



September 04, 2007

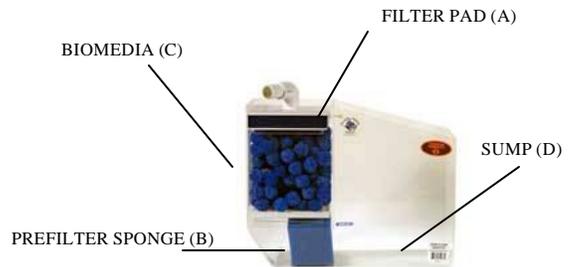
# tideline aquatics Newsletter

## Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

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

## PROPER MAINTENANCE OF A WET DRY (TRICKLE) FILTER

On a recent emergency visit to a customer's home, I was surprised to find all sorts of problems with the filtration system upon my arrival. Tideline actually sold this aquarium to this customer but they had it installed and serviced by another store as we do not typically do standard installations. The aquarium wet dry water pump had stopped and the customer could not get the service company she used to contact her so she could have them fix the problem. I (Chris) was in the area and stopped by her home to get the pump operating. I really could not believe that a service company had ever been to this aquarium because it had so many problems. I will not use the store name as I am not in the business of bashing another store. The pump had stopped because it had never been serviced. Slime accumulation had built up on the impeller assembly. The home had experienced a sudden power outage but when the power came back on, the pump would not restart because of the debris on the impeller. The impeller was so bad, it had to be replaced! Once the pump was operating, I noticed no water flowing through the biomed. The pad on the wet dry was so clogged, the water was flowing over the drip tray (even on the lid) and around the media. Salt creep had accumulated so much on the filter that it would not have been long before a capillary leak would have occurred. Well, I can go on and on but instead, here is what your wet dry filter needs to function properly and effectively.



Once you install your wet dry filter, it will need to be serviced at least monthly. First, the filter pad (A) on the top of the filter needs to be cleaned at least once per month and changed out completely about every two months depending on the condition of the pad. This padding is inexpensive (about \$4 for a 4 foot roll that makes about four pads). Just unplug the water pump and rinse the pad in regular tap water until it is clean. If clogged, the water will bypass your biomed (C) causing a possible ammonia and/or nitrite surge.

Second, in the sump (D) of the wet dry filter, most will have a prefilter sponge (B). This sponge should be cleaned every single month. If allowed to clog, water will build up behind it and debris will bypass the sponge into the sump that houses your water pump (and skimmer if applicable). We suggest cleaning this sponge with aquarium water when you perform your monthly partial water change. The old aquarium water will not harm the bacteria that grow on the surface of the sponge. These bacteria become part of your biological filter as well. In the marine aquarium, tiny amphipods will make their home in the prefilter sponge. They will be saved if you rinse it in old aquarium water each month.

Third, wipe off all salt creep on the inside and outside of the wet dry filter housing and lid. If salt creep builds up over time, it will actually wick water from your wet dry filter out of the

aquarium and damage your stand AND flooring. You should also clean salt creep from the outside of the aquarium for the same reason. Lighting systems should also be cleaned of salt creep. Salt will conduct electricity and damage your lights and even possibly cause a fire!



Fourth, about every three months, remove your water pump (Magdrive series pictured above) from the wet dry filter. Open up the impeller housing (E) by removing the screws. Inside, you will find the motor's impeller assembly. Pull it straight out so as not to break the ceramic shaft. Clean the impeller of all debris. If it is coated with calcium deposit, simply soak it for about 15 minutes in regular white vinegar. The impeller well (where the impeller was removed) should also be cleaned of all deposits and slime. Inspect the impeller cover for any damage and replace it if damage is found. Once cleaned, gently slide the impeller back into the well, replace the cover carefully and replace the four screws. The screws should be installed slowly and just until they are tight – DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN! If you do not use the Magdrive series pump submerged in the wet dry sump or if you use another brand of water pump, see the manufacturer's instructions when servicing the unit. ALL pumps need to be serviced!! Before reinstalling your water pump, if a prefilter sponge (F) is used, rinse it with tap water until clean. Pump prefilters should be cleaned at least once per month!

