

February 20, 2007



tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

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

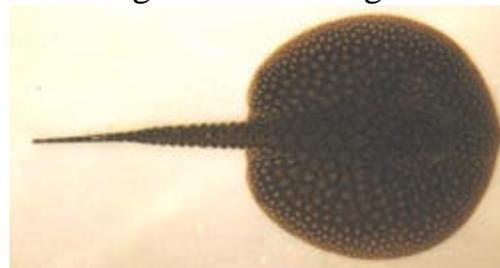
KEEPING FRESHWATER STINGRAYS HEALTHY IN THE AQUARIUM

Freshwater stingrays are quickly becoming one of the favorite creatures to add to the aquarium. Like so many creatures you purchase, some retailers just sell these beautiful creatures to anyone without give them some guidance on what is required to keep them alive. For this discussion, we will cover freshwater rays that are collected in South America, as these are the most commonly available stingrays.

First, do you have the proper set-up to house a freshwater stingray? Stingrays require plenty of room to grow. Most can reach 15” to 24” + in diameter when full size meaning that you will need at least a 125 gallon aquarium to house one of the larger growing stingrays. The aquarium must have a very fine gravel or even better, sand substrate to prevent damage to the rays as they love to bury themselves just under the surface of the substrate. You will also want to ensure that your

aquarium has a large biological filter to maintain proper water conditions.

What water conditions should freshwater rays be kept? The rays that we stock have been acclimated to a pH of 7.0-7.5. Slightly higher and lower pH ranges are acceptable as long as the animal is adjusted to these conditions very slowly. These animals should NEVER be exposed to elevated levels of ammonia, nitrite OR nitrate. If you have a good biological filter, it should take care of the ammonia and nitrite production in an established aquarium. In order to maintain low nitrates (below 20ppm), you should perform a 25% partial water change at least every two weeks. Monthly testing of nitrate levels will let you know if your water changes are frequent enough. Signs of nitrate stress are seen first in the ray’s refusal to feed well. Luckily in the Charleston area, we have very soft water that these South American rays love. Never allow the GH (general hardness) to climb higher than 10 degrees.



RETICULATED OR TEACUP STINGRAY
POTAMOTRYGON RETICULATUS

By now you know if you are ready to own a freshwater stingray but you certainly want to start with a healthy specimen. These rays are almost always wild-collected and they can have any number of problems by the time they reach us, the retailer. Here is what you should look for when purchasing a freshwater ray:

1. Avoid specimens with ANY damage to the tail as this nearly always leads to a fungal infection.
2. Avoid specimens that do not feed at the store. Ask an employee to feed the ray you want and find out what types of foods the ray is accepting.
3. Avoid specimens that appear thin. The area of the ray's body just before the tail begins should be filled out. The pelvic bones will be clearly apparent in malnourished rays.
4. Avoid specimens with light patches on the skin. These patches will often lead to bacterial and/or fungal infections that are difficult to treat.
5. Avoid specimens showing any 'curling' around the perimeter of the disk on the ray. The ray is dying if this happening, often called the death curl.

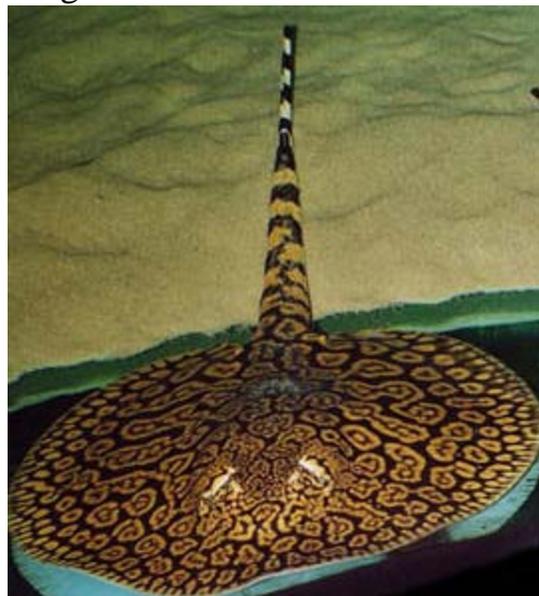


A HEALTHY MOTORO FRESHWATER RAY

Even more common freshwater rays can be expensive. Starting out with a healthy specimen will give you the best chance for success!

