

August 28, 2007



tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

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

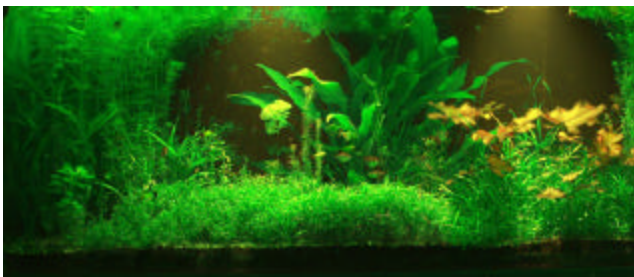
NOTE: Tideline will be closed for Labor Day!

THE PLANTED AQUARIUM – ON A BUDGET

When you first walk into Tideline, I am sure many of you have noticed our live plant display aquarium. The aquarium utilizes a Rena canister filter, 260 watts of PC lighting, Seachem's live plant substrate and the expensive CO2 system underneath. While this is the optimum way to put together a planted aquarium, it can be done in another way that would be more affordable to the average hobbyists as not everyone want to put out \$300 for a CO2 system.



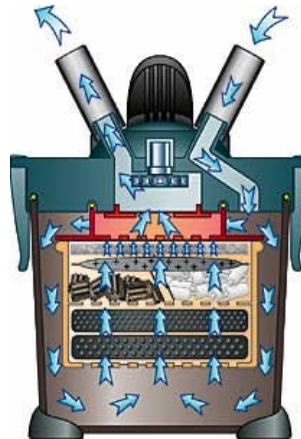
First, start out with an aquarium that is not over 24" tall. Aquariums over that height will require more intense lighting to reach the bottom of the tank.



Consider using (4) T-5 lamps over the aquarium that are designed for live plant growth. These fixtures are of lower wattage yet they provide intense enough lights to support many of the live plants offered.



These strip lights are almost half the cost of a Power Compact strip light yet bright enough for supporting many of the live plants available. Second, use an adequate filtration system. The Rena canister filters are not only affordable; they are extremely easy to perform maintenance on. Marineland just came out with a similar canister filter that is also easy to service. Regardless of the canister filter, be sure it has a compartment for housing biomedica. A stable biological filter is a must yet the filter should also have room for a mechanical filter media for pulling out solid waste and a chemical filter for organic removal. Both the Rena and Marineland canisters fit the bill.



Third, always use a substrate (gravel) that is designed for growing live plants. There are many on the market for growing live plants. Fourth, the

plants will need a source for CO2. It does not have to be that high-tech but it should be adequate. Without CO2, planted tanks are often plagued with problem algae and stunted plant growth. New leaves will emerge pale and short compared with an aquarium that utilizes some sort of CO2 supplement.



Tideline employee Nina recently tried going without the Flourish Excel CO2 supplement in her own planted aquarium. She experienced a nasty algae bloom! Once she began using the product again, it quickly died out. Why? The plants were once again able to use the nutrients in the water efficiently therefore starving the algae of a food source. She mentioned her experience to another customer having the same problem. Once again, the CO2 supplement fixed the problem! This liquid CO2 supplement is inexpensive and if used per the directions, does an excellent job in the planted aquarium. In fact, Nina's aquarium has been photographed for product literature from CaribSea!

Here are some other factors to consider with the planted aquarium. The lights should be placed on a timer with a light schedule of 8-9 hours per day. The aquarium lamps should be replaced about every 10 months for peak performance. Old light bulbs no longer provide the proper spectrum of light even though they continue to burn. Red leaved plants require more intense light than green leaved plants.



Red plants may continue to grow under lower lighting but the color fades to green in most cases. ALWAYS purchase fish that do not eat plants. Avoid fish like Silver Dollars, Severums, Uaru, regular Plecostomus, etc. The fish will eat them faster than they can grow! Include algae eating fish in the planted tank like Siamensis Flying Fox Sharks, Otocinclus, Japonica Shrimp and plant-safe Dwarf Plecostomus. The use of reverse osmosis water is also recommended as the elevated phosphates in our tap water will feed algae. Always add an electrolyte product like RO Right to reverse osmosis and/or deionized water BEFORE it is added back to the aquarium. Perform a partial water change every 2-3 weeks to keep organic levels at a minimum. Lastly, do not pack the aquarium with fish. Select a good mix of fish without overloading the system. Adding large amounts of fish food everyday will result in algae problems and poor plant growth.



Choose a couple larger focus fish and then compliment them with 2 or 3 schools of smaller fish. Finding fish that school at different levels can prevent them from mixing together in the aquarium. A healthy planted aquarium can be just as beautiful as any marine aquarium! Give one a try.

NEW FREEZER'S IN THE HOUSE!!

