



December 04, 2007

tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

Monday – Friday 11am-7pm

Saturday 10am-6pm

Sundays 1pm-5pm

TIDELINE NEW SERVICES:

Home Aquarium Cleaning Service –

Rate: \$65.00 first hour / \$50.00 per hour each additional hour. Call for an appointment!

Our complete aquarium cleaning service includes: in/out cleaning of the aquarium and cabinetry, a 25% partial water change (reverse osmosis water included in the cost), substrate vacuuming, decorative coral/plants cleaned, filters serviced (existing media will be cleaned), activated carbon changed (included in the cost), overall health of organisms inspected, wipe down of entire system, water analysis (pH, ammonia, nitrite, carbonate hardness, salinity (if saltwater), GH (freshwater only). If adjustments of water parameters are required, we will give you a written list of what you will need to purchase to fix any issues with your water. We will also give you a list of recommendations if any part of your system is not functioning properly.

Aquarium Equipment Drop-off Service –

Protein skimmers, water pumps, filters, glass tops, etc. Drop off your aquarium product for a complete break down and cleaning for only \$20.00! This is a 24 hour service except for Sunday drop-offs.

Tideline Referral Program –

Now when you bring in a family member, friend, neighbor or just someone off the street, you will receive a \$25.00 Tideline Gift Certificate if they decide to purchase a new aquarium package (20 Gallons or larger) from Tideline Aquatics. All you need to do is come to the store when your guest is purchasing their aquarium. The aquarium purchase must be 20 gallons or larger and

include at least the tank, hood, light and stand (filtration components in lieu of stand). At the register, you will receive your \$25.00 Gift Certificate to use toward anything you wish at Tideline Aquatics. Just our way of saying “Thank you!” for bringing us a new customer.

TIDELINE “WALL OF FAME”

PICTURE CONTEST – WIN \$100.00

GIFT CERTIFICATE TO TIDELINE

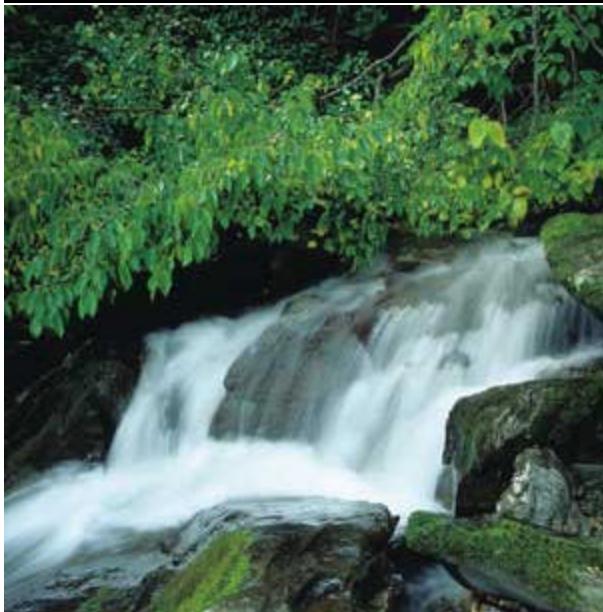
Beginning on Friday, November 23rd, you will be able to enter our “Wall Of Fame” picture contest. We will allow one photo per household for entry into the contest. Just bring in your BEST 8x10 glossy photo of your aquarium or pond. It can be a wide shot of your entire aquarium/pond or a close-up of your favorite aquarium or pond creature from **YOUR** aquarium or pond. You will need to include an index card with your name, address and phone number, the size of your aquarium or pond, how long it has been established, and type (reef, planted, water garden, etc). Blurry photos will not be accepted!! We will hang your photos in the store permanently! On December 31st, we will pick a winner based on the best photo quality AND creativity. Your personal information will be kept confidential.

The winner will receive a \$100.00 Tideline Aquatics gift certificate toward anything in the store you wish! Get your camera out and start clicking. Entries for the contest must be submitted before closing on DECEMBER 30th!! Each photo entered will be framed (by us) and hung in the store for everyone to enjoy. Enter your photo for a chance to win the \$100.00 Tideline Gift Certificate.

CHRISTMAS AQUARIUM GIVE-A-WAY!

Remember that every time you visit the store, you can sign up for our aquarium give-a-way! We are drawing a winner on Christmas Eve!!

NOT ALL WATER IS THE SAME!



