



September 18, 2007

tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

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

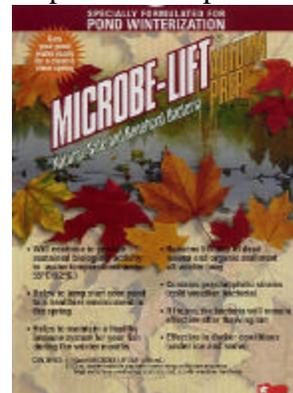
GETTING YOUR POND AND FISH READY FOR FALL



Though we will have several warm-up periods in the coming weeks, generally the weather will be cooler. With cooler temperatures, there are steps you should take to ensure that your pond and pond fish are ready for the coming months. This will be the last month you will fertilize your pond plants. As water temperatures drop, you will not want to encourage new growth on the plants by fertilizing. Water lilies are the first to show signs of dormancy with leaves and flowers beginning to fade more quickly. As they fade, it is more important now than ever to remove them before they decay in the pond. Other plants will begin to drop leaves as well, as with the lilies, remove any spent leaves and dip out leaves from the bottom of the pond. Soon, tree leaves will begin to change color and fall into your pond. If these leaves are left in the pond, the water will become dark with tannic acid that could cause the pH to drop due to the extra organic load. It

will also cause major algae blooms in the Spring. Once the cold weather has burned the plants back, just clip off the dead material just above the water level. Water lilies will lose all of their leaves eventually. Just allow the pots to remain where they are, the plants will reemerge again in the Spring.

Bacterial additives are strongly recommended this time of year. These additives contain special bacteria for breaking down the muck on the bottom of the pond as well as the consumption of other organic matter. This will reduce the load on your biological filter as it becomes dormant once the water temperature drops below 50 degrees.



As for your fish, we suggest beginning to mix in a wheat germ based food in conjunction with their regular diet. Once the night temperatures remain in the 50's and 60's, the fish should be placed on a wheat germ only diet. Why wheat germ food you ask?



BOTH TETRA AND SATORI OFFER A QUALITY WHEAT GERM FOOD FOR FEEDING IN THE FALL AND SPRING.

In cooler water, your pond fish's metabolism will slow down. Wheat germ is processed more quickly, is high in Vitamin E and puts some weight on the fish to prepare them for the very cold months where the fish may go several weeks without food. If the water temperature were to drop below 50 degrees and the digestive tract of the fish is full of food, it can kill your fish! Wheat germ is processed quickly, even in cold water. Once the water temperature drops below 55 degrees, we suggest not feeding the fish at all. In the Charleston area, we will have temporary warming trends in winter. During these periods, the fish can be fed during the warmest period of the day at about 1/3 the amount of what they would normally be fed. Start mixing in the wheat germ food now and as it becomes cooler, begin feeding it exclusively until it is too cold to feed them regularly. Tideline stocks thermometers for monitoring your ponds water temperature. You will know when it is too cold for your fish to feed as often they will remain gathered together in a tight group on the bottom of the pond! Do not be alarmed, this is completely normal.

Around mid to late October, service your biological filter media. Remember NOT to clean it with tap water but instead, clean it with well water, old pond water, rain water or treated (dechlorinated) tap water. Soon you will be able to unplug your UV Clarifier and allow the water to just pass through it. In the colder months, algae generally do not grow. By unplugging your UV, you will extend the life of the expensive UV lamp. Remember to allow water to continue to flow through the unit. Allowing the UV to set with no flow can cause the water inside to freeze on cold nights cracking your UV housing and/or quartz sleeve!! In Charleston, the water never freezes solid. Pumps and filters should be allowed to run year round in this area.

Getting your pond ready now is important to your fish. By cleaning up the pond before it gets too cold, there will be less chance of disease outbreaks and water quality issues in the Spring!

IS YOUR AQUARIUM READY FOR COOLER WEATHER?

Cooler temperatures not only affect outdoor ponds, they can also affect your aquarium. This time of year, many of us enjoy opening the windows to allow the finally cool air to freshen up our homes. For your aquarium inhabitants, this can cause major problems if your aquarium heater is not set properly, is not working properly or is simply not plugged in. A sudden drop in water temperature in your aquarium WILL cause the fish to develop a parasite outbreak even if no new fish have been added. The stress caused from a temperature swing in the water will weaken your fish's immune system making them vulnerable to an outbreak. Give your heater a simple test. Before you go to bed, read your aquarium thermometer and document the temperature reading. When you wake up the following morning, document the aquarium temperature at that time. When you get home in the afternoon, once again document the aquarium water's temperature. If you find a variation of more than one or two degrees, check your aquarium heaters temperature setting. After resetting it, give the aquarium another test as mention above. If the aquarium temperature is still not stable, you may need either an addition aquarium heater or you may need to replace your existing heater.



QUALITY MARINELAND VISITHERM SUBMERSIBLE AQUARIUM HEATERS

If you tend to keep your house cool, upgrade to a higher wattage heater. It will not overheat your aquarium; it will just be better able to handle the variation between the room temperature

compared with the warmer aquarium water temperature. Heed this warning as we sell more parasite treatments for aquarium fish in the Fall and Spring more than any other time of year. Prevent fish problems by giving your aquarium heater a test to ensure it is functioning properly.

