



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



August 2020



A farm pond (picture from Freshwater Habits

Trust) that the University of York have been studying.

The nine-year project found that creating 20 clean water ponds on farmland increased wetland plant species by more than a quarter (26%). The project found that rare plants almost trebled, while species that had gone extinct in the area returned.

Reported in the Journal of Biological Conservation, three farms in Leicestershire had ponds installed or created by blocking streams, damming ditches or digging them in low intensity pastures. As shown in the photo, a pre-pond was used to trap any pollution, so the main pond was clean, clear water.

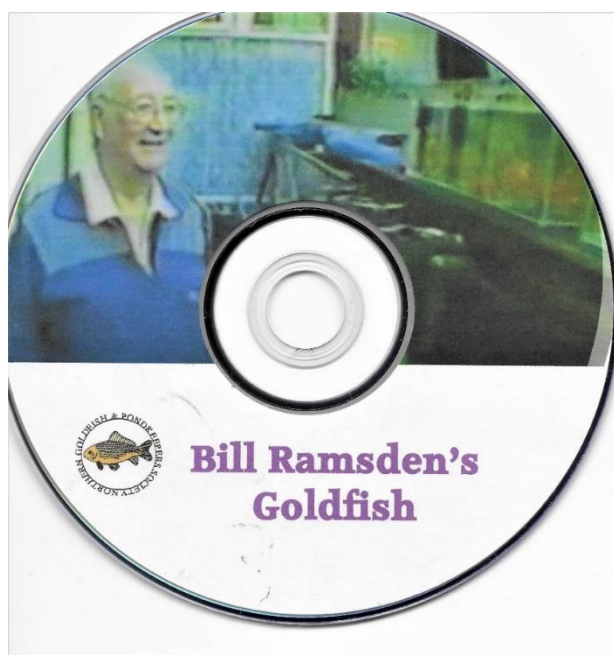
The clean pond developed rare species such as marsh arrowgrass (*Triglochin palustre*), bristle club-rush (*Isolepsis setacea*) and mare's tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*) plus all the insects and wetland animals of our countryside.

Perhaps our natural Pondkeepers should include a pre-pond!

Special Offer!

The Online members can access our President's hour-long programme on his Fish House (<https://vimeo.com/349057632>). The postal members can see 'Bill Ramsden's Goldfish' too if they have a DVD player.

If you want a copy, send enough to cover the postage and DVD costs (your choice but a fiver will more than cover it – surplus to club funds). Include your home address please! Send to Dr D.M. Ford, Apartment 26, Clare Hall, Prescott Street, HALIFAX, W.Yorks HX1 2HQ.



Monthly Top Tip



This is my breeding pair of Moors and recently one disappeared.

Pulling out all the decorations I eventually found him (or her) trapped inside one of the decorative rocks...





The Terracotta model was hollow and somehow the Moor decided to explore the inside and then could not get out – here is the hollow base.

The Moor was shaken out, eventually, minus a few scales and is in recovery.

Hence the tip is to fill any hollow ornaments so curious Goldfish cannot explore the insides.

That inside was filled with corks from wine bottles, smeared with Silicone Sealer.



The exposed cork was also smeared with sealer blended with the soft white sand I use (it sets rapidly – use surgical gloves).

The ornament was returned to the aquarium after a 24 hour soak. The affected Moor examined it thoroughly, obviously remembering the drama.

Our Annual Open Show

Cancelled because of this dreadful virus, of course, but remember that we are holding an Online version. The other Nationwide members are doing the same – with videos of their potentially prize-winning Goldfish. Details were sent to you last month but you can see them again on their websites (www.amgk.co.uk and www.bristol-aquarists.org.uk). Support them if you can.

We are just holding the photographic classes, online. Send a digital (still, not video) photo

to Sherridan via email (moores_s@sky.com)
in any one, or more, of the Classes 1001 –
Goldfish varieties, 1002 – Goldfish breeding,
1003 – Pond, 1004 – People, 1005 – any
fish. He will judge them up to the original OS
date of September 19th with results in the
October Newsletter. You have to be in it to
win it.

Goldfish News



By the time you read this the Natural History Museum in London will have opened again. I do hope to visit someday again, if only to check if they still sell Goldfish Notecards – above is one from my last visit in 2003.

They had a strange idea of what Goldfish Varieties should be – they need Nationwide Standards.

The drawings by the Japanese illustrator Hashime Murayama in 1924 are much better.



Mr. Murayama of York. In the cigar box are specimens of mosquitoes borrowed from the Smithsonian Institution. They are mounted and on pins. They are of differing varieties, ages and from various places.

