



Ilford & District Aquarist & Pondkeepers Society

July 2005

ILFORD
AQUARIST
SOCIETY
2005

July Meeting – Monday the 11th

Last month was the Annual General Meeting and surprise, surprise – no change in the members of the committee though there were a couple of swaps of responsibility. It is comforting that you all seem content with your committee, and we assume we are doing a good job but it is YOUR club so please don't be shy if you think we are getting it wrong.



Mike Brill gave a report on the 2005 Home Aquarium Competition. It is a pity that the digital slides were not better, they should have been because the originals are very good. I will have to experiment a bit more on the conversion to a slide show on CD so that I don't lose the quality. Nevertheless Mike did admirably but neither his words nor the slides (had they

been perfect) could do the top two tanks justice – they were in a class of their own and have to be seen in situ to be fully appreciated. Well done Dick and Len.

This month – Paul Green on Fish houses and Freshwater Stingrays

Paul will be passing on his experience of building his fish house, letting us know the things he did right and more importantly the things he wished he had done differently. If you have any aspirations to a fish house for some serious fish breeding you should not miss this meeting. If he has time he will tell us a bit about his freshwater Stingrays.

Pond Competition – NEW DATE – Sunday 24th July

I missed the May Committee meeting and as there were not many entries, the Committee decided to change the date but didn't tell me for last month's newsletter. We now have 10 entries so the judges will have a very full day.



Outings

The trip to the gardens of Beth Chatto and Glen Chantry on Saturday the 18th of June was a great success though it was a pity only 12 went. Ideas for further trips would be welcomed.

Wanted by Keith Winch

Does anyone know where I can get a hood for a 24x12 aquarium? The hood needs to be deep enough to fit a couple of standard tungsten bayonet bulbs (not candle size) as well as a strip light. The tank is manufactured by John Allen who unfortunately do not make hoods for the tungsten bulbs.

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Europe 2006

I have been talking to a tour company about a possible Rhine Cruise for next year, and have the following details. The cost unfortunately is a little higher than we anticipated but you should bear in mind that this covers all meals and two days of excursions

Date: September 2006
5 nights full board
Day 1 Embarkation Cologne
Day 2 Cologne-Koblenz
Day 3 Koblenz-Cochem
Day 4 Cochem-Boppard
Day 5 Boppard -Ruedesheim or Andernach
Day 6 Homeward journey

Your vessel for the journey along the Rhine and Moselle is the Victoria Cruziana that has a total of 54 air-conditioned cabins. 23 cabins are on the Passenger (Lower) Deck and 31 cabins are on the Main (Upper) Deck. In order for you to have more time in Cologne we would propose that you have an early crossing from Dover to Calais to allow an arrival in Cologne at around 14.00 hours. The rest of the day and evening would then be free in the City and the ship moors very close to the Cathedral.

Insurance is available at a supplement of £19 per person if required.

The price quoted also includes coach transfers, return ferry, 2 excursions and the services of a Group UK tour manager.

The cost is £380. There is a small differential in cost between the two decks but at this stage I do not know what mix of cabins will be available to us so it will be first come (with a deposit of £50 per head) first served, subject to availability.

If you are interested I need to know ASAP, preferably no later than the July meeting night so that I can book the cabins. Contact me by telephone or email. **Deposits will be required no later than the August meeting and will not be refundable.**

A number of submissions of articles were made this month but I don't have room for them all. One covered a little history of the Hartz Mountain area that explains why all the tourist shops in Goslar were filled with witch dolls but it was clearly marked with copyright so I can't use it. Mike Brill spotted a story in the Telegraph about exploding toads in Hamburg, probably caused by a virus in the ponds they used for spawning. The last was from the Epping Forest Conservation volunteers newsletter, "Forest Leaves", about the threat posed to our native fish species caused by the introduction of the Korean Topmouth Gudgeon and the humble goldfish.

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Topmouth Gudgeon *Pseudorasbora parva* (Temminck et Schlegel) Family: Cyprinidae
The Environment Agency has warned that Britain's native fish face an increasing threat from introduced alien species. Among the invaders is the topmouth gudgeon, a small Asian member of the carp family, which is widely sold in the ornamental fish trade and has been accidentally introduced to several British lakes. It out-competes native fish such as roach and rudd because it matures at one year old, whereas the native fish do not mature until the age of two or three. The common white sucker, an American species, has been found in Hertfordshire; experts say that it would occupy the same niche as barbel and chub, and compete with them for food and spawning areas. Another worrying arrival is the black bullhead, a voracious species that not only competes for food, but also devours the young of native fish. One of the most widespread problems is the release into British lakes and



rivers of the common goldfish. Research has revealed that the goldfish not only competes with Britain's only native carp species, the crucian carp, for food, but breeds with it, producing hybrids. A senior fisheries scientist said that there is a real threat that the crucian carp could be wiped out, especially as its habitat of reedy lakes is declining. Several of Epping Forest's ponds and lakes, such as Goldings Hill Pond, now contain goldfish; once in they are very difficult to remove. Anyone seeing fish being put into any Forest pond should report it immediately.

For Sale

The club has been given the generous donation of a corner Sea Bray cabinet aquarium together with a Fluval 304 external filter (1 year old). They are both in very good condition. We have already had one firm offer but the interested party felt that all members should have the opportunity. Interested parties should submit their sealed bids to Ken Wrightson at the July meeting.

See you on Monday

Rab



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