

Ilford & District Aquarists & Pondkeepers Society

Last Month

Cancelled



Where did all that snow come from? From the time I printed the Newsletter to you receiving it, we were up to our knees in snow!

As the weather forecast was not looking too good, it was decided to cancel the meeting.

A big thanks goes to Ken who spent most of Saturday afternoon phoning members to let them know the meeting was off. (I hope the club helps Ken with his phone bill).

Sorry goes to anybody who turned up on the night, Ken could only contact members whose phone numbers we have.

This Month

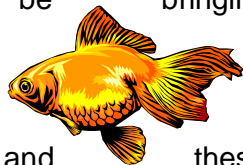
Andy Green – Fancy Goldfish



I am sure this talk will be interesting for all members - not only those who like all things coldwater.

Andy will be talking about good quality fancy goldfish and I am sure he knows what he is talking about as he is the owner of Star Fisheries.

Andy will be bringing with him some examples of the different types of fancy goldfish available and these will be on show at the back of the hall for you to look at.



Don't think because you are only interested in tropical or marines that this talk is not for you. Who knows, after listening to Andy it might encourage you to give fancy goldfish a try?

Next Meeting

Monday 8th February

At the start of the meeting the trophies and cards will be presented to the winners of the pond and aquarium competitions.

Quiz Night

Saturday 27th February



The Committee realise that this is rather short notice, although I did mention it in last month's Newsletter.

If members could give their names and numbers coming, along with the money to Ray at this meeting. It would be very helpful. **If you cannot get to this meeting and would still like to come to the Quiz Night you can give Ray a call on**

The price of the tickets are £5.00 per head and it is a "bring your own eats and drinks" evening but I think the bar will be open if needed.

If possible we would like to see tables of 8. We will be looking to put smaller groups together and would ask that larger groups be prepared to split up if need be, though we won't be too rigid about it, after all it is a fun night.

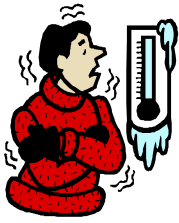
The Quiz, will be held at Wanstead Cricket Club (where we held the last one) **Time 7.30pm for 8.00pm start.**

The Cricket Club is off Overton Drive and is down an unmarked road at the junction with Overton Drive, St Marys Avenue and Langley Drive. **See the attached map.**



Ilford & District Aquarists & Pondkeepers Society

Freeze Threatens Florida's Tropical Fish



I got this from Rab who got it from Mike in America. This shows we are not the only ones suffering from the cold.

A severe guppy shortage has already emerged, according to distributors, while fish farmers state wide expect losses of more than 50% as African cichlids, marble mollies, danios and other cheerful-looking varieties sink like pebbles to the bottom of freshwater ponds across Florida.

"It could be devastating," said Ray Quillen, holding a few angelfish he hoped to save by moving them to indoor tanks. "Not just for me, but for everyone."

The freezing temperatures have come at the worst possible time. Florida provides about half of the tropical fish sold nationwide (Asia provides most of the rest).

The fish farmers who serve the \$45-million-a-year industry here were already suffering because of the recession and a slow shift away from live hobbies and toward electronics.

Florida, of course, thrives on warmth above all else. For fish farmers, the subtropical temperatures and high water table made this the best place in America for the outdoor cultivation of tropical fish.

The freeze, however, has transformed the usual routine. Tropical fish begin to have problems when water temperatures dip below 60 degrees. So for most of the past week, as air temperatures collapsed into the 20s,

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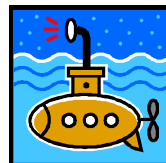
farmers who should have been filling orders scrambled to cover ponds with plastic and to pump in warm water. Then, as the cold continued, they started to move as many fish indoors as they could.

At Mr. Quillen's farm, that meant ditching millions of babies to make room for angelfish closer to the size needed for shipping.

He pointed to a row of three-pronged prints in a pond's sandy bank. At dawn, he said, a scrum of wading birds feasted on the fish that were either dead or too cold to move.

Later in the day, workers pulled a net through the ponds to collect what they could. Only a few dozen fish came from waters that should have produced thousands. Yucatan mollies, marble mollies, pineapple swords — every pond showed another population diminished.

Subs



Just a reminder to members that subs are due in April. I know it's a couple of months away but I thought I would give you time to save up your pennies.



If you can, please try to make it to the Quiz night. It's only a bit of fun and it will help put some funds into the Club's coffers (and Rab hasn't had a holiday lately, only joking Rab) Names etc, etc to Ray please at the meeting or phone Ray if you can't make the Feb meeting.

See you all Monday Barry