



FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

autumn

2011

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BULLETIN



NEWS, VIEWS & ARTICLES
by FISHKEEPERS
for FISHKEEPERS

Tetra

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Excellent fish condition

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BULLETIN

September 2011

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*Opinions expressed in any article remain those of the author
and are not necessarily endorsed by this publication*

Produced for FBAS website by Dick Mills



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EDITORIAL

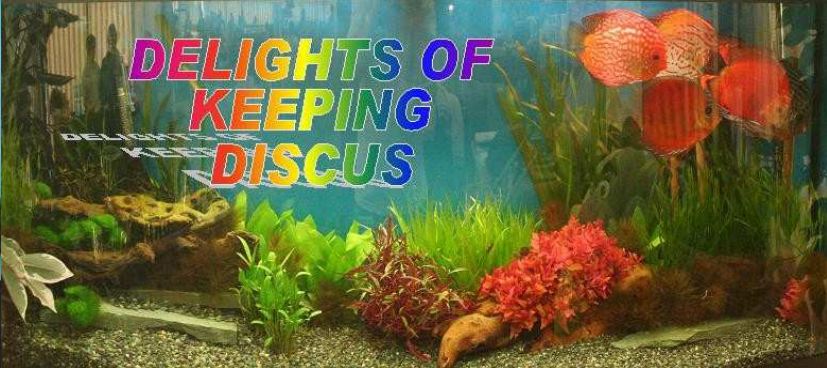
'There's no business like Show Business' and by the time this year ends the Federation will have had three major events to its credit.

You will have seen the report on the London Pet Show in our last issue, now we're not only gearing up for our own Festival of Fishkeeping at Sand Bay in October but only a couple of weeks after that we shall be at London's Olympia 2 for Aquatics Live, the latest 'Fishkeeping only' Show to hit Town.

As I will have been at the sharp end of all these Shows – from planning to breakdown in all cases - I can tell you how much we appreciate active support from all exhibitors and particularly visitors to these Shows.

I will admit that it's usually the same gang of helpers that build-up and breakdown these events and, whilst this support is often taken for granted, it is the attendees at each Show that determine its success (or not). Please come along to these events – help us keep the Fishkeeping interest alive and give us the encouragement we need to keep on bringing you all the best aquatic events in the future.

Malcolm Goss,
25 The Gowers, Chestnut Lane, Amersham,
Buckinghamshire HP6 6ER
tel: 01494 722786 e-mail: malcolmgoss@tiscali.co.uk



Few aquarists will not have looked enviously at the wonderful display of Discus either in their local aquatic shop or those unforgettable displays at the Festivals of Fishkeeping. Some of you will have already ventured successfully into Discus keeping, knowing how delightful it is to keep the "King of the Amazon" in an ideal aquarium set up.

These days fewer Discus are imported from the Amazon and has helped in Conservation that the Bulletin is very keen to support. Many strains are imported from USA, Germany, Thailand and Singapore.

Wild Discus carry diseases and are almost always severely stressed during capture, export and retail. They require soft, acidic water coupled with continual amounts of live food in order to thrive.

Farmed Discus are more adaptable to tap water depending on your supplier and appear less prone to obscure infections. Try not to mix Discus from different suppliers as they have been exposed to different conditions. Sometimes individual fish do not wish to thrive in your aquarium whilst others appear healthy and bright-eyed. This, as with Angelfish, could indicate a fish at the bottom of the pecking order which is being bullied.

Once the ideal aquarium is established, being somewhat deep 18" and more, plus fairly long, Discus selection can commence.

Run your aquarium (filters running) for some time, allowing for the filters to mature up to six weeks.

Do not pick your fish from the same batch as they are likely to be brother and sister and this may not be good in any off-spring in subsequent spawnings – you had intended to breed Discus, I presume?

Different sizes in Discus can be introduced together although the larger fishes will take charge. With the strong pecking order behaviour that exist with Discus means it is better to introduce a group at the same time, say six or more juveniles.

Despite the advice of some Discus experts one can find it useful to include more robust feeders amongst new Discus, such as Angelfish or even Severums. These more greedy eaters will in courage shy Discus to eat more readily.

Ideally the aquarium should be lit on one side; you can easily achieve this by shading half of the top lighting. Adding six to eight *Corydoras* species will help pick up any uneaten food that floats to the bottom as Discus are in the main top (surface) feeders.

It is always advisable to give newly introduced fishes a day or two in room light and darkness in order to encourage the newcomers to investigate their new territory and positions within the group.

Hopefully you will find out the water conditions when you collect your fish: normally a temperature range between 79-82° F and a pH range of 6.8 to 7.4 works quite well.

Too high temperature combined with to soft water will reduce oxygen levels. Often a 50/50 mix of filtered rainwater and tap water is ideal, and if stored should be well aerated before use.

If one combines an external filter (no undergravel filtration) with a trickle system this should be perfect, plus a not too violent airstone, operated from a separate pump.





Feeding Discus should be little and often - it is possible to feed growing Discus up to ten times a day! A rotated diet of Shrimp, Bloodworms, Carnivore Flake and chopped Earthworms will encourage good growth. Excessive feeding of Beef Heart in high temperature aquaria will produce severe bacterial fin rot etc. and should not be used as the sole use of protein.



Monitor both pH and nitrates. If showing either a fall or a rise, this will indicate a need for good size water change from a well-aerated supply that has been stored at least over night.



With good husbandry you will have a lot of pleasure from keeping Discus, but if you would like to see the best collection of Discus in the country -- along with plenty of help and advice – then you'd better be at this year's Festival of Fishkeeping.





Middlesex Show is sponsored by the FBAS, an Open Show that 99.9% was run with the help of Hounslow Members.

