



January 09, 2007

tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

Monday – Friday 11am-7pm
Saturday 10am-6pm
Sundays 1pm-5pm

Our new Sunday hours are permanent!
We are here for you 7 days a week!

Water Shortage at Tideline

Many of our customers purchase their aquarium water from us each time they perform a partial water change. If you did not know, we sell regular freshwater, regular saltwater, reverse osmosis (R/O) freshwater and reverse osmosis (R/O) saltwater. Normally we have plenty of water to supply our customers and us but our R/O Membranes in our water treatment system have become clogged and have to be replaced. This caused a temporary shortage on water we can sell. New membranes are arriving on Thursday, which will allow us to again produce over 100 gallons of usable water per day. If you are in need of water this weekend, we suggest you call the store and reserve the amount of water you will need as we are backlogged on water orders. If you have already placed a water order, you will get first priority. If not, just call the store and we will hold the water order for you. Once we get through this weekend, we should not have a

problem keeping up with the water demands of our customers.

If you were unaware that we sold water, you just need to call and place an order. We sell regular freshwater that has been completely treated, buffered and heated, regular saltwater mixed to a salinity of 1.020, treated and heated, reverse osmosis freshwater for use in topping off reef aquariums and reverse osmosis saltwater mixed to a salinity of 1.024 for use in doing partial water changes on reef aquariums. All you need to bring with you is a container for us to place the water. Unused plastic gas containers work best though clean buckets will do the job as well. Here is how the water is priced:

REGULAR FRESHWATER	\$0.30/GAL.
REGULAR SALWATER	\$1.05/GAL.
R/O FRESHWATER	\$0.60/GAL.
R/O SALTWATER	\$1.50/GAL.

Selling premixed water is just another convenience we offer to save you time when performing maintenance on your aquarium.

LOCAL CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

Have a reef aquarium? Check out our local reef club at: www.charlestonreefers.org

Love water gardens and koi? Visit the Charleston Showa Koi Club website at:
www.charlestonshowakoiclub.org

Fish of the Week



GERMAN BLUE RAM (MICROGEOPHAGUS RAMIREZI)

Freshwater aquarium owners are always jealous of the brightly colored saltwater fish they cannot have in their aquariums. Well here is a chance at an incredibly brightly colored freshwater fish that works well in certain community aquariums. The Blue Ram (*Microgeophagus ramirezi*) used to be classified as a finicky and delicate fish but with the hybridization of this species, they are much hardier now. These fish should be kept by aquarium owners that are willing to do their monthly 25% partial water changes and avoided by owners that do not do much maintenance on their aquarium. German Blue Rams need soft water (most Charleston Area water is soft), temperature around 80-85 degrees with a pH of 6.5 – 7.5. These fish prefer mellow tank mates like peaceful tetras, rasboras, dwarf gouramis and the like. They can be housed with angelfish and discus as they prefer similar water conditions. Feed rams a mixture of a quality flake food supplemented with bloodworms and brine shrimp. Rams will NOT tolerate aquarium water loaded with organics so keep up with your partial water changes and carbon replacement. If

kept in pairs, German Blue Rams will spawn in the aquarium, especially if the aquarium is well planted and/or has small caves for them to place their eggs. Rams are excellent parents and can become quite belligerent to any fish that comes to close to their nest. Males are easily distinguished from the females. Male rams have elongated rays on the dorsal fin (see photo, male on right) while the females are plumper with a pale pink patch on the side of the fish (see photo, female on left). These fish get their name from the way the male's head butt one another when showing off for females or to establish dominance with one another. Adult German Blue Rams reach about 2.5" in length making them a good addition to even a smaller aquarium. Tideline Aquatics carries rams on a regular basis and we strongly recommend this beautiful fish.



Tis The Season – Ich on Freshwater and Saltwater Fish

With the temperature outside bouncing from warm to cold and then somewhere in between, your aquarium can sometimes suffer from an unexpected temperature fluctuation that can cause your fish to break out with the most common fish

disease, ich (*ICHTHYOPHTHIRIUS*). Here we will discuss how your fish develop the problem and then how to cure it.

Common Causes: stress from temperature fluctuations, poor water quality, incompatibility, new fish additions.

