FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

BULLETIN

Autumn 2014

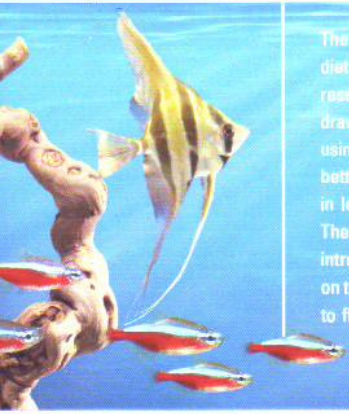
www.fbas.co.uk

NEWS, VIEWS & ARTICLES
by FISHKEEPERS
for FISHKEEPERS

Tetra

Created by experts to bring out the best in your fish

Superior to flakes	Excellent fish condition	Two formulas in one	Better water quality	Fish prefer Crisps!



The health and condition of your fish directly depends on the diet you choose for them. That's why Tetra's industry-leading research laboratories developed TetraPro Crisps, to overcome the drawbacks of flake foods. Produced at a lower temperature, and using a completely different production process, TetraPro offers better nutrition for unrivalled health and condition. It also results in less waste production, for improved water quality and clarity. The two-colour process used to make TetraPro also allows the introduction of two formulas into one food, for concentrated benefits on top of a complete, balanced diet. What's more, fish prefer Crisps to flakes, meaning they get a diet they love, as well as one that keeps them in great shape.

For more information: www.tetra.net

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

Autumn 2014
Contents

Produced for FBAS website by Dick Mills

Cover Picture: Trophy Officer Alan Stevens gets in a tangle at the Festival

www.fbas.co.uk

EDITORIAL

Welcome to a long-delayed edition of the Bulletin. I must apologise for the late arrival which was due to 'other commitments' piling up amongst the 'production team.' I blame Showbiz, as our President has suddenly discovered an extra 'second wind' and is now frequently found performing in a rock band somewhere in the UK.

But enough of that, let's celebrate the enjoyment of another Festival of Fishkeeping. This never ceases to surprise people as the organisers always come up with something different each year.

Drawing on their previous experiences at the inaugural Festival at the Hounslow Urban Farm venue, this year's event had a much more 'open' feel to it with every Showbench and display easily accessible.

A larger representation from the Koi community was appreciated by visitors, perhaps unfamiliar with these magnificently patterned fishes, as was the opportunity to see a truly endangered species of Sturgeon.
Who would have imagined that well over 200 Siamese Fighters would have been on Show?

As ever, it was the chance to chat to fishkeepers about fishkeeping that really made the Show buzz. Congratulations to all concerned in making the 2014 Festival yet another success.

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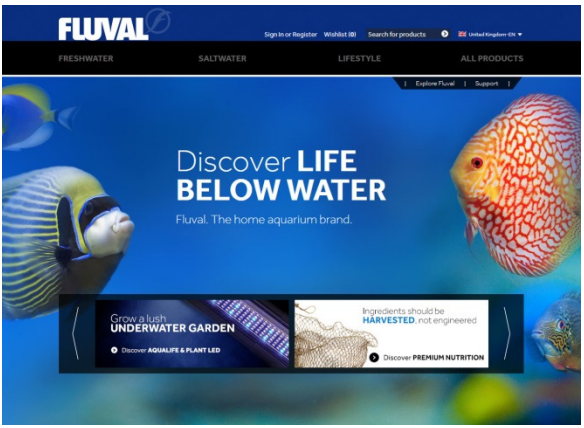
DISCOVER LIFE BELOW WATER WITH FLUVAL

by Les Holliday

The rapid development of mass communications has been a major feature of the past few decades and nowhere is this more evident than with regard to information found on the internet. A touch of the keyboard of your desktop online, or on your smartphone provides immediate access to unlimited reference storage material on any subject you can imagine.

Obviously with such an immense quantity of information there is quite a variation in the quality and accuracy of some websites, a few of which you might not wish to depend on. Fortunately the more professional website providers are in the majority and can be relied upon.



This is certainly the case with the recently revamped

www.fluvalaquatics.com

site which is one of the best locations on the web to visit not only for information regarding the Fluval home aquarium brand but also a wealth of information relating to aquaria keeping in general.

The Fluval site, like many other aquarium product manufacturer's websites, offers a comprehensive listing of all the products in the range together with highly detailed supporting data and helpful information relating to safety aspects, return policy and easy means of contacting Fluval.

Support is also provided with how to find a local Fluval stockist and a full listing of the more than 300 replacement parts available.

Aquarium product websites don't come much bigger in relation to this kind of back up and support and the Fluval web designers have been very effective in ensuring an easy path through the various screens to allow quick and simple access to web content.

A slick and professional approach has also been given to another area in the Fluval website you are sure to enjoy visiting. 'Explore Fluval' takes you beyond product related information into discovering Fluval's wider nurturing role in the aquarium hobby and involvement in global projects relating to discovering and understanding the life in below water environments.

Running down the content of this area of the website takes us first into a section devoted to reporting current expeditions.

Detailed journal reports allow you to currently witness the progress made by the Xingu´ Expedition 2014. This takes us to Brazil where the Belo Monte corporation, in conjunction with the Brazilian government, are in the process of building the world's third largest hydroelectric dam on the Xingu´ river, a major tributary of the Amazon.

One of the most biologically diverse waterways on the planet, this river is also home to many well-known aquarium fish. The project will divert 80% of the Xingu´s current water flow and will cause flooding over 1,500 square kilometres of Brazilian rainforest which, as well as endangering aquatic and other wild life, will also displace an estimated 50,000 people living along the present water way.

As responsible fish keepers, Fluval have decided to educate aquatic consumers about the profound effects the dam will have on the local environment and ultimately, our hobby, as certain fish species (i.e. Zebra Pleco, *Hypancistrus zebra*) are estimated to perish following the dramatic changes in water chemistry that will come about from flooding (i.e. pH, water type, temperature and introduction of organic matter such as rotting trees etc.)

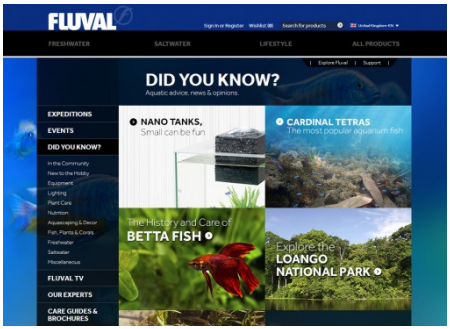
There follows a report regarding a 14 day journal compiled by Fluval brand ambassador Oliver Lucanus as he travels to Brazil, alongside top scientists in ichthyology and other fields from Brazil, Canada and the U.S. to assess and document the Rio Xingu´ before this rich ecosystem is altered forever.

A further report in the ‘expeditions’ section concerns a thirteen day Fluval Columbian expedition towards the end of the Columbian dry season in 2013.

