

Raleigh Aquarium Society

News

May, 2005

(Ever wanted to build your own aquarium stand?)

*Next Meeting:
Thursday,
May 5th @ 7:30pm*



Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at the N.C. State Veterinary Medical College 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

Tom Ferone will be presenting

"Designing and Building Aquarium Stands."

Yep, if you've ever thought "I wish I could just build my OWN stand, in the style and size of my choosing", you'll want to attend this meeting. For those who want a sneak preview, check out pics of Tom's tank and elegant stand at www.dreamshopwoodworks.com.

Future Speakers for our Meetings: If you know of anyone who would be willing to give a talk at one of our meetings, **please** contact Gerald Pottorn at gpottorn@rjgaCarolina.com or Patricia Ceger at raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com

Newsletter Articles: If you or someone you know would like to have their work or aquarium pictures featured in the newsletter, **please** contact Patricia Ceger at raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com

Monthly Feature:

Landscaping for Africans:

By Sal Nortarmaso and Patricia Ceger

Landscaping for Africans can be a bit of a challenge. If you dream of a lush, heavily planted tank, don't expect to keep Africans in it. The Africans will thrive, and the plants will be eaten, dug up and torn to bits.

You may then want to add in your background before setting up the tank, since it will be easier to manipulate and move the tank now than it will be after it is set up. Some people do not use a background, but it does help to provide the illusion of greater depth in the tank. For Africans, a backdrop of rockwork and sand or gravel might be naturalistic, but some people recommend a black background, which they believe "keeps the algae from growing". In addition, a single color background can be painted on, which is cheaper than buying the paper backgrounds, and will not be damaged by spills and humidity.

Next consider your substrate. I keep a coral based gravel, mixed with a natural sand color not to distract from the fish. I just have found out something with a new tank I set up with sand, real fine Graphite coral sand. It is so tight that it causes all the waste to stay above the sand. The waste then rolls around and breaks up and the filter then picks up all the waste and the tank stay very clear, and keeps a high PH.

Once the background and the gravel are in place, it is time to consider the internal decorations. Remember, caves and hiding places are essential! These are scrappy, territorial fish, and unless you are only going to keep one fish per tank, you'll need to have places for each fish to call its own. I live by a lake and use it as my source for attractive rocks. I get nice rock with a little digging close to the bank, in all colors and shapes. If you specifically want nice long, flat rocks, find where the water comes into the lake and the rock will be flatter and longer.

Once you have your rock, you can start to stack it up and arrange it into interesting piles and caves. To keep it in place, you can try burying parts of the rock deep in the gravel, or you can glue the rocks together with aquarium silicon. Leave some empty space in the foreground and/or middle of the tank for the fish to swim in. This also has the advantage of putting some space between territories. A nice piece of driftwood can be added to the tank, if you prefer the way it looks.

If you really want to have some plants in the tank, there are one or two candidates that might work. There are accounts of African keepers being able to keep Java Fern and/or Anubias in African tanks. The leaves of both plants are very thick, and are reputed to be unpalatable to Africans, except for the most diehard herbivores. If you choose to add these plants, do not bury their rhizomes in the substrate. Instead, try tying them to piece of rock or driftwood, or place them in the crevice between two pieces of rock. If you aren't willing to go live, or have fish that will view even java fern as a nice green snack, go plastic, but try not to have too many colors. Try to stick with the natural colors (unless you really want a screaming magenta plant), only use 3 colors tops. I would also recommend that you only use sizes too, and place the long one to hide the heater and filter tubes and temp gauges.

Now that your tank is decorated, you are ready to add some filtration. Africans need a high oxygen content, so consider adding an air stone in addition to your other filtration. You will also want to make sure that you have a good flow rate, not only to provide aeration, but so your filter can work well to pick up all wastes, rather than letting them sink deep into the gravel.

Enjoy your new African tank!

Trading Post

To advertise please send the information to raleighaquariumsociety@yahoo.com. Please send all trading post items by noon on the Wednesday before the first Thursday of the month in order to get them in that month's newsletter.

Gerald Pottern – Seeking Moina, male Neoheterandria elegans and Thick-wall Styro Lab shipping boxes, 1 quart to 3 gal capacity.

