



March 20, 2007

tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

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

KNOWING WHAT TO FEED – BEFORE YOU GET HOME!

Have you ever been in this situation? You purchase a new fish for your aquarium. The new addition seems to settle in well yet you never actually see the fish eating or it just seems to remain thin. Within weeks of adding the new fish, it now appears lethargic – to thin to recover. While most of the freshwater and saltwater fish you purchase will accept a variety of prepared foods, there are some species that may have specific requirements. Today we will cover some of the commonly offered freshwater and saltwater species that may need some special attention at dinner time.

Mastecembelus Eels:



TIRETRACK EEL (MASTECEMBELUS ARMATUS)

This group of freshwater eels includes peacock eels (*M. siamensis*), tiretrack eels

(*M. armatus*), fire eels (*M. erythrotaenia*), zebra spiny eels (*M. circumcinctus*) and ellipsifer eels (*M. ellipsifer*). None of these eels are considered difficult to keep as far as water quality is concerned but these eels rarely accept flake foods in the aquarium. These fish are all wild collected where they dined on tiny live crustaceans and worms. Flake foods just were not on the menu and they pay no attention to it when introduced into the aquarium. When you take one of these eels home, first include live black worms and small live shrimp (often sold as feeder ghost shrimp) in their diet. Once they become settled in after several weeks, begin mixing in frozen mysis shrimp, enhanced brine shrimp and frozen worms. With time, they will nearly always begin to accept the frozen foods as readily as they accepted the live foods. These eels can be secretive so use something like a pipette or a turkey baster to blow the food items near their favorite hideout. You will soon notice that the eel becomes excited upon your opening up the aquarium lid and will more aggressively seek out the food items you have offered. One more thing to consider is the tank mates housed with your eels. Fish that are too aggressive at eating time, like many larger South American Cichlids, will out-compete these eels for food. Tank mates like rams, larger broad bodied tetras, gouramis, angelfish and discus may be a better

choice for housing with these types of eels.

Tangs (Surgeonfish):



POWDER BLUE TANG (ACANTHURUS LEUCOSTERNON)

Anyone that owns a marine aquarium has either owned or wanted to own some of the beautiful tangs offered in the aquarium trade. There are so many choices: Yellow Tangs, Sailfin Tangs, Blue Regal Tangs, Powder Blue Tangs, Mimic Tangs, Purple Tangs, Clown Tangs – the list goes on and on. Now understand that these fish are grazers in the wild. That means that these fish eat continuously all day long. If you have ever seen one of these tangs in the wild, they are practically bloated with food. When captured for the aquarium trade, these fish are held without food to allow them to purge the waste from their system so as not to pollute the shipping water while the fish is in transit. At the store, these fish are fed several times per day to get them back into shape after the long shipping process. Once they reach your aquarium, they will need special attention to their dietary requirements. First, a once or twice per day feeding is just not enough. Most tangs are primarily algae grazers and they will need plenty of algae based foods supplied by you. A twice per day feeding of frozen algae based foods is fine but these fish need more to keep them healthy long-term. In the morning before you head out for your day; supplement

their regular feeding schedule by adding some frozen romaine lettuce, dried marine algae and/or a frozen spinach leaf on a clip attached to the side of the aquarium. Throughout the day, your tang will graze upon this constant food selection keeping the fish fat and healthy. When you get home in the afternoon, remove any uneaten food to prevent polluting the aquarium water. Mixing in some dried spirulina algae flakes when you have time will also ensure the fish does not remain thin and succumb to disease from malnutrition.