If you choose to use bottled water in your aquarium, be sure to test the water parameters before you purchase any large quantity. For reef aquariums, it is best to use reverse osmosis water (freshwater for topping off and saltwater for partial water changes). In freshwater aquariums and betta bowls, many folks tend to purchase spring water as an alternative to treating city tap water. Recently, we have seen several issues with certain brands of spring water. Remember that these spring water bottlers design this water for taste, not for aquariums. While most brands are safe, there are some brands with water high in pH, elevated carbonate hardness levels (KH) and unacceptably high general hardness levels (GH). This can cause big problems for soft water fish like tetras, rasboras, South American Cichlids (esp. angelfish and discus) and many of the catfish available in our hobby. The use of distilled water for freshwater aquariums is not acceptable unless you add an electrolyte replacement product like R/O Right or Electro-Right.



The other alternative is to use treated tap water for your freshwater aquariums (if your city water is acceptable). If your saltwater aquarium

contains no invertebrates or live rock, the use of treated Charleston city tap water is completely safe for your aquarium. It should never be used in reef aquariums or aquariums containing live rock and invertebrates. Our city water contains phosphates at a level that is toxic to many invertebrates not mention problem algae that feeds off phosphates.

There is another choice of water for your aquariums. Tideline Aquatics sells water for aquarium use. Just bring in your containers and we will fill them for you! We sell treated city water, reverse osmosis freshwater and reverse osmosis saltwater. There is a discount coupon on our website this week for any Tideline Aquatics water purchase. Just print if off and bring it in with you! It is recommended that you call in your order before driving to the store. Though we seldom run out of water, some days water sales can exceed our production ability. If you call in an order, your purchase will be reserved giving you first priority.

Remember to clean and sterilize your water containers regularly to prevent bacteria from becoming established in your water storage containers. Refer to the January 16, 2007 newsletter in our newsletter archive page of our website for instructions on how to properly clean your water storage containers.

INTERESTING LOACHES FOR THE FRESHWATER TANK

Nearly everyone keeps some type of scavenger in their freshwater aquarium. Loaches make excellent scavengers, add color and movement to the aquarium and most are quite inexpensive. Here are a few of our favorites, some are common while others are only available certain times of the year. There is a loach to suite nearly every type of freshwater aquarium.



Coolie Loaches (*Acanthophthalmus kuhlii*)
Banded coolie loaches are suited for peaceful aquariums only. They are completely safe even with the smallest of community fish. Each coolie

is unique as the banding pattern varies from fish to fish. Due to their small size, they can reach uneaten fish food even in the tightest spaces. Whether you have sand or gravel, coolie loaches enjoy burrowing in and out searching for food. These fish can be shy. Coolies are much more active if kept in groups of three or more. We also stock a solid black coolie loach. Both can be kept together safely. These fish are not demanding but do need well oxygenated water.



Bengal Loach (*Botia dario*)

Because this loach is imported less regularly, it is often overlooked. This is another of the peaceful community tank loaches. *Botia dario* prefer good water quality, a well oxygenated aquarium and plenty of nooks and crannies to seek refuge. Though this loach is more secretive, when it emerges it is certainly an eye catcher with the bright yellow color outlined in bold black narrow stripes. We suggest keeping at least two of these fish together to encourage them to be more active in the aquarium. *Botia dario* can be housed with both small fish like tetras or with medium sized fish like gouramis.



Zebra Loach (*Botia striata*)

This beautiful loach has become a regularly stocked species at Tideline Aquatics. With its peaceful nature, beautiful markings and relatively inexpensive price, *Botia striata* is

another excellent choice for the community aquarium. Reaching only 4" in length, this schooling loach (as are most loaches) will eat uneaten fish food, frozen foods, small snails and even some vegetable material though they are safe for planted aquariums. This fish is more sensitive to water quality. *Botia striata* loves soft water, well oxygenated water and a soft substrate (finer gravel or sand). This loach is quite active in the aquarium once it becomes established.



Dwarf Chain Loach (*Yasuhikotakia sidthimunki*)

Now here is a loach is almost never available as they are not collected from the wild due to being listed as endangered. They are bred in captivity using hormones but not enough to bring down price of this expensive 2" jewel. Every time this fish is on our availability list, we buy them! *Y. sidthimunki* are never shy. They dart all over the aquarium with no fear. The markings are incredible but you will have to open the wallet pretty wide to purchase a school of them! This is a hardy loach that enjoys strong water flow and well oxygenated water. With its small size, *Y. sidthimunki* should be housed with smaller species like tetras, rasboras, peaceful dwarf cichlids and the like. If you see this fish and can afford it, don't miss out! This is one of the most active of all the loaches!



