



January 30, 2008

tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

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

CLEANING YOUR AQUARIUM ORNAMENTS & PLANTS SAFELY

Nothing can spoil the beauty of your aquarium decorations like algae can. Brightly colored artificial corals, ornate decorations and even artificial plants can all become dingy and discolored from brown and green algae. So often, folks just throw these valuable aquarium decorations away to purchase new ones but there is a way of making these items appear brand new once again. Do not be afraid to use this method to clean your decorations and plants. If you follow these instructions, you will not harm your aquarium animals. First, go to your local swimming pool supply company and purchase a simple chlorine test kit. These kits are usually only \$4-\$5. You will also need an aquarium safe container for soaking the items you intend to clean. Have a bottle of regular water conditioner (amquel, aqualife complete, prime, etc). Last you will need regular household bleach (non-scented, plain bleach). When cleaning plastic plants, artificial corals and plastic ornaments, you will use 1 part bleach for every 5 parts water (example: add 1 gallon of bleach to 5 gallons of water). For silk plants or ornaments containing silk (cloth) plants, cut the amount of bleach in half for cleaning these.

1. Fill an aquarium safe container with tap water (outdoors). Add the items to be cleaned. Turn them under water to release any trapped air bubbles. Your container will need to be large enough to completely submerge the ornaments.

2. Add the appropriate amount of bleach based on the recommendations above.
3. Allow the ornaments to soak until the algae has all disappeared (usually about 30 minutes).
4. Now discard the water in the container and rinse off each individual decoration completely with tap water inside and out. Also rinse out your bleaching container.
5. Now refill your container with tap water. Add each ornament to the container one by one turning it under water to release ALL air pockets within the ornament (this is extremely important).
6. Now add a five times dose of aquarium water conditioner to the container. Once again turn each ornament inside your container. This will ensure that the water conditioner (dechlorinator) will neutralize all of the chlorine.
7. Now test the water in the bleaching container for chlorine using the chlorine test kit you purchased from the swimming pool company.
8. If the water tests negative for chlorine, remove your ornaments from the container, rinse them one more time and allow them to sit for about an hour before replacing them into your aquarium. If the water tests positive for chlorine, simply repeat steps 6 and 7.

At Tideline Aquatics, this is the method we use for cleaning all of our aquarium ornaments, plants and decorative corals. If you follow these steps properly, you will not kill your aquarium inhabitants. Remember, if you get bleach on your hands during the cleaning process, you must dechlorinate your hands using water conditioner before placing them back into the aquarium!! Bleach will kill your fish if you get **any** in the tank!!

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVERSITY IN AQUARIUM FISH SPECIES

When you purchase an aquarium fish from your local pet store, seldom do you think about the environment from which these fish were first collected. In marine fish, the waters of the coral reefs all over the world are virtually alike with slight variations in salinity and temperature. For freshwater fish, the environments from where these fish are collected are diverse and often extreme! Take a look below:



WILD CARDINAL TETRAS IN THE RIO NEGRO

Many of the aquarium fish we keep come from the dark waters of the Amazon River in South America. Though many of these fish are now tank bred, there are still many species collected directly from the river for the aquarium trade. Cardinal Tetras, Rummynose Tetras, many Corydoras catfish, Hatchetfish, Angelfish, Oscars and even Discus all originated from the Amazon River. The water is tea colored to black coffee colored and varies in pH from 4.0 to 7.0. Wild collected cardinal tetras in the Rio Negro are found in waters where the pH is about 5.0!! Natives in these areas sustain their lives by collecting and trading tropical fish from the aquarium industry. With the recent introduction of tank bred Cardinal Tetras, environmentalists are worried that the native population may resort to mining and clear-cutting of trees to sustain themselves as more and more fish are being bred commercially instead of being wild caught.

Collecting tropical fish is how many of these native people feed their families.



THE DARK WATERS OF THE AMAZON RIVER

In South America where the tiny algae eater the Otocinclus is collected, the water is bright green with free-floating algae (see picture below). The water clarity is zero yet it is teeming with millions of these tiny algae grazing fish. Get the full experience by going to www.youtube.com. In the search window, type in "collecting otocinclus" and watch the video of these fish being collected. It is really quite amazing the numbers of these fish found in this pea-soup colored water. It is also amazing how hardy these fish actually are to survive the stresses of being collected, packaged and shipped.



PEA SOUP GREEN WATER WHERE OTOCINCLUS ARE COLLECTED FOR THE AQUARIUM TRADE.

In Africa, the massive Lake Tanganyika is quite the opposite of the Amazon with its crystal clear blue water, massive rock formations and alkaline (pH 8.0-9.0) hard water. Over 200 species of cichlids make Lake Tanganyika their home. It is the seventh largest lake in the world and most of the fish found there are found nowhere else! Areas of Lake Tanganyika are over 4000 feet deep though no life exists below 300 feet due to extremely low oxygen levels causing high levels of hydrogen sulfide.



Though most of the cichlids that originate from Lake Tanganyika are now tank bred, wild collected cichlids are still imported for the aquarium industry.



Lamprologus species, Tropheus species, Julidichromis species and many more are exported from the lake.



