

# November 2005 Newsletter

*Next Meeting: Thursday @7:30pm*

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the [North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine](#) 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

### *Raising Spotted and Marbled Salamanders from Egg to Adult by Gerald Pottern*

These fascinating creatures start out their lives as aquatic animals that would do very well in a fish tank. More details to follow via e-mail.

This month we will be having a business meeting after our normal meeting. Items on the agenda will include a donation to Charity in Gary Held's name, as well as speakers for the annual RAS workshop and other issues of merit. All members are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

## Monthly Feature

### *Aquascaping Tips by Alex Jones*

I have some tips for freshwater aquascaping that have produced unbelievable results for me.

-Use a solid colored background such as black which creates an illusion of depth or alternatively you can use brown or green to create the feel of a riverbank or lake bed. Blue looks best on marine aquariums only. Once the back glass is covered with a layer of algae it looks even better.

-NEVER use colored gravel! This not only looks totally artificial but it takes away from the beauty of the fish and plants.

Dark brown or naturally black gravel is best and helps to bring out the best coloration and behavior in fish. Avoid artificial ornaments.

-Use rocks that match the color and texture of your substrate as closely as possible and use only one, or at the most, two types of rock in your aquascape. This mimics nature the closest. Aquarium silicone can be used to create caves or other structures.

-Live plants are best but if you do not have much of a green thumb then use easy plants such as Java fern, Java moss, or Anubias species which grow attached to wood or stones. Self sinking driftwood such as Malaysian or African wood without an attached slate bottom is the easiest to work with and I use dark colored rubber bands around the branches and horizontal rhizomes to attach the plants until they have had a chance to root themselves (about six weeks). These plants thrive under low light conditions of 1-1.5 watts per gallon and without any additional fertilizer other than fish waste and uneaten food. If you must use artificial plants it is best to pick two or three varieties in several heights and mass them together for the most natural appearance. Most plants grow in thickets of the same species in the wild and this looks much more natural than many different types and colors of plants massed together. A coating of algae only adds to the realism and should only be removed if it becomes excessive.

-Try to choose fish that inhabit different parts of the aquarium to achieve a more filled out look. A few surface dwellers, midwater swimmers, and bottom loving fish balance out the tank. Schooling fish are also attractive if kept in sufficient numbers to exhibit schooling behavior.

Several individuals of a few species looks much nicer than single individuals of many species.

-Do some research and try to recreate your fishes biotope as closely as possible. The more the aquarium environment matches the fishes natural environment and water chemistry the more natural the fish will behave and the more secure they will feel. Even a community setup with fish from different parts of the world can benefit from housing together fish from similar types of environments such as housing rainbowfish and livebearers together in a heavily planted slightly brackish tank or housing gouramis and neon tetras in an acidic softwater tank with lots of driftwood and floating plants.

-Any décor items should be used in odd numbers which is much more pleasing to the eye than even numbers. Also remember to keep any items that you use to scale with the size of the aquarium. Nothing looks more ridiculous than a large aquarium with a few short plants, stones, or a tiny piece of driftwood or a small tank with one large plant or piece of wood that overwhelms the tank.

-Keep it natural!

## Trading Post

Peter Lee says "I have a clean, water-tight used 75 gallon \*All-Glass Aquarium\* "reef-ready" tank with black trim for sale. It has the twin-flow single corner overflow <http://www.all-glass.com/products/aquariums/index.html> system with the pre-drilled over-flow system on the back left of the tank. If somebody can carry it out of my basement, I'll sell it for \$100. It'll take two healthy people to carry this out of my basement though. Contact him at plee2@nc.rr.com

Frank Montillo has: Praecox Australian Rainbows male and females, Yellow Labiochromis African cichlids male and females, red zebras and daffodils. Contact him at (919) 556-9004

## Monthly Web Links

While up in the DC area for the PVAS fall fish show, workshop and auction, I stopped off at [Exotic Aquatics](#), a store up in Towson MD, about 20 miles down the road from [The Aquarium Center](#). Exotic Aquatics was a lovely store, with lots of clean tanks and healthy looking fish. It had a really impressive collection of salt water fish and corals, but my favorite part was the magnificent reef display tank at the front of the store. With 5 400 watt metal halide lights hanging over it, the tank is brilliantly lit, with gorgeous corals, and vibrant, healthy fish. I was especially impressed by the half dozen or so mandarin gobies in the tank, and I stood there watching them for a good hour. Next time you're up in the Baltimore or DC area, consider a visit to Exotic Aquatics.

Linda Twaddle sent the following: "I was looking around on the web and came across a store that looked real interesting. Elmer's Aquarium & Pet Center, 4005 William Penn Highway, Monroesville, PA 15146 (412)372-6535. [www.elmersaquarium.com](http://www.elmersaquarium.com) They supposedly have 250+ freshwater tanks. Might be a neat place to stop in if someone is visiting that area."

This [site](#) has some nice information for setting up Biotope Aquaria, as well as nice fish species profiles, plant profiles and care information, and some lovely photos. .

[Potomac Valley Aquarium Society](#) in the Washington D.C. area

[Atlanta Area Aquarium Association](#) in Atlanta, Georgia

## Club Sponsors

*(The following businesses give RAS members a discount on purchases)  
You may be asked to show your RAS membership card*

[Aquatica](#) 5533 NC Hwy 42-West, A-16, Garner (10%) **919.661.7790**

[Carolina Pet Supply](#) 322 McCormick Street, Garner (10%) **919.773.0014**

[Creative Pet](#) 1350 E Broad St., Fuquay-Varina (10%) **919.577.9977**

[Critter Country Inc](#) 14 Technology Drive, Garner (10%) **919.772.3761**

[Down Under, Salt Water Fish & Corals](#) Highway 70 (in between Agri Supply and White Oak Shopping Center) in Garner. 20% on livestock, 15% on dry goods) **919.662.8820**

[Fins, Furs & Feathers Pet Center](#) 303 S. Horner Boulevard Sanford, NC 27330 (10% on everything except tanks) **919.718-0850**

[Fish Pros](#) 5412 Etta Burke Court, Raleigh (10%) **919.233.1122**

[Fish World](#) 2205 Westinghouse Blvd., Suite 109, Raleigh (10%) **919.872.1228**

[Pet Mania](#) 7901 Falls of Neuse Rd #125, Raleigh (10%) **919.676.3225**

[Pet Paradise](#) 9101-141 Leesville Road, Raleigh (10%) **919.848.8881**

[Pawz Pet Supply](#) 7317 Six Forks Road, Raleigh (10%) **919.845.9332**

[The Pet Pad](#) 1347 Kildaire Farm Road, Cary, (10%) **919.481.6614**

[Triangle Tropical Fish](#) 5110 N. Roxboro Rd, Durham (10% excluding aquariums and stands) **919.479.0088**

Please contact Patricia Ceger at [raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com) 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  
PO Box 31564  
Raleigh, NC 27612-1564