As most of you know, our main freezer gave out nearly two months ago. After waiting and waiting and waiting, we finally cancelled the order with the Glass Door Freezer supplier and purchased a standard Stainless Steel freezer locally. The other company had two different freezers shipped to us, both were destroyed in shipping! Anyway, our new freezer is in the store and running. We now have new lower prices on most of the San Francisco brand frozen foods. A few of the other foods went slightly up in price or stayed the same. Between this week and next week, our frozen food selection should be back to normal. We apologize for the inconvenience.

FRESH DT'S PLANKTON

A new shipment of fresh DT's Plankton arrives Wednesday to Tideline Aquatics. This product was drop-shipped directly from DT's. Always check the expiration date on DT's Plankton. Do not buy more than you think you can feed before it expires. When our remaining stock gets close to the expiration date, we offer it at a greatly reduced price but you still must discard it after the expiration date on the bottle. Remember to always refrigerate this product. Never feed any expired food or use any expired medication or test kit. The date is there for good reason.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO FEEDER FISH - SILVERSIDES

There are some fish that just will not accept frozen foods and may require regular feedings of live feeder fish. But for those fish that just enjoy feeders are a treat, you should give frozen Silversides a try. These are actually frozen whole fish! They are inexpensive and easy to feed. Just break off the amount your fish can eat, let them thaw for a few minutes and feed away. Fish like Oscars, Jack Dempseys, Arowanas, Triggerfish, Wrasses, Puffers and even eels readily accept these frozen fish. You will reduce the chances of introducing a disease organism (always a chance when feeding live foods) and you will save money on feeders and the gas to go to the store and purchase them regularly. Tideline has a discount coupon for Silversides on our website this week. Just print it off and pick up a pack of these frozen fish treats.

LOCAL CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS/FORUMS

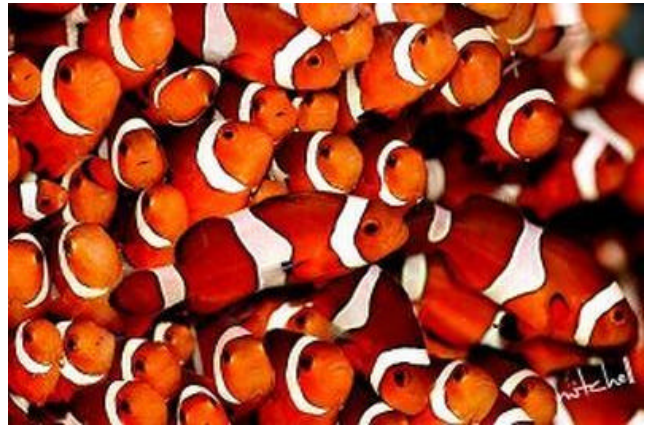
Have a reef aquarium? Check out our local reef club at: www.charlestonreefers.org

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

Fish of the Week



TANK BRED OCELLARIS CLOWNFISH

Wild collected Ocellaris Clownfish (false percula clowns) are notorious for arriving in extremely poor condition. Often succumbing to Brookynella, a nasty protozoa that afflicts many clownfish species, wild caught Ocellaris clownfish seem particularly vulnerable. The alternative is to purchase tank bred Ocellaris clownfish. These fish are rarely affected by Brookynella and arrive in excellent condition. The only drawback is that many tank bred clownfish refuse to host with an anemone. But compare a dead or unhealthy fish with a strong tank bred clownfish. Is the anemone hosting really that important to you? Purchase the healthy choice, a tank bred fish that accepts all types of foods and adapts better to the captive environment of the aquarium. This shipment of Ocellaris clowns is nearly twice the size of the usual tank bred clowns we receive. This is just one of the specials this week at Tideline Aquatics. Print off the coupon at: www.tidelineaquatics.net

What's New At Tideline

FEEDERS (NOW IN STOCK!)

Feeder Guppies, Feeder Goldfish, Feeder Rosy Redds, Feeder Crayfish, Feeder Fiddler Crabs, Feeder Live Black Worms. **We are nearly out of Ghost Shrimp.** More will arrive Wednesday of next week.

FRESHWATER FISH (NOW IN STOCK):

Tank Bred Cardinal Tetras, Local Bred German Blue Rams, Nice Medium Tank Bred Jack Dempseys, Super Size Rainbow Sharks, Medium Bala Sharks, South American Lungfish, Fire Eels, Tiretrack Eels, African Ropefish, Caecilian

Worms, Pearl Gouramis, Black Kuhli Loaches, Halfbeaks, Red Velvet Wag Swordtails, Sunburst Mickey Mouse Platies, Red Mickey Mouse Platies, Dalmation Mollies, Male Show Bettas, Blue Gouramis, Male Red Flame Dwarf Gouramis, Sunset Honey Dwarf Gouramis (Bright Red Color), Chinese Algae Eaters, Mixed Mystery Snails, Albino Corydoras Catfish, Silver Dollars, Large Sabertooth Barracudas, Elephant Nose, Red Fantail Goldfish, Cool Filamented Glassfish, Florida Bred Neon Tetras, White Cloud Mountain Minnows, Royal Blue Freshwater Lobsters, Large Freshwater Flounders, Red Starfire Glo-fish Danios, Orange Sunburst Glo-fish Danios and more.

