



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



MARCH 2021



The Butterfly Goldfish – not yet a Nationwide standard but famous enough for Singapore Postage stamps to include them in a set of eight Fancy Goldfishes issued in November 2019 (preCovid!).



The Nationwide Standard for The Butterfly Goldfish will happen in 2023 – this is because the protocol for the publication of a Nationwide Goldfish UK Standard requires 5 years of line breeding to prove its viability and reproducibility, in various

forms (Nacreous, Metallic, Bicolour, Black, etc.).

This work is being done mainly by AMGK's Jackie Pedley and her reports can be seen on the AMGK's website. Or choose this Link:

<http://amgk.co.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2020/04/Butterflybreeding-program.pdf>

Here are a some of her Butterfly Tail Telescopic Eye Goldfish, so far...



In 2018, 2019 and 2020

It is hoped (despite Covid!) that 2021 will give more line-breedings. They are beautiful fish that should have a UK Standard and place on the Bench, when the Fish Shows start again.

Goldfish News

Are there more Goldfish on this planet than people? No use Googling to find out, they just talk about 'biomass', not headcounts. It appears we have just reached the people biomass weight of 1.1 trillion tonnes, outweighing every other creature on God's earth - added together!

In the USA there are ca. 330 million people but they are sold 480 million

Goldfish annually (in 2006, last available statistics). If you add on the output of Asian countries (let alone NGPS breeders) there really must be more Goldfish on Earth than people. Head-counted.

Pond News

Salmon are not Goldfish, but both are Class Actinopterygii, so what kills Salmon could well harm Goldfish. Salmon have been dying *en masse*, especially in Canadian waters, where they have been studying the problem. It has been found that the compound killing them is '6PPDquinone' ($C_{18}H_{24}N_2$). The source of this poison are car tyres. As they wear away on the roads, rainwater washes the toxic particles into the rivers where the Quinone leaches out and kills the Sea

Salmon when they swim up rivers to spawn. When you think of the (rained on) Tyre Dumps all over our country, let alone the tyre-wear on our roads, it must be a toxicity problem. Beware if you use stream or river waters in your pond. Let's hope the chemists can remove it from sewage waters too. Assuming we can't ban cars.

This Month's Top Tip

(I said in last month's Newsletter that 'The Truth about Goldfish' should offer lots of tips – it doesn't! In fact the very long list of infections and infestations and treatments will make anyone just starting with Goldfish-keeping to not bother.)

There was one though – the author recommended adding liquid chlorophyll to the aquarium because it is good for them (and you, she said). Not sure about that – anyone do it? I only use boiled peas or chopped greens for my dietary chlorophyll offer.

Bristol AS's Zoom

As usual you are invited to Bristol Aquarist Society's Online meeting today (Monday 8th March) at 7.45pm. Details are:

For direct link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87525651860?pwd=ZmJXM0hLMkJHUnRkMEt4Y3QwY2pFUT09>

... or if you have the Zoom App:

Meeting ID: 875 2565 1860

Passcode: 477387

Spawnings 2021

Let me know of any Spawnings
(drdmford@outlook.com) – have heard from
Craig Clinton so far, who reported:

'My first spawning was on the 23rd Feb. with
Calico Veiltails. I also had another spawning
on the 28th of Feb. by some NK Farm
Orandas but this was a strange spawning
because they spawned through the night
and the eggs don't look that great - but we
will see. My Calico Ranchu also spawned
March 2nd'.

Members Write

Trying to keep the cold - and Heron – out!
by Stephen Whalley

Over the last three to four weeks, I have insulated and Heron-proofed my medium sized vat of around 130 Gallons. My biggest concern was keeping an average temperature of 11.5 degrees °C (53°F) and maximising the amount of natural daylight whilst keeping the Heron out! I have managed to do this, by finding a flexible insulating material and adding a glass panel. The vat that I am using is a food grade plastic pallet type container with dimensions of approx 1200mm x 1000mm x 750mm tall (*ca.* 48x40 x30 inches) and adding an overflow outlet at one end. As the container is designed to be moved by a forklift or pallet truck, there is a void under the vat floor of about 100mm (4") where the forks from the forklift would go.

