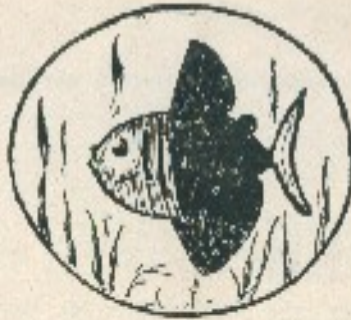


MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL. **1** No. **1**

April 19 48

- TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT
AQUARIST SOCIETY

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

POND LIFE
and VIVARIA

All Enquiries:—

Hon. Secretary: E. C. DAY, 36, BOURNEMOUTH PARK ROAD, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

R. J. FALKNER

PHONE:
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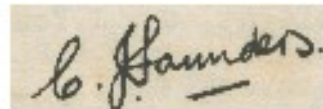
INTRODUCTION.
by the President.

Dear Fellow members,

It is my privilege, and pleasure, to introduce to you our Monthly Letter in a new form,- more comprehensive, containing general information, hints and tips, and news of the aquatic world. The Committee hope this Journal will be of greater interest and usefulness than hitherto. It must, of course, be realized that this issue will throw even more work on our already overworked secretary - fortunately for us he likes the work and even appears to thrive on it!

During the last nine months the society has made very satisfactory progress. The year's programme as planned in December last is proving successful - next year's should be even more so, as the Committee will be able to profit by present experiences. The Monthly meetings are becoming more popular, as evidenced by the -growing attendance, (45 at the April meeting), the membership is increasing, and altogether there is more LIFE in the Society. Our aim is to become one of the leading clubs in the country. To be this the first essential is to expand our membership, and the surest method is by encouragement given by members to some of the hundreds of people in the district who are interested in the hobby, but are either in ignorance of the society, or dubious about joining; see that you remove their doubts,- point out the social side as apart from the "fishy flavour", and "bring them along to our meetings.

That is all for now, happy fish and plenty of healthy fry to you all!



C. Saunders.

THE SOCIETY'S DIARY

The archives of all institutions are interesting, especially to those actively concerned, and in years to come it will be of never-ending enjoyment to read of the Society's humble beginnings, its aspirations and ultimate successes. We make no apology, therefore, for submitting to our readers a resume of the Society's history. -

1946.

- March 17.** Five enthusiasts met to discuss the formation of an Aquarists' Society. As a result the Leigh & District Aquarist Society came into being with the following officers.- President, J. Fountain, vice-President, E.C.Day – Hon: Secretary, E.R. Sarll, -Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Sarll. The remaining founder-member - Mr M.. Pride - did not wish to take office. A set of rules was drawn up, and Entrance fee fixed at 10/6 with an Annual Subscription of 10/6.
- June 30.** Field Day and Picnic at Jackaman's Ponds, Rochford. Participants enjoyed examining their "captures" through the medium of Mr G.W.J.Young's microscope upon their return to Mr Sarll's residence,
- July 14.** Visit to the Aquarium, Zoological Gardens. Members were privileged to "go behind the scenes", but the occasion was greatly negated through only five turning up!
- July 20.** The Society's Library was started with 3 books.
- August 18.** Mr E.C .Chamberlain appointed President, and Mr G .W.J. Young a member of the Committee. *£ust_25 .. Field Day and Picnic at Eochford Golf Course.
- August 25** Field day and picnic at Rochford Golf Course
- Novemr 4** First General Meeting at Chalk\vell Schools. (Up to this time meetings had been held each month at Mr Sarll's residence, and constituted "round- the- table" discussions between the members) .
- Decemr 2.** Annual General 'Meeting, Elections of Officers resulted as follows,- President, L.E.. Chamberlain -Vice-President, G,W,,J.Young - Hon, Secretary, E.C.Day -Hon. Treasurer, Mrs B.L.,Page - Hon .Advisor, E.J.Prockter -with Messrs, J.Mitchell, M Pride and F.Page representing the newly formed Junior, Social & Welfare , and Purchase & Disposal sub~Commllttees respectively. Entrance Fee 5/- for all, and Annual Subscriptions 7/6 and 2/6 for Seniors and Juniors respectively. Only one Entrance Fee was payable where more than one member of a family enrolled.,
- Decemr.11** First Monthly Letter circulated to members.

(To be continued)

GUPPY SHOW, 10/3/48, It is with regret that the last Monthly Letter did not mention the successful entrants to this Table Show. They were: - 1st, Mrs M.A. Brooks -2nd, Mrs S.Wunderlich - 3rd, Mr J. Mitchell, and the certificates, which are being printed, will be presented very shortly. Our congratulations go to these successful members, and our thanks to all unsuccessful ones who, by their efforts, helped to make the show worth while .

AUCTION SALE . 7/4/48 This was a marked success , and great encouragement was derived from seeing such an excellent attendance - a record for the Society, Our thanks are due to the officials vendors and bidders, all of whom played an important part in its success. The Society benefited to no small extent, much to the pleasure, amongst others, of our earnest Hon. Treasurer!

SOCIETY NOTICES . **Forthcoming events**

TABLE SHOW 12/5/48. This will constitute a display of any variety of Sword tails &/or Platies. The Conditions are similar to those which applied to the recent Guppy Show, but for the benefit of new members they are set- out, as follows:-

- la) Entries must be in pairs {1 female, 1 male).
- b) Only one entry of each type of fish per person (i.e. 1 pair Swordtails &/or 1 pair Platies) , and. only members are eligible.
- c) Any variety of Sv/ord tails &/or Platies may be entered.
- (d) Entrance Fee of -/6d per entry payable at the time of entry.
- (e) Fish to be brought between 7.30 and 8.30 p.m..
- (f) Judging will take place at 8.30 p.m.
- (g) Certificates will be presented to the three entrants whose fish are judged to be the best. An additional prize of 5/- will be given to the entrant who gains the 1st Class Certificate.

FIEL DAY 9/5/48. It has "been decided to pay another visit Tio Jackaman's Ponds, near Stambridge Mills. The rendezvous will be the Anne Eoleyn, Rochford Eoad at 11.00 a.m. Luncheon should be brought as it is hoped to make the outing a picnic as well. Nets, jars etc. are necessary for those who intend to collect aquatic life for food and study.

BARKING FISH EXHIBITION - 21 & 22/5/48 . This most notable show is to be held at Ripple School, Barking, and is more than worthy of our members' visit.. It will be open from 7.30 & 10 o/c p.m. on the 21st, and 10 o/c a.m. & 9 o/c p.m. on the 22nd. Your Hon. Secretary can supply privilege tickets at.....

.-/6d cmd -/3d for Adults and Children respectively.
Payment at the door will be ~/9d and -/3d.
There will be a car Park adjoining the Exhibition.

EXCURSION TO HAYWARDS HEATH - 30/5/48. Arrangements have been made whereby the society will be privileged to visit Mr Potter's Pish Farm at Haywards Heath. This should prove a most delightful journey, and an interesting one as well. So please leave this date open to assure you do not miss this opportunity. This is only an advanced notice, and full details will be given in a separate letter to be issued shortly. Incidentally this outing takes the place of the "Angling Outing" mentioned in our 1948 Programme. It has not been possible to book a coach for June,

"AT HOMES" Intimation has been received from Messrs. Brooks Senr, , Giles, Prockter and Saunders to the effect that they welcome visits by members to talk fish, and give any advice where required. Of course, the whole of their leisure hours are not spent at homeland they may be found out sometimes! It would be rather nice if members could exchange visits amongst themselves - it all helps to foster that desirable "family spirit". We would like to mention here that Mr Gile's mother is very ill and perhaps it might be as well to postpone visits for the time being. We extend our wishes for a very speedy recovery.

WHY NOT COLDWATER

Have you ever considered keeping at least one tank of Coldwater Fish? So many of our number miss so much by adhering strictly to the exotic fishes, largely, I think, for two reasons, (a) the idea that Fancy Goldfish are far more difficult to keep, and (b) because little is done to popularise this facet of our hobby.

There are very few of the ordinary tropical fishes that can compare with the swift-moving grace of the colourful Shubunkin or the majestic, stately pride of the Veil tail,

Maybe, wrong ideas have been garnered from some of the relatively poor specimens often on view in dealers' establishments, but it must be remembered that while in the case of a brood of tropicals, at least 75% will be exact prototypes of the parent fish, in the case of Shubunkins, 20% really good fish is counted satisfactory, while only a dozen good Veils from a hatch of 300-400 fish is quite usual. These better class fish rarely appear in dealers being sold by the breeder privately.

Why not make a start and try a tank of Shubunkins.....

4.

initially? If you feel some trepidation at embarking on something new purchase 3 or 4 of the cheaper fish as an experiment then, when you are happy in their management, buy the best you can afford - Shirbunkina or Veils. You will never be sorry you have broken new ground, but do take advice first from someone experienced in this branch of the hobby,

C. J. Saunders

THE WATER GARDEN

April and May are excellent months for planting, and the Water Lily should be the "centre-piece" in every pool. There are varieties for all tastes - scented and otherwise - and their colours can rival the finest roses. There are miniature and strong-growing types, so that all depths of water can be accommodated. Although not really vital, they prefer a rich compost, and half heavy loam with half dried cow manure is recommended, but the manure should be at least 12 months old. As an alternative use about 1/16th of coarse bone-meal beneath the loam. Old plants usually show some deterioration, and it is as well to remove the strongest of the outside shoots and replant. If possible only cover newly planted Water Lilies with 3 or 4 inches of water, and increase the depth as the plant grows. The increased warmth, thereby, promotes earlier growth.

E.C. Day,

SOME EXPERIENCES WITH BREEDING SHUBUNKINS

by J. Mitchell

Having had the pleasant experience recently of breeding my Shubunkins after a wait of some three years, it occurred to me that some of my fellow club-members might be interested in a few experiments which were carried out.

Three years ago on the 20th July 1945 I purchased six Shubunkins and three Veiltails one inch long. I reared these with great care, and found there were five male and one female Shubunkins, and three male Veiltails. I disposed of one male of each, purchasing one three-inch female Shubunkin, Bristol type. Until this year conditions made it impossible for me to attempt breeding. However, having at last fulfilled a long-standing ambition - a fish-room all my own - I purchased a 36 x 12 x 12 tank, planted it thickly one end with *Myriophyllum*, *Elodea* etc., and stood it in the window so that it received the early morning sun.

After carefully studying the remaining Shubunkin males, I decided that only two were fit for breeding. One had a great deal of blue and the other, while slightly less blue,.....

had a better shape, i.e. Bristol standard. Both females are of the Briotol type. I carefully read all I could on the subject, and found that writers advised placing the pair in the 'breeding-tank on, say, Friday night, and they would then spawn during the week-end. This would enable me to watch the spawning, and be on hand to remove the fish after spawning.

Following instructions, I placed pair No 1 in the tank at a temperature of 65 degrees F. on a Friday night. In spite of brilliant sunshine nothing happened, and by the Sunday night I was a really disappointed man. However, I left them in the tank and started off for work on Monday, wondering if the male was in condition or the female was 'ripe', and all the other worries which afflict misguided people who become aquarists! On arriving home Monday evening, and much to my surprise and delight, I found that they had spawned and were eating the eggs. Promptly removing them I sat down to consider the question of hatching - according to the books they might take 7 days or over at 65 degrees, and four days at 75-80 degrees F. If too long in the egg they would be weak fry. I decided on a little heat later on, and left them for five days at a temperature of 62-65 degrees F. On the evening of the fifth day I raised the temperature to 75-80 degrees. By this time the young fish could be clearly seen in the fertilised eggs, but a great many appeared to be unfertile.

(To "be continued).

JUNIOR SECTION

This Section is now gaining strength. It will be grand when there are enough of us to have events (such as shows) of our own - see what you can do to bring a friend along to join. We have to welcome new members. - D. Cotgrove, B. Worth and D. Hayward. We hope they will be 'live' members, and take part in all the activities of the Society.

We hear, - that Peter Croft is a lucky fellow - he's had a shed built in the garden, wired for electricity! D. Cotgrove has found daphnia large enough to feed sharks!

Our best wishes to 'Tubby' Jordan who will shortly be leaving us to join the Merchant Navy. Good luck! Tubby. (Bring us some choice fish back from your wanderings)

C.J.S

SMILE AWHILE !

We make no apologies for~this effort - it ocm tolas much truth !

The Soutlund and Leigh Aquarists
 Have a "Bulletin" at last,
 And though we're got it published
 It's not yet in full blast.

So I'm asking every member
 To do his level best
 And bring to our next meeting
 Another friend as guest,

So thus increase our members
 And our financial state.
 Then at our Monthly Meetings
 Better fare upon the plate.

So members all,do please be keen!
 let's work and have some fun!
 When we've a thousand members
 We'll relax and say "Well done"!

Then Mr Day will be quite gay,
 and Mr Giles all smiles,
 While we shall reap the harvest from
 The seeds of many trials.

C.B,

THE "SLADAC" MART .

(The cost per insertion under this heading is I/- per month.) .
 (Your favours are solicited)

FOR SALE. One adult male Veiltail - breeding condition. 30/-
 One -Adult male Shubunkin,also in breedlng condition. 20/-.
 Reply c/o Hon. Secretary.

FOR SALE
 . Two male adult Sinjaese fighters, one blue, one red. Also Young Veiltails &
 Shubunkins.
 300 Southbourne Grove, Westcliff.

ITEMS IN MINIATURE

FOOD ITEM There is nothing better for fishes of all sizes than earthworms. They must be cut small, use a razor-blade or scissors - and should be freed from dirt,both inside and out. Use those of from 1 inch to 2 inches long,they are more tender!

MICROSOPY. There is a method of seeing minute life without a microscope. Put the culture in a.

7,

narrow test-tube, hold up to the light and inspect with a powerful magnifying-glass. This is quite sufficient to ascertain whether you have such things as paramoecium and similar organisms.

Mrs Leftwich

(Ed. We have not had an opportunity of testing this idea.)

THE LAST WORD

All aquarists like to get together and chat over their hobby. They exchange all sorts of experiences and tips, but unfortunately these helpful conversations do not, as a rule, have a very large audience. Why not write to the Hon. Secretary and tell him, so that he can let all members know through the medium of this monthly Journal? To justify its publication a great amount of "copy" is necessary, and he will welcome anything which is covered by the interests of the Society - Aquaria, Pondlife and Vivaria, both serious and humorous. It makes no difference if you feel you are unable to express yourself well - let him have the details, and he will do his best to reshape the effort, and include it in due course.

There is a very nice display of advertisements on the cover of this Journal, and we thank the advertisers for their support. We are sure members will give every consideration to them. And don't overlook the "Sladac Mart". We do not mind how many adverts for this section you send!

Finally, the Hon. Secretary will welcome any suggestions or constructive criticisms with a view to the improvement of your Journal. We hope you like this first issue, and he will be pleased to know what you think of it.

STOP PRESS

We have just received a request from Mr Potter of Haywards Heath to postpone our visit until after the 12th June. next. The National Aquarists Society is holding its first Annual Show at that time, and as Mr Potter is participating very extensively, he will be extremely busy for sometime previously, and feels he could not give us proper attention. We feel it is in the interest of members to postpone the excursion, therefore, and they will be advised later of the date.

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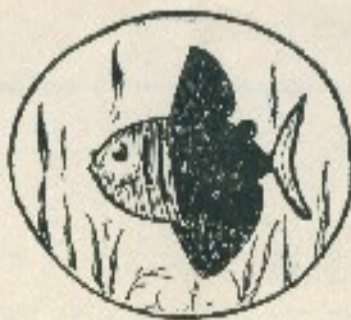
NOTICE

TO FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE

S.L.A.D.A.S.

Have you a Friend who has a pond or tank,
and who is not a member of our Society?
If so, why not bring him or her along to
our next meeting.

MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL. **1** No. **2**

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EDITORIAL

It has been most pleasing to receive so many words of appreciation following the publication of the first issue of this "Journal". It is our desire to give the members the best possible at all times and in every field and your appreciation does much to encourage us in our ambitions,

We would again request you to let us have all the "copy" you can. It must be original, of course,- the Copyright Law still applies in this country! Incidentally, we would mention that in keeping with the law, the British Museum will receive a copy of every issue, and this will preclude your articles from being used without permission,

We also draw your attention, to "Forthcoming events", take a definite note of, these, so that we may be sure of having good attendances. We feel that an oversight was the cause of the poor attendance at the last Table Show, and a further reflection on this is given by our Vice-President - Mr E.A. Giles - on Page 13 under the title "Thoughts after the Table Show".

We are grateful to both our President - Mr Saunders -and Mr Mitchell for their most interesting serials, and as they are written from personal experience carry much weight. Incidentally, -we are not purposely featuring the Cpldwater side to the exclusion of Tropicals. As a matter of fact, we have not received one article concerning tropical fish, other than Mr Giles' effort mentioned above, As soon as the necessary material comes to hand it will be included,.

The Barking Fish Exhibition was excellent, and goes to show what can be done by a really concerted effort, The sponsors are to be congratulated on not only bringing together such a grand display, but also for bringing the it to the public notice so forcibly. We understand that uiany new members were added to the East London Aquarist Society through its auspices.

We hope our Society's effort in Cbalkweil .Park in July vrill bring a similar response, and may we hope to receive from our members as great an effort as shown at Barking? We shall . require furnished aquaria, and hope to have all the assistance possible,

The Editor.

THE SOCIETY'S DIARY - Continued.

1947

- Jany. 6.** Instructive Talk on "Daphnia" given by the Hon.Advisor - Mr E.J.Prockter. Informal
Febry 3 Discussions. New Bules necessitated by the new constitution were passed.
March 3 General Meeting held at St Helen's Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff. It was devoted
to Informal Talks.
- March 31.** Society's meeting place now fixed at the Girl "Guides' Hall. This meeting constituted
a Brains Trust with the. President, Vice-P resident, Hon.Advisor and D,Berry aa the
"Brains" and the.H on. Secretary as Question Master.
- April 14.** First Auction Sale followed by a talk "The breeding of Zcbras" by the President.
April 20 Mr K.A.Giles elected Social Secretary.
May 5 Instructional Talks by the President, Social Secretary and D.Berry on White Cloud
Minnows, Gouramis and Black Line Tetras respectively.
- May 18.** Field Day at Stambridge. Junior members participated for the first time.
June 2 Mr C.J.Brooks elected Hon.Treasurer.
Mr C.G.Brooks elected to the Committee.
- July 7** General Meeting devoted to Informal Discussions.
Mr C ,J .Saunders.B.Sc. elected Vice-President.
- July 14.** Auction Sale.
July 20. Field Day at Rochford Golf Course ponds.
August 11. Brains Trust - President, Vice-president, Hon.Advisor and D.Berry with Hon.Sec.
as Question Master.
- Sept..9.** Meeting devoted to Members' Questions which were
answered by the Hon.Advisor.
- Sept.15.** First public display of fish at the Leigh Horticulture Society's Harvest Show, Pall
Mall, Leigh.
- Sept 21.** Excursion by motor-coach to Messrs Cura's, Kernel Heuipstead, Herts.
Octr.6. General meeting during which the Hon.Advisor gave a talk on "Line Breeding".
Announcement made of the President's resignation owing to business committments.
- Octr 18** Display of fish at the Fur &. Feather Society's Show at Haig Hall, Victoria Avenue,
Sou thend.
- Octr 25.** Excursion by motor-coach to Brighton Aquarium,
Octr 29 The Society's name was now officially changed to "The Southend, Leigh and
District Aquarist Society".
- Novr 3** Film Show of 'non-aquatic subjects given by the Hon. Treasurer.
Novr.8. Large public display of fish at the Leigh Hort. Society's Chrysanthemum Show , Pall
Mall, Leigh.
- Decr.1.** Annual General Meeting. The following were appointed - President,
Mr C J.Saunders.BSc.....

Vice President Mr H. A.Giles - Hon.Treasurer, Mr C.J.Brooks with Messrs C .J . Brookss, J.Mitchell and W. Hoare. The positions of Hon.Secretary and Hon .Advisor being permanent ones Messrs E.G.Day and E.J.Prockter automatically continued in those offices respectively.

Decr 13 Annual Dinner at the Grand Hotel, Leigh. The Hon. Secretary was presented \with a large aquarium as a token of appreciation for his services.

1948.

Jany 5. Instructional Film Show covering Amoeba, Paramoecium, Hydra and Obelia.

