

AUGUST NEWS

from NIELSEN'S MARINE MATES

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If you have read some of our previous newsletters, no doubt you will have seen articles on some of the many wave makers available. This month we will be giving some insight into what a wave maker actually is, how they work and why they are a useful addition to an aquarium - and yes, even some fresh water aquariums.

Our specials of the month feature the stunning flame gourami plus perhaps the most beautiful of the rainbows, the neon rainbow, for our fresh water offerings. For the marine enthusiasts there is an attractive and unusual rabbitfish and the aluminium plant rounds out our specials for this month. Hope to see you in store this month and as always, till next month good fishkeeping!

FRESHWATER PLANT OF THE MONTH – ALUMINIUM PLANT

This month's plant, whilst not a true aquatic plant, makes a fine display



and will last quite some time in the aquarium. Non aquatic plants are usually those which require a great deal

of water when grown outside the aquarium and are often bog plants. Aluminium plants do make a lovely shorter term display and are often not eaten readily by plant eating fish such as goldfish, mollies etc. These plants are grown by gradual submersion and can not just be picked from a garden and placed in the aquarium. Aluminium plant will be a lovely contrast with its bright green and white leaves and looks especially good against darker green plants such as anubias. Normally \$6.50 **AUGUST SPECIAL \$5.50**

AQUASYNCRO TRACK FIXTURE



These LED track light fittings have removable modules which allow the user to add or reduce the number of modules as desired up to the maximum for each size. Three colours are available in the LEDs - white, blue (which enhances blues and greens and is also dimmable) and colour enhancing (highlights oranges and reds). The modules can be mixed and matched to suit the user and can be used on many aquariums. We would not recommend them for coral tanks, even with extra modules added, as these do not have sufficient water penetration for that purpose. However they are ideal for any freshwater tank, especially cichlids where the colour enhancement is outstanding, and of course could be used on fish only marine tanks.

These are a slim line unit and the end brackets of the lights are adjustable to sit firmly on the end of the aquarium. It generates very little heat and so has little impact on water temperature.

Available models are:

60cm, 5W, 1 Blue + 4 White LEDs supplied, maximum 14 LED modules for this model. \$72.99

90cm, 6.5W, 2 Blue + 5 White LEDs supplied, maximum 23 LED modules for this model. \$96.99

120cm, 9W, 2 Blue + 8 White LEDs supplied, maximum 31 LED modules for this model. \$116.50

Extra modules 1W \$7.99 each.

WAVE MAKERS – How they work, what they are useful for and where they can be used.

New wave makers seem to appear on the market all the time, and at first glance it may be hard to see the advantage of a wave maker over a standard power head. Power heads usually have a fairly narrow outlet which tends to expel the water quite strongly and mostly in a stream all in the one direction. Wave makers generally have a very



large, direction adjustable outlet which produces movement and current in the water

and tends to distribute that current over a wide area of the tank. This softer movement is ideal for live corals, particularly if two wave makers are installed at opposite ends of the tank and set up to run alternately so that the direction of the current changes, much as it does in the sea.

Even the most basic wave makers can be set up this way using timers, and the more advanced models will have timers built in, along with a vast array of features to simulate water movement as it would be at



any time of night or day. Amongst these features the wave maker can be made to adjust flow, pulse, speed up and slow down

and run on random modes. Some can be programmed to turn off during feeding and turn back on automatically, and slow down the flow at night whilst fish and corals rest – and all of this easily programmed into the controllers. Another great feature worth noting

is that because the flow is distributed over most levels of the tank, detritus on the bottom of the tank is lifted by the current where it can be cleaned up by the filters, thus keeping the tank in a cleaner state and cutting down on maintenance.

It is important to understand that power heads, unlike wavemakers, are generally designed for continuous running and the impellors which drive them do not fare well when constantly switched on and off, often snapping off blades or even burning out.

Whilst it is usual to use wave makers in marine tanks, particularly reef tanks, it is also possible to  use them in some fresh water tanks, most notably cichlid tanks. These fish really enjoy the current and since they tend to be messy eaters, the ability to lift uneaten food from the substrate can not be underestimated.

Smaller aquariums, both fresh and salt water, are not left out as there a number of very small wave makers suitable for nano tanks and fresh water tanks which do not require a high water flow. These could be useful in planted tanks where very strong currents would disturb planting, but the softer current would be appreciated by the fish. It is interesting that in many tanks, fish will become more active and visible as many love to zip up into the stream of the wave maker and ride the current. Of course fish which originate from slow flowing or still waters may not be so appreciative.

If you have any questions or would like a recommendation for your individual tank, then come in soon.