Helpers arrived around 4.00 in the afternoon on the Saturday to put up the staging and laid out approximately where the Classes would be according to the entries at that time. While Dick Mills did the headwork as Show Secretary the rest of us moved planks, breeze blocks etc. into the Hall.

On the day itself, benching was to start from 8.30 and it was not long after that time the car park was starting to fill up.



By the time I arrived at 10.30 I parked in the only space left! Hounslow members are of course old hands at running Open Shows but judging that was due to start at 12.00 noon was delayed due to a couple of Judges being held up en route.



Once the judges arrived, of course they had lunch first. "Don't rush fellows there is only 300 plus entries out there."

Of course that's a doddle for these fellows after all they judged Shows when you had 1,000 entries in the old days. "They are off again, talking about the old days; come on then, tell us about the six inch swordtails" was that including the tail? Of course not!



With the sun shining those that did not go the local aquatic shops sat around eating and drinking (non-alcohol) outside, all laid on by the Hounslow WAGs.



Inside there were some seriously good entries to be judged.



The Siamese Fighter Class took my eye, and there was a couple of male Fighters that were the largest I have ever seen.

Then there were entries that knocked your eyes out, these being made up of colours with edging to the fins, strictly for those who would judge the fish as "pleasing to the eye". Then, a couple of standard fish of all one colour being either red or blue. A win here for those in favour of the new standard of judging that is pleasing to the eye.



However time went fast and it was not long before the judging was over, collecting of the cards, debenching and every one was on their way home.

Sadly not for Hounslow members, but with great support from many volunteers – including Hanne Quested's nephew Michael Moerck from Denmark - who stayed behind to help, we were also on our way by 7pm for an early night except that we interrupted our journey homewards with a welcome meal on the way!



A great day was had by all.

RESULTS:



BEST IN SHOW:

Leporacanthicus galaxias

'White Spot'

Alan Finnigan



Class Dc:

Pseudotropheus demasoni

S & D Edwards



Class Ha:

Brochis splendens

Mike Kirkham



Class Q:

Xiphophorus cortezi

Clive Walker



Best Pair:

Puntius titteya

Jack Finnigan



Best Breeders:

Brochis multiradiatus

Allan Best

ASK US

Q: Most books I've read stress the importance of adequate water surface area coupled with water surface agitation to allow optimum introduction of oxygen and ejection of carbon dioxide. Why then are Carbon Dioxide injection systems thought necessary?

A: As in all things aquatic there is a lot of interactivity going on, some of which benefit one thing whilst at the same time detracting from others. The expellation of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) prevents the fish from suffocating and over acidification of the water (decrease in pH) but, unfortunately, plants are denied this vital substance that they use during tanklit periods for photosynthesis. Carefully controlled CO₂ injection remedies this setback and makes for more luxuriant plant growth.



Most modern systems use 'bottled' CO₂ in the form of cartridges although some earlier types used yeast tablets which gradually dissolved and gave off this gas.

The form of actual diffusion inside the aquarium may also differ: some systems utilise a 'bubble-counting' method whereby the rate of CO₂ is measured by the rate per minute of tiny bubbles seen rising in the diffuser body.

The system seen here operates slightly differently. The gas tap on the gas bottle is opened long enough for the gas to fill the chamber and then turned off. Throughout the day, as the gas is used the water refills the chamber – at which time it is necessary to turn the gas on again to recharge the chamber.



The most sophisticated systems monitor the pH of the water, constantly adjusting the gas flow to keep the value stable.



Hi!

We've already booked our reservations at Sand Bay for this year's **FESTIVAL of FISHPKEEPING** and everybody knows we're coming!

We're some of the fish that will be fighting it out to become the

2011 BRITISH OPEN CHAMPION or the
2011 SUPREME CHAMPION

by virtue of winning our 'qualifiers' at either last year's Festival or at any Open Show since.

Each year any fish winning a 'BEST IN SHOW' or RESERVE awards at any Open Show is eligible for 'The British Open.'

Each year any fish winning an FBAS CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY or a 2nd-4th Place award at any FBAS Open Show is eligible for 'The Supreme.'

BRITISH OPEN QUALIFIERS (BEST in SHOWS so far, winners only):



Austrolebias charrua

(Festival of Fiskeeping 2010)



Callichthys callichthys

(Bracknell A.S.)



Barbus fasciolatus

(Corby & D.A.S.)



Crenuchus spilurus

(A.S.A.S.)



Puntius padamya

(Mid-Sussex A.S.)



Leporacanthicus galaxies

(Middlesex Show)



Aulonacara maylandi

(Birtley A.S.)



Vieja argentea

(S.T.A.M.P.S.)



Neolamprologus caudipunctatus

(Southend & L.A.D.A.S.)



Mogurnda adspersa

(W.A.S.P.S.)

NOTE: There are a number of Open Shows still to come before the Festival of Fishkeeping, so you can expect to see more award-winning entries in the British Open.

For reasons of space, the two 'Reserve Best in Shows' from each Open Show have not been represented here, nor are any of the 'Place winners' in the following 'Supreme' qualifiers but they are still eligible.

**SUPREME qualifiers (so far, winners only).
Open Shows where qualification occurred shown in brackets:**



Puntius gelius

(Festival of Fishkeeping 2010)



Male Guppy



Erythrinus erythrinus

(Bracknell A.S.)



Poecilia orri



Hemigrammus ulreyi

(Corby & D.A.S.)



Serpenticobitis octozona



Amphilophus robertsoni



Danio nigrofasciatus
(A.S.A.S.)



Common Goldfish



Nannacara anomala



Crossocheilus siamensis
(Mid-Sussex A.S.)



