



The Raleigh Aquarium Society

P.O. Box 31564, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-1564
<http://www.raleighaquariumsociety.org>
raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com

September 6th, 2007

Next Meeting: Thursday @7:30pm October 4th, 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

Mycobacteriosis ("Fish TB") is More Common Than You Think.

Diana Walstad, a microbiologist at heart, will describe her experience with a recent mycobacteriosis disease outbreak in her tanks. Also, she will present novel information about the ecology of the causative bacteria. Hobbyists can use this information to prevent and/or manage the disease. Anyone keeping, breeding or selling fish needs to know about mycobacteriosis!

If you get TFH, check out her article (June 2007 issue). Just like the brine shrimp stuff, the talk will probably be controversial.

Monthly Feature

Macrognathus Siamensis, The Peacock Eel

by Genn Brewer



This peacock eel is sifting through plants and gravel in search of food.

This month I've decided to pick a more unusual fish to write about. The peacock eel, *Macrognathus Siamensis*, is commonly found in pet shops throughout the US. It is, in fact, not an eel at all, but a fish. The reason eel is applied to this fish is, obviously, due to the elongated body of the fish giving it an eel-like appearance. It can be shy depending on its surroundings and is of a highly gentle nature. Though it can be kept singly it prefers the company of others of its species. When kept in groups they can sometimes be seen together in a single hiding spot, many heads sticking out of a hole in a piece of driftwood, pipe or whatever, turning left and right in unison as they observe their surroundings.

The peacock eel is native to Peninsular and Southeast Asia, more specifically Maeklong, Mekong and Chao Phraya, Thailand. In 1861 it was described by Günther as a tropical freshwater species preferring a pH of 6.7 to 7.9, GH around 7 and a temperature of 73-82°F. In nature specimens of no longer than 15 inches have been found, but in captivity it generally does not exceed 8 inches. It prefers slow moving to standing waters where it hides in the substrate, thick vegetation or any small protective hole with its head protruding outward during the day and usually emerges to eat at dusk. It forages along the bottom, poking its snout into the substrate in search of insect larvae, small crustaceans and worms. In Thailand it is commonly released into domestic ponds where it is left to multiply on its own and routinely harvested for the market and sold as food or to the aquatic industry.

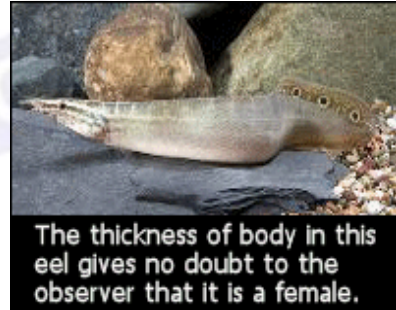


This fish makes an ideal and interesting inhabitant for the community aquarium. It should be kept with other peaceful species and, due to its having a comparatively small mouth for its size, can be housed with fish as small as zebra danios and guppies. Once accustomed to their surroundings they can be taught to take food from your fingers. These fish are also quite curious and can be seen intently watching your every move when you appear within range. It should be noted that these fish are jumpers and a good solid lid should be kept on their aquarium to keep them from escaping. I've had peacock eels escape through small holes in which I thought there was no way

possible for them to get through. In the well planted aquarium these fish become bolder and can be seen routinely patrolling the surface of the substrate poking their nose into it here and there in search of food.

I have kept this species for 8 years now and, off and on, for the last 5 years I have been attempting to spawn them so that I could document the entire process. During this time I have had but one spawn and of course it was the one unintentional time in a community aquarium. I thought the fish too immature to spawn and was sadly mistaken. The eggs were quickly consumed not long after being laid by a pair of 3 inch *Ctenopoma*. It seems spawning is triggered by heavy feedings of live foods, in this case red worms, warm temperatures and biweekly water changes. I currently have 5 young peacock eels with a sex ration of 3 males to 2 females. I shall be attempting to spawn them quite soon so cross your fingers for me and hope I succeed.

