

The

Gravel Gossip

Volume 2021

Number 10



Next Meeting:

**Saturday, October 16th, meeting is outdoors
at
Iron Hill Park, 1335 Old Baltimore Pike,
Newark, DE 19702
12 noon to 3pm**

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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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.

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ADVERTISING RATES

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

The Gravel Gossip

Newsletter of

The Diamond State Aquarium Society, Inc.

Hi all!

Hope all are well. We had a great outdoor meeting at Iron Hill Park on Saturday, September 18th. Over 28 attendees at our meeting from PA, NJ, MD and DE, with 32 lots of live fish, plants, live fish food, and aquarium items for sale at our monthly auction. Plenty of free refreshments were had by all.

We are again having our October in-person outdoor meeting at Iron Hill Park in Newark, Delaware, **Saturday, October 16th, from 12 noon to 3pm**. There will be free refreshments including hot dogs, along with door prizes, a raffle and a live fish and plants auction starting around 1pm. So make sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, October 16th. Please bring your own fold-up chair as we will be setting up in the park for this meeting. Keep an eye out for our 4x4 sign along the park road for our spot in the park. If you don't see us, call me on my cell 302-363-6902.

October is the month for nominations for our officers with the election at the November meeting. Please submit your name if interested or anyone you have spoken to that would like to run for one of DSAS officers.

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

2022 memberships are due now!

We are now on a calendar year renewal

Welcome new Members!

**JoAnn Virgil
Thomas Hansen
Brian Churchill**

Future Meeting Dates For 2021/22 indoors at William Penn High School:

Nov 8
Dec 13, 2021
Jan 10, 2022
Feb 14
Mar 14
Apr 11
May 9
Jun 18*

•- tentative dates for outdoor meetings

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.

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 entrance is on Robert L Melson Ln, the 3rd right turn road)

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

Iron Hill Park

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

Keep following the (long) park road until you come to a stop sign and tee in the road. You can only go "right" to continue. At that point, keep an eye out for our sign which will be along side the road at one of the parking lots. The past three meetings, we have set up at a different spot, depending on what other events may be at the park that day. If can't find us, call me on my cell at 302-363-6902.

Door Prizes

Raffle Prizes

Marineland Blue LED Bubble Wand – JoAnn V
Marineland Color-Enhance Goldfish Flk 4.41 oz- Dominic
Marineland Springiri & Boxwood Plant Mats – Donna G
Marineland Color-Enh Cichlid Pell 5.19 oz – Joe K
Marineland Color-Enh Cichlid Pell 2.89 oz – Dominic S
Marineland Color-Enh Cichlid Pell 2.89 oz – Ethan J
Marineland Color-Enh Trop Flk 3.35 oz – Joe S
API PimaFix 8 oz – Donna G
Topfin Large Cichid Pellets 5.6 oz – Donna G
Topfin Small Cichlid Pellets 8.8 oz – Dominic S
API GH & KH Test Kit for F/W – Liz A
Cobalt Aquatics Ultra Prem Fish Fd 1.2oz – Ethan J
Marineland Shrimp Wafers 2.12 oz – Julie M
Cobalt Aq Ultra Mar Prem Probiotics 2.3 oz – Marty
Cobalt Aquatics Prem Silicone Airline 13 ft – JoAnn V
Instant Ocean Marine Stabilizer 8.45 oz – Marty Z
Instant Ocean Reef Accelerator 8.45 oz – Marty Z
Topfin Color-Enhancing Tropical Flk 2.1 oz – Joe S
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – JoAnn V
TetraMin Tropical Crisps 1.62 oz – Dominic S

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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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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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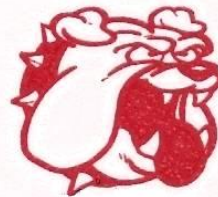
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Please remember to include DSAS's ID#

*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.

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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 Sunday, **October 24th, 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).