Pseudotropheus demasoni



Brochis splendens
(Middlesex Show)



Xiphophorus cortezi



Ctenopoma acutirostre



Phallichthys quadripunctatus
(Port Talbot A.S.)



Leporacanthicus galaxies
(Southend L & D.A.S.)



Characodon lateralis



Austrolebias bellottii



Xiphophorus xiphidium

(S.T.A.M.P.S.)



Mogurnda adspersa



Xiphophorus helleri

(W.A.S.P.S.)



Betta splendens



Female Guppy

(Birtley A.S.)

2011 TETRA FURNISHED AQUARIUM COMPETITIONS

SATURDAY-SUNDAY 29th-30th October

Provided: Tetra AquaArt 60 Litre aquarium with hood, light, filter and heater
Gravel, ornaments and fish to be supplied by the entrants.

Live plant packs, together with artificial plants, available
although competitors may supply their own plants as well.

COMPETITION 1 Open to any **SOCIETY/INTERNET GROUP**
resident at the Festival of Fishkeeping.

Maximum of two entries per Society, one tropical and/or one coldwater.
Entries limited to 10.

The winning Society will receive:

The Wally Ryder Memorial Trophy
FREE FBAS AFFILIATION for 2012

COMPETITION 2 Open to any **INDIVIDUAL RESIDENT** at the
Festival of Fishkeeping. Entries limited to 10.

The winning individual will receive a **Tetra 60L Aquarium Kit**.

SEND ENTRIES TO PETER ANDERSON:

by email: peter.anderson@uwclub.net by 'phone: **01753 882873**

or by post:

4 Cophthall Close, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire SL9 0DH



FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING 2011

HOME BRED AND SURPLUS STOCK FISH SALES

Hoping to continue the success of the home-bred and surplus stock fish sales Stand, we are staging a continuing version of it again this year.

Due to demand, we are limiting the maximum number of tanks to **three per person**. All tanks are 300mm x 200mm in size, they will be filled with treated fish-safe water, heated, and mechanically filtered (air powered using zeolite and carbon media) and all tanks have cover glasses.

We shall be looking for the owners of the fish for sale to help man the Stand on a rota basis over the weekend. Clive Walker of Mid-Sussex Society has kindly offered to organize this.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Festival organizers will not be responsible for the loss of any fish for whatever reason, owner of the fish to be responsible for their well being at all times.

Maximum of three tanks per owner unless space permits otherwise.

Tank hire is **£5 per tank** payable by cheque at time of entry, cheques payable to FBAS. No commission will be charged.

**Owner of fish for sale must be staying
as a weekend Festival resident**

Tanks will be supplied with heating, mechanical filtration and filled with treated fish-safe water. Heated fish-safe replacement water available.

Owners must bring their own water for fish needing specific conditions.

**Only home-bred and surplus stock can be sold.
Fish only, no dry goods/plant etc to be sold.**

Tanks will be available to receive fish **from 0900 on Friday 28th October.**
All fish must be tanked **by 0900 Saturday 29th October.**

Tanks must be labelled with owner's name, species name, and price.

Owners must supply their own fish net, this net to be left on the cover glass at all times.

BOOKING FORM BELOW MUST BE RECEIVED BY NO LATER THAN TUESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2011, earlier if possible please!!!

Name:.....
Address:.....
.....
.....Post Code
Tel no:.....

Number of tanks required.....
Cheque enclosed for £..... (£5 per tank) payable to FBAS

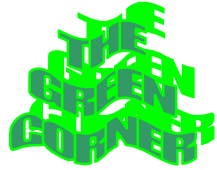
Species in this tank	Price
Tank 1.
Tank 2.....
Tank 3.....

Send this portion to:

**PAUL CORBETT, THE ORCHARD, RECTORY LANE
GATCOMBE, ISLE OF WIGHT PO30 3EF
Tel. 01983 721246**

TO BE RECEIVED BY NO LATER THAN TUESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2011

The area for aquatic plant-lovers



Ludwigia sedoides

Mosaic Plant

Seen at the recent A.S.A.S. Open Show, this plant certainly attracted the attention.



The bright red edges to the leaves accentuated the mosaic pattern of this floating plant. An apparently single stem finds its way down to any convenient substrate to self-anchor the plant.

Found in still, or slow-flowing waters in Brazil and Venezuela, this plant can be used in the aquarium but is dependent on bright light for good growth.

It may be better suited to outdoor cultivation in a pond or patio tub but it will still need a good deal of sunshine if it is to thrive. With heavy feeding, yellow flowers will form on the floating rosettes of strong-growing plants. Propagation is by taking cuttings of a rosette from the main stem which should then develop a replacement.

It has been reported that the position of the leaves change as the day progresses which infers that the plant knows when it has had enough light and restricts the amount of light on its surfaces by twisting its leaves, or even overlapping several adjoining leaves.



HELLO,

We will shortly be releasing a revolutionary new aquarium watchdog which automatically monitors the water chemistry and lets you know before there is a problem.

Our teaser website (<http://www.seneye.com>) is online now and we would like to get keen aquarists involved in the beta programme, especially advanced aquarists.

We will be launching with three products, the **seneye Home**, **seneye Pond** and **seneye Reef**. The seneye Reef includes the PAR, LUX and Kelvin meter along with the Free Ammonia monitoring, pH monitoring, Water level, general light, and temperature monitoring. Even if monitoring all those parameters in a single ultra small device isn't exciting enough we also record all the data on the persons personal seneye website where all the data is graphed automatically for them. You can then look back over all your data and see if things change... and still if that isn't enough we also use predictive analysis to see if/when the parameter will be toxic. This way we can say to users, your free ammonia level is OK at the moment but in 2 days it will be toxic! Nothing else has ever been able to do this!



