



February 06, 2008

tideline aquatics Newsletter

Tideline Aquatics Store Hours

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

AQUARIUM & POND MYTHS

We run into stories everyday at Tideline Aquatics that folks have picked up and held onto as fact concerning their aquarium and/or garden pond. Time to set the record straight here!

1. **I don't have to do water changes as my aquarium water evaporates out at least 20% of the water each month.** NOT SO!!! When water evaporates from your aquarium that is ALL that evaporates. All of the organics that have accumulated in the aquarium only become more concentrated. Partial water changes must be performed along with cleaning the substrate with a gravel vacuum to remove the organic material.
2. **My aquarium is unhealthy as algae has covered the glass and decorations.** Not true folks! Though algae may look unsightly, it grows in all aquariums. The glass could be completely covered with algae but if you just test the water, you may find the environment to be safe for fish. The growth of slime algae (cyanobacteria algae) and hair algae is a sign of elevated organics, nitrates and/or phosphates. This may be stressful to the fish but will rarely cause them all to die. If you have a reef aquarium, invertebrates will never survive in this type of environment.
3. **My water is crystal clear so it is ready for fish.** Clear water does not equal safe water. The pH of the water could be 4.0 yet remain clear. Even tap water is crystal

clear but completely unsafe for live animals. The only way to ensure your aquarium water is safe for fish is to test the water parameters. Test your water at least once per month for pH, ammonia, nitrite and carbonate hardness (KH). Reef aquariums should also be tested for nitrate, phosphate and calcium monthly.

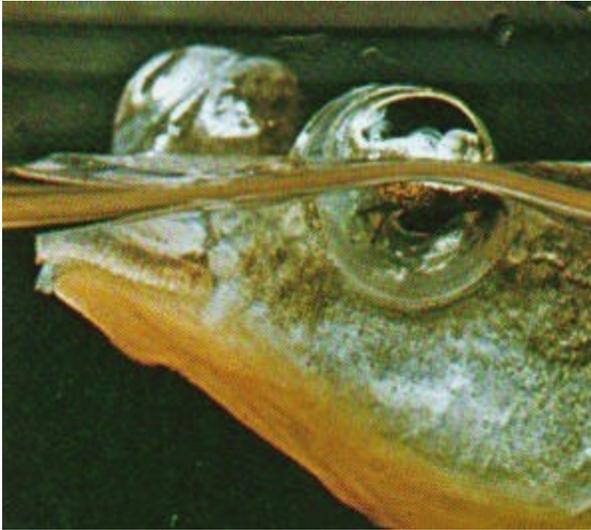
4. **I haven't tested my water but all my fish in the tank are fine. It must be safe to add more fish.** A super myth!! If you have had the same fish for months and your aquarium water conditions deteriorate slowly during that period (low pH, high nitrates, etc), your fish acclimate slowly to those conditions. They may be stressed but appear healthy. When you add a new fish to the tank, it cannot adjust to these adverse conditions with a 1 or 2 hour acclimation and will die often within 24 hours. This can cause the sudden death of your existing fish as well. Always test or have the water tested before adding new fish to your aquarium.
5. **The size of my aquarium will keep my fish from growing too large.** If you buy a fish that grows large, the size of your aquarium will not prevent this fish from outgrowing the tank. Fish that grow large may grow more slowly in a small aquarium but if the water conditions are safe and regular partial water changes are performed, the fish will still outgrow the tank. Growth hormones are excreted into the aquarium water by the fish that will accumulate if you do not perform regular water changes. These growth hormones will stunt the growth of the fish and even cause the fish to grow malformed if you do not do any partial water changes. But in a healthy aquarium, fish that grow large will always outgrow a small tank.

