

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



JUNE 2021



The Weather Loach described in last month's Newsletter has grown rapidly to 5" (12cm) and not only steals the food from my Moors, but it has also taken to bullying them. Hence

I moved it to another tank housing my Comet (that won a 1st at 2019 NGPS OS). I thought the Comet, being bigger and faster than the Moors, could cope. It cannot. Still stealing all the food and driving the Comet away from the feeding area too. Hence I can no longer recommend the Weather Loach as a Goldfish companion (see last month's Chairman's Notes for alternatives). I think the Loach needs to be in a pond (which I no longer possess) – anyone offering to take him?

NGPS News

Due to Covid the last NGPS Open Show was in 2019 and the 150 show tanks had to be placed in storage because their usual home (Chairman Sherridan's garage) developed a leaky roof. This was chosen to be Stadium Storage in Huddersfield with a charge of £250 for the year. Unfortunately Covid persisted and the 2020 OS was also cancelled – requiring another £250. Now the

2021 OS may – or may not - take place, requiring yet another £250. Hence Sherridan had the garage roof repaired and all 150 tanks were moved last May to their traditional home (by Sherridan, Craig Clinton, me, and a van).

Just a few yards from Stadium Storage is HD1 Aquatics, so the three of us combined the work with a shop visit. Craig bought half a dozen Moors that he said were show quality and will be used for breeding (after quarantine!). HD1 Aquatics is an impressive store with lots of ornamental fishes and every equipment needed for tanks and ponds, even reptiles. Well worth a visit if you are in Huddersfield (HD1 6PQ for your Satnav).

Top Tip

There are 25 Water Suppliers in the UK, none are listed on the Stock Exchange being owned by private groups. For example, my

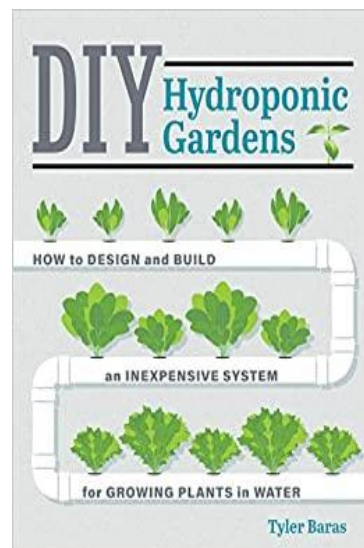
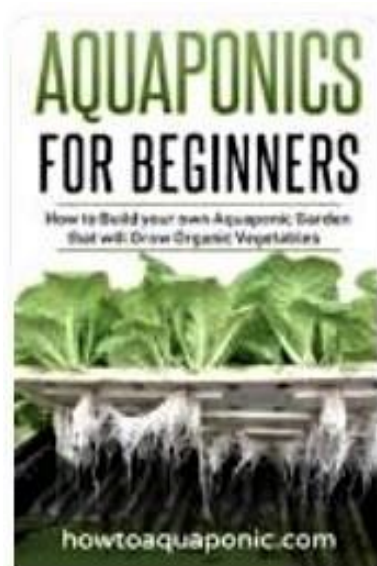
authority is Yorkshire Water and they are owned by Kelda Group who are American. Others include German, Chinese and Malayan (even British) parent companies. All this means that private standards apply – with union labour and differing management styles. Often they work a traditional 9 to 5, 5 day week. To reduce weekend staffing extra chlorine (or even chloramine) is used Friday night to give sterile cover until Monday. Hence, the tip is not to do the traditional water changes at the weekend – the best day is Wednesday. 50% (the solution to pollution is dilution).

Pond News

The future of vegetable farming is claimed to be aquaponics. If you have a pond you can aquaponic! Articles about the fish that can be included in the pond recommend Tilapia (so you can harvest edible fish too) or Goldfish for decoration (non-edible!).

Popular plants suitable for this technique include green leafy vegetables like lettuce, basil, spinach, tomatoes, cucumbers, Chinese cabbage, radish and beans.

There are books on the subject Just Google or Amazon Books to find them.



AMGK News

On their Facebook website AMGK have added a logo with a Butterfly Goldfish (designed by Grahame Draper, their webmaster). On the original you can just click the Goldfish to substitute your own Facebook photo!



Technology marches on, even for Goldfish.

Grahame has redesigned their website which is well worth a visit – see

<https://amgk.co.uk/>

To access some pages you need to be a member of AMGK but currently they are offering membership through 2022 for one annual sub.

Goldfish Galore

Considering Online groups of petfish owners, there are now dozens of tropical and marine groups that have appeared on Facebook.

Most claim thousands of members since it only takes a click or tap to join. For Goldfish and Pond owners there are: UK Koi Owners, The Goldfish Keepers, International Goldfish Breeders, Fancy Goldfish Hobbyists in UK, Goldfish Fanatics, The Goldfish Council, Koi Misfits Leicester and UK, Goldfish Breeders Forum, Goldfish Kingdom, not to even mention the GSGB!

Of course, they are not true societies like our Nationwide Goldfish UK, see:

<https://www.nationwidegoldfishsocieties.uk/>

There it states that the group was formed in 1989 with the Goldfish Standards being published in 2016. Our very own President (Bill Ramsden) owns the files of the very beginnings of these Standards. It all began in 1975 with a meeting of the (then) societies: Association of Goldfish Breeders, Bristol Aquarist Society, Goldfish Society of Great Britain, Midland Association of Goldfish Keepers and Northern Goldfish & Pondkeepers Society.