In total, the seneye devices all monitor:

free ammonia (NH₃)*
pH*
light monitoring
temperature
water level monitor

The seneye Reef also monitors

LUX (lx)
photosynthetic active radiation (PAR)
kelvin (K)

* requires consumable slide which lasts for 1 month and makes nearly 3000 readings each month.



You can connect your seneye devices to an internet enabled PC and receive feedback about your aquarium anywhere in the world.

The sophisticated seneye software analyses your water thousands of times per year and the predictive software can alert you before conditions become toxic via e-mail and SMS, giving you complete comfort that your aquarium is protected.

The advanced seneye software also gives you impartial advice after analysing your water, so you can improve your system, making it look even better.

Obviously for Corals good light is the key to keeping them looking amazing, but do people know where it's best to place them?

As aquarium lights loose intensity over time by measuring photosynthetic active radiation (PAR) you know when they need replacing. Measure and monitor levels of PAR as well as LUX and Kelvin using the full light meter to help keep your corals healthy and vibrant.

The seneye features include:

- * Automatically monitors multiple key parameters
- * Constantly watching your aquarium, 5600 readings per month
- * Early warning, intelligent software predicts future water conditions *
- * Convenient alerts sent to e-mail and mobile phone *
- * Access results worldwide, data stored online for easy viewing *
- * Track your results with automatic graphing *
- * Connect to a PC or optional USB power adaptor

The seneye Reef is also ideal for anyone with a planted aquarium as the PAR, LUX and Kelvin light meter is great for ensuring that the plants get enough light. In some cases people can be giving their plants too much light and not getting the maximum growth.

More information you can visit our site at

<http://www.seneye.com/7reasons>

and we have a video on the PFK website

<http://www.practicalfishkeeping.co.uk/content.php?sid=4132>

The retail price for the seneye devices is still to be confirmed but will start from approximately £59 in the UK.

The seneye devices will be available from next month but if people from the club want to get involved and be able to shape the final development of the seneye product they can register for the beta programme by going to

<http://www.seneye.com>

It would be great to see experienced fishkeepers get involved.

Tom Crosswell



Dwarf Gourami - Colisa lalia

The Dwarf Gourami, *Colisa lalia*, besides not only being a very attractive small fish, is also a favourite with aquarists due to its peaceful nature within the community aquaria.

Originating from quiet waters of India, it lives in the gentle streams and pools that are lit with sunlight. In recent years of being farmed in the Far East it has been bred in many different colourations from its natural colour and markings. Belonging to the family of Anabantids it breathes atmospheric air, and can be seen taking a gulp of air from the aquarium's water surface from time to time.

The Dwarf Gourami thrives in a well-planted aquarium with a water chemistry neutral to slightly acidic, and is happy in a temperature range of 75-82°F. It will live quite happily on good flake food but will relish some live foods, plus frozen foods also. The natural colour of the males in good condition will show alternating blue and red stripes on the body, whereas its partner is rather drab.

The real bonus of owning a pair of these fish is to witness them spawning. An aquarium of 18" x 10" x 10" is ideal and should be well-planted.



The male will be seen trying to build a nest at the surface of the water from bubbles and small pieces of plant.

On completion, the male entices the female under his nest where the eggs are squeezed from the female by the male wrapping his body completely round her body.



In their native habitat, the air temperatures are high and this means this the aquarium must be draft-proofed (generally, a towel draped over the hood of the tank suffices). If not, any cold air immediately above the water surface can cause premature deaths if breathed in by the fry just after they have hatched.

However once the spawning has occurred the female must be removed, but with great care. Try not to break up the nest too much, and the male should look after the eggs and fry as well as rebuilding any damage that might have been done when removing the female.

After a few days the male may seem to lose interest and at this time he must also be removed to save the fry from being eaten.

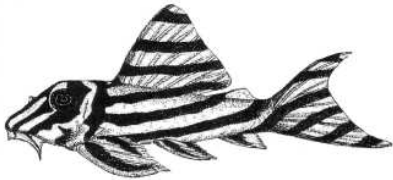
The fry of the Dwarf Gourami are the smallest in the family and a magnifying glass may be needed to see them, so only the smallest of infusoria will be able to be eaten. It is possible to supplement the food by squeezing the yolk from a hard-boiled egg through some very fine muslin (a very fine fish net may be used).

As the fry become large enough, they will take newly hatched Brine Shrimp and the addition of some mild aeration will bring them to maturity.

M. G. Goss

CATFISH CORNER

It was back in 1991 that Isbrucker & Njissen described the catfish *Hypancistrus zebra* to science. Although coming from the Loricariidae family it is not a vegetarian, contrary to common belief. I feel this is why so many of these beautiful fishes were lost.



As a catfish that is able to grow to 70mm, it can be well behaved in a community aquaria given the right conditions and hiding places that can be formed using a well-planted tank.