Fluval brand ambassador Tom Sarac led an expedition team across 2,600 kilometres of the Llanos, a vast tropical grass plain and wetland situated to the east of the Andes. The group’s mission was simple; to understand and witness this rich bio-diverse environment firsthand, implement their learning into creating habitat accurate products for the home aquarium and lastly, bring awareness to help protect this precious natural environment from threats such as deforestation, mining and oil/gas production. Accompanying this report is a video and image gallery.

Another important section in the ‘Explore Fluval’ domain of the website announces and reports on forthcoming events and currently features details about the 2014 Marine Aquarium Conference of North America (MACNA) in Denver Colorado USA on 29-31st August 2014. This conference attracts speakers, vendors and visitors from all over the world and a report of the proceedings is eagerly awaited.

Aquatic advice, news and opinions are featured in two further ’Explore Fluval’ sections.



‘Did you know?’ is a fountain of knowledge with illustrated written features on a wide range of subjects including various fish species, equipment video demonstrations and ’How to Do’ articles ranging from creating a freshwater biotype aquarium to a full blown reef system.

’Fluval TV’ on the other hand, is a continuously updated video library currently featuring 76 videos with marine and fresh water content, which provide advice on a wide range of subjects including Fish, Plant and Coral life, Water Care, Lighting, Maintenance, Filteration, Plant Care and Furnished Aquariums.

It's nice to learn a little about the Fluval experts responsible for a lot of the Fluval web content and short introductions are included in an 'Our Experts' section of 'Explore Fluval'. Tom Sarac, Oliver Lucanus, Roland Zobel and the latest edition to the expert ranks Francis Yupangco are currently included.

Francis is a marine biologist and something of a celebrity, well known to devotees of the National Geographic TV channel's 'Fish Tank Kings' series, in which he has regularly featured.

Despite his youthful appearance, he has a wide experience as an aquarist and has been involved in the construction and maintenance of many landmark aquarium exhibits (Sea World, Disney, Rainforest Café and Miami Marlins Stadium to name just a few). Recently he visited the Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF) on Fluval's behalf.

This Florida based non-profit organisation was founded by fish collector-turned-conservationist Ken Nedimyer, which whilst only staffed by a handful of dedicated people has had amazing success helping to restore fringing reefs on the Florida Keys. Ken and his supporters apply techniques for propagating corals similar to those in the aquarium hobby and have managed to grow and transplant thousands of hard corals on Florida's decimated reefs.

Francis was well aware that coral reefs worldwide were dying at an alarming rate due to various human induced impacts such as pollution, sedimentation and rising water temperatures caused by global warming

and eagerly accepted Ken's invitation to accompany him in harvesting corals from the CRF nursery and transplanting them on a nearby reef.

Following a short trip offshore, Francis soon became very impressed with the CRF Coral Tree Nursery. Dozens of coral tree-like structures constructed from PVC pipes were anchored to the sandy sea bed some 20 feet below the surface. Previously harvested small *Acropora* hard coral fragments were tied by Ken and Francis onto these nursery trees and grown-out frags which had spent around eight months in the nursery were harvested for out planting on a reef site.

The newly collected grown-out frags were then quickly taken out to a previously selected reef site where they were attached to barren patches of reef using underwater epoxy (very similar to the Fluval epoxy used in salt water aquariums). The reef was almost totally devoid of corals before Ken started restoration just a couple of years ago and now many of the recently planted patches of corals planted by CRF have taken hold and are growing into healthy colonies .

The CRF is staffed by just a handful of dedicated people and volunteers so it relies on donations to help fund its mission. Francis was very grateful to Ken and his team for letting him witness their important work firsthand and pleased to be able to present the CRF with a donation of $5,000 on behalf of Fluval - a company that recognises and supports the restoration of the oceans' priceless underwater rainforests.

The **fluvalaquatics.com** website will be continuing to bring current information on Fluval products and up-to-date means of supporting life below water.

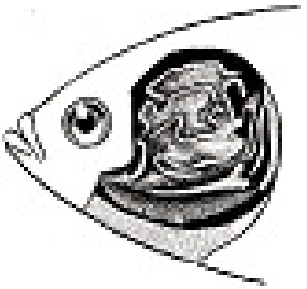
Furthermore, if you would like to register on the website, extra snippets of Fluval news will be e-mailed to you on an occasional basis and all interested are welcome to correspond via the website with any comments, views and questions.

Visit www.fluvalaquatics.com for more information on all of the topics discussed in this article.

Do You Keep GOURAMIES?

Most of us either keep, or have kept, Siamese Fighting Fish (*Betta splendens*) they are familiar to most fishkeepers, however the Gouramis and Fighters are just a few of the many diverse and interesting species that make up the group of fishes called Anabantoid or, more usually, simply referred to as Labyrinth Fishes.

One of the main features of this family of fishes is to breathe air, the same air as we do, one does not always think that if these fish were not allowed to reach the water's surface they would drown.



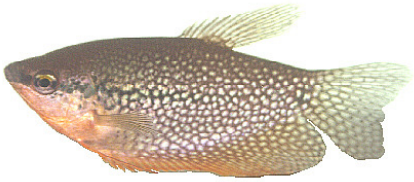
Their breathing organ is called the "Labyrinth" so named because of the complexity of its form which enables the exchange of atmospheric oxygen.

Many of the fish from this group are known for their building of a floating nest from blowing bubbles covered in clear saliva so they don't immediately burst at the water's surface.

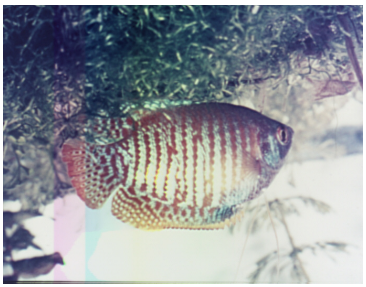
With the male squeezing the female by wrapping his body around her, the eggs are released and the male picks them up and blows them into the nest of bubbles, where they subsequently hatch. Alternatively, other species take the spawn into their mouth and incubate them there, then releasing free-swimming fry. There are some species that merely lay thousands of eggs that float away and the fry are left to fend for themselves.

This family of fishes range from extremely large species like the *Osphromenus goramy* that we see in public aquaria, (FBAS Size 400mm) to the smallest of the popular Gouramis such as the Ornate-licorice Gourami (*Parosphromenus ornaticauda*) FBAS Size 25mm.

The Paradise fish (*Macropodus opercularis*) first described by Linnaeus in 1758 is one of the first known fish to be kept in captivity. This with many other species of Labyrinth fishes come from India, Asia and the Far East in general.

