NORTHERN GOLDFISH & PONDKEEPERS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

A Nationwide Society | Online Version | August 2014

Dean's winning Celestial at the AMGK OS in June 2014

Chairman's Notes

I hope all members are well, their adult fish in peak condition and their fry growing well for the Shows, which will soon be upon us. Don't forget your entries for our Show on 13th September, please let Dean have your entry forms well before 6th September (the official closing date) in the past few years we have all got into the habit of leaving this right to the last minute but this does cause problems – let's all think EARLY. As usual all members who can attend on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th to help please come down from 10.00am, there is always loads to do and it's always FUN. See you there!

Minutes of the August Meeting

Sherridan reported the sponsorship problems with Aquarian and it was agreed that he should approach Dr David Pool's FishScience brand. It was requested that anyone who can help should attend St Matthews Church Hall on Friday September 12th to prepare for the Saturday OS. Richard gave his presentation for the proposed Bronze, Silver and Gold membership. 10 potential new members from different walks of life were listed and given to everyone at the meeting – who decided which class of membership would be requested. The final result was roughly equal for each class, but this represented an increase in fees over our current subs costs. It was agreed that the system would work if all four goldfish clubs took part and Sherridan will discuss this with the Nationwide committee.

Now an article by our President

PREPARATION AND SPAWNING OF GOLDFISH VARIETIES

Bill Ramsden is a leading Fishkeeper and Breeder who has judged at all major shows throughout the Country for many years, He is a founder member of the Northern Goldfish and Pondkeepers Society (1959) and has been President of the Society for the past 30 years (Ed: now 55 years!). He is also Chairman of the Nationwide Goldfish Standards of Great Britain Committee. Between the 1970's and 2000s, the top six Goldfish Societies in Great Britain formed this Committee to draw up the standards for thirteen of the most popular varieties. Previously each Society had produced its own standards which led to confusion. The Committee was therefore formed and appropriately named to apply Standards Nationwide. These Standards have now been completed and put into print. The book is entitled "The Nationwide Goldfish Standards of Great Britain". It is available for purchase from any of the Goldfish Societies (Ed: free on our website).

(Ed: now for Bill's writings) - The following article describes the method which I have adopted over many years and the one which has always proved successful. Other breeders may vary from this method, they can be just as successful - there are no hard and fast rules. You must start thinking about breeding as early as July or August. The reason for this is that you must consider what type of fish you want to breed (I would recommend for the beginner, that a single tail type fish is selected). It is wise not to try and deal with too many varieties at once, so I would suggest that you choose just two types and concentrate on them.

July and August is the best time to purchase fish, as this is the time when the breeders are selling their surplus stock. One can buy six or more young fish at a reasonable price and grow these on for the future. This also gives you a good chance of getting both sexes from the same strain. The minimum number of adult fish of one strain which I would recommend at this time would be two females and three males, because it is very easy to lose one or two fish for numerous reasons e.g. a long hard winter or when applying heat after the winter when the fish have less resistance to disease. There is very little chance of replacing fish in February or March.

The next stage is to feed the fish up, so that they have enough fat to see them through the winter and leave them strong enough to prepare for spawning in the early Spring. For those who keep their fish outside or in a fish house you will notice that at the end of October and into November your fish are beginning to slow down and do not require the same amount of food. This is the time to "clean" your fish and separate the males and the females. The solution that I use to clean the fish is one measure of Terramycin, eighty drops of Formaldehyde, six drops of Copper sulphate in four gallons of water at the right temperature and not forgetting the aeration. After the fish have been in this solution for twenty minutes they are transferred into another container of clean water. In the meantime your tanks must be given a thorough cleansing with bleach or Milton sterilising fluid, but be sure that they are completely rinsed out afterwards.

For the next two, or two and a half months, the fish receive practically no food; perhaps a little live food (e.g.. Daphnia), if the weather is good; but no dry food. If a lot of live food is not available, this could be substituted by a high protein flake or pellet food. During this time an eye must be kept on the fish. If they appear to be suffering due to severe cold or very long periods of cold weather, a little heat may be applied. This must be done very gradually and not more than is absolutely necessary. If you decide that you would like to put your fish together for spawning on the first of April then you must subtract six weeks from this date and that is the date that you should start to raise the temperature a couple of degrees. Continue to do so each day until the temperature reaches 65 degrees Fahrenheit (18 degrees Centigrade). During this time the fish will start looking

for food. Start with small quantities of live food and high protein food; increasing the quantity as the temperature rises. Good aeration is required and any excess food must be removed.

A three foot or four foot tank is quite suitable for breeding and this must be prepared at least a week before the fish are put together. If possible leave the tank empty for a couple of weeks, this will kill off any disease. Otherwise it must be thoroughly cleaned with Bleach, Dettol or Milton fluid. All smells must, however, be removed afterwards. The tank can now be filled to a depth of six inches, with a new air stone to aerate the water. In the meantime, the spawning medium can be prepared. This can consist of bunches of nylon wool, or unravelled nylon pan scrubs, natural plants or (which I find the best) onion bags cut into strips and weighted down with glass marbles. These bags can be obtained at any greengrocer's shop. They can be boiled in a pan, cooled off and placed four or five bunches in a tank. Now comes the big day when the fish can be selected and put together in the breeding tank. First select the female. This should be heavy at the rear and protruding on the left-hand side of the body. By applying a little pressure near the anal area, the body should be very soft.

