



# The Raleigh Aquarium Society

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## January 3rd, 2007

*Next Month's Meeting: Thursday @7:30pm February 7th, 2007.*

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

You Say You've Got a Sick Fish?!

OK, your favorite fish just doesn't look right. So now what? Come to this month's meeting and find out how to do a basic "doctor's visit" on your finny critters. You'll see how to do the initial clips & scrapes and we'll even have the microscopes to see the fine points. There's already a volunteer to get us started but if you've got a fish that needs lookin' at, we're your guys! Bring fish in a small cooler for a free exam. Finally, what do you do to end the suffering, the grand flush? Heavens no! We'll cover humane ways to euthanize your fish.

Also, we've got a date, a place and even a couple of speakers. Come and hear the latest on the '08 Carolina Aquarium Workshop.

# Monthly Feature

## ARTICLE INFORMATION:

**Author:** Eric Naus

**Title:** Breeding Corydoras

**Summary:** How to set up a breeding tank for corys, and what to do with the eggs, with tips from Eric's personal experiences.

**Contact for editing purposes:**

**email:** [info@aquaworld.biz](mailto:info@aquaworld.biz)

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[www.aquaworld.biz/catalog](http://www.aquaworld.biz/catalog)

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*We will forward one to Eric.*

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## Breeding Corydoras

by Eric Naus

*of Amsterdam Holland, from his website: [www.aquaworld.biz/catalog](http://www.aquaworld.biz/catalog)*

Aquarticles

When one is trying to breed Corydoras, a special breeding tank will usually give better results than waiting for them to spawn in the community tank. Even if they do spawn in the community tank, it is very likely you will not notice it at all. The eggs are well hidden by the fish, and even if the eggs survive the hungry attentions of the co-inhabitants of the tank and the parents themselves, the larvae coming out of the egg are extremely vulnerable. The first thing they have to do when emerging from the egg is to go up for air to fill the swim bladder. Still, some may occasionally survive this, and after a month or three the owner will be in for a surprise when the first 2 cm long juvenile calmly cruises the tank for food.

Let's assume you plan to breed a particular species of Corydoras. The general tank setup will be described below.

The following information is not a must, but are things that have worked for me, or which I've read. By no means expect your fish to start breeding immediately, even after you've invested a lot of money to copy the described tanks, materials and fish.

### The tank

A Corydoras breeding tank should be long enough. As a rule of thumb, length of the tank should be at least ten times the maximum size of the adult fish. There have been numerous reports about full grown *paleatus* spawning in a 30cm. tank or even smaller, but of course no-one reports the failures. Take it from me that the bigger the tank, the higher the success rate.

Height of the tank should not exceed 30cm. (The tank could be higher, but then simply do not fill it up over this height).

### The fish

This is one of the most important issues, although it's hardly ever mentioned in any set-up information. Of course the fish have to be healthy. And yes they should be fed well. But that is about all that is mentioned.

First things first. A group of fish should be selected, and they should be mature enough. The best way is of course to buy full-grown wild-caught fish. If you buy wild-caught fish, the first thing to do is to make sure they are disease free. During transportation the fish are usually treated really badly. Some medications used on fish will render them temporarily infertile, which is one of the reasons why so many first spawns go bad. (Although some people theoretize this to be a learning process for the fish - nicely thought of by humans, but in free-laying species there is no feedback to the parents that the eggs are not fertilised, so how could they learn?)

Large fish (the ones we want) are usually more expensive because of the higher death rate during shipping (lower water to bodyweight ratio) and because the shop owners know. Do not believe shop owners, they will try to get as much profit from sales as possible. Prices tend to skyrocket for the people they know will buy this or that new or rare cory. Send your friends, and jeez, half price for them. Basically it's whatever the fool will give, they will charge.

Do not under any circumstance buy only three fish because they are expensive, and another three in a month's time. There is no guarantee they will be the same species, or type locality.

Small fish will also grow big, although for most species it takes a minimum of two to three years to reach a reasonable size, and growth rate is reduced in tanks when compared to nature.

### **The decor**

If you'd like a nice looking tank, you are not going to like this part. Don't worry, the fish tend to breed in those as well. Hiding places: one will suffice - a coconut shell, or better yet create a cave with multiple exits by placing a flat stone on some smaller stones. Plants are optional, but not essential.

### **The lighting**

Twelve to thirteen hours of light, preferably subdued light, or no light at all if the tank is near a window.

### **The substrate**

Should be sand, approx. 0.5-1cm. layer.