Mormyrids:



AFRICAN ELEPHANTNOSE (GNATHONEMUS PETERSII)

This unusual group of freshwater fish includes the pictured Elephantnose, the Baby Whale (*Pollimyrus casteinai*) and the Dolphinfish (*Mormyrus longirostris*) – all imported from the waters of Africa where they constantly search for tiny worms in the muddy, dark water. These odd fish all use electrical pulses to navigate about the aquarium and to find food – which does not include flake food! It can take nearly two months for one of these fish to starve to death leaving the fish keeper thinking that something went wrong with the aquarium water conditions rather than starving to death. These fish are nocturnal feeders when first introduced as they would mainly feed at night in the wild. Over time in the

aquarium, they will begin to feed during the daylight hours if offered the correct food choices. For the first month or two, these fish should be offered live worms to get them acclimated to the aquarium. Feed them at night until they begin to move about the aquarium during the day in search of food. Slowly begin mixing in frozen foods like enhanced brine shrimp, frozen bloodworms, mysis shrimp and glassworms. Once you see that the fish is actively eating these foods, you can discontinue feeding live foods. For best results, feed these fish two or three times per day and watch them closely for signs of thinning out – the main cause of loss of Mormyrids in the aquarium. It is also best to keep only one species of Mormyrid in the aquarium as they are territorial with one another. Also avoid keeping them with aggressive species as they will not be able to compete for food well enough to remain healthy. These fish can become tamed pets with time and will soon be one of your favorite aquarium inhabitants. The correct food choices will ensure that this fish is with you for many years.

Mandarin Dragonets:



BLUE MANDARIN (PTEROSYNCHIROPUS SPLENDIDUS)

This is one of those marine fish that everyone just feels they have to try. Both the Blue Mandarin (pictured) and the Target or Bullseye Mandarin (*Synchiropus picturatus*) are considered one of the most beautifully colored

marine fish, yet they often starve in most aquariums. First, these fish should only be considered in reef aquariums. Dragonets are specialized feeders that almost never accept any prepared foods. These fish move about the rocks on the reef munching on tiny LIVE worms, LIVE amphipods and LIVE copepods. Once again, these fish nearly NEVER accept anything but live foods. Even in the reef aquarium, dragonets are known to eat up their food source until there are not enough live organisms to sustain them. The hatching of live brine shrimp can be used as a food supplement but it is not nutritious enough to keep them healthy by itself. Reef aquariums that contain a refugium work best as it is an area where the mandarin cannot access yet the amphipods and copepods can renew their numbers as the filtration systems carries them into the main aquarium where the dragonet can eat them. We suggest only adding a dragonet once the reef aquarium has been established for about 1 year – and then only in reef aquariums of 55 gallons or more. When purchasing a mandarin, find the smallest specimen you can. Examine the fish closely at the retail store to ensure that the body of the fish is filled out and not collapsed as emaciated specimens seldom are able to recover. If your aquarium does not have the proper setup for sustaining one of these incredibly beautiful fish, just enjoy them when you are at the store. This is just not the fish for everyone despite the strong desire to own one yourself.

THE TIDELINE AQUATICS WEBSITE FORUM

Our question and answer forum is now up and running on our website. Though it is functional, we are not happy with the

layout and changes are being made to make our forum easier to navigate. We encourage you to sign up and begin asking any questions you may have concerning your freshwater, saltwater, reef aquarium and/or garden pond. Questions are usually answered within 24 hours of being posted. Reading previous posts can expand your knowledge and answer questions you may have thought about in the past. The layout will be changing soon but you will not be required to sign up again as the changes SHOULD NOT (hopefully) affect those that have already joined on.

GREEN POND WATER?

Spring is here and with it comes that algae bloom due to organics accumulated in the water over the winter. The addition of a UV clarifier will kill the algae within 5-7 days and make your pond water crystal clear once again. If you have a UV yet your pond has turned green, try removing your unit and flushing out any accumulated muck trapped within the housing. If your UV uses a glass quartz sleeve around the UV lamp, clean any build-up off as it will prevent the UV light from reaching the algae spores and killing them. If your UV bulb has been burning constantly for more than a year, it is time to replace the lamp. Bring in your old lamp so we can help you find the correct lamp and wattage for your UV clarifier. Removing leaf debris from the bottom of the pond and back flushing your pond filter will also speed up the clearing of your pond water.

