

Raleigh Aquarium Society News

October 2004



Next Meeting: Thursday, October 7th @ 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

Cuckoos and Fish -- Fish That Spawn in Other Fishes' Nests. Some are nest "parasites" that eat the eggs of their nest-building host, and some benefit their host!! Gerald Pottern will discuss nest-association among catfish, cichlids, minnow, sunfish, and others. Who benefits, who loses, and why the "cuckoo strategy" works in the fish world.

Bring any fish or aquarium supplies you don't need and get up to three raffle tickets. We encourage you to bring items to trade at our meetings

Next Month

November 4 -- 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.

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:

Keeping your picky fish healthy during the winter when growing live food such as daphnia outdoors isn't possible.

By: Brandon Berry

Keeping picky fish such as darters, pygmy sunfish, killies, etc. can be really easy in the summer when all you need is a big tub of green water to grow daphnia, mosquito larvae and bloodworms in, but unfortunately, fish kept indoors will need food in the winter also. Although, it might not be as easy as running a brine shrimp net through a vat once a week, providing the correct nutrition for your fish can be done with a small amount of effort and expense.

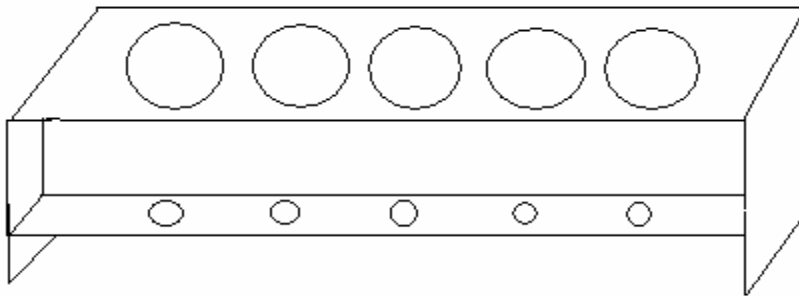
The first option is to simply buy live foods that your fish will eat. Blackworms start to become more readily available as it begins to get cooler, however they do require some maintenance. It is important to keep blackworms in a container big enough so that the worms are never stacked more than 1/2" deep and barely cover them with cold water. They should be kept in the refrigerator. A separate container of water should be kept in the refrigerator also to replace the water that the blackworms are in. When you first buy blackworms, it is important to rinse them 1-3 times a day, depending on how healthy they are. Continue this until the water starts to stay clear. After that you can usually change it about every third day or so. Another live food that can be ordered is adult brine shrimp. They are usually quite expensive and most people feel that they are not as nutritious as other foods available.

The next option is to grow live foods indoors. While it may not really be possible or smart to try to raise mosquito larvae indoors, daphnia can be grown indoors. Other foods that are easily grown indoors are grindle worms, micro-worms and baby brine shrimp. Even green water itself can be nutritious for some small fry. The easiest and cheapest way to grow the daphnia green water and baby brine shrimp is to build a system out of two liter soda bottles. Below is everything you need to build this:

- 48" shop light with plant bulbs (around \$10 for the light at Lowes, \$16 for the 2 bulbs) or a sunny southerly window will work
- Some scrap wood
- 2 liter bottles with caps

- Brass valves like the ones used to tap PVC for attaching airlines (www.kensfish.com – good deal on brine shrimp eggs too.)
- Air pump powerful enough to run a line for each bottle
- Air hose
- 3 or 5 way air hose valves (depending on the amount of bottles)
- Air hose check valve
- Silicone aquarium sealant
- Necessary tools - Jig saw, coping saw, scroll saw or ban saw; cross cutting hand saw or radial arm saw; drill

Below is an illustration of what the bottle rack should look like. The top holes are big enough for the bottle to fit through and the bottom holes are just big enough for the bottle top with the valve to fit through.



Drill a hole through the bottle caps just big enough to tightly screw in the valves. After you screw them in, apply some sealant around the inside of the cap to prevent leakage. Allow sufficient time for it to dry, before using them. Cut the bottoms off the bottles, or at least cut part of them off. Place the bottles in the rack and hook up the air lines with the check valve on the main line. As a precaution, you may also want to place the air pump above the bottles to prevent flooding if the check valve didn't work for some reason. Place the rack under the light or in a sunny window and you're ready to start growing live food. When you get ready to harvest the brine shrimp, simply close the valve on the 5 way valve going to that particular bottle, pull the hose off and drain it through a coffee filter. Just before all the water is gone, shut off the valve to the bottle and discard all the floating, unhatched eggs. For the daphnia, always keep a culture of green water that is free from daphnia to ensure that you can keep it going. I usually don't allow too much air flow for the green water and daphnia, however brine shrimp need enough air flow to keep all of the eggs drifting in the water column.

The last option for feeding these fish in the winter is to wean them onto frozen or flake food. This is best done while other foods are still available, as you don't want to starve your fish to death if it refuses to eat. I have often found that fish seem to be more willing to eat these types of food if it sees its tank mates eating it. I just recently had a small killifish that lived in a bowl by itself and would not eat anything that was not moving. Surprisingly, as soon as I placed him in the tank with my greedy livebearers he immediately started eating flake food. Another method I once used was with a large peacock bass. I noticed that if he went a few days without eating, he would often gobble down minnows as soon as they hit the water. One day I out smarted him and first threw a live minnow in, and then followed it up with one that had been frozen. Pretty soon after that he was eating nothing but frozen shrimp and minnows. Occasionally he would even strike at a handful of pellets.

The main idea behind all of these options is to see what works best for you and your fish. It is my personal belief that you should occasionally supplement any frozen or flake foods with extra vitamins, especially for fish that haven't been bred to live off of flake food.

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.

Brandon Berry: For trade: Heterandria Formosa, pinewoods shiners, caulerpa, spotfin butterflyfish, redlip blennies, strip lights. Free convicts.
brandonberry@cox.net 252-266-3559

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,bloodworms, mysis, and krill for 9 a lb.
jrpatter@hotmail.com 919-264-4011

Gerald Pottern - Betta smaragdina -- 3.00 ea, Rainbow shiners -- 2.00 ea, Red Bee Shrimp (freshwater) -- 4.00 ea, Aequidens dorsiger -- 3 for 15.00

Liston Cyrus " Frontosa Fry (Mpimbwe Blue) \$7 each (Armke sells for \$19) (919) 751-3626 or 919 404-6238

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)

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: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

New Membership _____

Renewal Membership _____

Mail to:

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