

The

# Gravel Gossip

Volume 2020

Number 9



## Next Meeting:

**Outdoor Meeting at Iron Hill Park, 1335 Old  
Baltimore Pike, Newark, DE 19702.**

**Saturday, 3 October, at 1pm.**

***Live fish auction and free refreshments!***

***Bring your own chair & facemask!!***

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.

# William's Greenbank Aquarium

(302) 994-1707

107 Greenbank Rd.

Wilmington, DE 19808

10% Discount on all fish

Show your DSAS membership card

## INDEX

General Information	2
Message	3
<i>Special Summer Meeting Info</i>	4
Prizes	5
Other Clubs	6
Manufacturers	7
Trading Post	8
Advertising	9-10
ABC #24	11
<i>Directions to Iron Hill Park</i>	12



FRESHWATER • SALTWATER • REEFS • PLANTS • PONDS • AND MORE

# TROPICAL FISH HOBBYIST

THE WORLD'S AQUARIUM MAGAZINE SINCE 1952 • [www.tfhmagazine.com](http://www.tfhmagazine.com)

# Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 10443, Wilmington, DE 19850-0443

Founded 1963, Reorganized 1981

Incorporated Since 1988

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT  
Chris Edwards  
(302) 382-3051

VICE PRESIDENT  
Omar Reyes  
(302) 310-1858

SECRETARY  
Dolly Ziegler  
(302) 322 - 8187

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.

## Membership Fees

Junior (under 18)—\$10/Year  
Adult—\$15/ Year  
Family—\$20/Year

## PLEASE NOTE

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

Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc  
c/o Marty Ziegler  
13 Saratoga Drive  
New Castle, DE 19720-4224

**Newsletter Exchanges**  
should be sent to the above address.

## BOARD MEMBERS

David Mitchell  
Phil Simpkins  
Harry Bratton  
Jeff Mey  
Richard Miller Jr  
Joe Solge

Lorie Thomas – Facebook  
Scottie Schmidt - Webmaster

**WEBSITE:** <http://dsas.online/>  
<http://dsas.club/>

## Gravel Gossip Editor

Marty Ziegler  
(302) 322-8187

## ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page  
\$100/Year  
\$12/Month

Half Page  
\$50/Year  
\$6/Month

Quarter Page  
\$30/Year  
\$4/Month

# The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

*The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.*

Hi all!

Hope everyone is well and being safe.

We are going to hold our first outdoor meeting on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 1pm to 3pm, at Iron Hill Park, 1335 Old Baltimore Pike, Newark, DE 19702. Please bring your own chair and facemask. We will be practicing social distancing for safety sake.

Cold canned sodas and snack packs will be available as refreshments free to all attendees. There will be a pretty good auction as several members have fish to sell.

It was decided to cancel our annual auction this year due to being unable to reserve the date at any of the schools. But we should have a very good auction at our outdoor meeting on Saturday at Iron Hill Park to help make up for it.

*Please note there will be a DSAS board meeting via video conferencing on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm, via Google Meet. Invitations will be sent out by email a couple days before the meeting. If you do not receive the invite and want to attend, please call or email me.*

Be sure to visit us on Facebook and on our new website, <http://dsas.online> or <http://dsas.club>. The site is updated monthly with any presentations scheduled for future meetings.

*Hope to see you all at 1pm on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, in Iron Hill Park. Bring your own chair and facemask.*

*(Rain-date will be Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>)*

Please check our website for any updates.

**Marty Z**

CP: 302-363-6902

Email: [reefzig@verizon.net](mailto:reefzig@verizon.net)

***Please continue to check our website for future updates and meetings.***

## Memberships

**Due**

**2020 memberships are due now!**

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

**Welcome new Members!**

## Future Meeting Dates For 2020:

Nov 9 (on hold)

Dec 14 (on hold)

Jan 11

Feb 8

Mar 8

Apr 12

May 10

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.