Fifth, unless you are treating your aquarium, you should have a bag of activated carbon in the sump of your wet dry filter where the water will flow through it. Activated carbon removes excess organics, removes odors and discoloration in the water column. With most carbon products, it

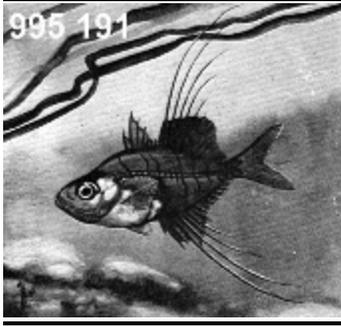
should be changed out about once per month. If you do not want to run activated carbon continuously (though we suggest differently), at least run it for one week out of the month! If you use other chemical media like phosphate removers or nitrate removers, these should also be serviced when needed. No chemical media lasts forever! Check the label on the chemical media you use for how often it should be replaced or recharged (where applicable).

**NOTE: If you use other components in the sump of the wet dry filter (protein skimmer, chemical chamber, etc), be sure to service them on a regular basis as well.**

Last, the biomedica in your wet dry filter should really never need cleaning if you keep the filter pad and prefilter sponge cleaned although over time, the sump of the wet dry may develop debris settling on the bottom. You can easily remove this debris by siphoning the sump with a small water pump or power head with tubing attached that drains into a container. Of course you will want everything removed from the sump before beginning this procedure. If your biomedica in the wet dry filter does show accumulation of debris, it can be serviced if done properly. Simply mix up some water for your aquarium (salt for saltwater, fresh for freshwater of course). Remove the biomedica and place them in the water you have prepared. Stir them around in the water, remove them promptly and replace them in the biochamber of the wet dry filter. NEVER clean the biomedica of any aquarium using tap water! If you kill the bacteria on your biomedica, the water conditions will crash (ammonia and nitrite surge) possibly killing all of the aquarium inhabitants. If you are ever unsure about what to do on your aquarium, just pick up the phone and call us. That is why we are there folks, to help you out with your aquarium questions!

If your aquarium incorporates filtration components other than a wet dry (hang-on power filter, canister filters, etc), these units also need regular servicing. Nothing is maintenance free unfortunately. Your aquarium components will last many years with regular maintenance! Save yourself some money and go clean that equipment up today.

## **NEW FILAMENTED GLASSFISH**



### **GYMNOCHANDA FILAMENTOSA**

A couple of newsletters back, we spoke about the beautiful new filamented glassfish that had arrived. We could not find any information about these fish but, as often happens, a customer came to the rescue! She and her friend found them on the web and were kind enough to share what they had found. Turns out these beauties are collected from both freshwater and brackish water environments in Western Borneo and Malaya. This fish reaches about 3.8cm (1.5”) at full size meaning these are close to full size. The males have the elongated dorsal and anal fin rays while the females are short and more typical of other glassfish. The rays also have a red streak that appears more brightly once they are comfortable in their environment. These are now eating all types of foods at the store and seem to show no aggression toward each other or the other species housed with them in the same aquarium. Like other glassfish, caution should be used if one has to treat the aquarium with parasite medications. Most of these medications contain malachite green and/or formalin. The delicate skin of glassfish can be damaged with these medications. If one must treat anyway, use the medication at half strength and consider treating with an antibiotic like erythromycin in conjunction with the parasite treatment to lessen the chance of them being damaged. These fish are inexpensive yet different!

## **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](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 – CMAC  
[www.columbiamac.org](http://www.columbiamac.org)

Question and Answer Forum –  
[www.wetwebmedia.com](http://www.wetwebmedia.com)

## **Fish of the Week**



**ALGAE BLENNY (SALARIAS FASCIATUS)**

Okay, we may agree that this little marine fish is not flashy colored but who needs color when you look like a character from a Dr. Seuss book! Algae blennies actually become many aquarists' favorite fish over time. This fish bounces around the aquarium from plant to rock to gravel and even to the glass. Algae blennies are one of the hardy marine fish that are even good for beginners if given the correct diet. These fish are peaceful with other fish though they are not fond

of each other or similar shaped blennies such as the bicolor blenny (*Ecsenius bicolor*) though other non-algae eating gobies and blennies are safe. This fish will **not** survive without algae-based foods. In the reef aquarium, algae blennies love green hair algae though they will ignore all slime algae (darn)! Supplemental feedings of tablet algae food like Algae Wafers and Spirulina Discs are accepted in most cases. Always ask to see the fish eat BEFORE you purchase it! We have found that a thin algae blenny is difficult to bring back to good condition. The ones on our coupons are a small size but this fish will reach about 5'-6" in the aquarium over time. Do not house algae blennies with aggressive fish like triggers and groupers as they cannot compete for food against such gluttons. This is just one of the specials this week at Tideline Aquatics. Print off the coupon at: [www.tidelineaquatics.net](http://www.tidelineaquatics.net)

