

The

# Gravel Gossip

Volume 2020

Number 12



## Next Meeting:

**December's meeting has been cancelled**

*Live fish auction and free refreshments!*

*Please bring your 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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Incorporated Since 1988

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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

David Mitchell  
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Harry Bratton  
Jeff Mey  
Richard Miller Jr  
Joe Solge

Lorie Thomas – Facebook  
Scottie Schmidt - Webmaster

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

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Full Page  
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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 all had a super time at our November meeting at Super Cichlids in Dover. Thanks to Lisa and Martin for hosting our meeting and for the pizza! The store was clean, spacious and colorful with a variety of dry goods and fish available to see and purchase. Lisa and Martin donated an Aqueon LED complete 10-gallon tank set-up for our raffle. Our auction had 19 lots, including live fish and plants from our members.

We are discussing whether or not to have a meeting in December. Our normal Christmas buffet is not a good idea with the current virus pandemic still going on. So please keep checking our website and facebook for any updates. We are planning to have our regular monthly meeting on Monday night on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Super Cichlids in Dover. We will be looking at other locations for future meetings. One suggestion is at Grotto's Pizza in Middletown, DE. They have a meeting room available that can accommodate a group like ours. *Unfortunately, both of these meetings have been cancelled. We are considering a virtual meeting via Google Meet for either later in January or February.*

*Please note our next DSAS board meeting will be on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7pm via Google Meet video conferencing. 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.

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*

## Memberships

**Due**

**2020 memberships are due now!**

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

## Welcome new Members!

**Raymond Moore  
Ted Braiman  
Larry O'Byrne  
Donavon Stout  
Anita Powell  
Luke Schwab**

## Future Meeting Dates For 2020:

Dec 14 (*cancelled*)

Jan 11 (*cancelled*)

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.

**Monday night meeting at Super Cichids.**

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

**Everyone must be wearing a facemask in order to be admitted entry.**

**Free refreshments!**

**Door prizes, 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**

***Please email if you plan on attending by contacting Marty at:***

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

## Door Prizes

*Various product/food donations – all who attended*

## Raffle Prizes

*Aqueon LED 10-gal Complete Tank Set  
Mystery bag product assortment  
Mystery bag product assortment*

## Members Only

## **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  
into parking lot.**

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

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Pets Plus  
Super Cichlids, 1055 Barl Ct, Dover, DE

# 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.

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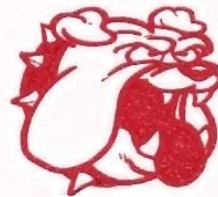
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Online at [www.brineshrimpdirect.com](http://www.brineshrimpdirect.com)

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.

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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 meeting scheduled for **January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**, at **7pm**, via video conferencing through *Google Meet*. Invitations will be sent via email a day or two prior to the meeting. Please respond whether or not 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 one week 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: (for future in-person board meetings when resumed)  
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).