What types of fish should you keep with your freshwater stingray? Though rays can be aggressive eaters, if large 'food hog' type fish are housed with your ray, the chances of it surviving are slim as fish like Oscars, Jack Dempseys and other aggressive cichlids will out compete your ray for food. Instead, choose a tank with perhaps an Arowana, large Discus, Uaru, Garfish, Freshwater Baracuda, etc. Once these rays reach a larger size, they will eat small fish! Also, avoid keeping plecostomus with freshwater stingrays, as they are known to suck on the disk of the ray leading to serious skin infections.

Lastly, remember that these animals are venomous! If you are unlucky enough to be hit by the powerful stinger, you will have a newfound respect for your ray. The stinger is used as a defense mechanism and they seldom attempt to purposefully sting their owner BUT if it does happen, you will treat it like a lionfish sting – run the affected area under as hot of water as you can stand. To prevent further complications, you should seek medical attention, especially if you are allergic to stings from other animals or insects.



THE HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER FLOWER OR TIGER FRESHWATER STINGRAY.



A PRISTINE GARDEN POND

CLEAN YOUR POND NOW – LESS TROUBLE LATER!

Start looking out for a warm day and get outside and clean up your garden pond. Remove all leaves, dead plant material and debris from the bottom of the pond. Open up your filters and flush out the accumulated muck. When cleaning your biomedica, be sure to use treated tap water, old pond water or well water to prevent the killing of your biological filter. Drain down your pond approximately 25% to 30%. This will lower your nitrate levels and reduce some of the organics that have been building in the water. Place a bag of quality activated carbon in a nylon bag and place it in an area where water will flow through it. This will remove organics, discolorations and odors from the pond water. If your water is extremely dark tinted, you may have to change out the carbon two or three times to remove all of the accumulated tannins. Flush water through your UV clarifier and clean the quartz sleeve where applicable. Replace your UV lamp if it has been burning more than 12 months. If you follow these simple guidelines now, you will start spring with a clean pond, greatly reducing the chances of an unsightly algae

bloom as the weather warms and you begin feeding your fish once again.

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

Saltwater Fish Aquarium Club – Visit CMAC's website at: www.columbiamac.org

Fish of the Week



AFRICAN RADIANT WRASSE
HALICHOERES IRIDIS

Imported all the way from East Africa, the Radiant Wrasse makes a beautiful addition to any peaceful aquarium. This fish will need tankmates like gobies, blennies, dwarf angelfish, peaceful tangs, butterflyfish, jawfish and perhaps fairy wrasses. Aggressive fish will out compete this wrasse for food or even worse, chase it until it refuses to come from the sand bed where it will bury itself when threatened. This fish should be fed several times per day with a mixture of frozen mysis, brine shrimp, finely chopped seafoods, grass shrimp, formula one and eventually pelletized foods. Be sure the fish is eating well at the store before purchase. In the reef aquarium, these wrasses are known to eat parasitic snails from clams but at the same time, it may eat small shrimp and possibly tubeworms.

Print off our website coupon at:
www.tidelineaquatics.net

What's New This Week

FEEDERS: (NOW IN STOCK)

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

COOL FRESHWATER FISH EXPECTED THURSDAY OR FRIDAY:

Danio shanensis, Dwarf Peacock Gudgeon Gobies, Danio choprae (the glowlight danio), Uaru fernandezyepezi, Hara species Giant Moth Catfish, Rasbora axelrodi 'blue', Rasbora pauciperforata 'redline', German Bred Goldhead Veiltail Koi Angelfish, German Bred Zebra Veiltail Angelfish, Apistogramma species: McMasteri 'double red', Cacaotoides 'golden orange', Cacaotoides 'triple red', Agassizi 'double red' – Note the Apisto's are all German Bred Pairs.

LIVE AQUATIC AQUARIUM PLANTS (NOW IN STOCK):

Jungle Vallesneria, Crypt. Bronze Wendti plugs, Crypt. Spiralis plugs, Pygmy Chain Swords, Aponogeton Ulvaceous, Dwarf Sagittaria, Micro Sword Plugs, Marbled Ozelot Swords, Red Tiger Lotus, Banana Plants, Nice Amazon Swords, Anubias Nana, Isoetes Quill, Didiplis Diandre, Rotala Macrandra (very delicate plant – not for everyone), Zosterifolia, Ammania, Contortion Vallesneria, Rotala Indica, Crypt. Ciliata Plants (darn big ones!), Anacharis Naja (the only legal from of anacharis).

