

Raleigh Aquarium Society News

January
2005

*Next Meeting:
Thursday, January
6th @ 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

Aquatic Plants and Aquascaping -- Round Table Discussion with a panel of RAS's finest plant growers (& some plant killers too). Bring your plant-related questions, problems, tips & tricks, unidentified plant samples, photos on disk, & any spare plants to share.

Ken Fowlston is still in the Louisburg hospital after diabetes complications, but recovering. His kidney function is returning and the infection in his leg is receding. No new updates on Gary Held's condition.

Mark your Calendars: The 21st Annual Carolina Aquarium Workshop and Auction will be held on February 25th through the 27th at the Wake County Commons Building.

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:

MY FISH

By: Salvatore Notarmaso



I've had all types of pets in my life from dogs to turtles, and almost everything in between, but fish have a thing, a peaceful beautiful satisfying thing. A fish tank is your own creation and your fish are your partners in showing how you take care of them and what you want them to do. They will not get you into trouble with the neighbors, or do damage to the house unless you have bad equipment and not watching your tanks. They do get lost, in your tank but when you find them it because they jumped out or went to a corner to pass away. People can learn a lot from the way some fish take care of their babies. They would rather give their life to a bigger fish than let it eat one of their spawn. They get to know you personally, in that they recognize you as the one who feeds them. They react differently to other people who walk by them, and when there is a new spawn they will often try to attack a stranger and peck at the glass. How loving they are to the one who feeds them. They see you as their unknown partner, knowing that only good comes from this one. They sense my steps or my gate of walk, something makes them know who is who. Its funny that as soon as I start to feed one tank that all the fish in the other tanks get anxious and excited and want their food. Similarly, if I have a net in my hand and start to catch fish, it becomes like I have no fish in my tanks. They all go into hiding. They seem to be able to communicate from tank to tank. Fish keeping is one hobby in which you get what you put into it, as long as you know what you are doing. It is not the kind of thing that will often leave you with a broken heart, only when there is a major power failure from a hurricane or a snow storm and you lose your whole stock. Having a generator and other failsafe works but you are still at risk. When you have it going right it can become an obsession you cannot stop, you need more room for the fish, a bigger tank, a bigger house, with a bigger room for the fish. We look in the newspapers for people who quit the hobby and we can pick up a tank cheap, we get wholesale books and tell them we are professional fish breeders and get a discount, we rig up new inventions to save money rather than pay full price for anything. The Pet store owner really does not like us because we want them to give us money for our fish but we hardly ever buy anything from them because we get it all wholesale or sometimes less than what they are paying for it. We have a fine line to walk, with the big chain opening up and putting the little guy out of business,

and the chain will not buy our fish. We need an outlet for our excess fish. Finding the people who service tanks with displays is a good place, but they do not use too many fish and are very picky on what they want. I have had a work accident and am disabled so I do not work and have the time for my fish. I wish I had more tanks, currently I have 10, but I know I will have nothing but fish in my house unless I start a store selling fish, but its not a easy business. Right now it's just a hobby to me, however, I may fill half of my house with tanks and go on the web and ship fish all over the US. I've wanted to order from people who do this but I just do not trust fish mailed in a bag. Also they seem too pricy for their 1 inch size. It seems risky to get them that way. I want to see what I get. Placing a poor fish in a bag for 12 hours is no fun for the fish either, and where I live selling African Cichlids is a hard sell. You have to know what they are and most fish people do not know how to keep them. Living in a place where you have well water is ideal, and high calcium in the water is fine. The pH of my water is between 7-9 and the fish do well in it. They spawn as soon as they come of age, and I do not even have to feed them live food to get them pumped up. Trading between other breeders is usually a no win situation. They all want what you got, but what they have is worth so much more than your stuff it is not ever a fair trade even up. It's like buying a car from a used car salesman. You make out as good as you can so you do not offend one another and all leave satisfied. There is a little envy with one who can make the fish spawn more than someone else, so you'd be smart not to brag. The first thing breeders want to know is what fish did you have that spawned. When I go to a large chain pet store and buy 2 or 3 small fish for \$4 a piece I feel lucky when they grow to adulthood and I end up with a male and 2 females, especially if they decide to spawn. If not they usually fight with each other and wind up killing each other off. Even if they do, I do not loose much and often have had the fish for over a year. Yes, fish keeping is a good hobby and a good diversion. Fish can be a partner in life, which helps you with your sanity, and makes you calm, and gives you enjoyment and satisfaction of a completed task. The goal of making fish spawn is rewarding and provides you with more fish to sell and give to others. If you interested in this hobby just look us up, we are easy to find. I have been keeping fish since I was 12. My big brother taught me a lot, then I became friends with a pet store owner and he let me hang around his store where I learned a lot. I then read about 6 books on fish which also helped. Belonging to a club is a good deal too. You learn more and swap ideas around which helps all. Maybe I am lonely and that's why I keep fish, but keeping fish is safe. I find fish to be so satisfying. I wish I could show them off more.



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.

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

Brandon Berry – a variety of freshwater plants, caulerpa, cerith snails, juv. Blue crowntail betas, green water culture, aquarium strip lights and tops, etc. Email at brandonberry@cox.net if you wish to trade.

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

A q u a t i p s

(new section: please send your tips to brandonberry@cox.net)

Improving the skimming capacity of a Seaclone Skimmer

I chose to write about this because when I started keeping saltwater fish and inverts, I didn't have a lot of money to spend on a fancy skimmer, so I bought a Seaclone. As it came, it wasn't a really good skimmer, but with a few adjustments and ideas I took from other skimmers, it now works quite well.

- if it's the old model with the tall center tube, pull the tube out and cut it down to a length of about three inches and replace it.
- Cut up some bioballs and stuff them in the bottom chamber to cause more mixing of the water and air (you need to pull out the center tube to do this. I cut up the balls, because I could not get whole ones to fit.
- Remove the sponge filter from the intake. Replace it with an old power filter strainer rigged to fit over the opening. You need to cut a whole in the strainer big enough to run the air tube through.
- Cut a small piece of acrylic to slip inside, across the top of the center tube. This stops the swirling motion as the water leaves the riser tube allowing the air bubbles to more calmly rise to the surface with the proteins.
- Make some kind of gasket to go between the bottom of the collection cup and the middle tube. This creates a better seal, forcing the skimmate up into the collection cup better.
- Replace the air line valve with an easier to adjust air line valve. Open the valve until the water flow slows enough to prevent bubbles from spilling back into the tank.

- Brandon Berry

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:

Ability to post items in trading post section of monthly newsletter

A discount card good at participating local pet stores

All club discounts on club functions

Education from the most knowledgeable aquarium experts in NC

Yearly Membership - \$15.00 (includes spouse and children)

(Membership dues run from March 1st each year. New members joining any other time will be pro-rated at \$3 + \$1 for each month remaining in the year.)

Name(s): _____

Date to begin membership: ____/____/____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ (2) (____) _____

Email Address: _____

New Membership _____

Renewal Membership _____

Mail to:

Raleigh Aquarium Society

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