

Raleigh Aquarium Society News

March
2005

*Next Meeting:
Thursday, March
3rd @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

How Plants and Soil Help Fish in Aquaria

By Diana Walstad, author of [Ecology of the Planted Aquarium](#).

We all know that plants release oxygen during the day and consume fish wastes, but that's just the tip of the iceberg in the Plant - Fish - Substrate - Water Quality puzzle. Diana will show us more fully how these players interact and how to optimize the benefits for your fish and plants.

The 21st Annual Carolina Aquarium Workshop and Auction will be held this Friday through Sunday at the Wake County Commons Building. Come and bring lots of friends.

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:

Mexican Dwarf Orange Crayfish, *Cambarellus zempoalensis*

This beautiful and relatively peaceful 1.5 inch crayfish is found only in Lagunas de Zempoala National Park, a series of volcanic crater lakes in the mountains of west-central Mexico. Wild ones are mostly tan to brown with limited orange. Those with the bright orange mutation probably don't last long in nature due to predators, but are healthy and hardy in captivity. Water can be hard or soft, but not too acidic. I have soft water, and keep aragonite gravel in the filter to provide calcium and pH buffering. Unlike most crayfish, *C. zempoalensis* doesn't eat plants, and digs very little. They eat worms, brine shrimp, flakes, pellets, wafers – most any kind of fish food. They can live with small fish (mine live peaceably with guppies), but need hiding places when molting, as the shell is soft and even guppies can tear them apart during this time. Small diameter bamboo segments or plastic pipes are good. A variety of pipe sizes will ensure that baby crays can hide from larger ones. Don't keep them with loaches or similar fish that probe nooks and crannies – the crayfish will be killed during their molt. The attached picture is a mother with dark green eggs, which hatch in 2 weeks, then leave mom several days later. The ¼ inch baby crays eat newly hatched brine shrimp, flakes, pellets, etc. Soaked leaves from deciduous trees are helpful too – they provide hiding and climbing places, plus bugs, bacteria, and fungi that the babies can eat between feedings. If starved they will attack each other. Some babies will grow up with the adults, but if you want more its better to remove the mother before the eggs hatch and put her in a separate container. She continues to eat while brooding, and wont eat her kids as long as she has sufficient food. She can breed again a month later.

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

Gerald Pottern - Attention folks who work around laboratories: Please save any small thick-walled styro boxes for Gerald Pottern (approx 1 quart to 3 gal inside capacity), with or without outer carton (with carton preferred). Thanks !
gpottern@RJGAcarolina.com

Todd Wenzel - Thanks for bringing the cherry shrimp, I've got little ones!
I've got 4 juv. *Synodontis petricola* "Burundi": \$10 ea.
Limia melanogaster: free or trades
Electric Blue Haps: \$6/pr or trades
329-9326/wenzelt@netzero.net

Lisa Warren - the North Carolina Koi and Watergarden Society will be ordering food in bulk. Last year the price per lb was \$1.25.
jecawarren@yahoo.com

Liston Cyrus - 1 " Mpimbwe Frontosa \$7 (Armke sells for \$19)
(919) 270-9379 cell (919) 404-6238 Work

**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)

Treatment of Ick – Quick, Simple, and Cheap

While it may just be my luck, I've noticed that many fish that I've bought lately have been contracting Ich. Others I've talked to said they haven't seen it in years. I read one article that said a new more temperature resistant strain has been spreading through many Florida fish farms. With that in mind, simply raising the temperature may not be effective anymore unless you raise it to levels that will likely cause added stress to your fish. Many people are familiar with using salt as a treatment. I have had a lot of luck with this and recently studied up on exactly how much to use, when to dose it, and an easy way to test to see if your tanks salinity level is sufficient. Most experts recommend between 3-5 parts per thousand of salt to effectively eradicate ich. It is also recommended that you don't dump it all in at once, but acclimate over a period of 36-48 hours. Some claim that this not only stresses your fish less, but also causes less stress to your biological filter. A simple measure of the amount of salt it takes to raise the salinity to around 3ppt is 2.4 teaspoons / 1 gallon of water. Use caution with scaleless fish such as corydoras, as they cannot take a high salinity. Also, some tetras seem to have issues with adjusting. Many plants can also be killed by a salinity of that level. Maybe try a slightly lesser amount with them and see if it works, or use an alternative treatment. For those of you who have an old swing arm hydrometer used to test specific gravity in marine tanks, you can alter it to test for a 3 ppt salinity. Simply remove the arm and drill a small hole through the counterweight. Start at 1/8". Then mix up a some water with the amount of salt recommended above. Replace the arm and test it. If it floats up a little that's good, if not drill a slightly larger hole. Once you see it float up a little, scratch a mark into the hydrometer. You now have a tester for checking to see if you aquarium is adjusted to the correct salinity.

I've read different reports on how long to keep the elevated salinity after the ich seems to be gone. I'd recommend at least a week or two before slowly adjusting it back to normal.

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)		
Pawz Pet Supply	7317 Six Forks Road Raleigh	(10%)
(919)845-9332		

Fins, Furs & Feathers Pet Center
303 S. Horner Boulevard
Sanford, NC 27330
(919)718-0850
10% on everything except tanks

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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