



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



DECEMBER 2020



*A very merry Christmas to
all our members
and their Goldfish*

For the nostalgia – 20 years ago we used to hold Northern Aquarist's British Aquarist Festival at our St Matthews Hall in Stretford....



The Best in Show for the Goldfish Class was member Alan Ratcliffe's London Shubunkin – they won everything in those days....



The British Aquarist Festival was run by the Federation of Northern Aquarist Societies (FNAS) – you can read its history from 1945 to closure in 2018 at <https://www.fnas.uk>.

By choosing page 3, 'History of BAF', you can see the more than 60 years of that annual event and the memories of those taking part.

December's Top Tip

From BAS Bob Jones Zoom talk: if your breeding line suffers from gill curve, check the protein levels in the food being offered to growing fry. He found that if the level was in excess of 50% the problem occurred. (You do need a proteinaceous diet but not that high.)

International Goldfish Breeders

Did you know there is a Facebook Group with over 20,000 members? Based in Thailand with commercials, of course.

If you have Facebook, see their page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/589583337756654/permalink/3371209176260709/>

But they do
breed
quite bizarre
Goldfish!



More International News - from Australia

There is a Goldfish Society in Australia – with 1,600 members, but it is a members-only online club:



To cater for them, there are aquarium shops, but import of Goldfish, in fact all live fish, is strictly controlled. This is because Australia has only 200 endemic species of freshwater fish. However, this number was increased recently by 10%!

In an area of Western Australia is the

Kimberley plateau famous for its river system.



Scientists from the University of Melbourne and Victoria Museum have explored its rivers and discovered 20 new species – specifically:

16 new Grunters (terapontidae), three new Gudgeons (eleotridae) and one new Hardy Head (atherinidae). Here is just one photo of a new fish (a Grunter), which has been named *timwintoni* after the famous Australia author, Tim Winton.



Okay – it is not a Goldfish, but at least it has gold colour.

Goldfish News

For NGPS members who are not also members of AMGK, here is some news from their December Newsletter. Their President, Andrew Barton, reported on his Goldfish breeding this year and included photos of these Metallic Veiltails....



What a great pair – reminds me of a Black & White TV Show of years ago!

Sherridan's Notes from a cold Fishhouse

◆ An amateur wildlife photographer has shared the best picture that he reckons he's ever taken, and it's a pretty damn good one.

In the shot, a large eel can be seen making a desperate bid for freedom by burrowing out of the stomach of a heron whilst the bird is in flight.



Yep, that's a once in a lifetime spot, right there.

Sam Davis is an engineer from Maryland, but in his spare time he loves nothing more than grabbing his camera and seeking out some wildlife to capture.

The 58-year-old couldn't believe his luck when he saw a heron flying overhead with a snake eel that it had obviously recently eaten hanging out of it.

◆ Last month I mentioned that JMC had ceased business and that their high protein granules used by many members as a growth food for their fry is no longer available (though I do notice some are still advertising it on Amazon). I asked if any members knew of this food being available under a different label or of any very similar growth food brands, member Tony Barnard very kindly phoned me and said that he was familiar with JMC but had also been using and recommended 'Betta Choice' High protein and High Growth which he has found to be very similar.

◆ I was rather surprised to learn in a TV programme about caviar that the huge female sturgeon are actually killed to harvest their eggs rather than being regularly relieved of them - seems rather wasteful.

◆ It is a well-established saying amongst Goldfish keepers that their fish react quite differently to the same temperatures in the autumn and in the spring, for instance at 60 degrees Fahrenheit in the spring (or chose 61 degrees Fahrenheit which conveniently and memorably can reverse its figures to 16 degrees Centigrade, as can 82°F and 28°C) the fish will be bombing about eating, perhaps growing and thinking about a bit of spawning. In the autumn they behave quite differently at the same temperature, being much less and progressively so, active and tend

to lay down fat for the winter rather than growing. How do they know the difference, probably the increasing and decreasing day length has a lot to do with it. Any way my little Lionheads and Veiltails are really showing the influence of the autumn, they would probably have largely stopped eating by now if I hadn't intervened by putting them back on heat averaging a mid to high 60s°F, they are eating well and still growing but not as fast as they would have been at the same temperatures two or three months ago. The adults have not been given any extra heat, though as they are in the same fish house, the background temperature will have been raised a little and are being fed a little food a couple of times a week to give them a winter dormancy.

◆ Dave's Aquarium have had an importation of good breeding stock calico Lionheads and very nice, unusual metallic Pearlscales and Hamanishiki.

◆ 20 -20 vision used to be a good thing. Now we know better, what a rubbish year! I usually write a bit of a round up to sum the year up and that is it - rubbish. Have a good Christmas and roll on 2021.

Finally, from your editor – have a great Christmas despite Covid: at least my Goldfish (and a few Tropicals) are celebrating....

This is my '[Goldfish, Frankincense and Myrrh](#)' Christmas decorations.

The still photo is for the postal version – for the email video, click/tap the link.



The video version is here:
<https://vimeo.com/487807601>

If you think the fish are stressed – no, they were just curious and then excited at the attention (probably thought they would be fed). There is a master switch for viewing and all off at Goldfish siesta times.

Have a traditional Christmas – hope to see you all, eventually, in 2021.

