



# The Raleigh Aquarium Society

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## February 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](http://www.raleighaquariumsociety.org)

## February Calendar of Events

**Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:30 PM: RAS Meeting.** Neil Frank will host a live "Do I have to...?" audience Participation Program. People will be chosen randomly to answer preselected questions —both to share their experience and expertise and give more members an opportunity for public speaking. Up to 2 more attendees can assist the selectee to offer alternative viewpoints, promote broader group discussion and provide expanded, enhanced answers. The outcomes from this fun learning activity can potentially reduce aquarists' anxiety through better aquaristic practices. Live, In Person, and at the [NC Vet School](#).

**Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM: Zoom Social Hour** (hosted by Caroline Morgan).

**Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM: Board Meeting** (open to all). Contact [ras-board@ras.groups.io](mailto:ras-board@ras.groups.io) for info.

**Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:30 PM: RAS Meeting. Speaker and Topic TBA.** Live, In Person, and at the [NC Vet School](#). (Click link for Google Directions)

**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 with group rate of \$82/night, speakers scheduled, and we need volunteers! More info in newsletter below.

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## Letter from the President (Thomas Narten)

February is just about upon us and we will have our regular meeting at the Vet School on Thursday February 2 @ 7:30. This month's program will feature an interactive Q&A session where commonly repeated questions are pulled from a hat and members are selected at random and given the opportunity to provide their perspective on the chosen topic. A few follow up comments will be allowed and then the topic will switch a new question given to a different selected member. Those selected to answer questions will also pick out a door prize. Possible topics might touch upon "testing your water", "special lighting", "what do you feed your fish", etc. As usual, we'll auction of items that people bring in. See MyGroupAuctions for details (and to register your items!):

### [RAS February Meeting Auction Preview](#)

Our previous meeting in January was a great success. We had upwards of 65 persons attending, including many new faces. This is the largest crowd we've had in quite a while! Neil Frank and Dean DiLillo spoke about their experiences with automated water changes, where Dean reported that he was accidentally dripping untreated water into his tanks for a month -- with no observed ill effects! You can see what Neil has done in a short summary video he has put together: [Bulk and Continuous Water Changes with Raleigh Tap Water - YouTube](#)

Planning and preparation for the March Carolina Aquarium Workshop is well underway. See other sections of the newsletter (or our website) for the latest details!

## BAP Program

Anyone who would like to join the BAP can contact chairman Matt DeGroodt at meetings or email him at [degmat@gmail.com](mailto: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 emails from Sponsors. Sponsors will send an email to our [ras@ras.groups.io](mailto:ras@ras.groups.io) email. You can sign up online at <https://groups.io/>

Chris Smith says that he's planning a Wet Spot Group Buy order for shortly after the CAW Workshop.

**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 CAW Workshop on March 24<sup>th</sup> through March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**RAS CAW 2023** - 3-day (Friday to Sunday) RAS Carolina Aquarium Workshop, XXXVI, at the Raleigh Ramada Inn by Wyndham.



**Carolina Aquarium Workshop XXXVI**  
**March 24-26, 2023 -- Raleigh, NC**  
[www.raleighaquariumsociety.org](http://www.raleighaquariumsociety.org)



**Friday: Collecting Trip!**  
**Fri/Sat: 8 Talks, Shrimp Contest!**  
**Fri/Sat: Vendor room!**  
**Sunday: Big Auction!**

**8 Talks!**

Gary Lange – Rainbowfish Expert  
 Robert Lupton – Shrimp/Flip Aquatics  
 Joshua Wiegert – Batfish Aquatics  
 Ryan Chan – Amano Shrimp



**Shrimp Bowl Contest**  
**Judging by Robert Lupton!**



You can download a copy of the flyer online from [here](#). If you can print it out and take it to your LFS, that would be appreciated. Even if you're in another state, even if you're not able to attend. We need to get the word out.

Please consider volunteering! It takes a village. The more volunteers, the less there is to do. Please contact the RAS Board.