LIVE AQUARIUM PLANTS (NOW IN STOCK):

XL Red Tiger Lotus Plants, Lace Leaf Java Moss, Italian Vallesneria, Isoetes Quill Plants, Cryptocoryne Moehlmanni Plants, Rotala Indica Bunches, Cryptocoryne Ciliata Plants, Red Rubin Swords, Anacharis Naja Bunches, Red Narrowleaf Ludwigia Bunches, Rotala Magenta Bunches, Rotala Wallichii Bunches, Water Wisteria Bunches, Green Foxtail Bunches, Medium Amazon Swords, Potomageton Gayi Bunches, Red Nesaea Bunches, Didiplis Diandre Bunches.

GOLDFISH, KOI AND POND PLANTS (NOW FULLY STOCKED):

Small Blue Shusui Butterfly Koi (super nice!), Small Domestic Koi Assortment, Medium Assorted Domestic Pond Koi, Jumbo Japanese Koi, XXL Domestic Koi, Awesome Sarasa Veiltail Pond Comets (ready Friday), Medium Standard Butterfly Koi (limited), Assorted Small Chinese Goldfish, M/L Red & White Ryukin Chinese Goldfish, Medium Red Ryukin Chinese Goldfish, Floating Island Plants, Hornwort, Tons of Bog Plants, Blooming Lotus Plants, Water Poppies, Nymphoides geminata and more!

SALTWATER FISH (NOW IN STOCK):

Indian Ocean Annularis Angelfish, Caribbean Neon Gobies, Indian Ocean Snowflake Moray Eels, Hawaiian Flame Angelfish, Bali Eiblii Angelfish, Cortez Passer Angelfish, Indian Ocean Humu Triggerfish, Sumatra Gold Bar Maroon Clownfish, Tank Bred Ocellaris

Clownfish, Indian Ocean Purple Firefish Gobies, Indian Ocean Fuzzy Dwarf Lionfish, Indian Ocean Black Volitan Lionfish, Philippine Mimic Yellow Tangs, Mexico Paddlefin Wrasses, Indian Ocean Coral Beauty Angelfish, Fiji Coral Beauty Angelfish, Indian Ocean Algae Blennies, Indian Ocean Candy Cane Gobies, Indian Ocean Sixline Wrasses, Indian Ocean Maroon Clownfish, Hawaiian Rectangulus Triggerfish, Indian Ocean Ocellaris Clownfish, Indian Ocean Blue Green Torpedo Gobies, Indian Ocean V-tail Groupers, Indian Ocean Yellow Coris Wrasses, Mexico Rainbow Rock Wrasses, Red Sea XL Desjardini Sailfin Tang, Sri Lanka Bicolor Blennies, Tonga Bundoon Blennies, Tonga Christmas Wrasses, Indian Ocean Green Bird Wrasses, Fiji Pajama Cardinalfish, Fiji Flame Hawkfish, Indian Ocean Spotted Hawkfish, Hawaiian Naso Tangs, Caribbean Queen Angelfish, Caribbean Porcupine Pufferfish, Caribbean Porkfish Grunts and more.

SALTWATER INVERTEBRATES (NOW IN STOCK):

Fiji Premium Live Rock (LIMITED), Tons of Live Corals, Blue Crocea Clams, Green Star Polyp Rocks, Long Polyp Toadstool Leather Corals, Assorted Mushroom Rocks, Bubble Anemones, Caribbean Condylactus Anemones, Rock Anemones, Blasstomussa Wellsii Corals, Orange Linkia Reef Starfish, Green Anthelia Rocks, Nerite Reef Snails, Tiger Pistol Shrimp, Ultra Zoo Frags, Pink Margarita Reef Snails, Nassarius Reef Snails, Trochus Reef Snails, Cleaner Shrimp, Assorted Reef Sponges, Blue Leg Reef Hermits, Sand Sifting Cucumbers, Assorted Caribbean Plants, Caribbean Swiftia Seafans, Mexican Turbo Snails, Chocolate Chip Starfish, Long Tentacle Anemones, Pink Cucumbers, Basket Starfish, Large Hawaiian Feather Dusters, Horseshoe Crabs, Atlantic Serpent Starfish, Coral Banded Shrimp, Atlantic Turbin Snails, Caribbean Peppermint Shrimp, Atlantic Feather Dusters, Green Emerald Crabs and more.