A running commentary was made by the Hon .Advisor.

Jany 11. The Society was affiliated to the federation of British Aquatic Societies.

Jany. 21. first Social Evening.

Febry 4 Brain's Trust - President, Hon .Advisor and Mr J Mitchell with Hon,Secretary as Question Master.

March 3. Lantern Slide Lecture on Aquatic Life given by the Hon. Secretary,

March 10 Table Show, which had been postponed from the 25/2/48. This constituted all varieties of Guppies. 1st, Mrs M ,A.Brooks - 2nd, Mrs S.Wuiderlich - 3rd, Mr J.kitchell, Judging by Mr K .S.Townscnd.

March 23, The last monthly Letter was circulated

March 24 Whist Drive.

April 7. Auction Sale.

April 25 Excursion to Messrs Curars, Hemel Hempstead. this proved to be a most successful outing - two motor-coaches had to be booked to accommodate members and their friends. The weather was excellent, and although members were unable to entirely satisfy their requirements at Messrs Cura's,- it was rather early in the season - all had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

April 30. First issue of the "Monthly Journal" was .circulated,

May 9 Field Day at Jackaman's Ponds, Stambridge. This was a most disappointing event. Only four members were present, including one Junior! It was thought that a record number of the younger ones at least would have come along, especially as it was such a glorious day, and ideal for a picnic. However, the few who did go were rewarded by obtaining as much live food as they could reasonably carry, -

May 12 Table Show of all varieties of Swordtails and Platies. We regret to report that the entries were not sufficient to make a really successful Show, In consequence both classes had to be combined to make it coupetitive. Mr R .S.Townsend was unable to undertake the judging upon this occasion, owing to a previous engagement, and this office was ably undertaken by the President and Mr J. Mitchell , who had not entered any fish. Their deliberations were quite unanimous and resulted as follows.- 1st, Mrs E. A..Clark: -2nd, Mr C.J.Brooks - 3rd Mrs H.A.Giles,

=====

SOCIETY NOTICES

Forthcoming Events

We are inclined to think the reason of a poor response to the last two events has been caused, by many members not taking sufficient note of the dates of future attractions. Will you please, therefore, make a point of specially noting this section of the "Journal",

JUNE MEETING, Although this is scheduled for the 2nd June, there is a possibility it may be postponed to the 7th. Capt.L.C Betts of the Federation of British Aquatic Societies will be giving a talk on Fancy Goldfish. but we await the confirmation of the actual date. The uncertainty is unfortunate, but members will be given details as soon as possible. May we draw attention to the necessity of attending this meeting, Capt.Betts will be travelling from London to give, us the benefit of his very great knowledge, and it will be a very special occasion, and demands the very best attendance. **BRING YOUR FRIENDS**

JUNE 30th . In view of the great popularity of Auction Sales, it has been decided to hold another on this date. Now do please set aside the items you can dispense with, as usual, anything covered by the interests of the Society -fish, plants, and accessories. Let the Hon. Secretary have a note of them, giving details and reserved price (if any) by not later than 2 weeks before the sale so that a complete, catalogue- can be prepared and circulated in time,

JUNE 10th,11th ,& 12th The National *quarists Society is holding it's first Aquarium & Water Garden Exhibition on the dates, at 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., 10 a.m., to 10 p.m., and 10 a.m. To 8.30 p.m. respectively, It will take place at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, Vincent Square, London, .W,1, and will be a very large and representative affair. Do not miss this great occasion,

JULY 11th As already announced, arrangements have been made to visit the Aquarium, Zoological Gardens, London on this date. The Curator has very kindly agreed to show members "behind the scenes", and this will be a noteworthy occasion. Full details will be published in due course, but in the meantime,PLEASE TAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE

JULY 7th . Another Table Show will take place. It will embrace the Labyrinths, i.e. Gouramis, Fighters, Paradise Fish etc. Full details later, but note the date now!

JULY 10th . The Society will be making a big display at the Leigh Horticulture Society's Summer Show in Chalkwell Park. We must look to members for their assistance upon this occasion, but more anon.

SOME EXPERIENCES WITH BREEDING SHUBUNKINS

by **J. Mitchell (continued)**

The young hatched on the seventh day and hung about on the glass in the approved manner. now came the question of feeding. They would require nothing for 48 hours, of course, and I knew they would make up for that later, Fortunately I had purchased, last year, two Ampularias or Apple Snails and had been feeding them, well with lettuce leaves. They had grown from babies to about the size of a small hen's egg or apple. I kept them in a 12 x 6 x 6 and on testing the water found it was alive with Infusoria - from all appearances Paramoecium. The only fault with it was that it appeared large, and when put on the microscope-slide, whilst one could not actually hear it splash about, it could be clearly seen with the naked eye!

However, the second day after hatching I fed the culture to the young fry through a drip-tube at a rate of about three drips per minute, keeping it going all day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. They seemed to have no difficulty in eating the Infusoria, and it could be clearly observed that it was eaten as it fell. They appeared to thrive on it.

A week later as the tank was required to run the second adult pair in, I decided to move them. Preparing a second tank, and making sure the temperature was the same or slightly higher, I transferred the week-old fry with the aid of a "glass net", counting them at the same time and rejecting any which seemed undesirable. The total count was 140, which seemed to be quite enough for me to get on with. The fish continued to grow, and I now tried them with a little dried egg. At the end of a fortnight they were ½" long, and taking sifted daphnia. All growing at a uniform rate at three weeks I allowed the temperature to fall to 65 deg.F. They are now five weeks old, and inch long, and all uniform without runts.

(To be continued)

=====

THE "SLADAS" MART.

(The cost per insertion under this heading is I/- per month),
(Your favours are solicited) .

FOR SALE .

1 pair of Adult Shubuakins. £1- 178 Bournemouth Park Road, Southend.

FOR SALE

Young Veiltails, young ahubunkins, heavily black- marked mollies (Sphenops) .
Mkro worm cultures. C .J.Saunders, 300 Southbourne Grove, Westcliff.

WANTED

Golden Hamsters. Write, Mitchell, 142 Lonsdale Road, Southend.

WHY NOT COLDWATER? II

Choosing your fish

Having made up your minds to adventure into new fields the big problem is finding good stock, (I am assuming that the tank is set-up ready - don't forget that cold-water fishes require, far more space than the tropicals, if they are to grow and thrive. Twenty- four square inches of water surface per inch of fish is a safe rule which, being interpreted, means twelve inches of fish in a 24" x 12" x 12" - slightly more if the water is aerated artificially.)

We will deal with the shubunkin first as it is very hardy, always popular, and providing its requirements are understood, easy to keep. Shubunkins will winter quite well in ponds outdoors if they are from a hardy strain,

The first essential in choosing your fishes is to choose healthy ones. Look for bright eyes, fins held well spread, dorsal erect, avoiding like the plague, listless fish and those with hollow bellies and hump backs. I will deal now with the points to look for in good stock, in the order of preference I follow (this is a personal matter of course),

1, Finnage. Tail slightly longer and broader than the ordinary goldfish with rounded tips,- The tail should be carried straight- avoid "floppy" tails. Dorsal fin -three-quarters the depth of body in height, sloping back towards the tail but not quite touching it. Other fins in proportion, (we won't attempt too much detail) .

2 Body free from scales, not so deep as the goldfish, and with a streamlined effect from mid-body to tail.

3 Colour. The 'blue' is the most highly prized, followed by violet, red, brown and yellow. A green Shubunkin is on the way but, I understand, is in very short supply. All should be mottled with black. The albino is the least sought after, but occasionally I have used one for breeding if it had outstandingly good finnage and body-shape. Remember that if young fishes are purchased the finnage develops fully only as the fishes approach maturity - but the too-short finned individuals can be observed at a comparatively early age. Lastly, avoid the fishes that have checked in growth when young, these never grow on to really good specimens, and don't expect to find 'perfect' fishes - choose the nearest approach you can find!

C . J. Saunders

BOOK REVIEW

"Live foods for Aquarium Fishes. by A. Laurence Wells. (Water Life series No 4- Second Edition. Price 1/5.

We have just had the pleasure of reading this excellent treatise. It is well illustrated, and covers this important subject in four chapters - Microscopic Organisms, Crustacea, Worms and Insect Larvae. It is very easy reading, but none the less authoritative for that, and should be amongst every aquarist's books of reference,

JUNIOR SECTION .

This section is expanding rapidly, and at the present rate of growth will outnumber the Senior Section very shortly! new members this month are.-

G.Little, T.Souter, C.T.Shepherd, K.J.Hardy, H.N.Harris and B.F.Axford,

We give them a hearty welcome, and I hope they will find an enduring interest in our hobby. Pocket money being what it is (never enough of it!), juniors will be glad to know that more reasonably priced heaters and thermostats are coming on the market shortly. I understand they are of the test-tube type, and are fully guaranteed. More of this later.

The 'lads' had a good day when the Society went to Cura's, although it was disappointing that there were not more fishes for sale. Even so, it was an eye-opener to see the rows and rows of large tanks - what a sight it would have been had they been full of fishes!

We hope to visit another large breeding establishment in the early autumn where they usually have thousands of fishes-save your money until then. (Ed.- Make a note of the "Stop-press, at the end of this issue).

P.Croft is the proud possessor of "thousands" of 3-spot Gouranii fry!

C.,J.,Saunders.

We hear that when our No 1 copy of the "Journal" was delivered at the "Harvey Household", it was grabbed by Mr Harvey and Tony had, perforce, to wait until his father had read it from cover to cover. This is very flattering to the Editor, but if we do not wish to cause riots in the houses of our Juniors, it looks as if we shall have to increase our circulation!

=====

THOUGHTS AFTER THE TABLE SHOW

Well, Fellow members, we've had it! Our second Show and, if we face up to facts, it wasn't so good - was it? I am certain there are more Sword.tails and Platies among our steadily growing membership than were on show on the 12th, You are probably afraid that your own particular fish are "not good enough" for a show, Now please get rid of this inferiority complex. It is only by showing our own fish and looking at others that we can learn and improve our stock. Speaking of stock brings me to another point that struck me while viewing the fish. The general quality is not good. I find that we are all apt to lose sight of the fact that quality should come before quantity, I know I have erred that way, and hope to mend my ways in future. It is, at first, a wrench to throw out the small fish, and keep only the promising ones, but you will find the results are worth it. Give them plenty of tank-space and LIVR FOOD - then we shall see some really good fish at our next Table Show. In conclusion may I say, "Bring your fish - good and bad - next time, and let us all have a look at them!

H.A. Giles

SMILE AHILE

With pride we read our No 1,
 In glee and great elation.
 The articles were nicely placed
 and served with great oration.

The Editor worked very hard,
 The midnight oil was burning,
 And with our No.1 produced
 He has a secret yearning.

Its not for tanles or fish or plants
 Or Daphnia that is "hoppy",
 His wish is very simple folks -
 All he wants is "copy"!

So if you know a better way
 To do a certain thing
 Please write it down on paper
 And he will put it in.

Then we will learn from you, you sec -
 That is, if you write 'cm,
 And you will learn from, other folks
 And so 'ad infinitum',

C.J.B.

Who was the member who nearly succeeded in falling into the River Gade at Hemel Hempstead? We understand that on two previous occasions he has nearly done the same thing at Stambridge. What a to-do, ain't it!

=====

STOP PRESS.

We are pleased to announce that we have managed to book for Haywards Heath on the 29th August next, make a note of it, and these as well - JUNE 30th - Auction Sale, JULY 7th Table Show, JULY 10th - our display in Chalkwell Park, JULY 11th - Excursion to the Zoo Aquarium,
 OUR JUNE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE HALL ON TH 2nd JUNE – DON'T FORGET

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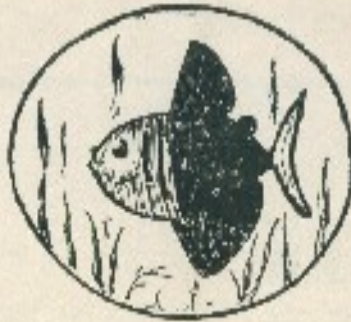
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"GLASOL" FOR PONDS.
TANKS MADE TO ANY SIZE

NOTICE

TO FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE
S.L.A.D.A.S.

Have you a Friend who has a pond or tank,
and who is not a member of our Society?
If so, why not bring him or her along to
our next meeting.

MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL. 1 No. 3

JUNE 19 48

TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT
AQUARIST SOCIETY

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

POND LIFE
and VIVARIA

All Enquiries:—

Hon. Secretary: E. C. DAY, 36, BOURNEMOUTH PARK ROAD, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

R. J. FALKNER

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COLD WATER and TROPICAL FISH,
PLANTS

ALL AQUARIST NEEDS CATERED FOR
TUBIFEX and DAPHNIA IN STOCK

EDITORIAL

May we ask our readers again, to make a special note of Events, which will be found on Page 16 and if possible participate in all the activities of the Society. Our junior contributor - M. Hardy - of the junior Section states, with reference to the recent 'talk' by Capt. Betts, "Almost all the Juniors were present although" most of us only keep tropicals, we found the talk: very interesting and enjoyable, " We feel sure the Senior members who were not present missed a great deal!

We have now concluded two admirable serialised articles, and are completely without copy for the next issue. In the main the Committee, have kept the "Journal" going, by their contributions but obviously, their abilities in that direction are limited. In any case, variety, is the spice of life., and the Society generally would welcome articles from fresh sources. In particular we wish to cater to a far greater extent for tropical and pond enthusiasts. There is no question of trying to compete with the national journals - they fulfil their necessary objects most admirably - and all aquarists should subscribe to them. Our own efforts concern the community of the SLADAS - its aims and experiences, written "of the members, for the members". Surely most, if not all, have something of interest that they could submit. Why not have a go, and thereby contribute to that admirable Rule; 2 of the Society.

Whilst mentioning that Rule, it occurs to us that new members, beginners in particular, cannot hope to have all their queries answered during the course of the Society's meetings. Their more experienced fellows are always ready to give a helping hand, and they should not hesitate to seek advice. No question is too elementary, and the rule in question was framed in part "to give mutual help to members"

The Editor

THE SOCIETY'S DIARY –Continued

1948

JUNE 2

The Society's first experience of a visiting lecturer. Captain L. C. Betts the very well known expert on fancy goldfish, gave a most entertaining and interesting talk. It is a pity that several tropical fans were not present as they would have thoroughly enjoyed listening to this notable gentleman.

Some of the "highlights" of the talk were as follows,-

Good healthy coldwater fish have a thick mucous covering. Pollution of the water follows sloughing of this covering, and over-crowding brookes disaster.

Whilst crystal-clear water looks nice, better results are obtained if the water is slightly green.

All Goldfish are hardy but they cannot stand fluctuations of temperature. A daily variation of, say, up to 7 degrees is alright, but anything greatly in excess should be avoided. They can stand long periods of very cold water

To winter fish in ponds, spring-clean in the Autumn, thus thus avoiding the pollution of rotting vegetation.

Really large tanks, - larger- than the standard 24 x 12 x 12 - with plenty of surface area are best, If the tank is small, a little filtration is "better than Aeration.

FEEDING Variation should be aimed at, Garden worm is very nourishing and not costive. Do not overdo farinaceous foods, i.e. floury types, Tinned salmon, crayfish and the usual live foods are all eaten, although -tubifex and enchytrae should be given sparingly, if at all. Dry foods should be scalded by covering with boiling water. Feed when cool, Dry foods very readily cloud the water,

BREEDING When pairing keep the varieties distinct. One can pair heavily coloured males with lightish females, but the shapes of both must be the best possible. When breeding Shubunkins, put the male in the breeding tank and feed well with garden-worm alone for 1 month. Introduce the female on a Thursday and spawning will take place on the following Saturday if it is a 'bright day'. If not Saturday it can be expected on the Sunday. Having spawned the parents should be removed. If this cannot be attended to at the time, place plenty of worm at the bottom of the tank to prevent the parents from eating the eggs. Hatch the eggs in 3 days the water being 70 to 72 degrees F. Infusoria can be supplemented with hard-boiled egg; Boil this for ¼ hour and introduce through musline. The first week of the fry's life is the most important,

DISEASES Fungus is a sign of bad condition. To cure, put fish back again in health - don't keep.....

(continued overleaf)

THE SOCIETY'S DIARY -- contd

putting the fish in salt. Baths. If such a bath is needed it should constitute 2 tablespoons of salt to one gallon of water for one hour.

Sexing Look from the top. The males have tubercles down the pectoral fins, which can be seen at six months. The first ray is thick. With the female the egg sac is on one side, and she has a deeper keel.

Spawning should take place at a temperature of 64 degrees approximately, but the fry require 70 to 72 degrees. Goldfish at all ages like blanket weed..

We were very pleased with the way that Capt Betts brought the junior members 'into the picture' and they had a great opportunity of gaining the value of his vast experience.

(to be continued)

SOCIETY NOTICES

Forthcoming Events

We respectfully draw your attention again to the real importance of keeping this section well in mind. Nothing is more annoying than to find that an awaited meeting has been missed through oversight.

JUNE 30th Although a separate letter dated the 14th inst. Has been issued regarding this meeting a further reference is made here. It will be an auction sale of member's surplus fish, plants and accessories, the proceedings starting at 8 o/c. All lots to be on show should be brought to the Hall between 7 and 7.30 p.m. A full description of any goods for disposal together with the reserve prices (if any) should be sent to the Hon. Sec. By the 21st instant to enable a complete catalogue to be issued by post. All goods to be removed from the sale room before the premises are vacated. Any items which are covered by the interests of the Society will be most welcome, and your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

JULY 7th A table show of Labyrinth fish- all varieties- Certificates will be presented at the time for the first three successful entries, and an additional 5/- prize to the entrant of the best fish.

- (a) Entries must be males only
- (b) Only one entry of each variety per person, and only members eligible.
- (c) Any variety of Labyrinth may be entered i.e. Gouramis, Fighters, Paradise, etc.

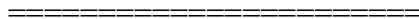
(continued overleaf)

- (d) Entry fee of 2/-6d per entry payable at the time place
- (e) Fish to be brought between 7.30 and 8 o/c p.m.
- (f) Judging to take place at 8.30 p.m.

Labyrinths embrace a large field, and nearly all members should be able to enter something. Let's have a bumper display this time.

JULY 10th The Society's public Show through the auspices of the Leigh Horticultural Society's summer show in Chalkwell Park. A minimum of 12 24 x 12 x 12 tanks has been agreed upon for this display and we should like as many members as possible to participate. Will those members willing to lend furnished aquaria for the purpose please communicate with the Hon: Secretary? The tanks should be in position at the show on the evening of Friday the 9th ultimo, the fish and plants, if desired, being added during the Saturday morning. Although difficult, arrangement will be made collect the tanks, although any assistance members can give themselves will be most welcome. It is desirable that the display is removed when the main show is closed on the Saturday night. This is an excellent advertising medium, and we hope members will assist the Society by taking advantage of the opportunity to place our hobby before the public. Our appreciation is extended to the L.E.S. For the facilities offered.

JUNE 11th Excursion to the Aquarium, Zoological Gardens, London. 25% of the seating accommodation, which will be strictly limited, will be reserved to Junior and member's children. Reservations will be booked in strict rotation, and the enclosed form should be used and posted to the Hon: treasurer by the 4th ultimo. After the tour through the Aquarium there will be plenty of time to visit other sections of the Zoo. The coach will start from the White Horse at 12 o/c midday, and will pick-up passengers at Victoria Circus, Ploegh Hotel, Chalkwell Schools, and the Elm Inn. Fares-- Adults 8/- and juniors 4/-, payable in advance. Lunch should be brought. If required supper can be arranged during the homeward journey, although this is optional, of course.



The Society has procured a further supply of F.B.A.S. "Show Standards". They can be procured from the Hon: Sec' price 2/6d. This booklet is a necessity for those who follow their hobby at all seriously.

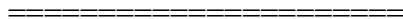


TABLE SHOWS

We have recently received a letter from a member referring to the criticisms made by the judge after our last table show. Although written in very cordial terms, the letter clearly showed there may be some misapprehension in the minds of many. At our first table show members expressed the wish that the judge should give reasons as to why the losing entries had not made the required grade. We feel that it was a good suggestion as by this means aquarists to avoid pitfalls, and in due course, improve their stock. The president created has been continued, although it by no means lightens the judges task. We might mention that at a recent F.B.A.S. Meeting, a similar request was put forward by delegates representing.....