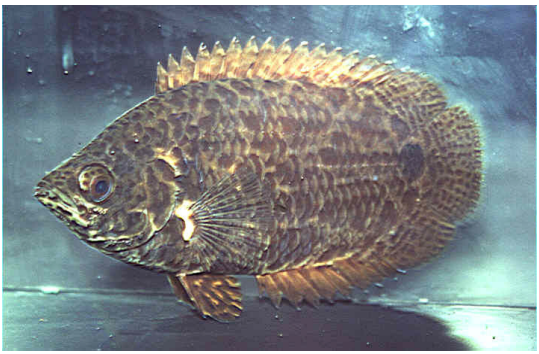


Gouramies most common in dealers' tanks include members of the *Trichogaster* species, namely Opaline, Gold, Blue, Three-Spot and *leeri* (Mosaic) Gouramies, along with the slightly smaller Dwarf, Honey and Sparkling Gouramis.



Africa also is home to many species of the Labyrinth family of fishes.
The genus *Ctenopoma* contains about 25 species, although there are species recorded that have been duplicated and the distribution is limited to tropical Africa.

Most known species being, *C. acutirostre, C. kingsleyae, C. muriei,* and *C. oxyrhynchum,* a species easily confused with *C. ocellatum.*



This group of fishes certainly lives better on a diet of live foods and at best a selection of frozen foods to keep them in good condition.

It goes without saying that these African fishes are predatory and care should be taken when choosing tankmates.

So, if it's variety, with a challenge in not only keeping Labyrinth Fish but breeding them, then look no further.

Edited text: The Anabantoid Association of Great Britain (AAGB)

Ask Us

Q. I have three cold water catfish, two black and one albino.
The black catfish have small white spots on their heads.
They are on the upper lid of their mouth and run back over the head and some way down the lateral line. They seem to be arranged in some sort of pattern.

I occasionally see small what I think are parasites on the fish which is also evident on the sides of the aquarium which consists of an internal filter and pump.

However I am rehousing the fish into a for foot tank which will also have an under gravel filter.

A. The white spots on your *(Ictalurus)* black catfish sounds like the "pimple parasite" as it is called and these infections generally seem to occur when conditions are not correct in the aquarium.

The "parasite worms" you see on the glass are planarian worms and not parasites. These seem to flourish with uneaten food and immature filters in a new water system, or a large amount of water changing.

When you are cleaning your filter use rainwater as tap water can kill off any beneficial bacteria living within the filter media and which, consequently, take some time to re-establish after each water change.

For this reason, many aquarists advocate only partially cleaning the filter medium in order to maintain bacterial life.. Laguna bacteria starter will help re-condition your filter more quickly. Also do not feed your fish so much, so stopping water pollution.

Basics of Freshwater Aquarium Conditioning

There are three different types of freshwater aquarium environments: soft acid water, neutral water and hard alkaline water. The neutral environment is the most frequently seen because it is the easiest to control, most fish adapt readily to it, and most aquarium pet stores use it. The soft, acid water environment is usually promoted by Discus and Tetra enthusiasts while the hard, alkaline water is often selected for livebearers and African Cichlids.

The key factor distinguishing the environments is pH. pH is a paradox in that it is both critical and irrelevant. It is irrelevant because fish are, for the most part, insensitive to it and adapt to just about any reasonable pH, even if is changes rapidly. Trauma apparently due to pH change is often due to related factors, notably Ammonia. An aquarium could easily be over-populated at pH 6.8 but, when its zealous keeper makes a water change with pH 9 tap water, a drastic pH change occurs. Normally the fish would hardly notice the change except that in this case there has been an accumulation of ionized ammonia which is now be rapidly converted into deadly free ammonia.

Alternatively, consider the accumulation of insoluble and invisible copper oxide particles (from copper pipes) in the aquarium. At neutral or alkaline pH, the copper oxide is no more hazardous than quartz rock, but, if the pH drops, this copper will dissolve and quite probably cause trouble that will end up being blamed on a virus.

pH control, then, is important with respect to maintaining the delicate balance of this sometimes precarious environment.

A paramount factor in the proper maintenance of an aquarium is the dilution of accumulated waste by scheduled water changes. This requires the removal of chlorine or chloramine (or both) from the new water.

With the advent of chloramine, thiosulfate has proven inadequate, causing the release of ammonia.
At acid, or neutral, pH this is not of serious consequence. However, at alkaline pH it can be devastating, particularly if the tapwater is heavily chlorinated.

A less well-defined factor that appears important is the balanced concentration of essential ions, such as calcium, magnesium, potassium and sodium.
Generally, aquarium water develops an imbalance that leads to subtle but clearly unhealthy osmotic stress. Most fish can adapt to this, but they are vulnerable when stressed by re-location, chill or the trauma of being in a plastic bag.

An important factor, often overlooked when first setting up an aquarium, is the selection of bottom substrate. It is important to select a substrate that is inert.

Before investing a lot of time and money on a selected substrate, test it by rinsing and then soaking a handful in about a cup of distilled water for a few days.
If the substrate is inert it will not alter the pH of the water. Distilled, or de-ionized water should have a pH of about 6.2 depending on the carbon dioxide it contains. If the substrate alters the pH of the water, it will probably do the same for your aquarium. Do not assume that a coated gravel is inert.

With an inert gravel, you will be able to control pH with relatively modest doses of buffer but, with a pH-altering gravel, you will have to use a much higher – and more frequent – dosage to achieve stable pH control.

Neutral Regulator ™ is designed for the neutral water environment. Used regularly with water changes, aquarium pH will always be neutral and free from of chlorine, chloramine and ammonia; essentials ions will be balanced and a conditioner will promote long-term water clarity.

With very hard water, a precipitate of calcium may form, which should be allowed to settle and then removed to keep the water soft. This is an economical way to gradually soften the aquarium water, even with a very hard native water source.

Neutral Regulator ™ contains no carbonates or bicarbonates. In a neutral freshwater environment bicarbonate is not an efficient buffer unless coupled with carbon dioxide injection.

Discus Buffer ™ is designed to lower the pH and soften water for soft acid water environments. It will not remove chlorine or chloramine. It may, however, be combined with Neutral Regulator ™ in order to achieve chlorine/chloramine removal and also to target a specific pH.

Discus Buffer ™ will produce acid water without discolouring the water. So-called 2dark water" is dark from tannins and phenols, both of which, in the confines of the aquarium, can be hazardous to fish. Dark water is unnecessary and undesirable for maintaining soft acid water.

Acid Buffer ™ is a non-phosphate buffer designed to lower pH and buffer at acid pH where phosphates may pose a problem. Alkaline Buffer ™ is a non-phosphate buffer intended to raise pH or buffer between 7.8 and 8.3. Used together, they can achieve any target pH in the range of 5.0 to 8.0,

Seachem's non-phosphate buffers are designed for both soft and hard waters and are ideal for planted tanks or those with persistent algae problems. Competing non-phosphate buffers use "hydrocarbonate" or "carbonic acid monosodium salt," in other words, sodium bicarbonate or baking soda.

