

Raleigh Aquarium Society News

November 2004



Next Meeting: Thursday, November 4th @ 7:30pm

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the N.C. State Veterinary Medical College located at [4700 Hillsborough Street in Raleigh](#). Visitors are welcome! Snacks and light refreshments are provided. A raffle of fish and fish related items follow the meeting. Due to Security Issues, NCSU has required that the doors going into the downstairs lobby remain locked. Please be on time, as we will have a designated person standing by the door to let you in. If you are late, you may try knocking or call Brandon Berry's cell phone at 252-266-3559, Jeff Jenkins at 919-612-0229, or John Patterson at 919-264-4011.

Meeting Agenda

Breeding Clownfish, Cardinalfish, Dottybacks, and Royal Gramma in Home Aquaria

Jamie Shern will discuss his trials, tribulations, and even some success with these and a few other popular marine fish. A few commercial farms are now propagating these fish regularly. Jamie and a few other patient souls are trying to make it do-able for home aquarists.

We may be meeting in a different room due to NCSU hosting classes for Grenada and other schools damaged by hurricanes. Please be on time to ensure that you are able to find us. If not, try calling Jeff or John's phone # listed above.

Future Speakers for our Meetings: If you know of anyone who would be willing to give a talk at one of our meetings, please contact Gerald Pottern at gpottern@rjgaCarolina.com or Brandon Berry at brandonberry@cox.net

Monthly Feature:

Breeding Freshwater Cherry Shrimp by: Jason Wessendorf

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone for making my first meeting a pleasurable one. Being able to talk fish with people that actually know what you're talking about, and have information to add is a blessing, and coming from the area I'm in (Laurinburg), it's worth the drive to speak with knowledgeable people as opposed to arguing with a local fish store owner on the correct scientific name of a fish. I realized I was in the right place when I mentioned my botia sidthimunkis and someone brought up possible confusion with a Botia Nigrolienata much better than the "botia what?!" that I'm used to, hehe. I hope to make it to most of the meetings in the future.

Now on to the shrimp:

First off, breeding freshwater cherry shrimp (Neocaridina denticulata) is as easy as dumping some adults into a large, heavily planted tank with medium-hard water, and very few predatory fish. It's the hail-mary approach and works for some, but I like to be able to actually see the young shrimp and be able to retrieve them for selling and other purposes, so I'll just talk about my little setup for these Taiwan natives. <http://tinypic.com/bve2r>

The setup:

I use a 2.5 gallon mini bowfront, the cheapos they sell at department stores. I threw away the light it came with and put in a mini compact fluorescent. This was mainly due to the heat factor. Before stocking the tank I compared the difference and the incandescent bulb it came with heated the water to around 80F while the mini compact's effect was negligible. I used a corner filter stuffed with crushed coral and filter floss for filtration/aeration, regular gravel for base, and added some fast growing plants as well as some duckweed that made its way into the tank. I use a 25w heater (yikes!) because it's the smallest one I could find that was still reliable. It's a Marineland "Neptune" heater and keeps the water at exactly 77F. Every time I check the temperature, it's an even 77F, day or night. I'm taking a gamble on such a large heater on such a small tank, and I'm sure if it malfunctions and gets stuck open I'll have shrimp gumbo in the morning, but so far I have not had a problem with that particular heater *knock on wood*. I'd tried some of those smaller watt "always on" heaters, but even those will bring the water up to 90F or higher. <http://tinypic.com/bvdxx>

The food:

I use HBH crab& lobster bites. It contains calcium needed by the shrimp and I've also found that it breaks down rather quickly enabling younger shrimp to be able to deal with it . The adults can pick it up and go to town, but the younger shrimp wait for it to break down a bit to get their grub on. Any calcium laden food would work as long as it could be delivered in small portions. I've tried algae wafers, but the shrimp don't seem to care for them much so to supplement their algae needs I cultivate algae from some of my other tanks and place in there. If I'm clipping a stem of

rotala macranda because it's full of thread algae, etc, then in the shrimp tank it goes. I do have some pest snails in some of my tanks though, so I make sure there are neither eggs nor snails on anything I place in the tank.

