



May 08, 2007

# tideline aquatics Newsletter

## Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

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

## STRANGE NEW CREATURE DISCOVERED IN CHARLESTON WATERS!



SCARY SWAMP MAN EMERGES FROM THE MUD!

Is it a new species of mudskipper?

Perhaps some sort of swamp creature  
hiding in the muddy Charleston waters?

Actually, it is Tideline Aquatics employee  
Ben Fischer!

After leaving work on his motorcycle this past Saturday evening, Ben was just about to enter the James Island connector when he suddenly found himself jumping the concrete barrier of the connector and plunging 60 feet down into the pluff mud. We can only make fun of this because miraculously and thankfully, Ben suffered just a minor cut on his forehead and general body pains from the fall. Rescue teams were able to pull Ben from the mud

and get him to an ambulance where he spent the night at the Medical University Hospital for observation. The soft pluff mud saved his life. Ben should be back at work any day now and we are grateful that he is safe (though he may have to endure some taunting from fellow employees). Welcome Ben back during your next visit to the store.



AREA WHERE BEN SURVIVED A 60FT DROP!

## FISH TRADE INS – A SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

If you have a fish or invertebrate that has outgrown your space, we do accept trade-ins on these items. If you want to trade in a livestock item, first we ask that you call the store to ensure that we have room for your creature. If we do have room, we will place you on our trade-in form at the counter. When you bring in your trade-in, we will determine the credit amount due to you for that item. The credit amount is based on APPROXIMATELY half of what we intend to sell the livestock item

for. It may be slightly lower or slightly higher than half. When we are purchasing your trade-in, understand that we become the customer and intend on making a profit on the item you traded in. If your trade-in is stressed from transport, we may delay your store credit for 24-48 hours to ensure that the livestock item WE are purchasing from you is in sellable condition. If we find the item imperfect or not sellable, we will not issue a credit for that item. We may still sell the item at an extremely reduced price to move the item but we will not issue credit on that item. We will also not issue credit for livestock items we do not sell at Tideline. Here is a list of some of the items we will not issue credit on: Pacu, Red Devil Cichlids, Full Size Butterkopheri Cichlids, Common Blue or Albino Channel Catfish, Large Red Emperor Snappers, Dyed or Tattooed Fish, Sweetlips, Orange Spotted Filefish, Most Butterflyfish, Singapore Angelfish, Bicolor Angelfish, Gonipora Corals (flowerpots), Dendronephthia Corals, etc.

When you come into the store, we may have a trade-in you brought to us priced slightly higher or lower than when you first brought in the item. There are no adjustments in credits allowed once Tideline accepts the livestock item and you accept the credit amount. If you want more for your trade-in that we are offering, we want you feel free to take it to another outlet to see if you can get more for your livestock. You can also run an ad in the newspaper to sell your livestock item. We want your approved trade-ins but understand that in order for us to stay in business we must be able to make a profit from any item we accept.

Here is an example of what recently happened at the store concerning a trade-in:

Just before Customer Appreciation Day, a gentleman brought in (2) large pictus catfish for trade. The fish were placed in too small of a container and were nearly suffocated when they arrived. We attempted to bring the fish back with aeration but they were too far gone and died within an hour or two. We called the gentlemen to let him know that we were unable to revive the suffocated fish and no credit would be issued.

Sunday, just after Customer Appreciation Day, a family brought in a large Oscar and a large Pictus Catfish for trade. The fish were both in perfect condition and a credit was issued to the customer. The next day, the original gentleman that brought us the suffocated pictus catfish came into the store. He was sure that the pictus catfish in the tank was his and that Tideline had lied to him and taken his credit. Though we explained the situation over and over, he left the store vowing to never shop at Tideline Aquatics again.

The reason we wanted you to read about this situation is that we often lose with trade-ins. Accusations of issuing credit amounts too low or making false claims about the death of a trade-in happen more often than you may think. Tideline Aquatics has been in business over 20 years. We have achieved that because we are an honest business that strives to give our customers the best service through our knowledge and love of the hobby. Please understand that you have every right to take your trade-ins to another store. We would never try and cheat our customers out of money but we must be able to make a profit from any item we purchase. At the same time, you would not want to purchase any livestock item that was not in the best of condition if you were paying for that item. We welcome your trade-ins but ask that you understand and follow our policy concerning them.