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 – CMAC
www.columbiamac.org

Question and Answer Forum –
www.wetwebmedia.com

Question and Answer Forum –
www.tidelineaquatics.net

Fish of the Week



AFRICAN FLAMEBACK PYGMY ANGELFISH
(CENTROPYGE AURANTONOTUS)

Last week we showcased the Argi Pygmy Angelfish from the Caribbean but to our surprise, not a single one arrived on our shipment. Well, this week we received a large number of the African Flameback Pygmy Angelfish, normally a \$70.00 fish! We are offering these at a huge discount on our coupons this week to ‘make up’ for the error last week. As you can see from the photo, the African Flameback Pygmy Angelfish is even more beautiful than its Caribbean cousin. These angelfish are extremely hardy and only reach about 2.5” in length at full size. Flameback Pygmy Angelfish (like most Centropyge angelfish) need a diet mixed with algae and finely chopped meaty frozen foods. You can also feed them flake and pellet foods but incorporating a quality frozen food mix will ensure that your angelfish

receives the nutritional requirements it needs to remain vibrant in color and to maintain a healthy immune system. Like the Caribbean Argi Pygmy Angelfish, the African cousin is always actively swimming in and out of the rockwork and decorations in search of food bits. Like most angelfish, caution should be taken if this fish is to be added to the reef aquarium. Dwarf angelfish are notorious for nipping at corals once they become established. Print off the coupon at: www.tidelineaquatics.net

What's New This Week

FEEDERS: (NOW IN STOCK)

Live Black Worms, Crayfish, Rosy Reds, Feeder Goldfish, Fiddler Crabs, Feeder Guppies and Feeder Ghost Shrimp (almost out of shrimp!!).

FRESHWATER FISH (NOW IN STOCK):

Snowball Plecostomus (jet black with white polk-a-dots), Pelligrini Plecostomus (orange and black striped dorsal and pectoral spines), Spotted Albinus Plecostomus, Prince Tiger Plecostomus, Atabapo Plecostomus, Medium Silver Arowanas, Black Caecilian Worms (very cool and rarely imported), Flower Freshwater Stingray (extremely rare), Common Freshwater Stingrays, Geophagus Altifrons (beautiful eartheaters), Silver Arowanas (medium and large sizes), Several types of Incredibly Bright Colored Apistogramma Pairs, Clown Loaches (small and large sizes), Farowella Twig Catfish, Royal Farowella Twig Catfish, Banded Kuhli Loaches, Glass Catfish, True Siamensis Flying Fox Sharks (the true SAE algae eaters for planted aquariums), Corydoras Elegans Catfish, Corydoras Sterbae Catfish (beautiful markings!), Pygmy Corydoras Catfish (hard to find!), Large Redtail Blue Variatus Platies, Flame Red Von Rio Tetras, Corydoras Melanistius Catfish, Many Types of Lake Tanganyika Cichlids, XL Pairs of Electric Blue Ahli Cichlids, XL Pairs Red Empress Cichlids, Tiger Shovelnose Catfish, African Elephant Nose, Beautiful Schooling Rummynose Tetras, Colombian Shark Catfish,

Nice Silver Dollars, Corydoras Axelrodi Catfish, Male and Female Bettas, Elipsifer Eels, Tanganicae Eels, XL Emperor Tetras, Galaxy Rasboras (very nice!), Blue Sudadanio Rasboras (very rare), Many Types of South America Cichlids, Many Types of Common Tetras, XL Florida Bred Neon Tetras, Jumbo 24K Gold Mollies, Gold Gouramis, Blue Gouramis, Flame Gouramis, German Bred Red Pigeon Blood Discus (awesome!), Small Local Bred Angelfish, M/L Koi Veil Angelfish, Brightly Colored Rosy Tetras, Red Phantom Tetras and so very much more!! Our freshwater selection is unbelievable!

NEW SHIPMENT OF LIVE AQUATIC AQUARIUM PLANTS ARRIVES ON FRIDAY!!