Seachem's Flourish ™ and **Flourish Tabs ™** are both excellent products for adding nutrients to stimulate the growth of freshwater plants without supporting problem alga growth.

Cichlid Lake Salt ™ is a scientific blend of dose-specific salts that faithfully simulate the different Rift Lakes of Africa.

Malawi/Victoria Buffer ™ buffers between 7.8 and 8.3, depending on dosing.

Tanganyika Buffer ™ buffers at 9.2. These products are also very useful for any hard water cichlids and other hard water fish, including those native to brackish waters.

Prime ™ is a liquid total conditioner for removing chlorine, chloramine and ammonia. It also protects from nitrite. Unlike competing products, it does so without lowering pH. It provides essential ions and slime coat protection.

Safe ™ is a dry product, supplied in a handy dispensing vial that performs the same primary functions as Prime ™.

AmGuard ™ is a versatile ammonia remover that is useful in emergencies and setting up new tanks. Overdosing with AmGuard ™ should be avoided.

StressGuard ™ is an exceptionally concentrated slime coat that is unequalled by aby 0other. It is a natural polymer coat that shields fish from bacterial, fungal and viral infections. It decreases stress and reduces the toxicity of ammonia. Unlike competing products, it is not a polyelectrolyte that can adversely alter pH and ionic balance.

Just ask your dealer to let you feel the texture of StressGuard ™. It also works great in marine water.

Reprinted from SuperFish Magazine,
Queensland Cichlid Group, June/September 2014

The area for aquatic plant-lovers

Using driftwood in your home aquarium is a great way to add a natural look that can really make the difference between just *a* normal everyday tank and a great piece of art that everyone can enjoy looking at. Using driftwood you can make your tank look just like It is *a* slice taken straight from nature, nothing looks more natural than *a* group of your favourite fish swimming around and through *a* nice large piece of carefully chosen and placed drift wood

Choosing Suitable Wood

When it comes to choosing what type of driftwood you want there are a few things that you should take into consideration, type of wood being the main one.

Generally the harder and darker the wood is. the safer it is for the occupants of your tank. Overseas there are a lot more choices for types of safe driftwood than what we have available In NZ, so personally I try to stick with hard native wood when I do use it. Types of wood that are safe to use *are* timu, rnanuka, beech, oak and kauri, types to avoid are all soft woods or freshly cut pieces of wood. The general rule is if you can dig your fingernail into it, it is not safe or cured enough to use in an aquarium. Also avoid any pieces that have a smell like they are rotting, as the bacteria in them rely on air and once placed in a tank can cause a major ammonia spike as they die off.

Finding Driftwood

We are pretty lucky in NZ when it comes to finding driftwood as most of us live within driving (or walking) distance of a beach or waterway, most people have no problems collecting some from the local beaches after a big storm or large tides. River mouths are an excellent place to collect it as that way the wood probably hasn't been in the

sea for an extended period of time which means less work when you *are* preparing it. Another great place is lake edges but you may find that you have less luck finding the right piece as the supply of washed up wood is more scarce.

Some pet stores sell driftwood that is already been cleaned and is safe to use straight away in your aquarium but it can be expensive and hard to find the right piece.

Preparing Driftwood

There are lots of differing opinions on what you should do to prepare your driftwood for use but this is what's always worked for me, once I have found a suitable piece.

I give it a blast with a water blaster, quick scrub with a pot scrubber and then submerge it in a bucket (or bath for the large pieces, much to my partner's dismay!) for however long it takes to become waterlogged and sink, During this time if I don't like the tannins that some wood can release I drain and fill the container every day or so until the water stays clear.

Once the wood has sunk I usually add water conditioner for the last dip and leave it soaking for 24 hours just to make sure that none of the bad stuff from tap water has leached into the wood and is going to slowly leach back out.

Some people also boil the wood to make it sink and release the tannins faster, This is fine and works for a lot of people but personally I don't bother as I think boiling wood can soften it and help it to decompose faster, Also If you don't like the look of tannins you can just add purigen or activated carbon to your filter which will clear it up in no time,

Also I have heard of people who collect driftwood from a beach worrying about salt and other nasty critters getting released into their tanks but I have never had an issue with it. I personally don't think that there would be enough salt stored in the wood to make any difference to salinity or have any other negative effect on your tank or stock, Also If you give the piece of wood a good wash and scrub most critters etc should be washed off or destroyed.

If you are impatient and really can't wait to get the driftwood In your tank you *can* cheat by tying it onto rocks or other items that can't float and you can just put it in your tank straight away, just make sure you have given it a scrub first.

Reprinted from NZAS Aquarium World, Vol 60, Issue 2, 2013

KNOW YOUR FISH

Adriatic Sturgeon - Acipenser naccarrii

The **Adriatic sturgeon** is a species of fish in the Acipenseridae family.

Whilst it is a member of the Sturgeon group of fishes it is not comparable to the much larger 'Beluga' types found in Russia and other areas, from which the caviar industry is supplied.

It is found in Albania, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, and Slovenia. It can be found at the Milan Aquarium, Aquarium Finisterrae, Aquarium of the Po, and the protected area of Oasis of Sant'Alessio in Lombardy.

Its natural habitat is rivers. Today it is threatened by habitat loss and overfishing and is on the Red Endangered list of species.

Apologies for the poor quality photograph, but as the opportunity presented itself at the Festival of Fishkeeping to see such a rare fish, we thought we'd take a chance and see what came out!

Thanks to Simply Koi for making this sighting possible.

aquatic Brazil

Part Two

With news of England's early departure in the World Cup Football, I had no regrets at being on a small craft that does fish collecting trips along the Amazon here in Brazil.

Since the time I last put pen to paper, we have travelled the whole length of the Rio Negro as far as Sao Gabriel da Cachoeira,

Here the Rio Negro has an unusual white water tributary. We pulled in the boat close to a native village made up of huts and some dodgy-looking landing stages. It was one of these we tied up on and I gently walked along the wooden planking and jumped over the missing ones and there were plenty of gaps!

It was well worth the stop as the villagers had many *Corydoras* already collected in tin containers.

My eye was taken by possible 100 or so *Corydoras adolfoi,* the captain pointed out that fish from these white waters do not travel well and many of them die before we return to Manaus. In all the villagers were paid only a few pence and the fish were taken on board.

This was a good time for me to take a closer look at the fish and swimming in the same container as the *C. adolfoi* was what to me looked to be *C. melini.*

They were much larger than the Colombian *C. melini* and with their own distinctive mid-body colour, being much richer and more intense.

Returning to Manaus to drop off fish we had collected along the way back we carried on downstream to Santarem and to collect more fish that our captain said he had not visited for many weeks; he added that if you don't collect these catches the villagers have made then someone else will.

