

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.

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## 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
Monthly Board Meetings	12



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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  
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

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\$100/Year  
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\$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

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### 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  
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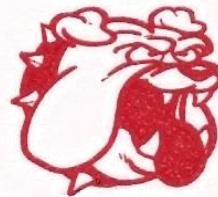
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Please remember to include DSAS's ID#

\*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

**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 September 27<sup>th</sup>, at **6pm**, via video conferencing through Google Meet. Invitations will be sent via email a couple days prior to the meeting. Please respond whether you are able to attend.

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 Sunday 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).