(continued overleaf)

Society Notices (continued)

a large number of Aquarist Societies.

We hope this note will clear up any misconception, and that members will understand that any adverse remarks are made in the spirit of helpfulness. Incidentally we are pleased to receive any criticism from members, as we know they are made so that the Society's activities may benefit. We are always asking for ideas and suggestions.

S.O.S

and we very gratefully acknowledge this assistance. Circumstances outside our control have now arisen whereby access to the typewriter will be difficult, and unfortunately the Society's fund do not permit one being purchased. We are appealing, therefore, and not without reluctance, to members for assistance in this direction. The amount of typing by the Society's really makes a machine of their own, and anything which members could do to make this possible would be very greatly appreciated indeed. The Committee do not like the idea of long term loan, as a continual drain on the funds is not considered to be in the Society's best interests. This is a matter of comparative urgency and we hope you can assist us. Thank you!

COMMITTEE

For the benefit of new members, we believe it will not come amiss to give a list of those ardent and hardworking members who are directly responsible for the Society's well being and success:-

President	Mr C. J. Saunders B.Sc
Vice-president	Mr H. A. Giles
Hon: Sec`	Mr E.C. Day
Hon:Treas`	Mr C. G. Brooks
Hon: Advisor	Mr E. J. Prockter
Librarian	Mr W. Hoare
and	Messrs C.J. Brooks and J. Mitchell

Mr W.R. Young who was appointed Hon: Auditor, has recently moved into the country and is now unable to enjoy the activities of the Society or continue office. At the last General Meeting Mr F.H. Marsh kindly consented to take over the office, and was unanimously elected.

SLADAS MART

There are no small advertisements this month, but we keep the section `alive` as a reminder that provision is made in the Journal for the small advertiser.

The cost is 1/- per insertion per month, and you patronage is solicited

SOME EXPERIENCES WITH BREEDING SHUBUNKINS

by J. Mitchell (concluded)

However, we go back a little, having transferred the week old fry I introduced two pairs of Shubunkins on a Friday night at a temperature of 68 degrees F. This time, being on my Easter holidays – Friday night to Tuesday morning – I was certain that I would see them spawn. But no! All they did was grin through the glass! I tempted them with some crawly worms, lowered the temperature with fresh water to 62 degrees, raised it to 75 degrees, and eventually nearly went on my knees to them! Nothing doing!

Off I went to work on Tuesday morning, coming home full of great expectations, only to be disappointed again. By Thursday I gave up hope, and arrived home from business full of despair. I was greeted by an excited wife who stated that they had spawned and she had removed them!

This time I raised the temperature at once to 75-80 degrees F. The fry hatched in four days and I carried out the same feeding routine as previously. There was a distinct difference. The fry hung fire at first and did not seem to grow. At a week old they were certainly not as well grown as the others had been. Not only that, there was a distinct difference in size, as some seemed to be outstripping the others at an alarming rate. Requiring the tank again I transferred them to another. It was three weeks before they could take daphnia. They seem to be doing well now, but I fear there will be a number of runts.

I now introduced into the spawning tank one male Veil tail and the female shubunkin from the first batch (No 3). I do not recommend crossing these fish and would not normally do so, but I require and hope to get at least one good veiltail for myself out of it. Upon this occasion I felt it was necessary to 'fox' the fish, so looked as if I didn't want them to spawn anyway. My subterfuge must have worked as they immediately spawned! I was able to watch them and it appeared a very slow affair, the male swimming slowly after the female and pushing her to the top of the weeds. The eggs were released as she turned over, certainly nothing like the frantic chase I had been led to expect.

This time I split the difference by raising the temperature 75-80 degrees, the third day, and the eggs hatched in five days. I should say they were an improvement on the last batch, but it is probably too early yet to make a proper assessment.

My conclusions from these results so far lead me to believe that hatching at lower temperatures produce the strongest fry, and if the latest results bear this out, (I am trying a fourth batch without heat at all- room temperature 62-65 degrees F.) I shall keep to 62-70 degrees and seven days in the egg.

THE LEPIDOPTERIST

A friend of mine has made a life long study of Lepidoptera, a hobby handed down to him by his father. In pursuit of obtaining the fully fledged butterflies and moths, he actually collects the eggs, hatches them and feeds the resulting caterpillars with the appropriate green stuff until they pupate. He then patiently awaits the day when the perfect imago emerges. He never misses an opportunity of finding specimens, and you can imagine that during more than forty years

(cont overleaf)

The Lepidopterist (cont`)

he has formed a collection well worthy of an enthusiast and yet to my best knowledge he has never killed a butterfly or moth and had never kept a specimen dead or alive. In fact he goes out of his way to release his specimens away from towns.

How is this possible? Records, nothing but records! My friend has many volumes of statistics, showing almost at a glance where and when he found the eggs, caterpillars, pupae. Imago, date, times of hatching, pupating, emerging and a thousand and one details of interest to entomologists. He is thereby enabled to note any changes which may occur from time to time by comparing this year's data with previous records

At this stage I am sure you know where this true account is leading. Aquatic records! How interesting and how useful to the real enthusiast. Every aquarist should keep full details of his hobby, and it will be very quickly realized that when line-breeding statistics are of paramount importance if all kinds of errors are to be avoided. Our contributors Mr Saunders and Mr Mitchell – have clearly shown by their interesting articles that they keep a good account of their processes and that is as it should be. The particular details one should keep are, of course, legion, but individuals can choose from or augment the following suggestions to suit their particular requirements.

pH of water, normal temperature, variation in temperature, temperature during the breeding processes, type of plants, size of tank, compost (if any), aeration, filtration, dates and times of pairing, and kind of feeding. Before pairing, spawning etc, and to fry, number of males to females, number of eggs and resulting fry, proportion of runts and males to females, parentage, colours etc, etc. It is not suggested that these items cover entirely individual requirements, as previously suggested aquarists should keep those details which are of particular interest and value to him. I would suggest, however, that in the course of time he may regret not having made a note of something or other which originally appeared superfluous. However, over a period of time his records will assume by trial and error a definite shape and I am sure he will never regret the effort made.

Perhaps the clearest way to keep records is in tabular form, and please do not forget to keep and index of the fish for quick reference. It is difficult and indeed unnecessary to keep all the details in one table, and it is better to have a separate record for different purposes, e.g. One for ordinary breeding, and one for line breeding, as details required for one are superfluous for the other. A "remarks" column is useful, as all kind of odd notes can be entered here.

It may well be that time is so limited one is unable to keep very full data. I do suggest, however, that records of important items should be a definite part of the aquarist's hobby, and if carried out methodically will not take long. It will repay him for any trouble involved.

E.C. Day

THE JUNIOR SECTION

The membership of the junior section has now risen to quite a satisfactory level, and we are looking forward to some interesting events of our own in the near future.

At the meeting on June 2nd when Capt Betts gave a talk on Fancy Goldfish, almost all the junior members were present in fact we nearly outnumbered the seniors! Although most of us only keep tropicals, we found the talk very interesting and enjoyable. Most of us are saving up our pocket money for the Auction on June 30th when we hope to pick up some real bargains.

In spite of the high prices of essential apparatus several members have done some very successful breeding. K.W. Harris's 3-spot Gouramis have presented him with "hundreds" of fry: he has also reared a male guppy with yellow and black striped fins. C. Shepherd has over fifty young red swords and is successfully rearing more than half of them. Several more of us have bought zebras which we are trying to breed, in the hopes of making a fortune!

The local shortage of daphnia is making itself felt, and we are pleased to note that the Committee is making an effort to find a new source of supply.

M. Hardy

(Ed. We are more than pleased to be able to include this first report from a junior member. It is reproduced just as received, and we look forward to further contributions of the kind. We confirm that some of the Committee went out prospecting for Daphnia, probably successfully. However, it seems that a good pond today is disappointing tomorrow and vice versa. In any case Dytiscus and Dragon fly larvae are very prevalent just now, and it behoves all to be careful what they introduce to their fish.

DON'T FORGET OUR FORTHCOMING EVENTS!!

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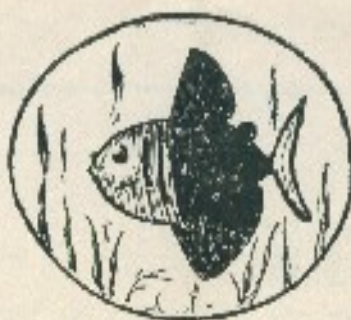
TO FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE
S.L.A.D.A.S.

Have you a Friend who has a pond or tank,
and who is not a member of our Society?
If so, why not bring him or her along to
our next meeting.

VOLUME ONE NUMBER FIVE
for JULY 1948

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a copy of that issue would be greatly appreciated please
contact [mailto:peter.capon@yahoo.com?](mailto:peter.capon@yahoo.com?subject=Missing%20copy%20of%20Volume%201%20Number%204,%20June%201948)
[subject=Missing copy of Volume 1 Number 4, June 1948](mailto:peter.capon@yahoo.com?subject=Missing%20copy%20of%20Volume%201%20Number%204,%20June%201948)**

MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL. 1 No. 5

August. September 19 48

TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT
AQUARIST SOCIETY

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

POND LIFE
and VIVARIA

All Enquiries:—

Hon. Secretary: E. C. DAY, 36, BOURNEMOUTH PARK ROAD, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

R. J. FALKNER

PHONE:
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TUBIFEX and DAPHNIA IN STOCK

SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY

MONTHLY JOURNAL

Vol. 1. No. 5,

Aug./Sept. 1948.

General Meetings at 8 o/c p, m. on first Wednesday of each month at:-

**Girl Guides' Hall,
Westborough Road,
Westcliff-On-Sea**

EDITORIAL..

We greatly regret the delay in issuing this, the fifth, issue of the "Monthly Journal", and apologise for any inconvenience which may have been caused. We can only plead extreme shortage of time, and trust that similar delays will not occur again in future. Our readers will notice that two months are covered upon this occasion so that members will have all the reports up-to-date. To our advertisers we would like to mention that their esteemed notices will be published for the twelve issues.

Well, Readers, our First Annual Show has come and gone. Gone, but we think, never to be forgotten! As a first effort it was supreme, and we feel that no future Show of the kind could ever bring the delight which was the prize for all those who had done so much to build up the Society and those who worked so hard to create.. such an outstanding exhibition. All this does not mean that we should rest on our laurels. On the contrary, it sets us a target for next year, much more portentous - much more difficult - but with the good will of all concerned it will be achieved. It means an early start, and in fact your Committee are already laying plans. We would suggest that all members should start their preparations now, so that when the time comes their entries will be the very best possible.

So many - both Senior and Junior - worked hard to assure success that it would be difficult to mention them all, and to pick a few names would be most unfair to the rest. We knew, however, that no one will object to our mentioning Mr R.H. E. Jones. Without his untiring efforts and faultless organisation, the Show would have been a very poor effort by comparison. We say "Thank you, Mr Jones., for a job very well done", an expression of real appreciation which will be fully endorsed by all.

At the time of writing our membership has just reached 100. This is excellent, too, and we now look forward to the day when we shall report our membership as being 200 !

The Editor.

THE SOCIETY'S DIARY (Continued)
1948

AUGUST 2nd The Society staged a very representative display at the Southchurch Horticulture Society's Summer Show. As is usual with these efforts, the public devoted much of their time admiring the tanks, and many enquiries were dealt with. Among the many "V.I.P's" who found the display very attractive were the Mayor and Mayoress together with Mrs Alderman Broom. Their appreciative remarks were most encouraging. We wish to thank the sponsors of the Show for the facilities offered together; with the quite-unexpected donation given to the Society. As an additional reward, the Society enrolled several members as a direct result of the display. Our appreciation is also extended to those members who lent their furnished aquaria and accessories, to say nothing of their labours in staging the display.

AUGUST 4th Although this General Meeting was advertised as a "Gadgets" night, we fear that natural reserve precluded many members from entertaining their colleagues with the secrets of their handiwork! However, we did have a very useful talk from our Vice-President- Mr H.A.Giles on the preparation of Dried food. Mr Trist, also described a very useful Accessory for syphoning, and we regret that space does not permit us to go into details. Much of the meeting was devoted to a general discussion on the forthcoming Annual Show, and all present enjoyed the wide discussion which took place.

AUGUST 21st . The First Annual Show, which is the subject of a special report in this issue.

AUGUST 29th Just under 60 members and relatives enjoyed a coach excursion to Brighton and Potter's fish hatchery at Haywards Heath. The weather was ideal, and altogether the journey did not leave much to be desired. It was unfortunate that a delay occurred at Tilbury Ferry - 'a matter outside the Society's control, and that one of our Juniors and his sister lost themselves at Brighton causing a further delay before proceeding to Haywards Heath, Mr Potter, who had sustained severe damage at one of his premises, did not have a much to show as he desired. However, he was able to satisfy the requirements of most, and was extremely helpful in answering the many questions which were put to him.

SEPTEMBER 1st . A General Meeting which covered a discussion on the Annual Show and a session of "Your Questions Answered", They were both very adequately dealt with by our President, Mr C. J. Saunders, B. Sc. , and all those present thoroughly enjoyed the information imparted. The questions.....

The Society's Diary (continued)

asked were, varied indeed, but Mr Saunders delved into his vast store of personal experience and managed to keep everyone interested and happy,

SEPTEMBER. 19th . Once again, Mr Jones added to his laurels by offering the Society the facilities of his extensive grounds for the purpose of a Garden Party. There were side-shows and games for young and old, and altogether a most delightful time was had by the 50 or so who attended. We fear that although the adult members may be good aquarists. (or are they?), they are pretty bad cricketers, and after sincerely congratulating the juniors on their most definite victory, will hastily pass on to other aspects of the day. The Obstacle Race proved most entertaining, and the competitors in the Treasure Hunt showed a great deal of ingenuity. Our thanks to Mr Jones and his helpers, who did all the work, and all those who so loyally contributed to the success of the event.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 6th .- Auction Sale. This has already been the subject of a separate communication but for the benefit of new members, and, as a reminder to others, we wish to reiterate some details. Through the auspices of Mr E. J. Allcoat of Messrs. Abbott & Co., we have secured the services of a professional Auctioneer. The Sale will commence at 8 o/c p.m., and will of course be held at the Society's usual meeting place. Items for sale will include fish, plants and accessories, and details covering quantity, description and reserved price (if any) should be in the possession of Mr Jones Flamboro House, Belgrave Road, Eastwood, by the 27th instant. Lots to be on show should be brought to the Sale Room between 7 o/c and 7.30 p.m, on the evening of the Sale, and all lots must be removed before the premises are closed-down for the night. Prospective purchasers should bring appropriate containers with them. The Society charges 10% selling commission, and all reserved prices should be exclusive of this. The Hon. Secretary will be pleased to distribute copies of the Conditions of Sale to members who require them. Now do please send in anything of aquatic interest which you can dispense with, and thus assist in the formation of a bumper catalogue. It is hoped.....

Forthcoming Events (contd.)

to send a copy to each member by the 4th October.

WHIST DRIVE. A Whist Drive, as a Social Event, is being arranged, and will be held later in October. Further Advice will be issued in due course.

Pantomime, At the last General Meeting, a general desire was expressed that the Society should arrange an excursion to a London Pantomime. Your Committee are most anxious to settle the details, and to assist there, it will be necessary to know how many seats are to be reserved etc. Will all those who desire to go please advise the Hon. Secretary. It is possible that the excursion will take place very early in the New Year, but early booking is necessary for both coach and show, and your co-operation will be appreciated.

NOVEMBER 3rd This is an advanced notice of an important General Meeting, and we expect all members will make a very special note of it. Mr L.C. Mandeville, Chairman of the Federation of British Aquatic Societies, is expected to give the Society the benefit of his very extensive experience by a Lantern Lecture on "Tropical Fish". We all remember the delightful talk on "Coldwater Fish" by Capt. Betts - also of the F. B. A. S. - and we know that Mr Mandeville's address will be no less entertaining.

THE SOCIETY'S TROPHIES..

THE "ABBOTT" CUP. Presented by E. J. Allcoat Esq., of Messrs Abbott & Co., Auctioneers & Surveyors. This is won by the member who gains the greatest aggregate points at the Annual Show. Our Vice-President - Mr H. A. Giles - has the honour of being the first winner.

THE "SAUNDERS" CUP. Presented by our President - C. J. Saunders Esq. The Junior Member who has entered the best fish in the Annual Show is the winner. J. W. Cowan, one of our keenest juniors is the first to have his name engraved on it.

THE JONES" CUP. Presented by R.H.E. Jones Esq. for the " best fish in the Annual Show. The first successful competitor is Mr C, J. Saunders, BSc.

All the above are silver, and are held by the winners for 12 months. The plinths are encircled by a silver band, on which the winners name is engraved.

THE ANNUAL SHOW

When the Programme for 1948 was first evolved, the Committee had high hopes of a very successful Annual Show, but as the year went by it was felt to an ever greater extent that the original conception was grandiose indeed, and that the Society would be presented with such difficulties that only a small representative effort would be staged. However, the will to succeed by so many members was grossly underestimated, and although preparations had been left to a late hour, the result was outstanding.

The official opening was undertaken by Mr Kenneth Moore, the celebrated stage and screen actor, and he performed his duties most excellently. We are grateful to him for this service together with his assistance in presenting the trophies and medallions. Mr Kenneth Moore is a most charming gentleman, and took a great deal of interest in the exhibits. It is unfortunate that information of his agreement to attend arrived so shortly before the Show, and in consequence little could be done in advanced advertisement. No doubt members will be interested in following the career of an actor who will go far in his profession, and we look forward to his latest film, in which he portrays Lieut. Evans later known as "Evans of the Broke" ~ in the last Antarctic expedition of the immortal Capt. Scott. We understand that in addition to West End stage successes, Mr Kenneth Moore appeared in the first television programme after the war.

The Committee had been faced with two great difficulties, (a): tanks, staging and equipment in general, and (b) sufficient entries to make the Show, worthy of public attention. Their fears were groundless, although the major proportion of the show tanks hired for the purpose were unusable. During the week prior to the Show, a handful of stalwarts set about re-glazing and painting them, and even on the previous night, one or two could be observed working like mad to make the whole serviceable! What a grand display of 'whole-hearted co-operation and enthusiasm. Our hats go right off in recognition of the hard, heartbreaking work these gentlemen did. Apart from the tanks which were hired, members produced a large number of others, and a special word of thanks goes to Thames Aquatics Ltd and Mrs Marsh for their excellent displays, which helped so much to make the show attractive. The entries of fish were varied and numerous, and altogether the Society as a whole are to be congratulated for the very great effort, Staging! A most difficult proposition, both from a material and utility point of view. Here again we must thank Mr R.H.E. Jones. His was the layout, his was the material, and without these our Show would inevitably have fallen to just "the ordinary". We also have to thank him for transport.

We cannot, in all honesty, say that everything was perfect, but for the first effort so very little was left to be desired that we do say that the success achieved was far in excess of the anticipated. Many lessons have been learned, and many attributes will be remembered to the benefit of all future occasions. We were pleased to receive so many sincere words of praise from so many, but perhaps the most important were those received from Mr Looker and Mr Lazarus, the F. B. A. S. judges, who spent so much time in assessing the merits of the exhibits. They were unanimous in commending the Show generally, and although the quality of some fish fell below the standard one would wish for, they intimated the Show was outstanding for a first effort, and considerably better than many Societies of long standing with much experience. Pleasant words, indeed, to ring in our ears!

Notwithstanding the competition of Carnival week, which began on the same day - 21st August 1948 ~, the location being somewhat off the map, and insufficient public advertisement, well over 400 people attended, and not one word of disappointment was heard. On the contrary, we are sure everybody went away feeling that it was money well spent.

Now for the details:-

1. There were 118 entries (108 senior and 10 junior).
Incidentally, we feel that a better effort could have been made by the juniors, but next year will tell a very different story we are sure.
- 2 The entries were made by 32 different members.
- 3 The Show was opened by Mr Kenneth Moor a before just under 100 people,
- 4 The trophies were presented, as mentioned earlier, by Messrs 'E. J. Allcoat, C. J. Saunders, BSc, and R.H.E.-Jones, to whom our very best "thanks" - are extended.
CI.
- 5 They were won by Messrs H. A. Giles, J. W. Cowan Junr., and C J. Saunders, to whom we extend, our heart most congratulations.
- 6 The show Sub-committee consisted of Messrs Jones, A.E. Clark and G. Trist.
- 7 The hired tanks were all unpainted and rusty, and the same remarks apply to the stands which were supplied. They were all cleaned and painted, and it is interesting to note that 41 out of 61 small, and 7 out of 18 large tanks leaked and had to be re-glazed.
- 8 Of the entries, 84 were of Tropicals, 24 of Coldwater, and 10 of Furnished Aquaria. The microscope loaned by our Hon. Advisor - Mr E. J. Prockter - was a great attraction, and we thank him for his assistance.