SALTWATER FISH (EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THURSDAY):

Fiji Coral Beauty Angelfish, Bali Eiblii Angelfish, Indian Ocean Yellow Clown Gobies, Vietnam Red Clown Gobies, Bali Diamond Sifter Gobies, Indian Ocean Dragon Sifter Gobies, Indian Ocean Algae Blennies, Cebu Starry Algae Blennies, Indian Ocean Lg Pink Watchman Gobies, Indian Ocean Valentini Pufferfish, Bali Green Leaf Wrasses, Indian Ocean Kauderni Cardinalfish, Vietnam Clown Triggerfish, Orange Line Melanurus Wrasses, Sri Lanka Tiger Wardi Watchman Gobies, African Formosa Wrasses, Sri Lanka Lyretail Blonde

Naso Tangs, Tonga Red Christmas Wrasses, Yellow Banded Jawfish, African Radiant Wrasses, Hawaiian Flame Angelfish, Indian Ocean Koran Angelfish, Indian Ocean Maroon Clownfish, Sumatra Gold Bar Maroon Clownfish, Indian Ocean Ocellaris Clownfish, Indian Ocean True Percula Clownfish, Indian Ocean Hifin Snapper, Indian Ocean Fumanchu Lionfish, Fiji Bluespot Pufferfish, Sri Lanka Clown Tangs, Hawaiian Yellow Tangs, Indian Ocean Powder Blue Tangs, Bali Orange Shoulder Tangs, Fiji Sixline Wrasses, Bali Foxface Rabbitfish, Vietnam Tank Bred Seahorses, Indian Ocean Dragon Wrasses, Bali Harlequin Tuskfish, Indian Ocean Humu Triggerfish, Singapore Yellow Watchman Gobies.

SALTWATER INVERTEBRATES (EXPECTED ON THURSDAY):

Tiger Pistol Shrimp, Fancy Pistol Shrimp, Green w/ Purple Tip Bubble Anemones, Pink Margarita Snails, Mexican Turbo Snails, Zebra Turbo Snails, Orange Linkia Reef Starfish, Red Spotted Sand Sifting Snails, Purple & Orange Tunicate Rocks, Vietnam Solid Red Palythoa, Indo Pink Eye Green Skirt Ultra Zoanthids, Vietnam Purple Disk Palythoa, Vietnam Yellow Sun Palythoa, Bali Orange / Green Skirt Pumpkin Zoanthid Rocks, Super Select Palythoa (Unique varieties), Super Green Torch Corals, Neon Nephthia Tree Corals, Metallic Branching Hammer Corals, True Anchor Wall Hammer Corals, Fluorescent Red Lobophyllia Corals, Neon Yellow & Green Favia Corals, Red Japanese Anemones, Red Web Green Dome Platygyra Worm Brains, Blue Spot Sea Hares, Electric Green Pipe Organ Corals, Metallic Octopus Branching Corals, Fancy Color Trachophyllia Brain Corals, Blue & Purple Acropora formosa Coral, Purple & Blue Acropora humilis Corals, Red/Green Acropora gemmifera Corals, Super Pink Pocillipora Corals, Acropora hyacinthus Red Table Corals and even a few surprises!!!! **Do not miss out on this hand picked coral order folks.**

**TIDELINE PHOTO GALLERY
CONTEST! \$100.00 Gift
Certificate for the Winner!!**

Get your cameras out of the closet and start taking some quality pictures of your aquarium and/or aquarium inhabitants. Choose some of your best pics and email them to our webmasters. On Monday night, March 12th, the Tideline staff will be sorting through your photos that have been posted in our website photo gallery. If we pick your photo, you will be the winner of a \$100.00 Tideline Aquatics Gift Certificate. The judging will not only be based on the clarity of the photo but also on the originality of your picture. If your photo has already been placed in our gallery within the last 60 days, it will be automatically included in our contest. The winning picture will be posted on the March 13th Newsletter. The webmasters will verify that your email address matches with the photo you submitted to them.

When submitting photos, please include a title for the photo along with your name as Brian is a webmaster not a fish keeper! He is posting photos in groups as you provide them to him.

Submit your photos to:
brian@prybo.com via email. Your picture must be received by Friday, March 9th so it can be posted on our site in time for the drawing. Photos received after that date will not be posted until after the contest has ended. Get busy folks!

GARETH CASEY'S INCREDIBLE GOLD NUGGET
PLECOSTOMUS PHOTO FROM OUR WEBSITE

