

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2019

Number 3



Next Meeting:

March 11th, 2019

7:30pm

Speaker: Dave Krah

“Live Foods”

Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of every month, beginning 7:30PM at
William Penn High School - Main Cafeteria
713 E. Basin Road (Rt. 141 South)
New Castle, DE 19720

Please note: Alternate meeting area is 2nd cafeteria on left side of building by 2nd set of doors, or from the front entrance, turn left and go down the hall and follow around to an intersection of the halls. The 2nd cafeteria will be on the right corner.

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Items to be published in the Gravel Gossip **MUST** be received by the editor two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date.

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The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

Sorry that our February meeting was cancelled due to the school closing because of the snow. Our March meeting features Dave Krah speaking on "Live Foods"

Happy New Year everyone, hope all is well. Our first meeting of the year is in the books and boy was it a good one. Special thank you to Gary Jones and the whole API/Mars Fishcare crew for coming down and talking with us. Thanks to everyone who came to the meeting too. I'm very pleased with the growth of the club as of lately and hope it continues. I'm always telling people about the club and hope you all are too because we are what's going to grow this club. I'd like for everyone to start thinking of ideas for this summer. We have 3 months without meetings (June, July and August) and I'd like for us as a club to still get together and do something. I and others have a few ideas but I'd like to get some more from everyone. I'll be discussing it more at our next meeting along with some other ideas for the club. I can't wait to see everyone at the February meeting and hear what's new with your fish hobby.

Until then be safe and keep up with your water changes.

At our monthly meetings, we will have our door prize and members only drawings, the monthly raffle and of course the club auction at the end of the meeting each month.

Please take note, due to higher security at the school, the front doors cannot be left unlocked or open unless someone is going to stand by the door. We will have someone there between 7:15 and 7:40pm, so please be on time. If you come later and the door is locked, either call Marty on his cellphone at 302-363-6902 or Chris at 302-382-3051 and he will have someone let you in. Otherwise, you will have to knock real hard (just don't break the glass)!

Anyone interested in being a board member and help plan the activities for the upcoming year, please contact any of the officers.

Refreshment donations brought in by members is greatly appreciated by all.

Be sure to visit us on Facebook and on our new website, <http://dsas.online> or <http://dsas.club>.

See you all at our **MONDAY, March 11th** meeting at **7:30pm** sharp!

Chris E

Memberships Due

2019 memberships due

We are now on a calendar year renewal

Welcome new Members!

Dennis Winters

Anjie & Darius Haynes

Future Meeting Dates

Mar 11
Apr 8
May 13

Keep an eye out for special events over the summer!

Note: All past articles are available from our archives. They are posted on our web site. If you want a copy please email the editor at: martyz50@verizon.net or write to DSAS at our address or see a Board member at a meeting.

Member's Tank Showcase

For the first edition of this I picked one of my simpler tanks to showcase. This is a 55 gallon tank with a clean basic décor set up. For the stocking of this I went with a south and central American group of peaceful community fish. I run this tank at 78 to 80 degrees, my TDS is around 140, ph stays around 6.8. I've had this tank set up for 8 to 9 months. The T-bars are constantly moving the sand around to make a better spawning area. Everybody loves everybody except when someone swims too close to the T-bars spot lol. I hope you enjoy this and I can't wait to see everyone's tanks.

Types of fish.

14- Black skirt tetras

1 – Koi angelfish

1 – blue smokey leopard angelfish

A pair of T-Bar cichlids

1 – rubber lip pleco

2 – white edge choc bushynose pleco's

Who knows how many Malaysian trumpet snails lol

6 or so yellow and blue crossed mystery snails

Décor & Plants

Malaysian drift wood

Lg river rocks

Pool and play sand mixed substrate

2 – small terra cotta pots

Italian vallisneria (some are 5 feet long)

Guppy grass floating around randomly

Filtration

1 – 60 gallon sponge filter

1 – 40 gallon sponge filter

Door Prizes

Everyone that attended January's meeting received a free door prize consisting of products donated by API Mars Fishcare.

Raffle Prizes

Zoomed Coral-Blue 460nm T8 18" 15wt – Omar R
Sera Granuled Protein-Rich Food – Lynn M
The Slo Mermaid – *Melanie* – Charlie W
Marineland Blue LED Bubble Wand – Scottie S
Aquarium Landscapes Form K Potassium 16oz – Kevin M
Hikari Cichlid Staple Mini-Pellets 3.5 oz – Phil S
Tetra Pond Koe Vibrance 4.94 oz – Charlie W
Instant Ocean Reef Accelerator 250 ml – Joe K
Instant Ocean Marine Stabilizer 250 ml – Marty Z
Marineland Color-Enhance Goldfish Flk 4.41 oz – Joe S
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Charlie W
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Charlie W
OSI Premium Lighthouse – Joe S
Cobalt Aquatics Color Prem Fish Flake 1.2 oz – Marty Z
Marineland Shrimp Wafers 2.12 oz – Liz A
Marineland Color-Enhancing Cichlid Pell 5.19 oz – Lynn M
Marineland Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk 3.35 oz – Willie S
Cobalt Aquatics Ultra Color Prem Fish Flk 5 oz – Phil S

