



The Raleigh Aquarium Society

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January 2023 Newsletter

The Raleigh Aquarium Society (RAS) was founded in 1981 to "encourage and enhance the education, knowledge, and enjoyment of Society members at all levels of experience about the many aspects of the home aquatics hobby". We welcome participants at all levels of experience (including none - we all started that way!). Details can be found at: www.raleighaquariumsociety.org

January Calendar of Events

Thursday January 5th @ 7:30PM: RAS Meeting. Dean Di Lillo and Neil Frank. "Drip, drip, drip - automated water changes for 1 or more tanks." In this presentation, Dean and Neil will present their fully automated systems. Dean will show how his simple continuous water changing system allows him to directly use tap water without any pretreatment including use of Seachem Prime. No hoses or buckets are needed. Neil has been running his tap water through a carbon filter and doing weekly 50% batch changes. He will present his recent continuous water change automation of 28 tanks. Live, In Person, and at the [NC Vet School](#).

Thursday January 12th @ 7:30PM: Zoom Social Hour (hosted by Caroline Morgan).

Thursday January 19th @ 7:30PM: Board Meeting (open to all). Contact ras-board@ras.groups.io for info.

March 24 to March 26, 2023: RAS CAW 2023 - 3-day (Friday to Sunday) RAS Carolina Aquarium Workshop, XXXVI, Shrimp Contest, and Auction. More information and Speaker bio's online [RAS Website](#) here. This is BIG! We have the venue booked, Speakers are scheduled, and we need volunteers! Please email RAS Board to volunteer! Topics and talks below:

Carolina Aquarium Workshop, XXXVI

- **Robert Lupton** - Keeping Freshwater Shrimp: Top 10 Reasons Shrimp Keepers Fail
- **Ryan Chan** - Unlocking the Key to Spawning Cardinal and Neon Tetras
- **Josh Wiegert** - Nano Tank Adventures: Setting Up A Small Tank.
- **Gary Lange** - The Most Amazing Rainbowfish
- **Ryan Chan** - Secrets of Breeding the Amano Shrimp
- **Robert Lupton** - Q&A on Breeding and Maintaining Shrimp
- **Josh Wiegert** - So, You Think You Want A Giant Tank
- **Gary Lange** - Collecting Rainbowfish: "It's not a Problem, It's an Adventure"

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Letter from the Vice President (Caroline Morgan)

Hi Everyone!

On December 1st, at RAS' annual holiday gathering, attending members voted on the club's Board of Directors for the upcoming year. It's my pleasure to announce the board roster for 2023:

President: Thomas Narten
Vice President: Caroline Morgan
Secretary: Jamye Carr
Treasurer: Chris Smith
 Member-At-Large: Shelly DeCorte
 Member-At-Large: Matt DeGroot

If you're familiar with previous board setups, then you may notice that there is a vacant position for a third Member-At-Large. Per RAS bylaws, when there is a vacancy, the board may appoint someone to fill that role. At the December meeting, there were a few people who expressed interest in the open position, and we are currently working on getting in touch with those people to talk about their interests and goals. So, stay tuned there!

In the meantime, I think I can speak for all of us board members when I say we are honored and excited to be a part of RAS' leadership team, and we can't wait to see all the wonderful, fun, and learning experiences that 2023 will bring to us.

Cheers, and Happy New Year!

Letter from the President (Thomas Narten)

With the closing out of 2022, I'd like to wish all a Happy Holiday Season and best wishes for the new year. May our fish rooms expand, our critters spawn heartily, and let the plants grow out of their respective tanks!

January begins our 2023 year with our monthly meeting on Thursday January 5 @ 7:30PM at the Vet School. Our program will feature Dean Di Lillo and Neil Frank on "Drip, drip, drip - automated water changes for 1 or more tanks," where they will describe alternatives to lugging buckets or using a water python.