**Special Summer Meeting at Super Cichlids are currently on hold due to the pandemic.**

**Door opens at 7:00pm, by reservation only!**

**Limited to 25 attendees, must wear masks.**

**Store will be closed to the public for this meeting.**

**Free refreshments!**

**Door prizes, members-only drawing, raffle and auction at the end of the meeting.**

**10-15% discounts on dry goods will be offered.**

**Super Cichlids**

**1055 Barl Court**

**Dover, DE 19901**

***Reserve a spot by contacting Marty at:***

***302-363-6902 or [reefzig@verizon.net](mailto:reefzig@verizon.net)***

## Door Prizes

ZooMed Betta Background – Scott K  
ZooMed Betta Background – Matt M  
Tetra Aquasafe Water Conditioner – Connie R  
Pure Pets Nat Elem Technicolor Lindernia – Jeff M  
Pure Pets Nat Elem Flam Lindernia – Kruer Family  
Pure Pets Nat Elem Neon Blue Ludwiga – Dolly Z  
Pure Pets Nat Elem Neon Green Lindernia – Keith D  
Cobalt Aquatics CA Mysis – Karen H  
Cobalt Aquatics CA Mysis – Brian W  
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Cece M  
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flake – Sarah M  
Sera Vipan Family – Omar R  
Sera Vipan Family – Sherrie M  
Sera Goldy Flake – Bill S  
Sera Goldy Flake – Chris E  
Sera Goldy Flake – Alexandra F  
Sera Marin Granules – Joe K  
OSI Cichlid Flake – Evan E  
OSI Freshwater Flake – Dave K  
Sera Marin – Marty Z  
Sera Probiotics – Willie S  
Toppin Goldfish Flake – Marilyn K  
Toppin Goldfish Flake – Alan R  
Cobalt Aquatics Tropical Flk – Murphy family  
Toppin Goldfish Flake – Gerru R  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Jim O

## Members Only

OSI Cichlid Flake – Alan R  
API Super Ick – Gerry R  
Cobalt Aquatics Brine Shrimp Flk – Connie R  
Cobalt Aquatics Brine Shrimp Flk – Dolly Z  
Marineland Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk – Marty Z  
Marineland Color-Enhancing Cichlid Pell – Jeff M  
Marineland Color-Enhancing Cichlid Pell – Lynn M  
Cobalt Aquatics Ultra Pellet Trop Fd – Brian W  
API Quick Start – Julie M  
TetraAlgae Veg Enhancing Crisps – Sheeri M  
Marineland Shrimp Wafers – Sarah M  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Charlie W  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Cece M  
TetraMin Tropical Flake – Joe K  
Hikari Vibra Bites – Liz A  
Toppin Color-Enhancing Tropical Flake – Omar R  
Toppin Color-Enhancing Tropical Flake – Scottie S  
Toppin Tropical Flake – Joe S  
Toppin Tropical Flake – Alexandra F  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Dave K  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Chris E  
TetraMin Tropical Crisps – Bill S  
Cobalt Aquatics Ultra Color Prem Flk – Karen H  
Sera Marin Granules – Scott K

## Raffle Prizes

Marineland Blue LED Bubble Wand – Gerry R  
Tetra Pond Koe Vibrance 4.94 oz – Cece M  
Marineland Color-Enhance Goldfish Flk 4.41 oz- Liz A  
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Jeff M  
Marineland Color-Enh Cichlid Pell 5.19 oz – Liz A  
Marineland Color-Enh Cichlid Pell 5.19 oz – Bill S  
Marineland Color-Enh Trop Flk 3.35 oz – Gerry R  
Marineland Color-Enh Trop Flk 3.35 oz – Joe S  
Toppin Color-Enh Trop Flk 2.1 oz – Liz A  
API Bottom Feeder Shrimp Pellets 4 oz – Scottie S  
Toppin Large Cichid Pellets 5.6 oz – Bill S  
Toppin Large Cichlid Pellets 5.6 oz – Connie R  
Toppin Small Cichlid Pellets 8.8 oz – Evan E  
Toppin Small Cichlid Pellets 8.8 oz – Liz A  
Instant Ocean Reef Accelerator 250 ml – Joe S  
Instant Ocean Marine Stabilizer – Joe S  
Segrest Farms Large T-Shirt – Omar R  
API Stress-Zyme 8 oz – Karen H

## Aquatic Services

**Fresh and Saltwater  
Aquarium Maintenance**

Call for Free Estimates  
(302) 479 -5747

### Alternate Future Meeting Location (TBD)

**Peniel United Methodist Church  
115 East Market Street  
Newport, DE 19804**

**Just off the I-95 exit to Rt 141 Newport,  
Stay to right, 1<sup>st</sup> exit on Rt141, at bottom of ramp at  
traffic light, go straight, church is on right, turn right  
into parking lot.**

The following **MANUFACTURERS** donate products for our raffles, auctions, and door prizes every month