## WHAT'S THAT FOAM ALL OVER MY PONDS SURFACE?

You go outside and look at the beauty of your garden pond – crystal clear water, graceful fish, blooming plants. The next morning you go outside and the pond water is cloudy, your fish are chasing one another in a frenzy, they are splashing about the water, jumping into the plants and seemingly wanting to destroy the pond! Not to worry too much, your fish are just spawning. When koi and goldfish spawn, the males actually chase the females into the plants and decorations. They then ram into the sides of the females to expel the eggs that have formed inside of her over the winter and spring. As the eggs are pushed from the female, the males release sperm into the water to fertilize the eggs. This spawning process not only appears brutal to the fish, it causes a foamy film to cover the surface of the water. Once the spawning process is completed, all the fish will begin to search out the eggs and eat them. The spawning process is also a big strain on the biological filter. Just after spawning, the ammonia can reach dangerously high levels. It is a good idea to perform a 25% - 50% partial water change to reduce the organic levels in the pond so the bacteria in the biological filter can quickly reduce the ammonia level before it harms your fish. This is especially true if your pond is over-stocked with fish. The biological filter may be able to handle the amount of fish you have in the pond but it may not be able to handle the extra strain put on the pond during the spawning process. Spawning may occur three or four times so be prepared to repeat the partial water change when each spawning ends.

## FEEDING THE REEF TANK

Though most reef corals available to the hobbyist are photosynthetic, supplemental feeding of these animals increases the rate of growth. There are invertebrates in the reef aquarium that actually require feeding to survive. Each coral can be fed directly or there are plankton-type foods that can be added to the entire aquarium. The big question is how much is enough or too much?



YELLOW CUCUMBER FILTER FEEDING

Excessive feeding is the number one cause of problem algae in the reef aquarium; especially slime (cyano) algae and hair algae. We suggest feeding your reef lightly three times per week. The types of foods you feed your reef organisms can make a difference as well. Flake foods like Aquadine may be nutritious but it contains high levels of

phosphates. In a fish aquarium, this may not be much of a problem but in a reef aquarium, phosphates feed algae and can kill delicate corals. We also suggest keeping only a small number of fish in the reef aquarium. If you keep fish that will eat mainly off the live rock (algae eaters, grazers), less food will be required. As for your corals, polyps and invertebrates, use foods designed just for them.

Foods that contain plankton are not only more nutritious for your invertebrates; they are less likely to pollute the water. Avoid foods that contain churned up seafood in water. These are old-fashioned reef foods that are more polluting than the plankton foods available today. There are many available: Kent Phytoplex, DT's Live Plankton, Kent Zooplex, Cyclo-peeze, etc. When using these foods, remember that the dosage on the bottle is based on a fully established reef aquarium. If you have only a few corals and invertebrates, adjust the dose you add to your aquarium to half or less. You could also consider just feeding the animals directly using a pipette.



BUBBLE CORAL WITH FEEDING POLYPS EXTENDED

Just mix a small quantity of your invertebrate food choice in a container with some aquarium water. Draw the food

up into the pipette and deliver it directly to the corals that need feeding. Trachyphylia, Bubble Corals, Blasstomussa Corals, Turbinaria Corals, Lobophyllia Corals, Zoanthid Rocks, Rhodactus Mushrooms and Acanthastrea Corals all appreciate direct feeding. Perhaps do direct feeding once or twice per week and add food directly to the reef aquarium once or twice per week based on the number of organisms you have in your reef aquarium. If you see an increase in algae growth, skip feeding for that week and perform a partial water change. Ensure that your protein skimmer is working properly as well. When you begin to feed the tank again, just reduce the amount and/or frequency of your feeding. When it comes to feeding a reef aquarium, less is always better!