Our December meeting featured the return of our Holiday Party, for the first time in 3 years. Rather than having a full-blown dinner, folk brought in cookies and other sweets to share. From the voting, Thomas Sanford took first place, John Adams and Richard & Maggie Poole tied for 2nd and Matt DeGroot took 3rd place. Each won Amazon gift cards. Jamye Carr gets honorable mention for her fruit punch, well, not really, as there wasn't a category for drinks. But it would have gotten my vote!!!

We also held a trivia contest featuring 35 questions. 3 contestants answered 29 of the questions correctly, with the "tie" broken by how quickly respondents were able to answer the questions. John Wolfe took 1st place, Gabe Alercon took second, and Thomas Narten took 3rd. Finally, about a dozen "white elephant" gifts were exchanged among participants.

The December meeting also hosted our annual board elections, as reported elsewhere in the newsletter. Presentation of the 2022 Breeder Award Program (BAP) milestones and other awards also took place, as reported by Matt DeGroot elsewhere in the newsletter.

Finally, as at most meetings, we gave out door prizes, including the last of the KensFish food and other assorted items. Thanks goes to Sabu of Saburai Aquatics for donating shirts and plush toys. We also auctioned off 4 40 breeder tanks that were graciously donated by Mark Domanowski (and cleaned up by Richard Mullinax).

Special thanks goes to Matt DeGroot for organizing the overall Holiday Party meeting and Jamye Carr for gathering and pulling together the trivia questions.

Best wishes for the Holiday Season and see you all at the next meeting!!!

Board Meeting Minutes

The board has not finalized and approved meeting minutes for the October or November board calls at the time of this writing. Board meeting minutes are published on our web page as they become available online at <https://www.raleighaquariumsociety.org/board-documents>

BAP Program

Matt DeGroot is our BAP Chair for 2023 and he is in the process of setting up a BAP committee, please contact him if you are interested. The 2022 BAP Awards Ceremony was held at the NCSU vet school auditorium on the evening of Thursday, December 1st during the annual RAS holiday party.

14 people submitted a total of 101 successful spawns of species during the 2022 BAP season. 1,455 BAP points were awarded.

6 people achieved new award levels: Breeder award level: Grey Rogers, Anthony Romano, and Brenton Koenig; Advanced & Expert level: Richard & Maggie Poole; Distinguished Master Breeder & Honorary Lifetime Member: Paul Parks; and Grand Master Breeder: Neil Frank.

Richard & Maggie Poole won the 2022 Breeder of the Year award by submitting 31 species for a total of 410 points.



Figure 1 from L to R: Maggie Poole, Grey Rogers, Richard Poole, Brenton Koenig, Paul Parks. Missing: Neil Frank and Anthony Romano

The 2023 BAP annual season began on November 16, 2022, and runs until November 15, 2023. BAP standings are updated monthly and the current standing report can be found on the BAP page of the RAS website along with all BAP program information.

Our first BAP entry for the new year was submitted by Grey Rogers. Grey successfully bred the beautiful dwarf cichlid, *Apistogramma Borellii*!