Here on the approach to Manaus tourist ships cruise up the Amazon and now I am told there are many of them. Although the Amazon is not only wide but well deep enough for such ships to make their way up-river with ease. if we are not to get run down we should keep well to the banks.

After reaching Santarem we enter the Lago Grande to the north of the Rio Tapajos. Overhanging trees and branches line most of the main waterways that often form a small islands during this part of the dry season. We lowered a rowing boat to get closer to the bank and started running a small net in and out of the vegetation but that was tricky to get our net out once we had lowered it below the surface. Here the water was only a metre or so deep.

When we got the net lifted we had a couple of dozen fishes, mostly Cichlids and a couples of Characin species.

A closer look and one could see them to be three species of *Geophagus,* along with *Mesonauta insignis,* common name Flag Cichlid same family as the Festive, but the males showing blue with a yellow belly and having the common diagonal black strip across its body.

After moving back upstream towards Santarem in a very wooded area we put out our nets once again. Wow! When we retrieved them this time our net had twice as many fish as before.

There were about two dozen dwarf Cichlids, this being a blue form of *Apistogramma agassizii.* I was told they appear in quite a large area of the Amazon whilst the yellow/red varieties that we mostly see in our shops actually come from northern Peru.

The captain wanted to make an overnight trip about midway into the Rio Tapajos a very large river down south from Lago Grande where he is hoping to make his final collection before dropping me off at Manaus. I slept during the night and was woken by voices I did not know. It turned out to be villagers with the crew loading containers with live fish. As we started back I took a closer look at these ten containers in all.

Many had collections of what looked to be small cichlids that I had not seen before. There were at lest two species of *Geophagus* however I could name *Acarichthys heckellii* at about 100mm in size, plus a Characin,

elongated and silver in colour all over being a species of *Serrapinnuus,* maybe undescribed.
In one other container were juveniles,

what looked to me as *Leporinus affinis,* about 50mm and looking in good condition.

But the biggest surprise was in the last container as I was now looking down on top of fifty *Pterophyllum scalare,* but they had bright red all over the dorsal area of their body, truly fantastic.

After a good night's sleep we arrived at Manaus. All too soon I was saying my goodbyes, my legs found it hard to adopt to a still and firm floor. Soon I was on my way home, did I miss the football ? You must be joking!

Ref: Heiko Bleher
Horst Linke
Werner Seub
Dr. Wolfgang Staeck
Tom Sterling
FBAS Show Sizes 2014

Our Editor is clearly a man of impeccable taste (so he tells us!), and on the face of this brief report we really ought to start believing him. Can this beautiful location be just 18 miles from the centre of London, or even slightly less from Malcolm's home?

How great it was for the Bulletin to visit the Grove, just outside Watford in Hertfordshire, this happens to be the home of the English Football team when they have a get together and relax.

With Brazil and the world cup seeming ages away one would have to wonder how much this form of relaxation contributed to the actual results after taking into account of the expense in staying here - room costs are more expensive than the Ritz in London!

Well, we came to look at the water gardens here and they are really exciting with multiple fountains and sculptures. Like the interior, the ponds can only be described as "Swish."

“Now pay attention boys, about those missed opportunities in the second half…..”

For full information about ‘The Grove’ please visit

www.thegrove.co.uk

or contact directly at

THE GROVE London's Country Estate
Chandler's Cross
Hertfordshire
WD3 4T

September

This is a good time to remove debris and dead plant material from the surface of the pond from overgrown marginal plants and leaves etc that wind has blown in.

The Laguna nets are ideal and have telescopic handles for those ponds with far-reaching places. If this is not possible then use garden wire to tie a suitable fish net to a strong bamboo cane.

A pond vacuum is needed to remove any sludge from the bottom of the pond. If you know the bottom of your pond is flat, I'd use an old net to trawl along the bottom while your filter and pump is switched off. The sludge can be turned into a bucket (try not to lift too much sludge at any one time) and when completed give a dose of Laguna Bio Sludge.

I would wait 24hrs before turning on the pump and filter giving the pond time to clear, so not blocking up the filter within 30 minutes after you have started the pump!

With the start of autumn, leaves, dying marginals and increased decaying material falling into the water, check for water deterioration, by water testing,, and carry out partial water changes if necessary.

With high summer temperature, as we had over the past months, it can encourage fish infections and parasites as they develop faster in warm water. Fungus and Fin-rot are common diseases. If your fish have any outward evidence of these infections, like signs of irritation by scratching themselves or jumping, you can contact the Hagen Helpline for advice on their treatment.

October

If you did not carry out any maintenance to your pond last month, October is a good time for a complete clean out. When did I hear you say you did it last? Was it last year, maybe the year before? Now I think of it, well it could be five years ago!

So get to it, start by removing all the marginal plants; boy, I cannot lift them, so don't leave it so long next time. Remove all aquatic plant and any water lilies.

Have a large tub/fish tank or child's paddling pool to put the fish in. Cover with a net or similar to stop fish jumping out. Pump out the remaining pond water, well away from the pond, that's if you don't want to fall in by slipping.

Using a dust pan with a rubber edge, remove the remaining water along with all the sludge. Re-fill the pond and use a Laguna Water-safe treatment.

When replacing the fish check for damage to their bodies and leave them out of the pond for the time being till they are free from any infections.

Clean the filter - often it is said only wash half the filter medium but, if it's that dirty fully clean half and rinse or wash the remaining media or sponge leaving some bacteria for the filter to start operating again.

November

During the water months I cover my pond with chicken run wire supported by some canes. This stops most of the falling leaves dropping into the water.

Also when it is cold, river fish swim and rest at the bottom of canals and rivers and your fish become easy pickings for the Heron who will be looking for food.

Most water gardeners do not feed their fish during the winter months at temperatures below 10°C (50°F)c. However, fish food manufacture do make a wheat-germ food in ether flake or pellet form and those that like to feed their fish small amounts, say twice a week will be OK.

One must keep in mind the more you feed your fish in both summer and winter the more your fish will pooh. This will make more dirt and sludge in your filter. One often gets asked “Do you switch off your pump in winter?” Keep your waterfall going if possible, unless ice makes it come to a standstill. But shut any fountains off and small water feature that will ice up quickly.

FESTIVAL TIP

We all know the feeling, you just don’t want to win another Card or Trophy. You’re fed up with lugging around Rosettes, Certificates with pins in, to say nothing of great pots of food and Cups with marble bases.

We spotted this neat answer to the transportation problem at the recent Festival of Fishkeeping.

Usually, ‘Hoodies’ get a pretty poor Press, but surely one that keeps fish can’t be that bad?

The Species *Julidochromis*

Julidochromis - a group of cichlids from Lake Tanganyika Africa.

Just this one sentence conjures up excitement of what fish we are going to see. These fish are very secretive jewels. They love to explore all the nooks and crannies of the rocks you can provide for them in your aquarium. However they are even more secretive about where and how they spawn.