THE BEAUTIFUL COASTLINE OF LAKE TANGANYIKA

Water parameters are quite different in the Congo River in Africa. While Lake Tanganyika is clear and alkaline, the Congo River water is black in color and soft with a pH range from 5.0 to 8.0 depending on the area of the river.



THE CONGO RIVER IN AFRICA

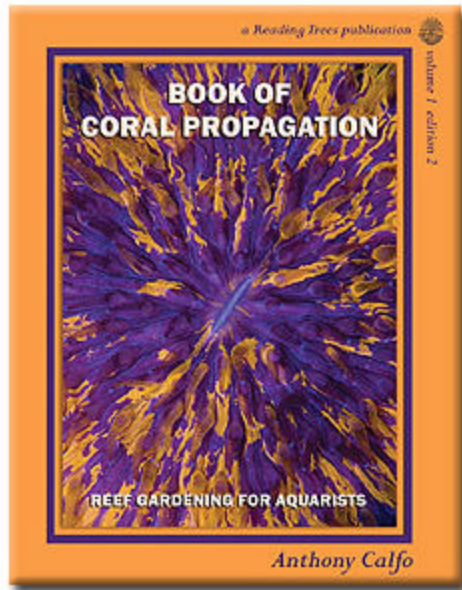
Elephantnose, Baby Whales, many Knifefish, Nanochromis, Chromidotilapia, several African Tetras, Ctenopoma, Polypterus, Jewel Cichlids and Buffalo Head Cichlids are just a few of the imports from the massive Congo River. This is also one of the most dangerous areas of the world to collect fish due to the political instability in many of the areas surrounding the Congo River basin.



Monster looking fish like this Giant Tiger Fish (Hydrocyon goliath) would make anyone think twice before stepping into the river to collect aquarium fish. Due to the diverse conditions of the Congo, fish collected there adapt to a variety of aquarium conditions if acclimated slowly.



NOW IN STOCK AT TIDELINE!!



The exciting new coral propagation book by author Anthony Calfo is now in stock. This book covers the cultivation of many coral species kept in the home aquarium. This book also covers the care of shipping and receiving new corals, pests, predators and disease, coral identification and coral placement in the reef aquarium. We are selling this book for only \$39.99 and quantities are limited!

What's New At Tideline

FEEDERS (SEE BELOW!!): Feeder Guppies (YES), Feeder Goldfish (LIMITED), Feeder Rosys (PLENTY), Feeder Crayfish (LOTS), Feeder Fiddler Crabs (LOTS), Live Black Worms (PLENTY & FRESH), Ghost Shrimp (RUNNING OUT FAST).

NEW FRESHWATER FISH:

Livebearers – Micky Mouse Swordtails, Orange Neon Platies, Painted Platies, Sunburst Platies, Assorted Lyretail Mollies.

Catfish/Loaches/Plecostomus – Marble Sailfin Catfish, Red Loricaria Cats, Farlowella Twig Catfish, Small Plecostomus, Medium Plecostomus, Large Plecostomus, L163 Large Spot Plecostomus, Albino Long-fin Plecostomus, Clown Plecostomus, L018 Gold Nugget Plecostomus, L260 Queen Arabesque Plecostomus, L191 Royal Plecostomus, L316 Zebra Mosaic Plecostomus, Upside Down

Catfish, Panda Corydoras Catfish, Golden Dojo Weather Loaches, Common Weather Dojo Loaches, Emperor Botia Loaches.

Brackish – Bumble Bee Gobies, Red Scatophagus, Archerfish, Figure Eight Puffers.

Tetras / Rasboras / Barbs / Danios – XL Florida Bred Cardinal Tetras, Black Skirt Tetras, Emerald Eye Tetras, Emperor Tetras (Super Nice!), Silver Hatchetfish, Lemon Tetras, Black Phantom Tetras, Espei Rasboras, Rummynose Tetras, Red Serpae Tetras, Green Glo-fish Danios, Zebra Danios, Pentazona Barbs (new and beautiful), Round Banded Barbs, Red Cherry Barbs, Odessa Barbs.

Gouramis / Bettas – Ctenopoma ansorgii, Female Bettas (super nice), Blue Gouramis, Platinum Gouramis, Dwarf Red Flame Gouramis (bright red color), Gold Honey Gouramis (neon yellow color), Pearl Leeri Gouramis.

Cichlids (Dwarf, South American, African) – Medium Firemouth Cichlids, Pike Cichlids, Bolivian Altispinosa Rams (good size), Premium Mixed African Cichlids (an awesome mix), Medium Premium Mixed African Cichlids (bright colors), Medium Assorted Peacock Cichlids (a super mix @ \$19.99 each), Electric Blue Johanni Cichlids (neon blue color).

Other – Saber Tusk Freshwater Barracudas, Large Fire Eels, Peacock Eels, Threadfin Rainbowfish, Roseline Denisonii Sharks (incredible size & color), Bala Sharks, Elephant Nose.

Goldfish – (All Are Super Quality) Celestial Eye Goldfish Mixed, Medium Mixed Chinese Ryukins, Medium Mixed Chinese Orandas, Small Black Moors, Mixed USA Fantails, Lemon Head Orandas.

