

Pisgah Chapter TU

TIC Aquariums Processes for Beginning of School

Goldfish and Nitrogen cycle?

At this time, it is **no longer recommended that goldfish be used to help “break in”** the tank system. All systems should be installed with additives such as ***Crystal Clear One Fix*** which helps create a suitable water environment.

“Decorating” Your Tank

Now for the great debate on how your tank should look. In nature, trout live in streams that have rocks, plants, and sunken tree branches. Why not make your tank resemble nature? Besides being helpful to the health of the tank (which we discuss in a moment), it can provide your students with a look at the real habitat of trout – not a sterile looking tank.

- Gravel in the bottom of the tank to resemble the streambed (optional).

Plants

Plants provide a great habitat for beneficial bacteria. Additionally, they are another biological filtering agent. The easiest way to introduce plants into your tank is to weigh down the base of the plants with stream rocks or aquarium gravel. Recommended aquatic plants are:

- ***Anacharis*** can be found in most pet stores or pond supply places. It is an inexpensive plant and easy to obtain.
- ***Hornwort*** is also acceptable.
- **DO NOT RELEASE ANY AQUARIUM PLANTS INTO THE WILD**

Driftwood and Rocks

The introduction of driftwood and rocks into a tank will add a more natural look to your tank as well as introduce healthy bacteria to break down excess food and fish waste.

Find interesting pieces of wood or rocks submerged in a stream. Make sure the wood or rocks have been submerged growing on them. Do not dry or boil the wood or rocks, this will kill the good bacteria. Please understand that, while the introduction of plants and driftwood will very slightly increase the tank cleaning time, the value of your students seeing trout in a “native” habitat greatly outweighs the additional time to clean around the plants and wood.

Back Inside Foam Covering:

- Student designed (drawn) mural depicting trout in a natural habitat.

Websites for TIC

- National TU-TIC: <http://www.troutintheclassroom.org>
 - Web Resources: <http://www.troutintheclassroom.org/teachers/web-resources>
 - Lesson Plans: <http://www.troutintheclassroom.org/teachers/lesson-plans>
- NC Trout Unlimited: <http://www.nctu.org/trout-in-the-classroom.html>
 - Don Davidson (drdws@live.com) is the TIC Committee Chair for NCTU Council and can answer all your question on how to get started, find a local chapter to assist you with the program. For those of us that have helped with a TIC program and been present at the release, there is no doubt about the value and impact this program has on the students
- TIC National Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ticsic-national-network>

TIC Contacts for Pisgah Chapter TU:

- **Ed Shearin (Director)** ed.shearin@gmail.com
- Lou Barlow riverrooster@bellsouth.net
- Chris Ellis chris.ellis.pctu@gmail.com
- Mike Mihalas mike@mihalas.com
- Jim Rumbough jimrumbough@gmail.com