	Points in 2023	Points in 2022	All Time Points	Breeder (50)	Intermediate Breeder (150)	Advanced Breeder (300)	Expert Breeder (500)	Master Breeder (750)	Distinguished Master Breeder (1,000)	Grand Master Breeder (1,500)	Honorary Lifetime Member	Breeder of the Year
Larry Jinks			2,580	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2013	2015	2019	16,15,13,12
Neil Frank	355	1,730	1984	1985	1987	2018	2019	2020	2022	2020		
Matt DeGroot	65	1,165	2015	2015	2016	2017	2019	2021		2021		
Paul Parks	190	1,020	2019	2019	2019	2020	2021	2022		2022		21,19
Jon & Julie Hamm		875	2018	2018	2018	2018	2020					20,18
Frank Montillo		825	2011	2011	2012	2014	2015					2011
Doug Brown		795	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018					2017
Todd Wenzel		770	1983	1984	1985	1986	2021					
Dan Koenig	60	700	2014	2015	2016	2019						
Richard & Maggie Poole	410	565	2021	2021	2022	2022						2022
Elvin Eaton III		545	2014	2014	2015	2017						2014
Cary Perkinson		335	2017	2017	2018							
Juan Damelines		330	2016	2017	2018							
Richard Mullinax	55	265	2018	2020								
Eric Hanneman		250	2011	2012								
Chip Hildreth		235	2016	2017								
Gerald Pottern		230	1984	1986								
Allan O'Briant	35	225	2017	2019								
Jacob Davis		150	2020	2021								
Dave Herlong		135	1984									
Dan Lillis		120	2018									
Grey Rogers	15	105	120	2022								
Anthony Romano		60	100	2022								
Thomas Narten		25	100	2021								
Kris Bryant		90	2020									
Sabu Yamamoto		70	2021									
Brenton Koenig	30	60	2022									
Benjamin Guardiola		55	2014									
David Froning		30	45									
Debbie Negron		25	25									
Stephen Williams		10	45									

12/17/22

Anyone who would like to join the BAP can contact chairman Matt DeGroot at meetings or email him at degmat@gmail.com. Full standings and individual scorecards can be reviewed at <https://www.raleighaquariumsociety.org/bap>

Upcoming Group Buys

There are no planned Group Buys currently, however, please be on the lookout for Blackworms by Gerald Pottern. Gerald will usually send an email to our ras@ras.groups.io email. You can sign up online at <https://groups.io/>

There should also be another Group Buy from another RAS member, but this is not confirmed, and, again, there will usually be a RAS email.

Remember: RAS sponsored group buys means that the RAS pays for the taxes and the shipping costs, allowing all **RAS members (Yes, You!)** to purchase fish, food, and other aquarium supplies at reduced cost. [Group Buys](#) provide access to unusual or hard-to-find fish, plants and foods that generally are not available at local fish stores (LFS). Group Buys are open to all current RAS members, and are organized by individual RAS members, **(Yes, You!)** with the approval of the RAS board. Each group buy has a "sponsor", and participants work directly with the sponsor to work out details of a specific purchase. RAS is open to proposals for additional

group buys from all members. [Details here.](#)

Thank you to all our Group Buy Sponsors!

RAS Band Site

Our RAS Band site is really taking off! **Facebook prohibits the selling of live animals.** Because of this, all sales of live animals, and all sale items, period, have been moved to our RAS Band [site here](#). Remember, you can link your Band post back to Facebook!

(Article) CAW Shrimp Bowl Contest *by Richard Mullinax, Jr*

CAW 2023 brings back to the Triangle, for only the second time, a shrimp bowl competition for regional breeders of shrimp. In 2020 8 people entered shrimp for a total of 12 lots. As seen in the photo, Lucas Bretz is seen in the photo judging that contest.

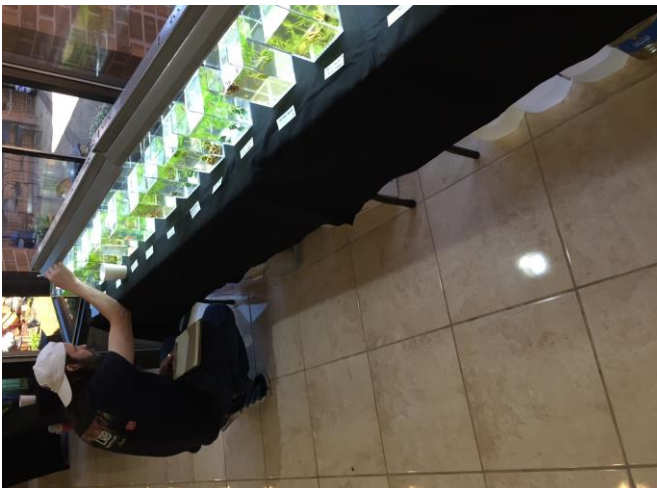
RAS welcomes Rob Lupton of Flip Aquatics as speaker and judge. I ordered my first shrimp from Rob back in 2015. He shipped *Caridina serrata* to Oregon with a red rams horn hitchhiker. I had not seen that type of snail before and asked him to send a few more. Hundreds of tangerine tiger shrimp and thousands of snails later I look forward to meeting Rob this Spring.