Academic Press  
Aqueon Products  
Aquadine Nutritional System  
Aquaria / Marineland Aquarium Prod.  
Aquarian Flake Foods/Kal Kan Foods  
Aquarium Fish Magazine  
Aquarium Systems  
Aquatic Promotions / "Cichlid News"  
Aquatronics  
Aqua Ultraviolet  
Blue Ribbon Pet Products  
Boyd Enterprises  
Cobalt International, Inc.  
Danner Mfg/Pondmasters  
DirectAquarium.com  
Doctors Forrest and Smith  
Dr. Tim Aquatics  
Duro-Test Corporation  
Ecological Laboratories Microbe-Lift  
Ecosystem Aquarium  
EcoSystems  
Florida Aquatic Nurseries  
Freshwater & Marine Aquarium Mag  
Fritz Industries, Inc.  
Ginger Products Company  
Glow Light Aquatics  
Hagen USA Corp.  
Hartz Mountain Corp.  
Hawaiian Marine Imports  
Hikari Sales USA, Inc.  
Hydor USA  
Jungle Labs  
Kens Fish  
Kent Marine  
Lee's Aquarium & Pet Products  
Marine Enterprises  
Mars Fishcare  
Maryland Aquatic Nurseries  
Miracle Koi Food  
Novalek / Kordon . Oasis  
Ocean Nutrition

Oceanic Systems  
Omega Sea, Ltd.  
OSI Marine Lab, Inc.  
Penn-Plax Plastics  
Perfecto Manufacturing Co.  
Pet Solutions  
Premium Aquatics  
Python Products  
Quality Koi / The Nisei Koi Farm  
Rainbow Lifeguard Aquar. Products  
Red Sea Fish Pharm  
Reefs2Go  
St. JON Laboratories  
San Francisco Bay Brand  
SeaChem Laboratories  
Seagrest Farms  
Sera North America, Inc.  
Tetra  
T F H Publications  
Tetra Sales  
Tom Aquarium Products  
Tropical Science Biolabs  
Two Little Fishes  
Ultra Balance Premium Koi Foods  
United Pet Group  
Vitakraft Pet Products Co.  
ZOO Med Laboratories

#### **Aquarium Store Sponsors:**

ARMCO Aquatics, Elsmere, DE  
<http://armcoaquatics.com>  
Aquarium World, Boothwyn, PA  
[www.aquariumworldpa.com](http://www.aquariumworldpa.com)  
William's Greenbank Aquarium, Prices Corner, DE  
J&J Aquatics, Dover, DE <https://jjaquatics.com>  
Reef to Rift Aquarium [www.ReeftoRift.com](http://www.ReeftoRift.com)  
The Wet Spot <http://wetstottropicalfish.com>  
Pets Plus

# The Trading Post

**For Sale:** Show Piece Quality **Driftwood**

Ready for immediate use - **Sterile**

Call **Ed** at (610) 586-7250

**Looking for** a few Meridian Automatic Water Changers.....It was made by Aquarium Products and discontinued several years ago. Call Walt @ 302-834-4138 or e-mail: [waltwiso@aol.com](mailto:waltwiso@aol.com).

## **For Sale: "Almost Natural Tropical Fish Food"**

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.

\*\*\* **FRESHWATER FLAKES** \*\*\*

\*\*\* **SUPER COLOR FLAKES** \*\*\*

\*\*\* **SUPER COLOR BALLS** \*\*\*

\*\*\* **SHRIMP PELLETS** \*\*\*

\*\*\* **FREEZE DRIED BLOOD WORMS** \*\*\*

\*\*\* **SUPER GREEN FLAKES** \*\*\*

\*\*\* **ALGAE DISCS** \*\*\*

## **"Breeders Delight Tropical Fish Food"**

In addition to the Freeze Dried Blood Worms, the following flake foods are extremely wonderful foods for conditioning your fish for breeding.

\*\*\* **EARTHWORM FLAKES** \*\*\*

\*\*\* **BEEF HEART FLAKES** \*\*\*

\*\*\* **PLANKTON FLAKES** \*\*\*

\*\*\* **TRIO SPECIAL BLEND FLAKES** \*\*\*

**FOR MORE INFO AND TO PLACE AN ORDER, VISIT:**

[www.AlmostNaturalTropicalFishFood.com](http://www.AlmostNaturalTropicalFishFood.com)

**Aquarium Hobbyist**  
[aquariumhobbyist.com](http://aquariumhobbyist.com)

**The Pond Guy**  
[www.thepondguy.com](http://www.thepondguy.com)

**DirectAquarium.com** is a top supplier of aquarium lighting supplies, including hard to find fixtures and bulbs. We also stock pumps, skimmers, aquariums and more!