COOL NEW AQUATIC PLANTS FOR YOUR FRESHWATER PLANTED AQUARIUM



MONOSOLENIUM TENERUM

Like any gardener, it is always exciting to come across a new aquatic plant for the aquarium. After searching in our plant book library and coming up with little or no information, we turned to Google in search of information on this new plant that just arrived at Tideline Aquatics. It turns out, this is a highly sought after plant yet it is extremely difficult to obtain. This plant arrived in small containers of loose plant material. Monosolenium has no roots or stems instead growing in a large mass from small parts of the plant. It is recommended that the plant parts be attached to a piece of wood or rock using fine monofilament line wrapped around the plant material. Over time, the plant grows through the monofilament line forming a large mass of bright green wonderfulness! By clipping off pieces of the mass and attaching it to more rocks or wood, one can have clumps of this incredibly rare plant throughout the tank. Is it hardy you ask? Well we have not heard of a hardier aquarium plant based on the information we obtained from several websites. Monosolenium has a temperature range from 40 degrees to 86 degrees! It also will thrive in dim

or extreme lighting conditions in hard or soft water. If this information plays out to be true, this could be one of the hardiest, though slow growing, of the aquarium plants we have obtained. This is cultured plants material, not wild collected as it is extremely rare to find and collect. Monosolenium is found in only small ranges in Japan, China, Taiwan and India in the wild explaining why it is in high demand for cultivation in captivity.



HEMIANTHUS 'DWARF' MICRANTHEMOIDES

Finding a true foreground plant for the aquarium can be difficult. Pygmy chain swords, dwarf sagittaria and glossistigma are all good choices but this new find (suggested by a good customer) is a true little gem. Forming small clumps at first, Dwarf Baby Tears, its common name, eventually forms runners under the substrate allowing it to fill in areas of bright light in the foreground of the aquarium. Unlike Monosolenium, this plant is more demanding in the aquarium. It requires bright light (3watts/gallon+), a rich substrate and CO2 or a replacement product like Flourish Excel. We have sold all but one of the pots that arrived but will have more on the way for our next plant shipment. This plant becomes highly stressed when moved and often goes through a period of ugliness. Once it becomes established, avoid disturbing its fine roots. The temperature range for this plant is 65 to 85 degrees with a pH range of 5.0 to 7.6. Extra fertilization with plant spikes is suggested.



ANUBIAS GROWING ON DRIFTWOOD

So you think you have no chance of growing live plants in your aquarium? Think again! Anubias are one of the hardiest of the aquarium plants. They require only low lighting and weekly fertilization using one of the inexpensive liquid additives for plants. Anubias will thrive in hard or soft water as well. These are slow growing plants resembling the house plant Philodendron. The specimens at the store are fully established plants rooted in beautiful pieces of aquarium driftwood. We received both Anubias barteri and Anubias hastifolia. A. barteri is one of the lower growing Anubias while A. hastifolia grows to about 14” high in the aquarium. We are offering these on our website coupons this week only.

NOW UPDATED: THE NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE PAGE

If you are new to the Tideline Aquatics Newsletter or have missed any of our weekly emails, you can now view every former newsletter up to last week. Each newsletter covers a different subject that could answer questions you may have about your aquarium or garden pond. Once you go to the website, click on the ‘Newsletter Archive’ icon in the menu bar. There you can click and read all of our weekly newsletters from late 2006 to the present! Eventually, the newsletter will be posted there for you to view each week instead of attaching it to your weekly email. There will just be a link in your email that will take you directly to the site and the newsletter for that week.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS: AQUATIC PROS AQUARIUM MAINTENANCE CO.

Aquatic Pros is looking for HONEST, DEDICATED, HARD WORKING persons for possible employment with their company. You do not necessarily need to know all the odds and ins of the marine aquarium but experience with marine systems is a BIG PLUS. Their business entails the regular maintenance of freshwater aquariums, marine aquariums, reef aquariums and even garden ponds in homes and businesses throughout the Lowcountry. You must have a vehicle (small truck, minivan, etc) capable of transporting water and other maintenance supplies to each job site you would be assigned to after an extensive training period. You must also have EXCELLENT people skills (you are not a jerk to your fellow American). Aquatic Pros offers good pay if you are chosen to work for this company. This job is not a “cake walk”, you must be hard working, able to lift heavy materials and flexible in your hours. If this sounds like you or someone you know, please call **Jason Sack at (843) 813-5006** for a possible interview. We recommend them to anyone that desires to have their aquariums and ponds serviced – because they are an honest business operation with strong work ethics and excellent people skills.