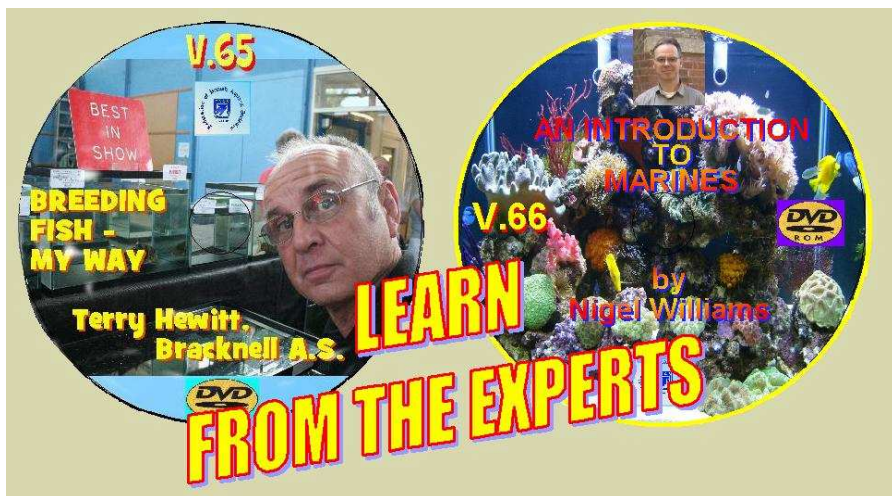
What is important is the water must be clean and very well aerated and having a temperature range of between 79-83oF. They can be found in their natural habitat with temperatures as high as 95oF. A pH of 6.5 and a hardness of 3o dH would be ideal, but not necessary, as these catfish are very tolerant of water conditions.

Colour is what the fish's common name is based on, having the markings of a Zebra with a whitish ground colour over the body including the fins.

Sexing tends to see Males having the broader head and, when sexually mature, have quite prominent bristles on the pectoral fin spines.

They readily accept live Bloodworm, Cichlid foods, any frozen foods such as Mussels, *Tubifex* and Bloodworm.

Catfish Study Group UK



One of the benefits of belonging to a Fish Club is that you have a vast wealth of experience amongst its members. There's bound to be someone there who has achieved what you're trying to and can put you on the right path if you're having problems.

Two new FBAS VIDEOS are a case in point: Terry Hewitt, the very successful exhibitor from Bracknell A.S. and Nigel Williams, from the West London Reef Club, have both put their respective experiences literally 'on record' for the benefit of Clubs, and of course, individuals who may not belong to a Club.

Terry, just as well-known for his breeding teams as single fishes at Open Shows, reveals his many tips, tricks and techniques for success when attempting to breed – learn all about his favourite conditioning food, available at your nearest superstore.

Nigel, an established mariner, clearly wants as many people as possible to share his obsession with all things saltwater. He describes the potentially 'too technical for me' aspects with great clarity and makes marine Fishkeeping it look far less daunting a prospect in the process.

Details of all FBAS videos – available on **FREE HIRE** to any FBAS-affiliated Society -can be found on the Federation website:

www.fbas@co.uk

KNOW YOUR FISH



Diapteron cyanostictum

Scientific name: *Diapteron cyanostictum*

Common Name: Gabon Jewelfish

Origin: Gabon, West Atlantic Coast of Africa

Size: 25mm

'A real cool fish' could be a very apt reaction to seeing (and keeping) this fish.

Obviously, that it's a stunner in the looks department almost goes without saying – incidentally, the specific name means 'Blue-spotted' - but fishkeepers who have successfully spawned this tiny fish are united in saying it appreciates cool water temperatures.

Its native waters, although straddling the equator, are dark forests streams kept cool by the overhead arboreal canopy. Needless to say, the water is on the soft (2⁰DH) and acid (pH 6.2) side.

Eggs, deposited in mops, take a few days to hatch out, again reflecting the influence of cooler water conditions.

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Botanic Garden

The first guide to the Botanical Gardens was published in 1855. Yes, we all know about the wonders of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew and the RHS gardens at Wisley, but many of us do not know about the Botanical Gardens in the University City of Oxford.

When crossing the Magdalen Bridge over the River Cherwell and on to the High Street, look down to your left - the Gardens are just there.

These are the oldest Botanical Gardens in Britain and have been in existence for some 410 years. In that time it has evolved from a collection of medical herbs for seventeenth century physicians to the most compact diverse collection of plants in the country.

Here there are over 8,000 species of plants from almost every botanical family. The Garden was the birth place of the London Plane Tree and the point of introduction of the Oxford Ragwort into this country. Researchers are investigating the micro-structure of algae, the surface pollen grains, taxonomy of tropical trees and the possible cure for Dutch Elm Disease plus the behaviour of bumble bees.



If all this info is going over your head, just visit, walk round take in the Tropical Lily House. Here houses one of the oldest tanks, dating back to 1851. It extends as far below the floor as it rises above it and is heated by 4" cast-iron pipes running round the edge. On display here was one of the first ever *Victoria amazonica* Water Lily grown in this tank and a charge of 1 shilling was made to see it. This proved to be very unpopular and a business failure!

Now Waterlilies are grown in wooden boxes within the tank. Amongst the more economic plants grown in this house are Bananas, Sugar Cane, Rice and Arrowroot (*Maranta arundinacea*) The minimum night temperature in this house is 18°C.



The gardens are stunning, with many rare trees and shrubs, but as you walk you may well wish to wander in the Arid, Palm, Alpine and Insectivorous Houses.

If all this is not enough, why not take a walk up the High Street and admire the fine building and colleges that make up Oxford as a University City - "Anyone for coffee ?"

What **am** I thinking of – surely all you fishkeepers after visiting the Gardens will simply walk back over Magdalen Bridge and go down the road to 'The Goldfish Bowl' – Oxford's main aquatic landmark.

A COLLECTION OF LOSERS

The title is not meant to be derogatory in any way, and we are delighted to present a selection of fishes that caught the eye without making top places. It just goes to show what's out there!



Danio sondhii



Orestichthys crenuroides



Apistogramma papagei



Apistogramma napa



Characidium sp



Golden Laser *Corydoras*



It is common knowledge amongst new fishkeepers that fish retailers sell catfish as the ideal fish to eat all the muck and debris from the bottom of your aquarium. Actually, this is a myth and as we become more experienced, we learn that this is not true.