FRESHWATER FISH OF THE MONTH

1. NEON RAINBOWS

Australian and New Guinea Rainbows have some really beautiful and colourful fish and none more so than *Melanotaenia praecox* – the neon rainbow. They have an iridescent blue body and males have



deep red finnage, whilst the females are only slightly less colourful with lighter red

fins. Rainbows probably look at their best when kept in a species tank. They are well suited to keeping in a heated nano tank where they will be an outstanding display when kept with lots of plants including floating plants for spawning. The Neon Rainbow is equally suited to a tropical community tank especially because of its small size (maximum 6cm) and outstanding colour and is peaceful enough to mix with small fish such as neon tetras.

These are a fish which are not at all fussy when it comes to feeding and will happily take flake and small pellets foods along with small frozen foods.

Normally \$12.00 each

AUGUST SPECIAL \$9.50

2. FLAME DWARF GOURAMI

Whilst some gouramis are very large growing, dwarf gouramis, as the name implies, grow only to approximately 5cm. They are generally peaceful towards fish of their own size or larger but males can be a little territorial towards other male gouramis at times.

Whilst the original wild colour is red striped, a number of other colour forms have been bred through and one of the most spectacular

variations is the Flame Dwarf Gourami, the male of which is solid red with blue finnage. As with many



fish the males are the more colourful and females have little colour – being mostly plain silver.

Gouramis are generally a hardy fish in the aquarium. They are not particularly fussy about feeding and are happy with quality flake, small pellets, and the occasional frozen or live food. They are a tropical fish so will require heating, especially in the winter. An absolute standout in the aquarium, **MALE FLAME DWARF GOURAMIS** are normally \$13.50

THIS MONTH ONLY \$11.50

NEW!

CONTINUUM CLARION•F

Clarion•F is a premium quality, maximum strength freshwater clarifier which clears cloudiness and immediately and safely begins to combine dirt, parasites, and other debris into clumps that can easily be removed by a good mechanical filter with fine filter floss. Cloudy water, and particularly green water, are signs that the aquarium may be overloaded with nutrients. If you have these conditions, treat with Clarion•F and then look for the cause, which may be overfeeding of fish food, or overuse of plant fertilizers or other nutrients which can cause bacteria or algae blooms. Clarion is not meant as a substitute for good maintenance practices. Partial frequent water changes may need to be initiated to get the system back under control. Be sure to clean filter floss or other filtration material regularly when using Clarion•F.



CONTINUUM BACTERCLEAN•F

Bacter Clean•F is a unique freshwater microbial culture and enzyme product specifically designed to target and clean surfaces of live plants, driftwood, decorations, rocks and tank walls, removing stains, loosening and softening debris for easy vacuuming and providing a cleaner, more pristine environment. It will out compete unwanted substances and loosen the grip of ugly accumulations and coatings making their removal by scraping or vacuuming easy. Its exclusive bacterial formula does much of the work for you, to help provide the beautiful freshwater or planted aquarium you have always wanted. It will also rapidly breakdown organic waste, leftover food, debris and detritus in freshwater aquariums, providing essential water quality improvement.

CONTINUUM BACTERGEN•F

Aquarium systems accumulate waste from uneaten food, faeces and other organic material. Over time, this accumulation lowers water quality, releases toxic gases into the water, and creates sludge on the bottom. BacterGen•F, will rapidly increase the population of beneficial micro organisms, resulting in an increase in water clarity, reduction of organic matter, and a decrease in undesirable nutrients, particularly ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and phosphate. Specifically designed for freshwater aquariums, BacterGen•F rapidly establishes nitrifying biological filtration in new aquariums, greatly reducing the time it takes to cycle the system.



MARINE FISH OF THE MONTH

BLUE LINE RABBITFISH

The Blue Line Rabbitfish is a beautifully patterned fish with metallic yellow body overlaid with blue lines and a bright yellow tail and dorsal fin.



As with its more commonly known

cousin, the Foxface, Blue Line Rabbitfish are herbivores and are excellent lawn mowers in the tank, cleaning up algae, particularly hair algae and red turf algae.

It has been reported that Rabbitfish may nip soft corals, (although we have not personally experienced this), and it has been suggested that this occurs when the fish does not get enough green in its diet and nips the corals to feed on the zooxanthellae within the tissue of the coral. In any event, they should be supplemented daily with seaweed sheets, green flake and pellets or other suitable green matter, even when there is a high level of algae present in the tank.

Rabbitfish possess poisonous spines which are capable of inflicting a painful sting – unpleasant but not life threatening. This should in no way deter you from having these fish in your tank, just a few sensible precautions when netting these fish or cleaning in the tank is all that is required.

Blue Line Rabbitfish are generally a very hardy fish which feed readily and are generally a good community fish. Normally \$45.00

THIS MONTH \$39.00

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