6. **Aquariums hold 1” of fish for every gallon of water.** Now this may be true in a few cases but you must consider the fish. A 10 gallon aquarium may hold ten 1” fish safely. Here the rule applies. At the same time, a 10 gallon aquarium will not hold a 10” oscar or two 5” goldfish! When considering your fish additions, you must take into account they type of fish, the filtration your aquarium incorporates and your aquarium husbandry.
7. **I have a UV (ultra-violet sterilizer) on my aquarium so my fish cannot get parasites.** A UV is an excellent addition to your filtration system for killing algae and bacteria. For killing parasites, the water flow through the UV would have to move so slowly, the free-swimming parasites in the aquarium would multiply faster than the UV could possibly kill them. UV’s cannot be considered for parasite control.
8. **My house temperature is always the same so my aquarium does not need a heater.** Aquarium heaters are required for temperature stability. Tropical freshwater and marine fish require a stable temperature to remain healthy. The aquarium heater maintains this stability. Fluctuating temperatures of more than two degrees in a 24 hour period will stress your fish and cause a parasite outbreak. You MUST use an aquarium heater unless you are keeping goldfish.
9. **My fish love brine shrimp so that is all that I feed them** Well.... Your kids love candy and potato chips but they would be a sickly bunch if that was all they ate for a month! Brine shrimp is a treat food only. It will never meet the nutritional requirements of your animals if fed solely. Always use a balanced diet for daily feedings and brine shrimp as a supplemental treat.
10. **My betta does not need to be fed; it just eats the plant roots from my Peace Lily.** Bettas are carnivorous fish!! It may eat plant roots but that is only because it is starving to death. Betta tanks that use the Peace Lily plant still require daily feedings for the fish. The plant roots are utilizing nutrients from the betta water to survive but the betta will never survive on the roots.
11. **I don’t use water conditioner because I let my water sit overnight before using it.** Our city water (and most across the country) contains chloramines. Chloramines are a bond of chlorine and ammonia. If the water sits overnight, the chlorine may evaporate out but the free ammonia will remain. You may be able to get away with top-off water from evaporation if you are lucky but you will eventually get burned and kill your fish using this method. Our city water must be treated with a water conditioner that states it removes chloramines, chlorine and ammonia.
12. **Raccoons and cats are eating my pond fish at night.** The fact is that neither raccoons nor cats get into the water to eat your fish. These animals may be curious and even swipe at the fish when they swim by but the chances of either of these animals actually capturing a fish and eating it are extremely rare. Water birds are eating your fish either at dusk or just at the break of dawn. Blue herons, cranes and other water fowl are fish catchers. A large blue heron can eat every fish in a single visit to a small pond. These birds will continue to visit your pond until all the fish have been eaten. Cover your pond with netting in the fall and winter to protect your fish. Once your pond plants have emerged, the fish will have better protection against these predators.
13. **I removed my pond because I was afraid of mosquitoes and West Nile Virus.** Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water. Though they may lay eggs in your pond, the fish will quickly consume all of the mosquito larvae or your filtration system will wipe them out. You will only have a mosquito problem in your pond if the fish are removed and the water flow is turned off.
14. **I only need 3 watts per gallon to maintain a reef aquarium.** When considering lighting for a reef aquarium, the 3 watts per gallon rarely applies. Instead, you must consider the types of

corals you intend to keep, the depth (height) of your aquarium and the type of lighting you intend to utilize.

15. **I need to add more fish as mine are lonely.** We all tend to share our human emotions when looking at our beautiful aquarium fish but loneliness is not an emotion that aquarium fish understand. But if it makes you feel better, then add some more fish!!

INTERESTING FISH THAT ARRIVED THIS WEEK



ANABLEPS ANABLEPS (THE FOUR-EYED FISH)

This strange fish has modified eyes that look both above the water and below the water at the same time! Anableps need brackish water, a slightly alkaline pH and a variety of flake and frozen foods to remain healthy. Watching these fish swim reminds us of watching chickens try to fly. These fish do well with species like Archerfish, larger Mollies, larger brackish water Gobies, Scatophagus and Monos.



SOUTH AMERICAN SILVER AROWANA

The beautiful Silver Arowana from South America makes an excellent aquarium fish for large aquariums only as they can reach over 24" in the aquarium. They gracefully swim near the surface of the water in search of any fish that will fit into their large mouths. South America Arowanas will not harm fish that they cannot eat. They prefer soft water with a pH of 6.5-7.5. The aquarium must be covered as they are powerful jumpers. Larger fish may require the tops to be weighted down as they can easily knock the lid of the aquarium open. We suggest housing fish like larger Silver Dollars, larger Geophagus, larger Severums with these fish. When considering what fish to keep with an Arowana, take into consideration the fish's shape. Broad bodied fish are much less likely to be eaten than streamlined fish.