Maintainence:

Nothing but water changes, but plenty of them as these shrimp are somewhat sensitive to nitrates, especially after molting. Unsightly algae is a plus in the tank so no worries there. The front of my shrimp tank is covered in a green haze which does impede pictures, but the baby shrimp seem to enjoy playing in it (eating infusoria?) so I leave it alone. Same with the duckweed. I'd love to scoop some of it out, but every attempt at such has brought me at least an hour of looking at a scoop of water with duckweed on top in a lighted magnifying lens, trying to make sure I don't dump any small shrimp out. The younger shrimp hang upside down on the duckweed roots, feeding and what not so I decided just to let the duckweed have its way since it provides good shade from the mini compact fluorescent and the bubbles from the corner filter ensure proper gas exchange anyway. I also found out that not only is removing duckweed without removing shrimp a pain, but water changes without removing small shrimp posed a problem too, so I used a length of air tubing and placed a small patch of pantyhose over one end and secured it with a small rubber band, and placed a valve on it. It can be clipped in place using an air line holder w/suction cup. I planned on this to be a permanent fixture in the tank.. a drip method water remover. I had to provide manual suction the first time I used it (kept watch on the water carefully as shrimp water is not so good tasting out of settings like seafood restaurants), but after that I simply closed the valve and left the air line clamped into the tank. I don't let the water go below the siphon so I don't have to keep priming it each time. I keep a 5 gal water jug nearby to drain the water into. <http://tinypic.com/bvdz4>

I add a few drops of coralife iodine supplement into the new water, as well as an unscientific amount of magnesium sulfate, aka epsom salt. This coupled with the crushed coral in the filter provide proper calcium/hardness of water and consequently successful molting.

I got one of my 12 adult shrimp already carrying eggs, and ever since then I have at least one , and sometimes all female shrimp carrying eggs. Before I noticed that the first female no longer had eggs, I already had little white/transparent flecks jetting around in the green algae on the front of the tank... and a magnifying lens showed miniature versions of the adult shrimp. I have one of those clamp light/ magnifying lens combos clamped to my computer desk for just that reason.. I've even attempted some picture taking through the magnifying lens, which usually turn out laughable, but fun nonetheless.



Anyway, that's my attempt at an "article".. I should have had a disclaimer at the beginning, but someone at the meeting assured me that it'd be ok, so if you've read all this and want a refund, I'll point the guy out that asked me to write it at the next meeting, haha.

Trading Post

To advertise please send the information to raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com. Please send all trading post items by noon on the Wednesday before the first Thursday of the month in order to get them in that month's newsletter.

Neal Isaacs, Aquatica, LLC - just put a new reef system on line and we have a great selection of new corals including some beautiful red and green Ricordea. 5533 NC Highway 42-W, Unit A16, Garner, NC 27529 - chuckawobly@earthlink.net

Sal Notarmaso - Yellow Lab, Kenyi, Yellow Regal Peacock, Red Peacock, fry-obideans-Lake Victoria, Assorted large African Cichlid - Some mated Pairs, Mated pair gold Marbled Angel, assorted tanks and stands (2 / 45 2 /30 2/29 2/20 2 /10), make a offer - 919-383-3131

John Patterson - frozen brine shrimp, mysis shrimp, and krill for \$9 a lb. Blackworms (excellent) – contact for price jrpatter@hotmail.com 919-264-4011

Gerald Pottern – Betta smaragdina -- male & 3 females for 15.00, Rainbow shiners Notropis chromomus-- 4 for 10.00, Red Bee Shrimp (freshwater) -- 4 adults or 8 babies for 15.00, Aequidens dorsiger -- 3 adults for 15.00, Corydoras aeneus "gold stripe" 4 adults for 15.00

Liston Cyrus " Frontosa Fry (Mpimbwe Blue) \$7 each
(919) 751-3626 or 919 270-9379, email: liston.a.cyrus@gsk.com

Frank Montillo has for sale:

African cichlids: Daffodils, Lelupei, Blotched Zebras, Red Zebras, Electric blue ahli, 1/2 blue red tail guppies, Brand new Penn plax heater 100 watt
919-556-9004

**Check out our yahoo group
"raleighaquariumsociety". Feel free to post items for
sale or trade as well as any other aquarium related
discussion.**

Club Sponsors

(The following businesses give *RAS members* a discount on purchases)

Aquatica	5533 NC Hwy 42-W, A-16, Garner	(10%)
Carolina Pet Supply	322 McCormick Street, Garner	(10%)
Creative Pet	1350 E Broad St, Fuquay Varina	(10%)
Critter Country, Inc.	14 Technology Drive, Garner	(10%)
Fish Pros	5221 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh	(10%)
Pet Mania	All Area Locations	(10%)
Pet Paradise	9101-141 Leesville Road, Raleigh	(10%)
Triangle Tropical Fish	3600 N. Duke St., Suite 36, Durham	(10%)

(Excludes Aquariums and hoods)

You may be asked to show your RAS membership card.

Please contact Brandon Berry at brandonberry@cox.net if you are an active member of the Raleigh Aquarium Society and do not have an up to date membership card. Membership cards can be picked up at any meeting.

Raleigh Aquarium Society

Application for Membership

Membership privileges include:

12 monthly newsletters

A discount card good at participating local pet stores

All club discounts on club functions

Individual Full Year \$15.00

Family Full Year \$17.00

Name(s): _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Address: _____

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