RESULTS;-**Class I. Shubunkins & .Goldfish.**

1. Mr Pride.
 2. Mr Hall.
 3. Mr Taylor.
- H C. Mr Saunders.

Class II Fan tails .(Veiltails/Moors).

1. Mr Saunders.
2. Mr J.W. Cowan Junior.
3. Mr Saunders.

Class III. A. O. V., Coldwater Fish.

1. Mr Jagged.
2. Mr Saunders.
3. Mr Hall.

Class IV. Guppies

1. Mr C. J. Brooks.
2. Mrs Wunderlich.
3. Mr Day.

Class V. Swordtails.

- 1, Mr Giles,
2. Mr Clark.
3. Mr Mitchell.

Class VI. Platies

1. Mr Marsh.
2. Mr Glover.
3. Mr Trist.

Class VII. Gourarmies

- 1, Mr Hoare
 - 2, Mr Giles.
 3. Mr Mitchell.
- V.H.C. Mr Giles.

Class VIII Fighters & Paradise.

1. Mr Taylor.
2. Mr Taylor
3. Mr Hoare

Class IX.

Cichlids

1. Mr Brooks.
2. Mr Giles.

Class X.

Characins

1. Mrs Leftwich.
2. Mrs Marsh,
3. Mrs Marsh

Class XI,

Barbs,

1. Mr Giles,
- 2 Mr Brooks,
- 3, Mr Clark.

Class XII..

A.O.V livebearers,

1. Mr Trist,
2. Mr Taylor,
3. Mr Saunders,

Class XIII.

Danios,

1. Mr Escott,
2. Mr Crawford.
3. Mrs Clark.

Class XIV..

A. 0. V.Egglayers.

1. Mr Giles,
- 2 Mr Marsh.
3. Mr Marsh

Class.....XV.

.Furnlshed, Aquaria,

1. Mr Clark.
2. Mrs Giles.
3. Mrs Giles

We have omitted to mention that Silver Madals were presnted to the Trophy winners, and bronze medallions to the "Firsts" in each class. We are indebted to Mr Kent for presenting a large number of the latter.

Will all the winners of these medals please return them to the Hon. Secretary so that they can be suitably engraved? Before doing so, kindly write your name on the box.

Photos taken of the Show may be obtained for 6/6 per copy. They are professionally executed, mounted, and a distinct aquisition..

Appreciation is extended to:-
 The Show Committee,
 All entrants,
 The traders,
 The donors of the trophies and medals.
 The donors of refreshments, and canteen helpers. 37.

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 Mr Kenneth Moore.
 Those who painted and repaired the tanks,
 The judges.
 All helpers, both great and small, all of whom made the show possible and so successful.

All that remains now is to state that next year will see the results of lessons, learned, and that 1949 Annual Show will be bigger, better and a peak in the annals of the Society.

SOME THOUGHTS ON WINNING THE CUP.

Well, Fellow Members, having recovered from the shock of my unexpected luck in winning our first Show Cup, I feel I must say something to you all.

In the first place I would like to say "Thanks" to every one of you who made an entry - for without those entries there would have been no Show. Then again, there are the happy (I hope) band of people who did all the hard work that made the Show possible - my thanks to them, Now, come- the fish.,. It is, of course, difficult to thank them adequately, for what they suffered on my behalf, but they did get an extra feed of Daphnia after the event.

Now for next year ! It is a long way off, I know, but if you have any idea of taking the Cup from me, now is the time for preparing the battle. I hope to see some real keen competition in the next Show, but I warn you, I shall do my best to keep it for another year ! This, in spite of the expense incurred in "Filling the Cup" at our last Committee Meeting!!

H.A, Giles.

. "SLADAS MART".

Short advertisements of members' aquatic requirements and surpluses are welcome. Entries will be made at a cost of 1/--

THE JUNIOR SECTION.

The Society's Public Show held on the 21st August was an ideal opportunity for the Juniors to show the Society -and the public - what they can do. There were 10 entries by junior Members,including one certificate winner. The Cup for the best Junior entry, given by Mr Saunders,was won by J.W.Cowan, Congratulations !

Many Junior members helped with the preparation of the hall for the Show,and a number of volunteers helped with the selling - and eating - of the refreshments !

M. Hardy.

We regret that space does not permit us to include one of our usual interest features. However,the Journal will be back to normal,we hope,next month. We must .again request more copy from members,and hope that the response will be better than in the past. We heard a little whisper recently that the same old contributors appear with undue regularity. (That is not how it was mentioned,but what it meant). Now we ask you readers is it not to the credit of the "same old contributors" that they fill the breach because other members do not come up to scratch? We never tire of publishing the experiences of any member even if he happens to write month after month ~ and we are sure our readers are only too pleased to be able to share their experiences. However,even the best of writers come to a point when they feel they may .be doing all the work, and would like to read other peoples articles for a change.

Now it is up to your We must have copy of all descriptions. It does not matter if you "Don't know yer gammer",we will.at least,make it readable. Anything which you think will interest others,long or short, 5000 words or 20, it all helps to keep your own "Monthly Journal" going.

STOP PRESS.

The following dates have just been fixed,and members should earmark them:- '

WEDNESDAY..17th NOVEMBER 1948. Private Whist Drive for members and their friends. .

SATURDAY...11th DECEMBER 1948. Annual Dinner Full details will be announced in due course.

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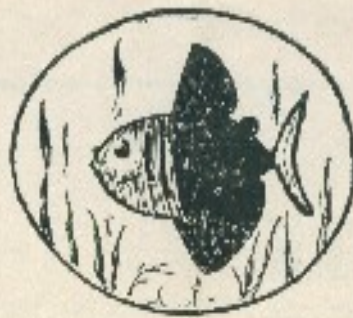
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Vol. 1. No 6

October 1948.

General Meetings -'at 8 o/e p..m.-on the first Wednesday of month at:-

. . . ; . •

**Girl Guides' Hall,
Westborough Road . Westcliff- On-Sea,
(Corner of Electric Avenue) .**

EDITORIAL.

To a great many fish-keepers "line-breeding" is a mystery and "one of those things for the experts" The mere thought of the word "genetics" conjures up thoughts of dry-as-dust scientists with their theories and paraphernalia, and yet all this can be far from the truth..

All of which is an introductory reference to Mr Mitchell's worthy contribution on line-breeding Guppies. Now Mr Mitchell is anything but a "dry-in-the dust" scientist, and his article, concerns the practical side of the vast field of genetics. Why not open the door on this interesting subject and start in a small way like our contributor. Not only will it bring greater interest in your hobby but can be the means of securing better standards and very interesting varieties: Mr Mitchell's article is readily understandable concise and practical in the extreme and we commend the attention of all enthusiasts to it.

We must again draw our reader's thoughts to the "question of copy". If you desire our "Monthly Journal" to continue with instructional items, we must have the material, to publish. It does not matter how long or how short, whether badly or indifferently written, we will do our best to make it readable. Do please help your fellow members by assisting us..

The Society's Year is drawing to a close, and we must not expect too much in the way of increased membership now. At the very least; however we do hope that members will be ready with a "bumper crop" of applications at the Annual General Meeting, when all Subscriptions become due for the ensuing twelve months. The Hon. Secretary will be very happy to hand out supplies of Application Forms. Our aim is a target of 200 members by December 1949!

The Editor.

**THE SOCIETY'S DIARY- Continued.
1948.**

OCTOBER 6th. A General Meeting devoted to an Auction Sale. Past experience has led us to believe that these events are most popular with members, and this occasion fully maintained the tradition. The attendance was the biggest ever, and nobody could be disappointed with the catalogue, which was both representative and comprehensive. Mr Skinner, a professional auctioneer, very kindly gave his services to the Society, and his expert ability and pleasant wit greatly contributed to a very enjoyable evening.

We were pleased to note that every advantage was taken of the varied lots for sale, and at the same time we were pleased to note that so many members entered lots for disposal. The very ready assistance given to ensure the success of the sale is acknowledged with great appreciation, and this includes the ladies who worked so hard to provide the refreshments. And finally, Mr C. G. Brooks, our most worthy Hon. Treasurer, was well satisfied with the increased bank balance !

**SOCIETY NOTICES.
Forthcoming Events**

NOVEMBER 1st ~ Lantern Lecture. As already advised by separate letter, the next General Meeting has been fixed for Monday the 1st instead of Wednesday the 3rd November. We reiterate our regrets. For any inconvenience caused, but know members will understand the difficulties which faced the organisers.: Once again, may we appeal to members to do their best to attend. Mr Mandeville is one of the country's great experts, and we are very fortunate in securing the services of one so very well known.. The Lantern-slides are his own, and are probably the best and most comprehensive in the aquarist world.

NOVEMBER 17th Whist. Drive This Social Event, which will be open for members and their friends, will start at 7.45 p.m. We believe that tickets have already been distributed, and further supplies are available from Mr Jones, "Flamboro' House", Belgrave Road, Eastwood, by all who require them, price 1/6 (free refreshments). A similar occasion last March was greatly enjoyed by all who participated,

Forthcoming Events- continued

DECEMBER 1st. - Annual General Meeting. This is just a preliminary notice of the last Society's year. the agenda will be in due course.

DECEMBER 11th -..Annual Dinner. The last Social Event of the year can now be advised in detail. Arrangements have been concluded to hold this at the Roadhouse, Nr, Belfairs, Eastwood. We can assure our members that the cuisine will leave little to be desired, and some very excellent entertainers have been procured for the occasion. Dinner will be served at 7.45 p.m., and transport by the Westcliff Motor Services has been specially reserved to take members and their friends, to and from the venue, if they require it. The conveyance will leave the White Horse, Southchurch at 7 o/c.p.m, and will proceed straight down Southchurch Road and London Road- as far as Westleigh Schools, where it will proceed to the Road House. Passengers will be picked-up at Bournemouth Park Road, Victoria Circus, Cricketers, Plough, Chalkwell Schools, The Elm Inn, Westleigh Schools.. Whilst we hope that the above stopping places will be used, a reasonable request to stop at a special place will be complied with. It must be understood, however, that in no circumstances can the route be deviated from that mentioned above. Members' friends will be very welcome, but accommodation is necessarily limited, and bookings will be made in strict rotation. Dress, of course, is optional. Cost of the Dinner will be 6/- per head, excluding beverages, and transport an additional 1/3d each irrespective of distance. A Reservation Form is included with this issue, and it will greatly assist the Hon. Treasurer if this is used and in his possession by the 1st December (Our Annual General Meeting), May we look forward to a minimum of 100 guests upon this occasion? We can cater for more than this if need be, so let us hear from you all !

GENERAL.

Thames Aquatics..Ltd. Will members please note that the address given in our printed advertisements is no longer correct. They have advised us that their business is now conducted from:-

Regd Office 46, Broadway, Leigh-On-Sea
(Tel. No 78626)

10 & 11 Strand Arcade (Strand Cinema)
Southend-On-Sea

cont`

41.

They will be pleased to welcome old friends at their new premises. At this juncture we should like to mention a long-standing arrangement to the effect that Messrs. Thames Aquatics Ltd. allow 1/- discount to all bona-fide members of the Society. Members should be prepared to produce their Membership Cards if requested.

Library. We are pleased to announce that the Society is procuring an additional copy of each of Innes books, "Exotic Fishes" and "Goldfish Varieties & Water Gardens", together with a copy of the new publication "The Goldfish" by G. F. Hervey, F.Z.S., and J. Hems. These preminent treatises are, of course, costly, and your Committee are agreed that to help to defray expenses it is necessary to increase the borrowing fee. Please note, therefore, that the charge will be 6d per month, with the usual fine of 3/- for late return. We do not seek the fine, in fact it is ardently desired that books are returned promptly to enable others to have the opportunity of reading the limited volumes available.

Apart from many small books - details of which can be obtained from the Hon. Librarian ~ Mr W. Hoare - the following are available: -

Innes' "Exotic Fishes"
Innes' "Goldfish Varieties"
1001 Questions.
Love & Life in the Aquarium.
Tropical Fish-keeping

"The Goldfish" may be a few weeks before it is actually in our possession as it will not be published until the 3rd December next, will be well worth waiting for.

Booklets The Hon. Secretary still has for disposal copies of the F. B. A. S. "Show Standards for Cultivated Fishes" @ 2/6, The Guppy Breeder's Society's "1947 Year Book" @ 9d and the G. B.S. "Official Standards (Revised 1948) @ 3d, all of which should find a place in every aquarist's bookshelf.

LINE..BREEDING WITH GUPPIES.

by J. Mitchell.

On the 17th November 1946, I purchased a male Guppy with a very fine "double-sword" and extremely long coloured dorsal-fin, Having gained some slight knowledge of line-breeding from fellow-members, books etc, I decided to "have a go" with this male as a beginning..

Taking my best looking female which, of course, was ' gravid, I isolated her for some months to assure myself that she was completely free from young. At about the middle of June 1947 I, introduced the male to her, and on the 31st July she presented me with about a dozen youngsters, which were removed to a small tank.

As soon as they could be sexed, I discarded all excepting four females, knowing that in no case would the males resemble "Dad".

I then placed the male parent with the four females, and when the latter were gravid, put them into separate compartments and awaited results, In one compartment, the male youngsters in some instances carried the points I required, like "Grandad". In the other three containers, the males were not so good.

Discarding all these again, I took four females from the compartment in which the promising males had appeared and put them back to "Grandad", The result of this was that in nearly every case, the youngsters resembled "Great Grandad", and I did not go to the trouble of separating them.

Now, 75% of broods are almost exactly like "Great-Great Grandad"; so much so, in fact, that although he is still going strong, it is almost impossible to pick him out from the rest.

Occasionally there is a "single-sword" thrown, but whole broods are now true to pattern.

"SLADAS MART".

(Insertions under this heading will be made at a cost of 1/- per month per advert.)

WANTED. Red female and male Fighter, also, biscuit-tin tank Reply:
Mrs Sullivan,
18 Burleigh Mansions, -
Station Road, Westcliff.

ITEM IN MINIATURE.

Don't delay in giving your pond a clean-out for the coming winter. Move all dead leaves to avoid putrefaction.

The following points were gleaned from our President's comprehensive survey of the Annual Show at the following General Meeting... They are published with the feeling that they should be put on record to assist in bringing about improvements next year. To a large extent they are criticisms which were made by the F.B.A.S, judges at the time.

Fighter Class Poor - too small.

Platy Class except "moon" well below standard,

Angels. Good but small,

Swordtails: Surprise expressed at the few entries. The-Green variety were deficient in colour..

Fighters & Angels should be shown as single-fish – not pairs;

Plants should not be mixed in **Furnished Aquaria.** Better to plant in "clumps".

Furnished Aquaria were the worst section, 3 or 4 varieties of fish are sufficient, back glass must not be painted. In future. judges will disqualify tanks so. treated.

.We are very pleased to report that our -President -.-Mr C, J, Saunders,B..Sc. - has been placed on the Panel of Lecturers in conjunction, with the Federation of British Aquatic Societies. Most members will know that Mr Saundera has been an ardent aquarist for many years. Whilst his knowledge of "Tropicals" is most comprehensive, he makes no secret, of the fact that his "best love" is for Goldfish varieties, and his lecturing will embrace this section of our hobby. It must be acknowledged that his acceptance in the ranks of the "elite" is a well-deserved, honour, and we are proud, indeed, that the S.L.A, D.A Society can share it in no small measure. Congratulations Mr Saunders, and. Our very best wishes for your success at all times.

STOP -PRESS.

Don't forget to send; in your Reservation Form for the Annual Dinner - and without delay. The Hon. Secretary still wishes to know if any members desire to go to a Pantomime in London. This is now becoming an urgent matter.

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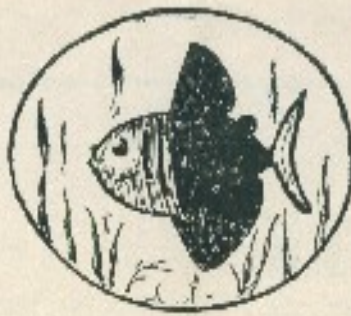
NOTICE

TO FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE

S.L.A.D.A.S.

Have you a Friend who has a pond or tank,
and who is not a member of our Society?
If so, why not bring him or her along to
our next meeting.

MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL. 1 No. 7

November 19 48

TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT
AQUARIST SOCIETY

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

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and VIVARIA

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SOUTHEND LEIGH AND DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY

MONTHLY JOURNAL

Vol. 1. No. 7,

November 1948.

General Meetings at 8. o/c p.m. On the first Wednesday of each month at:-

**Girl Guides` Hall
Westborough Road
Westcliff-On-Sea
(corner of Electric Ave)**

EDITORIAL.

This is to be the last issue before the Annual General Meeting and we hope our journalistic efforts have contributed towards the desire of our readers to continue their membership for a further twelve months. We fear that, at times, the Journal has not reached our ideals, but thanks to our contributors there has always been something of interest and something of very definite instruction. We do not claim to compete with the national aquatic press, but we have one thing to be proud of - the personal touch between the members. With continued help of those good friends and active participation of other members who have not, as yet, offered us the benefit of their experiences, our "Monthly Journal" will go from strength to strength.

This month we have the privilege of including article not previously catered for - ailments, plants, etc., and we thank the contributors for giving us the benefit of their knowledge.

Of the Society's work during the past year, we can look back and appreciate the great strides forward which have been taken. Next year's programme has already been fixed, and it is hoped that printed copies will be available at the A.G.M. We can assure our members that there will be still further improvements in the Society's activities, and we look forward to continued progress.

Our membership today is 106, and we hope that the new year will bring very many more interested aquarists. Can we hope for that 200 in twelve months time? With your personal endeavours there should be no difficulty at all.

Finally in case No 8 does not appear before Xmas our very warmest wishes to all for a very happy time, with happy tank and bumper spawnings !

The Editor

THE SOCIETY'S DIARY - Continued.
1948

NOVEMBER 1st. The Society had the pleasure of receiving Mr Mandeville, the Chairman of the F.B, A.S, He gave a very interesting Lantern Lecture on Tropical Fish, and it is noteworthy that all the slides were of his own production. They were, in themselves, very beautifully produced, and covered a very wide range, Mr Mandeville is, of course, a great authority in the aquarist world, and it was disappointing that the time at his disposal did not permit him to devote part of the session to answering questions. We think, too, that given more time he could have included some of the commoner fish. However, his lecture was most illuminating, and we look forward to the time when the various unusual specimens portrayed will be available.

NOVEMBER 6th Whilst reporting our display at the Leigh Horticulture Society's Chrysanthum Show, we must apologise for not mentioning it in our last issue as a "Forthcoming Event" Our President, however, made reference to it at a previous General Meeting, Thanks to several members, the Society was able to set up 10 tanks, which, as usual, drew a great deal of attention. Some male Fighters, lent for the occasion by Mrs Marsh received particular attention, and certainly not without reason - they were certainly very beautiful fish. We wish to thank all those concerned, who helped to make the display a success - they will be pleased to know that as a result the Society has enrolled several new members with the prospects of others in due course. Incidentally, we were disappointed that so few members came along to see our effort and give the willing a few some words of encouragement.

NOVEMBER 17th. The second Whist Drive of the year proved successful, although again we feel that many more members could have enjoyed it, There were 54 players, and as is usual with private Whist Drives there was no evidence of those objections! "inquests". We extend our appreciation to those ladies who, worked so hard producing and preparing the refreshments, which were very tasteful indeed..

SOCIETY NOTICES.
Forthcoming Events.

DECEMBER 1st ~ Annual General Meeting. Members have already received the requisite 14 days notice of this together with the Agenda. We can add nothing but to ask members to consider the items for decision, and come along to make known their desires. It is the one occasion in the year when the Society must settle down to business, and is really an important Meeting,

DECEMBER., 11th - Annual Dinner. We are now advised that "four or five" excellent "turns" have been engaged for your entertainment. Other details were given in our last issue, We would draw your attention to the necessity of advising the Hon. Treasurer of your reservations by the 1st December next (or the A. G. M.).