This year there will be spaces for people to enter two lots of shrimp each, at first. Also, a waitlist for a third entry for each person in case there is space once everyone who wants to participate has registered. The last day to register is March 15. Please consider registering early to help with planning.

Categories will likely be similar to the last one. *Neocaridina* sp. - red, *Neocaridina* sp. - all other colors, *Caridina* hybrids, and *Caridina* species. There will be three awards for each category, a best in show, and a people's choice for each category. Everyone attending CAW will have ballots to vote in their registration packet.

The set up will be similar to last time as well. Entrants will bring shrimp and a gallon of water from their home tank so all the animals will not have to adjust to new water parameters. The club will provide a small piece of cholla wood and some plant material in each bowl so the shrimp can have some hides.

I am looking forward to seeing all the different types of shrimp being bred locally. Thank you in advance to all who choose to participate by showing your shrimp, and to those who step forward to help put the event on.





**Raleigh Aquarium Society
Carolina Aquarium Workshop 2023
Shrimp Bowl Contest**

Saturday March 25, 2023

Robert Lupton of Flip Aquatics, judge

Register for CAW and Shrimp Bowl Contest

at raleighaquariumsociety.org

(Article) I love Fish Keeping by Avery Stephens

My name is Avery Stephens, and I love Fish Keeping. My love for fish started when I moved to a Mebane and saw my grandma's tank for the first time. I was a child (Like, four or something) when I saw grandma's 55-gallon tank with an assortment of platies. Her tank was full of ornaments and artificial plants, and I was enamored with how lively and busy it looked. It was like a small city, or a piece of the ocean. It was from that moment I wanted to learn as much as I can about Fish Keeping.

After a few years into keeping fish and watching fish keeping videos, I wanted to put in my... input, and help others join the fish keeping hobby. So I decided to start a YouTube channel and started posting my own fish care videos. How to, species profiles, aquarium progress- you get the idea. But for some reason, my videos just weren't as popular as some of the bigger names (KGTropicals, FishyBizz, Dustin's Fish Tanks, etc.) And I saw they were doing the same thing. More accurately, I was doing what everyone else was doing... with noticeably lower quality. I watched other videos to see what other people were doing, see what got them so popular; what made them so interesting. But in my search of notoriety, I made a very important observation: There were HUNDREDS of fish How-To videos, but not many videos or blogs of fish behavior.

I got to work posting pictures and videos of various fish behaviors, explaining what they're doing and why they're doing it. Not long after, I made an Instagram account. I am still relatively unknown. BUT THAT'S NOT

THE POINT! As we fish keepers know, a fish tank is much more than just a piece of furniture, it's an entire world. And should you pay close enough attention, you'll find every specimen therein- peaceful or aggressive, solitary or schooling- leads an interesting life. And I aim to shed as much light on the fish keeping hobby as possible! Please consider following my progress on Social Media. I guarantee you'll learn something. Instagram: *deathbyfishtanks* and YouTube: *Death by Fish Tanks (@deathbyfishtanks)*



(Article) Aquatips: Keeping Black Worms by *Brandon Berry*

Since we're in the season for black worms again, here's a blast from the past from our own Brandon Berry. Reprinted from the RAS Newsletter, Dec. 2004, Submitted by Todd Wenzel, Librarian