Has the following for sale: Crystal red bee shrimp, *Neocaridina serrata* -- \$4 ea

Pearl shrimp, *Neocaridina denticulata* -- \$4 ea

Mexican dwarf orange crayfish, *Cambarellus zempoalensis* -- \$6 ea

Lattice dwarf cichlid, *Nannacara taenia* -- \$4 ea unsexed, \$12 pair

Kribensis, *Pelvicachromis pulcher* (1/2 to 1 inch) -- \$1.50 ea

(colorful strain w/ lots of tail spots on both sexes)

Julidochromis ornatus (good color) - \$6 ea - young

Red badis, *Badis burmanicus (ruber)*, adult males - \$4 ea (more coming soon)

Guppies - 1/2 black with turquoise, blue, & red tails, green/turquoise head & dorsal - \$4 /pair

Emerald betta, *Betta smaragdina* -- adult females \$3 ea (more coming soon)

Least "killifish", *Heterandria formosa* (a livebearer, not killie) - \$4 /pair

Longear sunfish, *Lepomis megalotis* (SW Missouri) - Free babies

Live foods - Philodina freshwater rotifers, grindal worms

Free Plants -- Java moss, Java fern, *Najas guadalupensis*, Frogbit (*Limnobium*)

– Contact him at gpottern@rjgacarolina.com, 556-8845

Lisa Warren has the following for sale: 1-100gallon long with on oceanic wooden stand
1-180 gallon on wooden stand
1-55 gallon
several 20 longs (2 on metal stand)
2 40 long tanks on wooden stand(custom made)
no reasonable offer will be refused
regular bristle nose plecos Small 3.00 each
albino bristle nose plecos small 6.00 each lg males 8.00
2 blue discus 1 large 20.00 1 med 15.00
1 discus 15.00
4 clown loaches 2 large 1 med and 1 small
4 queen botias 8.00 each
4 lelupi
Contact her at jecawarren@yahoo.com

John Patterson - frozen brine shrimp, mysis shrimp, bloodworms, and krill for \$9 a lb.
Blackworms (excellent) – contact for price jrpatter@hotmail.com 919-264-4011

Sal Notarmaso – has: Obediean, lake victoria, -best offer or trade
yellow Lamp. best offer or trade
Kenyi, Lobardi best offer or trade
yellow Peacocks males \$15, females \$8
blue peacocks males \$15
Angels- gold marble, best offer or trade contact sal at 383-3131 or snotmaso@nc,rr.com

Brandon Berry – Seeking microworm cultures. – contact him at brandonberry@cox.net

Jason Wessendorf has the following for sale: red cherry shrimp for \$2.50. He is seeking Tiger shrimp - caridina sp. "tiger". Contact him at jakedzz@adelphia.net

Liston Cyrus has 2 inch Mpimbe Frontosa (F1). \$8
Contact him at (919) 404-6238 or liston.a.cyrus@gsk.com

Check out our yahoo group "raleighaquariumsociety". Feel free to post items for sale or trade as well as any other aquarium related discussion.

Aquatips

This month's topic:

Preventing Aggression in your tank(s).

Please bear in mind that these are tips based on the past experience of others. They are not guaranteed to work for you.

- 1) **Include as many hiding spaces as possible.**
- 2) **Try breaking up lines of sight. For many fish, out of sight=out of mind.**
- 3) **If possible, have all of the fish be the same size.**
- 4) **Keep an eye out for spawning activity. Many otherwise peaceful fish will turn into Freddy Krueger at mating time.**
- 5) **For mouth brooders, remove momma to her own tank until the fry are on their own.**
- 6) **For fish that care for their young, consider removing the non-caregiver parent from the tank, to prevent attacks from the caregiver.**
- 7) **Keep an eye on watching water quality. Weaker fish will suffer sooner than the more dominant ones and will get picked on.**

Club Sponsors

(The following businesses give *RAS* members a discount on purchases)

Aquatica	5533 NC Hwy 42-W, A-16, Garner	(10%)
Carolina Pet Supply	322 McCormick Street, Garner	(10%)
Creative Pet	1350 E Broad St, Fuquay Varina	(10%)
Critter Country, Inc.	14 Technology Drive, Garner	(10%)
Fish Pros	5221 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh	(10%)
Pet Mania	All Area Locations	(10%)
Pet Paradise	9101-141 Leesville Road, Raleigh	(10%)
Triangle Tropical Fish	3600 N. Duke St., Suite 36, Durham	(10%) (Excludes Aquariums and hoods)

You may be asked to show your RAS membership card.

Please contact Patricia Ceger 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*