NEW YEAR We hope to be able to give you advance details of a visit to the Harringay Circus, This is to take place shortly after Xmas, and if they are to hand in time, details will be put in the "Stop Press".

GENERAL.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. Will members please all Subscriptions are due within one month of the Annual General Meeting. It will save our Hon. Treasurer much time and trouble if they can be handed to him at the meeting, and will avoid the risk of memberships lapsing.

MEDALLIONS. The Hon. Secretary is still waiting, for a number of medallions which were awarded at the Annual Show. It will be remembered they are required for engraving, and should bear the name of the sender.

BROADCASTS, Attention has been drawn previously to two series of broadcasts which are a regular feature of the "Home Service". They are "Country Questions" and "The Naturalist", which alternate with "Country Magazine" after the 1 o/c News on Sundays. Although not specifically devoted to aquatic matters, we feel sure members will hear much to interest them.

THE NEW HYBRID,

Most of our readers will have read reports in recent issues of the "Southend Standard" and "Southend Pictorial" concerning the cross-breeding of a swordtail-characin with a platy by Mrs Leftwich, one of our earliest members.

Knowing, that such an accomplishment had been hitherto, accepted as genetically impossible we felt an obligation to write to the press stating our views. For the elucidation of our members we quote, in full, the text which we think are self-explanatory,-

"Dear Sir,

With reference to your report of the crossing of a "swordtail-characin" with a "platyfish" I have been asked to state on behalf of this Society that the possibility of such an event is an extremely doubtful one.

This is by no means a reflection in anyway against Mrs Leftwich, who is a very respected and enthusiastic member with many years experience as an aquarist. It is entirely a matter of accepting the achievement of the "impossible" with the very greatest caution.

Without going into great detail, it can be mentioned that the "platyfish" is one of many which mature very young, and in consequence it is necessary to segregate stock intended for breeding almost from birth. There is a great possibility, therefore, that the female concerned had been crossed at an early age by one of its brothers, and the progeny now under observation are, in fact, nothing whatever to do with the "swordtail-characin". This is just an explanation, and in common fairness I must add that Mrs Leftwich is sure it did not occur.

In the course of time the progeny will develop, and it will then be easier to determine whether our member's claim is justified or not. In the meantime, however, I feel sure all the experts will prefer to retain open minds on the matter? Yours faithfully, E.G. Day

Hon, Secretary, S.L.&D. Aquarist Society"

The "Southend Standard" did not publish the letter and unfortunately the "Southend Pictorial" only made a quotation as follows:-

"Writing on behalf of Southend, Leigh and District Aquarist Society, the secretary, Mr E. C. Day, says the possibility of crossing these two fish is "an extremely doubtful one...It is entirely a matter of accepting the achievement of the "impossible" with the very greatest caution."

"The New Hybrid" ~ contd,

Included in the article was a reference to the Curator of the London Zoo having specimens of the new hybrid under examination, and in which he was very interested.

We deplore the fact that our letter was so very much condensed, but recognise the difficulties with which the press is faced in regard to space. We are pleased to note, however, that the quotation was not a garbled version.

It should not be overlooked that the impossible of yesterday is sometimes the accomplishment of to-day, but the new hybrid is such a radical change from accepted truth that we feel convinced something has been overlooked or an error made in connection with the breeding. Let us hasten to add, once again, that Mrs Leftwich is one of our most respected members, and we do not find it at all pleasant to discred an event in which she so honestly believes. We should be very happy, indeed, to know that her claim had been justified. It would be epoch-making and would go down to posterity ever coupled with the name of the originator. We hope to receive the final verdict from the Curator of the Aquarium, Zoological Gardens, London in due course, but in the meantime must do as a famous Prime Minister once said - "Wait and see",

It will be appreciated, of course, that the progeny of Mrs Leftwich's parent sword-tail-characins are, in the circumstances very valuable to the owner. She has asked us, therefore, to request the purchasers of her swordtail-characins at the last Auction Sale to return them to her, when she will be pleased to re-imburse the cost.

;SMILE AWHILE.

Our Vice-President has sent us the following, which we consider well worth quoting;-

I heard a true, and I thought, funny story recently.' A fellow-member has ;'a very Cockney grocer who calls upon her, One day upon seeing her tanks of fish, he remarked "Cor, what luvly fish, Lidy. 'I've, got a couple of books at 'ome abaht fish - I'll bring 'em rahnd." He was as good as his word, but the lady was somewhat surprised when he proudly gave her ...two large volumes entitled "The Modern Fish-fryer" !!!

(Even Sophie Tuckshop in "Itma" last week stated she would like Tropical Fish on toast! What's in the wind?)

SIX COMMON FISH AILMENTS

by E.J. Prockter

A request for advice usually start with a list of symptoms of fishy ills, so a few hints on common ailments and their treatment may help to save some of our fishy friends as early treatment may turn what would have been a hopeless case into an easy cure.

The Isolation tank should be bare, i.e. Without sand, rocks, or plants and only ½ full. The reason for having the water low is that some can be added to weaken the solution, and in the case of expensive drugs the cost is reduced. Any chemical used must be thoroughly dissolved in a little water before being added to the isolation tank.

Shimmies The usual sign of a chill in tropical fish but can also be caused by the water being too alkaline, bad feeding and internal trouble. Try and find out which of these is the cause.

"White Spot" ((Ichthyopttherius) There are three good cures, the first is my favourite.

- (1) To each gallon of water add three grains of Quinine hydrochloride and keep the temperature at 75 to 80° F. Do not remove the fish from the isolation tank until all spots have dissappeared for a day or two.
- (2) Two separate tanks, use them alternately every twelve hours, sterilize each tank after use. Keep the temperature at 85 to 90o° F
- (3) Wipe fish with cotton wool soaked in paraffin, then completely immerse in paraffin for five seconds only, rinse fish and reture to isolation tank.

Gyrodactyliasis Fish rub on stones, plants and sand.

- (1) Place the fish in pink solution of permanganate of potash for ten minutes. Pot' permanganate must not be used on fish of the Percidae family.
- (2) Place fish in a solution of one part glacial Acetic acid to 500 parts of water for one

Gill Worm *Dactylogyrus fallax* Treat as for Gyrodactyliasis

Tail Rot Blood streaks in tail, tail rots away. Main cause, high bacterial content in water, chilling, too much dry food. Long tailed fish are liable to the trouble unless the water is kept very fresh and they are given plenty of space. The treatment that I have found best is to place the fish in salt solution of 1 teaspoon of salt to each gallon of water, add the same amount of salt each day for two more days making 3 teaspoon fulls to the gallon on the third day. Keep the fish in this solution unti trouble has disappeared. Now add fresh water each day until the solutioni is down to less than 1 teaspoon ful, return fish to aquarium.

Fungus (*Saploegnia ferax*) treat as for tail rot.

AQUARIUM PLANTS I

by C.J.Saunders Bsc

The Cryptocorynes

These beautiful and rather uncommon plants do not hold the place in the aquarium world that they held twenty years ago. At that time it was the feature plant of many tanks, was expensive and the various species were unnamed.

The plants were first introduced into Germany in about 1907, and a few years later specific names appeared in one of the German Aquatic Journals (*griffithii*, *cordata*, *becketti*, and *willisi*) Nowadays there are six species available – the four species previously named and *C. cilliata* and *C. Nevilli*.

Cordata, *becketti* and *nevillei* are the species usually seen in this country, but they are not easy to distinguish without expert knowledge of this plant. The flowers are very beautiful, being similar (on a smaller scale) to those of the Arum lily, but few plants flower here probably due to the fact that (a) minimum temperature of 80 degrees is required (and the flowering season is during our colder months) and (b) the water must be shallow, 4" for the smaller species and 7-8" for the larger.

The plants are hardy and will grow in a comparatively badly lit tank, but they are slow growing and even slower to multiply, which they do by runners, the young plants springing up close to the parent plant. I had two plants some twelve months ago (probably *cordata*) and it was not until late spring that the first runner appeared. Now I have quite a good number of young plants.

Although this plant is still expensive, it deserves a place in every aquarium, a well grown plant making an excellent feature for a front centre piece.

AN UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL

We have recently had the pleasure of testing the "Prockter" aerator. It is claimed that the air output is approximately 300 cubic inches of air per minute at a pressure of 2 foot of water and current consumption 3 to 4 watt at 230 volts A.C. We have not the apparatus to verify these claims, but have no reason to doubt them. We can say, however, that during the two or three weeks under test, we have found the pump most efficient under normal conditions, producing a very large volume of air without causing annoyance through undue noise. It retails at 50/-

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

This is a new type of article for this journal, and they are included because they either do not quite conform to general thought, or present a new perspective of the subject matter. We think that the contents, being actual experiences, will give "food for thought", and hope other members will send us other articles in a similar vein.

BREEDING FIGHTERS

by Mrs P. Sullivan

On October 17th my husband and myself thought we would try a male and female fighter. We are very raw amateurs at this "fish game" and having selected our two fish, parted them with a glass partition for 6 or 7 hours. Having let them free, "he" was very keen but "she" just would not play. We left them for two days together, and during this time read all the data we could find on breeding, gathered information from fellow members and non-members – and decided to start again.

This starting and re-starting went on over and over for 10 days or more, and my husband said on one occasion when the partition was up, "Look at the witch! Like all women leading him up the garden!" It is now November the 9th – three days ago we decided to try another kind to breed, but being a woman- and a determined one at that, I decided to leave the experts advice alone and try some tactics of my own as, perhaps, my `lady` was temperamental. So when my husband had gone to work, I slipped her back in the large tank with the others – she was nice and fat- but when put with the others lost her lovely colours and became nondescript. I placed two small lettuce leaves in his tank among the other floating weeds. He immediately took interest in these and swam in and out blowing lots of bubbles around. At about 9 o/c a.m. I put her back with him. He chased her a good deal, but she was not having anything to do with him. By 11 o/c a.m. She started preening herself. He tried so hard to get her under the lettuce leaf. I felt rather disappointed and decided to leave them alone, so went out. When I returned at 5 o/c p.m. My husband's first words were, "She's spawned", and sure enough there he was picking up in his mouth the eggs falling to the sand and putting them in the nest. I could have cried with joy- AT LAST! She was really being in the way and he was getting annoyed, so we transferred her back to the other. I kept my husband a distance from the tank, (remembering my son in his rabbit-breeding days), and we even got up in the night to see if everything was O.K. Today November 10th, he is still working and has never left his post. My husband has rigged up a drip feed (the real thing as used for transfusions), and we are now busy with our infusoria.

We have bred Guppies, but never have we been so thrilled so much as now- OUR achievement – "something attempted – something done"

ON BLANKET WEED

by H.A. Giles

We have all heard at some time or other, the expression "Blanket Weed" used by fellow aquarists, but some of us- the newcomers perhaps- will have little knowledge of its desirable properties.

It is of course, a thread-like vegetable growth in the Algae class, I believe, which appears in almost any tank subject to a lot of very bright natural light.

Now I have heard experienced aquarists say that they like it for spawning egg-laying fish, but after a very sad experience I have definitely decided against this.

I set up a tank with a pair of Perma black mollies, and according to the rules, I gave it plenty of light to encourage the growth of algae. Unfortunately this also caused a great deal of blanket weed to grow as well, and one day I was shocked to see Mrs Molly dead in a bunch of the "thrice-accursed" weed, the fine strand of which had caught behind her gill covers.

From now on I have declared war on blanket weed.

STOP PRESS

We regret that up to a late hour no details could be certain regarding the projected visit to Harringay Circus. There is a possibility, however, that some news may be available in time for an announcement at the A.G.M.

=====

NOTICE

Advice has just been received from Mrs V. Marsh of "Exotic Fishes", 1 Carlton Drive, Leigh, that she is prepared to give bona fide members a discount of -/1d in the shilling. Members unknown to Mrs Marsh should be prepared to produce their membership cards, as the concession is a special arrangement with this Society. We appreciate this gesture of goodwill towards her fellow members.

**THE BLANK PAGE OVERLEAF IS WAITING FOR YOUR COPY
ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS JOURNAL WILL BE WELCOMED**

=====

Please note that dress for the Annual Dinner will be informal. This important detail has not been mentioned before, but now the good news is with you all

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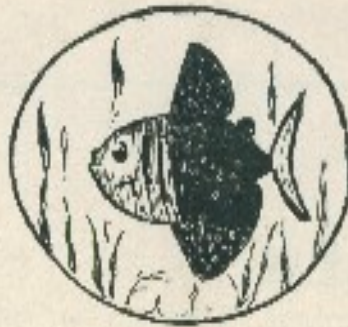
TO FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE

S.L.A.D.A.S.

Have you a Friend who has a pond or tank,
and who is not a member of our Society?

If so, why not bring him or her along to
our next meeting.

MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL. **1** No. **8**

December 19 **48**

TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

**SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT
AQUARIST SOCIETY**

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

POND LIFE
and VIVARIA

All Enquiries:—

Hon. Secretary: E. C. DAY, 36. BOURNEMOUTH PARK ROAD, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

R. J. FALKNER

DEALER IN EXOTIC FISH and AQUARIA

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COLD WATER and TROPICAL FISH,
PLANTS

ALL AQUARIST NEEDS CATERED FOR
TUBIFEX and DAPHNIA IN STOCK

SOUTHEND. LEIGH & DISTRICT AQUARIST SOCIETY

MONTHLY JOURNAL.

Vol, 1. No. 8.

December 1948

General Meetings at 8 o/c p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at:-

The Girl Guides` Hall,
Westborough Road,
Westcliff-on-Sea.
(corner of Electric Avenue).

EDITORIAL.

On behalf of the Committee we wish to extend to all our members sincerest wishes for the Coming New Year. May excellent health prevail, not only in yourselves, but also amongst your 'finny' friends, and may happiness and prosperity be with you all for all time.

You will notice a somewhat different lay-out of our Journal this month - the Society's Diary and Notices being at the end. This is to facilitate publication, and we draw attention to it so that the important items therein contained are not overlooked. And what items this month !.

A first-class competition which all may enjoy amongst others of interest and importance. We all look forward to a very successful year ahead, and hope members will promote the interests of the Society, not only in procuring new 'recruits' but also in assisting in the various activities which will be featured. Practical help at Shows, constructive criticism and suggestions - in fact anything which will go to assist the management will be very welcome. Your Committee can do much, but it can do far more when all members rally round.

The Editor.

SEXING.

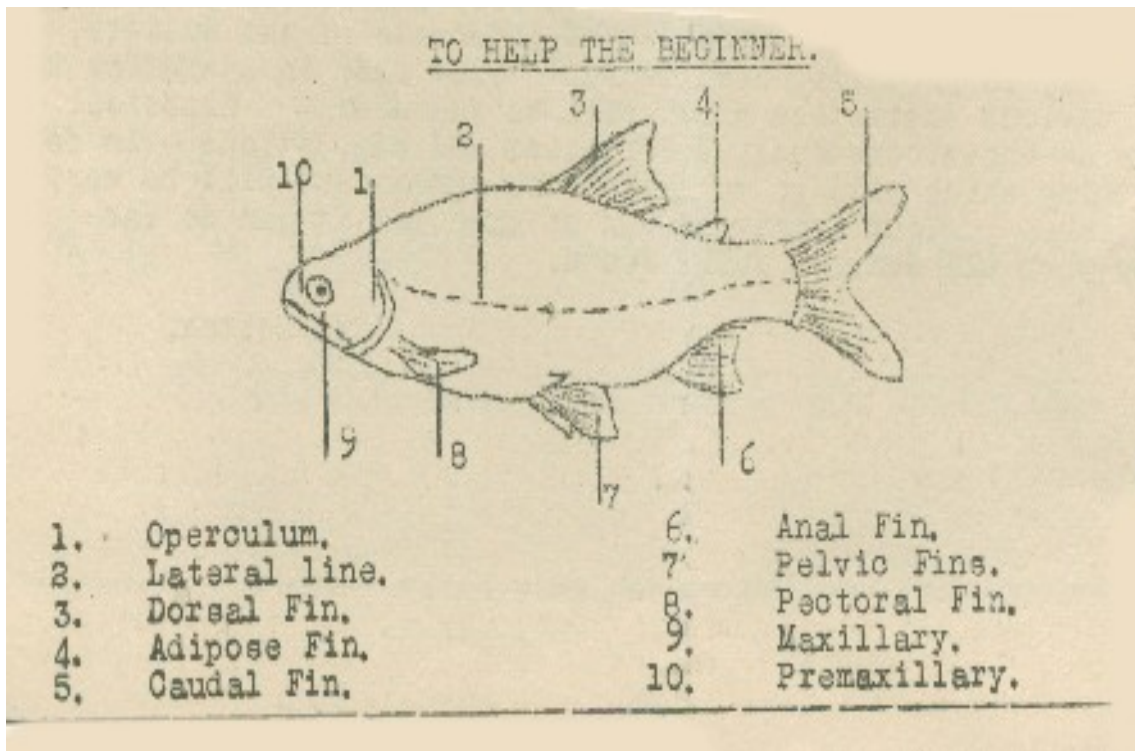
1. Fancy Goldfish.

by C. J. Saunders B Sc.

The business of obtaining a true pair in fishes which are difficult to sex has always been a great difficulty to the amateur. I hope, in these notes to give information which may solve this trouble in many instances, although many species still 'floor me with great ease!'

With the Fancy Goldfishes, i.e., Shubunkine, Veiltails, Fantails - to take the most popular varieties ~, sexing is not difficult, even to the beginner, although facility only comes with experience and years of practice. The easiest time to sex is, naturally, when the fishes are in breeding condition. At this time the males show quite definite and easily seen tubercles (like tiny raised pimples) on the gill-plates, while the female is much more heavily bodied, the eggs of the future generation giving a generous rotundity to her figure.

Out of the breeding season the task is not so easy, and even the expert is at times deceived. However, I will point out sex indications and then the reader can do his stuff with his own fish and determine his degree of accuracy. The male has usually a more stream-lined body and a flatter head, while the front rays of the pectorals (and sometimes the ventral) fins are more 'bony' looking, being more obvious than the corresponding fins in the female.. The latter, apart from the characteristics outlined above, has a much heavier body - deeper and more rounded, while viewed from above there will be noticed a distinct bulge on one side of the female, even after spawning. Try these points on a few of your 'Fancies' (and the Common Goldfish), and you will soon learn to 'sum up' in a glance.



MY ATTEMPTS TO BREED THE AMPULLARIA OR APPLE SNAIL.

by J. Mitchell.

I have referred to my Apple Snails (or to give them their proper name - Ampullarias -) previously, but as I have spent a great deal of time trying to hatch and rear them, finding it interesting, it seemed to me that some of our readers might care to read about it.

As most of you know the only reason for keeping the snail, which is a heavy feeder and, of course, grows to a very large size, is to produce conditions favourable to the culture of Infusoria. I purchased two baby Ampullarias in June 1947 and by this Spring they had grown from about the size of a marble to that of a small apple. On the 18th May this year I found to my surprise two large clusters of eggs sticking to the glass just above the water—edge. The clusters had a lovely brilliant pink colour and were a great contrast to the dull grey and brown of the snails themselves.

The reason for this brilliant colour I have not been able to ascertain, but as the snails always lay their eggs some two inches above the surface of the water, the young when hatched falling into the water, it may be that in their natural state the clusters would be deposited on the stems of plants and could be mistaken for a vivid flower or seeds of a flower. In fact, they are almost identical with the cluster of seeds on the stem of our own Arum Lily or Cuckoo Pint which one so often sees in the hedgerows. Referring to the books I found that the eggs required warm, moist conditions and should hatch in a fortnight. In spite of carrying out these instructions nothing happened at all.

As the snails continued to lay I tried more heat, less heat, keeping the eggs wet, keeping them dry etc., but all to no purpose - they would not hatch! During this period I was lucky enough on going into the fish-room one night in the dark and switching on the light, to catch the larger snail laying a cluster of eggs. This was extremely fascinating as the eggs are laid one by one, the snail crawling up the glass, finding a grip for the edge or lip of her foot, and then lowering the rest of her body until almost all of it is pulled out of the shell and is stretched from the tip, down the glass in an extended line for about an inch or inch and a half.