Catfish are a diverse group of freshwater fish, with big contrasts in size, shape, habitat and needs. They comprise 2,500 plus species spanning over 20 taxonomic families within the Order Siluriformes, thus it should not come as a surprise to learn they have many forms of feeding strategies.

Most of the bottom-dwelling species rely on foraging over the bottom areas of our aquariums. Whilst many species are carnivores there are others that are herbivores and the aquarist must be aware of this.



Many catfish are nocturnal and rely heavily on non-visual senses for night-time feeding. Ictaluridae catfish have large numbers of taste buds occurring over their body surface that include the lips and head and have 50 taste buds on the gill arches. Catfish sample the water through these taste buds and trace the presence of food molecules and can home in on their next meal.

A good example is the North American Bullhead Catfish which is capable of detecting just a few molecules of amino acids in the water, enabling it to detect food items over 5 metres away, even in complete darkness.

Catfish have specific nutritional requirements, as is the same for all fish.



Suckermouth catfish mainly known as Loricariidae are herbivorous



Corydoras species, omnivorous.



Parasitic Trichomycterids are skin and gill biters.



Shovelnose Catfish, Wels Catfish and large Bagrids are piscivorous (fish eaters!) to name but a few.

Understanding our catfishes' nutritional needs and diets has helped with their environmental needs too. This in turn has led to breeding successes with what would have been 'difficult to spawn' species in the past.



Popular catfish, such as *Corydoras*, *Brochis* and *Ancistrus*, require a varied diet of good quality flake food, both standard tropical and herbivore and tablet food that falls quickly to the bottom.

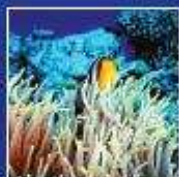
These forms of food, containing optimum levels of vitamins and minerals, slowly break up once they reach the substrate enabling grazing species such as Loricariidae plenty of time to forage.

I feed my smaller catfish such as *Corydoras* frozen Bloodworm normally once a week and it is shared by all those in the aquarium.

Lastly, do remember that most of our catfish are nocturnal or semi - nocturnal - feed them, and then put out the lights.

So, the next time you are advised to stock up with a few 'dustbin-men' in the shape of some catfish or other to tidy up your tank, do these fascinating fish the honour of considering them for their own qualities and individual characteristics.

The world of Aquatics in one weekend.



Whether you're a seasoned hobbyist or a complete novice there's plenty for you to discover at Aquatics Live.

Celebrity speakers, including Heiko Bleher, George Farmer and Chris Lukhaup will be giving seminars both for beginners and experts.

Feature areas will provide plenty of interest if you want to bring the whole family and the exhibitors are itching to showcase their latest products and sell them at the event. So look out for special offers!

Whether it's marine or tropical, coral or koi, if you love fish you can't afford to miss Aquatics Live.

Tickets £7.50 in advance from www.Aquatics-Live.com
or £10.00 on the door* – under 5's go free!

See the website for more information
and www.facebook.com/aquaticslive
for the latest updates.

*subject to availability



PARTNERS
Practical
Fishkeeping



Olympia Revisited

It's almost a 'repeat performance' for the FBAS as it returns to London's Olympia Exhibition Centre for yet another aquatics Show.

This time, unlike the 'London Pet Show,' this event is 100% aquatic rather than being an all-inclusive Pet Show. To be held in Olympia 2 on the 19th-20th November, the event will be staged over two floors, so there should be plenty for visitors to see.

The FBAS will again be working in association with Rolf C Hagen who are sponsoring the 'Societies and Associations' area on the lower ground floor. Our exhibit will include our Conservation Feature, a Helpline – complete with onscreen FBAS website and Videos - plus the Hagen range of aquariums ranging from miniscule (they call them 'Nano') to very large. Most will be furnished by Peter Anderson and Malcolm Goss who did such a splendid job at the previous event.

A centrepiece landscaped pond should be a popular attraction – as long as we can keep the visiting public circulating around it rather than camping on it – and this is being masterminded by Peter Furze and Keith Clarke, both drawing on their years of expertise at previous Festivals.

In addition, Tetra will be supporting the FBAS by helping us stage a display of ten Furnished Aquariums. Again, the public will be encouraged to vote on their favourites. There is no prize for guessing which two hard-working chaps will be setting up these!

Mick Minns will be providing a display of Discus by UKDA , complete with RO water supplies and endless advice.

There will be a continuous programme of lectures and with the large number of Trade Stands there's no way you should miss out on what should be a 'Grand Day Out.'

Festival of Fishkeeping

October 28 - 30, 2011 at Sand Bay Leisure Resort, Weston Super Mare, BS22 9UR

JOINTLY
SPONSORED BY



Aquajardin



This year's events:

- Festival Aquarist Society 'Masters' Open Show (on Sunday) - sponsored by Hagen!
- The Tetra Southern Koi Festival sponsored by Tetra
- Goldfish Society of Great Britain Fish Show on Saturday & Sunday Sponsored by Festival AS
- British Open Final (Saturday) - sponsored by Tetra
- The FBAS 'Supreme Championship' Final for Pairs and Breeders (Saturday) and Single Fishes (Sunday) - sponsored by Tetra
- Catfish display Saturday
- 'Jinchi Kai' - UK Ranchu Specialist Goldfish
- UK Discus Show sponsored by Tetra
- Society and individual Furnished Aquaria (residents only, Saturday and Sunday) (sponsored by Tetra)
- Hagen Exo Terra reptiles
- Speakers from the aquatic and water gardening worlds.
- Furnished aquariums, ponds and water garden displays, reptiles, trade displays.