GOLDFISH, KOI AND POND PLANTS (NOW IN STOCK):

Small Domestic Koi, Shubunkins, Pond Comets, Pearlscale Goldfish, Blue Orandas, Calico Orandas, Red and White Orandas, Ryukins, Butterfly Telescope Goldfish, Black Moors, Hardy Water Lilies, Tropical Water Lilies (already in bloom!), Cyperus haspan bog plants, cyperus alternifolius 'Gracilis' bog plants, Canna 'Erebus' bog plants, Juncus effuses 'Gold Strike' bog plants, Taxodium distachium (Bald Cypress), Oenanthe javanica 'Flamingo' bog plants, Assorted Color Louisiana Iris Cultivars. More pond plants are arriving in ONE week!

SALTWATER FISH (ARRIVED ON TUESDAY):

Hawaiian Fisheri Angelfish, Tonga Coral Beauty Angelfish, Bali Eiblii Angelfish, Bali Sixbar Angelfish, Bali Flagfin Angelfish, Christmas Island Gold Flake Angelfish, Large Juvenile Color Indian Ocean Koran Angelfish (awesome!), Hawaiian Flame Angelfish, Hawaiian Potters Angelfish, African Flameback Pygmy Angelfish, Bali Tiera Batfish, Bali Kleini Butterflyfish, Indian Ocean Ocellaris Clownfish, Bali Pairs of Pink Skunk Clownfish, Fiji Fathead Sunburst Anthias (perfect!), Java Sea Scott's Damsel fish, Sea of Cortez Zebra Moray Eel, Singapore Yellow Watchman Gobies, Indian Ocean Engineer Gobies, Indian Ocean Firefish Gobies, Indian Ocean Algae Blennies (one is

jumbo sized!), Bali Dragon Sifter Gobies, Cebu Blue Flagtail Torpedo Dartfish (very nice!), Bali Panther Groupers, Bali Purple Basslets, Bali Orange Face Dottyback, Indian Ocean Dwarf Lionfish, Bali Dogface Pufferfish, Bali XL Blue Regal Tangs, Bali Niger Triggerfish, Sri Lanka Diana Hogfish, African Sixline Wrasses (some are huge!), Bali Lunare Wrasses, Bali Yellowfin Fairy Wrasses, Bali Spotted Hawkfish, Indian Ocean Red Striped Squirrelfish, Bali Blue Mandarin Dragonettes (Reefs Only!).

SALTWATER FISH (EXPECTED ON WEDNESDAY):

Orangetail Triggerfish (species unknown!), Indian Ocean Green Tassled Filefish, African Flametail Aurora Gobies, Indian Ocean Chocolate Mimic Tang, Indian Ocean Fumanchu Lionfish, Indian Ocean Powder Blue Tangs, Fiji Orange Shoulder Tangs, Indian Ocean Dragon Wrasses, Indian Ocean Janns' Pipefish.

SALTWATER INVERTEBRATES (ARRIVED ON TUESDAY):

Lots of Premium Fiji Live Rock, Pink Margarita Snails, Nerite Snails, Cerith Snails, Mexican Turbo Snails, Spotted Sand Sifter Snails (China Sea), Trochus Snails, Yellow Cucumbers, Blue Spotted Seahares, Vietnam Bright Red Fromia Reef Starfish (perfect condition), Chocolate Chip Starfish (not for reefs!), Bali Purple Reef Lobsters, Bali Bright Red Fire Shrimp, Coral Banded Shrimp, Nice Bubble Anemones, Cool Flame Feather Dusters, Borneo Yellow Mat Anemones.

SALTWATER INVERTEBRATES (EXPECTED ON WEDNESDAY):

Pink Seriatopora Birdnest Corals, Blue Dot Pistol Shrimp, Ultra Green True Wall Hammer Corals, Neon Branching Candy Corals, Yellow & Green Daisy Polyps, Yellow Branching Porites Corals, Michael's Pistol Shrimp (awesome), Pink Pocillopora Cats Paw Corals, Orange Sun Tubastrea Corals, Super Colored Cultured Acropora Corals, Bright Yellow Turbinaria Cup Corals.

From Our Customer Photo Gallery:



CHRIS PATRICK'S SUPER COLORED TRACHOPHYLLIA CORAL

Please keep our customer photo gallery fresh by sending me your photos for posting. Share your aquarium inhabitants by including your photos in our website photo gallery! Send your photos to: chris@tidelineaquatics.net