



Iridescent Shark

Scientific name:
Pangasianodon hypophthalmus

Iridescent sharks have peaceful temperaments and are also known as the siamese shark or sutchi catfish. They originate from the waters near Southeast Asia and Thailand.



Parrot Cichlid

Scientific name:
Amphilophus citrinellus

Sometimes known as the Blood Parrot Cichlid, this fish was cross-breed between a few other Cichlid species in Taiwan around 1986. In our tank, this fish likes to hide under rocks and in between plants.



Plecostomus

Scientific name:
Hypostomus plecostomus

Originating from waters in South America, this fish is also known as the suckermouth catfish or common pleco. It belongs to the armored catfish family (Loricariidae), named for the armor-like longitudinal rows of scutes that cover the upper parts of its head and body. Plecostomus are bottom feeders that eat food that fall to the bottom of the tank. They also eat algae and help control the algae build up in the habitats they live in.



Red-Tailed Shark (Rainbow)

Scientific name:
Epalzeorhynchus frenatum

Contrary to its name, this fish is actually a type of carp, not a shark and belongs to the Cyprinidae family. It is a semi-aggressive fish that will sometimes chase other tank mates to the point of exhaustion. Generally, this fish can be found swimming back and to in the bottom section of the tank. During feeding time you will notice them bullying other fish if you feed them too closely together.



T-Barb

Scientific name:
Puntius lateristriga

Also known as the Spanner Barb, this fish is a species of cyprinid fish and are native to the waters near the Malay Peninsula and the island of Borneo. They enjoy being in schools (shoal) of fish and considered peacekeepers in tanks having the ability to keep more aggressive fish from fighting with each other. T-Barbs generally stay in the mid to lower sections of the aquarium.

April 2019



Rochester Hills Public Library Fish Tank

500 Old Towne Road
Rochester, MI 48307
248-656-2900
Rhpl.org

Our beautiful fish aquarium was generously donated by the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library in 1992.

The Friends and library staff consulted with an Ichologist to design the tank. An Ichologist is a fish scientist. Together, library staff, the Friends of the Library, and the Ichologist developed a mission statement for the aquarium. The main goal of the mission statement was to make sure that all the fish in the tank were lively.

The original fish tank was glass, but around 2005, the tank was rebuilt and the glass walls were replaced with acrylic walls.

The tank holds 750 gallons of fresh water!

We feed the fish a tablespoon of special blend, high quality fish food every morning.

There is a drain at the bottom of the tank. Every so often, some of the tank water is removed through the drain and replaced with new water. This is done to keep the fish healthy.

The air bubbles you see are coming from a pump that is located in a closet next to the tank. The bubbles provide oxygen for the fish and also keeps the water from becoming stagnant. Look closely and you might find the Clown Loach fish resting upside down under the rocks! It has black bands around its body and a red tail. Don't worry, he's ok! Fish do this to replenish their air bladder so they can swim again.

Three of the longest living residents lived in this tank from 1992-2014. That's 22 years!

ABOUT THE FISH



Anostomus

Scientific name:
Anostomus anostomus

Also known as striped headstander, striped anostomus, and striped anostomus this fish originates from South America and is widespread throughout the Amazon and Orinoco river systems in Peru, Brazil, Venezuela and Guyana.



Bala Shark

Scientific name:
Balantiocheilos melanopterus

The Bala Shark prefers to be in a habitat of two or more species of fish. This fish is not considered a true shark, but gets its name because of its torpedo shaped body that is similar to a shark. The Bala Shark originates from Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo. The Bala Shark are the largest fish in our tank.



Blue Gourami

Scientific name:
Chromobotia macracanthus

Also known as tiger botia, this tropical freshwater fish belongs to the botiid loach family and originates in the inland waters of Indonesia on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo.

In the RHPL tank you might find the Clown Loach fish resting upside down under the rocks! It has black bands around its body and a red tail. Don't worry, he's ok! Fish do this to replenish their air bladder so they can swim again.



Clown Loach

Scientific name:
Chromobotia macracanthus

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Giant Danio

Scientific name: *Devario aequipinnatus*

The giant danio is a tropical fish belonging to the minnow family Cyprinidae. These fish are found in the waters near Sri Lanka, Nepal, and the west coast of India.



Gold Gourami

Scientific Name:
Trichogaster trichopterus

A relative of the Blue Gourami, they are Labyrinth fish, because they have a labyrinth organ. This organ allows them to get air at the surface of the water. Like other fish they have the ability to pass water through their gills to obtain oxygen, but they are also able to breathe atmospheric oxygen, which they can gather at the top surface of the tank. Another characteristic of the labyrinth fish is that of being a bubble nest builders. The male will build a bubble nest at the surface of the water and once the female lays the eggs, he will place them in his nest and guard them until they hatch.