### **The filtration**

Strong filtration, especially in one area of the tank. But there should be areas where there is little or no current, so the fish can rest.

### **The temperature**

24-26°C.

### **Water changes**

Daily 50% water changes with pre-treated water, approximately 5-10°C colder than the water in the tank. Be careful when changing the water - if a part of the glass is directly exposed to 10°C colder water, it may break!

### **Feeding**

Feed the fish well, as much as they like and more. (You're doing daily water changes, so any left overs are no problem). Feed them with red mosquito larvae (bloodworms), daphnia, artemia, chopped earthworm and tubifex.

*If you keep this up for a week or two (or longer) most Corydoras will spawn. Some require more attention, and should be kept in soft, acidic water for a while. Then change the water with soft, neutral water, to get both a rise in pH and a drop in temperature.*

### **Eggs**

Be very careful when handling the eggs. The best thing to use is spawning mops, which will enable you to remove the eggs from the tank without handling them. Place the eggs in water taken from the spawning tank into a small holding tank. Still, many eggs may fungus, and most of the times the fish have a mind of

their own as to where the eggs should be laid. If you have to remove the eggs by hand, wash your hands thoroughly before removing the eggs (making sure that no soap remains on your fingers). Some people use a razor blade to remove eggs from the glass, but I've never been able to do that right. Corydoras eggs are extremely hard, and you cannot squash them by handling them.

Back to the eggs fungusing. Eggs fungus as a result of bacterial attacks, which results in the shells being damaged. The fungus is the second infection, because it attacks damaged eggs. Most of the times that I tried to raise the eggs in a separate raising tank, 60-80% of the eggs fungused. Adding a preventive medicine like methylene blue helped a bit to increase hatch rates.

Later I started using breeding nets, which hung from the side of spawning tank. Hatch rates raised to around 90-95%. I keep the fry there, feeding them artemia, for a week or two, and then I transfer them to a raising tank.

Using a pure glass bottom in a raising tank may seem to be a good thing to do, since it's easy to clean. But in my case the fry often developed fungus. In a glass-bottom tank a thin layer of bacteria will always be present, which may cause this. After I added a thin layer of sand, the fry stopped developing fungus.

It's a really nice sight, having an 80 cm tank filled with over 100 juvenile Corydoras (in my case panda). You can observe some natural schooling behaviour, and watch them eat and grow. They can grow quite fast up to 2-3 cm. (depending on the species), but after that growth comes to a halt, and it may take up to a year before the fry are the same size as the juveniles you mostly see in the shops. It will take at least a year more for them to become fully grown.

## Trading Post

None for this month.

## Monthly Web Links

**Raleigh Aquarium Society Forum** on Yahoo Groups  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/raleighaquariumsociety/>

**Potomac Valley Aquarium Society** in the Washington D.C. area <http://www.pvas.com/>

**Atlanta Area Aquarium Association** in Atlanta, Georgia <http://www.atlantaaquarium.com/>

**Carolina Fish Talk** <http://www.carolinafishtalk.com/>

**Charlotte Area Aquarists Society** <http://pvelasco.net/CAASBBS/index.php>

**Marine Aquarium Society of the Carolinas** <http://masotc.net/>

**North Carolina Koi & Watergarden Society** <http://www.nckws.com/>

**Carolina Aquatic Plant Enthusiasts** <http://www.ncaquaticplants.org/>

**Aquatic Gardeners Association** <http://www.aquatic-gardeners.org/>

**KingFish Services** <http://www.kingfishservices.net/>

# Club Sponsors

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

**[Aquacade](#)** 5951 Poyner Village Parkway Suite 107, Raleigh, NC  
(10% on dry goods; 20% on livestock) **919.875.8055**

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

**[Salty Waters/ Aquatic Concepts](#)** 7001 Fayetteville Rd., Suite 100, Durham, NC **919.361.9011**

**[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. 10% on non-sale items) **919.662.8820**

**[Fins, Furs & Feathers Pet Center](#)** 303 S. Horner Boulevard  
Sanford, NC 27330 (10% on everything except tanks) **919.718.0850**

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**[Infinity Pets](#)** 100 W Main St Suite C, Youngsville NC 27596 (10%)  
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**[Pet Mania](#)** 7901 Falls of Neuse Rd #125, Raleigh (10%) **919.676.3225**

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

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

**[Triangle Tropical Fish](#)** 3600 N. Duke St. Suite #36 Durham (10% excluding aquariums and stands) **919.479.0088**

Please contact Christine Duncan 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: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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