

**The**

# **Gravel Gossip**

Volume 2019

Number 4



**Next Meeting:**  
**April 8th, 2019**

**7:30pm**

**Speaker: Les Wilson**  
**“LED Lighting”**

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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Gravel Gossip is the official publication of the Diamond State Aquarium Society, of the state of Delaware. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to the education and advancement of the tropical, marine, and aquatic hobby. The information contained in the articles appearing in this publication should not be construed as 100% factual. It may, however, be accepted as information that has been proven successful for the authors.

## PLEASE NOTE

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## Notice

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

## Membership Fees

Junior (under 18)—\$10/Year  
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# The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

*The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.*

The March meeting was very informative, especially if you like feeding your fish live food. Dave Krah spoke on what types and how to cultivate live food for your fish.

For the April meeting, Les Wilson from Cobalt Aquatics, will do a presentation on "LED Lighting". This new technology offers lower maintenance costs, produces less heat, uses less energy and lasts longer than incandescent and fluorescent lighting.

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, April 8th** meeting at **7:30pm** sharp!

**Marty Z**

## Memberships Due

**2019 memberships due**

**We are now on a calendar  
year renewal**

## Welcome new Members!

**James O'Donnell**

## Future Meeting Dates

Apr 8  
May 13  
"Summer break"  
Sep 9  
Oct 14  
Nov 11  
Dec 9

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](mailto: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 to 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

Tetra AquaSafe Water Conditioner – Vince S  
Tetra AquaSafe Water Conditioner – Joe K  
Tetra AquaSafe Water Conditioner – Victor  
Sera Marin Granules – Dave K  
Pure Pets Nat Elem Lindernia Tech Cl – Charlie W  
Pure Pets Nat Elem Flaming Lindernia – Sherrie M  
OSI Cichlid Flake Food – Len T  
OSI Freshwater Flake Food – Messer  
Cobalt Aquatics CA Mysis – Scott S  
Cobalt Aquatics CA Mysis – Harry B  
Cobalt Aquatics CA Mysis – Jeff M  
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Will S  
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Daniel P  
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Matt  
Cobalt Aquatics Discus Hans – Julie M  
Sera Vipan – Liz A  
Sera Vipan – Joe S  
Sera Vipan – Eric K  
Sera Goldy Flake – Dave M  
Sera Goldy Flake – Nathan W  
Sera Goldy Flake – Jim  
ZooMed Betta Background – Evelyn  
ZooMed Betta Background – Marilyn  
ZooMed Betta Background – Chris E

## Members Only

Tetra Tank Nibblers – Omar R  
Tetra Tank Nibblers – Kevin M  
OSI Cichlid Flake – Lynn Mey  
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Joe S  
API Tripical Pellets – Marty Z  
Sera Marin Granules – Harry B  
Sera Marin Granules – James O  
TetraAlgae Vegetable Enhancing Crisps – Chris E  
API Tap Water Conditioner – Marilyn K  
Cobalt Aquatics Ultra Pellets Predator Fd – Scott S  
API Betta Food – Sherrie M  
Marineland Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk – Liz A  
Marineland Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk – Dave M  
Marineland Color-Enhancing Cichlid Pell – Dan P  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Eric K  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Jeff M  
ZooMed Nano Banquet Food Blks – Dave K  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Nathan W  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Joe K  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Willie S  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Phil S  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Len T  
OSI Cichlid Flake – Al H

## Raffle Prizes

Aquarium Sol Bacto-Surge Sponge Filt Kit – Phil S  
Sera Granuled Protein-Rich Food – Joe K  
The Slo Mermaid – *Melanie* – Sherrie M  
Marineland Blue LED Bubble Wand – Liz A  
Aquarium Landscapes Form F Ferrous Iron 16oz – Liz A  
Hikari Cichlid Staple Mini-Pellets 3.5 oz – Joe K  
Tetra Pond Koe Vibrance 4.94 oz – Willie S  
Instant Ocean Reef Accelerator 250 ml – Marty Z  
Instant Ocean Marine Stabilizer 250 ml – Marty Z  
Marineland Color-Enhance Goldfish Flk 4.41 oz- Charlie  
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Jeff M  
OSI Premium Lighthouse – Marty Z  
Cobalt Aquatics CA Mysis Fish Flake 1.2 oz – Scott S  
Marineland Shrimp Wafers 2.12 oz – Phil S  
Marineland Color-Enhancing Cichlid Pell 5.19 oz –  
Sherrie M  
Marineland Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk 3.35 oz –  
Charlie W  
Ecological Labs Artemiss F/W Nat Expellant for  
Bacterial Diseases – Harry B  
API Stress Coat Plus 16 oz – Harry B  
The Wet Spot Recycle Tote Bag – Liz A  
API Cichlid Pellets 2.5 oz – Charlie W

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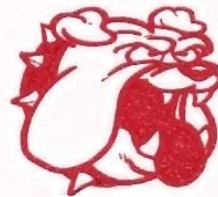
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\*The Club ID # can be obtained from Marty, or Bob

# 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

**Continued from page 10**

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.