In captivity breeding these fish is highly uncommon. They are not easily sexed when young, but once they reach about 6 inches females can be distinguished only by their thicker body size. Of the few recorded incidents of captive spawning, most have been done in laboratories under non natural conditions, using hormones and removing the eggs soon after they are laid. Reports of spawning in the home aquarium have been unintentional occurrences in community settings. When spawning the female will lead a chase around the aquarium laying eggs among the leaves of plants and roots closely followed by one or more males who fertilize the eggs quickly in the continuous pursuit of the female. The eggs can be anywhere from clear to greenish in coloration. The parents have been observed guarding the eggs, but not much has been recorded beyond that point as the eggs are commonly eaten by other tank inhabitants before they can hatch.



The thickness of body in this eel gives no doubt to the observer that it is a female.

Another note on this species is that specimens sold in the hobby are caught from the wild and regardless of where you receive them from should be kept in quarantine for a month and treated for diseases, internal and external parasites. The first specimen I purchased died within a week after I brought him home from a tape worm infestation of all things. Thankfully I already had him quarantined at the time, as is my habit with new fish. The tapeworm had crawled from the mouth of the fish after its death and not long after died itself. I will not hesitate to say that this grossed me out quite a bit and I hope never to have this experience again. However, this should not deter you from adding this altogether unique and fascinating species to your own collection as it is a worthwhile and interesting species to own.

Other Stuff

Up Coming Swap Meet Information

We will also be previewing the letter and other things that must be sent out before our first ever swap meet this November so please plan on participating in that. Some things have changed that I believe you will like.

Dear Fellow Hobbyist,

The North Jersey Aquarium Society (NJAS), in partnership with Tropical Fish hobbyist Magazine (TFH), will be hosting the first-ever **Salt Meets Fresh Mega Weekend** event on October 26-28, 2007 in East Hanover, New Jersey. This event will be at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, with a special discounted room rate for participants. We invite you to join us for this amazing weekend! Please announce this event to your club members.

I have attached a press release and the advertisement that will appear in the next two issues of TFH. Please feel free to distribute them, post them on your website and/or use them in your newsletters. This event is going to be fantastic! Hope to see you there.

Sarah Molnoski
Donation Chairman and Board of Directors
North Jersey Aquarium Society
www.njas.net

Beth Ann Bates
North Jersey Aquarium Society
Public Relations Chairperson
Cell phone: 973-650-8050

[Second Annual CAAS Auction - September 22, 2007](#)

We would like to let everyone know that the **Charlotte Area Aquarist Society (CAAS)** will be hosting our second Charlotte (NC) Fish Auction. You do **NOT** have to be a CAAS member to participate and the public is welcome. CAAS is very proud to offer the 2nd annual Auction. The official date of this event will be September 22, 2007 at the Morris Field American Legion conveniently located on West Tyvola Road in Charlotte, NC. A printable auction registration form and auction rules will available at this site in the coming months.

Are there fish you have always wanted? This is going to be the place to get the fish of your dreams or find the bargain of the year. The best breeders will be here from the Southeast (NC, SC, TN & GA). There is no cost to attend the auction. The split for the sellers will be 70% to the seller and 30% to the Club. Come to Auction 2007 and make your fish dreams come true! If you own a fish tank, you owe it to yourself to find out what a fish auction is like and see the kinds of great fish and deals are available.

Auction Chairman 2007
Paul Velasco

Details

Date: September 22, 2007

Location:

American Legion Hall
4300 West Tyvola Road
Charlotte, NC 28208

Saturday Auction:

10:00 AM - 12:00PM- Registration

11:30 AM - Auction begins

Contact Information:

Paul Velasco

704-258-0013

velasco@aol.com (Place CAAS Auction in
subject line)

Trading Post

Todd & Dee Wenzel

402 Adrian Dr.

Garner, NC 27529

919-329-9326

Has One Male Juli Transcriptus kissi that is looking for companionship.

Brandon Berry has tons of coral frags to trade. To see pictures and for more information visit:

<http://www.carolinafishtalk.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=2045>

Caulerpa and Chaetomorpha macroalgae also available.

Anthony Has a great deal e-mail to supercharged90mustang@yahoo.com

have a 120 gallon All Glass Black trim aquarium for sale. 60" x 18" x 26". It was purchased from Petsmart about 10 months ago for \$329.99 plus tax.

Asking \$210 aquarium ONLY, NO stand/canopy/ filters etc.

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*

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

[Aquatic Concepts](#) 4221 Garrett Road Durham, NC **919.489.901**

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

[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, 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