

**The**

# **Gravel Gossip**

Volume 2020

Number 2



**Next Meeting:**

**Speaker: Chris Edwards**

**“Sponge & Box Filters”**

**February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**7:00pm**

**William Penn H S - main cafeteria**

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.

## 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  
Adult—\$15/ Year  
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## PLEASE NOTE

**Donations & Correspondence  
should be sent to:**

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**Newsletter Exchanges**  
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# The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

*The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.*

It was great to see so many members return for the first meeting of the new year! Although there was no speaker, we still had a wonderful time socializing and sharing our interests with each other.

For our February meeting, Chris Edwards is going to do a presentation on "Sponge & Box Filters – Biological Filtration Made Simple". This is the basics that every aquarist should know and learn, especially important to newcomers to the hobby. Please note our speakers scheduled for the March, May and June meetings on our website.

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.

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>.

See you all at our **MONDAY, February 10<sup>th</sup>** meeting at **7:00pm** sharp!

**Marty Z**

## Memberships Due

**2020 memberships are  
due now!**

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

## Welcome new Members!

**Gerry & Connie Reed**

## Future Meeting Dates For 2020:

Mar 9  
Apr 13 (alt location)  
May 11  
Jun 8  
Sep 14  
Oct 12 (alt location)  
Nov 9  
Dec 14

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.



## Door Prizes

ZooMed Betta Background – Chris E  
ZooMed Betta Background – Caleb H  
Tetra Aquasafe Water Conditioner – Liz A  
Tetra Aquasafe Water Conditioner – Keith  
Pure Pets Nat Elem Technicolor Lindernia – Vince D  
Pure Pets Nat Elem Flam Lindernia – Alex F  
Pure Pets Nat Elem Neon Blue Ludwiga – Dolly Z  
Pure Pets Nat Elem Neon Green Lindernia – Nathan W  
Cobalt Aquatics CA Mysis – Vic F  
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Bill S  
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Lorie T  
Sera Vipan Family – Harry B  
Sera Vipan Family – Brian W  
Sera Goldy Flake – Jim O  
Sera Marin Granules – Omar R  
Sera Marin Granules – Nathan W  
OSI Cichlid Flake – Alan R  
OSI Freshwater Flake – Sam W  
Sera Marin – Julie M  
Sera Holiday/Weekend Food – Kevin M  
Toppin Goldfish Flake – Jerry R  
Toppin Goldfish Flake – Sherrie M

## Raffle Prizes

The Wet Spot \$25 Gift Card + Coasters– Liz A  
Marineland Blue LED Bubble Wand – Alex F  
Tetra Pond Koe Vibrance 4.94 oz – Marty Z  
Marineland Color-Enhance Goldfish Flk 4.41 oz- Bill S  
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Karen H  
Marineland Color-Enh Cichlid Pell 5.19 oz – Bill S  
Marineland Color-Enh Trop Flk 3.35 oz – Bill S  
Marineland Color-Enh Trop Flk 3.35 oz – Omar R  
Toppin Color-Enh Trop Flk 2.1 oz – Sherrie M  
API GH & KH Test Kit – Liz A  
Cobalt Aquat Ultra Col Prem Flk 1.2 oz –Karen H  
Toppin Large Cichlid Pellets 5.6 oz – Chris E  
Toppin Small Cichlid Pellets 8.8 oz – Chris E  
API Tropical Sinking Pellets 4.2 oz – Sherrie M  
Sera Marin Veggie Flake – Marty Z  
Cobalt Aquatics Prem Sil Airline Tubing – Alan R  
Instant Ocean Reef Accelerator 250 ml – Marty Z  
Instant Ocean Marine Stabilizer – Marty Z  
Cobalt Aquatics CA Mysis Flake 5 oz – Omar R  
ZooMed Industrial Mag-Clip – Marty Z

## Members Only

OSI Cichlid Flake – Karen H  
API Super Ick Cure – Bill S  
Cobalt Aquatics Brine Shrimp Flk – Nathan W  
Cobalt Aquatics Brine Shrimp Flk – Caleb H  
Marineland Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk – Al H  
Marineland Color-Enhancing Cichlid Pell – Chris E  
Marineland Color-Enhancing Cichlid Pell – Dave M  
Cobalt Aquatics Ultra Pellet Trop Fd – Dolly Z  
API Ammo-Lock – Harry B  
API Algae Eater Wafers – Julie M  
Cobalt Aquatics Ultra Spirulina Flake – Liz A  
TetraAlgae Veg Enhancing Crisps – Omar R  
Marineland Shrimp Wafers – Charlie W  
Tetra BettaMin Flake – Lorie T  
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Brian W  
API PimaFix – Alex F  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Vince D  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – James O  
Hikari Vibra Bites – Kevin M  
Toppin Goldfish Flake – Sherrie M  
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**Alternate Meeting Location for APR 13<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

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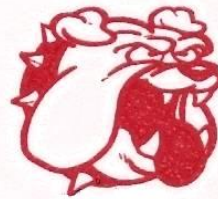
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\*The Club ID # can be obtained from Marty, or Bob

# 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 Monthly Board Meetings

DSAS monthly board meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm at Marty's house at 13 Saratoga Drive, Penn Acres South, New Castle, DE 19720-4224. Phone: 302-322-8187.

All DSAS board members are requested to attend and confirm if they are able to attend.

Other members are welcome to attend.

These monthly board meetings will be scheduled on the Saturday before the general monthly meetings each month, including the summer months. The meetings will be used to discuss future club activities, scheduling of speakers, field trips, and planning for the annual auction.

Directions:

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).