Tiger Botia (*Syncrossus hymenophysa*)

Now here is a loach with an attitude! Tiger botias grow to be about 7"-8" long in the aquarium. These fish are bold "go getters" that even fight among each other though no harm is usually done. This fish does well with larger silver dollars, smaller mouthed South American Cichlids (firemouths, nicaraguense, convicts, etc) and even African Cichlids. That's right; we have had many folks add these fish to the alkaline African cichlid tank with no problems competing for food or territory. This is an inexpensive loach with a huge appetite making it a good scavenger that can keep up even with big eaters. We stock this fish on a regular basis.



Dojo or Weather Loach (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*)

Looking like a giant naked coolie loach, the weather loach makes a nice addition to the aquarium. Whether you have smaller fish or medium sized fish, as long as they are peaceful, the weather loach will do just fine. Be aware that this fish can reach about 6"-7" in the aquarium yet it will remain completely peaceful. These fish often arrive in poor condition after shipping but once we quarantine them, they are rock solid as long as your aquarium is not too warm. Weather loaches prefer cooler water ranging from 50 degrees to 75 degrees. This fish can even be kept in the outdoor garden pond here in Charleston! Though weather loaches are good scavengers, they will not miss out on regular feedings. They will also burrow in the substrate in search of

food. They are called weather loaches due to their sensitivity to changes in barometric pressure. This fish becomes extremely active when this occurs! How about that, a fish that can sense when a storm is brewing! The brown weather loach is inexpensive and hardy though the gold hybrid is somewhat pricier.



Horse Faced Loach (*Acantopsis choirorhynchus*)

Just one look at the photo and you can easily see where this fish gets its common name. This is a nervous fish that needs a soft substrate like fine gravel or sand to thrive. Horseface loaches love to dig making them ill-suited for planted aquariums though they do fine in a community aquarium with medium-sized tankmates. Horseface loaches will accept a wide range of water conditions but prefer warmer water of about 78-82 degrees. This fish reaches about 7" when full grown. Horseface loaches are not always in your face as they seem to appear and disappear as they burrow under the substrate. These fish are relatively inexpensive and hardy once they get over the stress of being moved.



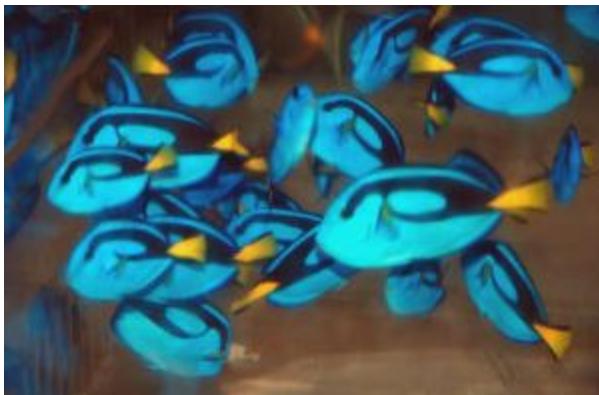
Angelicus Loach (*Botia kubotai*)

This is one of the newer loaches to the aquarium scene and they are certainly striking! *Botia kubotai* is extremely hardy and peaceful accepting both soft and harder water conditions. This fish is somewhat more expensive (about \$15) yet a beautiful addition even with smaller

fish like neons, rummynose and cardinal tetras. This is not a shy loach as they are active throughout the aquarium. Botia kubotai reaches about 4"-5" at full size though they are slow growers. This fish is now becoming more available and we expect that the price may come down as the fish becomes more and more popular. These fish are excellent scavengers though they do best when supplemented with a single pellet food designed for bottom dwellers.

There you have it folks! Of course there are other loaches available regularly like Clown Loaches (*Chromobotia macracanthus*) and Yoyo Loaches (*Botia striata*) but you see these all the time. Next time you want to add a loach to your aquarium, choose one of the more unusual types for a change. All loaches are sensitive to ich medications so use them at half the strength to prevent damaging their delicate skin when treating your aquarium!