## **What's New At Tideline**

### **FEEDERS (ARRIVED TUESDAY!)**

Feeder Guppies, Feeder Goldfish, Feeder Rosy Redds, Feeder Crayfish, Feeder Fiddler Crabs, Feeder Live Black Worms AND Feeder Ghost Shrimp. **Remember that feeders arrive every two weeks!**

### **FRESHWATER FISH (ARRIVED TUESDAY):**

African Butterflyfish, South American Dragonfish Gobies, Bumble Bee Gobies, Knight Gobies, Australian Gold Desert Gobies, Dwarf Freshwater Pufferfish (actually brackish), Large Figure Eight Pufferfish, Large Green Spotted Pufferfish, Green Scatophagus, Large Wild-Collected Archerfish, Small Tank Bred Archerfish, African Ropefish, Mixed Fancy Chinese Goldfish, Florida Bred Cardinal Tetras, Glo-lite Tetras, Lemon Tetras, Large Florida Bred Neon Tetras, Rummynose Tetras (finally), Red Serpae Tetras, Dwarf African Frogs, Red Wag Platies, Sunburst Platies, Assorted Pairs of Sailfin Mollies (very nice!), Blue Gouramis, Gold Gouramis, Millennium Rainbowfish, Boesmani Rainbowfish, New Hybrid! Orange Boesmani Rainbowfish (look Rusty), Marci Rainbowfish (Rusty!), Turquoise Rainbowfish, Red Pearl Hybrid Rainbowfish, Red Cherry Barbs, Golden Barbs, Roseline Denisonii Sharks (awesome!), Trimaculatus Cichlids, Altispinosa

Bolivian Rams, Mixed Florida Bred Oscars, (200) Assorted Mbuna African Cichlids (true breeds, not mutts), Siamensis Flying Fox Algae Eaters, Super Nice Otocinclus Algae Eaters, Gold Spot Lyretail Plecostomus, Duckbill Catfish (cool), S/M Clown Loaches, Golden Dojo Weather Loaches, Common Dojo Weather Loaches, Botia Striata Loaches, M/L Tiretrack Eels.

### **LIVE AQUARIUM PLANTS (NOW IN STOCK):**

Italian Vallesneria, Cryptocoryne Moehlmanni Plants, Rotala Indica Bunches, Cryptocoryne Ciliata Plants, Red Rubin Swords, Red Narrowleaf Ludwigia Bunches, Rotala Magenta Bunches, Java Fern, Water Wisteria Bunches, Green Foxtail Bunches, Medium Amazon Swords, Potomageton Gayi Bunches, Red Nesaea Bunches, Didiplis Diandre Bunches.

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

Small Blue Shusui Butterfly Koi (super nice!), Small Domestic Koi Assortment, Medium Assorted Domestic Pond Koi, Jumbo Japanese Koi, Awesome Sarasa Veiltail Pond Comets, 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 (EXPECTED ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON):**

Hawaiian Barlett's Anthias, Indian Ocean Neon Velvet Damsel, Bali Bicolor Basslets, Bali Purple Basslets, Bali Dogface Pufferfish, Bali Foxface Rabbitfish, Indian Ocean Sailfin Tangs, Bali Mimic Eiblii Tangs, Fiji Coral Beauty Angelfish, Bali Halfblack Angelfish, Bali Eiblii Angelfish, Sri Lanka Yellowfin Angelfish, Hawaiian Flame Angelfish, Caribbean Argi Pygmy Angelfish, Indian Ocean Koran Angelfish, Bali Majestic Angelfish, Bali Juvenile Emperor Angelfish (Delicate!!), Red Sea Asfur Angelfish, Bali Male Squareback Anthias, Baby Bali Assorted Anglerfish, Bali Tomato Clownfish, Bali Pink Skunk Clownfish, Indian