Members Only

Tetra Tank Nibblers – Liz A
OSI Cichlid Flake – Anjie H
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Brian W
Hikari Vibra Bites – Chris E
API Fin & Body Cure – Lynn Mey
Sera Marin Granules – Dave K
Sera Marin Granules – Jeff M
TetraAlgae Vegetable Enhancing Crisps – Joe S
API Tap Water Conditioner – Willie S
API Turtle Fix – Al H
Cobalt Aquatics Mysis Spirulina Pellets – Scottie S
API Stress Coat Plus – Nathan W
Marineland Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk – Dolly Z
Marineland Color-Enhancing Cichlid Pell – Omar R
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Liz T
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Len T
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – David M
ZooMed Original Banquet – Phil S
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Eric H
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Dan P
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Bill S
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Joe K
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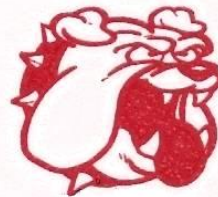
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Please remember to include DSAS's ID#

*The Club ID # can be obtained from Marty, or Bob

IT'S AS EASY AS A B C . . .

AQUARIUM BASIC CONCEPTS . . .

Article in the *ABC Series*

By Ed Keene, DCAS

Part #27 in This Series

By Ed Keene, DCAS

Why Quarantine?

Have you ever heard of anyone who had a very well established show aquarium with beautiful, happy, and healthy fish? Well one day they decided to go acquire another fish to add to their aquarium. They brought it home and after having gone through the new fish acclimation process, added it to their aquarium. Within a week several fish had died and several others were looking pretty bad. Turns out a disease was running wild in the aquarium and it all originated from the newly acquired fish. This scenario happens often, more especially with beginning hobbyists. This problem can be prevented and one of the best ways is by the use of a quarantine aquarium.

One of the main purposes of the quarantine aquarium is to hold newly purchased or otherwise acquired fish in an aquarium for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. Keeping a fish separated from any future aquarium mates allows for easy disease detection and other observation. Many times an infected fish will not show any signs of the disease for 10 to 14 days. By keeping a fish in a quarantine aquarium you allow for the disease to proceed through its cycle and finally show itself. If during the quarantine period, the fish should show signs of parasites or other disease, you can medicate it with absolutely no risk of impacting the fish in your show aquarium. It is also very cost effective to medically treat a small quarantine aquarium rather than a much larger aquarium.

The size of your quarantine aquarium will be based upon the size of fish you are going to acquire. For the average sized fish, say up to 4 or 5 inches, a 10 gallon aquarium will serve the purpose well. The quarantine aquarium does not have to have the best and the fanciest equipment on it. In fact, quite the opposite is the suggested way to go and the preferred way of the more experienced hobbyist.

Keep it simple! The standard equipment for the quarantine aquarium is the aquarium with a cover of some type, a heater, a low tech filter without carbon, a light, and a decoration of some type. The decoration, which does not have to be anything fancy, is simply to give the fish a feeling of security, knowing that it has something to hide behind or inside of. A piece or two of plastic PVC pipe will work just fine. This is all you need. It is basically a bare aquarium - no gravel, no plants, no nothing -other than what I previously mentioned. Keep in mind the quarantine aquarium is established to aid in the cure of any fish which might be infected with some type of disease. It is not one which is being entered into the world's greatest looking aquarium contest.

Most any type of filter is adequate provided carbon or charcoal is not used. Remember, carbon adsorbs chemicals in the water, i.e. medication. If you end up medically treating the quarantine aquarium, the carbon will defeat your attempts. Power filters, corner box filters, even canister filters can be used. Just remember - no carbon. Because several of the aforementioned types of filters are expensive and not really being used to their full potential, many hobbyists turn to sponge filters for quarantine aquarium use. The sponges are inexpensive and will provide good bacterial filtration. The sponge filter can be operated with an air pump or with a power head attached to it.

If medical treatment of your fish is necessary, you should allow for another 2 to 3 week period of quarantine after your last treatment. This will assure that a subsequent disease cycle is not in progress. Once this period has been completed, you can begin the acclimation process of moving your fish to your show aquarium.

Continued page 11

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In conclusion

If you have the space available for a quarantine aquarium, it would be a wise decision on your part to have one and put all future fish acquisitions through the quarantine process. Of course on the other hand, if you reject the idea of a quarantine aquarium and a disease completely terminates the life of all your prize fish, you have the dubious distinction of being able to go out and spend lots of money to purchase all brand new fish! The choice is yours.