Fish of the Week



BLUE REGAL TANGS (PARACANTHURUS HEPATUS)

Though this is a beautiful marine fish, it is not the fish for everyone. Blue regal tangs should be kept in grounded aquariums with low nitrate levels and plenty of algae-based foods. If kept in poor conditions, this fish will suffer from conditions like head erosion and become more prone to parasite infections. This group of Indian Ocean Blue Tangs is about 2" long and eating very nicely! These fish are sensitive to temperature fluctuations meaning a stable environment is a must! If you want to add more than one of these fish to your aquarium, be sure to add them at the same time to prevent fighting. These fish have been in the store for over 12 days and are fully acclimated. **This is just one of the specials you will find this week on**

our website coupons. Print the coupon at:
www.tidelineaquatics.net

What's New At Tideline

OUR LIVESTOCK SELECTION IS HUGE – BELOW IS JUST A SAMPLE OF WHAT YOU WILL FIND THIS WEEK!!

FEEDERS (NOW IN STOCK): Feeder Guppies, Feeder Goldfish, Feeder Rosys, Feeder Crayfish, Feeder Fiddler Crabs, Live Black Worms, Ghost Shrimp (almost out of shrimp).

FRESHWATER FISH (NOW IN STOCK or ARRIVING TUESDAY NIGHT):

Livebearers – Black Yucatan Mollies, Velvet Wag Swordtails, Sunburst Mickey Mouse Platies, Red Tuxedo Platies, Dalmation Mollies, Silver Lyretail Mollies, Gold Nugget Mollies, Fancy Guppies.

Catfish – Juruense Shovelnose Catfish, Red Loricaria Whiptail Catfish, Chinese Algae Eaters, Farawella Twig Catfish, Common Plecostomus, Tank Bred Bristlenose Plecostomus, Bumble Bee Catfish, Fourline Pictus Catfish, Sun Catfish, Panda Cory Catfish, Botia Lohachata Loach (Yoyo), Banded Kuhli Loaches, Black Sharks, Redtail Black Sharks, Colombian Shark Catfish, Rainbow Sharks, Synodontis – angelicus, petricola, multipunctatus, brichardi, acanthomias and more.

Angelfish – Jet Black Angelfish, Jet Black Veil Angelfish, Assorted Small Angelfish, Assorted Medium Angelfish, Zebra Lace Veil Angelfish, Gold Veil Angelfish, Koi Veil Angelfish, Sunset Angelfish.

Brackish – Figure Eight Pufferfish, Green Scatophagus, Red Ruby Scatophagus, Sleeper Gobies, Knight Gobies, Bumble Bee Gobies, Archerfish.

Tetras / Rasboras – Florida Bred Neon Tetras, Florida Bred Cardinal Tetras, Rummynose Tetras, Black Neon Tetras, Head & Tail Lite Tetras, Glolite Tetras, Black Skirt Tetras, White Fin Rosy Tetras, Red Serpae Tetras, Harlequin Rasboras, Glolite Rasboras, Bleeding Heart Tetras, Silver Dollars.

Gouramis / Bettas – Female Bettas, Male Bettas, Moonlite Gouramis, Sunset Honey Gouramis, Gold Honey Gouramis, Blue Gouramis, Gold Gouramis, Opaline Gouramis, Pearl Leeri Gouramis.

Cichlids (Dwarf, South American, African) – Assorted Oscars, Green Terrors, Super Nice German Blue Rams, Orange Spotted Gold Severums, Jack Dempseys, XL Oscars, Nicaraguan Cichlids, Pike Cichlids, Nice Frontosa Cichlids, Bright Yellow Lelui Cichlids, M/L Venustus Cichlids, Nanochromis Nudiceps Dwarf Cichlids, Managuense Jaguar Cichlids, Firemouth Cichlids, Standard African Cichlids, Premium African Cichlids (SUPER NICE SELECTION), Tinanti Buffalo Head Cichlids, Apistogrammas – agassizi double reds, borelli yellow, cacatuoides double reds, Geophagus jurupari Eartheaters, Geophagus surinamensis Eartheaters.

Other – Giant Danios, Mystery Snails, Peacock Eels, Medium Silver Arowanas, Florida Flagfish, Freshwater Flounders, Leporinus fasciatus, Dwarf African Frogs, 5" Black Congo Knifefish, Black Ghost Knifefish, XL Discus.