<http://www.directaquarium.com>



# Advertisers

## Leon's Garden World

Annuals • Perennials • Herbs • Shrubs  
Water Gardening • Christmas Trees  
Gift Shop



Leon Silicki

137 South DuPont Hwy.  
New Castle, DE 19720

(302) 325-2440  
Fax (302) 325-4199

## MDZ Service Enterprises, LLC

**Tax Preparation Service**

By Appt Only: (302) 363-6902

Individual and sole proprietorship

returns prepared

## WISO'S CRABS & SEAFOOD

WE SHIP ACROSS THE U.S.A.

**FRESH DAILY FROM OUR BOATS**

Now Featuring  
Crabs - Shrimp  
Clams - Soup

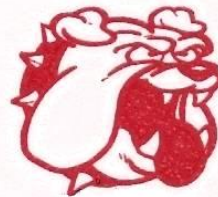
101 FIFTH STREET-ROUTE 9  
DELAWARE CITY, DELAWARE 19706

Gourmet Crab Cakes  
Retail-Wholesale

302-836-0224

[www.Wisocrabs.com](http://www.Wisocrabs.com)  
[Wisocrabs@aol.com](mailto:Wisocrabs@aol.com)

**CAPTAIN BOB WISOWATY - OWNER**



## Pet-Kare

We Care About Pets

Pencader Plaza - Rts. 4 & 72  
Newark, DE 19713

Phone: (302) 733-0740  
Fax: (302) 733-0745

201 Governor's Square S.C.  
Bear, DE 19701

Phone: (302) 832-8775  
Fax: (302) 832-8776

Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-9 p.m. • Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

## Visit

## Aquarium Consultant

[www.aquariumconsultant.com](http://www.aquariumconsultant.com)

## MICROWORM CULTURES

For sale

[www.microworms.com](http://www.microworms.com)

## For Aquarium Lighting Information

<http://www.AquaLighting.net>



# Brine Shrimp DIRECT →

PRODUCTS TO MAKE YOUR TANK THRIVE!

Online at [www.brineshrimpdirect.com](http://www.brineshrimpdirect.com)

Brine Shrimp Direct welcomes Diamond State Aquarium Society and its members to our new Club Discount Program.

All members placing orders online will save 5% off of their order when entering your new affiliate ID#\* in the promotional code box. Group Purchases over \$250 (excluding brine shrimp eggs) will receive a 7.5% discount. Brine shrimp eggs will receive a maximum discount of 5%.

We are always available by phone and email to answer member questions about our products or take phone orders for customers who prefer the personal touch.

We have recently added a number of new products including:

- Live Brine Shrimp!
- Live Copepod starter cultures. (\$9.95)
- Enriched Brine Shrimp
- Frozen Daphnia
- Frozen Krill Pacifica Plankton
- Frozen Mysis
- Frozen Rotifers
- Frozen Bloodworms
- all of the above in convenient cube trays.
- Plus Flake Sampler

Flake Diets Plus 4 Pack which contains 1 ounce jars of our Garlic Plus Flake, Phyto Plankton

Plus Flake, Zoo Plankton Plus Flake and Mariner Plus Flake. (\$9.95)

Group Purchases will need to be made via phone ( 800-303-7914 or 801-782-4700), email ([sales@brineshrimpdirect.com](mailto:sales@brineshrimpdirect.com)), or fax ( 801-782-4200)

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

**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.

# Directions to Iron Hill Park

## Directions for Iron Hill Park in Newark, DE

896

From I-95 at exit 1A, take ramp right for DE-896 "South" toward Middletown. (from I-95 north, you will go under the 896 bridge before looping around on the ramp.

From I-95 south, you will bear off to the right onto 896) 1.0 mi

Turn right onto Old Baltimore Pike 0.9 mi

**Arrive at Old Baltimore Pike. Iron Hill Park will be on the right side of Old Baltimore Pike.**

(The last intersection is Robert L Melson Ln

If you reach Whittaker Rd, you've gone too far)

### **Iron Hill Park**

**1355 Old Baltimore Pike,  
Newark, DE 19702**

**Keep following the (long) Iron Hill road/drive until you pass the playground on the left. After that is the parking lot. We will either be in the pavilion at the top of the hill (if it is available) or set up nearby.**