Now comes the really puzzling part, one egg emerges from just under the shell at the lowest point of the one and a half inch stretch, and travels slowly but steadily on the surface of the body with no apparent movement or ripple on the part of the snail, all the way up the path formed by the elongated body of the snail until it reaches the topmost point where the feet of the snail is fast and there it sticks. Just before the first egg arrives another emerges at the starting point, and the result is a gaily coloured string of beads steadily moving upwards entirely of their own accord. I can only assume that the snail has tiny muscles along its body which grip and propel the egg upwards with little.....

An attempt to breed Ampullarias - contd.

outward motion. I can assure readers it is a sight well worth seeing, and one which cannot really be described on paper satisfactorily.

In spite of the hundreds of eggs laid by my snails, and although I did all I could, I failed to hatch any, with the exception of four hatched and saved in August. Of these two have just disappeared - they just have crawled away. They will do this if they have a chance, and I have frequently rescued the parents from the floor. They are very strong, and if they get a grip with the 'lip' of their foot they will lift a light cover. The remaining two are growing well, and if I do not lose them, should soon be as large as their parents.

Readers wishing to keep these snails should provide a separate tank with a tight cover. The snails should be fed with lettuce or boiled spinach, and the water changed frequently. If kept in the fish-room which is reasonably warm, I find no heating is required, although they do not like cold water.

Do not keep them in a living-room as even with frequent attention a certain amount of infusoria smell is apparent. In closing I might mention that I found them very successful in producing a medium of Infusoria culture.

MORE REMARKS ON FISH AILMENTS

by E. J. Prockter.

Following a request at the Annual General Meeting that I give some further advice on fish ailments, it occurred to me that there are so many troubles that require expert diagnosis, and what is worse, a post-mortem examination, before the cause can be found. Out of two hundred different ailments only a few can be easily diagnosed, and I think it would be best to confine my remarks to those that are easily identifiable.

Wasting Disease (Tropical bacterial disease), Symptoms.— Fish become thin and after some weeks, die; in some cases a slight recovery and then a relapse ending in death. This disease is highly infectious and although only one or two fish show symptoms at first, nearly all thereat will be infected if prompt measures are not taken to isolate the infected fish and disinfect the tank and its contents. This trouble could be introduced by infected plants, fish, food, fish-cans and nets,

Treatment.— Treatment is very doubtful but if one is required the quinine hydrochloride treatment, as recommended for White Spot in my previous article, may be tried, but unless the fish is very valuable it should be got rid of as soon as possible. The most important thing with this trouble is to prevent it spreading to the other tanks and fish and once a tank is known to be infected great care should be taken not to carry the.....

More Remarks on Fish Ailments - contd.

disease to other aquariums. Heavy feeding with Tubifex worms appears to predispose fish to this disease. One important point to remember is that a really ancient tropical, dying of old age, will sometimes appear to have this trouble.

(Ed, For new readers we repeat the quinine hydrochloride treatment previously mentioned by our Hon. Advisor. "To each gallon of water add three grains of Quinine Hydrochloride and keep the temperature at 75 - 80° F.)

THE SOCIETY'S DIARY - Continued.

DECEMBER 1st Annual General Meeting This was a very well attended affair and, considerable interest was taken in the proceedings. In his Presidential Address Mr Saunders reported, with pleasure, that membership during the year had more than doubled itself, i.e. 123 against 53 twelve months ago. He was confident that the Society could continue as a great success. Our Programme had been carried out satisfactorily, and all Public Shows had been very worthy of the work put into them. He regretted, however, that Table Shows had been poorly supported, and hoped that better attention will be given to those incorporated in the 1949 Programme. He particularly mentioned as 'highlights', the "Monthly Journal", adding, that ours was the second Society in the country to have one and registering his appreciation to the Hon. Secretary for his work in connection with it. Secondly the Annual Show in which we excelled ourselves (vide the F. B. A.S. judges). Continuing, the President stated that he was convinced that membership would be 200 strong next year, and that the Society would be second to none in the country. Our future programme was more ambitious. We were fortunate in having approximately 30 Junior members, and special concessions were being made to foster this important section. He concluded by thanking the ladies, who had done so much in regard to refreshments, and all others who worked so hard during the year for the success of the Society. The Hon. Treasurer - Mr C. G. Brocks - read the of the year's accounts, which had been.....

Society`s Diary ~ contd.

audited by Mr Marsh Senr.

Balance at 30/11/47	£19. 6. 1½
Balance at 30/11/48	£30.. 3. 11½
showing a net gain of	£10, 17. 10

In additon the Society now owned a considerable amount of apparatus, Mr Latreille proposed that the accounts be adopted. Mr Clark seconded and the motion was carried. Items 4a, 4b, and 4c the Agenda (which covered alterations to Rules 12, 14 and 19) were next put to the meeting, and these were all accepted.

Election of Officers:-

Mr E. A. Clark was elected Chairman following a proposition by Mr Latreille which was seconded by Mr Brooks Junr. The result of the elections were as follows—

President —	Mr C. J. Saunders, B. Sc.
Vice-President--	Mr H, A, Giles
Hon, Secretary .-	Mr E.C. Day.
Hon. Treasurer -	Mr C. G. Brooks.
Hon. Show & Entert. Sec,	Mr R.H. E. Jones.
Hon. Advisor —	Mr E. J. Prockter.
with Messrs C.J. Brooks, W. Hoare and E.A. Clark on the Committee.	

Hon. Auditors - Messrs. S. C. Jones and Latreille,

A general discussion followed, during which mention was made of the inadequacy of aquatic books in the local Public Libraries. The Hon. Secretary was asked to write to the Borough Librarian drawing attention to this.

DECEMBER 11th Annual Dinner, This proved to be a most successful and enjoyable event. 92 members and their friends sat down to dinner, after which excellent entertainment was given by Mr & Mrs Bourdelot, and Messrs Rogers and Taylor. The former were untiring with their pianoforte duets, and Mr Bourdelot added to the enjoyment by leading some community singing at the end. Mr Rogers proved to be an excellent comedian and an extremely clever violinist, whilst Mr Taylor kept his audience guessing with his excellent conjuring. Altogether a most enjoyable time, for which thanks are due to the management of the Roadhouse Eastwood and the entertainers. Incidentally, we might mention that it happened to be the wedding-anniversary of our Vice-President - Mr H.A. Giles - and we are sure all would like to endorse our congratulations and best wishes to them both.

SOCIETY NOTICES.
Forthcoming Events .

JANUARY 5th.- General Meeting. We are very pleased to announce that this, the first Meeting of the New Year, will be taken by Mr Creed of the F. B. A.S. His speciality is Plants, and it would seem that a talk on this subject is well overdue. We hope the attendance will fully compensate for the somewhat long journey Mr Creed will have to make,

JANUARY 19th ~ Social Evening. At the time of going to press no definite details have been sent in, but we can expect that full information will be given at the General Meeting mentioned above. A similar occasion last year was a great success, and we can be assured that, in keeping with the Society's policy, this will be even more attractive.

JANUARY 29th — Visit to Harringay Circus. It is hoped to be able to make arrangements for a coach-outing to enable members to attend this very popular institution. Including cost of seat, it is anticipated that the charge will be about 12/— to 14/— each. It is necessary, however, that the Hon. Social & Entertainments Secretary receives your reservations by the 8th January next latest, when he will endeavour to make the necessary arrangements. It must be noted that no guarantee of acceptance can be undertaken.

GENERAL.

AUGUST - Yes, quite a good way ahead but not too far for us to start thinking of our 2nd Annual Show. It is your Committee's intention to make this Show one that will be talked about in the Aquarist World and if we all start now to plan in our minds the number of Furnished Aquaria, Pairs of Fish etc., both for competitive and non-competitive entry, it will be a great help when the time comes for us to ask for your entries to have an immediate response and so knew exactly how to plan for the numbers and general lay-out. This will avoid a last minute speculation of the numbers we have to plan for, We do want to impress upon all our members that we want a very large number of Furnished Aquaria, both Tropical and Coldwater, as to the general public these, are of great interest, and an incentive to become aquarists and so join the Society. (E. A. Clark),

General - Continued,

LIBRARY.- In response to a request made at the Annual General Meeting, we have pleasure in repeating the list of books available in our Library. They can be obtained from Mr W. Hoare, and apart from several small books which can also be obtained

Innes' "Exotic Fishes".
 Innes' "Goldfish Varieties".
 1001 Questions.
 "Love and Life in the Aquarium".
 "Tropical Fish-keeping"

No further news is to hand regarding the additional copies of the first two mentioned above and "The Goldfish", the new publication by G.F. Hervey, and J. Hems.

HOME AQUARIA.

It is with much pleasure that we can announce that a competition for Home Aquaria is to take place immediately. Our Vice-President - Mr H.A. Giles - has offered a Silver Trophy to be held by the successful entrant for one year and we very gratefully acknowledge his interest and generosity. A Silver Medal will be presented to the winner and there will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class Certificates. Entry Forms are enclosed, herewith.

Details as follows: —

Entrance Fee is 1/6 for all entries.
 Entry Forms must be received by the Hon. Show & Entertainments Secretary by 12th January latest.
 Judges (Who cannot compete) will make three visits to inspect the entries during the course of the competition.
 Points to be awarded as follows: -
 1st visit - 30,
 2nd visit - 30,
 3rd visit - 40,

Only One entry per member is permissible. Value of fish will not effect pointage. Visits by judges will commence in February. Any size of tank may be entered.

Competition will finish on 30th June next.

Aquaria should be set-up, of course, well in time for the judge's first visit, and the layout should remain during the whole period of the competition. Layout, upkeep and condition will be the main considerations of the judges. We are sure that the scope of this competition is such that all members should be able to enter, and we hope to be able to report a very good response.

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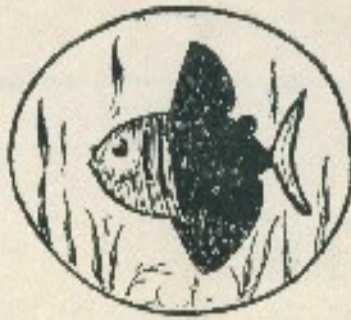
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————— PLANTS —————

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Westcliff- On-Sea.
(Corner of Electric Avenue).

EDITORIAL.

We sincerely regret the extreme lateness in producing this issue. In the first place, we had little or nothing outside Society news to include, and having reason to believe that one or two articles were 'in the offing', we waited - not entirely in vain as you will see. Having waited so long we again postponed it a little longer to include the F. B. A. S. report, which has a definite interest for all members as through the auspices of the Essex Societies extended facilities will be available for all.

No excuse is offered for constantly drawing attention to our forthcoming Annual Show. This is to be such a very important and representative effort in the Aquatic World, we cannot afford to fail to let members know how necessary their full co-operation will be. Your Committee are now meeting every two weeks to thrash out details -- and they are legion ~ and the least failure on the part of the members would, indeed, prove to be a very severe blow to their pride and aspirations.

Our membership is over 120, but there is still plenty of room for more. We look to the members for introductions so that we may reach our target of, at least, 200 by the end of the year.

The Editor.

PEN PICTURES OF YOUR COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT - MR.C J. SAUNDERS, B, Sc.

Mr Saunders first joined, the Society on the 15th January 1947 and has always been one of our 'stalwarts'. On the 7th July of that year he was unanimously elected Vice-President, and upon the resignation of the President three months later, acted in that capacity with marked success. At the Annual General Meeting he became Presidential office he has held ever since.

The success of the Society is largely due to his untiring energy and interest, especially when one knows of the difficult position obtaining at the early stages of his leadership.,

No one will fail to detect his northerly accent, and in fact he is a Warwickshire man., having first seen the light of day in Coventry, A University Honours Graduate, he holds a Diploma in Education,

'Migrating to Wolverhampton in 1928 to take up a teaching appointment, he left in 1944 and became Mathematics Master at the Southend High School for Boys. His hobbies embrace fishkeeping, bee-keeping and poultry-breeding. We think, however, it will suffice to give details of the first mentioned, and they are legion!

He mentions that he started fishkeeping in 1930 with Goldfish in a bowl — and a wife! His first pond came in 1933, and the present one is actually the fifth he has constructed. His first love was Fancy Goldfish, and in particular Veils and Shubunkins, but now in addition he must add Tropicals. Having bred and reared the following, we feel he can claim a high position in the aquarist paradise, and we know his success has only been achieved by unflagging interest and painstaking skill;

Veils, Shubunkins, Fantails, Mosquitoes, Swords, Platies, Mollies Sph. , Mollie Perma, Dwarf Gouramies, Leeri Gouramies, 3-spot Gpuramies, Danio Rerio, Danio Albolineatus, Danio Nigrofasciatus, White Cloud Mountain Minnows, Paradise, Fighters, Rosy Barbs and ~ the lowly Guppy,

He is a member of the rather exclusive Show Committee of The National Goldfish Society, and is an accredited Lecturer and Judge on the Federation of British Aquarist Societies. We thank Mr Saunders for giving us his continued support and the benefit of his very extensive experience. We expect him to add to his list of successes, and extend our best wishes for his endeavours.

SEXING,

by C.J. Saunders BSc

II. Tropicals**III.**

Sexing livebearers, i.e., guppies, Swords, Platies, Mollies, Mosquitoes, is a comparatively easy matter. In the male fish the anal fin becomes a modified at an early age into a thin rod-shaped structure (termed the gonopodium), and makes the fish easily distinguishable from the female.

The egg-layers are far more difficult to sex in the majority of cases. Easy ones are: Fighters and Paradise -males more highly coloured with more highly developed finnage

Gouramies - here the dorsal fin of the male is larger than that of the female and terminates in a point. Beacons - the male has what appears to be a scar on the anal fin,, slightly more opaque than the other part of the fin. With many species, e, g, , the Danios, White Cloud, Flames, Barbs, Tetras, Characins, the generally accepted method of sexing is by body- shape. This is easiest, naturally, when the fish are in condition,, the female showing a really plump body, while the male is more streamlined. Even out of condition, an experienced eye can usually separate the sexes by body-shape, but it is not 100% correct,

A fish that has always intrigued aquarists from a sexing point of view is the Angel, I have known several who claimed to be able to sex them with certainty, but none who have substantiated the claim to 100% accuracy to my personal knowledge, The two most frequently used methods are:-

- (a) length of body-line between pectoral and anal fin,
- (b) The shape of the middle vertical body-bar -a pointed bar indicating the male, but neither is definite enough in my opinion to merit 100% accuracy.

TWO PARASITIC FISH AILMENTS.

by E. J. Prockter.

Costiasis. (Tropical).

Symptoms Small dusty discoloured patches that spread,

Treatment. Isolate the fish at once and paint the spots with a small camel-hair brush dipped in any of the following solutions: 50% Tincture of Iodine and 50% Glycerine mixed together. 10% solution of Mercurochrome. The Salt treatment mentioned as a cure for Tail Rot in my first article is sometimes quite effective. This ailment is very difficult to cure, so if the fish is not a really good one, get rid of it.

(Contd, over)

Chilodontiasis (Tropical & Coldwater – Carp family)

Symptoms. Dusty patches like the bloom

Treatment. Isolate the fish at once and place it in a salt bath as recommended for Tail Rot. I have not seen any sign of the two ailments mentioned since the war; they were about before but as no fish were imported during hostilities they appeared to have died cut, They may be reintroduced, however, so keep a sharp lookout on any new fish,

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

As so often these days one never seems to think where this or that comes from or how it gets here, and I imagine much the same applies to our fishes, We buy and breed them not realizing where their natural home is and the following countries of origin may be of interest:

Black tetra	Paraguay	Te braa	Flames
Yellow tetras	South-East	Brazil	
Flames	Rio de Janeiro		
Glow-light Tetras	Guiana		
Neon tetras	Brazilian	-Peruvian	border
Terta from Buenos Aires	Argentine		
Bacons	British Guiana	&	Amazon

R.H.E. Jones

OUR 2nd ANNUAL SHOW

Fellow Member once again we ask you all to keep in mind the very special effort in our Society's Programme, namely our 2nd Annual Show & Exhibition. As you know, it is our desire to make this a much greater success than last year's, and to achieve this we have decided to hold it in Clarence Hall., Clarence Street, just off the High Street during the period July 30th to August 3rd.

To make this the excellent display we know it will be, we shall need a great effort from all our members, both by a record number of entries and all the publicity we can give by broadcasting it to all our friends. We shall then get a really great attendance. So friends let us all unite to make this Show something to be really proud of, and so boost our already good name in the aquarist world.

=====

THE AQUARIST'S HOUR.

"Between the Dark and the Daylight
When the Lights are beginning to lower
Comes a pause in the day's occupation
Which is known as the "Aquarist's Hour"

(With apologies to Rudyard Kipling).

The "Aquarist's Hour" - this is the time when man's work is over and he can relax. Here he sits in his favourite arm-chair, his wife - bless her! ~ has put his slippers ready, his pipe and 'baccy are near at hand. He can sit and watch his main possession— his tank, the one article that is his very own, (he knows when he returns in the evenings it is still there!). He sighs, looks around him, and back to his fish — he is master of all he surveys - he closes his eyes and dozes,

He is lying on soft sands, the water makes a quiet but insistent lapping noise, In the rocks wonderful fishes are swimming - their colours dazzle the eyes — beautiful ladies dancing— this is the life— a soft breeze. Suddenly ~ a screeching! Is it a parrot - a wild creature - or has he indigestion!

NO! he awakes with a start, his wife points an accusing finger at the carpet - his pipe and contents on the floor ! He gazes half dazed at the tank - are they mocking him? The Angel opens her mouth - is she saying "You poor sap?" — even the Hyphessobryccn blush with shame !

Mrs R. J. Sullivan,

NEWS ITEM.

National Goldfish Society

At a Meeting of the Show Committee held at Tower Pier on the 34th January the details of the Exhibition to be held at St Martyn's Polytechnic February 28th to March 5th inclusive and of the Competitive Club Show at St Bride's Foundation, Bride Lane, May 1st to 8th inclusive, were discussed.

It was finally agreed that at the Competitive Show there should be Classes for Goldfish, Bristol Shubunkins, Moors, Scaled Fantaile, Calico Veil tails, Lionheads and Comets. A Trophy is to be awarded to the best Furnished Aquaria, while Certificates will be issued to all breeders showing specimens up to a certain standard (based on the F. B. A. S. Show Standards).

There will be no open Classes, entries being limited to members of the National Society.

C.. J. Saunders.

THE SOCIETY'S DIARY- Continued.

JANUARY 5th General Meeting As we anticipated, Mr Creed's talk on plants was most interesting and extremely well received. Whilst we should like to mention many points of interest, space precludes us from quoting any extracts from his lecture. Those members who were otherwise engaged certainly missed a most valuable lecture.

JANUARY 19th Social Evening This first Social Event of the year was well attended although we should have liked to have seen a larger proportion of members. The attendance totalled 73, 49 of which were members, We were sorry both Mrs C. J, Brooks and our Vice-president - Mr H.A.Giles — were unable to be present owing to indisposition, and are pleased they are progressing satisfactorily. The evening started with a "snowball" dance, which was followed by announcements of future events by the President, Then a spot-prize waltz —always a popular feature. A fishing-race with spoons on a string caused a deal of fun, the onlookers probably having the most enjoyment. As our Hon. Treasurer won this event, we can only assume he is used to "roping it in" ! We have to thank Mesdames Clark, Brooks, Giles, Jagged, Woolmer, Carter, Knight and Jones for devoting so much time in preparing and giving the refreshments, which were much appreciated. Very talented entertainment was given by Stan and Roy Cass and Miss Cass. other games introduced were a baloon-race for the ladies and a "Burlington Bertie" race for gentlemen. The latter created screams of laughter, and this alone was well-worth the visit. There were many competitions, and the prizes were very kindly given by Mrs Hoare - a beautifully decorated cake -, Mr & Mrs Jagged - cigarettes and a cyclamen-plant ~, Mr C. J. Brocks - a parcel of goodies -, Mr Marsh ~ confectionery, and last but by no means least, Mrs Latreille for making the Mystery Pie. We very gratefully acknowledge the hard work undertaken by Mrs Clark and her bank of helpers in the kitchen, and thank all and sundry who assisted in ensuring such a happy and successful time. May we hope to have 100% attendance of members next time? It will be still better and should not be missed,

(Ed. Further reference is made to the Social in Society Notices,-) General.

Society's Diary - contd.