This gave me access to pack it full of bubble wrap which was easy enough to do.

The next stage was to source a material that would provide some insulation, be flexible enough, remain waterproof and not take up too much room and not stick out like a sore thumb! I managed to do this by using a product called 'Elka Duo Lay'. This comes in a 15 Metre x 1 Metre Roll and costs around £10, which would wrap around the vat about 4 times. This was a cheap way to do this, but there are more expensive materials available that provide a better U-value.



Once the vat was wrapped, I secured it with some clear waterproof braided self-adhesive tape.



Now came the challenge of introducing as much natural light as possible. Originally, there was a piece of Jagram square trellis with 2 inch square holes covering the vat and on top of this was a green plastic mesh with 5mm square holes. The wooden trellis and the plastic mesh blocked out about 70 percent of the natural light, but at the same time, kept the Heron out!

I ordered a piece of glass approx 600mm x 700mm of 4mm float glass with the sharp edges taken off (Aris edges) this cost £15.00 from the local glass merchants. I placed the glass on top of the plastic mesh which was secured on to the wooden trellis with plastic ties, then I cut away the plastic mesh under where the glass would fit. I also, cut quite a bit of the wooden trellis away with just enough left in place to support the glass. Once this was done, I secured the glass with clear glass clips bought online for about £5 for 50 of 4mm glass clips with screws.



All I had to do now was to use a 300 Watt heater to heat the water and connect a plug-in thermostat with a waterproof probe and set it to 11.5 degrees Celsius (53°F). Again, the plug-in thermostat can be bought online for approx £14.00. Along with the above, there is a hosepipe at one end of the vat trickling in, fresh tap water and an air stone connected to an air pump. Job done!



Note: Stephen has offered to help anyone wanting more information via telephone:

07546 849570 or email at:

swwhalley@gmail.com

Chairman's Notes from a Freezing Fish-house

My respect for the API product 'Pimafix ' continues to grow. A couple of weeks ago I had a number of common Goldfish in an outside tank suddenly die, with no warning and little apparent reason, the survivors showed an all-over 'velvet' coating and looked really miserable, in these cold conditions their prospects could fairly be described as 'not good'. However a few days treatment with Pimafix and they are looking perfect! I have had several occasions over the cold parts of the last two winters where both young and old fish have been overwhelmed by fungal/bacterial/skin parasite infections (and any form of illness is particularly difficult to deal with successfully in cold conditions) along

with a couple of serious physical injuries in the summer which in the past would have led me to euthanize the fish where I have administered Pimafix and been rewarded with almost magical results. I very highly recommend Pimafix and suggest members get a bottle in stock for immediate use if needed, it is widely available from aquatic stores or from Amazon.

There are still many worthwhile calico Lionheads available at Dave's in Bolton, in fact as they are feeding them up and they are growing they are getting even better. They also have several interesting species of medaka or rice fish for the coldwater aquarium.

Jill Stephenson has asked me to see if any members might be interested in taking some of her late husband Alex's extraordinary collection of waterlilies, she would like them to go to good homes if at all possible. There

are many rare and beautiful plants - which would need to be collected from East Anglia. *Contact me for details.*

Thank you to those members who have paid their subs for the year 2020-2021, subs for the year 2021-2022 will become due next month. Please, if you are able to, keep your payments up to date, we still have many expenses (including the substantial self-storage charges for the tanks we have been unable to remove, as we had intended, due to virus restrictions) but our income sources, other than subs, have been non-operational.

I have received a couple of reports from members who have already had spawnings this year, so that bodes well for the season and with the good news we are now hearing about virus levels falling and the effectiveness of the inoculations, things may be looking up.

Back in April.