So the aquaria you are hoping to breed them in needs plenty of rocks that are formed into caves. You can use flowerpots, to lava rock or even petrified wood. Build these at the back of your tank right up to the water level. The fish may well seem to disappear but they will come out for food, especially frozen blood worm. London water is ideal for these fish with a pH 7.6. The only change we made was to add a little sea salt, one teaspoon per gallon and set the thermostat to maintain a temperature of 80^{o}F.

In our fish-house we set up six unused 20 gallon tanks used for breeding out fish but we decided to concentrate on the half dozen species of *Julidochromis* we had.

In one, a supposedly-mated pair of *J ornatus* was placed; in a second tank, six one-inch *J marlieri* to grow and hopefully pair off, and in a third tank two *J regani,* which appeared to be a pair. With three tanks occupied, the only hope for immediate action was from the *J. ornatus.* Time passed and nothing happened.

Then one night while looking closely the *J. ornatus* were seen spawning in one of the caves made up of white lime rock. The most intriguing fact was the eggs were a moss-green, we then left the fish-house quietly!

One week, two then three weeks went by, but no young, and in my frustration I striped the tank. On removing one of the last rocks we found approximately 30 moss-green eggs. The eggs were removed while on the rock and placed in another tank with methylene blue and an air stone. The eggs fungused and the next spawning were all much the same.

We purchased six smaller *J. ornatus* and placed with the larger pair. They never all got on and we had to take them out. In the process of another strip down we found eight wigglers on a rock after it had been out of the water for two hours. We vowed to set the tank up again and keep our sticky fingers out!

That is the moral of the story for about a month later several very small young were seen enjoying the thick algae.

In the tank containing the six.*J. marlieri (*and some months later), one pair had set up a territory having now had grown to two and a half to three inches.
We removed the other Julies and the first spawning only produced two young but later a second spawning we counted two dozen or more.

Conditioning the adult fish is very important and we feed out fish on a varied diet of beef heart, both frozen and live (when we could get it) Brine Shrimp, green and plain TetraMin, plus there was a lot of algae and duckweed in their tanks.
At the first sight of young fish we would feed baby Brine Shrimp and very, very fine dry food.

Even though we have been lucky enough to get young ones from two species we feel we still have a lot to learn, as we have not yet been lucky with *J. regani* Maybe later.

Nancy Beatty & Robert L. Barrett, M. D.
Fort Worth, Texas.
Photos: Ad Konings

AQUARAMA
The 14th International Ornamental Fish and Accessories Exhibition 2015

28-31 May 2015 Suntec Singapore

Singapore, August 25, 2015 - Aquarama is the leading biennial international ornamental fish, aquatic plants, invertebrates and accessories trade exhibition in the world (www.aquarama.com.sg). Throughout its history stretching back to 1989, it has attracted exhibitors, trade and public visitors from all corners of the globe. The 14th edition – scheduled to run from 28-31 May 2015 in its traditional home of Singapore, will be no different – with one important exception.

In addition to its usual complement of visitors from the international ornamental aquatic industry and the general public (numbering in the many thousands), it has always attracted a small number of visitors from the public aquarium world, as well as some exhibitors who supply both the ornamental and public aquarium sectors.

Piaba Logo
Credit: Project Piaba

This is now set to change dramatically with the organisers (UBM Media (Singapore) Pte Ltd) and a specially convened public aquarium committee launching a programme of sub-events aimed specifically at public aquarium personnel. This committee, consisting of Scott Dowd (Senior Aquarist at the New England Aquarium, Boston, USA), Ramón Barbosa (Senior Curator at the S.E.A. Aquarium in Sentosa, Singapore) and Rob Jones ('The Aquarium Vet' and veterinarian at the SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium, Australia) and co-ordinated by Aquarama Consultant, John Dawes, is devising a programme of activities tailored fairly and squarely to the needs of the public aquarium industry, as well as the fostering of closer links between the home aquarium industry and public aquaria.

Illustrated Cardinal Tetra
Credit: Sally Landry

Up to now, these links have only been modest. However, if developed to their full potential, this would undoubtedly benefit both industries. For instance, there are several livestock suppliers within the ornamental sector that already service public aquaria, but the room for expansion and improvement is considerable but, as yet, largely unexplored. The same applies to manufacturers and suppliers of equipment, foods, treatments, services, etc.

In order to address these issues, Aquarama is dedicating over 50% of its available seminar and meeting time slots to a number of activities aimed at bringing both industries closer together than ever before.

Round Table Discussion: Chaired by Aquarama Consultant, John Dawes, this will consist of a panel of invited experts, comprising the three above-mentioned committee members, government representatives, ornamental aquatic industry leaders, plus livestock suppliers. Under the theme: **Engage, Influence and Collaborate: Maximising the Synergies of the Public and Home Aquarium Industries**, attendance will be free and open to all Aquarama trade and public aquarium visitors and exhibitors, and will consist of a minimum of 1½ hours of intense debate, action and Q&A's.

Seminar: This half-day programme of presentations from leading figures from the public aquarium world will feature topics of exclusive relevance to the industry, such as: **Artificial Reproduction Techniques in Sharks and Rays, Prolonged Transportation and Captive Husbandry of Manta Rays; The Initiative to Promote Conservation and Sustainable Management of Home Aquarium Fishes, led by the IUCN Species Survival Commission/Wetlands International Freshwater Fish Specialist Group (FFSG) and the Global Zoo and Aquarium Community; Initiative to Promote Socially and Environmentally Beneficial Home Fishkeeping**, plus several other topics which are currently being finalised.

Strategic Development Meeting: This in-depth session will discuss the IUCN's FFSG/public aquaria initiative set up to explore ways in which both industries can help drive environmental and socio-economic benefits, e.g. by identifying and promoting opportunities for sustainable management of wild populations of aquarium fishes that support livelihoods for communities living in regions of biological importance, thus fostering a powerful drive for conservation of these species as well as the habitats where they are found – achieved via well-informed consumer choices within the home aquarium industry. The team to explore this new, ambitious, and important initiative (under the chairmanship of committee member, Scott Dowd) will create a win-win-win scenario where the hobby gets an infusion of energy from zoos and public aquaria (which will showcase fish identified by IUCN's FFSG as key species), thus promoting fishkeeping; zoos and aquaria will get a new instrument to achieve their goals of in-situ environmental protectionism; rural communities can receive sustainable economic returns for stewarding aquatic resources and watersheds, and the ornamental industry becomes a main actor in facilitating ethical supplies and helping alleviate poverty. This important meeting will last for a full afternoon (approximately four hours).

Too often, meetings of great importance such as this take place at international conferences. Important conclusions are reached by very well qualified specialists. Unfortunately though, those findings and discussed action plans fade away shortly after the meeting. In order to guarantee lasting outcomes from our Strategic Planning Meeting, we have retained the services of The Facilitators Network Singapore with trained experts to help us run the most efficient meeting, capture all information and produce a working document which will serve as a road map that will enable us to follow through and accomplish the goals we agree upon at Aquarama 2015.