I've found that I can keep about a pound of black worms in a fish net breeder, in my outdoor pond filter during the winter. I had some black worms that were not doing well in the fridge, so I figured I try something new. I put them in a net breeder, and hung them over the side of my 55 gallon drum pond filter. The next day, they were the healthiest looking black worms I had ever seen. I then bought about two more pounds and divided them between that net breeder and another one. I was amazed that despite the fact that they were piled over 2 inches thick, they were thriving. I've even begun to feed them some old fish food in hopes that they will multiply, or at least have a higher nutrient content. If you don't have an outdoor pond, I'd suggest just getting a 55-gallon drum, filling it to the top with water and putting some kind of bio-media in it such as lava rocks. Add a strong power head or large air stone and your set. Just hang the net around the side of the barrel. It will be interesting to see how warm the water can get in the spring and still have them doing well. I've had them breed in fish tanks with warm water, so I imagine that as long as they don't get too crowded and the oxygen content is sufficient in the water, they will do OK. I'll keep everyone posted.



Figure 2 Blackworms in gravel

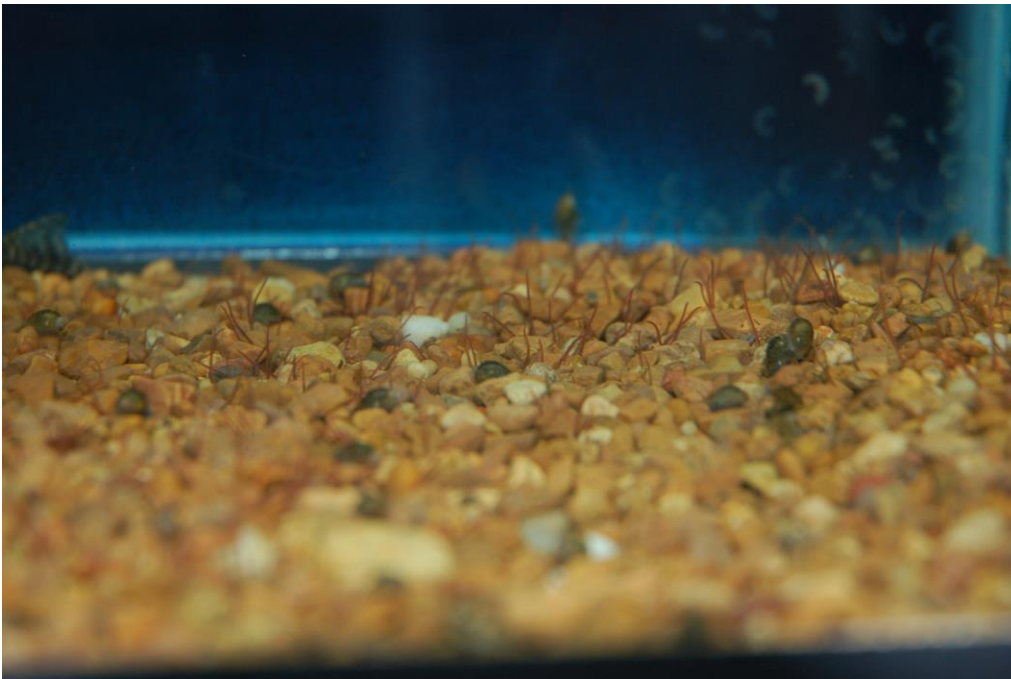


Figure 3 Blackworms in gravel 2

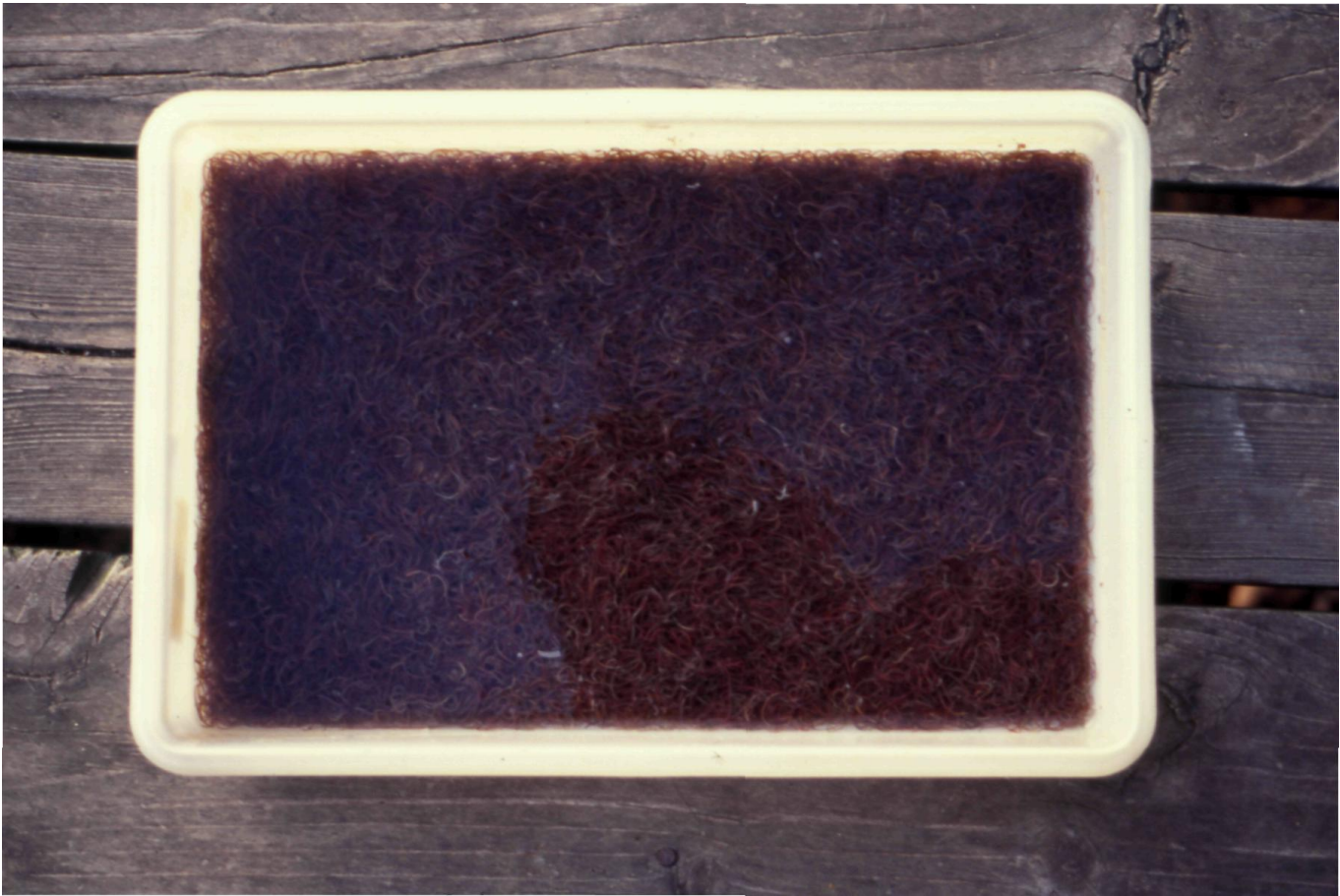


Figure 4 Blackworms in tray

(Article) RAS visits JRAS for a Very Merry Christmas by Todd Wenzel

In December, Todd and Dee Wenzel and Richard and Maggie Poole drove to Richmond to partake in the James River Aquarium Society (JRAS) Christmas party. We kinda look at the JRAS as a sister club and several members of each club attend the other's meetings and functions. Todd speaks at the Richmond meetings about once a year and is a member of both clubs.