A HUNGRY (AND AGGRESSIVE) FAVIA CORAL

## **LOCAL CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS**

Have a reef aquarium? Check out our local reef club at: [www.charlestonreefers.org](http://www.charlestonreefers.org)

Love water gardens and koi? Visit the Charleston Showa Koi Club website at: [www.charlestonshowakoiclub.org](http://www.charlestonshowakoiclub.org)

Saltwater Fish Aquarium Club – Visit CMAC's website at: [www.columbiamac.org](http://www.columbiamac.org)

Aquarium Fish Forum – Visit [www.wetwebmedia.com](http://www.wetwebmedia.com)

Ask questions about Freshwater Aquariums, Saltwater Aquariums, Reef Aquariums and Garden Ponds at the Tideline Aquatics Forum – [www.tidelineaquatics.net](http://www.tidelineaquatics.net)

## Fish of the Week



STARS & STRIPES DOGFACE PUFFER  
(AROTHRON HISPIDUS)

These guys may not be colorful but they are one of the most popular fish we sell at Tideline Aquatics. Is it the green eyes? Maybe the bulldog face? Or maybe the 'smiling' teeth? Whatever the case, dogface puffers are a favorite. These fish are not difficult to keep as they will accept nearly any food offered from dried shrimp to even dried marine algae! As with all pufferfish, it is important to give them something hard to eat on occasion to help to keep their beak-like teeth from over growing. Every couple of weeks, give your puffer a snail or fiddler crab to gnaw on. Mixing up the diet is important with these fish. Puffers can become addicted to krill and though it is nutritious, it alone does not make up a complete diet. One thing to consider with a Stars & Stripes Dogface Puffer is their eventual size. These fish can get the size of a football with time so either plan on getting a larger aquarium or to trade your puffer back to the store when it outgrows your tank. These fish become extremely friendly once they are established but always be sure to watch your fingers

while in the tank. The bite really does hurt! This is just one of the coupon specials this week at: [www.tidelineaquatics.net](http://www.tidelineaquatics.net)

## What's at Tideline This Week!

### FEEDERS (Arrived Tuesday):

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

### FRESHWATER FISH (Arrived Tuesday):

Marigold Wag Swordtails, Red Velvet Swordtails, Cobra Endler's Livebearers, Assorted Color Male Show Bettas, Gold Gouramis, Platinum Gouramis, Gold Barbs, Small Frontosa Cichlids, Chinese Algae Eaters, True SAE Flying Fox Algae Eaters, Otocinclus Algae Eaters, Mixed Mystery Snails, Blue Dolphin Sharks, Black Lancer Catfish (very hard to get!), Bala Sharks, Elephant Nose, Mixed Chinese Orandas, Florida Bred Neon Tetras, Large Bala Shark, Nice Tiretrack Eels.

### POND PLANTS AND POND FISH:

Small Domestic Koi (on sale to make room for new arrivals next week), Medium Domestic Koi (on sale to make room for new arrivals next week), Large Domestic Koi, Jumbo Domestic Koi, Ogon Yamabuki Butterfly Koi, Assorted Japanese Koi from Sakai of Hiroshima, Small Pond Comets, Medium Pond Comets, Bog Plants in 1 gallon containers, Floating Island Plants, Beautiful Potted Lotus, Hardy Water Lilies in mixed colors, Blooming Tropical Lilies in mixed colors, Oxygenating Hornwort and Parrots Feather Bunches.

### SALTWATER FISH (Expected on Wednesday):

Fiji Coral Beauty Angelfish, Tank Bred Ocellaris Clownfish, Indian Ocean Neon Velvet Damselfish, Philippine Oranged Striped Bar Gobies, Sri Lanka Bicolor Blennies, Indian Ocean Firefish Gobies, Indian Ocean Purple Firefish Gobies, Indian Ocean Algae Blennies, Indian Ocean Vtail Grouper, Indian Ocean Bicolor Pseudochromis, Indian Ocean Purple