It is hoped that bringing public aquaria into Aquarama will benefit all parties, especially when added to the organiser's efforts to attract exhibitors who supply public aquaria but are currently unaware of the trade benefits and possibilities that Aquarama undoubtedly offers.

It is also hoped that by attracting visitors and exhibitors from public aquaria, these will gain an invaluable insight into an industry which they may be aware of, but know little about. These visitors will, for example, be able to witness at first hand a staggering array of fish, aquatic plants, invertebrates and equipment which they may never have come across before. They will also, of course, be able to source supplies of equipment, services and livestock for their own establishments, be able to attend the free ornamental aquatic trade and public seminars which form a traditional part of Aquarama, join the highly popular fish farm tour and marvel at the more than 1,400 entries in the general fish competition, as well as the specialised crystal bee shrimp, betta, marine aquarium, marine nano cube, freshwater planted aquarium, freshwater nano, and dragon fish (Asian arowana/bonytongue) competitions, which have helped make Aquarama the 'best ornamental aquatic exhibition' on the planet.

In the words of Jennifer Lee, event manager for Aquarama: "The ornamental aquatic sector has always supplied fish, plants and invertebrates to the home aquarium hobbyist, on the one hand, and public aquaria on the other. It could be said to lie in the middle, with the two sectors at either end of the spectrum. It is our aim to bring both ends much closer together than they've ever been before and establish our event as a 'must attend' fixture in the calendar of all stakeholders."

For further information on Aquarama, please visit www.aquarama.com.sg.

A Word from the TROPHY OFFICER

May I remind all Show Secretaries that they are required to fill in and return to me all of the Forms included in their paperwork packs.
Failure to send in any or all these Forms will mean the withdrawal of all Open Show support, Championship Classes and Best in Show Trophies; also any claims made by exhibitors for points towards Brooches won at Shows where the Brooch Scheme Form has not been returned will be invalid.

Finally where a Society chooses to sub-divide classes for their Open Show it is important that the correct Class Letters are used, I have come across two instances this year when Class P has not been sub-divided correctly and has been listed as Pq Cultivated Swordtails, Pr Cultivated Platies, Ps Cultivated Mollies and Pa Cultivated *Poecilia wingei*. I have also in the past seen them listed simply as P1, P2, P3 etc.

PLEASE NOTE that according to the Show Rules the correct sub-divisions are as follows:

Pa. *Poecilia latipinna*.
Pb. *Poecilia sphenops*. (cultivated)
Poecilia velifera.
Pd. *Poecilia mexicana*.
Pe. *Xiphophorus helleri*. (Cultivated)
Pf. *Xiphophorus variatus*. (Cultivated)
Pg. *Xiphophorus maculatus*. (Cultivated)

Therefore to avoid confusion cultivated livebearers should be grouped as follows:

Class Pa-d Cultivated Mollies
Class Pe Cultivated Swordtails
Class Pf-g Cultivated Platies
Class P Cultivated Livebearers not listed above including *Poecilia wingei* (Endlers)

IN FUTURE ANY SHOW SCHEDULE NOT LISTING CLASSES CORRECTLY WILL BE RETURNED AND OPEN SHOW SUPPORT WITHELD UNTIL THE MATTER IS PUT RIGHT

ALL THE FUN OF THE FESTIVAL!

We're probably storing up problems for ourselves with regard to the next issue of the Bulletin, but we thought you'd like to see some coverage of the recent Festival of Fishkeeping rather than wait until December.

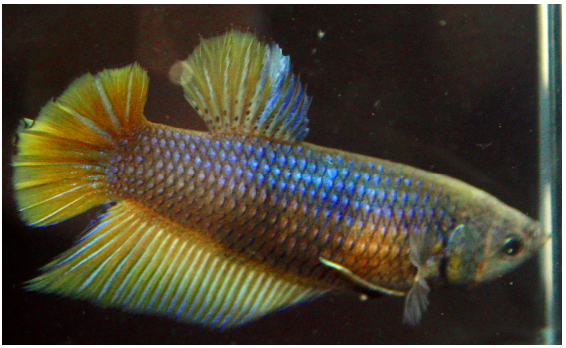
Always a weather-risk at this time of year, it was no surprise when one of the public days was wet but there was plenty of interest within the several marquees erected at the Hounslow Urban Farm to 'contain' the audience.

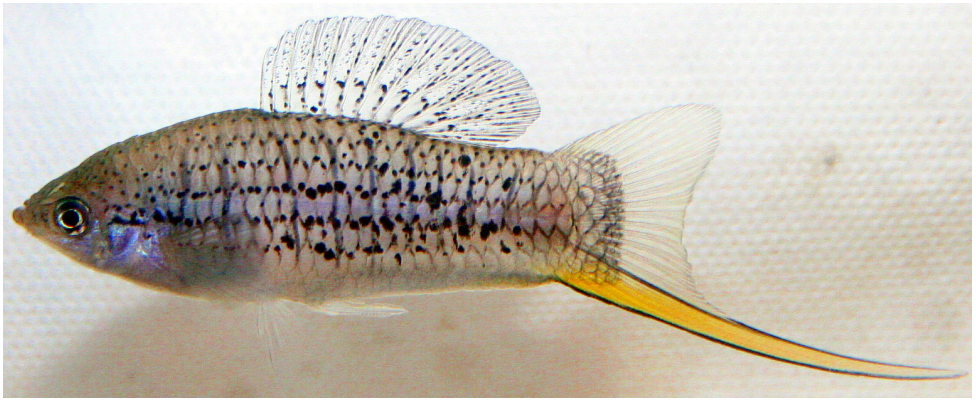
Again, as our editor remarked in his editorial, a re-design of the layout of the festival meant that the public could get much closer to the exhibits – even whilst judging was taking place – to appreciate what was on show..

As it happened, taking three distinct Classes out of the main Open Show – Siamese Fighters, Killifish and Livebearers – actually increased the numbers of fish on display, as these groups suddenly found themselves upgraded into 'Special Interest Classes.'

'When you seen one Fighter, you've seen them all," was a statement that simply didn't stand up to close scrutiny such was the number and diversity of finnages and colours on display. A few that caught our eye are featured here, but the other 200 or so will have to wait and take their chance to be spotted next year!

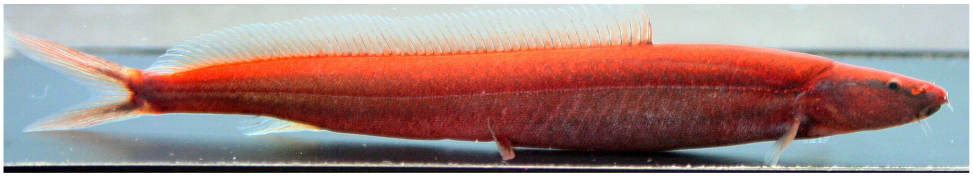
Some stunning Fighters, the top-right fish, exhibited by Lisa Bradshaw, was adjudged to be the **Best Fighter** in the Class.





