

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2019

Number 9



Next Meeting:
September 9th, 2019
7:00pm
General Meeting
Annual Auction Discussion

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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TREASURER
Marty Ziegler
(302) 322 - 8187



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.

Notice

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

Marty Ziegler
(302) 322-8187

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Correspondence should be sent to:
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13 Saratoga Drive
New Castle, DE 19720

Newsletter Exchanges
should be sent to :

Marty Ziegler
13 Saratoga Drive
New Castle, DE 19720

The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

Well, another summer is wrapping up, kids are back in school and fall is right around the corner. Hope everyone had a great summer. Please note our earlier meeting start time of 7:00pm. The school wants us out at around 9:00pm, so we need to start earlier in order to meet that new closing time. So please plan to arrive at 7:00pm. I know there are those that have a longer drive or work later, so some will be coming in late. But we must start the meetings at 7pm from now on.

Our annual auction is only a month away on Saturday, October 12th, at the Brandywine High School on Foulk Road (not that far from the old school auction location). We will discuss the auction plans at this meeting.

We are looking for a new webmaster as Scottie has a new job which involves travel, and he will not have the time to maintain the website. So if you know of anyone interested, please let us know at this meeting.

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 6:45 and 7:10pm, 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> . *Keep an eye out for special summer events advertised on our website!*

See you all at our **MONDAY, September 9th** meeting at **7:00pm** sharp!

Marty Z *Note: DSAS Annual Auction Mtg info on page 12 of newsletter.*

Memberships Due

2019 memberships due

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

Welcome new Members!

Alex Friedline

Future Meeting Dates

Oct 14
Nov 11
Dec 9
Jan 13
Feb 10
Mar 9
Apr 13
May 11
Jun 8

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 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 Cond – Terrance D
Tetra Aquasafe Water Cond – Samuel
Tetra Aquasafe Water Cond – Julie M
Tetra Aquasafe Water Cond – Vic S
Pure Pets Nat Elem Lindernia Clstr 4.5” – Bill S
Pure Pets Nat Elem Flaming Lind Clstr 4.5: - Joe K
OSI Cichlid Flake – Kevin M
OSI Cichlid Flake – Joe S
OSI Freshwater Flake – Angie H
OSI Freshwater Flake – Marty Ziegler
Cobalt Aquatics CA Mysis – Dave K
Cobalt Aquatics CA Mysis – Olivia K
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Brian W
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Liz A
Cobalt Aquatics Discus Hans – Willie S
Cobalt Aquatics Discus Hans – Scottie S
Sera Vipan – Nathan W
Sera Vipan – Eric H
Sera Vipan – Darius H
Sera Goldy Flake – Alex F
Sera Goldy Flake – Jim O
Sera Goldy Flake – Marilyn K
ZooMed Betta Background – Chris E
ZooMed Betta Background – Charlie W

Members Only

Tetra Tank Nibblers – Charlie W
OSI Cichlid Flake – Willie S
API Quick Start – Marilyn K
Sera Marin Granules – Darius H
TetraAlgae Vegetable Enhancing Crisps – Dolly Z
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Joe K
Marineland Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk – Joe S
Marineland Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk – Nathan W
Marineland Color-Enhancing Cichlid Pell – Bill S
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Antoinette H
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – James O
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Kevin M
Cobalt Aquatics Ultra Pellet Tropical Food – Scottie S
API MelaFix – Dave K
Toppin Color-Enhancing Tropical Flake – Marty Z
Toppin Color-Enhancing Tropical Flake – Chris E
Toppin Tropical Flake – Eric H
Sera Probiotic Immunpro Breeder Food – Brian W
Seachem Mat – Liz A

Raffle Prizes

Aquarium World \$10 Gift Certificate – Marty Z
Aquarium World \$10 Gift Certificate – Scottie S
The Slo Mermaid – *Melanie* – Kevin M
Marineland Blue LED Bubble Wand – Chris E
Tetra Pond Koe Vibrance 4.94 oz – Liz A
Instant Ocean Reef Accelerator 250 ml – Marty Z
Instant Ocean Marine Stabilizer 250 ml – Marty Z
Marineland Color-Enhance Goldfish Flk 4.41 oz- Brian W
Marineland Color-Enhance Goldfish Flk 4.41 oz – Kevin M
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Chris E
Sera Precision Multi Filter 350 – Liz A
Marineland Shrimp Wafers 2.12 oz – Alex F
Marineland Color-Enh Cichlid Pell 5.19 oz – Willie S
Marineland Color-Enh Trop Flk 3.35 oz – Chris E
Toppin Color-Enh Trop Flk 2.1 oz – Kevin M
Cobalt Aquatics Prem Airline Sil Tubing – Liz A
Cobalt Aquatics Breeding Cone – Charlie W
Cobalt Aquatics Marine Omni Prem Flk – Dave K
API Stress Coat Plus 16 oz – Charlie W
Cobalt Aquatics Ultra Pell Goldfish Food – Brian W
Cobalt Aquatics Color Premium Flake – Scottie S
Cobalt Aquatics Total F/W Resin 20 oz – Liz A
Toppin Large Cichlid Pellets 5.6 oz – Dave K
Toppin Small Cichlid Pellets 8.8 oz – Liz A

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The Trading Post

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For many years now as most of you know, I have been making my own frozen fish food. It has changed over the years to the point that I am using mostly fresh and naturally found seafood - it contains NO fillers - absolutely NONE! Anyone who has been to my home and seen my fish can attest to the fact of how well this food has been for them. The tremendous size they put on at such a young age and the colors are both astounding, not to mention the overall health of the fish. I attribute it to my homemade "Almost Natural Frozen Tropical Fish Food". With basically all of the same ingredients, I am proud to offer "Almost Natural Tropical Fish Food" in flake and pellet form to other hobbyists.

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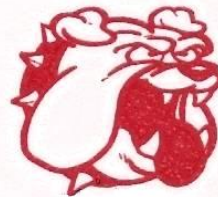
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*The Club ID # can be obtained from Marty, or Bob

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.

DSAS Annual Auction planning meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 8th, at 6pm at Marty's house at 13 Saratoga Drive, Penn Acres South, New Castle, DE 19720-4224. Phone: 302-322-8187.

Same side of Basin Road as WP High School, shared development entrance with Penn Mart Shopping Center (Big Lots, Save-a-Lot, Rainbow stores, PNC Bank).