The party was held at the Roma Italian restaurant and the cost to attend the party was \$10 per person for members (\$20 for non-members). After a brief social period, we were treated an excellent buffet of chicken

alfredo, pasta primavera, and meat lasagna along with salad and a modest dessert. Adult beverages were not included for legal reasons but could be purchased separately. Everyone received a numbered ticket in the beginning and the first use of our tickets was to pick the door prize winner of a \$50 gift certificate from Fin & Feather pet shop in Richmond. I'm happy to say that none of the Raleigh contingent won this prize. Fin & Feather is an outstanding store, but the drive would've been prohibitive.



Then the White Elephant exchange numbers were picked and out of a total of 25 gifts, Todd and Dee snagged an air nice pump and a fancy aquascaping rock. Richard picked up a Betta figure that sticks on the side of a fish tank.



Next up were the goodies on the "freebie" table. Todd had inquired in advance if the James River club planned to have a way to offer free items. Todd had a number of items he wanted to donate as he typically does at the Raleigh meetings. The JRAS has never had a "free" table but decided to institute one for the party. It turned out to be such a hit that there were over 50 items on the table. Our friend and MC, Dennis Bragg, decided to call numbers from our door-prize tickets to allocate aquarists to the table of donated fish, plants, equipment, live foods, etc. to avoid a stampede. Todd acquired some emergent plants that are now growing out of his 75-gallon Tanganyikan tank. He had wanted to try these plants ever since he saw them in the late Larry Jinks' fish room. By the way, one of Todd's donations was a group of *Corydoras aeneus* that he'd received from RAS editor, Shelly DeCorte. Shelly had been extremely generous and gave Todd many more Cories than he'd expected.

Thanks Shelly.



Finally, EVERY attendee received a gift bag valued at \$65 that was collected over several months or purchased via auction proceeds. The bags were absolutely stuffed with a huge variety of fish foods and other assorted goodies.

I want to thank the members of the James River Aquarium Society for putting on an outstanding event and for their warm hospitality.

Aquatic Articles

- [Live Blackworm Culture Setup - Culturing Blackworms THE EASY WAY! - Wild Fish Tanks](#)
- [Culturing Blackworms for Aquarium Fish Food - Dans Fish](#)
- [Community Aquarium Fish Behavior - Dustin's Fish Tanks](#)
- [Schooling vs Shoaling - Why does it matter? - Rachel O'Leary](#)
- [What Tropical Fish Behavior is OK, and What's Not? - Living Art Aquatics](#)
- [Rainbowfish Fish Room - Gary Lange - Aquarium Co-Op](#)
- [FINALLY! Avatar Aquatics Breeding Amano Shrimps Step by Step Walkthrough - 100% Success! - Avatar Aquatics](#)
- [The MOST Expensive PET Shrimp \[Top 6\] - Flip Aquatics](#)
- [FRESHWATER CRAYFISH - LOBSTERS - The Do's and Don't!! - Brittany Does Life](#)
- [How to breed Peppermint Shrimp - LazyAquarist](#)
- [RARE Shrimp *MASTER BREEDER* Shares His Tips - Full House Tour! - Wild Fish Tanks](#)

If you run across interesting articles and/or video's please send a pointer to the article to newsletter@ras.groups.io

More Info About RAS

Shop RAS merchandise online at <https://raleighaquariumsociety.qbstores.com/>.

Raleigh Aquarium Society Code of Conduct - We expect persons participating in any and all RAS activities to act maturely, to behave professionally, to respect the rights and dignity of others, and to treat everyone equally and without discrimination on the grounds of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality,

color, parental or marital status, religious belief, class or social background, sexual orientation or political belief. Anyone experiencing or witnessing a potential violation of the Code of Conduct should contact any RAS board member or reach the board at ras-board@groups.io.

More information can be found online here: <https://www.raleighaquariumsociety.org/code-of-conduct>

Information about **RAS**, its Facebook and email list links, membership purchase, current board members, etc. can be found on our web site: www.raleighaquariumsociety.org