The Raleigh Ramada Inn by Wyndham is located at 1520 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607; (919) 832-4100 or (844) 204-9930; [www.ramadaraleigh.com](http://www.ramadaraleigh.com). A special room rate of \$82/night is available through Friday March 10. Use the Group Code “**RAS2023**”

## **Planned events include:**

- Native fish & plant collecting field trip at local waterways
- Meet and Greet
- Late Night Trivia
- Shrimp Bowl Competition
- Vendor Room and Sales
- Banquet
- Social times
- Auction on Sunday - Open to the Public with \$5.00 admission fee for non-RAS Members

## **Speakers and Topics**

Josh Wiegert



Ryan Chan



Robert Lupton



Gary Lange



### **Robert Lupton - Keeping Freshwater Shrimp: Top 10 Reasons Shrimp Keepers Fail.**

Rob shares his 10 years of experience with importing and breeding 100,000's of shrimp. Anything from Taiwan bee shrimp to cherry shrimp, these 10 reasons apply to them all. He covers Water Parameters, The Source of Shrimp, Shipping, Bacterial Infections, Feeding and Temperature. Find out what the top 10 reasons are for shrimp deaths in aquariums and how to fix them.

### **Ryan Chan - Unlocking the Key to Spawning Cardinal and Neon Tetras**

Ryan will walk through the process of spawning these iconic aquarium pets, including water parameters, spawning setup, and the tricks he has discovered through the journey.

### **Josh Wiegert - Nano Tank Adventures: Setting Up A Small Tank.**

How Small Can You Go!? While there are those aquarists trying to figure out whether their floor can handle 10,000 pounds or not, tiny tanks are all the rage these days. Aquariums ranging from 20-gallons down to tiny tanks that don't even hold a gallon of water are increasing in popularity, fueled in no small part by drives away from bigger homes to apartments and minimalistic attitudes. They pose many unique challenges, and this talk looks at several tiny tank set-ups, suitable fish, and their care.

### **Gary Lange - The Most Amazing Rainbowfish**

In our pursuit of this amazing rainbowfish we used planes, a Ferry Boat (yes a ferry boat), Cars, Taxis, Motorcycles and a giant Dump Truck! Whatever it took to complete our mission! Oh and then there was that 18 foot boat with twin 40 HP motors to head alongside the shoreline fighting 4 foot ocean waves. Our 7th trip to West Papua was indeed lucky as we brought back four species that will almost for sure see commercial production. Two of them are perfect for that midsized planted aquarium. Move over praecox and boesemani!

### **Ryan Chan - Secrets of Breeding the Amano Shrimp**

Ryan is the founder of Avatar Aquatics on YouTube and has been keeping fish for more than a decade. In this presentation, he will do a complete walkthrough of his 2.5 year project and speak on the secrets of salinity, food, and life cycle of this popular algae eater.

### **Robert Lupton - Q&A on Breeding and Maintaining Shrimp**

The golden opportunity for participants to ask any question about shrimp and nano fish from the expert owner of Flip Aquatics.

### **Josh Wiegert - So, You Think You Want A Giant Tank**

Every aquarist has, at one time or another, dreamt of it -- a big tank. No, not a 180, not a 240, something gargantuan, something that would make the neighbors (and maybe your spouse) question your sanity. But, what's it really like to get a Big Tank -- what are the ins and outs of planning it, and some of the realities of owning one? Is this something that many aquarists can reach for, or is it better left in daydreams?

### **Gary Lange - It's Not a Problem it's an Adventure! The Blood Sweat & Cheers of 7 Trips Chasing Rainbowfish in New Guinea**

Since 2005 I have been fortunate enough to make seven trips to West Papua. We have brought back species that haven't been in the hobby as well as some fifteen brand new species of rainbowfish! This talk is about how I went from being just a keeper of rainbowfish into someone who searches all over Papua for new and exciting species. It's not just about the fish we find, actual fishing time is perhaps five percent of the time we spend on our trips. It's about the places we go and the people we meet once we get there. It's about a lot of the other

things we see besides the wonderful rainbowfishes. The “One Thing” that we always encounter are “problems”. Problems that you wouldn’t encounter perhaps in North America or a problem easily solved here that can be insurmountable in the tropics. So many problems sometimes that instead of going with “plan A” we often find ourselves going with plan C or D. So much so that our motto has become; “It’s not a problem it’s an adventure”. So come along and join us as we show you the ups and downs of collecting fish in Papua. And yes there will be plenty of fish pictures.

