



**NORTHERN GOLDFISH
& PONDKEEPERS
SOCIETY**
A Nationwide Society
NEWSLETTER



December 2017



Merry Christmas to all our members



Goldfish, Frankincense & Myrrh

To see the video & hear audio of the above photo – click/tap here:

<https://www.facebook.com/northerngoldfishsociety/videos/1552843524804106/>

If the Link does not work, go to our website for PC

(www.northerngoldfishsociety.com) and click the Facebook symbol on the top right of the Home Page. Choose 'NGPS' and 'Videos' on the page if scrolling down does not show it. Of course, if you are already in Facebook, choose: @northerngoldfishsociety

In case you are wondering – the Goldfish are sublimely indifferent to the flashing lights, although they do get excited that it might mean they are going to be fed. The active lights are only switched on briefly for visitors and most of the time the fish swim in their watery, peaceful gloom.

Top Tips

Alan Ratcliffe offered several tips at the November meeting, so they can be published well into the new year. Here's the first...

When buying pond or aquarium plants, if they are not a familiar named variety you can easily check if really aquatic. Marginals are sometimes offered as aquarium plants, or even labelled submersible varieties for a pond.

Hold the plant base and see if it stands proud or flops over. Marginal or terrestrial plants have lots of cellulose to grow against gravity and this makes them stand upright, whereas true aquatics are supported by the water and so do not need lots of cellulose. They will collapse in air. Ok to buy.

Member News

Members asked, 'Who is Mike Kirkham' as featured in the winners' photos in the Nationwide Open Show (see page 3 of www.northerngoldfishsociety.com).

He is a member of the AMGK and the Catfish Study Group, but most active with the Anabantoid Association of Great Britain. This is because he is a keen hobby breeder especially Betta splendens (as well as running a Plumbing & Heating firm).

He was at the FBAS Festival of Fishkeeping this year, selling his home bred Goldfish. These are



from the 150 tanks & vats in his fishhouse.



His fishkeeping spans more than 35 years and the Goldfish breeding is mainly Ryukins. He owns this particularly good Ryukin, which won a First at the Bradford & District Aquarist Society (to YAAS Rules) in 2016 and again in 2017. This same fish won a First (to Nationwide Rules) at the Nationwide OS 2017. Mike should be a member of NGPS (working on it).

Goldfish and Pond News

Winter is nigh, and the ponds will freeze over. We all know about (gently) making a hole in the ice to allow CO₂ to escape and O₂ to enter, but it may not happen – yet the Goldfish still survive. The research scientists at the University of Oslo in Norway and our University of Liverpool collaborated on finding how Goldfish do it – the work being funded by the research Council of Norway.

Their findings were published this year (with this photo of their laboratory Goldfishes) ...



How the Goldfish survive in the Oxygen-deficient depths of the frozen ponds was found to be due to the fishes' ability to convert lactic acid into ethanol. When you run up many stairs you feel a burning sensation in your legs. This is because you are producing energy too fast for Oxygen to react within the blood and energy is produced anaerobically. Instead of Carbon dioxide, to be swept away by the blood, Lactic acid is produced and that burns.

In the Oxygen-deficient frozen depths Goldfish (and Carp – this is why the Norwegians are interested in the researches) produce Lactic acid too, but instead of a build-up to damaging levels, the fish convert it to alcohol! This is transported to the gills and excreted. The biochemical way of doing this is unique to the Carp fishes and (somehow) the scientists found it was a random genetic change that happened 8 million years ago. Other fish died off in freezing conditions, but these Carp survived to breed again and establish this unique ability in their digestive processes.

Their publication (in the Journal of Scientific Reports 2017) ends with the comment: "It's no wonder then that the crucian carp's cousin the goldfish is arguably one of the most resilient pets under human care." Good old Goldfish.

Fish Shows

Last month's Newsletter included a report on the UK's top Trade Show for the Aquatic Trades, this was 'AQUA' where they declared that 100 firms were exhibiting, viewed by several thousand trade visitors. The next one will be October 16-17th 2019.

What a difference to the Chinese version!



The poster for CIPS'17 Global Ornamental Fish Championship features a central image of a large red fish, surrounded by various other ornamental fish species including a blue fish, a yellow fish, a white fish, a pink fish, and a black and white spotted fish. The text on the poster includes:

- CIPS'17** (with logo: China Int'l Pet Show)
- GLOBAL ORNAMENTAL FISH CHAMPIONSHIP**
- 15 Varieties**
- 100+ Int'l Judges · 3500+ Tanks**
- 2017.11.16-19**
- National Convention & Exhibition Center**
- Shanghai**

Organizers: China Fishery Association, China Great Wall International (Group) Co., Ltd.
Contact: Yoko Wang (participation), Lisa Pang (sponsorship & marketing)
Phone: +86-10-88102271, +86-10-88102346
Mobile: +86-18711075925, +86-18511301838
Email: wyy@chgs.com, pangl@chgs.com

Co-Organizers: China Fishery Association, China Fishery Development Division, Koi Branch, Goldfish Branch, Arowana Branch, Aquascope Branch, Nevelis Branch

www.cipscom.com



This is just part of CIPS, the Chinese International Pet Trade Show which celebrated its 21st show this year, with 1500 exhibitors from 85 countries in four great halls and had 50,000 visitors.

The competition within the pet show was for 15 categories - Goldfish breeds, Carp (Big Head and 'color'), Arowana, Guppies, Bettas, 'raw fish' (I assume they mean 'wild'), shrimps, 'climbing pets', colourful fish, Luohan (Chinese for Flower Horn Cichlids) and Aquarium Landscaping (I assume they mean aquascapes).

Winners had a trophy ('The Great Wall Trophy'), certificate and international recognition plus a cash prize. The Goldfish class winner had 3000 Yuan (about £300!). This is the advert, but they can't be Goldfish! ...

At the time of writing the Social Media have not declared the Goldfish Winner, but if it is shown I will report it next time.



More Chinese



Talking of China, the 'Chinese Buffet', Plaza Complex, Halifax, is expensive, but is tasty, and an amazing range of recipes. They have now installed a Goldfish aquarium. Good, clear water and a collection of large, healthy varieties.

Minutes of the December Meeting

There were too many apologies to publish, probably because of the icy weather. Hence, a small meeting that ended early, but Sherridan was able to report that the Nationwide OS & Auction will be in Coventry next year. Full details of the Goldfish Shows' dates and venues will be in the January Newsletter.

The problem of amorous Goldfish males was also discussed. David Ford showed this photo of his Comet that never leaves the Veiltail alone – because its spherical shape triggered a chase response



It was decided the only solution is separation (done) or change the Comet for a female one.

Have a nice Christmas and Happy New Year – from your editor David Ford

**Next meeting at the Church Inn, Prestwich, is ... next year.
That's 9th January, 8pm at The Church Inn, Prestwich M25 1AN**