A host of exciting attractions for both residents and day visitors, including:

- Freshwater tropicals
- Discus
- Marine fish
- Koi and goldfish
- Native freshwater fishes
- Filtration and lighting
- Water gardening
- Reptiles

Prices

Half-board

Two-night weekend £110

Three-night weekend £130

Lunch available both days

Cabaret entertainment, fancy dress competition and dancing on all three nights.

Hotline bookings: Contact Grace Nethersell, 8 Acacia Avenue, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 8NL Tel. 0208 847 3586.

Day visitors

Day visitors welcome on Saturday, October 29, and Sunday, October 30, 10am-5pm.

Day Visitors GET IN FREE!

With Compliments



Supporting the hobby of fishkeeping

JUST TWOMONTHS TO GO!

With only two months to go before the Festival of Fishkeeping event returns to one of its former haunts at Sand Bay, Weston-super-Mare, it's time to take a check on how things are panning out.

Fishkeepers with long enough memories will remember the hugely successful string of Festivals organised by the Federation of British Aquatic Societies over the years, reaching from the inaugural Show at Brighton Corn Exchange, via Sand Bay, Bracklesham Bay and Hayling Island. The common feature of all of these was a steady progression in size and improved attractions every year.

Organiser Joe Nethersell says "2011 will be slightly different, for some obvious reasons. The event at Sand Bay requires more exact planning to get the most out of the smaller space available to us. For instance, the Catfish Show will not be staged as a separate event but incorporated as extended Catfish Classes in the Festival Open Show on the Sunday. Despite such restriction, we will be offering a definite upgrade in style as all the exhibition areas will be covered floors."

"We have the same three main sponsors this year and we are delighted that Aquajardin will be bringing their superbly-furnished aquariums with them again together with their imaginatively stocked display area. We are also delighted to welcome nearby Tynings' Nursery with their great display of Passion Flowers – these are bound to be a hit with the ladies."

The popular Furnished Aquarium competitions will be back – the Society-based event will again be public-voted for each day's winner whilst the Individual Resident's competition will be judged by a trio of 'experts' yet to be press-ganged into volunteering to do the job.

Joe adds a note of caution "An extra complication for this year is that the weekend will be shared by other residents at the venue, so any fishkeepers wanting to attend this year's Festival reserve their accommodation should really have booked in by now."



Earlier this year the Festival of Fishkeeping's Show Team, under the leadership of FBAS Festival Organiser Joe Nethersell, descended on Sand Bay, Weston-super-Mare to evaluate the venue and forward plan for this year's major aquatic event.

Trevor Butler and Paul Corbett pondered over the siting of the various Marquees that will need to be erected; although the majority of the Shows and Trade displays will be on solid ground, even those sited on turf will be 'boarded and floored' both for the comfort of visitors and essential stability for aquatic features.

Peter Anderson and Malcolm Goss surveyed likely positions of not only the Society and Individual Furnished Aquarium Competitions but also the numerous decorative aquaria that are a traditional feature at every Festival.

Peter Furze, Barry Meades and FBAS President, Dick Mills took a look at the 'home comforts' and indoor attractions that will be on offer. Superbly-landscaped avenues lead to very well-appointed accommodation chalets whilst for the more energetically-minded (and less fish-inclined) the Fitness Gym, Sauna and Swimming Pool complex offer excellent diversions. Snooker, Bowling Alleys, Darts are alternative activities whilst miles of seaside walking is but a few hundred yards away.

Once night falls it'll be time to socialise in the comfortable bar and relax to the top-class entertainments on offer.



For full details of the **Festival of Fishkeeping – 28th-30th October 2011** – contact Joe Nethersell or

to make **Accommodation Reservations** contact Grace Nethersell at:

Tel: 020 8847 3586 or joe@the-nethersells.fsnet.co.uk and grace@the-nethersells.fsnet.co.uk

**A DOWNLOADABLE BOOKING FORM IS AVAILABLE
ON THE NEXT PAGE OR FROM THE FBAS WEBSITE**

www.fbas.co.uk

BULLETIN**Booking Form**

Festival of Fishkeeping & Water Gardening Weekend

28th – 30th October 2011

Sand Bay Leisure Resort, Beach Road, Kewstoke, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset BS22 9UR

Number of people between the following ages. (Age at date of weekend)

Under 2	2-4	5-9	10-15	16-17	18-25	26-44	45-59	60+	Total Persons	Total Rooms Chalets	Please Tick if Disabled	Please tick if Wheelchair Ramp is needed

Name of Society if any	I / We would prefer bed type	Single	Twin	Double	Accommodation	Please Circle		
	Noted but not Guaranteed				If accommodation type is fully booked, I will accept the nearest alternative	Yes	No	Bath/Shower

Mr Mrs Miss	First Name of Person Responsible	Surname	Address Mobile Telephone Number	Child/Children sharing your room. Some two room Chalets available	Chalet / Room Type

Tariff	Please indicate the number of nights --	Three Nights	Two Nights
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Adults 16+	Children 10 - 15 Years	Children 5-9 Years	Children 2 - 4 Years	Infants Under 2 Years
Two Night Weekend	Two Night Weekend	Two Night Weekend	Two Night Weekend	Two Night Weekend
£110.00 pp	£60.00 pp	£40.00 pp	£20.00 pp	Free
Three Night Weekend	Three Night Weekend	Three Night Weekend	Three Night Weekend	Three Night Weekend
£130.00 pp	£80.00 pp	£50.00 pp	£25.00 pp	Free

Deposit & Insurance PremiumsI ENCLOSE THE REQUIRED DEPOSIT £.....IN TOTAL AT £20 PER PERSON
BALANCE IN FULL TO BE PAID BY 1st SEPTEMBER 2011PLEASE MAKE ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO **FBAS** THANK YOU

INSURANCE TO COVER SICKNESS ONLY WITH A DOCTORS CERTIFICATE

PREMIUM £..... IN TOTAL AT £4.50 PER PERSON

FOR ALL PERSONS OVER 16 YEARS OLD.