At Foleshill Community Centre in Coventry on 20th April 1975 representatives of the above societies discussed a proposal to form a "National Exhibition of Coldwater Fishes" and it was at that meeting that it was realised a National Standard for Goldfish was needed. Hence a Nationwide Goldfish Committee was created – our President became its Chairman in 1976.

It is hoped to digitize all these hundreds of filed Minutes for Goldfish posterity.

Members Write

Breeder member Alan Ratcliffe wrote an article for GSGB a long, long time ago. They asked for a report on 'Hand Stripping' – recently rediscovered, Alan realised it is still relevant today and sent it to me for the Newsletter. As follows....

Hand spawning is quite an easy way of producing eggs, particularly if you wish to have eggs from a special pair of fish that are taking part in a flock spawning. You can

separate them and hand strip them and be 100% certain of the fry's parentage.

First, you will need one or two receptacles. I use to use cat litter trays which worked quite well but they had a couple of faults. They went brittle after a couple of years if I left them in the fish house. (I should have put them out of the sun) and when I came to sink them to the floor of the tank after the eggs had hatched, the plastic trays would not sink without me putting heavy weights on them. There may be some less buoyant plastics about but without testing them in water you cannot find out. I finally had some fibreglass bowls made, coloured blue on the inside, which shows the eggs up very well and they can be lowered to the bottom of the tank without any buoyancy problems. I only attempt to hand spawn once the fish are actually spawning. If I want eggs from a particular pair I use the following method. I put about two inches of water in the bowl. Don't use the water from the same tank

which housed the fish because if the fish had already started spawning the water would contain milt from other males which could fertilise eggs released from the chosen female. Ensure that the water is the same temperature as the water that the fish came from. Place the selected male and female in the bowl. Try the male for any sign of milt by holding the fish in the hand across the palm with the head pointing to the wrist. That way you can apply gentle pressure with the other hand to the fish's side from just in front of the ventral fins towards the vent. **DO NOT USE EXCESSIVE PRESSURE.** If after a few gentle strokes no milky fluid appears from the vent, try a different male.

Repeat the technique with the female. You should see a string of eggs coming from the vent.

If the male is producing milt and the female is releasing eggs, gently squeeze them both alternately, male first, gently swirling the water as you go, until you have enough eggs. Be careful not to collect more eggs

than you can manage as from experience the fertility rate is much higher than that of natural spawnings.

The fish can then be returned to their original tank and left to finish spawning naturally.

I will have prepared a rearing tank in readiness and the bowl containing the eggs is then floated in it, the water temperature being set at between 65°F and 70°F. After thirty or forty minutes the water in the bowl is replaced by fresh at the same temperature for if you don't do this you risk the dead sperm fouling the water and possibly killing the eggs. Return the bowl to float in the rearing tank.

When the eggs hatch simply lower the bowl gently to the floor of the tank. Over the next few days, as the fry become free swimming, they will make their way out of the bowl, which can then be removed taking all the infertile eggs with it. The bowl can then be

cleaned ready for the next time and the fry can reared as normal.

Chairman's Minutes

I recently received a call from the owner of one of the tanks I maintain, she was concerned that one of her long finned swordtails had developed white spots on its tail. I am always pleased to receive early calls describing potential problems, even if they are false alarms, before they become worse and possibly untreatable. I went to see this fish and was relieved to see that this was not a serious problem, all that had happened was that a couple of the fin rays on the, very, long upper fork of the tail had become damaged, probably by hitting one of the rocks or minor squabbling with another fish, leaving a white 'fracture'. I visited the tank a few days after and the marks had gone - all was well. A less lucky fish, or a more seriously damaged fish, or a really unlucky fish not living in a healthy, clean tank looked

after by me could have developed a bacterial or fungal infection at the site of injury. I would have treated this with Myxazin or Pimafix

Similar injuries to finnage can easily occur in Goldfish, especially the longer finned varieties. Veiltails and Orandas have the longest fins of any variety in their caudals, so, as you would expect, are the varieties where it is most often seen. It can certainly occur for the reasons described above, so try always to keep sharp or potentially snagging decorations and equipment out of the tank. Try to be imaginative in interpreting these guidelines, if a Goldfish can injure itself or trap a fin somewhere then eventually it will. Be careful with filter inlet tubes, make sure they have some sort of protective 'sieve' over them to stop fins forming a damaging unintentional obstruction to the, often strong, water flow (this will also protect eyes and Bubble-eyes eye sacks). Don't leave any crevices that any Goldfish can just fit into because it may not be able to get out without

tearing its fins or worse its breathing may be impaired and it may suffocate, for the same reason rectangular filter boxes, heaters etc should fit right against the side and bottom of the tank or be well away from them. It should go without saying that Goldfish should never be housed with any other fish or creature that might attack them.

The long and voluminous fins of Goldfish can become subject to high hydrodynamic forces as the fish swims and this can sometimes result in stress fractures in the fin rays, these can often be seen on Veiltails as little white dots in the line of the fin ray, they can spread across the surface of the fin in a line and eventually cause a portion of the fin to break away. There is little that can be done once this is observed to be happening other than remove any fish particularly liable to this occurrence from any breeding programme.

As mentioned in the first paragraph, there are multiple problems that can occur with a Goldfish's finnage in insanitary water

conditions, just one more reason to keep your water in the best state you can.

Back in July. Stay well.