## Schedule of Events

### Friday, March 24

- 12-6 pm Native fish & plant collecting field trip at local waterways (Led by Gerald Pottern)
- 6:30 pm Meet and Greet (with hors d'oeuvres)
- 7:30 pm [Robert Lupton - Keeping Freshwater Shrimp: Top 10 Reasons Shrimp Keepers Fail](#)
- 8:30 pm [Ryan Chan - Unlocking the Key to Spawning Cardinal and Neon Tetras](#)
- 9:30 pm Mini-Auction / Late Night Trivia / Social Hour

### Saturday, March 25

- 8:30 am Registration and Gathering
- 8:30 am Shrimp Bowl Competition - Setup and Sign in
- 9:30 am [Josh Wiegert - Nano Tank Adventures: Setting Up A Small Tank.](#)
- 10:45 am [Gary Lange - The Most Amazing Rainbowfish, followed by auction of rainbowfish eggs](#)
- Noon Lunch (60 min) + Shrimp Judging
- 1:00 pm [Ryan Chan - Secrets of Breeding the Amano Shrimp](#)
- 2:15 pm Visit Vender Room/ Shrimp Bowl Competition Judging
- 2:45 pm [Robert Lupton - Q&A on Breeding and Maintaining Shrimp](#)
- 4:00 pm Visit Vender Room
- People’s Choice voting for Shrimp Bowl ends
- 4:30 pm [Josh Wiegert - So, You Think You Want A Giant Tank](#)
- 5:45 pm Final Visit to Vender Room
- 5:45 pm Banquet and social hour setup
- 6:15 pm Social Time & Shrimp Contest Viewing
- 7:00 pm Banquet and presentation of shrimp contest awards
- 8:00 pm [Gary Lange - Collecting Rainbowfish: "It's not a Problem, It's an Adventure" followed by short auction of remaining rainbowfish eggs](#)

### Sunday, March 26

- 9:00 am Auction Registration and Setup
- 10:00 am Auction Starts

## Native Fish & Plant Collecting with Gerald Pottern

12:00 pm to 6:00 pm: Native fish collecting trip at 3 or 4 local streams or lakes within a 1 hour drive of Raleigh. Meet at Ramada Inn front door and we will sign participant waivers and carpool from there. Gerald will have a scientific & educational permit to cover our group, so you won’t need a personal NC-WRC fishing license during this trip. RAS will have a few dipnets, seines, buckets, and a photo tank, but bring your own if you have them. Also bring waders or tall rubber boots, food, drinks, towels, and dry clothes. If you plan to keep

any fish, bring a bucket or cooler, salt, air pump, and sponge filter, box filter, or air stone. To sign up, contact Gerald at [gbpottern@gmail.com](mailto:gbpottern@gmail.com). Limited to 20 participants.

Locations will depend on weather and recent rainfall. If no recent heavy rain, we can do either Piedmont (north and west of Raleigh) or Coastal Plain (south and east of Raleigh). If streams are running high, then we can only do Coastal Plain. If you are driving in from out of town Friday morning, and our first collecting site is on your way, you can meet us there to save time and avoid back-tracking.

Collectors will need to provide their own care for whatever fish they want to keep.



## **Shrimp Bowl Competition with Richard Mullinax**

Plans for the shrimp contest are coming along with the help of Dubey's and I Wet My Plants. Free to enter shrimp with CAW registration. Sign up on the RAS website. Top prizes receive gift cards.

