



The Raleigh Aquarium Society

P.O. Box 31564, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-1564
<http://www.raleighaquariumsociety.org>
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November 1st, 2007

Next Meeting: Thursday @7:30pm November 1st, 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

CHARACINS... That's Tetras for you in Rio Linda!

The Neon tetra is still one of the most desired fish in the hobby. Neons and many other small schooling fish belong to a group of fish called Characins... tetras. Although they become food for many a predator, tetras possess numerous traits and attributes to help them survive and to endear them to aquarists all over the world. Todd Wenzel has collected both neons and cardinals in the wild and will talk about these fascinating fish. You'll hear about the pluses and minuses, feeding, breeding and more. Y'all come!

Monthly Feature

Aqua Fest 2007
By Christine Duncan

This year I made it to my first PVAS Aqua fest. It was actually a great example of what different types of Aquarium clubs can do when they join together for the greater good of the hobby. This year's event was co-sponsored by the Potomac Valley Aquarium Society, the Greater Washington Aquatic Plants Association, and the Capital Cichlid Association. They all did a great job.

Eric Do from California did a program on freshwater invertebrates. Any one who has tried to learn anything about the fresh water shrimp that have been showing up more and more in the LPS would be able to tell you that most of what is in the hobby right now are actually color variants

that the Asian hobbyists have been perfecting for years. And which I learned can be bought and sold in Asia for hundreds if not thousands of dollars depending on the grade and/or the rarity of the shrimp. For example with the Crystal Red Shrimp the best grade is SS+. But they have taken this shrimp and bred totally white shrimp, black and white shrimp called tiger shrimp, Christmas tree green shrimp, etc. He showed us one that was perfectly divided in half so that if you were to look down on it from above you would think that some one had taken a knife and split a Crystal red and a black tiger shrimp in half and glued 2 halves together to make one. It was that perfectly colored. I've also learned that my cherry red shrimp actually do better in very soft acidic water, and that Crystal reds do better in more neutral water. And that Amano shrimp really do need a brackish water phase to morph into adult shrimp.

And remember that black hair algae problem that several of us have? Well, he says you can spot treat it with Excel from Seachem and just let your amino, cherry or crystal shrimps eat it off after it's turned white. It seems they really like it after it's turned white even though they don't do much with it in the black state.

Rusty Wessel did a very interesting presentation on his collecting trips to Honduras. He has gone several times over the years and is very knowledgeable on the various fish to include the Honduran Red Point (which has just recently been officially described now) that while it is similar to a bluish convict, it has a much nicer disposition and is actually a very pretty fish when in its breeding colors. On this last one he had pictures of several as yet un-described live bearers including some really pretty mollies. He had only brought a few to Sunday's auction. Hopefully as he continues to work with them they will be more readily available to the hobby. I missed the talk Tony Orso did on West African Fishes, but his program on "What's New" was very interesting though it made me believe I need to start a local chapter of fish keepers anonymous because there were too many that I wanted and not enough aquariums time or man hours to keep them all.

While the judging was being done the guys from the Greater Washington Aquatic Plants Assoc did an actual, hand on demonstration on aqua-scaping your planted tank. It was so good I couldn't tell you if they intended it for the new hobbyist or the old pro. They answered all our questions, showed us some new products that have come out (for ex: the makers of Fluorite now make a cool black sand type substrate which they used in their demonstration tank) and explained why they were using the plants they were using and their care and what we could substitute in our various tanks based on lighting, Co2, etc. They also recommended the spot treatment with Excel for black hair algae when someone asked about that problem (2 different programs both recommending spot treating with Excel, I picked up a bottle while at Scales). The demo tank was raffled off during Sunday's Auction. Unfortunately I didn't win it but I did win a plant package donated by their club members which has now graced several tanks and a new used hexagonal tank I picked up at the auction and which has found space in my living room despite serious threats from Mitch about bringing home another tank. (Mitch can be bribed). Mitch is now the proud owner of 2 pigeon blood bringing home another tank. (Mitch can be bribed). Mitch is slowly morphing into a hobbyist too.

Trading Post

Andrew from Scales is interested in coming to our swap meet and says:

Here's what we can do for a RAS discus group buy from Discus Hans USA. First, see his gallery of available fish at <http://www.carboplus.nl/hans/prijsuk.htm>. Note the available sizes; not all strains are available in the small sizes. For all strains, 2.5" fish would be \$25.00; for 3" fish \$45.00. 4" fish of the "common" strains would be \$70.00: Brilliant Turq, Blue Diamond, Cobalt, Alenquer, Santerem, Pigeon Blood Red or Blue, Red Turq, Flachen, Red Scribbelt, Marlboro Red. 4" fish of the "premium" strains would be \$90.00: Fire Red, Snakeskin Red or Blue, Silver Pigeon, Pigeon x Flachen, Snakeskin x Flachen.

From Frank Montillo:

At the swap meet I plan to sell 3 different male and female pairs of peacocks cichlids, electric blue ahlis male and female, yellow labido cichlids male and females, lelupeis, daffodiles, red rainbows male and females and large gold angels.

From Chris Duncan:

I, myself plan to bring several different types of Killifish, guppies, half moon betas, Silver koi angels, peacock gudgeons, a pair or trio Geophagus sp. Baja and several other fish and plants from my aquarium room so I can make space for every one that needs to winter indoors. If you have any special requests just email me at swampwaterwitch@yahoo.com

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. 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 5655 Western Boulevard, Suite A, Raleigh 27606 (10%) **919.233.1122**

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

Infinity Pets 100 W Main St Suite C, Youngsville NC 27596 (10%) **919.570.3039**

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 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