



The Raleigh Aquarium Society

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

December 7th 2006 Meeting

Next Meeting: Thursday @7:30pm

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

"Don't forget that our traditional "Holidays" Meeting/Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2006. (Yes, it's here already!) The club will furnish the meat (ham and turkey), drinks and all of the eating utensils. We ask that the members each bring a "covered dish" (i.e., some kind of other good food) and/or desert (or both!) to share with everyone. Spouses and children are encouraged to attend this event. Todd Wenzel will have an extra large raffle for this holiday meeting so mark the date on your calendar now so you won't forget!

It's our last meeting of 2006 so you won't want to miss out! Also, Just a reminder that nominations and elections of officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) for next year will be held at the January meeting. Starting thinking about the nominations you'd like to make for these offices now and be sure to attend the January meeting and cast your vote for next year's officers!"

Hey Chris, Please Post:

Hello everyone from the VP chair. I mentioned this last meeting but wanted to make this official. I'd like to take the Program chair job but can't do that and VP. One of you will have to step up to handle the raffles (VP's job). You'll have to store the yearly raffle items, conduct monthly raffles (or delegate if you can't make it) and (once in a great while) stand in for the Pres. when she's out of town. Pretty simple. Think about it.

In exchange I'll take the responsibility to bring in some varied and interesting speakers for the coming year(s). Todd

Monthly Feature

Most Everything I know about Pseudepiplatys Annulatus
Or The Clown Killifish

By Christine Duncan

When I became the RAS secretary I warned all and sundry that if no one contributed to the article section of the news letter you would get what interested me most at the time. I keep around 60 actual aquariums in my home and the majority of these are now filled with Killies. So today's topic will be about one of my favorite fish, the clown killifish Pseudepiplatys Annulatus.

I acquired my first 2 pairs through Aqua Bid from a gentleman that sells direct wild caught African imports. He told me my fish came from Guinea. I spent at least 2 months just trying to find some so I had plenty of time to do some species research (mainly via Internet) prior to my acquisition.

These are lovely little fish. They are usually no longer than 3.5 cm. (or 1.5 in). Annulatus means rings in English. And they can best be described as having alternating chocolate brown and cream colored rings. They rather resemble a clown loach. Except of course daintier with a rather unique flare of their own. A tail that suddenly has a red stripe down the middle ending in a pintail and the most startling iridescent blue eyes.

Their native habitat is actually quite varied as they are found in brackish coastal area pools and have been collected from rainforest and savannah pools to smaller streams and quieter areas of small rivers. Scheel states their water as being "rather hot, shallow, and usually stagnant and probably soft and acid." Another writer states that they benefit from a little direct sunlight daily. Some one else stated they spawn best in colonies. So that was why I bought as many as I could afford at the time.

With this information in mind I set my 2 happy couples up in a bare bottom 5 gal tank with lots of plants especially floating plants (Todd's Frog bit and Gerald's Guppy grass). My tap water comes out at 7 to 7.2 and quickly drops to 6.4 or even 6 so I have no problems raising soft acid water loving fish. I put them on the top shelf of my rack close to the shop light so they would have good light and be nice and warm. The next thing was to start conditioning them. They arrived incredibly small the largest male was just at half an inch. So I began them on BBS and micro worms. They thrived on this but, variety in a diet is the best diet so I slowly began getting them used to eating flake and frozen foods too (they didn't like none moving food). Then as the summer progressed and they grew they also got grindle worms, and mosquito larva because that was all I could grow despite the many daphnia cultures Todd gave me to start. Now they come to the front and beg like puppies.

My babies proved again that if you make their environment right they will get down to breeding lickedy split and they did. They are a mop spawning non annual sp. And are easy to breed but only lay a few eggs daily when they're in the mood and every other day to once or twice a week if they aren't. I had already given up trying to collect the eggs from the mops of the F. gardneri. Makurdi I had gotten from Ken at Infinity Pets. Ken had told me the simplest thing was to just change out the mops so this is what I do with all my mop or leaf breeding Killies now. So much less work!!! But to prevent any hybrids Todd advised boiling them between uses so as not to accidentally mix species and it has the side benefit of preventing you from accidentally introducing a disease or parasite between tanks.

When the first eggs began hatching I was amazed that anything that small could be called a fish. Luckily I had green water on hand so they didn't starve. Now I keep a culture of rotifers that

Gerald gave me going and cultures of micro worms and vinegar eels I got from somebody via the internet. They aren't incredibly fast growers so they have to stay on the micro diet for a couple of weeks before they can graduate to BBS. Also because their parents are laying just a few eggs a day you will see big differences in the fry size by the end of the first and second weeks. Because the larger fry will eat the smaller fry I graduate them up to different plastic shoe boxes as their sizes increase. I have also found that because of the fry's tendency to be just top feeders for the first month or two of their lives it is best to keep the water levels at about an inch so they have a better chance of finding their food. Even as they grown they will not go to the bottom of any tank to look for food, though they will chase live food to the bottom. I believe this is because in their world they are primarily insectivores and are constantly roaming the Lillie pads looking for that next mosquito larva that has to come up to breath.

Another way to breed them is to just leave them alone in a very heavily planted tank and you will eventually have doubled your population in about six months or so. But if I were going to do this as a breeding plan I would definitely move the colony into a 20 gal long tank with a ton of floating plants. I have found many a large fry in the breeding colony that hasn't been eaten by any of his family members until it was too late because he grew too big to be dinner. This happened more often when there were fewer such young ones in the tank. Actually the breeding adults just ignore the fry while you can watch the non breeding sub-adults actively try to chase down and consume their brethren. It's like Qui-Gon Jinn said ..."there's always a bigger fish."

I hope to eventually convert a large number of you into killie fanatics so that I will eventually have many other people to talk and trade killies with. Mean while if you have a fish that you are passionate about send me what you know about your fish and we can share it with the rest of the club. For example I don't know about rainbows... What's the fascination about them??

Trading Post

John Patterson has frozen foods, bloodworms and brine shrimp \$9 a lb. He also has some more of that floating fingerling starter pellet for \$5 a pound.

Frank Monteillo 556-9004 has the following for sale red rainbow fish, Large Gold Angels, African cichlids including yellow labidochromis, lelupei, red zebras, daffodils, and electric blue ahli.

Gerald Pottorn has for sale or trade:

Synodontis petricola 1" \$5 ea, 2-3" \$10 ea

Pseudotropheus demasoni 1 adult \$5

Kribensis \$10/pair, \$2 extra males

Crystal red bee shrimp \$3 Cherry shrimp \$2

Okefenokee pygmy sunfish \$6/pair, \$1 unsexed

Emperor tetras, large males \$3

Emerald betta (smaragdina) , \$10/pair, \$4 extra male

Free Live Foods: grindal/white worms, earthworms, moina, daphnia, rotifers 919-556-8845

gbpottorn@yahoo.com

Christine Duncan has young pairs of F. Garnderi Makurdi, young pairs of Pseudepiplatys Annulatus yellow snakeskin guppies white cloud mountain minnows 2 breeding pairs of angel fish and various color varieties of juvenile angels. I live in the Garner area. 919 662 8537. or 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*

[Aqua Escape](#) 200 West Peace St, Suite 130, Raleigh (10%) **919.755.0400**

[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