



Ilford & District Aquarist & Pondkeepers Society

**Next
Meeting
13th Aug**

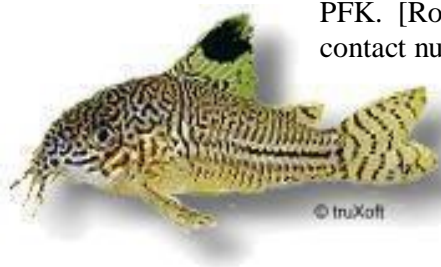
Last MONTH

Andrew Smith of PFK returned to Ilford, 10 years after his previous visit, and delivered a talk on Anabantids. With Mike now in the USA this was the first talk on the subject we've had in a long time and it was well received and Roger has already fixed a further talk from Andrew for next year.

The committee did however note some "private" meetings going on while the speaker was on the floor and would be obliged if a little more respect was shown to our guests. Outside speakers are becoming more difficult to find so lets give them the attention we'd expect if we were giving a talk to another society.

This month we have Ian Fuller on Corydoras

Ian is a renowned authority on catfish, is a member of the Catfish Society of GB, an author of several books on catfish and also, like Andrew, writes for PFK. [Roger extends his thanks to Bob Schofield of Dunstable AS for the contact number].



I don't believe that any (tropical) fish keeper has never kept corydoras, but what do you know about them? Have you bred any? Don't miss this meeting...

Fry Rearing

Early warning: we want your Angel fry back at the September meeting

Shop Visits

A few of us braved the M25 on the 29th of last month to visit Maidenhead Aquatics in St Albans and some even risked the M1 road works to go on to Chiltern Aquatics in Luton. I can't speak for the Chiltern shop (I didn't go) but Maidenhead are worth a visit – very good range of freshwater and marine fish all well presented and a warehouse sized dry goods and equipment store with jussy about anything you might need.

Best picture I got:





NEW MEMBERS

**Please extend a warm welcome to:
Kelvin Holt and family (Fishy Friends in Basildon) who have decided that
we are not such a bad bunch**

The Pond in August– by Mike Brill



The pond in August is very similar to how it is in July. Your young fish will, of course, be bigger. Most of your frogs, toads, and newts should have metamorphosed into their adult form. They need a good diet of live food, mostly insect larvae, to help them grow. This is the last month when you can safely buy young fish for the pond. If you buy them later there will not be enough time to fatten them so they can survive the cold and diseases of winter and spring. Remember fish do not eat and digest their food in the cold weather.

Your plants will be growing vigorously and will need pruning, especially the oxygenating plants. The oxygenating plants are most vital for keeping a healthy pond. They remove excess nitrates, the waste products of fish or decomposing food. They maintain the balance of minerals by extracting excess minerals keeping the water clear, providing an essential cover for young fish and adult fish from herons. They provide home and cover for vast numbers of animals, which are food for your fish, and amphibians of all sizes. They enhance the appearance of the pond and actually during the day oxygenate the water so fish can survive. Disadvantages are few but should be appreciated. Oxygenating plants grow vigorously in the warm weather and need constant pruning. They attract thread algae growth that looks unattractive and can trap some fish. To counteract algae growth use Hornwort, Curled Pondweed or Nitella as these attract less thread algae. These plants need regular pruning and you can at that time, easily remove all thread algae, because any attached will be at the surface and not deep down. Whereas with Canadian Pondweed and other similar plants; Egeria, Elodia and Lagarosiphon, the thread algae is attached all over the plant. The other factor to be aware of is that at night, or if excessive thread algae cut out the light, plants produce carbon dioxide. Oxygenating plants filling more than half your pond can produce excessive amounts of carbon dioxide. Carbon Dioxide can stress fish, which is not usually important at night when fish are not usually active. Fish can be active at night when disturbed or when breeding on moonlit nights. Remember bright external house lights disturb fish. Fish are also stressed when the weather is humid or thundery or simply too hot.

Many coldwater fish do not like temperatures above 15 degrees C. Provided your fish are not stressed they will be active and want regular feeding. Do watch because they can change quickly one day to the next and you have trained your fish to eat the food you give them. Therefore they will eat slowly when stressed though they do not need food and will be more stressed by doing this.

See you all on Monday

Rab