FEBRUARY, 2nd - Instructional Evening. This was devoted to the practical side of the hobby, and members gleaned a great deal of useful information. There were tables showing various plants, attended by the President, dried-food making, by the Vice-President ~ who was far from well, but would not let the Society down —, water-testing for pH and microscopy by the Hon. Adviser, and aeration by Mr Hoare.. A great number of questions were asked and answered by these gentlemen, and altogether this new innovation was most successful

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SOCIETY NOTICES Forthcoming Events

Owing to the lateness in issuing this number, we do not mention the Whist Drive to be held on the 15th February,

MARCH 2nd Instructional film show. We have been fortunate in procuring the F. B. A, S. film on setting--up an aquarium, and this should be very helpful, especially to the less knowledgeable. This will be followed by a quiz. It is hoped to have sides of four or six, and a small recognition will be presented to each of the winning team. Our President will be Quiz Master, and Mr C. J. Brooks Scorer. Mr E.A.Clark will be Timekeeper with the gong!

MARCH, 16th -- Auction Sale, As all members know, Auction Sales are most popular, and this will be just as eagerly attended, BUT ~ its success is directly proportional to the number of lots for sale and we hope there will be something on offer from every member, As usual, anything covered by the interests of the Society will be welcome, and this opens the door very wide, as even a pot of paint of (suitable colour -can be sold as it can be used for painting ones tank. The usual 10% commission on sales will be deducted for the Society, although actual presentations will be welcome. A few lots will be sold to Juniors only "without reserve". Full details and forms will be sent out in due course by the Hon. Show & Entertainments Secretary.

APRIL 6th ~ Visiting Lecturer. Details later.

APRIL 20th Table Show. Medallions and certificates will be presented to successful entrants. Get your Guppies, Barbs and Veils ready, although-it may well.....

Forthcoming Events contd.

be that the Glass for Veils may be withdrawn owing to the small number available,

**July/August ~ ,ANNUAL SHOW - PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THIS MOST
IMPORTANT EVENT OF THE YEAR!**

=====

GENERAL.

We have received a well-intentioned letter from one of our members for publication in the "Journal". Whilst desiring, at all times, to meet the wishes of our readers we much regret our inability to open correspondence columns. The letter in question was a criticism of the method adopted in determining the winners of some of the competitions held at the Social reported above. We are quite in agreement, and would like to assure our correspondent that a different method will be in evidence in future. Compared with all the entertainment provided, these lapses from perfection were small, and taking into consideration the organisation which fell almost entirely upon the shoulders of the Hon. Show & Entertainments Secretary, we feel sure that all will agree that it was a job very well done.

We would again take this opportunity of telling members that we welcome criticism of the constructive kind, and in particular seek ideas and suggestions for adding to the interests of the members. This includes copy for this "Journal", and suggestions for our General and Social Meetings.

LIBRARY. We are pleased to report that we have added "The Aquarium Book" by E. G. Boulenger to our Library. In the main it refers to Aquaria and Vivaria inmates at the London Zoo, but is none-the-less most interesting and informative. The additional copies of Innes' "Exotic Fishes" and "The Goldfish" by G. F. Hervey and J. Hems should be in our possession very shortly. The delay has been caused by a very long waiting-list, and is entirely outside our control.

EXCURSIONS. Your Committee have now gone into the question of coach-outings this year, and the first has been tentatively agreed upon. We hope to visit the Hastings Aquarium on May 22nd. Full details will be issued in due course.

General contd,

FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES.

As our members know the Society is affiliated, to this important institution, and the President and Hon. Secretary regularly attend the General Assemblies, which are held in London. We feel that members would like to be kept in touch with the Federation by having reports from time to time, and we shall impart important news from time to time for their enlightenment. A few months ago 7 or 8 of the Essex Societies decided it might be helpful if they had an association of themselves, within the framework of the Federation. Mainly the idea was to exchange lecturers, have open meetings, and collective shows etc. The F. B. A. S. appointed a Sub-Committee to explore the possibilities of "regionalization" generally, after they had indicated that the suggestion appeared to be a practical one. Delegates of the Essex Societies, met again and decided to form a County of Essex Association, but as some of the delegates were not empowered to vote on behalf of their Societies, the actual constitution of the Committee was left to a further meeting, in the meantime nominations for the various officers were requested. At the last General Assembly of the F. B. A. S. a report of the special Sub-Committee was read, and, inter alia., stated that they considered regionalisation was premature, although the Federation would assist to the best of their ability where local associations were formed. During subsequent discussion, a great deal of opposition came to light, and especially in regard to financial assistance being given. At a Meeting of the Essex Societies at Westcliff on the 13th instant, the position was reviewed in the light of the attitude shown. Our President was in the Chair, and Capt Betts, Chairman of the F. B. A. S. came to the meeting. It was decided that the formation of a County of Essex Association would tend to antagonise the Federation, and this would not be in the interests of the Societies concerned. The project would be considered again at a later date, and in the meantime the Societies would work unofficially together and keep contact with the Federation through a Liaison Officer, Mr Eyres of the East London Society agreed to accept this somewhat onerous position.

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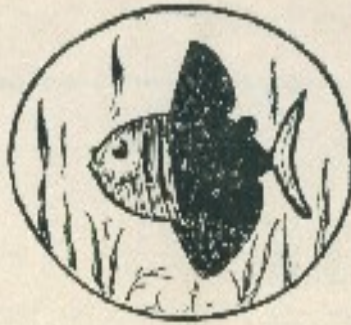
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MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL. 1 No. 10

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TUBIFEX and DAPHNIA IN STOCK

**SOUTHEND LEIGH &, DISTRICT AQJJARISTS SOCIETY.
MONTHLY JOURNAL.**

Vol. 1, No 10.

February 1949.

General Meetings at 8 o/c p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at: ~

The Girl Guides' Hall,
Westborough Road, Westcliff-on-Sea,,
(Corner of Electric Avenue),

EDITORIAL.

It does not give us any pleasure to realize that the 'Monthly Journal' continues to be a month late in publication. Up to date, we have endeavoured to keep up a reasonably high standard in regard to reading matter, but find it increasingly difficult to do so. Nobody can expect the old stalwarts to always be the contributors, and in anycase a change is always welcome. It is our intention to 'catch up' on publication, and the March issue will follow very quickly with or without articles of interest. In view of this, can we look forward to a quick response from all quarters to our re-iterated appeal for copy? Most of our members must have had some experience- serious or gay- which others would like to read about. It will not matter if you cannot write like the best authors - we will do it for you (with reservations) !

We particularly draw attention to our "Special Notice" and "An appreciation", both of which we are very pleased to include in this issue.

The Editor,

PEN PICTURES OF YOUR COMMITTEE Continued.

VICE-PRESIDENT - MR H.A.GILES.

A member of the original Southend Aquarists Society, Mr Giles, like the majority of aquarists, lost contact with old friends with similar interests during the war years. He started his hobby again, however, shortly after the cessation of hostilities, and joined the new Society on the 3rd March 1947. On the 30th April of that year he was co-opted to the Committee, and was unanimously elected Social Secretary, a position held with considerable success. At the following Annual General Meeting he became Vice-President, an office he has held ever since. He is not new to Aquarist Committee work as he was a member of the pre-war Society's Committee.

A visit to the Electrical Exhibition at the Kursaal in 1938 drew his attention to the beauty of a Tropical Aquarium, and he straight away invested in a tank, fish and other necessary accessories.

Shortly before the war he built a garden-pond, but admits, he is only just becoming interested in Coldwater fish, being in possession of six Shubunkins. After typical small beginnings he is now the proud owner of a fish-room with eleven tanks. He has successfully bred Fighters, Minnows, Flames, Zebras, Swords, Mollies, Platies, Dwarf and Blue Gouramies, Rosy Barbs, Paradise, and.....*Lebistes reticulatus*. He was the first winner of the Abbott Cup - last year - having gained the highest aggregate points in the Annual Show. Winning prizes at Aquarist Shows is no new experience for him, however, as he very regularly won distinctions at the Table Shows in pre-war days. He modestly states that his success only came because of the lack of entries, but we suspect he is "hiding his light under a bushel". If it is true then we must hope that members to-day will not permit such easily won laurels!

Mr Giles was born in London in 1907, and he offers this information that anyone interested in giving presents will be pleasurably supplied with the actual date! He moved to Southend-on-Sea in 1931, and married in 1931. He has been an agent for the Britannic Assurance Co. Ltd since 1930.

As most members know Mr Giles is a very helpful gentleman, and ever ready with a light-hearted remark to help along a dull moment. Perhaps it is not out-of-place to mention here the general appreciation of Mrs Giles, who does so much in regard to assisting in procuring and preparing refreshments. Her interest in the Society's activities and fish-keeping is second only to that of her husband.

AN APPRECIATION.

I would like to show a little appreciation to the "Ladies" - members' wives and members themselves for the welcome they give to new-comers. When my husband and I first joined, Mrs C.J. Brooks made us feel very welcome and promptly introduced me to the other ladies. I shall, be ever grateful to her.

Then there are the ladies behind the scenes - Mrs Clark, Mrs Giles, Mrs Dale, Mrs Jagged and others, who work so hard to make the "Englishman's Cuppa". I overheard a remark at the last meeting - between two gentlemen who had come straight from business - "My! that was good. How I look forward to the tea break here, and such a good cup too !" I am sure if there are any wives of members who feel that the meetings are for men only they should come along to our Meetings and see how very welcome the Ladies will make them. Gentlemen, I know you will "doff your hats" to our Ladies.

Phyllis Sullivan.

(Ed. We are very grateful to Mrs Sullivan for this tribute -. sentiments which we are only too pleased to endorse. We have always endeavoured to encourage a family spirit amongst members, and the new-comer who is left in the cold holds a most unenviable position, May we look for the furtherance of esprit-de-corps in every possible direction)

SPAWNING THE WHITE CLOUD MOUNTAIN MINNOW.

by. H. A. Giles.

Although I have bred these pretty little fish before, I did not actually see them spawn. This week-end I decided to try again, so on Friday afternoon I placed a pair in a 24 x 12 x 12 tank which had been set-up for a couple of weeks. This was planted rather sketchily with Vallisneria. Also - and most important - there were several clumps of Bladderwort anchored to the sand by pieces of lead. On Sunday afternoon I looked into the fish-room for a temperature check (74 degrees), and was pleased to see the actual spawning. The female led a lively chase in and out of the clumps of plants. Every now and then she would find a spot which evidently suited her. Here she would pause whilst the male swam alongside her. Then quite rapidly he folded the rear half of his body round her, giving a short squeeze. This lasted only for a second or two, but was repeated several times in different places. After a couple of hours I removed the happy couple. The fry hatched out in approximately 4 days at about 74 degrees. I am surprised to note that Innes does not mention this physical embrace.

THE GARDEN POND .

By C.. J. Saunders BSc .

At this time of the year the proud possessors of a garden pond are busily preparing for the re-awakening of outdoor aquatic life, To enjoy the delights of a pond, as well as the utilitarian uses to which it may be put, a little energy expended now will probably save trouble later on.

First and foremost the pool must be 'spring-cleaned'. Dead leaves, dead and dying aquatic vegetation should be removed, and other plants trimmed up in readiness for the new year's growth. It often happens that good intentions made the previous year to remove certain plants too vigorous for your particular pool; or to replace other varieties are forgotten until the time has passed when anything can be done. Get all your tasks done before the end of April if possible, so that full use is made of the initial growing period. Those who are troubled with an excess of blanket-weed in their ponds will find that the addition of daphnia now ~ or as soon as obtainable before the fishes are active - will tend to delay the formation of this weed.

Keep a sharp look-out for enemies such as Dytiscus Beetles and larvae, Back-floaters, leeches and newts (and to a lesser degree frogs), while externally we must beware of birds — particularly the gulls and the heron - and, of course, the cat. One member lost a number of first-class goldfish from his pond recently to a heron fishing in the early morning as dawn was breaking.

It frequently happens that a pond that has been beautifully clear throughout the winter will cloud up in the spring. Do not panic and empty the pond. If you do you will merely get a repetition of the usual cycle of events, Healthy plant growth and plenty of it will eventually result in perfectly clear water, and you will be able to quote -"a thing of beauty is a joy for ever".

THE ANNUAL SHOW.

Your Committee normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month, but in recent times they have found it necessary to get together about every two weeks. Even then their deliberations are continued to a very late hour. All this is occasioned by the tremendous amount of detail to be settled in regard to the Annual Show. They are more, than 'pulling their weight' in the Society's interests, so you - yes, YOU personally - won't let them down will you? There will be in the neighbourhood of 400 tanks on show, and each must contain something.

YOUR entries will be wanted,.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

We have very great pleasure in telling our readers that Honorary Vice-Presidencies have been offered to:

Mrs Alderman Broom,
H.H. Burrows Esq. ,O. B.E. , J.P. ,
Archibald Glen Esq. ,
Councillor G. E. Longman.

and they have very kindly intimated their pleasure in accepting our invitation. We are most grateful to them for their interest, and are perfectly sure all the members would like to add their own appreciation.

THE SOCIETY'S DIARY - CONTINUED.

FEBRUARY 16th.- Whist Drive.. This Social Event, although quite successful, did not meet with the response which had been hoped. There were 34 players, which is not at all representative of our large membership. However, all those present had a very enjoyable session, and again we must thank those willing lady helpers for the very excellent refreshments which were served.

SOCIETY NOTICES.

Forthcoming Events.

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We regret that we are too late to give details of the Auction Sale taking place on the 16th March, but a separate letter has already been circulated well in time to notify members.

April 6th Visiting Lecturer. We are hoping to have one of the F,-B: A. S. lecturers down for this occasion. Up to -..the time of writing, however, we have no advance news as to whom this will be or the subject to be covered.

April 20th ~Table Show. As will be seen by reference to the current Programme, this is to be a competition for Guppies, Barbs and Veils. We are sure every member has something in these Classes they can enter, and it should prove to be a very successful Show. Fuller details will be issued in due course.

MAY 22nd ~ Excursion, Arrangements have been made to visit the Hastings Aquarium, and positively first applicants.....

SOCIETY NOTICES ~ Contd,

will have the first opportunities of getting seats. One motor-coach has been booked, and if numbers warrant it, another will be reserved, if possible. In the event of insufficient bookings for the second coach, relative reservations will be cancelled and monies refunded. We regret that upon this occasion we are unable to make any concession for Junior Members or children. The cost will be 13/- each, which includes fare, a reasonable gratuity for the driver, and entrance fee to the Aquarium. As usual, no arrangements will be made for meals, although a mid-morning stop will be made to enable passengers to have coffee if desired. Facilities, also for a midday meal should be brought in the way of sandwiches. Will applicants kindly use the enclosed reservation form, and return to the Hon, Treasurer?

The motor-coach(es) will leave the White Horse, Southchurch at 8.50 a. m. , and will proceed straight down the Southchurch and London roads, stopping if necessary at Bournemouth Park Road, Dixon's, Victoria Circus, The Plough, Chalkwell Schools, The Elm Hotel, and Westleigh School. An indication as to where passengers would like picked-up should be given. To assist the Hon, Treasurer, the use of the Reservation Form would be appreciated even if he has already been advised of the booking.

SLADAS MART.

(We are pleased to insert small advertisements under this heading at a charge of 1/- per insertion.)

WANTED. A quantity of submerged pond-plants to stock a pool 6' x 5'. Details and price to Hon. Secretary.

WANTED URGENTLY Copy for this Journal. Anything of interest gratefully acknowledged, but single or serial articles of instructive value would be specially welcome. The Journal is copyright, so there is no reason to fear one's efforts being copied without sanction. Let me have details of some of your own experiences by writing to The Hon, Secretary,

WANTED URGENTLY. Male Rosy Barb and mals red Sword ~ both adult. Reply to Hon. Secretary.

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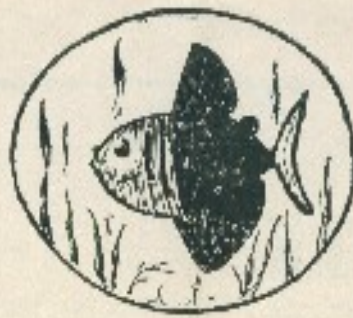
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General Meeting at 8 c/o p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at: —

The Girl Guides' Hall,
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Westcliff-on-Sea.
(Corner of Electric Avenue),

EDITORIAL.

All our members will wish to congratulate Mr Allcoat at upon his success in breeding Angel Fish, and we are very pleased indeed to be able to publish his interesting account of it. This is no mean achievement, and the fact that his progeny are, apparently, thriving adds considerably to the success. We have heard and read a great deal about the necessity of 'acid-water' for the successful breeding of Angels, and the account given of Mr Allcoat's personal experience tends to negative this theory.

However, we must not forget that in fish-keeping -- like so many other zoological affairs - very often the experts are confounded, and so-called fundamental principals are exploded from time to time,

One aspect appears in very high relief, however, — the painstaking care which Mr Allcoat has taken throughout. This is one facet of our hobby which all could study with undoubted improvement in the measure of success. It is gratifying, also, to realize that all relevant details were kept throughout.

We are pleased to be able to announce that we have received an interesting nature article, from Mr Lionel E. Day, F.R.S.A., A. R.P.S., M.B.O.U., F. Z. S., the noted naturalist photographer. This will appear in the next issue, and will strike a new note in the type of article which is usually included,

THE EDITOR.

PEN PICTURES OF YOUR COMMITTEE ~ Continued.

HON. SECRETARY ~ Mr. E. O. DAY.

Added to the troubles of the world by being born in 1902 at Finsbury Park London, at Finsbury Park; not in Finsbury Park. Was brought to Southend.-on-.3ea the following year- too young to protest ! - and with the exception of four years spent in Shanghai has resided in the borough all his life. He has two major regrets in life; the lack of a public-school education and the fact that he has not accrued a wide knowledge of natural history,

Somehow he managed to win a scholarship by means of which he attended Southend High School, but he cannot claim any scholastic distinction. I due course he was employed in the city, and after nine years proceeded to China, being – more or les- an expert in Chinese furs and wool. After this exciting and interesting experience, which included active service with the Shanghai Volunteer Corps he returned to this country in 1930, the four years in the Far East having added much to his education!

During the last war he held an important position in the local Civil Defence organisation, and now enjoys a senior appointment in the National Health Service. He mistakenly imagined he had found his 'life-partner' upon two occasions -said `life-partners' correctly imagined otherwise! - and he has now given up all hope in this direction !

Although an admirer of aquaria for many years, with a direct interest in fish for the past four years, he has never claimed to be more than a fish-keeper - not an aquarist, Was one of the original five who created the S.L.&.D. A. S. ,being elected the first Vice-President until December 1946 when he was elected Hon. Secretary. During that time he has seen the Society grow from a membership of five to its present strength of nearly 140, and is very proud to have assisted in building a Society which is of so much importance in the aquarist world. He never seems to find the time to settle down to the hobby seriously and, in consequence, cannot claim to have bred much more thsn our old friend *Lebistes reticulatus*.

One day - who knows - he may be able to say, with pride, "Look at my baby sword.tails !"

=====

BREEDING ANGELS

by E. J. Allcoat

I have had the good fortune to breed Angel Fish, and it has occurred to me that my experience may be of interest to fellow members.

Some two years ago I purchased four Angela about six months old, all from different sources so that they should not be related. I placed them in a quiet corner of my greenhouse in an aquarium 30" x 12" x 15". Hopeful of eventual breeding I planted two giant *sagittaria* plants, which have since multiplied and covered the bottom of the aquarium leaving the upper part free for easy passage of the fish. Each month I took out about one gallon of water and replaced with fresh tap water of the same temperature. The fresh water appeared to please and stimulate the fish, Each weekend I introduced slight aeration to circulate the water,

After about 18 months I noticed the Angela had grown and were now about 3½" to 3" in size, and two in particular always kept together. Eventually I separated the fish by removing the "odd :men" to another aquarium, as I assumed the two friendly fish were a pair. This eventually proved to be correct.

During the whole period I varied the food according to season. During the Winter white worm twice a week, tubifex twice a week and finely crushed unsweetened biscuit three times a week. In the Summer daphnia and mosquito larvae one day each a week. The temperature never fell below 73 and not over 80 degrees.

Last September (1948) The pair were about two years old and had grown into fine specimens, but there seemed no sign of breeding. I almost came to the conclusion that I had been deceived, but I consulted the text books and read that the Spring months were the best spawning period and, decided to persevere for another six months. To my surprise and satisfaction, during the first week of January this year the pair became excited and towards the latter part of this particular week I was feeding them as usual in the morning when I noticed a *sagittaria* leaf covered with eggs. The fish were very alert and swam about in great excitement.