Next is the turn of the males. It is advantageous to use two males to one female, because it will give you a better fertility. They should be chosen for their chasing ability and a good indication of their condition is the breeding Tubercles on their gill plates and Pectoral fins. The fish must then be put through the same treatment as when bedding them down for the winter. This is to make sure that they will not pass on any disease or parasite to the fry.

At all times the water temperature which the fish are being transferred into, should be at least 65 degrees Fahrenheit (18 degrees Centigrade). The ideal time to introduce your fish into the breeding tank is early evening and then At all times the water temperature which the fish are being transferred into, should be at least 65 degrees the temperature should be raised until it reaches 70 degrees Fahrenheit (20 degrees Centigrade). Sometimes the fish may start chasing the first night and spawn the next day, but more often than not it takes a few days. Fish can be stimulated by putting in fresh water from a hose pipe under pressure. This is best carried out at night-time.

The fish will start to spawn early in the morning, and generally carry on to midday. Do not be in a hurry to separate them if they stop chasing because they will periodically stop for a rest and then start again. Care must be taken to guard against fish that eat the eggs. They must be removed as soon as possible.

On completion of spawning, transfer the fish to a fresh tank with the water at the same temperature. This can then be lowered gradually. On the second day you will notice that some of the eggs have a furry appearance. These are the infertile eggs and can be ignored. The fertile eggs have a clear appearance and after the first two days you will notice two little black eyes with a curved black line, which is the body structure. These eggs are very hard to see, but do not despair. If you can only find a few, there will be many more when they hatch out and are free swimming. At seventy degrees Fahrenheit (20 degrees Centigrade) it will take four days for the eggs to hatch out. Many of the fry will lie on the bottom of the tank, some will cling to the side of the tank and others will hang from the spawning medium. The fry carry a food sack which will support them for two days. After this time they will become free swimming and start looking for food. The best food at this stage is Brine Shrimp. This is cultivated by using a large toffee jar with two quarts of water and two large tablespoon's full of common salt. Dissolve the salt in the water and add two teaspoons of Brine Shrimp eggs. This must be kept at a temperature between seventy five and eighty degrees Fahrenheit (23 - 25 degrees Centigrade) with strong aeration. It will take between 36 and 40 hours for the Brine Shrimp eggs to hatch. Next, remove the air stone and leave to stand for ten minutes. The Brine Shrimp will settle at the bottom of the jar and can be removed by siphoning through a fine tube and filtering through a fine piece of nylon material.

After the first week, the spawning media can be removed by turning them slowly upside down and gently shaking to make sure that no fry are still attached. It is very important to start culling the young fish as soon as possible, giving the good fish more room and not wasting good food on bad fish.

I trust this information will be of value to you in your future breeding programme. W.H. Ramsden. (Bill)

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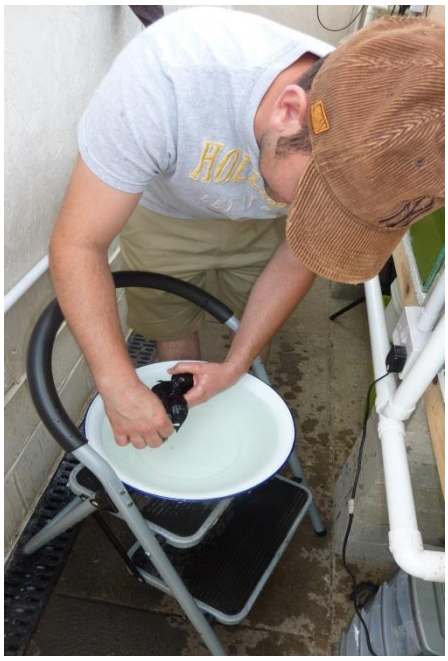
There will be more articles in future Newsletters from our President, Bill Ramsden

Now some useful information from Richard Rizzotti…….

Richard Rizzotti Recommends the Peroxide Treatment



Richard uses Hydrogen peroxide to clear Fungus from his Black Moors. Here he has hand-caught the Moor and placed it (upside down) in a bowl of the aquarium water. The Fungal sites on the fins are stroked with a 'Baby Bud' soaked in Hydrogen peroxide solution at 3% strength….

The fish is held outside the water (but the gills immersed). After not less than 5 seconds (maximum 8 seconds) the site will start to bubble and the fish is released back into the bowl. It can then be caught again and any second Fungus site treated too.

Returning the fish to its home will show sloughing of the Oxygen-bleached Fungus after a few hours. The Fungus – and excess Mucus too - should disappear completely after three days.

The actual chemical is sold as a mouth wash or gargle at 6% Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2). Make sure it is just this chemical by reading the back label because many Mouth Washes and Gargles are a mixture of chemicals for each manufacturer's unique formulae. Dilute a small amount 50/50 with tapwater to give the 3% solution and discard after use.

Boots sometimes sell the item – this photo is the Care+ Brand from Sainsburys…it is 6% H_2O_2 in pure water plus a little phenacetin (an analgesic to help with soreness) and phosphoric acid (to control the acidity to help stabilise the peroxide). Both additives are acceptable for fish use.

Because of its disinfectant nature, peroxide should be effective against many skin lesions or parasites. Avoid the eyes and gills of course.

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If you want to help fellow members with advice or information – send via email to your editor: drdmford@outlook.com