

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2021

Number 4



Next Meeting:

**April 12th meeting is via
Google Meet video conferencing!**

7:30pm

Jeff Mey – Pond Tidbits

Dave Krah – Small Tank Occupants

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>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



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

TROPICAL FISH HOBBYIST

THE WORLD'S AQUARIUM MAGAZINE SINCE 1952 • 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 all are well.

For the April 12th virtual meeting via Google Meet at 7:30pm, we will have two short presentations. Beginning this month, we will be doing one or more short presentations about different topics, anything from tips to tank showings. This month Jeff Mey will offer "Pond Tidbits". Dave Krah will speak about his "Small Tank Occupants". Please let us know of any topics or discussions you would like to see for future meetings.

For best viewing, we recommend a computer (not a smartphone). It is of utmost importance that during the presentation that everyone "mutes" their microphone to avoid any background noise.

Please note our next DSAS board meeting will be on Sunday, May 2nd, 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 2021:

May 10
Jun 14
Jul 12
Aug 9
Sep 13
Oct 11
Nov 8
Dec 13

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 April 12th via Google Meet. This will be a virtual meeting.

Join us for a brief presentation by Jeff Mey on “Pond Tidbits” and Dave Krah on “Small Tank Occupants”.

Please “mute” your microphone once the presentation begins.

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

Raffle Prizes

Members Only

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, 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

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
William's Greenbank Aquarium, Prices Corner, DE
J&J Aquatics, Dover, DE <https://jjaquatics.com>
Reef to Rift Aquarium www.ReeftoRift.com
The Wet Spot <http://wetspottropicalfish.com>
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.

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

Aquarium Hobbyist
aquariumhobbyist.com

The Pond Guy
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

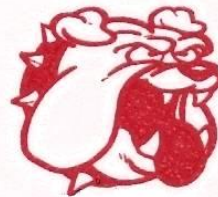
101 FIFTH STREET-ROUTE 9
DELAWARE CITY, DELAWARE 19706

302-836-0224

www.Wisocrabs.com
Wisocrabs@aol.com

CAPTAIN BOB WISOWATY - OWNER

Now Featuring
Crabs - Shrimp
Clams - Soup
Gourmet Crab Cakes
Retail-Wholesale



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

MICROWORM CULTURES

For sale

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

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), 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.

DSAS monthly board meeting scheduled for Sunday, **May 2nd, 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 normally be scheduled on the Sunday one week before the general monthly meetings each month, including the summer months, except during a holiday. 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).