The beautiful paintings of Goldfish varieties were done for the National Geographic magazine....



News from Bristol AS

Hi Everyone.

I trust everybody is well, and keeping that nasty virus away from the door.

I thought it might be a good idea to let you have an update on our plans.

As you know, we are holding a Virtual Open Show which will be judged during the weekend of 5th/6th September.

The entries in each class will be placed in their own Dropbox folder.

All these sub folders will be held within a main folder.

Shortly after the show, a link to this main folder will be made available for anyone in the world to view. They will have full access to every single video clip submitted to the show.

This link will be displayed in our newsletter

and on our website (www.bristol-aquarists.org.uk).

It is also hoped it will be displayed in all club newsletters and on the various websites. It will also be sent to the Aquatic press etc, who we hope will publicise it.

We feel this will be an excellent way to promote the hobby within the UK. (We all know it needs promoting)

It might also be a good shop window for any exhibitor with surplus stock.

Why wouldn't you want to take part in this exciting development?

Hope to hear from you all soon.

Bob Jones.

Bristol Aquarists Society

Finally, instead of any minutes from the August meeting, notes from the Chairman....

Notes and rantings from a Chairman's glass fish house.

Still here typing away in the fish house, afraid socks have rotted away now but it is summer so bare feet will do. Have had several more spawnings and all doing well though ideally I would rather they had all felt the urge two or three months earlier and then the babies would have been older and bigger to take into the winter.

There are:-

1. Approx 30 of the first spawning of metallic Lionheads, best male x first female to come into season. Some very promising fish, as yet uncoloured, now about one inch in the body, they would ideally be bigger but it has been such a cold summer their growth has been slow (no doubt we will eventually be told that this was the hottest year for 10,000,000 years and the Lionheads will all double in

size overnight) . As frequently found the real problem with this batch (and No. 2 batch) was a lack of any split in the tail, indeed around 200 nice fish with no split were separated out last week and put into vats down the garden to grow on outside more slowly, they will therefore require less, expensive, food. This tendency for joined tails is, no doubt, due to the fact that breeders in China have for thousands of generations concentrated mostly on the heads and backs and is characteristic of a high quality strain. Incidentally, I am also pleased to note that the 'Johnny come lately' Rancho pollution was not at all in evidence again indicating a pure, refined Chinese strain.

2. Ten of the second spawning of metallic Lionheads, taken the next day, best male x best head female, this spawning was originally much the same size as the first at

around 1,000 - 1,500 but the fry never looked as good or so consistent so they were culled down to ten about a month ago.

3. Ten or twelve, best scaled male x best (and only) calico female. A pairing intended to combine the quality of the scaled strain with (hopefully), the tendency for divided tails in the calicoes along with 50 % metallic and 50 % calico fry (to be expected from metallic x calico) to choose the best from. Spawning only partially successful as a large 1,000 + hatch rapidly died off to leave these few survivors. I will keep them all whatever they look like as the blood lines will be there.

At this point I would have done the same spawning again and some other variations but the best scaled male removed himself from the stud book by bequeathing me his body one morning, for no apparent reason. Note to rest of stock - this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated.

4. Around 400 - 500 half inch calico x calico fry, looking very strong and well coloured, just about got all the metallics and matts out now.

5. A ten day later spawning of the same calicoes, 1,000+ fish farmed out to Stephen Wharley, he will raise them I will sort and cull, then if there are any good ones left we will share them.

6 & 7. Two small spawnings of 150 - 200 calico Veiltails, same parents, two weeks apart. It's really far too late in the year for them but I am raising them anyway, looking good so far.

David Pool has told me that the FishScience catfish pellets have smaller particles in them than the Fish Treats shrimp and algae tablets, so have added them to the feeding schedule with pleasing results, any of the tablets dropped in to the fry tanks supply

food for the babies to pick at for several hours.

Matthew at the Altrincham World of Water tells me that that branch is closing and they will be moving to the aquatic shop in Wilmslow garden centre.

So there is plenty going on.

Have had just a couple of entries for the Open Show photographic classes, so come on get photographing and get them sent in. The rules have been relaxed so basically any sort of photo, of fish or members will be considered (and yes, Tom Bell, I do see how that could be interpreted, don't you dare!)

Thanks to all members who have sent their subs in, please do so if you have not done it yet.

We tried to hold a meeting in August but with the latest complications in the virus rules this was not possible.

Let me know if there is any interest in sorting out some sort of internet meeting.

Stay safe and I hope to see you soon,
Sherridan.