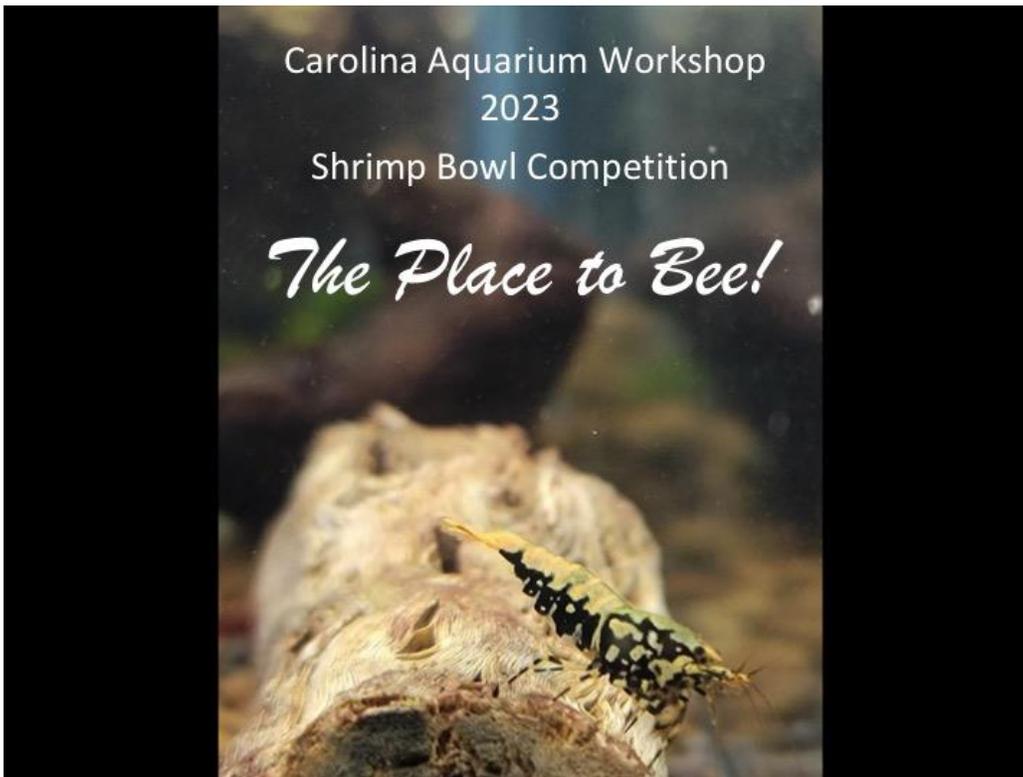


Photo provided by DeSoDo

## Vendors

Vendors may offer Pre-Order Items.  
Please support them because they support us!

Business Name	Website	Email
Saburai Aquatics	<a href="https://saburainyaquatics.com/">https://saburainyaquatics.com/</a>	Sabuy6@gmail.com
JD Aquatics	<a href="https://jdaquatics.com/">https://jdaquatics.com/</a>	JDAquatics@yahoo.com
Sum Fins Fishy	<a href="https://www.sumfinsfishy.com/">https://www.sumfinsfishy.com/</a>	SumFinsFishyAquatics@gmail.com
I Wet My Plants	<a href="https://iwetmyplantsaquatics.com/">https://iwetmyplantsaquatics.com/</a>	Support@iwetmyplantsaquatics.com
Carolina Axolotls	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Carolinaaxolotls/">https://www.facebook.com/Carolinaaxolotls/</a>	CarolinaAxolotls@gmail.com
Dubey's Pet World	<a href="https://www.dubeypets.com/">https://www.dubeypets.com/</a>	Dubeysonlinesales@gmail.com
NC Bettas and Fish	<a href="https://www.ncbettafish.com/">https://www.ncbettafish.com/</a>	TuTran2756040@yahoo.com

If you run across interesting articles and/or video's, please send a pointer to the article to [newsletter@ras.groups.io](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.raleighaquariumsociety.org)