"Anything you can do, I can do just as well" says Terry Hewitt's **Best Livebearer**, *Xiphophorus nezhuacoyotl.*

Despite staging the lower total entry numbers of the Special Classes, there was no doubting the quality of the Best Killifish, *Nothobranchus rachovi*, exhibited by Leicester's Tim Edwards

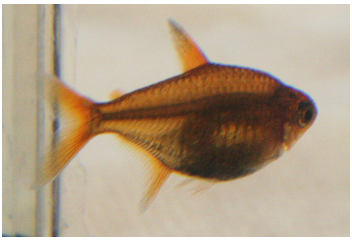


Even a trainee Judge would have been able to measure this fish, so confidently did it deport! However, it only acted to show just how precarious is the task of maintaining such a quality fish at the highest level.

On the one hand, Alan Finnegan's *Vaillantella maassi* deservedly took the **BRITISH OPEN CHAMPION** Award on the Saturday but, tragically, failed to survive the following night's unfortunate overnight water temperature drop.

Saturday's **Festival A.S. Open Show** threw up a rich collection of winners;

Stuart and Sarah Brown made their presence felt with this **Best In Show** *Serpenticobitis octozona* whilst, not too far behind



Peter & Jack Dean's Mid-Sussex based *Apistogramma agassizi* and *Hyphessobrycon amandae* took both **Reserve Best in Show** positions.

The last two remaining Championship Class Trophies were up for grabs and

Allan Finnegan took **Class K** with this *Microdevario kubotai*

and Stuart and Sarah Brown had success in **Class Ha** with an *Aspidoras spilotus.*

The last '**Diamond Class'** winner of the year was this *Leporacanthicus galaxias* exhibited by Leicester's Alan Finnegan.

FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING

FURNISHED AQUARIUMS

NOBODY WON, NOBODY LOST. JUST SOME NICE TANKS TO REMIND VISITORS WHAT FISHKEEPING'S ALL ABOUT.















FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING

FBAS SUPREME 2014 CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

2014 FBAS SUPREME CHAMPION
Vieja maculicauda Steve & Debbie Edwards

2nd Place - *Ctenopoma kingsleyae*
Stuart & Sarah Brown

3rd Place - *Botia histrionica*
Alan Finnegan

4th Place - *Vieja guttulata*
Steve & Debbie Edwards

5th Place - *Amphilophus robertsoni*
Steve & Debbie Edwards

6th Place - *Pethia padamya*
Alan Finnegan

Judged by Keith Cocker

FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING

2014 BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

2014 British Open Champion
Vaillantella maassi Alan Finnegan

2nd Place - *Aulonacara jacobfreibergi*
Alan Finnegan

3rd Place - *Vieja maculicauda*
Steve & Debbie Edwards

4th Place - *Serpenticobitis octozona*
Stuart & Sarah Brown

5th Place - *Vieja guttulata*
Steve & Debbie Edwards

6th Place - *Macrognathus circumcinctus*
Steve & Debbie Edwards

Judged by David Nice

FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING

SUPREME PAIRS

2014 SUPREME PAIR - *Phalloceros caudimaculata reticulata auratus*
Tim Edwards

2nd Place - *Scleromystax barbatus* Stuart & Sarah Brown
3rd Place - *Oryzias woworae* Roy Chapman
4th Place - *Xiphophorus xiphidium* Alan Finnegan
5th Place - *Nannostomus marginatus* Roy Chapman
6th Place - *Nematobrycon palmeri* Malcolm Goss

SUPREME BREEDERS

2014 SUPREME BREEDER - *Pseudomugil paskae*
Alan Finnegan

2nd Place - *Nothobranchius guentheri* Alan Finnegan
3rd Place - *Nematobrycon palmeri* Malcolm Goss
4th Place - *Poecilia chica* Terry Hewitt
5th Place - *Sahyadria denisonii* Alan Finnegan
6th Place - *Corydoras gossei* Stuart & Sarah Edwards

Both Finals judged by Colin Pannell

FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING
Diamond Class Final

1st Place - *Leporacanthicus galaxias*
Alan Finnegan

2nd Place - *Serpenticobitis octozona*
Stuart & Sarah Brown

3rd Place - *Betta imbellis*
Stuart & Sarah Brown

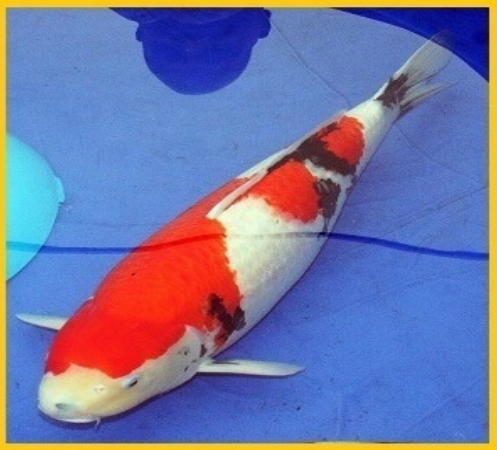
4th Place - *Vieja zonatum*
Alan Finnegan

5th Place - *Betta imbellis*
Roy Chapman

6th Place - *Characodon audax*
Terry Hewitt

Judged by Les Pearce

FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING
PRINCIPAL WINNERS



KOI SHOW 2014 CHAMPION
Size 6 - Go Sanke
Ken Taylor

2014 NATIONAL SHOW LEAGUE
Roy Chapman

ORGANISER'S TROPHY
Steve & Debbie Edwards

CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY
Alan Stevens

BOB ESSON MEMORIAL TROPHY
(Best Goldfish)
Malcolm Goss

and the Team that made it all possible

EVENTS DIARY 2014/2015

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

FBAS ASSEMBLY	06/09/14
THREE-RIVERS Championship Show & Auction (B, L) **Ba**	07/09/14
FSAS Auction	14/09/14
WEST LONDON BKA Auction	21/09/14
Gt MANCHESTER CICHLID GROUP Auction	28/09/14
FESTIVAL OF FISHKEEPING Hounslow Urban Farm (Ha, K) **W**	04/10/14
DERWENTSIDE Auction	12/10/14
SAF	19/10/14
STAMPS Auction	26/10/14
BRADFORD A.S. Open Show & Auction	10/11/14
A of A / SCCRS Auction	16'11'14
CASTLEFORD A.S. Night Auction	19/11/14
OASIS Auction	23/11/14
FBAS ASSEMBLY	06/12/14

2015

SOUTHEND, L & D A S Open Show	16/05/15
CORBY & D A S Open Show	17/05/15

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