INSURANCE PREMIUMS MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF BOOKING

REQUIRED / NOT REQUIRED

SIGNATURE:.....Date:.....

DECLARATIONI HAVE READ THE CONDITIONS SET OUT ON THIS FORM AND AGREE ON BEHALF OF ALL PERSONS NAMED ABOVE TO ABIDE BY THESE CONDITIONS. I ACCEPT THE CHARGES FOR THE ACCOMMODATION AND AGREE TO PAY THE BALANCE BY THE 1st SEPTEMBER 2011

SIGNATURE:.....

Please return the completed form **with your deposit or full amount** whichever is applicable to: Grace Nethersell, 8 Acacia Avenue, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 8NR.

Tel: 020 8847 3586.

WATER FEATURES -

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Years ago, they were everywhere with practically any design you could think up being turned into a moving water device. But now these patio-based 'must haves' seem to have lost their appeal.

Here's a reminder of the 'lost art.'





At least this one had the decency to be based on fish models!



Or maybe you prefer frogs?



Some features seem more practical than others.



With lights?

Glass plates or slates construction, take your pick



Spouting fish, large or small.

Even Singapore's Changi Airport can't do without an orchid-bedecked water feature!



THE INTERVIEW *Bill G. Rundle*



Thank you Bill for being the Bulletin's first aquarist to take part in 'The Interview'

Q: How long is it now Bill you have been keeping fish?
That takes a bit of thinking yes, I know45 years.

Q: What made you start keeping fish?
Well my daughter was given a goldfish in a jam jar in exchange for some woollen rags at the local school. We put the fish in a round bowl, then decided that wasn't right, and bought a real tank for it, little realising that one day I would have a Fish House holding over 40 tanks.

Q: Do you have a favourite fish and can you tell why?



*My favourite fish is *Hypphessobrycon rosaceus*, they were the first fish to catch my eye in a dealer's shop, where there were two pairs. The males continually displayed to each other, making a lasting impression on me. The fish cost 7s. 6d each.*

They were in the shop for several weeks, as this was a considerable amount of money in those days and although it was more than I could afford at that time - without letting Joyce know the true cost - I took them home! ("We've all been there, Bill!")

Q: What do you feel has made the biggest impact and helped the advancement to the fishkeeping hobby?

Silicon rubber sealant, it did away with angle-iron framed tanks.

Q: Here down in Plymouth where aquatic Clubs are far a few, would I be right in saying Plymouth is the only Club you have ever joined?

Oh yes, that's because its the best.

Q: What made you join a Club?

My father was Secretary of The West of England Chrysanthemum Society. Plymouth AS put on an aquarium display at his Show and he told me that I should join the fish Club and learn to do it properly!

Q: Do you feel Clubs still have a future?

I do feel Clubs even today still have a future, possibly smaller in number, where friends can meet up on a regular basis and talk about fish.

Q: What is your favourite aquatic book?

Well, that's easy, "Water Gardening - Water Lilies and Lotuses" by Perry D. Slocum and Peter Robinson with Francis Perry.

("I should have known!")

Q: Has the FBAS done anything to help or promote your Club?

Yes, the FBAS helped our Club, as well as all the others, by organising the showing side of the hobby.

Q: Lastly, Bill, looking back over the years you have been in the hobby, what would you say been the biggest highlight in your personal fish keeping hobby?



I was the first person in the South West to breed the Neon Tetra.

Bill (and Joyce!) can I thank you both on behalf of our readers for giving your time to take part in this Interview. I use the word 'both' as I know you share many aspects of our hobby. Thank you for all you do within our hobby and a big 'Thank You, Bill' for being my friend.

SHOW & EVENTS DIARY 2011

(full details can be found on FBAS website www.fbas.co.uk)

FBAS ASSEMBLY	3/9/11
British Aquarists Festival	4/9/11
BKA Convention	9-11/9/11
Northern Goldfish & P.S. Open Show & Auction	10/9/11
Midland Koi Association Open Show	11-12/9/11
Ryedale A.S. Open Show	11/9/11
Sheaf Valley A.S Auction	12.9.11
Hounslow & D.A.S. Open Show	17/9/11
Catfish Study Group Open Show & Auction	18/9/11
GSGB Open Show & Auction	24/9/11
Basingstoke & D.A.S. Open Show	25/9/11
Fair City AS Open Show and Auction	25/9/11
Gt Manchester Cichlid Group Auction	2/10/11
TTAA Open Show, Three Rivers Championship & Auction	2/10/11
East Anglia Group Talk	9/10/11
Preston & D.A.S Auction	9/10/11
Scottish Aquarists Festival	9/10/11
S.T.A.M.P.S. Auction	12/10/11
B.L.A.Convention, Guppy League Finals	15-16/10/11
Sheaf Valley A.S. Open Show & Auction	16/10/11
BKA Auction, Weybridge	23/10/11
S.T.A.M.P.S. Auction	23/10/11
FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING	28-30/10/11
OASIS Auction	20/10/11
A of A Superfins, SCCRS & A o f A Joint Auction	6/11/11
Castleford A.S Auction	16/11/11
GSGB General Meeting	19/11/11
OASIS Auction	20/11/11
FBAS AGM	3/12/11
Catfish Study Group Christmas Party	12/12/11
Hounslow & D.A.S. Christmas Party	14/12/11

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SHOW SCHEDULE!**



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