Pseudochromis, Bali Stars & Stripes Dogface Pufferfish, Bali Niger Triggerfish, Indian Ocean Kauderni Cardinalfish, Fiji Pajama Cardinalfish, Bali Glass Cardinalfish, Large Bali Tassled Filefish (confirmed to arrive – Sold to you Andy!), Bali Eiblii Angelfish, Bali Flagfin Angelfish, Hawaiian Flame Angelfish, Indian Ocean Swallowtail Angelfish, Bali Collare Butterflyfish, Indian Ocean Black & White Heniochus, African Allardi Clownfish, Indian Ocean Maroon Clownfish, Sumatra Gold Bar Maroon Clownfish, Bali Black Percula Clownfish, Indian Ocean True Ocellaris Clownfish, Indian Ocean True Percula Clownfish, Sri Lanka Sebae Clownfish, Pairs of True Percula Clownfish, Fiji Yellow Tail Sailfin Blennies, Tonga Bundoon Blennies, Fiji Citron Gobies, Sri Lanka Diamond Sifter Gobies, African Flametail Aurora Gobies, Philippine Red Lizardfish, Indian Ocean Blue Mandarins, Indian Ocean Target Mandarins, Fiji Midas Blennies, Indian Ocean Rainfordi Gobies, Indian Ocean Scooter Blennies, Cebu Starry Algae Blennies, Bali Twinspot Sifter Gobies, Indian Ocean Candy Cane Gobies, Indian Ocean Fuman Chu Lionfish, African Volitan Lionfish, Fiji Orangetail Bluespot Sharpnose Pufferfish, Indian Ocean Valentini Pufferfish, Indian Ocean Clown Tangs, Fiji Orange Shoulder Tangs, African Powder Blue Tangs, Indian Ocean Sailfin Tangs, Red Sea Sohal Tang, Hawaiian Yellow Tangs, Hawaiian Yellow Eye Kole Tangs, Hawaiian Blue Jaw Triggerfish, Indian Ocean Humu Triggerfish, Tonga Red Christmas Wrasses, African Formosa Wrasses, Indian Ocean Dragon Wrasses, Australian Lime Green Banana Wrasse, African Radiant Wrasses, Indian Ocean Sixline Wrasses, Christmas Island Bartlett's Anthias, Bali Foxface Rabbitfish, Mexico Longnose Hawkfish, Philippine Coral Hogfish, Mangrove Mono Sebaes, Caribbean Royal Grammas, Indian Ocean Red Maori Wrasse, African Adult Formosa Wrasse, Tonga Red Checkered Blennies, Caribbean Red Tail Sargassum Triggerfish, Fiji Sunburst Fathead Anthias, Fiji XL Yellow Goatfish, Fiji Large Bicolor Goatfish, Solomon Island Purple Punctatus Fairy Wrasse, Sulawesi Yellow Side Lyukyuensis Fairy Wrasse. We also have (1) XL Starry Dogface Pufferfish that was traded in on Tuesday. This fish is incredible!!!!

## **SALTWATER      INVERTEBRATES (Expected on Wednesday):**

Assorted Fancy Mushroom Rocks (Tonga, Fiji, Indonesia), Tiger Pistol Shrimp (lookin' for a watchman goby!), Fiji Super Color Acroporas, Pink Tip Green Torch Coral, Green Rasta Leather Coral, Candy Caulestrea Corals, Green Staghorn Leather Coral, Red Fire Shrimp, Skunk Cleaner Shrimp, African Algae Eating Reef Hermits (first time for these!), Pink Margarita Reef Snails, Green Brittle Starfish, Sand Sifting Starfish, Indian Ocean Longspine Urchins  
AND...

### **Check this out you coral addicts:**

Micromussa Amakusensis – Australia  
12+ Polyps – day glow red w/ neon lime green centers. The supplier says this is the brightest colored Micromussa they have ever seen! Only (1) available.

Micromussa Amakusensis – Australia  
16+ Polyps – blood red polyps w/ streaks of turquoise blue! Only (1) available.

Acanthastrea Lordhowensis – Australia  
44+ Polyps – Electric Green/Purple and Blue Polyps! Only (1) available.

Lobophyllia Robusta – Australia  
Multi-head Lobos of red/orange/yellow and purple. The supplier says they have never seen this species imported ever before! Only (2) available.

Scolymia Australis – Australia  
Neon Green and Orange Colors throughout. Only (1) available.

Turbinaria Mesenterina – Australia  
Perfect fluted vase shape w/ thin plats of unique pink and lavender! Only (1) available.

### **From our Customer Photo Gallery:**



DR. D'S LEMNALIA CORAL AND SCHOOLING YELLOW TANGS

If you would like to add a photo of your fish aquarium, reef aquarium or garden pond, please email them to: [chris@tidelineaquatics.net](mailto:chris@tidelineaquatics.net)

### **Pond Tour 2007 Tickets**



Charleston Showa Koi Club Pond Tour 2007 tickets are now available at Tideline Aquatics. Tickets for the tour are only \$10.00 per person. The event is June 9<sup>h</sup> so get your tickets now before they sell out like last year!