



Ilford & District Aquarist & Pondkeepers Society

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

Next
Meeting
8th Jan

Welcome to 2007, the Club's 74th year and my 87th newsletter...

I thought that as I was on holiday from Christmas Eve to the 2nd of January I might have time to write a bumper newsletter with a new design for the new year, produce a new six month programme and an updated membership contact list but as usual here I sit racking my brain on the last day before posting.

At least I got a new design.

As it happens Roger only has a couple of the early 2007 speakers confirmed so any programme I did produce would probably be out of date by the time you received it.

2007 Programme

8 th January	Gino Dallanegra	Aquatic Plants
12 th February	Dick Mills	Angel Fish
12 th March	Dudley Turner	Koi & Goldfish in the USA
2 nd April	Paul Mills	Pond Plants

The April meeting is a week early because our usual date is Easter Monday so Roger needs to check that Paul (third time lucky) knows the date.

Annual Dinner

Don't forget the Annual Dinner on the 13th of January. A good turnout of 40 is due to attend. The dinner is being catered by the Flying Chef in Stoneleigh Court (off Herent Drive, Ilford). Your ticket price includes wine on the table but feel free to bring additional supplies. If anyone still needs directions to the venue see Roger or Ray

Fry Rearing

An unusual contribution this time of young Bristlenose catfish from Cliff Tayler. As broods are generally small numbers are being limited to two fish per entry. These are good community fish. Entry cost is the usual 50p

The Pond in January – by Mike Brill

Everything should be very quiet in the pond this month as all plant and animal life is dormant. Do not disturb any plants or animals at this time as they may not survive the winter.

The only problems usually come from ice. Be careful as mentioned before never to break the ice, but melt it with hot water. Better still do not let it form over an area of 3 or 4 feet by bubbling air into the water or heating a small area with a pond heater.

Ice, apart from trapping poisonous gases and preventing air circulation, can build up pressure sufficient to crack the sides of an artificial pond. Some less expensive



pond liners can be cracked by frost or sun. Liners can be repaired with patches similar to a bicycle inner tube. Concrete can be patched with various pond sealers or more concrete depending on the size of crack. This is a time to contemplate next year's plans, such as an extension to the pond; new plants; an extra pond; waterfall or stream; pumps and filters. Please do not walk on the ice as it is much too dangerous.

(Ed's comment. The above is all good advice but due to the unseasonably mild weather we are currently experiencing things aren't quite normal just now. Fish are still active, some plants are still growing – Parrots feather and that dratted frogbit in my pond and I know some members are still feeding wheatgerm based foods)

My request for articles resulted in a couple of rather long pieces both of which I will post on the website in the next week or so but to fill out this page here is a quick question:

You are driving in a car at a constant speed.

On your left side is a valley and on your right side is a fire engine travelling at the same speed as you. In front of you is a galloping pig, which is the same size as your car, and you cannot overtake it. Behind you is a helicopter flying at ground level. Both the giant pig and the helicopter are also travelling at the same speed as you.

What must you do to safely get out of this highly dangerous situation?



Get off the children's merry go round. You're drunk....