



Ilford & District Aquarist & Pondkeepers Society

**Next
Meeting
10th Sept**

Last MONTH

Ian Fuller treated us to an evening of Corydoras with some remarkably detailed notes built up over more than 30 years of breeding these little catfish. We bought both his books for the club library and Ian kindly donated another copy which we will present to the winner of this year's breeding cup – so make sure you let Ken know of your successes. After that talk, and with both books in the library we expect to see some corries featuring in the breeders list. Ian will be back next year with another talk



This month we have Chris Cheswright on Rainbows

No not the ones you see in the sky, though many are highly coloured and some do have humped backs just like the real thing. For the newer members, Chris hails from Southend Leigh and District A.S. He usually talks on Livebearers so this will be a nice change.

Club Dinner – 12th January 2008

Last year's dinner with the Flying Chef was such a popular success that we are doing it again. Same place, same chef – probably different menu and possibly some entertainment though Shirley swears it won't be here treading the boards. Space is limited so get your names to Ray Downer ASAP.



Quiz Night – 15th March 2008

We had hoped to stage a Quiz Night in November but can't get the venue. We do need social events like this and the Old Time to raise funds (albeit the proceeds for the last Old Time went to charity). I will post more details nearer the date. We are also trying to set up another Magic Night.

Shop Visit

Kelvin and co at Fishy Friends have invited us along to their shop in Basildon on Sunday the 16th of September. Meet at the shop (by ASDA's in Basildon) at 11.00 a.m. If you don't know where it is see their website or ask at the meeting on Monday



Fry Rearing

Don't forget we want your Angel fry back at this meeting. Your best two will do, Cliff will supply the show tanks.

Bill baker

Due to ill health Bill wishes to dispose of some of his equipment, all in excellent condition:

Sis tanks 24 x 12 x 15

One Juwel 96 Aquarium 32 x 15 12 with light heater and filter

One Boyu air Pump (4 outlets)

Seven 100w and two 25w heaters

See his brother Len on Monday for more details



The Pond in September– by Mike Brill

Most plants and animals are still active. The weather is usually cooler and fish need less food but still feed regularly. This can be the last month to fatten them up to survive the winter fast. Some plants are dying back and need pruning. Beware of plants blocking streams, waterfalls and filters.



Now can be a good time to clean a pond out if needed. Have a plastic sheet or liner available and support its edges with bricks or boards. A children's paddling pool can be a good substitute. Fill the temporary pool with clean water from the pond. Take out the plants and catch the fish as able, but there is no need to chase them! Split large plants down to a manageable size. Look for other aquatic life and rescue it in the temporary pool. Look for newts, frogs; some tadpoles can still be around. Aquatic snails and insect larvae, freshwater shrimps and lice are usually abundant - save as many as possible. Freshwater lice are excellent scavengers in the pond and clean away a lot of debris and clean fish eggs and prevent them fungusing. They are also food for large fish.

As fish are caught check them for damage or disease. Any wounds can be bathed with cotton wool soaked in brine. Always wipe from head towards tail. Follow the bathing with a smear of Savlon cream - an excellent protection. Look for parasites on the body and remove and destroy. If parasite eggs are present then they will be in the pond everywhere and need urgent destruction.



When the pond is empty, completely scrub all walls and disinfect to remove parasites. (Jeyes fluid is an excellent disinfectant) All traces of disinfectant must be removed before restocking. If parasites are not present it is not necessary to disinfect. To remove disinfectant: hose down pond walls and empty and then hose again and empty.

If there are no parasites then return the fish and other inhabitants to the pond in the original water saved in the temporary pool. Then top up the pond with fresh water. If parasites have been present then fill the pond and leave to stand for 24 hours before returning fish and other animals. If parasites are present then pond plants will probably be contaminated. Most plants will survive disinfecting with Jeyes fluid and after washing thoroughly can be returned. But if plants are cheap it is easier to get some new ones, especially if a friend is also splitting up their excess plants, which are not contaminated.

Ponds tend to gradually fill up with mulm (black slime) that pollutes the pond and eventually kills the fish. For this reason they do need cleaning out completely every so often. How often depends on how much plant debris, especially leaves, is allowed to stay in the pond. Most ponds can survive for 5 - 10 years without cleaning. The bigger the pond the longer it will last without cleaning.



See you all on Monday

Rab

That's gotta be embarrassin'