

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



Online Version

July 2015



Judging at the Annual Open Show of the Association of Midland Goldfish Keepers

Nationwide Goldfish in the Midlands

The AMGK had another successful Open Show at West Orchard Church Hall in Coventry on Saturday 20th June. There were 199 entries and these were judged by representatives of all four Nationwide Goldfish Clubs (Sherridan Moores, Bill Ramsden, Dean Roberts of NGPS, Martin Clare, Andy Barton of AMGK, Ian Mildon of BAS, Graham Turner and Keith Waters of NEGS). All Classes had a Nationwide Standard displayed so visitors could see why the fish received a First – or only second or third or less!



As always, they held an auction with 45 tanks of home-bred varieties to an audience of 40 by auctioneer (and Chairman) Pat Davies. Prices ranged from £5 to £75 for some really good breeding stock.



The Best in Show was a Ranchu by Andy Becket of AMGK.



He received the Frank Orme Trophy (dedicated to the memory of the author of the definitive book 'Fancy Goldfish Culture') from Pat Davies.

We did quite well....

Sherridan Moores had 3 Firsts - Common, Pom-pom, Lionhead



Richard Rizzotti won places with his Moors



Dean Roberts had a First and Second for his Pearlscales
Craig Clinton a First and Second for Bubble-eyes and places for his Celestial and Ryukin

There were hot & cold beverages all day and a grand raffle.



Sherridan had his Aquarium Home Services stand....



On that stand there was not Little & Large – just him and David Ford

Minutes of July Meeting



A good attendance including this Metallic Bristol that Alan Ratcliffe brought for inspection – it was a cull from his pond, hence the colour, but what an excellent tail! He described his breeding plans for Bristols with both good finnage and colour. This includes Metallic and Calico cross breeding.

The current campaign against dying or painting ornamental fish to produce unusual colours or patterns was discussed....



Practical Fishkeeping and Pet Product Marketing monthly magazines

No evidence of the practice in the Goldfish trade was reported by members, including their visits to China and Japan.

Sherridan requires anyone wishing to visit Llandudno for the 'Goldfish Weekend' (October 24/25th) to contact him urgently, but note that there are only double/twin rooms left at the hotel.

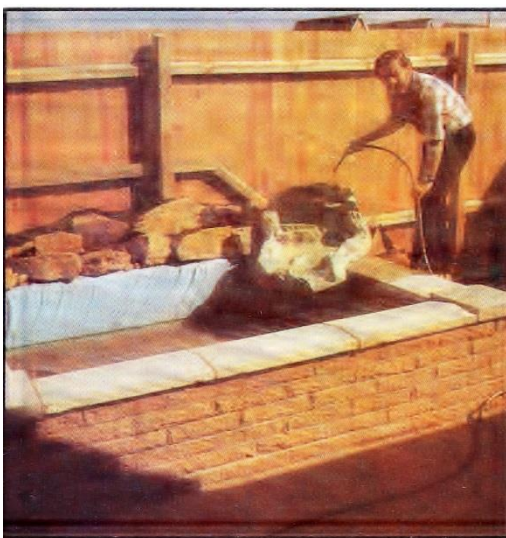
Tip of the Month

This month's Top Tips were sent in by Alex Stephenson....who included this extra comment:-

My old granny, who was a very wise woman, once told me "Never try to tell experienced Fishkeepers things they already know to be obvious". So, ignoring granny's advice, here are my observations...

1. Most thermometers used by fishkeepers are not totally accurate over their own range. Therefore, it makes sense, when transferring fish from place to place, to use the same thermometer to check both temperatures.
2. When adding chemical treatments, don't put neat chemicals straight into the tank. Doing this means one fish or the other will get a 'gob full'. Take a pint or so of water from the tank, add the treatment and then pour this back, dispersing as evenly as you can.
3. If you are unsure whether some of your youngsters will have long or short caudal fins, look at the anal fin(s). If these show signs of length, the tails should follow suit.
4. In most books which I have read, it states "A flat dorsal fin is the first sign of an unhappy fish". In my experience the pelvic fins fold-up before the dorsal comes down. So, for that reason, I find the pelvics are a better indication.

Science for Aquarists



My home-built mini-pond



My Koi in sunlight and shade

I have always worried about the sun shining directly onto my Goldfish and Koi in the several ponds built over the years. The books all say that sunburn is a potential problem when the UV levels are high – and the water depth low.

Despite not doing anything about it (such as adding shade) there was never a problem with the fish – in fact, the sunnier the Summer the better the colours. Now we know why – Scientists from Oregon State University reported this year that zebrafish are able to produce a chemical called Gadusol that protects them against UV radiation and that this was probably present in all fish.

We do not have it – but the University is hoping to produce the chemical for the ultimate sun-screen. Their report.....

Gadusol compound can provide a systemic sunscreen to humans

Researchers have discovered why many animal species can spend their whole lives outdoors with no apparent concern about high levels of solar exposure: they make their own sunscreen. The findings, published today in the journal *eLife* by scientists from Oregon State University, found that many fish, amphibians, reptiles, and birds can naturally produce a compound called Gadusol, which among other biologic activities provides protection from the ultraviolet, or sun-burning component of sunlight.

The researchers also believe that this ability may have been obtained through some prehistoric, natural genetic engineering.

The gene that provides the capability to produce Gadusol is remarkably similar to one found in algae, which may have transferred it to vertebrate animals - and because it's so valuable, it's been retained and passed along for hundreds of millions of years of animal evolution.

"Humans and mammals don't have the ability to make this compound, but we've found that many other animal species do," said Taifo Mahmud, a professor in the OSU College of Pharmacy, and lead author on the research.

The genetic pathway that allows Gadusol production is found in animals ranging from rainbow trout to the American alligator, green sea turtle and a farmyard chicken.

"The ability to make Gadusol, which was first discovered in fish eggs, clearly has some evolutionary value to be found in so many species," Mahmud said. "We know it provides UV-B protection, it makes a pretty good sunscreen. But there may also be roles it plays as an antioxidant, in stress response, embryonic development and other functions."

In their study, the OSU researchers also found a way to naturally produce Gadusol in high volumes using yeast. With continued research, it may be possible to develop Gadusol as an ingredient for different types of sunscreen products, cosmetics or pharmaceutical products for humans.

A conceptual possibility, Mahmud said, is that ingestion of Gadusol could provide humans a systemic sunscreen, as opposed to a cream or compound that has to be rubbed onto the skin. The existence of Gadusol had been known of in some bacteria, algae and other life forms, but it was believed that vertebrate animals could only obtain it from their diet. The ability to directly synthesize what is essentially a sunscreen may play an important role in animal evolution, and more work is needed to understand the importance of this compound in animal physiology and ecology, the researchers said.

(Scientists always say this! But it is true because discovery never ends...at least we need not worry about sunlight on our pond fish – just the algae it produces!)



Remember it is the NEGS Open Show this Sunday (July 19th) at Redby Community Centre, Sunderland SR6 9QP.

Next NGPS Meeting is August 11th at The Church Inn – be there!