Ocean Sebae Clownfish, Sri Lanka Clarki Clownfish, Bali XL Maroon Clownfish, Sumatra Large Goldbar Maroon Clownfish, Indian Ocean Black & White Heniochus Butterflyfish, Indian Ocean Kleini Butterflyfish, Sri Lanka Bicolor Blennies, Fiji Canary Blennies, Indian Ocean Grammistes Blennies, Indian Ocean Scooter Blennies, Bali Algae Blennies, Indian Ocean Common Firefish Gobies, Indian Ocean Purple Firefish Gobies, Indian Ocean Yashia Haze Goby, Bali Randall Goby, Bali Candy Cane Gobies, Fiji Citron Gobies, Indian Ocean Rainfordi Gobies, Bali Green Mandarin Dragonettes, Bali Spotted Mandarin Dragonettes, Sri Lanka Diamond Sifter Gobies, Indian Ocean White Sifter Gobies, Bali Dragon Sifter Gobies, Bali Yellow Watchman Gobies, Indian Ocean Pink Spot Watchman Gobies, Caribbean Royal Grammas, Mexico Longnose Hawkfish, Indian Ocean Fuzzy Dwarf Lionfish, Indian Ocean Black Volitan Lionfish, Hawaiian Peacock Lionfish, Sri Lanka Radiata Lionfish, Fiji XL Bluespot Pufferfish, Indian Ocean Valentini Pufferfish, Hawaiian Red Stripe Squirrelfish, Fiji Pajama Cardinalfish, Indian Ocean Tiera Batfish, Indian Ocean Orbicularis Batfish, Indian Ocean Niger Triggerfish, Bali Clown Triggerfish, Hawaiian Yellow Tangs, Indian Ocean Blue Regal Tangs, Bali Tominiensis Tangs, Sri Lanka Clown Tangs, Indian Ocean Powder Brown Tangs, African Powder Blue Tangs, Bali Mimic Yellow Tangs, Bali Adult Chocolate Tang, Bali Sixline Wrasses, Indian Ocean Solorensis (Tricolor) Fairy Wrasses, African Formosa Wrasses, New Species of Fairy Wrasse from Tonga, African Formosa Wrasses, Indian Ocean Multicolor Pencil Wrasse (?), Tonga Fancy Rainbow Wrasses (?), Australian Banana Wrasses, Fiji Candy Hogfish, Bali Harlequin Tuskfish, Banded Cat Shark Egg.

## **SALTWATER INVERTEBRATES**

**(EXPECTED ON WEDNESDAY**

**AFTERNOON):**

Fiji Premium Live Rock (200lbs), **Tonga Premium Niu Live Rock (70lbs)**, Pink 4-Layer Feather Dusters, Neon Yellow Feather Dusters, Red Hardtube Coco Worm Dusters, Cluster Hardtube Coco Worm Dusters, Purple Reef Lobsters, Large Saron Monkey Shrimp, Tiger Pistol Shrimp, Sri Lanka Cleaner Shrimp, Sri

Lanka Fire Shrimp, Pom Pom Boxer Crabs, Electric Blue Reef Hermits, Cortez Redleg Reef Hermits, Pink Margarita Reef Snails, XL Tonga Nassarius Reef Snails, Cerith Reef Snails, Black Margarita Reef Snails, Zebra Long Tentacle Anemones, Super Color Large Bubble Anemones, Assorted Color Mushroom Rocks (dozen), Green Ricordea Mushroom Rocks (Vietnam), Assorted Nano Corals (always a nice mix on these), Orange Bee Sponges, Green Polyp Pipe Organ Corals, Yellow Polyp Rocks, Green Button Polyp Rocks, Green Daisy Polyp Rocks, Super Mix Fancy Leather Corals, Green Hydrophora Corals, Branching Frogspawn Corals, Green Wall Hammer Corals, Fiji Candy Corals, **Fungia Plate Corals on Rock!!**, **Super Red Blasstomussa Wellsii Corals**, **Super Red Micromussa Amakusensis Corals**. The last two mentioned coral species are more expensive, but they are incredibly beautiful!