HANS GERMAN DISCUS NOW IN STOCK AND READY FOR SALE – INCREDIBLE! The following color strains are available in a 3"-4" size: Flachen (Green Turquoise), Blue Pigeon Blood, Red Pigeon Blood, Marlboro Red, Blue Cobalt & Blue Diamond.

The list above represents only the most recent livestock shipment. We have MANY other species available at the store!

LIVE AQUATIC PLANTS (ARRIVING ON FRIDAY):

Red Nesaea Bunches, Wideleaf Sagittaria, Crypt. Red Wendtii Clumps, Ammania Bunches, Limnophila Bunches, Rotala indica Bunches, Rotala macrandra Bunches, Dwarf Hairgrass pots, Anubias nana plants, Dwarf Lily sprouted Bulbs, Amazon Swords, Variegated Radican Swords, Narrowleaf Microsword Clumps, Blyxa auberti Grass, Water Sprite, Madagascar Lace Plants and Dwarf Clover pots.

SALTWATER FISH (JUST ARRIVED):

Angels / Butterflyfish – Coral Beauty Angelfish, Eiblii Angelfish, Majestic Angelfish, Flame Angelfish, Flagfin Angelfish, Juvenile Imperator Angelfish (for advanced fish keepers only).

Clownfish – Clarki Clownfish, Sebae Clownfish, Jumbo Brown Saddle Clownfish, Tomato Clownfish, True Percula Clownfish, Ocellaris Clownfish, Gold Bar Maroon Clownfish, Pink Skunk Clownfish Pair, Md Tank Bred Ocellaris Clownfish.

Gobies / Blennies – Common Firefish Gobies, XL Scooter Blennies, Cool Eyelash Blennies, Algae Blennies (Lawnmower), Diamond Sifter Gobies, Yellow Watchman Gobies, Yellowtail Sailfin Blennies, Purple Firefish Gobies, Twinspot Sifter Gobies, Candy Cane Gobies, Bright Green Clown Gobies, XXL Mandarin Dragonettes.

Wrasses / Hogfish – Fiji Sixline Wrasses, XL African Exquisite Fairy Wrasse, Flavodorsalis Fairy Wrasse, Orangefin Punctatus Fairy Wrasse, Awesome Large Hawaiian Juvenile Red Coris Wrasse, New Red Masked Wrasse (Tonga), Condei Red Fairy Wrasse, Hawaiian Dragon Wrasses, Hawaiian Christmas Wrasses, Yellow Coris Wrasses, Picture Wrasses, Diana Hogfish.

Tangs / Rabbitfish – Sailfin Tangs, Hawaiian Yellow Tangs, Sri Lanka Powder Blue Tangs, Cebu Orangefin Tangs (xnice), Desjardini Sailfin Tangs, Fiji Orange Shoulder Tangs, Mimic Yellow Tangs, Mimic Chocolate Tangs, Fiji Bicolor Foxface Rabbitfish, Common Foxface Rabbitfish, Orange Spotted Rabbitfish (awesome).

Triggerfish / Eels / Puffers – Snowflake Moray Eels, XL Rectangulus Triggerfish, Clown

Triggerfish, Humu Triggerfish, Hawaiian Orange Spot Coronata Pufferfish, XL Orangetail Blue Spot Sharpnose Pufferfish, Dogface Pufferfish, Stars & Stripes Dogface Pufferfish, Male Bluejaw Triggerfish.

Lionfish – Assorted African Volitan Lionfish.

Other – Rare Zebra Tierra Batfish, Kupang Yellow Belly Damsel, New Bullseye Jawfish (Bali), Plectranthis Pygmy Hawkfish, Incredible Bartlett's Anthias, Royal Grammas, Falco Hawkfish, Longnose Hawkfish, Flame Hawkfish, Tank Bred Kelloggii Seahorses.

INVERTEBRATES:

Snails / Cucumbers / Starfish / Urchins – Red Spotted Sand Sifter Snails, Red Striped Trochus Snails, Cerith Snails, Cateye Turbo Snails, Cerith Snails, Mexican Turbo Snails, Blue Tuxedo Urchins, Bright Orange Linkia Reef Starfish.

Crustaceans – XL Cleaner Shrimp, Green Pistol Shrimp, Candy Cane Pistol Shrimp, Green Emerald Crabs, Red Emerald Crabs, Strawberry Crabs, Coral Banded Shrimp, Zebra Reef Hermits.

Corals / Polyps / Mushrooms – Super Quality Indonesian Mushroom Rocks, Assorted Common Leather Corals, Aqua-Cultured Green Frogspawn Corals, Aqua-Cultured Staghorn Leather Corals, Aqua-Cultured Staghorn Leather x Mushroom Leather Coral.

Other – Pink Tip Green Bubble Anemones, Long Tentacle Anemones, Beaded Anemones, Brown Sebae Anemones, Blueberry Gorgonians, Dark Purple Gorgonians, Bluespotted Seahares, 2" Blue-Green Crocea Clams (the perfect size), Fiji Fully Cured Live Rock.