Warning Signs: clamped fins, swimming constantly into the water flow, rubbing and/or scratching on the gravel/ornaments, small white salt-like spots on the body and/or fins. The spots are actually cysts that fall off the fish releasing numerous free-swimming parasites into the water that attack the fish's gills. Each time this happens, the aquarium becomes more infested with these parasites and they eventually overcome the fish's ability to fight off the disease, killing all of the inhabitants.

Treatment for Freshwater: use a product like Quick Cure (we have found this to be one of the best treatments in freshwater). It is inexpensive and when used early, it often cures the disease within 3-5 days. As with any treatment, remove any activated carbon (charcoal) from the filter. Use 1 drop of Quick Cure per gallon of actual aquarium water for most fish or 1 drop for every 2 gallons in aquariums that contain sensitive species like tetras, loaches, black ghost knives, elephant noses, etc. The parasites can be eradicated more quickly if you turn up the aquarium heater to bring the water temperature to 82-84 degrees. The parasites cannot be killed when they are in the cysts stage of the life cycle. They can only be killed with the free-swimming parasites are released. The treatment must be continued until all signs of white spots

are gone from the fish. After the treatment has ended, perform a 25% partial water change with treated water that is the same temperature as your aquarium. Over several days, you can slowly lower the heater setting on the heater until your aquarium returns to the normal temperature. Here is a helpful hint when using medications that are dosed by the drop – there are 100 drops in a teaspoon!

Treatment for Saltwater: the use of a copper treatment is the only method we have found to always work when treating marine ich. In an aquarium that contains **NO** live rock, sharks, stingrays or invertebrates (shrimp, anemones, live corals, etc) the use of a copper treatment like Cupramine or Copper Power is suggested. Remove all activated carbon (charcoal), polyfilter resinated pad and turn off UV sterilizers if you have one. Copper must be added per the directions on the bottle on the initial dose. Depending on which copper product you use will determine what level of copper must remain in the water. For Cupramine, the level should remain at .5-.6ppm and for Copper Power, the level should remain at 2.5ppm. Copper treatments are useless if the proper level of copper is not maintained. Too little copper will not kill the parasites but too much copper will kill the fish! You should bring in a water sample from your tank at least once per week during the treatment so the copper level can be tested. We will instruct you on how much copper to add after each copper test. Copper treatments must be run at least 21 – 30 days to ensure that all of the parasites are eradicated. The parasites cannot be killed as long as they are in the cyst stage (white spots) on the fish. Now this may sound difficult but we

assure you that we have found ALL other marine ich treatments to be poor at successfully treating marine ich. Once the treatment has ended, perform a 25% partial water change and add a copper removing product like Polyfilter and/or activated carbon back to the filtration system. Once all copper is removed, it will be safe to add invertebrates back into the aquarium. Do not plug in UV sterilizers until all of the copper has been removed.

Of course the best chance of your aquarium not developing parasites is to be aware of the causes. Maintain a constant house temperature so that the aquarium heaters will keep the water temperature stable. Maintain proper water quality by testing your aquarium water at least once per month and by performing regular 25% partial water changes. When adding new fish to your aquarium, acclimate them properly to avoid stress from changes in water conditions. Watch new additions closely to ensure the fish already present in the aquarium is not attacking them. In a saltwater aquarium, always quarantine new fish before adding them to your main aquarium, especially if it is a reef aquarium where a copper treatment could not be used if the fish were to break out with parasites.

What's New This Week

FEEDERS: (NOW IN STOCK)

Live Black Worms, Crayfish, Rosy Reds, Guppies, Fiddler Crabs.

FRESHWATER FISH (EXPECTED WEDNESDAY):

Crowntail Male Bettas, Longtail Male Bettas, Banded Butterfly Plecostomus, L201 Snowball Plecostomus, Apistogramma cacatoides 'Brilliant

Red', Spotted Spiny Eels, Zig Zag Eels, Tiretrack Eels, Bumble Bee Gobies, Harlequin Rasboras.

FANCY CHINESE GOLDFISH (NOW IN STOCK):

Large Red & White Telescope Eye Ryunkins, M/L Black Butterfly Moors, Large Red Cap Orandas, Small Celestial Eye Goldfish, Small Assorted Oranda Goldfish, Small Ryunkins.

