



Ilford & District Aquarist & Pondkeepers Society

**Next
Meeting
14th May**

Last MONTH

Gino Dallanegra, finally managed to deliver his much awaited talk on "Growing Aquarium Plants". It was certainly worth the wait and provided so much debate that Gino didn't have time to complete his programme. Maybe when his work situation slows down a bit he can come back to finish it. His latest experiments are interesting and won't win him many popularity contests with aquarium filter makers but if it grows plants then ... Excellent. Thanks Gino.



This Month – May

Speaker

Ken Wrightson, your esteemed Chairman and noted breeder of fishes, has been persuaded to part with some of his secrets. Alas only those to do with his success in getting his fishy friends to perform.

Fry Rearing. Time to bring back your little bristlenose cats to see how they have done in your tender care. Because they are such a devil to catch in a planted tank we are only asking that you bring back one specimen.

Breeders Corner

Is no one but Ken breeding fish? He is beginning to feel a bit neglected so please let him know when you have bred anything and think about supplying a few of the fry for another rearing competition.



Next Month – June

Annual General Meeting

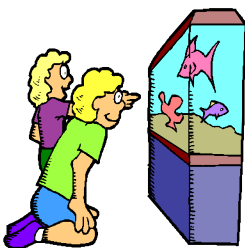
This is your chance to depose the committee or condemn us to another year of servitude. Nomination forms are enclosed in member's letters. Remember though that only fully paid up members can enter the discussion or vote at the AGM and some of you have not yet renewed your subscription!

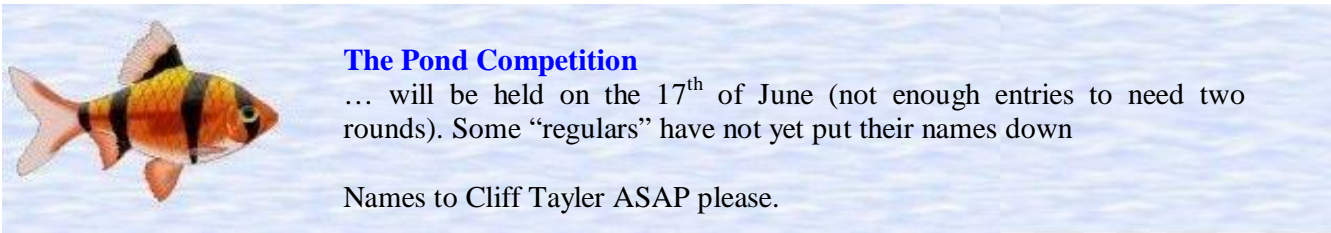
Home Aquarium Competition

After the business of the AGM there will be a review of this years Home aquarium Competition, the final of which was judged yesterday (6th May). As we did a couple of years ago we will provide some prints of the finalists tanks so that you can vote on them in the tea break to see if you agree with the judges (whose decision is final)

Bring and Buy

Or in this case – collect. Martin Howells, an old friend of the club who was once a leading light in the East London Aquarists Society, has a few tanks going spare. 3 all glass tanks 24 x 12 x 12 and one framed tank 36 x 12 x 15 high. Call me for his number





The Pond Competition

... will be held on the 17th of June (not enough entries to need two rounds). Some “regulars” have not yet put their names down

Names to Cliff Tayler ASAP please.

The Pond in May– by Mike Brill

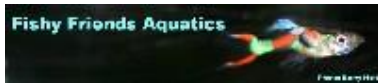


This is a really active month. All the plants are growing vigorously. The Marsh Marigolds are already in flower. The fish are spawning. The insects and microscopic animals are multiplying fast. These are all the natural food for the vertebrates (fish and amphibians) in our pond.

The tadpoles were vegetarian but as the animal life multiplies so they change to being carnivorous. They need iodine salts from their animal food to bring about metamorphosis to frogs and toads. If you have good plant cover the large insects will be attracted and many unusual beetles, dragonflies and damselflies rely on our ponds for survival.

Now is the time to restock the pond if needed. Fish and new plants can be bought. Fish bought ideally should come from outdoor pools so they are acclimatised naturally. If from indoor pools or aquariums then it might be better to wait until June. Don't rush into buying; there are so many beautiful varieties available. Look around; select the best, as you will only have room for a few. When buying fish it is better to buy a small shoal of six than one or two. Golden Medaka, Golden Rudd, Golden Minnows and Goldfish are suitable for ponds up to 10 feet in length. Tench, Orfe and Koi need large ponds over 10 feet - ideally over 20 feet.

[Ed's comment: This article was written before the days of DEFRA. Some species commonly called “Golden minnows” now require a licence]



A few members visited Fishy Fiends in Basildon last week and it is well worth a visit. It's not a large shop but there are a lot of tanks with a very good selection of fish (no marines) suited to both the beginner and experienced aquarist and a very good plant selection. The staff are both knowledgeable and friendly. See their website for more detail and location. Some very good photos on the website.

<http://www.fishyfriendsaquatics.co.uk>



See you all on Monday

Rab