LIVE AQUATIC PLANTS (NOW IN STOCK):

Bacopa Bunches, Cabomba Bunches, Ludwigia peruviana Bunches, Rotala indica Bunches, Potamogeton gayi Bunches, Wisteria Bunches, Amazon Swords, Anubias nana, Anubias Barteri, Crypt. moehlmanni, Crypt. wendtii ‘Bronze’, Dwarf Baby Teardrop, Italian Vallesneria, Aponogeton ulvaceous, Red Ludwigia Bunches, Dwarf Hairgrass, Dwarf Baby Teardrop imbedded on rock, Giant Microsword, Narrow Microsword, Java Fern.

SALTWATER FISH (NOW IN STOCK):

Angels / Butterflyfish: Queen Angelfish, Koran Angelfish, Coral Beauty Angelfish, Flagfin Angelfish, Brown Heniochus Butterflyfish, Kleini Butterflyfish, Asfur Angelfish, Passer Angelfish.

Clownfish – Ocellaris Clownfish, Tank Bred Ocellaris Clownfish, Gold Stripe Maroon Clownfish, Maroon Clownfish, Tomato Clownfish.

Gobies / Blennies – Blue Torpedo Gobies, Clown Gobies, Common Firefish, Scooter

Blennies, Spotted Mandarins, Algae Blennies, Bicolor Blennies, Candy Cane Gobies, Greissengeri Goby, Blue Spotted Watchman Gobies, Yellow Watchman Gobies.

Wrasses – Mexican Rock Wrasses, Sixline Wrasses, Black Bird Wrasses, Half Black Wrasses, Multicolor Wrasses, Purple Fairy Wrasses, Paddlefin Wrasses, Banana Wrasse.

Tangs – Yellow Tangs, Blue Regal Tangs, Powder Brown Tangs, Sailfin Tangs, Mimic Yellow Tangs, Powder Blue Tang, Yellowfin Tang.

Triggerfish / Eels / Puffers – Humu Triggerfish, Niger Triggerfish, Bluejaw Triggerfish, Sufflamen Triggerfish, XXL Mappa Dogface Pufferfish, Dogface Pufferfish, Valentini Pufferfish, Porcupine Pufferfish, Blue Spotted Pufferfish, Banded Moray Eels, Chainlink Moray Eels, Green Wolf Eel.

Lionfish – Black Volitan Lionfish, Fuzzy Dwarf Lionfish.

Other – Assorted Common Damselfish, Orangetail Damselfish, Blue Reef Chromis, Pajama Cardinalfish, Bicolor Basslets, Royal Grammas, Neon Velvet Damselfish, Barred Jackfish, Purple Basslets, Yellow Goatfish, Black Barred Soldierfish, Red Squirrelfish, Glass Eye Soldierfish, Foxface Rabbitfish, V-Tail Groupers, Louti Grouper.

INVERTEBRATES (NOW IN STOCK):

Crustaceans – Peppermint Shrimp, Monkey Saron Shrimp, Cleaner Shrimp, Anemone Shrimp, Sally Lite Foot Crabs, Atlantic Scarlet Hermits, Blueleg Hermits, Emerald Crabs (limited), Coral Banded Shrimp, Horseshoe Crabs, Cortez Reef Hermits, Purple Reef Lobsters, Tiger Pistol Shrimp, Candy Cane Pistol Shrimp.

Snails / Cucumbers / Starfish / Urchins – Atlantic Turbin Snails (Astrea), Nassarius Snails, Cerith Snails, Fighting Conchs, Red Fromia Starfish, Serpent Starfish, Brittle Starfish, Sifting Cucumbers, Pink & Green Cucumbers, Pin Cushion Urchins, Short Spine Urchins.

Corals / Polyps / Mushrooms – Coralimorph Mushroom Polyps, Assorted Mushroom Rocks, Tubastrea Sun Corals, Green Wellsophylia

Corals, Red Chili Corals, Cultured Green Torch
Corals, Assorted Indo Leather Corals, Favia
Corals, Green Star Polyp Rocks, Ricordea
Polyps, Green Pearl Bubble Coral, Hydnophora
Corals, Assorted Fancy Zoanthid Rocks.

Anemones – Florida Condylactus Anemones,
Flower Rock Anemones, Brown Sebae
Anemones, Long Tentacle Anemones, Common
Bubble Anemones, Fancy Bubble Anemones.

Other – Atlantic Feather Dusters, Assorted
Caribbean Plants, Red Tree Sponges, Bright Blue
Crocea Clams, Indo Sea Apple.

We still have a nice selections of small assorted
frags suited well for nano reefs also.