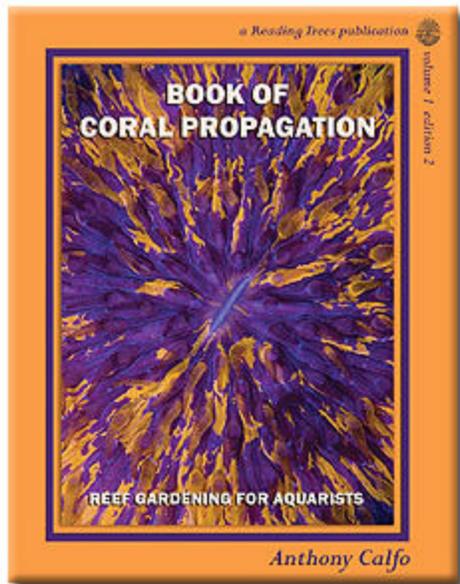
THE ZEBRA TEIRA BATFISH (PLATAX BATAVIANUS)

This is likely the most extraordinary batfish that survives in captivity. The Zebra Batfish has the lovely flowing fins like the Pinatus Batfish (does not survive in captivity) with zebra-like stripes throughout the body. This batfish is eating frozen and dried foods and is in perfect condition. Due to the draping fins, avoid nippers like triggerfish when finding a tankmate for this incredible specimen.



ORANGE SPOTTED RABBITFISH (SIGANUS GUTTATUS)
 While most rabbitfish can be bland, the Orange Spotted Rabbitfish is quite striking with the pretty orange polka-dots surrounded by blue/green colors. These are extremely hardy fish that make excellent algae grazers. Like all members of this family, they do have venomous spines on their dorsal fin though it is only a deterrent for predators and not for harming other fish housed peacefully in the aquarium.

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 (ALL IN STOCK!!): Feeder Guppies, Feeder Goldfish, Feeder Rosys, Feeder Crayfish, Feeder Fiddler Crabs, Live Black Worms, Ghost Shrimp.

NEW FRESHWATER FISH:

Livebearers – Black Yucatan Mollies, Assorted Platies, Mickey Mouse Swordtails.

Catfish/Loaches/Plecostomus – RARE! True Tigrinus Shovelnose Catfish (awesome), Albino Corydoras Catfish, Punctatus Corydoras Catfish, Schwartzi Corydoras Catfish, Zygatus Corydoras Catfish, Veiltail Hifin Corydoras Paleatus Catfish, Clown Loaches, Banded Kuhli Loaches.

Brackish – Anableps anableps Foureye Fish, Asian Mudskippers, Bumble Bee Gobies, Red Scatophagus, Archerfish, Figure Eight Puffers.

Tetras / Rasboras / Barbs / Danios – XL Florida Bred Cardinal Tetras, Rummynose Tetras, Odessa Barbs, XL Florida Bred Neon Tetras.

Gouramis / Bettas – Ctenopoma ansorgii, Tank Bred Chocolate Gouramis (very hard to get).

Cichlids (Dwarf, South American, African) – Medium Peacock Bass Cichlids, XL Jaguar Cichlids, Large Jack Dempseys, XL Convict Cichlids, Large Altispinosa Bolivian Rams.

Other – Blackberry Japonica Shrimp (possibly artificially colored – trying to get a true answer from our supplier), Blue Dolphin Sharks, Yellowtail Cigar Sharks, Medium Silver Arowanas (very nice), Large Silver Arowanas (good size), Common Freshwater Stingrays, Albino Clawed Frogs.

Goldfish – (Now in Stock) 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 (Now In Stock):

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

SALTWATER FISH (Now In Stock):

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

Clownfish – Clarki 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), Yellow Watchman Gobies, Yellowtail Sailfin Blennies, Purple Firefish Gobies, Candy Cane Gobies, Bright Green Clown Gobies.

Wrasses / Hogfish – Fiji Sixline Wrasses, 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, 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, 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, Tank Bred Kelloggii Seahorses.

INVERTEBRATES:

Snails / Cucumbers / Starfish / Urchins – Cerith Snails, Cateye Turbo Snails, Mexican Turbo Snails, Serpent 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, 2" Blue-Green Crocea Clams (the perfect size), Fiji Fully Cured Live Rock.

This list is based on our most recent shipment of saltwater livestock. There are many other species available in the store not included in this list.