

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2021

Number 1



Next Meeting:

January's meeting has been cancelled

**February 8th meeting is via
Google Meet video conferencing!
Details to follow**

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>Virtual Meeting Info</i>	4
Prizes	5
Other Clubs	6
Manufacturers	7
Trading Post	8
Advertising	9-10
ABC #24	11
DSAS Board Meeting	12



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(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
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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/>

Gravel Gossip Editor

Marty Ziegler
(302) 322-8187

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The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

Hi all!

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Unfortunately, we will not have a January meeting due to the ongoing situation with the pandemic.

After much discussion, we will have our first “virtual” meeting on Monday, February 8th, at 7:30pm, via Google Meet. I will send out emails with the link to join in about a week before the meeting. Julie MacRae is doing a presentation on the “Fishes of Indonesia”. Please mark your calendars for February 8th! More details will be sent out with the February issue of the Gravel Gossip newsletter and on our website.

Please note our next DSAS board meeting will be on Sunday, January 31st, 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

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

Memberships

Due

2021 memberships are due now!

We are now on a calendar year renewal

Welcome new Members!

Future Meeting Dates For 2020:

Jan 11 (*cancelled*)

Feb 8

Mar 8

Apr 12

May 10

Jun 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 or write to DSAS at our address or see a Board member at a meeting.

Virtual Monday night meeting at 7:30pm on February 8th via Google Meet. This will be our first virtual meeting and first monthly meeting of 2021.

Join us for a virtual tour of the beautiful undersea fish and critters of Indonesia. Our member, Julie MacRae, will share her photos from scuba diving around the remote islands near Bali, including the famous Komodo Islands, land of the dragons!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Invitations will be emailed out the week before the meeting. All are invited to attend.

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

302-363-6902 or reefzig@verizon.net

Door Prizes

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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, 1st 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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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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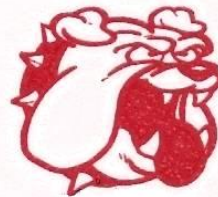
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Please remember to include DSAS's ID#

*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 Sunday, **January 31st, 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).