'

The use of methylene blue in this manner is essentially equivalent to the turning off of the aquarium lights or darkening the fish room, except that the blue dye provides a way of filtering out only the kind of light necessary to algae without interfering with the daily rhythm of the fishes.

Methylene blue has been used in pathology and histology laboratories for many years, and it is today perhaps the most important bacteriological stain. But its use in the aquarium world is relatively new, and I believe its possibilities have not yet been fully explored. The dye has a number of interesting aspects. For instance, it falls just short of being an indicator of bad water. When water to which methylene blue has been added turns foul, it loses its dissolved oxygen, smells of hydrogen sulfide, and loses its blue color. In other words, the methylene blue molecule robs the hydrogen sulfide molecule of its hydrogen atoms and thus is reduced to a new, colorless compound called leucomethylene blue, or 'methylene white'.

H <sub>2</sub> S	Mb	S	MbH <sub>2</sub>
Hydrogen sulfide	- plus Methylene blue	-----Sulphur	plus Methylene white

Upon the clearing of the water and the return of dissolved oxygen, the blue color reappears. This is so because the methylene white is oxidized back into methylene blue.

MbH <sub>2</sub>	1/2 O <sub>2</sub>	Mb	H <sub>2</sub> O
Methylene white	plus Oxygen	----methylene blue	plus water

Methylene blue is not a good indicator of foul aquarium water simply because it gives the warning signal when it is too late to save the fishes. However, I think it is a good idea to use the dye as an indicator in infusoria cultures. All too often small fry are killed by feeding them 'infusoria' which is nothing more than polluted water.

(reprint from "Fish Culturist", Feb. 1958, by way of Modern Aquarium, 5-71)

### THE VALUE OF FEMALES IN BREEDING

(This excellent article by the renowned Warren E. Young of Libby Betta fame, as well as a veteran Guppy authority, is taken from the super Tenth Anniversary Edition (June, 1971) of "LYRETAILS", the monthly publication of Exotic Aquarium Society of N.J., Inc.)

During the years in the tropical fish hobby, I am amazed in the lack of articles and information about, to me, the most important fish that we have in our fish room, namely the female of the specie.. Without her, things would be somewhat dull. For some unknown reason, the average hobbyist regards the female as a necessity that is needed to bear young fry and they have no control, at all, as to what the next generation will be like.

The female has a lot to do about the size and finnage of your next generation and also a good deal about color. Now that we have said it, let's go about proving it. To do this, let us first go to the fish that has done more to enlighten the hobbyist about the value of the female than any other fish, the Guppy.

The majority of good Guppy breeders do their breeding by trios, a combination of one male and two females. The idea is to find out what combination is producing the fish, that he is after. I usually mark my females by cutting the top of one tail and the bottom of the other. Their fry will be kept in separate tanks, marked in this way. In two or three months we can tell if we have anything worth keeping. If we have a good pair, we discard the other female and its fry and try another female until we get what we want, using three or four breeding tanks or any amount you have the room for, and it won't be long before you are producing good fish. Never ask a Guppy breeder to sell you his breeding stock, because you are then risking the chance of being shown the door in a hurry.

The question always arises that if you go through all this trouble, why don't all your females throw good fish in following generations; it is true that the better a line is set, the better your chances are for having a larger amount of good females, but for some unknown reason, to me, fish will go backwards toward their original state much faster than they will go forward. So, it is always a battle to find the right females.

I am sure that you all know of cases of people who have produced good fish for one or two years and then seem to lose everything and the fish have gone back to nothing. A good deal of this is caused by their inability to find, or take the time to find, pairs or trios that will produce the fish that they originally had.





MONTHLY FISH SHOW RESULTS (October)

RED MIDTAIL CLASS	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Maggie Snell Maggie Snell Maggie Snell Maggie Snell	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Doug Robinson Maggie Snell Cal Self	65 32 12
BLU/GRN MIDTAIL CLASS	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Paul Sciberras Paul Sciberras Paul Sciberras Paul Sciberras	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Paul Sciberras Chris McKay Cal Self Al Cook	76 5 5 2
H.F./DECK MID TAIL CLASS	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Cal Self Cal Self Cal Self Cal Self	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Bob Harris Cal Self Doug Robinson Jim Gage	37 24 13 13
A.O.C. MID TAIL CLASS	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Paul Sciberras Steve Birks Paul Sciberras Paul Sciberras	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Paul Sciberras Doug Robinson Steve Birks Chris McKay	45 32 7 5
FEMALE CLASS	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Cal Self Cal Self Cal Self Cal Self	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Cal Self Paul Sciberras Doug Robinson Chris McKay	75 11 11 5
A.O.V. CLASS	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Horn Hamilton Horn Hamilton Horn Hamilton Horn Hamilton	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Horn Hamilton Doug Robinson Maggie Snell Chris McKay	45 17 7 4
NOVIC CLASS	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	William Bowman William Bowman Frank Ryan Frank Ryan	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	William Bowman Frank Ryan	37½ 16
JUNIOR CLASS	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Mike Sciberras Mike Sciberras Mike Sciberras Mike Sciberras	1st 2nd 3rd 4th	John Satok Mike Sciberras	33 32

The above standings have been noted and recorded.

Date: October 21, 1971

Bob Harris  
Monthly Fish Show  
Chairman.