Now the questions arose (1) were the eggs fertile, and (2) should I leave them to hatch out with the parents, or remove them to a nursery aquarium? I decided to leave them and see what happened. For two days the parents fanned the eggs and my hopes were high. On the morning of the third day, however, all the spawn had disappeared, Where had it gone? Had the eggs hatched and the fry fallen to the bottom? Maybe the parents had eaten the eggs! I was most disappointed,

71.

Breeding Angels- contd.

but encouraged by the fact that I had possibly a true pair, fit and in perfect condition, and in ideal surroundings. Should they spawn again I decided I would try to hatch out and rear the fry in a nursery tank,

Fortunately on the 25th March they spawned again. I had in the meantime filled a nursery tank (all glass, about 12" x 6" x 6") to a depth of 4" with water from the parent tank, and floated this in a larger tank heated to the same temperature (80 degrees) of the parent tank. Thus the water in the nursery tank was constant with the larger tank. I made sure the nursery tank regained close to the front glass of the larger tank so that I could watch developments more closely. Into the nursery tank I placed a small aerator so that I could arrange a slight movement of water over the spawn and the fry, should they hatch out,

On the 27th March (two days after spawning) I severed the leaf containing the spawn and, keeping the leaf under water I slipped it into a large test tube and conveyed the test tube, water and leaf to the nursery tank, after making sure the temperature was the same as that of the parent tank. After removing the test tube, and to enable the leaf containing the eggs to rest in the water at about the same angle as when growing, I anchored the leaf to a stone tied at the base and brought the aerator to within 2" of the leaf. Aeration was gentle, otherwise the current would be too strong and wash the fry away.

On the 29th March the young fry began to hatch out and were clearly visible clinging to the leaf and vigorously wriggling their tails. The next few days needed extreme patience in rescuing them as they fell off the leaf to the bottom. This I accomplished by drawing them up a bent glass tube and gently letting them 'trickle' back on to the leaf. To break their fall I inserted a small bunch of blanket-weed directly under the leaf, and I found quite a number clung to this, apparently by a small hook near the head, until they were able to swim. As the yolk sack was absorbed by the young fry they began to seek food, and took finely screened infusoria ~ gradually taking more and larger infusoria as they grew,

When 14 days old I carefully transferred the fry to a larger aquarium, filled to a depth of 6" with water from the parent tank, and fed them on larger infusoria and brine shrimp. At the time of writing they are about a month old and fortunately strong and robust, and will now take small daphnia. After 28 days I increased the height of the water to 12" and fed the fry liberally twice a day but only sufficient varied food to be consumed within 15 minutes.

Should any member like to see these young angels, they are available for inspection. I should be happy to explain more fully how I reared them.

E.J.Allcoat – 24/4/49

(Ed Mr Allcoats address is :-

18, Acacia Drive, Thorpe Bay.

AN UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE.

I have read articles in magazines which tell of experiences like the following, but this is my first.

Having a pair of *Hemmigrammus caudovitatus* (Tet. from Buenos Aires), I set up a tank in the approved manner, i.e., clumps of myriophyllum, bladder-wort etc. The eager male was then introduced to his blushing bride. At this stage, I proceeded to bed with a bad dose of tonsillitis.

When I recovered the fish were removed as there seemed little hope of them spawning. I then placed a load of pebbles in and reduced the water-depth to 3 inches. Two pairs of Zebras were placed in the tank and left for about 30 hours. About four days later whilst peering into the water, hoping to see some young Zebras, I was surprised to see one lonely little *Hemmigrammus caudovitatus*, the sole survivor of a short and happy (?) marriage. I would add that the Zebras did not spawn ~ presumably because they did not like the 'cuokoo in the Nest'.

H. A. Giles.

THE FANTAIL.

Graceful fan tail motionless: all fins
 Held firmly, double tail an upturned "V",
 Scales glance in light, himself akin
 To a Roman guard in golden armoury.

But swimming he looks comical, no more
 A Roman guard, he waddles duck-like; tail,
 Though beautiful costs speed, but speed's not for
 Aquaria, where no enemies assail.

While I am near, he moves towards the front,
 Gapes through at me hoping for some food,
 After his meal, amongst the stones he hunts
 for any unseen morsel, still not chewed.

I swear no tropicals will ever find
 More love with me than fantails
 Herewith signed John W. Cowan

(P.S. Mr Cowan is one of the younger members of the Society and whilst thanking him for the above, would say that we would like to see other more junior members join him in submitting 'copy'

SOCIETY NOTICES.

LIBRARY. The Committee are receiving consistent complaints from the Librarian - Mr W. Hoare ~ that books are not being returned to him promptly. Books must be returned not later than the next Monthly Meeting from that when borrowed. As a deterrent against books being kept over-time, a 3/~ fine is demanded, but the prompt return of books is preferred, as it is not fair to prospective borrowers to be kept waiting. In the event of a member being unable to return the book at meeting, it could be passed to another to do the necessary or returned to Mr Hoare's private address:

225 Ambleside Drive, Scuthend -On-Sea,

We hope that the cause for complaint will now be entirely eliminated,

MEDALLIONS, A number of Medallions which were awarded to entrants at the last Annual Show were received by the Hon. Secretary without any indication as to whom were the owners. In consequence it was not possible to have them engraved and with the lapse of time, it was hoped that some enquiries would have been forthcoming as to what had happened to them. Will all members who have not had their medallions returned please let the Hon: Secretary know, to enable him to get them engraved and returned without further unnecessary delay?

LEAFLETS Enclosed is a copy of a leaflet which has been prepared to advertising purposes. It is very comprehensive and an excellent medium for conveying Society's activities and amenities. No doubt most members would like a supply to circulate amongst their friends, and the Hon. Secretary or Hon. Show & Entertainments Secretary would be pleased to fill their requirements.

THE SOCIETY'S DIARY .. CONTINUED.

MARCH 2nd - Instructional Film Show, The F. B. A. S., film "Setting up an Aquarium" was the subject presented to members, and was very well received. Whilst conveying general principals very well, there were several points which could have received more correct attention. For instance, it would have been better if the producers had shown plants and sand obtained from the 'wild' being, at least, disinfected.

MARCH 16th Auction Sale, The Society's Auction Sales are always an outstanding success, and this was no exception to the rule. The large catalogue was well received, and very capably handled by Mr Stringer of Messrs Abbott's and for whose gratuitous services we are very grateful. Generally speaking prices were on the low side and purchasers obtained many bargains. However, all appeared, to be happy except perhaps, one or two officials who were overwhelmed with the speed at which the final lots were sold! Incidentally our thanks are also due to all these willing helpers who worked before and during and after the sale,

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

JUNE 1st . Annual Show Talk At first glance this might appear to be a rather uninteresting occasion, but we would like to draw our readers' attention to the one held last year. Many members will remember how interesting this became and the great interest taken in all the matters discussed. Yes, by all means come along to hear what has been done - and has still to be done - for this Annual Show.

JUNE 12th Garden Fete Further details will be issued in due course but in the meantime we suggest this date should be left open for a most enjoyable time.

JULY 3rd ...EXCURSION TO HAYWARDS HEATH, This is another preliminary notice to enable members to make a note of it. We shall be paying another call upon Mr Potter whose Fish Hatcheries are well worth a visit; to say nothing of the ideal country surroundings,

JULY. 30th - ANNUAL .SHOW. Yes, it's getting nearer! Don't forget it; and earmark all these fish, you will be entering,

Forthcoming Events Contd.

MAY 22nd Excursion to. Hastings Aquarium.. This should prove to be an enjoyable outing and helpful in view of the ability of visitors to the Aquarium to purchase fish, To avoid a possible hold-up at the ferry, it has been considered advisable to start 30 minutes earlier. According, therefore, the coaches will leave the White Horse at 8. 30 a. m. , and we request our fellow travellers to arrive well in time. Other stopping places will, of course, be correspondingly earlier.

STILL LOOKING AHEAD,

Yes, one month nearer the Annual Show - the big event in our Society's activities, How are all those fish coming along that are to be entered for the cups, medallions, etc? We trust we are going to have some very keen competition for them this year. We cannot have too many entries so let's get cracking!

E, A, Clark,

ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

Only one more issue of the present Volume remains to be issued. We solicit, therefore, the continued patronage of the current advertisers, and seek the support of new, Perhaps members would like to assist us in procuring orders for advertising space, and for the guidance of all we append our rates, which, incidentally, remain the same as previously:-

£3- 10/~ per whole page. £2— per half-page.
£1- 5/~ per Quarter-page.

There is no limit to the number of adverts which can be used, as additional outer-leaves can be incorporated. Will prospective advertisers please send in their requirements by the 24th May?

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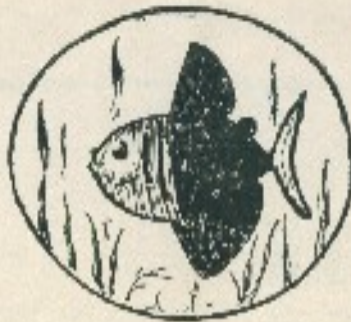
NOTICE

TO FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE

S.L.A.D.A.S.

Have you a Friend who has a pond or tank,
and who is not a member of our Society?
If so, why not bring him or her along to
our next meeting.

MONTHLY



JOURNAL

VOL. 1 No. 12

April 19 49

TROPICAL and
COLDWATER FISH

SOUTHEND, LEIGH & DISTRICT
AQUARIST SOCIETY

(AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES)

POND LIFE
and VIVARIA

All Enquiries:—

Hon. Secretary: E. C. DAY, 36, BOURNEMOUTH PARK ROAD, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

R. J. FALKNER

DEALER IN EXOTIC FISH and AQUARIA

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MONTHLY JOURNAL,

Vol. 1, No.13.

April 1949,

General Meetings at 8 o/c on the first Wednesday of each month at:~

The Girl Guides' Hall,
Westborough Road,
Westcliff-on-Sea.
(Corner of Electric Avenue).

EDITORIAL.,

With the conclusion of this issue we have concluded Volume No, 1, and, perhaps a review of our efforts may not come amiss. Perhaps the dominating point is that we have fallen considerably below the high standard which was our goal. Late publication all too often, typographical errors in untold numbers, and in the early stages indifferent reproduction,. These items - and a few more - appear on the debit side, but what of the other? Each and every issue has contained, at least, one article of decidedly instructive value, which in itself is well worth the effort, but perhaps the best feature of all is fact that though the medium of the "Monthly Journal", we have able to keep in touch with a happy family,

The index which we have been able to incorporate with this issue will give some idea of the wide range which we have been able to present to our readers, We draw particular attention, however, to that section which lists the contributors. Without them our efforts would have been very poor indeed, and we are sure members will join us in thanking them for their assistance.

Now it is our sincere hope that Volume 2 will give greater satisfaction to all, but it is not possible to do this without co-operation, Can we please look to you all to assist. Not only do we require articles of varied aquatic interest, but suggestions and constructive criticisms. This is your periodical and it must follow that you should be able to help. In exploitation of a famous famous expression, we might say - "It is a periodical of the members, by the members and for the members"

THE EDITOR,

PEN-PICTURES OF YOUR COMMITTEE ~ No. 4

HON. TREASURER Mr C. G, BROOKS

Fortunate, indeed, is the Society in the choice of its Hon, Treasurer. Mr C, G..Brook's concern for the Society's welfare is fully reflected in the way he dandles the 'purse strings'. An Hon. Treasurer's office is often considered to be one of those easy ones, but financial dealings in our Society, although not particularly large, are very numerous; and a great deal of detailed work is necessarily involved,

Mr Brooks informs us that he was 'born in Southend too many years ago !' When very young he left the town of his birth for London and Leatherhead, to return again to Southend some years later. The last 8½ years prior to joining the.. Society early in 1947 was spent abroad. Being fairly near the Middle East was one of the first to arrive there at the outbreak of war.

He received a Commission and served with the Royal Signals. Prior to a proposed 'big push' in the middle of 1943. he was preparing lines of communication in 'no man's land' and was captured by the German S.S. 15th Panzer Division. He states, rather modestly, that the next few years were spent digging escape tunnels, but having 'got out' upon two occasions, met with as much success as I have breeding Neons !!.

On returning to England .he decided that it was desirable to take up a little of his spare time with a hobby, so joined the S.L.&.D.A, S, Mr Brook's was elected to his present office on the 2nd June 1947, and he informs us that since that date he has not had a clue as to what 'spare-time' means !

He has bred most of the more common tropicals, with a particular interest in Flames. During the last year he has added to his interests by trying his hand at breeding coldwater fish. "I am still trying"! he states, and whilst feeling that it is scarcely necessary, we would reply "Nil desperandum", Mr 'Jack' Brooks, and every good wish for your ultimate success..

HORSETAILS (*Equisetum*).

by L.E.Day, F. R.S.A. , A.R.P.S.. M.B.O.U. . F.Z.S.

The Horsetail family (*Equisetum*) is a unique family which is easily recognised, and whose ancestry dates back to primeval days. They are not new classed as an important family, and only about twenty species remain, but in the days when Britain was covered by forests, and coal was being formed, they were gigantic trees. The reason for their decline is unknown, but they were once one of the most widespread and flourishing families in the world. Today they are in a class between ferns and flowering plants, because of the reproduction by means of spores.

They are a most pernicious weed, and once embedded in a spot are eliminated only with great difficulty. This is due to the fact that the plant has a branching rhizome or root stem, sometimes as deep as three feet below ground level. The stems are hollow except at the well-defined joints where they are solid, and each segment is inset in the segment beneath it, being surrounded at the join by a sheath. There are two kinds of stems, those which are fertile, and those which are not.

The fertile stems are cone-bearing at the top. The cone consists of a series of stalked scales arranged in whorls, and to each are attached about six capsules containing the spores. As they mature the axis grows longer, and the scales become further apart allowing the capsules to rupture and the spores to be dispersed. They are exceedingly small and light green in colour, and if placed on a piece of paper will dance about as if alive. The cause of this is unknown, but the reason is that each spore has four blunt-ended threads attached to it. If they are dry they are extended and cause this movement, but if wetted they become invisible and immediately wind themselves round the spore.

There are eight species of this family in Britain, and although in the main characteristic they are very similar and easily recognisable each plant has its own peculiarities. They all grow in poor soil, and one of the most common round ponds and ditches is the Smooth Naked Horsetail (*Equisetum tinosum*).

The family name is from the Latin word 'equis' meaning 'a horse' and 'seta' - a bristle - and tinosum from the Latin word meaning 'full of mud' which denotes the habitat of the plant. The stem is particularly smooth, and whereas some members of the family have deep ridges, this species can only boast faint lines. The fertile and barren stems are very much alike, apart from the cones, and although most of the stems are naked, those stems which bear any whorls of branches, produce very imperfect specimens. The sheaths at the joints are short.....

78.

"Horsetails" ~ contd.

and stiff, and have quite definite teeth, while the average height of the plant is between three and four feet,

As is common with the whole family once the Smooth Naked Horsetail has taken root, it is almost impossible to eradicate,

A PERSONAL NOTIFICATION.

Dear Fellow Members,

All who were present at the last Table Show, held on the 20th April, received intimation from the President that I had relinquished office as Hon, Secretary to the Society,

My decision was made only after a great deal of consideration and with extreme reluctance. For some months I have felt that increasing work and responsibilities would in due course necessitate a change, but hoping that encroachments upon my own time would diminish, I carried on. However, it became obvious that I was being forced to neglect many duties to the detriment of the Society, and came to the conclusion that in its interests I must terminate an office which has been such a joy to me,

There have been difficulties from time to time, but my path has been constantly smoothed by my colleagues on the Committee, and my sincerest thanks are extended to them for their continual assistance and loyalty. My successor « Mr R, Jones - who has so ably held office as Hon, Show & Entertainments Secretary. will, I know, carry out his somewhat arduous duties with complete success. He can rely upon the Committee's support, and I know all members will be pleased that a gentleman who has already proved his worth has offered to undertake these additional responsibilities.

It is a great pleasure for me to be able to say that the Committee have requested that I should continue to be One of them, and my interest in the Society's guidance is, therefore, a long way from being broken. I have gratefully accepted, an Hon: Vice-Presidency to the Society, At the same time I shall continue to produce the "Monthly Journal" and crave your Indulgence for all the imperfections which occur only too frequently.

Signed

A rectangular photograph of a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to be 'E. Jones'.

THE SOCIETY'S DIARY ~ CONTINUED.

MARCH 2nd Aquatic Quiz By an oversight, we omitted to mention in our last issue one of the most successful events in the annals of the Society. The quiz followed, the instructive film and constituted 24 questions of very varied character being put to the two teams by the President, who acted as Quiz-master. The teams were:-
 (A) Mrs Sullivan, Messrs Dale, Glover and Perry Junior,
 (B) Mrs Kirby, Messrs Sullivan, Cowan and Lee Junior,
 The result was a close finish, "A" Team scoring 18 and "B" Team 17½ points. The quiz was greatly appreciated, and undoubtedly a great deal of knowledge was gained.

APRIL 6th Visiting Lecturer. Fifty-two members enjoyed listening to Mr C.E. Cole speaking about the smaller aquatic life. He added greatly to the interest of his subject by handing round for inspection live and preserved specimens of the objects under review. Mr Cole, who is one of the most knowledgeable experts in Goldfish and their varieties, and is, in fact, Hon. Sec. to the Goldfish Society of Gt. Britain, proved beyond doubt that he has not confined his interests to fish alone. A thoroughly enjoyable and instructive evening, and one worthy of a repeat in due course.

APRIL 20th ~ Table Show, Our second Table Show of the year - of Guppies, and Barbs - was very well supported by members. In fact Mr Barnes-Oake, who so ably judged the entries, - gratuitously intimated that he had never come across such a successful effort. This is very heartening and whilst thanking Mr Oake for his services we would like to add our appreciation to all who assisted towards such an excellent presentation.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 12th.- Garden Fete, Mr R. Jones has again offered to have this "social" event at his resident. Visitors last year had a most enjoyable time, and we are sure that all will receive a spontaneous welcome, and have a most happy time. Full details in due course.

JULY 3rd ~ Excursion to Brighton & Haywards Heath, Leave this date open, Our excursions are always very enjoyable, and the added aquatic attractions should not be missed,

July 20th – Table Show, This will cover Labyrinths, Mollies and Fantails. May we hope to have even bigger entries,?

SOCIETY. NOTICES.

F. B.A.S. Show Standards Our Annual Show entries will be judged of course according to the Rules of the Federation. It is of particular interest, therefore,, to know that an amendment. has been made, and those in possession of the F. B.A.S. Show Standards should, make the following amendment ; which was .duly passed at a General Assembly -.. held on the 26th. March last:

The Furnished Aquarium (page 30) (delete paragraph 3 and' substitute)

"That Societies supply their own backgrounds, coloured to suit the individual layouts of the Aquaria concerned."

OVERSEAS NEWS.

Mr R.H, Taylor of the New Zealand Aquarium & Water Garden Society, of 8 Barton Avenue: Wanganui East, North Island, New Zealand, has expressed his desire to have English Aquarists correspond with him. It may well be that some of our members would like to exchange notes with him.

WARNING !

LETTUCE LEAVES

' One of our members - an experienced aquarist of many years standing - had a large daphnia culture to which -he fed lettuce leaves from time to time. The Other week he was astounded to see that his daphnia were dead. The cause? Undoubtedly poison introduced through the medium of the lettuce. No doubt the grower has used come insecticide or other which was toxic, 'This is certainly a possibility which can be overlooked, and whilst it a s obvious that all lettuce leaves will not have a dangerous effect.; some precautions should be taken to avoid the possibility. Perhaps thorough washing would be sufficient,

"SLADAS" MART.

YOUNG RED SWORDS for Sale (sexable) ~/6d each, 5/- per doz.
Enquiries: H. A. Giles, 73 Sandingham Road, Thorpe Bay.

WANTED. One Male Leeri Gourami,
Dffers to H.A.Giles, 73 Sandringham Road, Thorpe Bay.

----- ooOoo-----

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TO FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE

S.L.A.D.A.S.

Have you a Friend who has a pond or tank,
and who is not a member of our Society?
If so, why not bring him or her along to
our next meeting.