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



CANTHIGASTER VALENTINI – THE VALENTINI PUFFER

Everyone is familiar with the common Dogface Pufferfish yet many do not have an aquarium large enough to house one. Well there are dwarf pufferfish, often referred to as sharpnose puffers, that will fit even in smaller aquariums. The Valentini Puffer is a dwarf variety that is quite hardy in the aquarium. Like most pufferfish, they prefer a meaty diet of chopped shrimp, squid, mixed frozen food (Formula One, Marine Cuisine) and dry pelleted foods. It is important to offer all pufferfish some hard foods regularly to keep their beak-like teeth from overgrowing. Sharpnose puffers also enjoy mixing in some vegetable matter in their diet from time to time as well. Dried marine algae, spirulina flakes or vegi-pellets will keep your sharpnose puffer happy. Being a dwarf puffer, avoid extreme species like larger triggerfish or groupers with the Valentini Puffer as they can become intimidated and hide. Marine angelfish, tangs, larger gobies, robust blennies, rabbitfish and squirrelfish make excellent mates for this peaceful pufferfish. 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 (ARRIVED TUESDAY):

Feeder Guppies, Feeder Goldfish, Feeder Rosy Reds, Feeder Crayfish, Feeder Fiddler Crabs, Feeder Live Black Worms AND Ghost Shrimp. Remember that new feeder shipments arrive every two weeks!

FRESHWATER FISH (ARRIVED TUESDAY):

Male Crowntail Bettas (these are beautiful), Regular Tiger Barbs, New! Round-Banded Barbs (Cool Markings), Medium Assorted Peacock Cichlids, Electric Blue Johanni Cichlids, Jacobfreibergi Peacock Cichlids, Borneo Sucker Loaches, Corydoras agassizi Catfish, Corydoras punctatus Catfish, Corydoras schwartzi Catfish, Peacock Eels, Tank Bred! Black Ghost Knives, Bleeding Heart Tetras, Super Sized Emperor Tetras, Large Florida Bred Neon Tetras, Harlequin Rasboras, Starfire Red Glo-Fish™, Orange Speckled Gold Severums, Large Angelfish and more. We have a massive selection of fish this week folks! New Hans German Discus Shipment arriving at the end of this month!!!!

LIVE AQUARIUM PLANTS (ARRIVED FRIDAY):

Potted Dwarf Baby Teardrop Plants (see description in this newsletter), Red Narrow Leaf Ludwigia, Amazon Sword Plants, Ammania Plants, Bacopa Bunches, Rotala Indica, Potamogeton Gayi, Wisteria (Hygro. Difformis), Moss Balls (cool), Dwarf Sagittaria, Monosolenium tenerum, Java Moss (finally), Java Fern, Anubias nana (the dwarf anubias), Ludwigia Peruensis (red color), Broad Leaf Red Ludwigia, Anubias Barteri on Driftwood, Anubias Hastifolia on Driftwood.

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

We still have a good selection of koi in our pond area though pond plants are coming to a close for the season. Get a great deal on this years plants by using the coupon on our website!

SALTWATER FISH (ARRIVED TUESDAY MORNING):

Vietnam Clown Gobies, Bali Foxface Rabbitfish (on our coupons!), Indian Ocean Sailfin Tangs, Fiji Coral Beauty Angelfish, Hawaiian Flame Angelfish (bright red color on these), Juvenile Indian Ocean Koran Angelfish, Sumatra Ocellaris Clownfish, Bali Sebae Clownfish, Sri Lanka Bicolor Blennies, Bali Smith's Forktail

Blennies, Bali Bluehead Forktail Blennies, Indian Ocean Algae Blennies (on our coupons!), Indian Ocean Firefish Gobies, Indian Ocean Yashia Haze Goby, Bali Candy Cane Gobies, Fiji Scissortail Gobies, Bali White Sifter Gobies, Bali Mural Sleeper Gobies, Hawaiian Dragon Wrasses, African Red Aurora Gobies (awesome), Bali and Tank Bred Yellow Watchman Gobies, Bali Medium Panther Groupers, Indian Ocean Black Volitan Lionfish, Bali Dogface Pufferfish, Indian Ocean Valentini Pufferfish (on our coupons this week), Fiji Pajama Cardinalfish, Fiji Starry Rabbitfish (cool), Bali Yellow Rabbitfish, Indian Ocean Blue Regal Tangs, African Sixline Wrasses, Bali Dragon Sifter Gobies (nice size), Australian Banana Super Male Wrasse, Tank Bred Maculosis Angelfish, Tank Bred Seahorses.

**SALTWATER INVERTEBRATES
(ARRIVED TUESDAY MORNING):**

Fiji Premium Live Rock (NICE SELECTION), **Tonga Premium Niu Live Rock (AWESOME NEW SHIPMENT)**, Yellow Neon Feather Dusters, Cleaner Shrimp, Fire Shrimp, Coral Banded Shrimp, Indian Ocean Blueleg Reef Hermits (new), Scarlet Red Leg Reef Hermits, Nerite Reef Snails, Cerith Reef Snails, Pyramid (trochus) Reef Snails, Pink Margarita Reef Snails, Bubble Anemones, Assorted Nano Corals, Solomon Island Hairy Finger Leather Corals, Fiji Gold Ultra Spaghetti Leather Corals, Green Finger Leather Corals, Colt Cladiella Corals, Hard Finger Leather Corals, Super Grade Aqua-Cultured Acropora Corals (awesome colors this shipment!!!), Pocillipora Coral, Blasstomussa Coral, True Pulsing Xenia Corals and more!!!!