LIVE AQUATIC AQUARIUM PLANTS (EXPECTED FRIDAY):

Bare Root Amazon Sword Plants, Pygmy Chain Swords (great ground-cover plant), Micro Sword Clumps, Crinum Natans (Rare), Crinum Calamistratum (More Rare), Aponogeton ulvaceous Bulbs, Ammania Bunches, Bacopa Bunches, Cabomba Bunches, Red Narrow Ludwigia Bunches, Moneywort Bunches, Potamogeton gayi Bunches, Water Wisteria Bunches.

SALTWATER FISH (EXPECTED ON WEDNESDAY):

Tank Bred Seahorses, Annularis Angelfish (Indian Ocean), Male Red Lyretail Anthias (Fiji), Ocellaris Clownfish (Sumatra), Clarkii Clownfish (Sri Lanka), Gold Bar Maroon Clownfish (Sumatra), Blk & White Heniochus Butterflyfish (Indian Ocean), Green Chromis (Indian Ocean), Bicolor Blennies (Males from Sri Lanka), Eyelash Blennies (Indian Ocean), Scooter Blennies (Indian Ocean), Firefish Gobies (Indian Ocean), Bumble Bee Gobies (Indian Ocean), Scissortail Gobies (Indian Ocean), Green Mandarin Dragonettes (Indian Ocean), Diamond Sifter Gobies (Sri Lanka), Orange Spot Guttata Gobies (Indian Ocean), Bluespot Watchman Gobies (Indian Ocean), Fuzzy Dwarf Lionfish (Hawaii), Volitan Lionfish (Indian Ocean), Peacock Lionfish (Hawaii), Radiata Lionfish (Indian Ocean), Bluespot Pufferfish (Fiji), Yellow Belly Dogface Pufferfish (Indian Ocean), Stars & Stripes Pufferfish (Indian Ocean), Pajama Cardinalfish (Indian Ocean), Black Indicus Triggerfish (Indian Ocean), Yellow Tangs (Hawaii), Sailfin Tangs (Indian Ocean), Whitespot Kole Tangs (Hawaii), Blue Eye Kole Tangs (Indian Ocean), Clown Tangs (Sri Lanka), Powder Brown Tangs (Indian Ocean), Blueline

Tangs (Indian Ocean), Sixline Wrasses (Fiji), Dragon Wrasses (Hawaii), Candy Hogfish (Fiji), Zebra Moray Eel (Mexico), Banded Cat Shark (Indian Ocean).

SALTWATER INVERTEBRATES (EXPECTED WEDNESDAY):

Snails/Crabs: Cortez Redleg Reef Hermits, Mexican Turbo Snails, Pink Margarita Snails.

Anemones: Flower Anemones, Yellow Flat Anemones (Hawaii), Zebra Long Tentacle Anemones.

Shrimp: Candy Pistol Shrimp, Tiger Pistol Shrimp.

Corals / Polyps: Super Color Cultured Acropora Corals, Neon Green Tree Nephthia Corals, Umbrella Leather Corals, Rabbit Leather Corals (Fiji), Green Mumps Leathers (Fiji), Bisma Christmas Tree Worm Rocks, Orange Tubastrea Corals, Pipe Organ Corals, Cladiella Colt Corals, Assorted Indonesian Mushroom Rocks, Stylocoeniella Corals, Fox Corals, Branching Frogspawn Corals, Branching Hammer Corals, Red & Green Striped Favia Corals, Red Trachophylia Corals.

Other: Pink & Green Knobby Cucumbers, Seahares, Marble Fromia Reef Stars, Red Linkia Reef Stars, Orange Linkia Reef Stars, Sand Sifting Stars.

Check out the new customer photo gallery on our website!!!!

If you have some good photos of your fish, reef, pond or aquarium, please email them to the webmaster at: brian@prybo.com

A new look, fresh information, a question and answer forum, new photos – it is all in the making and changes are occurring. Our new website team seems to be working out very well so be sure and check the website regularly for new updates.

Delta Airline Update

By the way, thank you to everyone that has written and called Delta Airlines about the catastrophe with our shipment week before last. Several Delta representatives that have promised to expedite the claim and get to work on fixing the problems that are occurring at the Atlanta Cargo Facility have personally contacted me. They also provided me with their direct phone and fax numbers in the event that another shipment gets lost in the shuffle, which actually did begin to occur on last week's shipment. I contacted them when the fish did not arrive on the first three flights last week and they were able to get things straightened out. The shipment arrived around 8:30pm and we stayed late and got the fish released from their bags. Sometimes it just takes a little more than one person to get some action and we do appreciate your help!